



Brazos Valley Marine Corps League *Detachment 1391*



2013

Active Year for BVMCL

Detachment Officers

Commandant

Teresa Carpenter

Senior Vice-Commandant

Ed Holcomb

Junior Vice-Commandant

John Withers

Paymaster

James Kubacak

Staff Judge Advocate

David Sahn

Past Commandant

David Sahn

Adjutant

Thorin Moser

Chaplain

John McGuire

Sergeant at Arms

Gustavo Flores

Web Sergeant

Ed Holcomb

Aide De Camp

Kristy Wolff

This was a very active year for the BVMCL. In addition to the Texas State Conference in Dallas, and the Texas Fall Staff Conference in Galveston, there were a number of funerals to attend and other veteran function the organization supported. The following highlight key events the BVMCL participated in.

Military Fun Run

The Military Fun Run, jointly sponsored by the Brazos Valley Marine Corps League and Independence Harley-Davidson®, was held on Saturday, April 20, 2013. Registration for the Military Fun Run started at 9 AM and went until 11 AM, when the bikers left to ride the circuit. From College Station, riders traveled to two sites on opposite ends of the Brazos Valley to obtain signatures from BVMCL representatives. Once the rider received the last signature, the rider returned to Independence Harley-Davidson® to be dealt their hand. The player could attempt to improve their hand by shooting a BB gun for a Wild Card. Prizes were given to the holders of the top three hands. The event generated \$800 for Combat Marines Outdoors, which takes wounded Marines on hunting trips.

BVMCL Officer Induction

2013 BVMCL officers were inducted at the May meeting held at Spence Park behind the

Corps of Cadet Commandant's home on the campus of Texas A & M. The May meeting was a family picnic. The formal meeting was short, focused on the induction of the new officers. Jorge Buenrostro, Department of Texas District 5 Vice Commandant, performed the induction ceremony. After the meeting, members and their families enjoyed



Thorin Moser unfurls new U.S. colors while John McGuire unfurls new Marine Corps League colors for the first time at the September BVMCL meeting on September 9.



Military Fun Run winner poses with Teresa Carpenter and Benny Vallejo.

hamburgers and hotdogs prepared by Gustavo Flores and participated in games, such as kickball, dizzy-izzy races, water balloons, and lots of family fun!

Flag Day Celebration

Ed and Mary Jean Holcomb represented BVMCL at the Flag Day Celebration at the George Bush Presidential

Library on June 14 that provided the premier screening of *Veteran Nation: The Mission at Home has Just Begun*. Fund generated by the screening benefited Delta Company of the Texas A&M Corps of Cadets, which consists of combat veterans.

Independence Day Parade

BVMCL participated in the Independence Day Pa-

rade at Chappell Hill, Texas, on July 4, 2013. Members met at the Chappell Hill Fire Department parking lot to setup and decorate the detachment float. The Chappell Hill parade began with representation

Patriot Day

Members of the BVMCL attended the Patriot Day celebrations at Veteran's Park, College Station. Ceremonies were performed by the local fire and police depart-



Induction of BVMCL Officers was held at Spence Park on the campus of Texas A&M.

of the Patriot Guards. The Patriot Guards were followed by the "world's largest kazoo" band, composed of area children. The BVMCL float followed soon thereafter and received a lot of cheers as members tossed candy to children watching the parade. The BVMCL float completed the short circuit early enough for Thorin Moser and his son Gus to rush back and board a train entry in the parade.

ments, as well as local politicians, and organized by the American Legion.

Running with Roy

BVMCL provided volunteer support for the Running with Roy Memorial Fun Run on October 12, 2013 at Texas A & M to benefit the TAMU Corps of Cadets through the Texas A&M Foundation. The event is held annually in honor of Lt. Col. Roy Lin Tisdale, TAMU Class of



The guest speaker, Munir Captain (holding the statue), received the award at the State Conference. Munir was an interpreter for the U.S. Marines that took Tikrit in April of 2003. Munir Captain currently resides in Dallas with his brother (Sami Captain, on the left end), both having finished their associates degree at a community college and are currently attending UT Dallas. Teresa Carpenter stands to the left of Munir Captain.



Thorin Moser and his son Gus on a train entry in the Independence Day Parade.



BVMCL float in the Chappell Hill Independence Day Parade. Members are tossing candy to the children watching the parade.

1992, and the lives of all 29 Texas Aggies lost in the War on Terror, while celebrating all those who have or are currently serving in the U.S. Military. BVMCL members assisted with registration and handing out shirts and packets during the wee hours of the morning. Most of the participants were students. The run was launched by a firing of the Corps of Cadets' howitzer. Once the participants were off, the BVMCL volunteers manned the water tables, staging water and Gatorade, which

they then handed out to the runners.

Department of Texas Fall Staff Conference

Teresa Carpenter represented the BVMCL at the Department of Texas Fall Staff Conference in Galveston from October 17th through 19th. John McGuire, James Kubacak and Ed Holcomb joined Teresa to attend the MCL training on Saturday, October 19.

Navasota Veterans Day Parade

BVMCL participated

in the Navasota Veterans Day Parade on November 9, 2013. Members met at the Navasota High School parking lot to set-up and decorate the detachment float. Afterward, some members attended a luncheon at the Navasota VFW hall.

Marine Corps Birthday Ball

The BVMCL participated in the celebration of the 238th Birthday of the United States Marine Corps by attending the Marine Corps Birthday Ball at Messina Hof in Bryan, Texas, on November 10, 2013. General Mike Hagee, 33rd Commandant of the Marine Corps, was the guest speaker. Lt. Col. Russell McGee (retired) was the Master of Ceremonies. Teresa Carpenter (BVMCL Commandant), assisted by Ed Holcomb (BVMCL Senior Vice Commandant), made presentations to General Hagee of

the BVMCL Challenge Coin and a bottle of Messina Hof private label wine commemorating the Texas Fall Staff Conference hosted last year in College Station by the Detachment.

BVMCL Birthday Celebration

After a quick meeting that include induction of three new members, the BVMCL had its own celebration of the 238th Birthday of the United States Marine Corps. Ceremonies began with playing the reading of Gen Lejeune's Birthday Message. That reading was followed by playing the Commandant's 238th Birthday Message presented by Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen James F. Amos, and the Sgt. Maj. of the Marine Corps, Sgt. Maj. Michael P. Barrett. This



Misty and Thorin Moser pose with General Hagee at the Marine Corps Birthday Ball.



Teresa Carpenter poses with General Hagee at the Marine Corps Birthday Ball.



Tony Rogers delivers a box of toys to the M*A*S*H shorting tent.

veterans in general and TAMU veterans specifically. BVMCL members help setup and support the event.

M*A*S*H

Make A Smile Happen (M*A*S*H) is an annual toy

the Christmas Season. Toy requests are received from area elementary schools, churches, and service organizations that work with less-fortunate children. The BVMCL members manned a two hour shift at the collection, sorting, and distribution center on Friday, December 6. Though it was quite chilly, everyone was so busy receiving, sorting, and loading

portion of the ceremony was concluded with the playing of GoDaddy's 238th Birthday Message, all from the BVMCL website. The cake cutting ceremony followed with Ed Holcomb cutting the cake and handing the first piece to the oldest Marine present (John Bonner), who then passed it to the youngest Marine present (Kristy Wolff, BVMCL Aide De Camp).

Field of Valor

The Bryan Rotary Club Field of Valor at Veteran

Memorial Park in College Station is the site of a week-long commemoration of Veterans Day. During the week, College Station schools visit the park as part of their history/civics program. On Veterans Day, the Corp of Cadets participate in formal ceremonies honoring



Benny Vallejo Teresa Carpenter, Ed and Mary Jean Holcomb represented the BVMCL as volunteer support for the Running With Roy event.



Thorin Moser's son Gus on back of the BVMCL float, followed by BVMCL members forming a motorcycle escort.

and fund raising drive for less-fortunate children in the Brazos Valley. Last year the event provided toys for over 6,200 Brazos Valley children. M*A*S*H is coordinated by the Brazos Valley Communications family of five radio stations in Bryan/College Station, in conjunction with the Texas Army National Guard and the U.S.S. Intangibles, a local science fiction fan club. BVMCL chose to support this effort because there is no Marine Reserve unit in the Valley, which means Toys for Tots items collected in the area go to Houston. M*A*S*H toys and funds go to less-fortunate children in the Valley during

toys staged for specific schools and churches, nobody noticed the weather.

Christmas Party

Last year the Christmas party was held at Benny Vallejo's house and featured barbecued brisket, pork, ribs, chicken, and venison. Gus Flores did the cooking.

This year was catered through Olive Garden and held at Ed & Mary Jean's home. Admission was a toy for M*A*S*H. We also had a White Elephant gift exchange that concluded a very successful year for the BVMCL.