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Volume 8

## NEWS LETTER

December 2003

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The high activity season of the holidays is here. We have already put on the first, and hope to be annual scavenger run in support of the veterans' center later this month. It was great! There were bikes at all of the local Dollar general stores collecting the items on the participant's lists. It became territorial at one point I was told to "go find your own store, this one is mine" However, I met with no resistance at the local find some edible panties store. The run netted some fine items that are needed by the veterans and will be brought to them on the day of our run to the Vet center. (see dates below)

This season we (the post) has chosen to participate in several Christmas season activities in support of all of our commitments.

First there is the big toy drive at Charley's last Stand. Bring all of your new unopened toys to Charley's on the thirteenth (13<sup>th</sup>) of Dec at 2:00 p. m. Jim is donating the toys that he receives to the Ponca City Children's Home. Three cheers for Big Jim!

Next on the fourteenth (14<sup>th</sup>) of Dec, the American Legion Riders Post 1340 will saddle up to deliver the toys and gifts to the children at Ponca City. We will meet at 0830 (that's 8:30 A.M. to you uncompromising civilians) and we will depart Charley's at 0900. The run will take about three hours. This is a "Patch" event meaning it is requested you wear your "T" shirt. We normally arrive together, deliver our gifts and go to lunch. I think it might be fun to come home together as well.

*Note:*

*Any stories about previous trips on this run are purely the conjecture of imagination on the part of the story teller and cannot in any way be construed as fact.*

*You may come directly to the commander for the whole and unbiased truth.*

The next riding activity will be the short run to the Norman Veterans Center where we will deliver our gifts to the men and women veterans who live at that facility. They usually have a party during this time with time being no different, there will be "Belly Dancers" there and we will assist in handing out the light refreshments to the Vets. It is a great opportunity for us to visit with our brethren and for them to have someone new to talk to. This activity will meet at Charley's Last Stand at 1300 (1P.M.) for a 1:30 departure.

**There will be no meeting on the 30<sup>th</sup> of December.**

We have some new members and some new officers

Rick Wernke has been faced with an on slot of activity at home and work, he therefore has asked to step down as adjutant.

With the absence of Rick, I nominated, and the post voted into the position of Adjutant of Riders post 1340, Mr. Boyd West. I feel firmly that Boyd will do a superb job and I have every confidence he will bring absolute quality to his new office.

Dean Lukes (Deano) has requested that he step down as Commander of the Sons of American Legion Riders Post 1340 as his home life has changed. We will miss him at the helm, but he assures us that he is going to stay active with the post.

Dennis Ray, of the Sons has accepted my request to nominate him for the Commander of the Sons squadron. He was nominated and unanimously voted in to his new position. I am confident that Dennis will do great things with the Sons squadron and lead it to the fullest potential. He is a man of great honor; Dennis has the drive and experience to lead the sons to national acclaim.

Don Martin has accepted a position of chaplain to add to the corps of chaplains. He and Rick will be available for any discussions you may want to engage them in. They are truly our chaplains. Don is a long time member who lives in Seminole and has found his group with us. He is a Viet-Nam Vet Helicopter pilot and a Rider from way back.

Mickey O'Keefe has decided to sell his home, back away from the many ties he has with the motorcycle community organizations as an officer in everything, (I don't know how he did it!) and prepare to move to Key West. Talk about envy that place is truly paradise! Please accept our heartfelt thanks for your service and a big good luck in your future.

At any rate Mickey handed me a letter of resignation form his position with the executive committee and I reluctantly accepted.

Further, I asked Jim Craig if he would accept a nomination to the position as a replacement committeeman for Mickey. He accepted the nomination and was voted in by the executive committee and the post in general meeting.

As we all know Jim operates Charley's Last Stand and has been a member of post 1340 from the beginning days. He has always been a staunch supporter of the American Legion and has done his very best to allow and promote the post to grow and flourish. When the home for the post was in doubt, Jim unhesitatingly offered his establishment as a home for the post. We now enjoy the warm and dry surroundings of Charley's Last Stand as our home. I think I speak for the entire post when I say a deepest and most sincere thank you for your generosity and faith in us as an organization.

Finally. It is now season to spend time with our families, spend a little too much time at the dinner table, and watch the excited eyes of the children opening the gifts that abound this time of year. It is the time to give thanks for all that we have and all that we enjoy. We should perhaps give a prayer for our men and women now serving around the world who work so hard to preserve our great way of life. Let us not forget those who have given the ultimate sacrifice so we may enjoy the advantages of what it means to be an American.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year  
"Ride Free"