



THE DRUMBEAT

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF
THE WASHINGTON STATE COLOR GUARD



Mar 2023 (1st Qtr. Jan, Feb, Mar)

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YOUR COLOR GUARD

SONS OF THE AMERICAN

EVOLUTION



THE FACE OF THE SAR

From The Commander

Compatriots,

Winter is now past and Spring has sprung. During this last quarter I have had 14 events reported to me. 11 were Living History presentations, 2 Ceremonies and 1 Citizenship. I am sure the upcoming months will see many activities across the State. As I attend many events, I am pleased to see the brotherhood and support given to the events and to the host chapters! Together we are strong!



I have observed in my travels across the state to many chapters that attendance continues to be an issue at chapter meetings. This is an area we can fill the gaps and support our chapters. We are the public face of the SAR and often the very strength of the chapter and their activities. I would like to emphasize the need of your attendance at your individual chapters and to attend these meetings in person. This will serve in building the relationships needed to make the bond between Chapter members and also serves as a resource and recruitment opportunity for new Color Guard members.

Looking forward: I would like to remind you that in April we will have our annual State Conference which will be held in Spokane, Washington. I encourage as many Color Guard who can attend to be present. We will have a Color Guard meeting Friday, April 28 and several assignments to fulfill for Posting of Colors, plus our annual Color Guard photo. We have allocated Color Guard Drill time. National has provided us with new guideline of procedures for performing Color Guard activities. This is an effort to standardize how the Color Guard performs across the country and together with the National Color Guard if the opportunity arises. This is one of the few times during the year we can practice together and we get a sneak preview of the National Standards. As a member of the Sons of the American Revolution I am grateful for the bond of brotherhood and respect that we have for one another. We need to be mindful of our conduct toward one another at events and be mindful of that we are all Volunteers and come from various walks of life and experiences.

The Color Guard I inherited had 3 rules during the events: 1) Step off on the Left 2) Have fun 3) Look good in the pictures.

Through the Washington State SAR Color Guard, we have a special bond and comradery by working together to achieve our local chapter, our State, and the Nation SAR Society goals. I am personally grateful for my association with each and every one of you and for your support.

Respectfully Submitted, Neil A Vernon, WA State-SAR, Commander, WA State Color Guard.

Color Guard Patch Available

The Deputy Commander has created a sew on patch for the WA State Color Guard members only.

The patch measures 4"x4" (at right)

A limited quantity are still available. The cost is \$3.25 each.

If you want them mailed the cost is:

- More than 3 the postage is \$9.90.
- 3 or less the postage is \$1.00

Members of the CG may contact the [Deputy Commander](#) for purchase



Note: They will be available at the annual State meeting in April

The National Colorguardsman Magazine

Is available at this LINK: <https://www.sar.org/?s=Colorguardsman>

Color Guard Events Throughout The State

Regional Area Color Guard Events In Jan, Feb, Mar

Northern Region

20 Feb: George Washington Memorial Wreath Laying Ceremony. A baker's dozen Washington Society SAR Color Guard members, along with the joint SAR and DAR Drum and Fife Corps participated in the cold and windy February 20 President's Day wreath laying ceremony at the University of Washington.

The ceremony occurred at the President George Washington Monument on the campus of the University of Washington with representatives of SAR and DAR chapters and other organizations laying wreaths at the base of the pedestal and George Washington statue. Citing the History.com, President's Day was originally established in 1885 in recognition of President George Washington. He was born on February 11, 1731, according to the then-used Julian calendar. Britain and all its colonies adopted the Gregorian calendar in 1752, which moved his birthday a year and 11 days to February 22, 1732. It became a federal holiday in 1879. The shift from Washington's Birthday to President's Day came in 1968 with passage of the federal Uniform Monday Holiday Act. President's Day is widely focused on Washington and Abraham Lincoln, who was born on February 12, 1809. (Contributed by Dick Moody)

CG members present were: Neil Vernon, Dick Motz, Viren Lemmer, Skip Stephan, Mike Moore, Jerry Bordelon, Ken Roberts, Dick Moody, Bruce Bock, Bill Bentler, Robert Korn, Rob Nofsinger, David Horsley, and Lew Maudsley
Non-SAR F&D: Melonie Leaning, Stephanie Conroy, Terry Barker, & Alonde Droege

Also in attendance were the SAR State president, Keith Weissinger & wife Cindi, the state CAR President, John Herr, Bob Beets, and Dennis Case, as well as many DAR members



Southern Region

4 Mar: WA State Patriotic Day (AKA Gathering of the Colors). Washington State Patriotic Day, (AKA MOAA - Military Officers Association of America) had its annual gathering March 4th, 2023 at Pioneer Middle School, Dupont, WA. The purpose is celebrating patriotism, honoring all Washington military, and first responders. "It also allows all participants and spectators to reaffirm their patriotism to our country and our flag." It begins with massing of the colors, and in 2023, the honorary was led by MOAA Color Guard, followed by the SAR Fife and Drum Corps followed by all members of the Washington State Color Guard. In 2015, MOAA was certified by National SAR to be a designated national event. (Contributed by Art Dolan)

**GATHERING
OF THE
COLORS.**



SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

CG Members participating were: (l to r) Joe CoorOUGH, Lew Maudsley, Eric Olsen, Art Dolan, Dick Moody, Bob Korn, Mike More, Stan Granberg, Jerry Bordelon, Paul Winter, Michael Fitzpatrick, and Jan Lemmer
 Not in photo: Skip Stephan, Bill Bentler, Dennis Case.



The SAR-DAR Fife & Drum Corp members were:
 Alonde Droege,
 Stephanie Conroy,
 Melonie Leaning, Terry Barker



11-12 Mar: Cascade Mountain Men Show. Enumclaw Expo Center.
 CG members attending were: Bill Bentler & Mike Hutchens.



Eastern Region

19 Jan: New citizens ceremony. Stan Wills and Doug Jonas presented flag pins to 19 new citizens from 13 countries at the Spokane Federal Building, Spokane



Western Region

The John Paul Jones education outreach team gave another classroom presentation to 17 students and 6 adults at the Baker Creek Scholl for parent partnership learning program. Following the presentation, time was allotted for the students and adults to inspect the display items and ask one-on-one questions with a team member. The presentation team was (L to R) Doug Nelson, Conrad Plyler, Fred Gilbert, team lead and Bob Smalzer. After the end of the presentation Fred presented the teacher/ Parent Partnership Program Coordinator, Ms. Jacobson with a WA State SAR challenge coin and thanked her and the school for hosting the John Paul Jones Education Team.



The John Paul Jones Chapter Education team gave a two-hour presentation to the West Hills Elementary home school program students on 22 Mar. The students were in grades 4th through 8th. The Fred Gilbert, JPJ Education Coordinator discussed the history leading up to the revolutionary war to include Valley Forge, then Bob Smalser discussed and the Western Frontier life and Washington's sharp shooters followed by Doug Nelson speaking on the day in the life on a colonial family. JPJ member Robert Smalaser, pictures, discussing his Germany patriot ancestors on the Pennsylvania frontier who became the sharp shooter for General Washington. Bob explained how the new technology of rifling came about and how the long rifles were made on the PA frontier, these rifles accuracy was up about 300yd, significantly farther than the British Brown Bess smooth bore muskets. Seated are Fred Gilbert and Doug Nelson.

Presentation Stats:

- Fred Gilbert - 23 presentations
- Doug Nelson - 21 presentations
- Bob Smalser - 20 presentations
- Perry Taylor - 18 Presentations
- Total # Students YTD: 921



Military Humor

Thule AFB, Greenland, at nearly 700 miles above the Article, is the type of assignment known in the Air Force

& More



Military Humor highlights is from the [Facebook group](#) by the same name

as "remote". One afternoon the crew of an C141 Starlifter impatiently awaited the arrival of a sewage - servicing truck, which had already delayed their takeoff by 20 minutes. At last, the truck appeared, driven by a nonchalant airman who set about removing the plane's sewage in an unhurried fashion. The aircraft's commander, a full Colonel, began furiously berating him for his lackadaisical attitude. Interrupting the commander in mid-sentence, the airman heaved a sigh and said "So, what are you going to do to me, Colonel? I've got no stripes, I'm stuck in Greenland, and I am pumping sewage from your plane. How could you possibly make things worse?" The colonel shrugged his shoulders, said, "I dunno," and got back on the plane!!!

From the Editor

The first McDonalds drive thru was built in 1975 in the Sierra Vista area in AZ. It was near a military installation called **Fort Huachuca** to serve military members that were not permitted to exit their vehicles while wearing their combat uniform.



The Nock Volley Gun

Our Founding Fathers most certainly could envision firearms that could shoot more than three rounds per minute.



"Prepare to repel boarders!"

In the age of fighting sail, the command to repel boarders was one that was sure to raise the adrenaline levels of all who heard it. In Lord Nelson's Royal Navy, it was the cue that onboard Marines needed to prepare for close-in, hand-to-hand fighting. Things were about to get real, as they say these days.

Today we call weapons that can inflict mass damage "force multipliers." In the latter part of the 18th century, there were few weapons this side of artillery that a single soldier could use to multiply his effect upon the enemy. In 1779, James Wilson presented his invention of a multi-barreled, shoulder fired flintlock rifle to the British Board of Ordnance for consideration. While the Army did not find it practical, the

Royal Navy saw its potential for discharging a devastating hail of lead in a concentrated area from the fighting tops of a ship's mast against boarding parties. As Wilson was not a gunmaker, but a captain in the Marines, the Board contracted London gunmaker Henry Nock to make 500 of Wilson's Volley guns, now known as Nock's Volley Gun. Henry Nock had entered the gun trade in his 20s as a lock maker, and quickly found a niche for himself in not only manufacturing locks, but also in designing innovative ideas into new locks that earned him numerous patents and approval by the British Board of Ordnance. The latter half of the 18th century was still the era of the "cottage industry" where apprentices, journeymen and master craftsmen all worked within the guild system making

various components of military firearms that were then assembled, handfitted and completed by armorers. Nock was quite proficient at making locks and bayonets, eventually making complete guns for the British Army then embroiled in suppressing the revolution that had sprung up in their soon-to-be former American colonies. The Board of Ordnance order for 500 of Nock's volley guns (eventually increased to 650) at £13 each (£2,200 in modern terms) was quite the financial windfall for Nock. The largest ships-of-the-line were outfitted with 20 of Nock's guns, and the rest of the Navy was issued anywhere from eight to 16 depending on the size of the ship. Initially, Wilson's gun was comprised of seven rifled .577-caliber fixed barrels, one in the center and six surrounding

the main barrel. The standard load was 68 grains of blackpowder and a ball that weighed in the neighborhood of 500 grains. For those of you who are acquainted with the standard musket load of a Civil War-era Enfield rifle, this is the same load used by hundreds of thousands of both Union and Confederate infantry. Now imagine firing seven muskets from your shoulder at once.

The accompanying blast of recoil was rumored to have broken the shoulders of more than one of His Majesty's stout Marines. As a result, it was not far into the process that the guns were reconfigured in smoothbore and the caliber and the resulting bullet and powder weights were reduced considerably, the bullet to .46-caliber. Some written scholarship on these behemoths has revealed that the main barrel, the one in the center, was fired first with the surrounding six barrels simultaneously firing as the main barrel ignited. While filming an episode of "American Rifleman Television" some

years ago, we had the good fortune of recording the firing sequence with a highspeed camera and the results surprised us and upset some long-held beliefs about how the gun functioned. Our original Nock-the very same gun used by

Richard Wid mark in The Alamo (1960) and donated to the NRA's National Firearms Museum in 2010 by the Estate of Robert E. Petersen-and formerly from the Stenbridge Gun Rental collection-was fired for the camera. The resulting footage showed that the first barrel to fire was the one directly opposite the frizzen pan, the 11 o'clock position as you look from the muzzle to the breech. The rest of the barrels went off, one by one, clockwise, with the last one to go off being the one in the center.

The discharge happens so quickly that it is impossible to discern that all seven barrels do not all fire at the same time. The volley guns had an impressive service life of 25 years at sea before no less than Lord Horatio Nelson

suggested that their use not only crippled Marines, but posed a real threat to the ship's sails and rigging in that they were susceptible to catching fire from the muzzle blast from seven barrels simultaneously discharging. The volley guns were withdrawn from service in 1804, the same year that Henry Nock passed away, leaving his business in the hands of his son-in-law, James Wilkinson, and his son, Henry. Henry and his descendants continued the family gun-making business and expanded into edged weapons, eventually forming Wilkinson sword, which provided some of the finest swords and bayonets for the British armed services until 2005.

The NRA's National Firearms Museum is fortunate to own two original Board of Ordnance Naval volley guns, one most recently donated by Barry and Nancy Bock through the auspices of Christian and Alex Cranmer at International Military Antiques of New Jersey.

Uniforms & Other Items Wanted/For Sale

If you have anything, you want or have for sale, please send information to the [Newsletter Editor](#)

Wanted:

Contact	Item	Size	Note

For Sale:

Contact	Item	Size	Cost	Notes

The Washington Trail - Publication Schedule

The State Newsletter will be published quarterly to include the State BOD meeting.

<i>Edition</i>	<i>BOD</i>	<i>Period covered</i>	<i>Deadline</i>	<i>Published on</i>
Winter (1 st Qtr.)	Jan	1 Jan to 31 Mar	No later than 24 Mar	31 Mar +/-
Spring (2 nd Qtr.)	Apr	1 Apr to 30 Jun	No later than 25 Jun	30 Apr +/-
Summer (3 rd Qtr.)	Jul	1 Jul to 30 Sep	No later than 24 Sep	30 Sep +/-
Fall (4 th Qtr.)	Oct	1 Oct to 31 Dec	No later than 25 Dec	31 Dec +/-

News from the Chapters: A [media links](#) page has been provided to give access to each Chapter's Facebook page, Newsletter, and Web Site for those that have them. All articles/submissions are to be sent to the [Editor](#) no later than the above indicated dates.