



Newsletter of *Sgt. William Pittenger Camp #21*

The General

*Department of
California & Pacific*



*Sons of Union Veterans
of the Civil War*

"Most Outstanding Camp in the Nation" ~ 2003

"Most Outstanding Brother in the Nation" ~ 2005

Volume XII Number 6

"Best Camp Newsletter in the Nation" ~ 2004 & 2006

Nov 25, 2006

Camp Commanders Corner ~ by Will Tisch

Dear Camp 21 Members, As we look towards the end of 2006 there has been quite a bit of great work accomplished this past year and there is more good work to come ahead of us. Our Camp can take pride in knowing that we have well served the memory of the Union and the Grand Army of the Republic. Highlights include participation at Veterans Memorial Services, Memorial Day respects for the Boys in Blue, a fine Flagpole Dedication held at Mount Hope Cemetery, many parades, recruitment efforts, and many Boy Scout Courts of Honor. Individuals also took the initiative to teach history of the Civil War and participate in events throughout the State and Country. For these immense efforts, great personal expenses and much time were spent by members that participated in them. Gas was very expensive and the hours of labor were vast. Gratification comes from knowing that we, as a camp, have made a difference for the Union. This coming year, we look to continue our efforts as mentioned and work towards the completion of the Last Soldier Project which will include the installation of a plaque in his honor and a ceremony of dedication. There will also be a memorial plaque installed at Minter's Ranch, which is the site of the one lone example of what might be termed "contact" between Union and Confederate forces in California and located in San Diego County.



Remembrance Day, 18 Nov. at Winnie & Wm Pittenger's graves stand the assembled Camp 21 Brothers in Fallbrook's I.O.O.F. Cemetery

Minter's Ranch is just 2½ miles southwest of Lake Henshaw Dam. For those of you that have made that extra effort to come to our events this year and participate, Thank You. For those of you that have retained membership in our Camp, Thank you but we can certainly use a bit more help with future activities. Please take time to become involved. Also, Please remit your dues as soon as possible after you receive your dues notice to ease the

work in completing finances for next year. This is very much appreciated. Elections and installation of officers will occur at our Dec. meeting as well as awards for outstanding service. Please come to this meeting to cast your vote and enjoy our Camp's fellowship of Brothers and Associates during this festive time of the Year. After the meeting, we will stay at the NCO Club for a buffet dinner consisting of two pastas; Fettuccini & Rigatoni, three sauces; Alfredo, Marinara & Pesto, a green salad, roll, dessert & a beverage. Cost is \$10.75 per person. We need a head

count so we will have enough to go around: please RSVP via-e-mail to tis346@cox.net or phone: 619-448-4818.

I hope you can attend.
Very Happy Holidays
Commander Will Tisch
Camp 21 SUVCW

Camp Website - <http://home.earthlink.net/~suvchw/pittinger21.html>

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THE GENERAL is the official newsletter of the Sgt. William Pittenger Camp 21, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. It is published each odd-numbered month for Camp members. It is also available by newsletter exchange to other SUVCW or Allied Orders groups. Such groups are welcome to reprint articles from *The General* with attribution. Brief articles are invited and should be sent to the Newsletter Editor listed above with the understanding that space limitations may require editing.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS should be mailed to Camp Secretary at address listed above. Failure to notify the Camp of change of address will result in missed issues of *The General* and *The Banner*.

CAMP EMAIL DIRECTORY. If you wish to be included in the Camp Email Directory, send your permission and email address to Bob Lowe at Cavalry21@cox.net.

SONS OF VETERANS RESERVE (SVR) is the uniformed contingent of the SUVCW. You do not have to be a reenactor to join. Annual dues are \$6.00. Interested Brothers should contact the SVR Representative listed above.

October 21-22 2006 Fresno Reenactment ~ by PCC Jerry Sayre

Our Camp was represented by DSVC Jerry Sayre and his wife Kimberly Sayre, a member of Nancy Hanks Lincoln Tent #5 DUVCW. The two day event was well worth the six hour drive. "The Civil War Revisited" is put on by the Fresno Historical Society, and is the largest Civil War reenactment on the west coast. There were as many as 1500 participants and at least 12 artillery pieces. Kearney Park was thundering from musketry, cannons, and ground charges. This event is so large that they often put troops on the field in shifts. Hundreds of visitors come to see living historians relive the Civil War, and our table was often overrun. This has become a Department event, as there was representation from Camps 2, 4, 9, 21, 22, 24, and 26. With the recent passing of Brother Charles "Corky" Reed, the Department followed GAR tradition and named our area "Camp Corky Reed" in his honor. (see other article for info on Corky's memorial) While this event is quite a distance to travel, one should try to "Go to See the Elephant" at least once! Photos by Kim Sayre



L; C. Mabie and J. Sayre interviewed by TV Station 27.
R; Jerry Sayre beside a beautifully restored Napoleon - \$36K and 2 years went into it's purchase!



A six-horse drawn 12-pounder Napoleon complete with limber and troopers is readied for battle.

CA Dept Brothers present, L-R (Camp # after name) Kirby Morgan 9, Lynn Owens 24, Carl Taylor 9, Charlie Mabie 24, Jerry Sayre 21, Tom Hegdahl 22, Frank Avila 4, Joe Marti 4, Tad Campbell 4, Paul Hiller 24, Bill Pope 4



Report on The Massing of the Colors By Camp Chaplain Deane Poole

Sunday Nov 5th was a wonderful and warm day in San Diego. Many other events were in motion. "Race for the Cure," a fund raising event for the American Cancer Society was in full swing at Balboa Park. Our event was held at the Organ Pavilion. In celebration of the 87th anniversary of the organization of the Military Order of the World Wars, it was presented by the San Diego Chapter established in 1926 and commanded by Capt. Deborah Kash, USAF (Ret). This annual event includes groups and color guards from all parts of San Diego County. Listed color guards in the program numbered 24, but I know several more were in attendance. Our color guard included Commander Will Tisch, Sr. Vice Commander Tom Helmantoler, and me. The ladies present and dressed in period attire were Eileen Tisch and Brenda Poole. Muster was at 10:30 behind the Organ Pavilion. The Massing of the Colors and Service of Remembrance is a ceremony to honor the Flag of the United States and those living and dead who have gallantly struggled to preserve it and the freedom for humanity it represents. The ceremony started with the United States Marine Corp Band, San Diego, playing while the color guards marched the Colors onto the stage. The SUVCW had the privilege of being at center-stage left. I carried the National, Will, the 6th Military District SVR flag and Tom, the Camp 21 flag. Brenda and Eileen were present in the audience, Eileen shooting pictures as usual. We, as a group, looked very sharp. The ceremony included an invocation and blessing of Flags by Chaplain Capt. Johnny C. Poole, USN. Although a great name for a Chaplain, we are not related. Eagle Scout James Oakes led The Pledge of Allegiance followed by the National Anthem, courtesy of the Marine Corps Band. Several proclamations were mentioned,

these coming from various governmental agencies and elected representatives. Our Guest of Honor was R. Adm. Brian G. Brinkman, SHCE USN. He read a poem by Robert Frost about the meaning of the Flag. We had firing of volleys and playing of Taps followed by another poem, "Old Glory." The Benediction was spoken by Chaplain Poole, then we paraded the flags out. It was a colorful and moving experience enjoyed by all. I would like to thank the organizers for great foresight and planning. I hope more of our group will participate next year.

**MONTHLY VETERANS
MEMORIAL SERVICE AT VMMC**

The Color Guard of our SVR unit, Company G, 5th California Volunteer Infantry consisting of members D. Allyn, B. Lowe, M. Moniz, T. Helmantoler and J. Sayre presented the colors at the monthly Memorial Service on October 28 at the Veterans Museum and Memorial Center. The old chapel of the former Balboa Naval Hospital houses the VMMC with many interesting displays of San Diego military history for viewing. At this monthly meeting, the names of all veterans who have passed away during the past month are read by Pearl Harbor Survivors and other notable persons and a service is often held for a homeless vet that has no family. At the October service between 300 and 400 names were read, but there was no funeral service. The SVR alternates the honor of presenting the colors with the SAR each month and is glad to have this honor. After the service, the participants enjoyed the fellowship and camaraderie of dining together at a local favorite bistro, the Longhorn in Grantville. ~ by Tom Helmantoler SVC

<i>Schedule of Coming Events/Activities</i>	<i>* denotes Co. G, 5th Calif. Infantry, SVR participation</i>	<i>Contact for details</i>
<i>"A Civil War/Victorian Christmas," Drum Barracks/Banning Mansion, Wilmington, CA</i>	<i>All Day, Dec. 2-3, 2006</i>	<i>Will Tisch, Bob Lowe</i>
<i>* Christmas Parade, Fallbrook, CA.</i>	<i>5:00 PM, Dec. 2, 2006</i>	<i>Jerry Sayre, Will Tisch</i>
<i>Election/Camp Meeting, SNCO Club, MCAS Miramar (buffet dinner to follow)</i>	<i>4:30 PM, Dec. 9, 2006</i>	<i>Will Tisch, Tom Helmantoler</i>
<i>* Lincoln Pilgrimage, Redlands, CA.</i>	<i>10:00 AM, Feb. 10, 2007</i>	<i>Jerry Sayre, Will Tisch</i>
<i>Camp meeting, SNCO Club, MCAS Miramar</i>	<i>4:30 PM, Feb. 10, 2007</i>	<i>Will Tisch, Tom Helmantoler</i>
<i>* "Massing of Colors," Forest Lawn, Hollywood Hills, CA.</i>	<i>3:00 PM, Feb. 18, 2007</i>	<i>Jerry Sayre, Will Tisch</i>

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING, October 14, 2006

Present: Brothers Dave Allyn, George Cavanagh, John Finch, Tom Helmantoler, Bob Lowe, Jeff Malone, John May, Deane Poole, Jerry Sayre, Dave Shaffer, Tom Stinson, Will Tisch, and guests Gay Allyn, Julie Atzen, Brenda Boucher, Sue Fox, Rosemary Lowe, Kim Sayre, Jan Shaffer, and Eileen Tisch.

The meeting was called to order by Commander Will Tisch at 4:42pm at the home of Brother Deane Poole, 4466 Mt. Herbert Ave., San Diego, CA. T. Stinson led the Pledge of Allegiance and the opening prayer was offered by Chaplain D. Poole. D. Poole announced the death of Brother Corky Reed from Camp 24. He has sent a letter of condolence from our Camp. W. Tisch announced the election of a new Commander-In-Chief, James Pahl. A motion (Lowe/Helmantoler) to approve the minutes of the last meeting as printed in the newsletter was passed.

JVC D. Allyn reported one new member, Jeffrey Finical. A motion (Allyn/Lowe) to approve his application was passed unanimously. W. Tisch announced that our Camp newsletter, The General, has once again been awarded the Marshall Hope Award as the best newsletter in the nation. A certificate was presented to the editor, Bro. Dave Allyn, who expressed his thanks to those who contribute to the newsletter and to former editor, Bob Lowe. A streamer for the Camp flag was also awarded and was on display. W. Tisch also presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Brenda and Bro. D. Poole for their generosity in hosting our meeting. Eileen Tisch presented the camp with \$140, the proceeds of the "No-Bake Bake Sale" conducted by the Ladies' Auxiliary. Sec. J. May reported correspondence from Dept Secretary noting an overpayment in new member dues. Trs. J. May reported that expenditures since the last meeting have been \$197.56 and income has been \$70.50. There is now a balance of \$2772.06, of which \$1325.45 remains in our Flagpole Restoration Fund. T. Helmantoler reported the death of ASUVCW member Ruth Schlusser as conveyed by Dept. Cmdr. Tad Campbell. T. Helmantoler also reported on the Veterans' Affairs Council breakfast at which we were invited to present the colors. Much interest was shown and our Camp received some positive publicity. B. Lowe reported on our attendance at the National Encampment. A wonderful time was had with highlights being the Allied Orders Banquet and the Gettysburg Battlefield tour. Many of the nationally elected officers and committee appointees are from our department which shows the high respect in which we are held by Brothers nationwide. Next year's encampment will be in St. Louis and the following in Boston. The Dept. of Calif. and Pacific has put in a bid to host the 2012 Encampment. D. Allyn reported that BSA Eagle Scout presentations are still being made and reminded us of the

need for members to take a more active role in helping to make these presentations. Contact Br. S. Berrey to volunteer. W. Tisch reported that a GAR grave marker was turned in at the last Vista re-enactment and it has been turned over to the Veterans' Memorial Center Museum in Balboa Park. Upcoming events include, 1) U.S. Grant Hotel grand re-opening on Oct. 17, at which our Color Guard will participate, 2) Memorial Service at VMMC, Balboa Park on Oct. 28, 3) Massing of the Colors Nov. 5 in Balboa Park, 4) Veterans' Day Parade Nov. 11 in San Diego, 5) Remembrance Day service at the Oddfellows Cemetery in Fallbrook on Nov. 18 at 1:00pm, 6) Mother Goose Parade on Nov. 19, 7) Fallbrook Christmas Parade on Dec. 2 at 5:00pm, and 8) Next Camp Meeting on Dec. 9. Old Business included, 1) a clarification of the need for a memorial in the East County, with word coming from Bro. Gene Armistead that Minters Ranch may be a site worthy of research, 2) a reminder that a Camp History needs to be written and submitted to the Department, and 3) a discussion on what to do with the remaining 10th Anniversary medals given to the Camp by PCC J. Sayre. Suggestions include giving them to new members, using them as presentation items to speakers and other persons who have assisted the Camp, and trying to use them to raise money. New Business included: 1) A letter was read by B. Lowe, forwarded from Camp 24, in which an appeal is made for funds to help with the final arrangements for Bro. Corky Reed. A motion (Lowe/Sayre) was passed to contribute \$100 from the Camp treasury. Individuals may contribute additional money and J. May will send it along with the Camp contribution. 2) B. Lowe reported that the National Civil War Museum is selling memorial bricks. See B. Lowe for more information. 3) Petitions were distributed addressed to the Secretary of the Interior, re. the recent desecration of the battlefield outside Harper's Ferry. 4) A presentation of souvenir ribbons from the National Encampment was made by B. Lowe to all interested members. 5) A motion (May/Sayre) was passed that the Camp donate \$200 to the Civil War Preservation Trust to help with the purchase of the Slaughter Pen Farm on the Fredericksburg battleground. 6) A second motion (Lowe/Cavanagh) was passed to send an additional \$50 to the CWPT legal fund. 7) J. May pointed out the need for more Camp involvement with schools like the presentations done by B. Lowe and T. Helmantoler. There is general agreement that we should do more with youth. 8) B. Lowe reminded us of the Last Soldier Project, in which the last surviving Union Civil War veteran of each county is identified and honored. A committee was appointed to work on this project consisting of T. Helmantoler (Chair), B. Lowe, J. May, J. Sayre, D. Shaffer, and W. Tisch. 9) J. Sayre reported that the Dept. Encampment

Our Ancestors' Legacy by John May

Why do we take the trouble to join the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War? Why do we get involved in Camp activities? What makes SUVCW membership pleasurable and worthwhile for us? In the fall of 2005, a survey was sent to the members of the Sgt. William Pittenger Camp 21 asking, among other things, "Why are you a member of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War?" About thirty surveys were returned and the answers to this question were many and varied. Examining responses may reveal something interesting about the men who make up our Camp and may cause us to re-think our commitment to the objectives of the SUVCW.

"I have found that the many reasons we have joined the Camp fall into three distinct categories."

I have found that the many reasons we have joined the Camp fall into three distinct categories. A few examples will help to illustrate the differences between these categories. The first group consists of responses that indicate people continue to renew their membership because of the camaraderie enjoyed at Camp meetings and functions. A fellowship shared with like-minded individuals seems to be a valued component of Camp membership for these people. Many of us like to discuss Civil War related books, movies, research projects and anecdotes with others who share these same interests. One respondent noted, "fellowship with my Brothers" is what keeps me involved with the Camp. These attitudes can probably best be described as feelings of **FRATERNITY**. The word "fraternity" is derived from the Latin "frater," meaning "brother." Camp members seem to enjoy a familial relationship with each other, much as they do with their actual, biological brothers. A second type of response shows that some members are interested in service projects and educational pursuits. Getting something accomplished that is concrete and meaningful appeals to many of us. We like doing things of value to the community and to the memory of the brave boys who served the Union cause. Projects, like the Mt. Hope Flagpole replacement and the dedication of veterans' gravestones have a lasting impact, both in our lives and for the generations that may come after us. Monetary donations made to local and national causes also give us a feeling of proud accomplishment. Support of organizations like the Civil War Preservation Trust and the Southern Museum of Locomotive and Civil War History can make a big difference in perpetuating the goals of these groups. Additionally, educational endeavors, including programs at Camp meetings, Eagle Scout presentations and living history events seem to be worthwhile to our member-

ship. "The potential for service to the community," is how one Camp member explained this. These service-oriented ideas might be summarized as a commitment to **CHARITY**. We are all willing to give, to whatever extent we can, of our time, our talent and our treasure. The third category of responses all center around the idea of honoring our Civil War ancestors for their service to our Country. One member replied that he joined the SUVCW to "help honor my three ancestors who were Union soldiers." Another mentioned his "pride in the service of my great-grandfather." A very small, but extremely active group in our Camp takes pride in displaying the National Colors wherever and whenever they can. These enthusiastic Brothers present the colors at professional sporting events and memorial services, and regularly march in parades throughout Southern California. Many of our members also support various veterans' causes and movements that promote national pride in the history and culture of the United States. These activities can all be seen as an expression of our patriotism and **LOYALTY** to our country. Loyalty does not necessarily mean a blind obedience to those in power or a non-questioning attitude about national policy, but rather an enduring love for our country and a strong desire to honor the values for which it stands. The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War have joined together, then, in bonds of **FRATERNITY, CHARITY, and LOYALTY**. Not coincidentally, this is the motto of our organization and we can perhaps now better see how these words bring new meaning into our lives.

SUVCW Brothers value each other's friendship, are quick to lend a hand to a needy cause and are not afraid to express our love of country. We recognize that we are truly blessed to live in the United States of America and we realize that our ancestors are among the millions of Americans who have served, suffered and even died to pass down this blessing to us. Let us continue to respect their service, to take strength from their sacrifice and to move ever forward to advance the cause of Liberty and Union!

"SUVCW Brothers value each other's friendship, are quick to lend a hand to a needy cause and are not afraid to express our love of country."



PITTENGER CAMP SCRAPBOOK



L. preparing Dave Shafer's truck for El Cajon's Mother Goose Parade at Bob Lowe's home are brothers and ladies of Camp 21. Below, Dave Shafer by his beautiful Ford truck, cup-in-hand

SVR Co. G & Ladies at Tustin's "Tiller Days" parade

R. With Bob Lowe's "Big Bob" cannon on the back of Dave Shafer's truck, the parade participants are ready to head for the staging area of El Cajon's Mother Goose parade.



J. Sayre, G. Roosevelt, D. Poole, W. Tisch & B. Lowe, SD Vet's Day parade



H. Masso, R. Lowe, E. Tisch, J. Atzen, B. Poole marched with SVR Co. G in SD Vet's Day Parade



At 11am, on 11 Nov 1918 WWI ends. At 11am on 11 Nov 2006 that event was marked by a parade in SD: our SVR unit was there with our ladies in the lead !



Pittenger Camp ladies at Remembrance Day ceremonies at OddFellows Cemetery



Commander Will Tisch reviews our Order's history & the legacy of the GAR for us



Remembrance Day Color Guard, B. Bingham, D. Allyn, E. Powell, B. Lowe



Welcome New Brother !
There are no new members
to report at this time

The Officers of the Sgt. Wm. Pittenger Camp 21 would like to thank each and every Brother for his service during this year, Two Thousand and Six. It is our sincere desire to serve you and perpetuate the memory of "The Boys in Blue." We hope all of you have a most wonderful and Merry Christmas and the Happiest of New Years in Two Thousand and Seven !
HUZZAH ! HUZZAH !! HUZZAH !!!

For Sale

Cindy Hodges is selling Al Hodges uniform and leather accouterments. 3-4 shirts, sky-blue wool trousers, dark-blue sack coat, vest, and a slouch hat plus the usual leather items; waist belt, ammunition box and strap, cap pouch, etc. Everything in excellent condition. Contact Cindy by phone, after 5:00 pm, at 619-579-4981

The San Diego Civil War Roundtable meets the Third Wednesday of each month, 7 PM at Pallisades Presbyterian Church 6301 Birchwood St., San Diego and is open to the public. For further information, contact President Dave Tooley at 858/672-2593 on the Web at sdcwrt.org

Memorial Service for Brother Charles "Corky" Reed ~ by Jerry Sayre

On Nov 4th a small crowd of about 30 gathered at the Duggen-Welch Funeral Home in San Francisco to remember Charles Joseph "Corky" Reed, Dept. Color Bearer and Camp 24 SVC. Corky passed away some time Sep. 23 at his small apartment from apparent heart failure due to complication of Type II Diabetes. An only child, Corky had no living relatives on the West coast so, to him, the SUVCW was his family. Members of Camps 4, 24, and two members of Camp 21 with their wives, Bob and Rosemary Lowe, Jerry and Kim Sayre gathered to remember and relive tales and times shared with Corky. Brother Lynn Owens officiated and Department Officers performed the SUVCW Ritual for the Departed Brother. Corky Reed was definitely a character and a well-known fixture of San Francisco. When not in his well worn Lt. Colonel's uniform, he often portrayed Emperor Joshua Norton, a 19th century eccentric and character who proclaimed himself Emperor of the United States and Protector of Mexico. Much like Corky, Norton would be seen in San Francisco with the Mayor and other dignitaries while having little money and only a made up title. This year, at the 100th anniversary of the 1906 SF earthquake, Corky, as Norton, was at the mayor's side during the event. During our visit to Ft Point, Park Service Rangers asked if we were in town for the Memorial, and a few were able to attend along with SUVCW members, members of the local veterans groups, and various other members of Corky's extended Family. Whether reenacting the Civil War as Lt Col Reed, the battle of the Little Big Horn as "Montana Slim," or Emperor Norton, the 19th century version of himself, The SUVCW and San Francisco has lost one of her Favorite Sons.



L. Corky & the Mayor, at R. His uniforms, and Below, his swords, photos of him and the ammo box containing his remains to be scattered at Little Bighorn and Ft. Point



MINUTES OF LAST MEETING *OCTOBER 14 2006* CON'T.

will be March 23-4 at the Elks Lodge in San Luis Obispo. 10) J. Sayre also mentioned that the fence at the Oddfellows Cemetery needs repair. A raffle was held, officiated by T. Helmantoler, in which \$52 was raised for the Camp Treasury. Winners of the raffle included B. Lowe, J. May, J. Finch, J. Sayre, T. Helmantoler, and D. Shaffer. An open discussion of our ancestors' motivations in enlisting for Civil War service was initiated in lieu of a program. The discussion was continued after the meeting over a spaghetti dinner provided by D. Poole and his wife Brenda. The closing prayer was offered by D. Poole and Cmdr. Tisch adjourned the meeting at 7:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,
John May, Secretary

OUR NEXT CAMP MEETING (Note Time)

December 9, 2006 4:30

Meeting Location

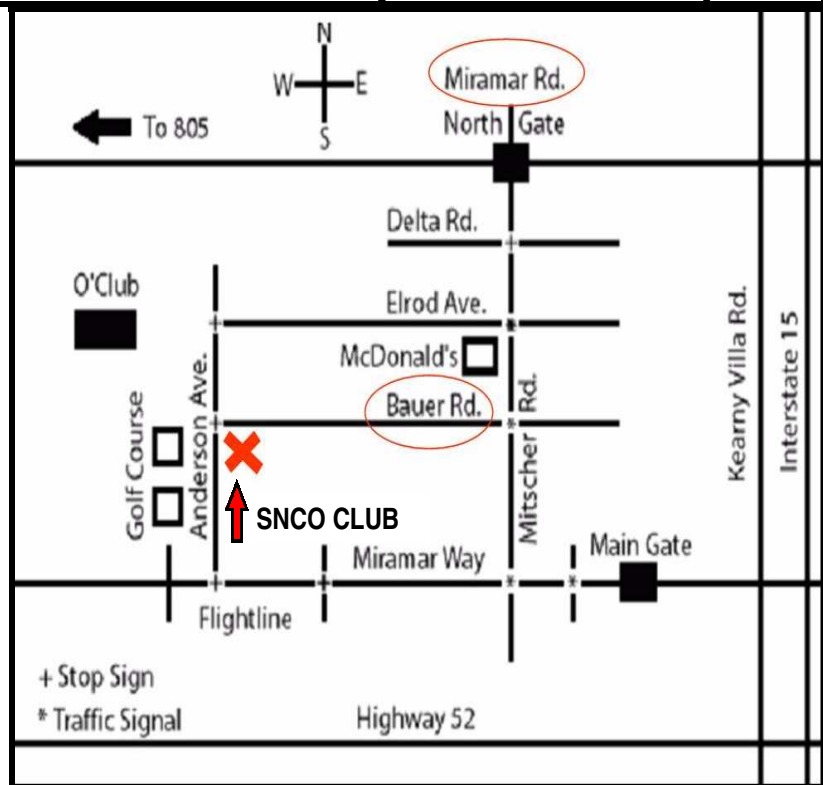
**Staff NCO Club
Marine Corps Air Station Miramar**

DIRECTIONS

From the 15 Freeway, enter the **Main Gate** (end of Miramar Way) or the **North Gate** (off Miramar Road). From the 805 Freeway, enter the **North Gate**. Have ID & Proof of Insurance ready - tell the Sentry you are attending the SUVCW meeting at the Staff NCO Club. Refer to Map at Right →

Our Speaker

As it is our annual election of officers, we will dispense with a formal presentation and just enjoy the warmth and fellowship of one another's company. Please bring your spouses and friends.

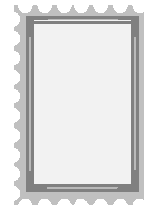


The General

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