



**Post 50
Newsletter**
Fall Edition
Volume 2, Issue 4
October, 2023



Williams Valley
Post 50
132 Blodgett Rd., Williams, OR
Established—February 22, 1980



**Williams Valley Post 50
Celebrates Summer with a Music Fest and BBQ!**

The Post 50 Family braves heat and smoke to spend an afternoon listening to music and eating great food!



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Protected from the sun by canopies, the crowd enjoyed great music, wonderful food, dance performances, a water balloon toss with prizes, an Author’s “Remembrances”, comments from a Korean War Veteran, an Arts & Crafts sales booth, and the Vietnam Veterans Honor Hummer!

On Saturday, August 12th, a crowd of close to a hundred Post 50 American Legion Family Members and invited guests, spent a beautiful, but hot and smoky afternoon being entertained by Rogue Valley musicians Jeff Kloetzel and Bob Evaniuk playing contemporary music hits from the last 50 years. Following Jeff & Bob, the “A-Rae of Light Dance Studio” entertained the festival goers with a variety of dance programs featuring local talent. In between festival acts, a brave group of adults and children chanced getting wet by participating in a water balloon toss and tried to win Dairy Queen gift cards! Additionally, the festival welcomed several out of area guests, including Korean War Veteran Bill Chisholm from Salem, OR, as well as Ken Buckles, author of the “Remembrance” veterans stories series. Great food was available on-site from Legion Member Bryan & Whitney Tedsen from the Williams County Store.

(Continued on Pages 3 & 4)

Our Mission: To enhance the well-being of America’s veterans, their families, our military, and our communities by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.



Post 50 Officers:

- Post Commander - Tim Sakraida
- 1st Vice Commander—Peter Nerat
- 2nd Vice Commander—Steve Hannah
- Post Finance Officer—Rod Craig
- Post Executive Committee Members:
- (3 yr. term) - Bill Ertel
- (2 yr. Term) Rod Craig
- (1 yr. term) Rob Chase
- Post Adjutant—Mark Cole
- Post Sgt-At-Arms—Tim Cederwall



Auxiliary Unit 50 Officers:

- Unit President — Jennifer Vetter
- Vice President—Mavis Connor
- Unit Secretary—Karla Reinhart
- Unit Treasurer—Lorraine Levitt
- Unit Sergeant-At-Arms—Paula Sepolpo
- Unit Historians—Patsy Sakraida
- Unit Chaplain—Sandra Levitt



Son's of The American Legion Squadron 50 Officers:

- Squadron Commander—Grant Gustafson*
- 1st Vice Commander — Steve Rabjohn*
- Adjutant – Michael Connor
- Finance Officer— David Couch
- Chaplain—Robert Culton

*In August, 2023 Steve & Grant switched positions. The above listing is correct as of this date.



Commander's Message

I want to thank everyone that showed up to welcome our National Vice Commander, and our Department Officers. The next weekend I was in Klamath Falls for the D.E.C. meeting. Our Post was recognized at least 3 times, maybe more, for the nice reception and luncheon our Post gave!

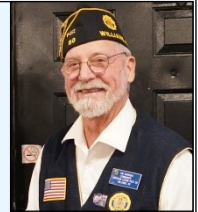
We now have our Bingo License and new equipment. I'm trying to find a good time to start Bingo again. We will need volunteers to make this fundraiser a success and support our Post and programs.

The SAL has met their membership goal for the coming year. Congratulations! The Legion and Auxiliary need to keep working on their membership goals. We need to get this done before the end of December.

Don't forget our Christmas Dinner is coming up on Wednesday, December 13th! That evening, we will be handing out Awards and Recognitions for the year. Please try to attend to celebrate with our Post Family!

Thank you for your support.

Tim Sakraida



Williams Valley Post
50 Commander
Tim Sakraida

Meet our new National Commander, Daniel J. Seehafer!

Daniel J. Seehafer was elected national commander of The American Legion on Aug. 31, 2023, in Charlotte, N.C., during the 104th national convention. Seehafer likes to say, "It's personal," when it comes to The American Legion's mission of serving veterans and their families. He is continuing the theme of "Be the One," to prevent veteran suicide.



Daniel J. Seehafer, National Commander of The American Legion

An ordained minister from Wisconsin, he earned his American Legion eligibility through service in the U.S. Navy and Navy Reserve, where he served as a military chaplain. A member of American Legion Post 157 in Horicon, Wis., Seehafer served in a number of American Legion offices at every level, including national chaplain and commander of the Department of Wisconsin.

Born and raised in Merrill, Wis., he lettered in cross-country track while in high school and later received a bachelor's degree in pastoral ministry from Concordia University and a Master of Divinity at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Ind.

Seehafer was installed as assistant pastor of St. Stephen Lutheran Church in Horicon in 1997 and continues to serve as administrative pastor of the church and its school. His American Legion post was recognized for "100 percent" and "All-Time High" in membership during his terms as commander and adjutant. Other honors include District Commander's New Post Achievement Award, Silver Brigade, and Post 157 Legionnaire of the Year.

In 2023, Seehafer earned an Outstanding Heroism Award for administering the Heimlich maneuver to a choking victim at an American Legion dinner.

National Commander Seehafer and his wife, Stacey, who is a member of American Legion Auxiliary Unit 157, live in Beaver Dam, Wis. Dan's son, Jacob, and daughter, Emma, are also members of the Post 157 family. Dan is the son of the late Lester Seehafer and Jean Sabatke.



The American Legion Williams Valley Post 50 1st Annual Music Festival & BBQ!



Jeff Kloetzel & Bob Ivonuk entertained the festival goers for 2 hours!



Backed by a band of friends of Commander Tim Sakraida's, musical guest Tracy Daly lets loose on a country song for the crowd!



Folks lined up for the great BBQ food!



A number of local kids took part in the A-Rae of Light Dance Studio performances.



Jackie Vetter, daughter of Unit President Jennifer Vetter and Legion Member Rick Vetter, was part of the A-Rae of Light Dance Studio performances!





The American Legion Williams Valley Post 50 1st Annual Music Festival & BBQ!



While hot and little smoky, it was still a beautiful day!



One of several invited “Special Guests”, Author Ken Buckles relates a story from his “Remembrance” series of books honoring Veterans, to the assembled gathering!



Special Guest, Actor and Entertainer Malinda Buckles, performed several patriotic songs from the last century for the crowd!



Special Guest, Korean War Veteran William “Bill” Chisholm told the folks about a few of his experiences as a U.S. Marine at the Battle of Chosin Reservoir in the winter of 1950. Here he is being presented an American Legion belt buckle from Post 50 Commander Tim Sakraida in recognition of his service to the country.

Bill is a Member of “The Chosin Few”, and one of the few surviving Marines who fought in this famous battle. For more information on this battle and group go to: <https://chosinfew.org/>

Commander Sakraida also proudly announced that Bill has joined Post 50 as a new American Legion Member!

Welcome Bill!



Post Adjutant Mark Cole gets a photo with Bill Chisholm in front of the Vietnam Veterans Honor Hummer, which was on display during the festival!



Auxiliary Unit 50 President Jennifer Vetter: Unit Bulletin

THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY WILLIAMS VALLEY UNIT 50...

has been lightly busy with meetings and small events. The Auxiliary participated in the Legion BBQ, Labor Day, and the annual "Trunk or Treat" hosted by the Williams County Store and the Williams Fire Department. We have been preparing for the upcoming events such as our annual Christmas wreath making party to take the made wreaths to various stores in the Grants Pass and Murphy area and we are getting ready to have our annual Christmas Dinner with the Legionnaires.

A special thank you to Patsy Sakraida for the thoughtfulness and conscientiousness of getting the new members recruitment incentive gifts. It is the hearts of our members that continue to make the Auxiliary thrive and grow with a warm feeling of involvement and comradery. The members' contributions of time and service is appreciated and serves as a great support to our American Legion members.

Jenny



Auxiliary Members Kay Rabjohn, Jenny Vetter, Paula Sepolpo, Patsy Sakraida, and Lorraine Levitt had a fun evening dressing up for the Annual "Trunk or Treat" Halloween Celebration, hosted by the Williams Country Store and the Williams Fire Dept.

The Auxiliary also collected bags of candy for the Veterans at the VA facility at White City.

Thank you, Mavis Connor, for making the delivery!





Son's of The American Legion



Williams Valley Squadron 50 takes on a new annual responsibility!

In 1986 Post 50, in conjunction with the Williams Elementary School, placed a “Time Capsule” on the school grounds. The Squadron will now clean it annually!

Over the last several years the site has suffered from the ravages of time. In September, Past SAL Commander Steve Rabjohn was joined by SAL Members Roger Fogg and Tim Sakraida, and the trio spent several hours restoring and cleaning up the site. The brass plaque sits atop a concrete pedestal and base and bears the years “1986” and “2036”, along with the words “Williams Valley Post 50” and the TAL emblem”. The brass plaque contains the following words:

“THE AMERICAN LEGION, CITIZENS, STAFF AND STUDENTS OF WILLIAMS, BURY HERE, SOME OF OUR HISTORY, FEELINGS AND HOPES FOR THE FUTURE TO BE OPENED BY THE STAFF AND STUDENTS OF THE WILLIAMS SCHOOL IN THE FOURTH MONTH, YEAR OF OUR LORD 2036”.



SAL Members Steve Rabjohn, Tim Sakraida, and Roger Fogg stand by the cleaned up site.



Roger Fogg applies a little elbow grease to the brass plaque!



Steve Rabjohn uses a pressure washer to clean away the years of grime!



Chaplain Bob Chase

Chaplain's Corner:

As we approach the holiday season remember our troops are the true patriots. Patriotism is not politics. It is not one political party claiming to be better than another political party. Patriotism is a strong inner love for one's country. It is a deep conviction that one's country was founded on a solid rock and will withstand the winds and storms of time. Patriotism is determination to support and defend one's county to the end. Patriotism is keeping alive ideals set forth by our forefathers. Patriotism is the average people pursuing daily their everyday tasks and believing that their country and its ideals are worth fighting for. Our troops are true patriots. Remember them in your prayers. They need our support and thanks. Help them protect and defend our freedom and democracy.

Bob Chase



Adjutant Mark Cole

Post Adjutant's Thoughts:

As most of you know, I usually fill this column with words about "Volunteerism" and "Legion Family". Several recent events have highlighted how important these two subjects are. The Music Festival, Stage Renovation, SAL Time Capsule Project, Bingo Equipment pick-up trip, and Fundraiser for Auxiliary Member Samantha Shires, could not have taken place without a lot of help and caring! Volunteers for projects and events are the life blood of Post 50. Without all of that help, none of these functions could have taken place. Even more important, is the "support" that the Legion Family provides to its Members! As we are all getting older, the amount of unexpected help that Members need will only increase. What truly makes the "Legion Family" is the support that we give to each other in times of need and hardship. All of you should be proud of the help and support that you give as a Member of the Williams Valley Post 50 "Legion Family"!



SAL Commander Grant Gustafson

Squadron 50 Plans:

Hello, Everyone, this is Commander Grant Gustafson, Commander of the Sons of The American Legion Squadron 50.



Some of the things I would like to see get done for the Post is a fire pit built for the disposing of flags appropriately. After discussions with Post Commander Sakraida, a disposal pit that is portable seems preferable. That would allow us to take it to other Post's that might not have one. I look forward to talking to everyone about it more!



← Every year on June 14, Americans celebrate Flag Day. Not surprisingly, it's considered the most appropriate day to hold flag disposal ceremonies, which are often held at night.



"Bingo Night" Fundraising Update

The Post has received it's new Bingo License!

Post Officials recently applied for a State of Oregon Class D Bingo License. The Post had earlier in the year reached the regulated annual limit of \$5000.00 for organizations that do not have a License. The Post 50 Executive Committee met and made the decision to apply for a State License which will allow the Post to earn up to \$20,000.00 annually. We are happy to report that our new license application was approved and we have now received the Class D License!

Additionally, Post Commander Sakraida (with the help of Legion Members Rick Vetter, Ken Jansen, Tim Cederwall, and Dennis Crawford) obtained a new Bingo Game Board and Roller Cage from the Legion Post in Cave Junction, which our Post purchased.

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We hope to have Bingo Nights resume soon. Expect more updates soon!

Building Renovations Update:



As folks who went to the Music Festival & BBQ know, the front yard stage has been rebuilt! Thanks to 2nd Vice Commander Steve Hannah, with some dubious help from Commander Sakraida and Adjutant Cole, the stage has been built from the ground up with new materials! Built still incorporating the original log front supports, it is as solid as a rock, and should be around for another 25 years! Thank you, Steve!!!



→ 2nd Vice Commander Steve Hannah works on rebuilding the front yard stage in August.



Post 50 And The Williams Community Supports One Of Their Own!

In September, the Post hosted a fundraiser for Auxiliary Unit 50 Member Samantha Shires. Samantha is facing a number of medical issues and related expenses. Whitney & Bryan Tedson, of the Williams County Store, planned the event that included a Bar-B-Que, Games, and a Movie. The fundraiser was very well attended and a generous amount of funds (over \$3500.00) were received on her behalf.



Samantha's sister, Jessica, and Samantha's daughter, Zoey, took a moment for a photo.



Jo Harrison, and Samantha's Grandmother, Kay Rabjohn, attended.



The Post served as a good gathering place for the event.



A number of Samantha's family, friends, and community members, came to the fundraiser!



Post 50 Members Take A Trip To Post 70 In Cave Junction

In September, Commander Sakraida, and several Members of Post 50 traveled to Post 70 in Cave Junction to pick-up the new Bingo Board and Roller Cage that the Post purchased. While there they took a moment to proudly show the U.S. Flag and POW-MIA Flag in front of the Post to passing drivers on the highway.



From L to R: Dennis Crawford; a Member of Post 70; Rick Vetter; Post 70 Commander Bob Soria; Ken Jensen; Tim Cederwall; and Post 50 Commander Tim Sakraida.



The Post 70 Flag Pole was recently removed, so the guys took a moment to show the Flags!

The following local businesses provided free, or discounted, services and items this year to the Post and it's Legion Family. We wish to express our sincere appreciation for their generous donations, and continued support of The American Legion

Williams Valley Post 50 Family!

Williams Country Store
120 East Fork Road,
Williams, Oregon
(541) 846-1311

Hey Williams! Are you hungry but don't feel like cooking? We got you! In addition to our hot case full of yummy bbq sammies, corn dogs, burritos, jojos and other hot snacks we also have a cold case full of wraps, salads, sandwiches, paninis, pizzas, calzones and many other assorted goodies! Everything is made fresh in house. Come check it out!

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• (541) 479-9695

Abby's
LEGENDARY PIZZA

Abby's Pizza
←
#541-479-9695



Curly Top Bake Shop
Applegate, OR

You can find their fine products at the following locations:
The Williams General Store, Williams, OR
Cartwrights Valley Meat Co.: Grants Pass, OR & Medford, OR locations
Gooseberries Grocery Store, Grants Pass, OR

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Sunday: Closed

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Questions/Comments about this issue of the Post 50 Newsletter? Contact us at:

Newsletter

Telephone: 541-846-6268

Email: AmericanLegionPost50@mail.com

Mail: P.O. Box 21, Williams, OR 97544

The Post 50 Newsletter is published quarterly (January, April, July, & October) It is distributed in limited numbers at the Post 50 Regular monthly meetings, in those months. If the Post has your email address, you will receive your copy by email.

If you have something you would like to see in the newsletter or want to write an article that you think fits the purpose of it, please contact Post Adjutant Mark Cole by: December 15th for the January Edition; March 15th for the April Edition; June 15th for the July Edition; September 15th for the October Edition.

AmericanLegionPost50@mail.com

Telephone: #541-941-4723






Upcoming Times & Dates To Remember



(All events take place at the Williams Valley Post 50 building, unless otherwise noted)

Wednesday, November 15th, at 5:30pm — Post 50 Legion/Auxiliary/SAL Regular Monthly Meeting  & Dinner.

Wednesday, December 13th, at 6:00pm — Post 50 Annual Christmas Dinner and Awards/Recognition Celebration.



Saturday December 2nd, (Times TBD) - Annual Wreath Building Project.



Saturday, December 9th, (Time TBD) - Annual Wreath Sales, locations to be announced.



Saturday, January 6th, at 6:00pm—Bingo Is Back!



Wednesday January 17th, at 5:30pm—Post 50 Legion/Auxiliary/SAL Regular Monthly Meeting  & Dinner.

Saturday, February 3rd at 6:00pm—Bingo Night.



Wednesday, February 21st, at 5:30pm—Post 50 Legion/Auxiliary/SAL Regular Monthly Meeting  & Dinner.

February, Annual Valentines Day Party—Date and Time TBD



Please consider volunteering for our events and fundraisers. Your involvement is essential to our events being successful!

American Legion Post 50 Community Supporters

We want to thank the following local community businesses that have provided goods, services, or reduced prices, to Post 50!

Please return the favor by shopping at their establishments, buying their products, and saying **Thank You!**



Field's Ace Home Center #541-862-2111



Cartwrights Valley Meat Co. #541-479-0321 (G.P) & #541-500-1469 (Medford)

The Home Depot #541-226-0114 (G.P.) & #541-512-1458 (Medford)

A Special Thank You! to the **William's Fire and Rescue** for keeping us all safe!

