



George Meehan,
Exalted Ruler



ANTLER ANTICS

Vol 38, No. 9

Editor, Sally Claunch, PER

December '08

Reaching Out in Elkdom



Elks Ladies Tree Trimming Party
December 5th
6 pm
Appetizers
One Last Dance Band

Elks Memorial Service



December 7th
11 am
Breakfast Buffet \$8
10 am-noon

Exalted Ruler's

Christmas

Party
December 12th
6 pm
Lasagna Dinner

Kids Christmas Party



December 13th
11 am-2 pm

OPERATION FACELIFT

Tom Ryder, PDDGER



The “**OPERATION FACELIFT**” committee continues to work on select projects. As it appears the current facility is to be our home for a while, it becomes necessary for all of us to continue to make our current home more useable and acceptable for all members, new and old.

Work has been progressing slowly due to the lack of available workers. We need some volunteers! ***HELP HELP HELP Operation Pride***

The most important **Operation Facelift** project is to help keep your current lodge buildings and grounds presentable. There is a lot of loose garbage and litter around the lodge. Please help us pick it up! Let’s get some pride in what we have. Our facility is beginning to look more presentable to our members, neighbors and the community!

Many favorable comments have been passed to our members relative to the upgraded appearance of our lodge, both from our neighbors and from some of our weekly BBQ customers. The owner of the apartments across from the BBQ wagon stated that we have shamed him into considering some improvements to the exterior of his grounds, so he does not have the shabbiest appearing place in the neighborhood!

New Facility

Somewhere in our community, there is a building and facilities that can be made suitable for our use. It is up to us all to be looking for this property. Please help us find it. When looking, some considerations to be taken into account are:

- Need a building approximately 12,000 square feet in size, preferably in an industrial area.
- Would like approximately 3 acres or more of land. Need separation from neighbors!
- Need parking available for 170 cars, some parking could be shared with adjacent facilities.
- Would like to have some Motor home/ Overnight camping sites available

The “Find a new Facility Committee” members and Lodge Officers visited a building in an industrial area of Newbury Park that was brought to the Committee’s attention by Rick Herrera. All persons that visited this facility believe it could fulfill our needs for a new home for the Lodge.

In order to determine if we can afford a new lodge facility, we need to determine the worth of our facility. The first step is to put our facility up for sale to find out what our facility is worth to someone. Many companies will give you an estimate of what they think a facility is worth. However until you get someone that makes an offer to buy you don’t know. With the listing of our current facility for sale, a contingency clause will be included stating that our current facility has to be sold or under contract to be sold prior to our committing to a contract to buy another property. It should be noted by all members that before selling and/or purchasing another facility, the membership has to meet and vote their approval or disapproval to sell and purchase.

Volunteers

Your lodge is always in need of volunteers to help with various Lodge functions. If you have some time on your hands, consider lending a hand at an upcoming event or project. Contact the office or any officer or me to volunteer some time. Thanks to all those who already given their time! You are greatly appreciated

NEEDED

Kitchen – cooks, helpers, specialty cooking teams ~ painters – general - no talent required
Manual laborers (grunts) ~ grounds keepers (gardeners) ~ BBQ wagon helpers ~ lodge committee chairman and committee members

There is Something For Everyone To Take Part In ~ **Volunteer** ~ Talk To An Officer !!

2008-09 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS



EXALTED RULER
George Meehan

2008-09 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

ANTLER ANTICS: Sally Claunch, PER, Editor,
Jerry Serota, Photographer
Calendar: Tom Ryder, PDDGER
NEW BEGINNINGS:
HISTORIAN/SCRAPBOOK:
GREETERS: Dorothy Murray
PUBLIC RELATIONS:
OPERATION FACELIFT: Tom Ryder, PDDGER



BUILDING MAINT. : Max Maxwell/Tom Hartin
PARLIAMENTARIAN: Bill Lloyd, PDDGER, DL
LODGE VISITATIONS:
BBQ WAGON:
AUDITING: Chet Kozlowski, PER
ELKS TRAINING: George Meehan
SHOE TOURNAMENTS: Mike Budenski
BEQUESTS & LIVING TRUSTS: Robert Jones
PLANNING COMMITTEE:

SEE YOU AT THE LODGE...

Here I am writing my article for the December issue of the Antlers Antics. November has been a busy month at the lodge. On the second, we had the veterans from the VA Hospital for their annual visit and brunch and, as usual, it was wonderful. They so much appreciate coming, enjoying our lodge, the food. This year we had our Organist, Karin Speights, playing patriotic songs and other tunes to help add to the festivities. It was truly a success. The Charity Ball has not been held yet as I write this article, but I am sure it too will be a success with good music, good food and swell entertainment.

At this time, the names of families from organizations that help the needy are being gathered so that we can again help out and feed those who are in need. To help with this undertaking is a wonderful experience and it puts you in a spirit to truly enjoy the holidays. There are sign up sheets in the lodge for those who would like to fill the boxes with food and gifts and help deliver them to the recipients. All the regulars will be there and we will welcome some new helpers. It is also an opportunity to get to know some new members and reacquaint yourselves with some you haven't seen in a while.

On December 7, we will be having the Elks Memorial Service and breakfast buffet. We invite all widows of our deceased members to come as our honored guests. We hope all Elks families will come and show their support as we get into the joys of the Holiday Season.

On December 12 will be the Exalted Ruler's Christmas Party. Come and enjoy a wonderful dinner as my guest. This party is given by the ER to show his appreciation to everyone who helped in the lodge. Please come and enjoy.

Unfortunately, we will not be having a New Year's Eve Ball this year, but a pre New Years Eve celebration will be taking place in our lounge starting at 10:00 Am until 5:00PM. So you can come in to enjoy with

your fellow Elks and then go to your own private celebrations. This too will be a good time and something different from the past years.

Finally, Cornelia and I would like to wish all of you a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, Happy Holidays.



IN MEMORIAM

THE CLOCK OF THEIR DAY HAS STOPPED
AND ACROSS ITS DIAL A MOTIONLESS
SHADOW MARKS THE HOUR OF ELEVEN,

WITH US--

**“THE GOLDEN HOUR OF
RECOLLECTION”**

Everett “Rusty” Kennedy

Born: March 4, 1933

Initiation: January 19, 1994

Died: October 8, 2008



Sally Claunch, PER Editor
 claunchsally@gmail.com
 articles are due the 5th of the month
 send as a word document



KUDOS TO JERRY

SEROTA

Our lodge owns Jerry our heariest thanks and gratitide for as he called it, "stepping up to the plate." He become Lodge secretay in April when no one else would step up to the plate . If a lodge does not have a secretary, Grand Lodge can put the lodge on probation. Loving his lodge as he does, he volunterred for this time consuming and tedious assignment. And he served with honor and dedication.

I say thank you as a freind and fellow Elk member.

OFFICERS/HOUSE COMMITTEE MTG.

Corrine gave monthly update on lounge-inventory and labor costs has been cut.

Streaker dog wagon's new awning has been installed and kitchern floor has been fixed.

Lodge accounting is being straightened out by outside accounting firm.

George will obtain quotes for upgrading our kitchen fire supression system.

TRUSTEES REPORT

Items from DDGER inspection on safety are being addressed and completed.

Courses of action were discussed to tighten expenses in budget.

House Committee meets the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. Trustees meet the first Tuesday at 7 p.m.

Your input is valued. Your attendance is welcomed.

SICKNESS AND DISTRESS

805-495-0577

OUR CONDOLENCES TO: Tom and Kathy Ryder on the passing of his mother

KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS: Pat Smail, our soldiers overseas, all people alone this holiday season

ON THE MEND: Bob Saynay-newly elected secretary of the lodge

REMEMBER CARDS AND CALLS ARE ALWAYS APPRECIATED!!!

COMING ATTRACTIONS



December 5-Tree Trimming Party
 December 9-Elk Ladies Xmas Party
 December 12-ER Christmas Party
 December 13-Kids Christmas Party
 December 14-Kampers Christmas Brunch
 December 20-Delviery of Christmas Baskets
 December 31-New Year's Eve Happy Hour

January 21- Firefighters & Peace Officers Appreciation Dinner

February Elk Ladies Major Project Fundraiser

2008-09 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS	LEADING KNIGHT Raven West	2008-09 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS
MAJOR PROJECT/PURPLE PIG: David Naccarato, PER SICKNESS AND DISTRESS: Sally Claunch, PER INVESTIGATION: Bob Arbetman ELKS NATIONAL FOUNDATION: Tom Ryder, PDDGER		CHRISTMAS BASKETS: Raven West INDOCTRINATION: Dave Naccarato, PER MEM.CONTROL.COM.: CVAC: Tom Hartin COMMUNITY RELATIONS: CHARITY DINNERS: Raven West

CHARITY..IS THE PUREST...

I've just returned from Redding after attending my first Mid-Term conference. Mid-Term is the time when we look at what we have accomplished in the past, and what we hope to accomplish in future.

Over 700 Elks from California and Hawaii, and their spouses attended the Elks National Foundation dinner on Saturday night. We filled the Redding Convention Center on two floors! The energy in that room was incredible, and it reminded me why I was always so proud of the work my father did, and all the fantastic programs he was able to accomplish during his 50 year membership in our organization.

The Benevolent Protective Order of Elks Mission Statement reads as follows: To inculcate the principles of Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity; to recognize a belief in God; to promote the welfare and enhance the happiness of its Members; to quicken the spirit of American patriotism; to cultivate good fellowship; to perpetuate itself as a fraternal organization, and to provide for its government, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America will serve the people and communities through benevolent programs, demonstrating that Elks Care and Elks Share.

I know that there have been times when we have lost our way. That differences have divided us and personalities have clashed. We have faced difficult financial times with the passing of our bookkeeper, the loss of membership and decisions regarding the future of the building we all call OUR lodge. But it is time to put aside these issues and return to our MISSION which is why we all joined this organization. Charity IS the purest, truest, noblest of ALL the graces!

As the Chair of the Christmas Baskets this month, I am constantly reminded of the great charity work that our lodge and the ELKS organization contributes to our community. When I speak to the heads of the organizations who sent me their list of needy families, their voices are filled with enormous gratitude, and I feel extraordinary pride that the members of our Lodge can work together to bring holiday joy into the lives of so many who have so little. But it

has not been easy for us this year to raise awareness, or the funds necessary to accomplish our mission.

Since April, our lodge has scheduled fund raising events nearly every month. However, attendance has been, in a word, pitiful. Whether it was a conflict in scheduling, the price of the tickets, or just lack of interest, proceeds from the Cabaret Saturday Nights, Wild Women on Wine and our ENF fund raiser barely paid for the expenses of the food and entertainment. As I write this, there are only 35 tickets sold for the Charity Ball this Saturday. This is the ONE event where we raise the funds to pay for the food for our Christmas Basket delivery at the end of this month. I am hoping that by the time this article is published that we will have a full house at this event and raise more than enough funds to cover all expenses.

As for the Elks National Foundation, according to the ELKS.ORG website, our current ENF amount raised to date is only \$683.50, or Per-Capita: \$1.94! At the Mid-Term dinner, each District Vice President gave their report with per-capita amounts ranging from \$5.00 to \$11.00. I am, therefore, asking EVERY member to please put a \$5.00 or \$10.00 bill into an envelope and drop it off, or mail it to our Lodge by January 1, 2009.

That's all. You don't even have to get dressed or leave your house. Just contribute \$5 or \$10 to ENF so that we can reach our goal by the end of this year.

For those of you who attended the Charity Comedy Ball, THANK YOU! For those of you who didn't, I hope you will volunteer your time during the week of December 16 - 20 to help construct the boxes and distribute the food to those in need. A sign up poster will be in the lounge for all to add their names to volunteer. KEEP OUR MISSION of Charity, the GREATEST of all the virtues, in our hearts and in our lives during the holiday season and all year long.

In these very difficult economic times, one person alone cannot do very much, but together, as an organization whose mission is one of Charity, I am confident that we can put our differences aside, come together as ELKS and feel the true sense of our motto: Elks Care, Elks Share.

2008-09 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

LOYAL KNIGHT

Terry Gicking

2008-09 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

CONEJO VALLEY DAYS: Ed Rice
LODGE ACTIVITIES: Dave Naccarato, PER
SCOUTING: Bill Miller
HOOPSHOOT: Dave Naccarato, PER
WED. NIGHT DINNERS: Terry Gicking
DRUG AWARENESS: Robert Jones
STRAY ELKS: Herb Jellander



MOTHER'S DAY: Rick Herrera
ENTERTAINMENT: Corinne Richeson
WED. NIGHT TICKETS: Leo Rodriguez
LAW ENFORCEMENT & FIRE FIGHTER APPRECIATION: Scott Dool
PRESIDING JUSTICE:
YOUTH ACTIVITIES: Robert Jones

LODGE NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

Dateline! December! December! OMG, what has happened to this year! It seems like yesterday I was installed and here's the holidays and next is the Elks elections! WOW!

Well I guess there is no better time to talk about our big New Years Eve party. For us older members, do you remember when we partied on New Years Eve till 2 in the morning? The bartenders had to kick us out of the lodge. The next day, we all got together after a few hours of sleep to watch the football games over at another members house till the last game was over. Man that was fun!! I'm gonna tell ya, I was a few years younger than most of you, but I **couldn't** keep up with you. But I do know I had a goooood time!!

Well, you say, where am I going with this? I wanted to have a New Years Eve bash like we use to have! I wanted us to party like its 1999! And I wanted all of you to be a part of it! Unfortunately, no one else wanted to help put on a New Years Eve bash! And with the cost of what it would take to do it, and knowing that we would need a minimum of 65 people at \$50 each nobody will be able to afford to come. Those are hard, minimum numbers for a band and to have it catered. The reason for catering is nobody wants to help cook on New Years Eve. When I talk about the old days, and the people that I partied with, there doesn't seem to be many of them around anymore! The new crowd doesn't want to celebrate New Years at the old lodge.

I know, times have changed, but if we keep up this trend we won't have a lodge to come down to! Also I hear," well if so n so is doing this I'm not going to support her." "Or if he's doing that, well I don't have to help, because he hasn't done anything for me! **WHAT HAPPENED TO EVERYBODY JOINING THIS LODGE TO HELP ONE ANOTHER TO HELP THE COMMUNITY!!** Not everything is directed at helping certain causes, but together we can. That's my point! When YOU stop helping, lately there isn't anybody who can or will take your place. When it happens, now the other volunteers are working much harder to fill the void. Now they get burned out and

faster. You can see my point! As adults, we shouldn't have to be told this, but I thought if I put it in print, the 5 or 10 people who read this article might find that spark that they had when they joined! **THIS LODGE NEEDS YOUR FULL SUPPORT!** I can't put it any plainer than that. Please put your differences aside and let's help put this lodge back to the friendliest lodge in the district!! Enough soapbox!!

Ok, we are having a comedy night Charity Ball to raise money for our Christmas delivery baskets. Then we are going to be putting the baskets together the week of Dec 16-20, and then we will deliver them the morning of Saturday the 20th. There is more than enough activities to find something to volunteer for!

As we end this year, I would personally like to thank each and everyone who has helped in the kitchen, and I am looking forward to meeting some new help for next year! As we head into the holidays, I would like to wish you all a safe and joyous Christmas and a Happy New Year!!



Your Lodge Serving the Community

Preparing and deliving Holiday food baskets to needy families in our area

Conducting Americanism essay contest for local 5th-8th graders

Distributing dictionaries to 3rd graders in Conejo and Pleasant Valley School Districts

Providing community with the opportunity to purchase Christmas trees. The profits fund our charity programs.

Donating \$106 to Manna from 50/50 raffles

Be an Elk volunteer, call the office with your name and phone number.



ENTERTAINMENT

DECEMBER 5- TREE TRIMMING & ONE LAST DANCE BAND

DECEMBER 14-JACK MALONE'S B-DAY PARTY

DECEMBER 31-HAPPY HOUR 2-5 PM

**Corinne Richenson
Bar Manager**



October was another good month for pull tabs. Thanks again everyone for your generous donations of pull tabs. A pecial thanks this month goes to Sally Claunch (Santa Susana High School), Dorothy Murray (Jafra), Beverly Reis, Jim and Lee Wiens, George Estoy, Dorathy and Alan Hardie. Remember, every pull tab counts. Keep collecting!!!



**USC/UCLA GAME
DECEMBER 6TH
1:30 PM
COLEEN MORRIS
INVITES YOU TO
THE TAILGATE PARTY
AT THE LODGE
FREE HOT DOGS
AND SNACKS**



**Dave Naccarato, PER
Major Project Chair**

We held our October Bingo game for Major Project. We had 12 players including 5 new players. It was another nail biting game of Bingo. Winners for the night were: Stephanie Larron, Tamera Oviatte (new players) Patti Serota, and Robert Jones. Anne Ogden and Barbara Booker both donated \$5.00 to the Major Project. A big thanks to Robert Jones and David Stull for helping me set up. (not that I did any of the set up). And of course, the lovely Jessica Stull worked my number board. Other Bingo games may give out more money, but they do not have Jessica. And where would we be without B-9?? So look for Bingo in January and get to the game

Help Wanted

FOR PREPARING THE HOLIDAY BASKETS

TUESDAY-DEC. 16-9 AM-SETUP ROOM & BOXES

TUESDAY-DEC 16-AFTERNOON-DELIVERY OF FOOD

WEDNESDAY/THURSDAY/FRIDAY DEC. 17-19 PACK BOXES

THURSDAY- DEC. 18-WRAP PRESENTS

SATURDAY DEC 20-DELIVERY OF BASKETS

NEEDED.....

SET-UP CREWS-PACKERS-WRAPPERS-DELIVERY PEOPLE

SIGN-UP SHEETS IN LOUNGE

THE CONEJO BROTHERS....

Dick Flake, PER 1974-1975, and five of his co-workers: George Vivamore, Frank Rindone, Jon Sylcott, Robert Jennings, and Vern McNaboe started the process for establishing a new Elks lodge in Thousand Oaks. Each gentleman donated \$50 to the expense fund. In an effort to gain new members they went after Stray Elks and met at Los Robles Inn. Next to keep meeting costs down, they began to meet at Du-Pars Restaurant. However Du-Pars had restrictions on fund raising at meetings. Thus a new meeting place was needed.

John Farhat, a member of Culver City Elks, had a tack room in Lynn Ranch and allowed us to meet there for free. Later by cigarette lighter, they inspected a warehouse off Skyline Dr. behind the Moose Lodge for possible purchase. The property owner became a charter member and made them an offer they couldn't refuse. Thousand Oaks. Elks had a new home.

Moving to our present location was a feat in itself. Needing \$85,000 to purchase the 158 Conjeo School Road property, some members put their homes up as security against default of the loan. Bob Clark Sr., Dick Churik, Dick Flake, John Farhat, Jack Henry, Paul Jones, Erle Pitman, Frank Rindone and Don Steinhelper did so under the name "The Conejo Brothers." Thanks to them and twelve other brothers who each loaned \$1000.00 to the lodge, funding was guaranteed. The purchase of our lodge building and property was done. Total purchase price was \$97,000. I wrote this article to show why many of our members are very passionate about our present lodge. There will be more history of our lodge next month.

David Naccarato, PER 06-07

**THANK
YOU SO
MUCH!**

Robert Jones for spearheading the Kids Halloween Party

Terry Gicking for repairing all the outer doors in the Lodge

Max Maxwell for donating compasses to our Cub Pack at Casa Pacifica

Chuck Busch for cooking delicious Wednesday night dinners

Bill Miller and Richard Goldner for heading the dictionary program

Greg Metzgas for securing the bookkeeping firm services

Elk Ladies for purchasing a flat screen TV in the lounge



ELKS CHRISTMAS TREE LOT – 2008

Once again, it's time to start spooling up for the Elks Christmas Tree Lot. As always, it will be a lot of hard work but provides a significant return for our charities and building fund. We had a very good year in 2007, despite increased competition, in large part due to a record participation by our membership. At least 80 members helped out – some a lot, some a little – but everyone was needed and appreciated.

CARLSONS BUILDING MATERIALS has again made a part of their street front property available to us on Thousand Oaks Boulevard. Please be sure to patronize this valued sponsor whenever possible.

Please mark your calendars with these dates and times:

December 1 & 2	(Mon/Tues)	9am-1pm	Setup lot & trailer at Carlsons
December 2	(Tue.)	TBA	call lounge
December 3 - December 21		9am-8pm	Tree Sales
December 10	(Wed)	TBA	Second Tree Delivery
December 21	(Sun)		Last Day of Sales
December 22	(Mon)		Teardown Lot

The lot will be open from approximately 9 am to 8 pm every day. Food, drink, campfire and camaraderie always included. Thanks in advance for everyone's help!

Fraternally,

Herb Jellander	805-497-2624 Cell 805-905-8146
Terry Baker	805-495-6127
Bill Sternberg	805-933-9020

**CHRISTMAS WREATHS \$20
ON SALE
AT THE CHRISTMAS TEE LOT
PROCEEDS FUND BOY SCOUTS**



Bill Miller
Scouting Chair



Jerry Serota
as printed in **YOUR NEWS**

The Elks Lodge 2477 has sponsored a Boy Scout Troop (# 871) at Casa Pacifica in Camarillo, a facility for abused, abandoned or troubled kids (0-18yrs) for several years.

Last week we had a recruiting day at Casa to start a new Cub Pack (# 3871) and signed on six very eager boys. Archibald Razzmatazz Murphy, a Casa therapy dog owned by Vicki Murphy, Director of Operations and Development, assisted us in this effort. Archie, who weighs in at nearly 190 pounds, wore his Cub "costume" to the Casa Halloween party to help advertise our new Pack. He goes with the kids when they need to get shots or vaccinations and they also read to him. He also plays football with the older kids - knocks them down and then takes the ball away from them (Arch's Rules). Lodge members Greg Metzgas, Bill Sternberg and Bill Miller visit Casa on almost a weekly basis to help with the Scouting programs. Casa always needs extra volunteers before the holidays to decorate for their annual kids' party and to wrap gifts the kids have purchased with their script. Call Bill Miller if you're interested in helping for a few hours - it's a very rewarding experience.



Archibald Razzmatazz Murphy at Casa Pacifica

Our dictionary deliveries to Conejo Valley elementary schools are being done much earlier this year. With help from Al Hardie, Jeri Miller and Jerry Serota. Bill Miller has completed presentations to seven elementary schools with 470 of the popular dictionaries handed to the eager third graders thus far. One more school, Westlake Elementary, remains and they will receive 100 books as soon as additional dictionaries are received. The kids and teachers are very easy to work with and this is a fun activity that anyone can do. So why not volunteer for next year's program? Just raise your hand, kiddies!

Thus far there are 52 Eagle Scouts who have spread their wings from Thousand Oaks Elks Lodge #2477 sponsored BSA Troop 754. A Court of Honor was held for Thomas Blake Fields, son of Tom & Chris Fields of Thousand Oaks at the Teledyne Scientific Company on Sunday November 9th with over 200 Scouts, family and friends in attendance. A special note it is customary for all the Eagle Scouts in attendance to renew their oath, 16 Eagles Scouts were introduced on stage and honored Thomas at this impressive ceremony.

Thomas joined the Cub Scouts in 1996; Arrow of Light Award 2001; Bridged Boy Scouts 2001; Tenderfoot Scout 2001; Second Class Scout 2002; First Class Scout 2002; Star Scout 2003; Life Scout 2004; Eagle Scout 2007. He has held Leadership Positions as Patrol Leader, Assistant Patrol Leader, and Den Chief.

He has earned 28 Merit Badges for Archery, Art, Basketry, Camping, Canoeing, and Citizenship in the World, Communications, Emergency Preparedness, Environmental Science, Family Life, Fingerprinting, First Aid, Lifesaving, Leatherwork, Mammals, Personal Fitness, Personal Management, Pottery, Reading, Reptile Study, Rifle Shooting, Rowing, Small Boat Sailing, Snow Sports, Swimming, and Wilderness Survival. He has earned Special Awards of Merit for BSA Lifeguard Award, 151 Nights of Camping, Member of the Arrow 2004.

Tommy's Eagle Scout Project could not have happened without the dedicated help of many of his brother Scouts, friends and family! The project benefited Ascension Lutheran Church, as their administrative 40-year-old hallway flooring was in need of replacement. Upon their approved flooring choice, the crew set out to install the new flooring along with complimentary molding. Without the help of our volunteer Scouts, Scouters and family crew, four days of installation, 250 volunteer hours total, the goal was accomplished. A truly heartfelt thank you to each of the following volunteers for helping to make this happen:

Paul and Pauline Armer, Jamie and Mitch Engelking, Chris Phillips, Ryan Barbee, Chris, Christopher, and Tom Fields, Kevin and Lillian Staley, Austin Boyd, Dustin Sunderland, Ed Cruz, Christina Tormos, Greg and Don Cutler, Mike Hudson, Andrew and Gus Valadez, David Jamesson, and Kevin Weeks.



Raven West and Bev Reis (back row) bewitching students from Conejo School at our kids Halloween party



Bill Miller and Alan Hardie presenting third grade students with dictionaries at Conejo Valley elementary schools



Scouting Chair, Bill Miller, with our newest Eagle Scout Tommy Fields at his Court of Honor



ELK CONNECTIONS

Rusty Kennedy with Janine Jellander-VanPoppellen at the Inaugural Ball cocktail party at Herb and Pat Jellander's house in April '08. Rusty was Janine's sponsor as Herb Jellander, Janine's father was Rusty's sponsor 15 years ago. May you rest in peace!!!



Newly elected Secretary, Bob Saynay, with pen ready to record the Wednesday night meeting

HONORING OUR VETERANS

NOVEMBER 2ND





**Pat VonWittenberg
Konejo Kampers**

OCTOBERFEST OR HALLOWEEN

We tried out the new campground in Simi - Tapo RV Park. It seems as if it is a LONG way outta town but it really isn't. Being new, there are a few improvements that will, hopefully, be made - like a ground cover of some sort - but it is quite nice as it is.

The Ranger who comes round is just delightful and the camp hosts are well known to all of our Cattail Cove campers. Don't know who found out that this couple had formerly been at Cattail Cove - but Saturday we had a number of our campers visiting to get together with them.

It is always so nice to be able to arrive early - - seems like a real vacation. The Drakes, terrific wagon masters, went out on Tuesday as I recall, then the LaFarrs, Ericksons, Flannerys, Ogdens and the von Wittenburgs arrived on Wednesday - - geez, did Kudra (pain that he is, giggle) arrive on Thursday? Where the heck are my notes?

The LaFarr's friends, Dave and Mary Hobert joined us and rumor has it that Dave intends to join the Lodge so they can become honest to goodness REAL El Konejo Kampers. They are just delightful people and best of all Mary is a quilter too YIPEE. She and Deb LaFarr are even taking classes. When Deb went home prior to Donna Hardy's service, she even picked up her new sewing machine to Show 'n Tell.

Looking forward to a campout when we can organize a "sit 'n sew". Ya don't have to be a quilter - you can be any kind of "crafty" person. It's amazing how much more you can learn about other people when you share interests, knowledge and experience.

Needless to say, a lot of us attended the Friday service and memorial at the Lodge for Donna. It's hard to put into words the tragic loss a lot of us feel - as usual words are inadequate. All I know is wonderful memories remain and she will be missed - A LOT!

After brunch and meeting on Saturday, the campground was a beehive of activity. People decorating the inside as well as the outside of their rigs. It is always a kick to see the Erickson's daughter and grandkids "creating", very busy people.

Finally, Donna Colleran received first place for her interior/dash decorations. It is hard to remember the number of times she and Ed had "busted butt" with their haunted houses, not to mention the dollars in costumes and exterior decorations to come away short handed, but this year was an entirely different story. They were very creative and well deserving of first place.

"What we have here is a failure to communicate". Sound familiar? Called Deb Drake to get all the results, she'd call me back - NOT! So I'm guessing - - I believe the



Erickson's got second place and the Erickson grandkids got a special award. Sorry bout that folks, I'll try to do better next time.

OCTOBERFEST

Generally celebrated with Beer drinking. OMG - - have no idea where all the different beers came from, but Saturday afternoon was a real kick - -everyone, even some non-beer drinkers had tastes of some VERY unusual brews.

You should have seen the look on Jimmy Miller's face when Deb Drake called on him as the "Sheriff". Totally bewildered and confused. I know, that's not totally unusual LOL

In actuality the Sheriff was Deb LaFarr and what a job she did. Very clever lady!

GREAT CAMPOUT - - AND KUDOS TO THE DRAKES FOR A(nother) JOB WELL DONE. TO ALL KAMPERS PLANNING TO ATTEND THE MARCH 2009 CAMPOUT AT NEWPORT DUNES !!! THEIR CANCELLATION POLICY IS - - TEN (10) WORKING DAYS PRIOR TO PLANNED ARRIVAL DATE. Everyone has been very cooperative thus far - - so PLEASE don't mess up now!

We have several non-rv Kampers taking advantage of the lovely "cabins" available at this Resort.

We also have a number of "other" campers joining us for this campout - - what a wonderful opportunity to make new friends and let them know just out marvelous we are, a fun, warm and friendly group.

TO ONE AND ALL - - DON'T FORGET THE KAMPERS CHRISTMAS BRUNCH - - DECEMBER 14TH GRAND VISTA HOTEL - - SIMI - - COME ONE, COME ALL!

Upcoming Campouts



December 14-Brunch-Grand Vista Hotel

January 9-10-Valencia Travel

February 13-15- California RV Acton

March 13-14 -Newport Dunes

visit the website:

<http://elkonejokampers.oaksdata.com>

to join call Bev Erickson 495-9715

EL KONEJO KAMPERS Holiday Brunch

We are actively seeking donations for the raffle prizes at the holiday brunch. If you have something to donate,

please contact

Chuck Kudra (805)374-9909

or

Beverly Erickson (805)495-9715

Thank you!!

Kamper Klub membership fees (\$25) for 2009 are due in December.



2008-09 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

LECTURING KNIGHT Greg Metzgus, PSVP

2008-09 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

AMERICANISM: Grant Thistle
FLAG DAY/FLAG RETIREMENT:
 Robert Jones
SCHOLARSHIP: Rick Herrera
GOVT. RELATIONS: Scott Dool
MEMORIAL SERVICE: Rick Herrera
NATIONAL SERVICES: Jim Kellogg
KIDS XMAS PARTY: Chet Kozlowski, PER



GOLF TOURNEY: Dave Pearson
LODGE PICNIC: Joe Clancy & Ed Bianchi
MEMBERSHIP: Every Lodge Member
CHRISTMAS TREES: Herb Jellander
 Bill Sternberg, PER/Terry Baker
EL KONEJO KAMPERS: Mike Flannery

Veterans Brunch

For those of you that took time to come and share brunch with the veterans from the VA hospital, thank you. For those of you that missed it, you missed an opportunity to meet some wonderful people that have served our county and need our support. Jim Kellogg and his crew did a fantastic job of making the arrangements and greeting our guests. Terry Gicking and his two sons made a wonderful brunch. Thanks to all that set up, served and cleaned up from this event. The brunch was made complete by the patriotic music played by our organist, Karin Speights.

Our membership numbers are down this year. It was predicted that with a decrease in dues and initiation fee, there would be an influx of new members. That hasn't happened. The fact of the matter is that we had more interest in joining our lodge at the higher dues rate. What happened? I don't have the answer. Is it because we no longer have a viable long term plan on the board for our lodge? If someone knows why, please let me know. What is obvious is that we need to do some recruiting and we need to do it now.

I would like to thank Jerry Serota for stepping up to the plate this year to serve as Lodge Secretary. Some of you may not realize it but if we do not fill our officer corps, Grand Lodge will come in and first place us on probation and then, if we still don't have a full slate of officers, they will close our doors. *That includes the door to the lounge.* Jerry answered our call; that same call has gone out by Raven West for next year's officers. There are some vacancies as of this writing. Please, don't wait to be asked, step forward as Jerry did.

Our Charity Baskets will be going out soon. As always, help is needed in the packing and delivering. Again, don't wait to be asked. Raven West needs your help and if she doesn't ask you let her know you are available to help.

Please remember, our Army of Hope cans are placed in our lounge and at several businesses around town. The proceeds from this donation are being used to help our veterans returning from Afghanistan and Iraq. The Vietnam Veteran's Association has partnered with the Elks in this effort. Please dig deep and give what ever you can. This campaign will end in July of 2009. There are additional cans available for

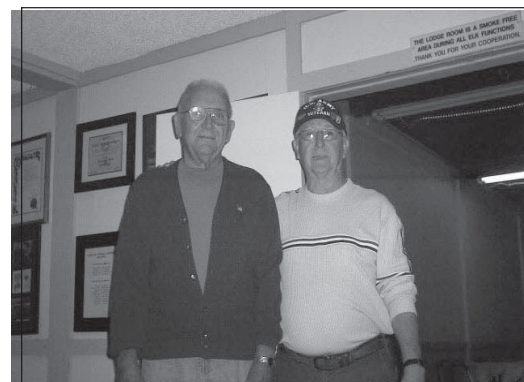
placement in local businesses. See me if you would like to work with this program.



The Thousand Oaks Elks Lodge #2477 happily honored 31 of our veterans from the VA Nursing Home Center Bldg. 99 at West Hills with a Sunday Breakfast which included eggs, potatoes, bacon, sausage, biscuits and gravy, orange juice and Danish rolls in appreciation for their service to our country. In all there were over 100 members and guests in attendance.

The nursing home in turn presented a framed letter of appreciation signed by all the grateful patients for the hospitality they received at the Lodge.

At the Elks National Convention in 1946, it was voted unanimously that, "As long as a veteran is in our hospital the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them". Keeping that promise, the Thousand Oaks Elks Lodge #2477 under the chairmanship of Jim Kellogg, pays monthly visits and holds a Bingo party. Plus we help sponsor special outside events for their entertainment



Our lodge veterans, (L-R), John Leadam and David Stull assisting at the veterans brunch

<p>2008-2009 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS</p>	<p>THE ELKS LADIES Jessica Stull</p>	<p>2008-2009 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS</p>
<p>1ST VICE PRESIDENT: Pat Peterson 2ND VICE PRESIDENT: 3RD VICE PRESIDENT: SECRETARY: June Leadam TREASURER: Diane Isaman AUDITOR: Beth Kozlowski TELEPHONE: Patti Serota</p>		<p>PARLIAMENTARIAN: June Leadam CHAPLAIN: Marilyn Cissell MAJOR PROJECTS: Niki Case CVD: Alice Kennedy & Marilyn Cissell HISTORIAN: SUNSHINE: Shirley Kozlowski</p>

**The Holidays Have Arrived
By President Jessica Stull**


So many things to be thankful for ... where does one begin? Many blessings have been bestowed on me and I hope you too. Let me start by acknowledging some of the ladies. The Veteran's Brunch was so appreciated by those that attended. Among those that helped Terry Gicking and sons, Steve and Bryan, from our group were Myrna Block, Jeri Miller, June Leadam, Jeanne Sandt, Sally Claunch and yours truly. I am so blessed to have such dedicated people. The ladies who supply refreshments each month have been doing such a wonderful job. Dee Swanson and Marilyn Cissell brought such a variety of goodies with the Thanksgiving napkins to match. In October, Jeanne Sandt and Barbara Booker did a wonderful Halloween theme with the refreshments. In fact, the ladies have been doing such a wonderful job, we have seen more and more of the Elks wandering in to sample the goodies after their meeting. I am so touched and grateful for all of your talent and generosity. My officers, June Leadam, Diane Isaman and Pat Peterson along with the various chairs such as Patti Serota, Jeanne Sandt, Beth Kozlowski, Niki Case, Shirley Kozlowski are doing such a wonderful job. The giving and hard work of some of our other ladies who undertake special tasks to assist the Elks and the Elk Ladies such as Sharon Baker, Angie Prizzi, Cornelia Meehan, Marva D'Ambrogio, Kathy Ryder, Phylis Ryding, Barbara Metzgas, Carol Fredericks, Elaine Goldner, Pat Jellander and Dee Swanson make us look good - we are good! We just couldn't be the successful organization we are without the likes of Alice Kennedy and Rina Dyer and others. If I did not mention you by name, please understand that the space is limited, but I am grateful to all of you who have made my year as President run so smoothly. If you only attended meetings or offered an occasional opinion, I am thankful because I could never do it without all of your support.



- 6 Colleen MacFarlane
- 10 Kay Riebe
- 12 Shirley Kozlowski
- 14 Catherine Koeritz, PER
- 15 Roxy Skinner
- 23 Mary Anne Swallows
- 27 Marilyn Cissell
- 30 Sally Claunch, PER

YOU NEVER ASKED FOR PERFECT

Why do we strive for perfect, Lord?
what's wrong with just the best we can?



Because you see each struggle,
results are stress not part of your plan.

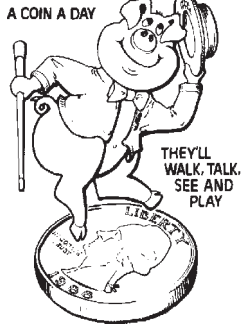
Our happiness is what you want,
you listen as our trusted friend.
If we begin our days in prayer,
so much smoother each day will end.
Amen

The Ladies Christmas dinner is coming up soon - don't be left out. Get your reservation in right away. We have topnotch entertainment and Tom Ryder is planning a wonderful meal. Tom always puts out a delicious spread and does it so cheerfully, we really appreciate you too, Tom! As we swing into the holiday season, be sure to mark you calendar for the Tree Trimming party on December 5 and, the ER Christmas Party on December 12 and the Kids Christmas party on December 13. Toys will be wrapped for the holiday baskets on Thursday, December 18 starting at 10 am. All you holiday Angels just show up to the lodge with scissors in hand, love in your heart and a smile on your face.

2009 will be here before we know it and the Ladies are seeking a few good officers, so join the fun. If you are interested see Myrna, Pat or Beth and if they approach you, give them a big THUMBS UP. Also in 2009, our Major Project event promises to be a first for us. Watch your Antler Antics for more details in the next edition.

To all of you, from all of the Thousand Oaks Elks Ladies a very Happy Thanksgiving, Happy Hanukkah, and Merry Christmas.

HONOR ROLL



- Greg Metzgas, PSVP
- Ruby Metzgas
- Paul Stein
- David Naccarato, PER
- John Peterson
- Cherri Peterson
- George Meehan
- Tony Dyer
- Robert Jones
- Max Maxwell (Century Club)
- Steve Finnerty (Century Club)
- Tom Walsh (Century Club)
- Barbara Booker
- Ann Ogden
- Ron Schwarts

DECEMBER



- | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Joan Roper | 11 Raymond Clayton | 21 Rick Goldner |
| 3 Bruce Cameron | Dale Smith | Mike Miller |
| Edward Cassese | 12 Erich Briggs | 25 Bill Sandham |
| Chuck Kudra | 14 Catherine Koeritz, PER | 26 George Estok |
| 4 Paul Stein | 15 Jack Malone | 27 Mel Baker |
| Grant Thistle | 16 I.B.H. Jensen | Ed Bianchi |
| 5 Dick Johnson | 20 Harry Isaman | 29 Steve Finnerty |
| Dick Wixon | Bob Jennings | Robert Jones |
| 6 Gene Letourneau | | Mike Ramirez |
| 7 Jerry Feldman | | Susie Ross |
| Vince Schiele | | 30 Sally Claunch, PER |

**FROM THE INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE
PROPOSED AND WILL BE BALLOTTED ON:**

No Balloting in December

CRYING TOWEL



- | | | | |
|----------|----------|-------|-------------------|
| 10/1/08 | \$100 | #2077 | Erin Piele |
| | Lucky 13 | | No Winner |
| 10/8/08 | \$125 | #2166 | Kevin Porter |
| | Lucky 13 | | No Winner |
| 10/15/08 | \$150 | #1471 | Dick McCann |
| | Lucky 13 | | No Winner |
| 10/22/08 | \$175 | #1692 | Marshall Knowlton |
| | Lucky 13 | | No Winner |

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- ◆ Major Projects and ENF charities
- ◆ Be living the motto---
- ◆ Elks Care Elks Share

1 2 3 4 5

Your Name

Lunch Bunch Card

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 It will be initialed by server.
 One free entree when card is completed.
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 Thousand Oaks Lodge #2477

6 7 8 9 10

BIRTHDAY COUPON

INSERT YOUR NAME AND ENJOY ONE ON US

We would like to celebrate your birthday with you
 Bring in this coupon and receive a
 Well Drink, Glass of Wine or a Beer
 Thousand Oaks Elks Lodge

We look forward to seeing you!!!
 Bring driver's license as proof of birthday

Offer good during your Birthday month. Limit one drink per member

Help Fund



Our Scholarship Program

Bring your aluminum cans, plastic and glass bottles to the Lodge




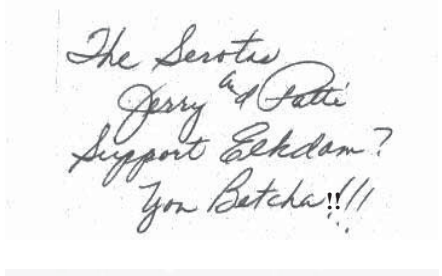










Drop off at Wed. meetings
 or at Sat. BBQ by rear
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Thanks-
Rich Herrera
Scholarship Chair.

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LEADING KNIGHT - Raven West
LOYAL KNIGHT - Terry Gicking
LECTURING KNIGHT - Greg Metzgas, PSVP
SECRETARY - Bob Saynay
TREASURER - Tom Ryder, PDDGER
TILER - Bob Arbetman
ESQUIRE - Robert Jones
CHAPLAIN - Rick Herrera
INNER GUARD - Leo Rodriquez
ORGANIST - Kirin Spreights
OFFICER AT LARGE - David Naccarato, PER

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Sally Claunch, PER 1 Year
Tom Hartin 2 Year
Bill Sternberg, PER 3 Year
David Stull 4 Year
Steve Smith 5 Year

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1972-73 *Marvin D. Smith	1998-99 Chet Kozlowski
1973-74 Erle Pittman, PDDGER	1999-00 Richard Goldner, PDDGER
1974-75 Richard Flake	2000-01 Jacob Panczak
1975-76 Bill Wagner	2001-02 John D'Ambrogio
1976-77 John E. Henry	2002-03 Don Booker
1977-78 *Robert McKee, PDDGER	2003-04 Greg Metzgas, PSVP
1978-79 *Frank J. Rindone, PDDGER	2004-05 Jay Block
1979-80 *Edward F. Stogsdell	2005-06 Sally Claunch
1980-81 *Frank "Tex" Hastie	2006-07 David Naccarato
1981-82 *Robert Hardy	2007-08 Catherine Koeritz
1982-83 *A. John Nichols	
1983-84 John Nau	By Affiliation:
1984-85 Vern Ogden	1981-82 Robert L. Thornton, PDDGER
1985-86 Dan Snyder	2001-02 Bill Sternberg
1986-87 Bill Lloyd, PDDGER, DL	
1987-88 John E. Henry	
1988-89 Ted Lipka	
1989-90 Don Skinner	
1990-91 Don Ansell	
1991-92 Gary Sleigh	
1992-93 Tom Ryder, PDDGER	
1993-94 Jim Wallace	
1994-95 *George Pekow	
1995-96 Gil Riding, PDDGER	
1996-97 Jack Loughran	
1997-98 John Kelly	

*Deceased

The ANTLER ANTICS is published monthly in Thousand Oaks, California as the official Bulletin of the Thousand Oaks Lodge no. 2477 of the Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks of the United States of America, 158 Conejo School Road, P.O. Box 2110, Thousand Oaks, 91358. Publication of the ANTLER ANTICS is an activity of the Lodge and contributions and interesting and pertinent reading material and photographs are welcomed. *Photographs MUST be identified and captioned or they will not be published.* Deadline for receiving ALL material for publication is the **5th** of each month.