



DRAGON'S BREATH

Dhahran Memorial Division Newsletter

July 2011

No. 34

BBQ TIME



SR 100

July 7, 2011; Start time 1530-2130

Venue at time of reservation

RSVP to admincp1@cp1dmd.org

China Post 1 Officers and Board

Officers	
<i>Commander</i>	Daniel S. Boothby
<i>1st Vice Commander</i>	Curtis Gonter
<i>Vice Commander - Membership</i>	Bruce W. Dobbins
<i>Vice Commander - Fundraising</i>	Larry Atkins
<i>Vice Commander - Social</i>	Randale Rushing
<i>Treasurer</i>	Tom Sedberry
<i>Adjutant</i>	Vacant
Other Board Members	
<i>Chaplain</i>	Rotating
<i>Sergeant-at-Arms</i>	Chris Rudie
<i>Newsletter/Historian</i>	David W. Tschanz



A Poppy border surrounds the Grave of the Unknown Warrior at the west end of the Nave of Westminster Abbey. The body was brought from France to be buried here on 11 November 1920. The grave, which contains soil from France, is covered by a slab of black Belgian marble from a quarry near Namur.

Commander's Corner



Hi All,

Thanks to all that attended the June Flag Day HH. I know there were a lot of other events happening that evening as well so appreciate your attending. We had a fun time with Quiz Master Dave Tschanz leading us through a competition. Unfortunately, my team did not win. (the Commander does not see the questions before the event) However, the winning team did well, scoring above 50% and earning CP1 coffee mugs for their efforts. It was Flag Day themed, so everyone received a flag to bring home as a memento. Thanks to Andy for hosting and thanks to Dave for preparing and leading the quiz. Thanks as well, to Karen for being the lovely assistant and helper to the quizmaster.

Our next event is July 7th; it is a BBQ and Pool party. We look forward to seeing you there!

Now that we are halfway through the year, **I need to emphasize that we are in dire need of American Legion members to fill the Leadership positions on the DMD Exec Board.** Without people stepping up to fill these positions, it becomes doubtful whether CP1 DMD will continue as an independent group in 2012. We may need to combine with CP1 JMD to become a joint venture. We are looking for people that are Veterans, members of American Legion (China Post 1) and willing to actively participate as Board members. This need is great as there are those of us that may not be remaining here in Kingdom much longer, and we need replacements.

We are also in dire need of possible venues to host our dinner meetings. We have a couple of faithful friends that have donated their home and yard space this past year, and we thank them. We would prefer not to abuse their hospitality, and so, are seeking alternate places that can host 30-50 people for a dinner in their back yard. Without venues, it is not possible for us to meet.

As Commander for the current year, I have been trying to re-energize CP1 DMD. A BIG "thank you" goes to those that have recruited new "Friends" and members and that have assisted in trying to get the word out. I also am thankful for those that are faithful in attending and generous in their support of CP1 DMD. Unfortunately, I must report that there is a disturbing trend, as there are not very many paid up dues for Friends or members in 2011. We struggle to find venues to host a meeting, and when we hosted a large event such as recently for Memorial Day, 60 tickets were unsold. These things seem to suggest that the American Community no longer wishes to support CP1 as it is currently functioning.

On behalf of whomever may be CP1 DMD Commander for 2012, I would appreciate your feedback about what we can do gather the support of the community..

We will be relatively quiet in August and September, with perhaps a HH. (possible dates and venues being researched) We are then looking at a regular dinner and meeting in October, followed by a Holiday dinner meeting in Nov/December to hold an election for next year's Exec Board, or to join with JMD.

Veterans, American Legion eligible, and those willing to be working participants in supporting CP1 DMD, this is the time to step up if you wish for us to continue!

Please contact any of the members of the Exec Board listed in this newsletter if you want to be part of a great group that serves veterans and the men and women in uniform.

Dan



China Post 1 Membership

Becoming a Member of the China Post 1 Dhahran Memorial Division is easy!

There are three types of membership:

Regular Member

To become a regular member you must have served in the Armed Forces of the United States. Optionally you can be a US citizen who served with Allied Armed Forces during any period of conflict to which the United States was a party. Conscientious Objectors and others who refuse military discipline or do other nonqualified service are not eligible.

A copy of your DD-214 must be submitted with the application. If you do not have ready access to your DD-214, please submit it as soon as possible. A copy of your discharge certificate will be accepted as temporary documentation for application into China Post 1 but a copy of your DD-214 needs to be submitted when you have access to it. We normally give a grace period of 1 year to submit the DD-214.

There is an annual dues assessment of \$40 paid directly to the National China Post 1 Headquarters in Houston, Texas. The initial check is sent with the application from the Dhahran Memorial Division Office. There are also SR150 annual dues to support the local Dhahran Memorial Division – China Post 1 chapter.

Sons of the American Legion

Membership in this group is open to a sibling, child or grandchild of a veteran that was on active duty during any of our periods of conflict

Friends of China Post 1

The “Friends of the Dhahran Memorial Division – China Post 1” is a social membership open to anyone who does not qualify in the above categories. Membership allows you admission to our gatherings as well as a subscription to our newsletter and a place on our mailing list.

For additional information, as well as a membership form, please contact **Dan Boothby, Commander**

Living Statue of Liberty

David W. Tschanz

"On a stifling July day in 1918, 18,000 officers and soldiers posed as Lady Liberty on the parade [drill] grounds at Camp Dodge." [This area was west of Baker St. and is currently the area around building S34 and to the west.] "According to a July 3, 1986, story in the Fort Dodge Messenger, many men fainted—they were dressed in woolen uniforms—as the temperature neared 105 degrees Fahrenheit. The photo, taken from the top of a specially constructed tower by a Chicago photography studio, Mole & Thomas, was intended to help promote the sale of war bonds but was never used." (Grover 1987)

As the web site of the Iowa National Guard explains, the above-displayed photograph of a "human Statue of Liberty," formed by 18,000 posed soldiers, was taken in July 1918 at Camp Dodge, Iowa, as part of a planned promotional campaign to sell war bonds during World War I:

On a stifling July day in 1918, 18,000 officers and soldiers posed as Lady Liberty on the parade [drill] grounds at Camp Dodge. [This area was west of Baker St. and is currently the area around building S34 and to the west.] According to a July 3, 1986, story in the Fort Dodge Messenger, many men fainted — they were dressed in woolen uniforms — as the temperature neared 105°F. The photo, taken from the top of a specially constructed tower by a Chicago photography studio, Mole & Thomas, was intended to help promote the sale of war bonds but was never used.

A reader whose great-grandfather appeared in this picture passed along to us some contemporaneous information about the photograph prepared by the Committee on Public Information

The design for the living picture was laid out at the drill ground at Camp Dodge, situated in the beautiful valley of the Des Moines River. Thousands of yards of white tape were fastened to the ground and formed the outlines on which 18,000 officers and men marched to their respective positions.

In this body of soldiers are any hundreds of men of foreign birth — born of parents whose first impression of the Land of Freedom and Promise was of the world's greatest colossus standing with beacon light at the portal of a nation of free people, holding aloft a torch symbolic of the light of liberty which the statue represents. Side by side with native sons these men, with unstinted patriotism, now offer to sacrifice not only their liberty but even life itself for our beloved country.

The day on which the photograph was taken was extremely hot and the heat was intensified by the mass formation of men. The dimensions of the platting for the picture seem astonishing. The camera was placed on a high tower. From the position nearest the camera occupied by Colonel Newman and his staff, to the last man at the top of the torch as platted on the ground was 1,235 feet, or approximately a quarter of a mile. The appended figures will give an adequate idea of the distorted proportions of the actual ground measurements for this photograph:

- Base to shoulder: 150 feet.
- Right arm: 340 feet.
- Widest part of arm holding torch: 12-1/2 feet.
- Right thumb: 35 feet.
- Thickest part of body: 29 feet.
- Left hand (length): 30 feet.
- Tablet in left hand: 27 feet.
- Face: 60 feet.
- Nose: 21 feet.
- Longest spike of head piece: 70 feet.
- Flame on torch.: 600 feet.
- Torch and flame combined: 980 feet.

Number of men in flame of torch: 12,000

Number of men in torch: 2,800

Number of men in right arm: 1,200

Number of men in body, head and balance of figure only: 2,000

Total: 18,000



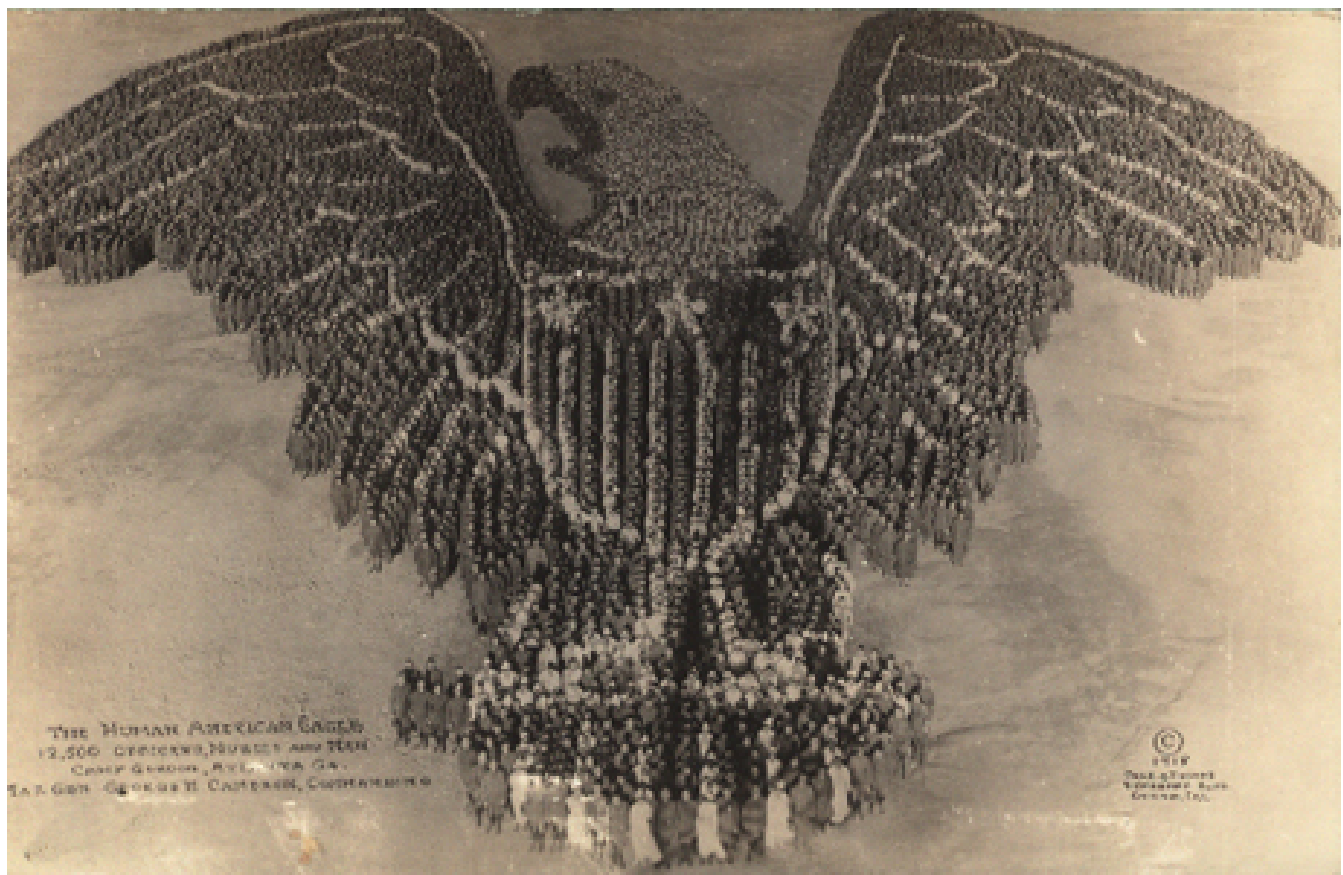
STANDING TALL Titled "Human Statue of Liberty," this image was taken at Camp Dodge in Iowa and used eighteen thousand men.

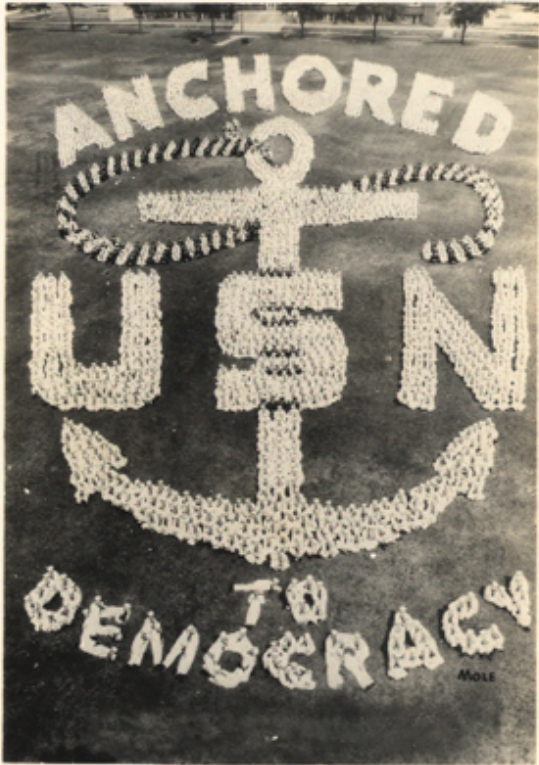
Incredible as it may seem there are twice the number of men in the flame of the torch as in the whole remaining design, while there are eight times as many men in the arm, torch and flame as in all the rest of the figure. It will be noted that the right thumb is five feet longer than the left hand, while the right arm, torch and flame is eight times the length of the body.

New York's Ricco/Maresca Gallery offers more information on the background of this image and similar photographs by Arthur S. Mole and John D. Thomas:

Arthur S. Mole was a British-born commercial photographer who worked in Zion, Illinois. During and shortly after World War I, Mole traveled with his partner John D. Thomas from one military camp to another, posing thousands of soldiers to form gigantic patriotic symbols that they photographed from above. The formations depicted such images as the Liberty Bell, the Statue of Liberty, the Marine Corps emblem and a portrait of President Woodrow Wilson. The Wilson portrait, for example, was formed using 21,000 officers and men at Camp Sherman in Ohio and stretched over 700 feet. His "Human Liberty Bell" was composed from over 25,000 soldiers, arranged with Mole's characteristic attention to detail to even depict the crack in the bell. Mole and Thomas spent a week or more preparing for these immense works, which were taken from a 70 or 80 foot tower with an 11 by 14 inch view camera. When the demand for these photographs dropped in the 1920s, Mole returned to his photography business in Zion.

This picture, as well as additional photographs produced in the same style by Mole & Thomas and other photographers (and featuring the patriotic themes mentioned in the preceding paragraph), can be viewed at the web site of Chicago's Carl Hammer Gallery.





U. S. NAVAL TRAINING STATION,
GREAT LAKES, ILLINOIS
REAR ADMIRAL, JOHN DOWNES U S NAVY,
COMMANDING OFFICER



OFFICIAL BUREAU OF THE
UNITED STATES TRAINING
OFFICERS AND INSTRUCTORS
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING OFFICER
REAR ADMIRAL JOHN DOWNES U S NAVY
COMMANDING OFFICER



Smoky The Wonder Dog *Four Pounds of Courage*

David W. Tschanz

"Smoky, come. Come on, girl." Cpl. Bill Wynne was lying on his belly next to an airstrip on the Philippine Islands, hollering into a dark culvert. He strained to hear any sound from his 4-pound Yorkshire terrier, who was on the toughest assignment of her World War II combat career.

It was February 1945. The American forces had landed at Lingayen Gulf, but they feared a Japanese counterattack like the one three months earlier, after they had taken Leyte Gulf. They urgently needed to string a communication wire from Wynne's photo-reconnaissance unit back to headquarters in case they needed to call up reinforcements.

They had to string the wires under the airfield, but if they tore up the runway, 40 war planes would have to be moved from their sheltered area, leaving them exposed to an enemy air strike.

So Sgt. Bob Gapp asked Wynne, a 22-year-old Army Air Force corporal from Cleveland, if he could use Smoky, the squadron's mascot and Wynne's best friend for the past year, to pull a feeder line under the airfield.

The 7-inch-tall dog would only have an inch clearance through the 70-foot long pipe, with sand leaking in at the connections between each 4-foot section. Wynne worried that Smoky would become trapped in the sand. Still, he tied a string to her collar and left her with Gapp at one end of the culvert. He ran across the runway to the culvert's other end and called out to Smoky through the pipe.

At first Smoky hesitated, but Wynne coaxed her until she slipped inside. "When she was about 10 feet inside the pipe, the string got caught," Wynne remembers. "I called and pleaded with her to keep going."

"The line's moving again," Gapp hollered across the airstrip to Wynne.

From inside the pipe, Wynne heard a faint whimpering sound. Then two amber eyes appeared in the darkness. Smoky bolted through a cloud of dust into Wynne's arms, the string still attached to her collar.

The signal section grabbed the line and strung three thick cables through the culvert. Smoky's work prevented the need to have approximately 250 ground crewman move around and keep operational, 40 United States fighters and reconnaissance planes, while a construction detail dug up the taxiway, placing the men and the planes in danger and possibly the peril of destruction by enemy bombings. What would have been a dangerous three-day digging task to place the wire was instead completed by this little dog in minutes. .



Yorkie Role Model

Yorkshire terrier admirers say Smoky has an important place in the history of the breed. "Smoky was the dog that brought an unexpected interest to the then obscure Yorkshire Terrier breed with news stories from the far Pacific Theatre in 1945," wrote Joan Gordon, a breed historian for the Yorkshire Terrier Club of America, in a 2001 issue of *Popular Dog*. In fact, Yorkies were so rare then that when Smoky appeared in an armed forces publication, she was probably the first Yorkie most GIs had ever seen.

Since the war, Smoky's tale has been told in more than 50 books and numerous magazine articles. Animal Planet has produced two episodes about her. A PBS station in New Mexico is working on a chronicle of Smoky's adventures based on Wynne's 1996 book, "Yorkie Doodle Dandy."

Bill Wynne bought Smoky from a motor pool sergeant in New Guinea in March 1944. When he first saw her, she was cold, sick, wet and tied to a truck tire. But she jumped up and down at the sight of him.

"She had a gold-colored head and legs and a gray-blue body," Wynne recalls. "She wasn't much bigger than my GI boots and I didn't have a clue as to what breed she was."

The sergeant said another soldier had rescued Smoky from a foxhole deep in the jungle, then gave her away because he didn't like dogs. Yorkshire terriers were such an unfamiliar breed back then, Wynne assumed that she was some type of Japanese dog abandoned by enemy soldiers.

Wynne had been looking for a dog to help ease the rigors of jungle isolation. He'd already spent two months of his year in the service in primitive campsites.

Wynne's thoughts flashed back to his youth in Cleveland, to the two years he spent in Parmadale Orphanage when his mother could not afford to take care of him. A dog named Rags had kept him company in those tough times.

"I offered the sergeant two pounds Australian for her," Wynne recalled. "He needed it for a poker game."

The sergeant had called her Smokums, and her gray and brown fur reminded Wynne of Cleveland's industrial smoke. So he shortened her name to Smoky.

Wynne was an aerial photographer in the Army Air Forces 26th Photo Recon Squadron, later known as "The Spies in the Sky." They flew over and mapped South Pacific islands, scouting for the American fighting forces island-hopping toward Japan, estimating troop strength.

For the next two years, Smoky back-packed through the rest of the war and accompanied Wynne on combat flights in the Pacific. She faced adverse circumstances, living in the New Guinea jungle and Rock Islands, suffering the primitive conditions of tents in equatorial heat and humidity. Throughout her service, Smoky slept in Wynne's tent on a blanket made from a green felt card table cover; she shared Wynne's C-rations and an occasional can of Spam. Unlike the "official" war dogs of World War II, Smoky had neither medical care nor a balanced diet formulated especially for dogs. In spite of this, Smoky was never ill. She even ran on coral for four months without developing any of the paw ailments that plagued some war dogs

Drafted!

Initially, Smoky was a pleasant diversion for Wynne. In the armed forces, there is a lot of down time, even during a war.

"While the other guys played poker or saw the same movie for the third time, I taught Smoky tricks," Wynne says.

Wynne had little formal dog training experience, but Smoky proved a quick study.

"She learned to play dead and sing the first two days I had her," Wynne recalls. "She would respond either to my voice or to hand signals. She had a great eagerness to please."

Smoky was a bundle of energy, but small enough to fit into Wynne's duffel bag. She quickly adapted to his life in the war zone, flying on 12 combat missions with him and following him into the darkroom when he printed photographs.

Wynne credited Smoky with saving his life by warning him of incoming shells on an LST (transport ship), calling her an "angel from a foxhole." As the ship deck was booming and vibrating from anti-aircraft gunnery, Smoky guided Wynne to duck the fire that hit 8 men standing next to them.[4]

"Bill was very protective of her," recalls Don Esmond, 82, who served in Wynne's photo squadron.

"I still don't know how he took her ashore when we invaded Luzon," Esmond says. "It was 3 AM., we were dropped off 100 yards from the beach and the water was up to our necks. I had enough trouble just keeping my gun dry."

"Don was shorter than me," Wynne responds. "I carried my barracks bag on one shoulder, my rolled-up cot on my other shoulder and my rifle in my hands. Smoky sat on the cot."

Smoky was a constant source of amusement for Wynne and his fellow troops as they slogged across the Far Pacific, through New Guinea, Biak Island, the Philippines, Okinawa and Korea. She proved to be a tough little dog, fighting off the jungle's heat while sharing Wynne's C rations, powdered milk and dehydrated potatoes. Smoky dodged the many diseases, such as malaria, dysentery and jaundice, that infected the American soldiers.

First Therapy Dog

Wynne was not so lucky. He came down with dengue fever in July 1944 while assigned to Nadzab, New Guinea. After three days in a tent hospital, a few of Wynne's friends brought Smoky to visit him.

Some of the nurses borrowed Smoky while Wynne rested, using her to entertain the injured soldiers in the other tent wards. Smoky had just claimed a bit of fame, winning first prize in a *Yank Down Under Magazine* mascot contest. The July 14, 1944, issue of the magazine, which covered American armed forces south of the equator, named her the best mascot in the Southwest Pacific. Smoky was



photographed sitting in Wynne's helmet — the same photo used in 2005 as a model for her memorial sculpture.

Wynne was granted two weeks' recuperative leave in Australia, so he took Smoky with him. They visited Army and Navy hospitals in Brisbane to cheer up soldiers starved for entertainment.

"GIs in wheelchairs would follow us from ward to ward," Wynne recalls. "Some would ask to hold her; others [asked] what I fed her." One of the *Animal Planet* episodes credited Smoky as a forerunner in the field of animal therapy.

By this time, Wynne had taught Smoky a repertoire of tricks. She could jump hurdles, ride a scooter and even

climb a ladder and walk a tightrope, blindfolded.

Her fame spread as stateside newspapers ran stories of her hospital visits, along with the helmet picture. Later, her Philippine airfield escapade was reported in a 91st Photo Recon newsletter, though the details were kept sketchy for security reasons. In summer 1945, Wynne, with Smoky at his side, was interviewed for an American Red Cross radio show broadcast back home on more than 100 stations. By the time World War II ended in August 1945, Smoky was a bona fide war hero.

Cpl. Bill Wynne was discharged from the Army Air Forces in November 1945. For the long journey at sea back to the United States, Smoky was hidden in a modified oxygen mask carrying case.

On Dec. 7, 1945, *The Cleveland Press* detailed Smoky's underground heroics for the first time. Four pictures of Smoky were plastered on the front page of its home edition. TINY DOG HOME FROM THE WAR drew more ink than the death sentence of Japanese Gen. Tomoyuki Yamashita.

"The Press photographers tied two pieces of string to some chairs, and Smoky walked the tight rope for them," Wynne laughs. "I formed a hoop with my arms and she jumped through it."

Wynne and Smoky joined the Cleveland Police Department's Christmas show in neighborhoods with high delinquency rates. They performed for local companies, fraternal organizations, at the Crile Veterans Hospital, in the Al Sirat Grotto Circus and, in summer 1946, as opening act for the Traveling Zoo Wagon, the Cleveland Zoo's tour of city playgrounds. "We had 16 animals and attracted record crowds, but Smoky was the real star," Wynne recalls.

On February 21, 1957, "Corporal" Smoky died unexpectedly at the approximate age of 14.

Wynne and his family buried Smoky in a World War II .30 Caliber Ammo Box in the Cleveland Metroparks, Rocky River Reservation in Lakewood, Ohio. Nearly 50 years later, on Veterans Day, November 11, 2005, a bronze life-size sculpture of Smoky sitting in a GI helmet, atop a two-ton blue granite base, was unveiled there. It is placed above the very spot that Smoky was laid at her final resting place.

2011 Calendar of Events

	Date	Event	Comments
	March 17	St Patrick's Day	<i>Wear Green</i>
	April 28	Spring Fling	<i>Before Summer Comes</i>
	May ??	Memorial Day Observance & Dinner Dance	<i>TBA</i>
	June 16	Flag Day Dinner meeting	<i>Honor Old Glory</i>
	July 7	4 th of July Poolside BBQ	<i>Wieners Rule!</i>

