

# Monthly Newsletter

AMERICAN LEGION POST 57

◆  
July 2026



## Post Info

**Address:**

2602 SW Main Blvd  
Lake City FL 32025

**Phone:**

**Post:** (386) 752-7776

**Membership Office:** (386) 243-8088

**Hours:**
**Sunday Thru Thursday**

11:00am to 10:00pm

**Friday and Saturday**

11:00am to 11:00pm

**Kitchen Hours:**
**- Lunch -**
**Monday Thru Friday**

11:00am to 1:00pm

**- Dinner -**
**Saturday Thru Thursday**

4:00pm to 8:00pm

**Fridays**

5:30pm to 7:30pm

**Kitchen Phone:**

(386) 752-7260

**Email:**

americanlegion57@comcast.net

**Website:**

www.americanlegion57.org



## Post Officers

**-Commander-**

Bill Huggins

**-1st Vice Commander-**

Kelly Valliere

**-2nd Vice Commander-**

Terry Libbert

**-3rd Vice Commander-**

William Bell

**-4th Vice Commander-**

Kelly Luker

**-Finance Officer-**

Rick Harris

**-Adjutant-**

Jason Massey

**-Chaplain-**

Robert Charles

**-Historian-**

Thomas Wilcutts

**-Sergeant at Arms-**

Matthew Fetzer

**-Executive Committeeman-**

George Wehrli

**-Executive Committeeman-**

Jackson Koon

**-Executive Committeeman-**

Ken Burkes

**-Executive Committeeman-**

Robert Preston

**-Judge Advocate-**

Dave Mangrum

**-Service Officer-**

Mike Poreda



## Commanders Corner

Here we are at the start of a brand new year, 2026/2027.

Thank you to all who continue to support YOUR board. As the board our commitment to you is to continue to try continuous improvements to your experience at the post.

Your finance committee for the American Legion are:

Rick Harris, Finance Officer

Kelly Luker

Dan Higgins

Tim Harris

Dave Holmes

I am looking at establishing the following Committees and Chairs, if you are interested in improving the Legion experience and want to help, please contact myself or Adjutant Jason Massey.

Entertainment Committee (responsible for finding new exciting entertainment at an affordable price.

Currently: **Matt Fetzer**

**Stephanie Massey**

Americanism Chair:

Boys State Chair: **George Wehrli**, we need a couple of Legionnaires to learn the program

Children and Youth: **Bill Bell**

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation: **Mike Poreda** and **Mike Williams**

National Security (emergency preparedness, public safety and Disaster Distribution

Membership: **Kelly Valliere** + committee

Post Activities Chair (Plan and execute activities for the post ie: Dances, Events, Veteran's events and recognition)

Public Relations: Social Media, Television, Papers

Oratorical Chair

House Committee: Help locate and identify areas of the post that need improvement and be prepared to take part in those improvements

Junior Military groups (JROTC, Sea Cadets) assist in promoting and sponsoring these programs

Community Affairs: Community outreach

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH IS

**Debra Young**

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU AND ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS DO!



# Commanders Corner (Cont.)

Bingo is every Sun, Mon and Thurs, afternoon begins at 3:00 and evening at 6:45.

Queen of Hearts every Saturday at 6:00 in the lounge.

Draft beer every Wednesday and Saturday \$1.75 all day

## July Calendar at a Glance

Friday	July 3	Auxiliary Friday Night Dinner w/ karaoke	5:30-7:30
Saturday	July 4	4th of July Celebration/ 250th Birthday	11:00-3:00 pm
Tuesday	July 7	SAL/Marine Corp League Meetings	6:30
Wednesday	July 8	Auxiliary Domiciliary Bingo	6:00-7:30
Friday	July 10	Rider's Friday night dinner	5:30-7:30
Saturday	July 11	SAL Roadkill	5:00-7:00
Tuesday	July 14	Legion/Auxiliary Board meeting	6:30
Wednesday	July 15	Honor Guard Practice	11:00 am
Friday	July 17	Marine Corp League Dinner w/band	5:30-7:30
Saturday	July 18	Quilts of Valor Sewing Clas	10:00 am
		Paddle Auction	5:00-7:00
Monday	July 20	DAV meeting	4:45
Tuesday	July 21	Legion/Auxiliary General meeting	6:30
Wednesday	July 22	Legion Domiciliary Bingo	6:00-7:30
Friday	July 24	SAL Friday night dinner	5:30-7:30
		Hall Rental (LC Youth bowling)	5:30
Saturday	July 25	Breakfast with the Chief	9:00-10:30 am
		Rider's Roadkill	5:00-7:00
Tuesday	July 28	Rider's meeting	6:30
Wednesday	July 29	Quilts of Valor sewing class	10:00 am
Friday	July 31	Sea Cadet Dinner	5:30-7:30



Post 57

Online  
Calendar

SCAN HERE





## Chaplain

As this Legion year comes to a close, I want to sincerely thank the members of American Legion Post 57 for allowing me the honor of serving as your Chaplain for the past two years. It has been a privilege to pray with you, honor our veterans, comfort families, and serve alongside such a dedicated Legion Family. It has also been a privilege to serve under Commander Huggins' leadership, and I am grateful for his guidance, dedication, and friendship throughout this past year.

I would also like to extend a warm welcome to Mr. Charles as our new Post Chaplain. I know he will serve our members with compassion, faith, and dedication. Please join me in giving him your full support as he begins this important role.

Although my time as Chaplain has come to an end, I am simply changing my title—not my compassion for our veterans and their families. I look forward to continuing to serve Post 57 as your 3rd Vice Commander. I am excited for the opportunities ahead as we continue working together to strengthen our Post and serve our veterans, their families, and our community. I truly believe there are many great things on the horizon for our amazing Post.

Thank you again for the privilege of serving as your Chaplain. May God bless each of you, our veterans, our active-duty military, and the United States of America.

*"As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God."*

— **1 Peter 4:10**

***God Bless,***

**William Bell**

Chaplain, American Legion Post 57

## Membership

Greetings Veterans, Friends, and Family,

Happy 250th Birthday!

We will have a membership booth at the Fairgrounds, and all entities of our Post are welcome to help. I will be at the Fairgrounds at 4:00 PM to begin the setup. We look forward to seeing you there!

**We are gearing up for the 2026-2027 Membership drive, you can begin renewing for the 2027 membership year on July 1, 2026. If you renew before September 30th, 2026 you will be invited to the Early Bird Dinner to be held on October 17th 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM. There will be a drawing for various baskets, and 3 gift cards in the amount of \$300.00, \$200.00 baskets and a \$100.00!!**

I am proud to share that our June 25th report shows us at 118.21% of our goal. We recruited 244 new members this year and retained 83.03% of our existing membership. With 18 transfers from cyber-posts, we now have 993 paid members, making us the largest post from the Duval County line to the Panhandle.

Please join me in welcoming our newest members (May 19th – June 16th):

- USA: Peter Lindboe, Jeremiah Byrd, Jeremiah Kissick, Mike Klein, Donald Winkleman, Kenneth Seabrooks, James Hicks
- USAF: Paul Quintana, Michael Huntman, Jerry Brummett, Ann Robins, Larry Wells - USAF/USA: Mark Frederick
- USN: Thomas Wiggins, Michelle Williams, Nickolas Shute, William Greene - USMC: William Howe, Michael Waters

Your participation and volunteerism have put Columbia County American Legion Post 57 Lake City on the Department of Florida map! Looking ahead, please mark your calendars for the North Florida South Georgia Resource Fair and Stand Down on October 14th, 2026, from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. We will have community and VA Partners who can assist you with claims, VA programs information, and community resources available for veterans and their families. A light breakfast and lunch will be provided for all in attendance. The event is open to the public.

The Veterans Day Parade is scheduled for Saturday, November 7th. We moved the parade to Saturday to encourage community participation, accommodate the Marine Corps League, and allow our veterans to celebrate properly. This year's theme is "America's 250th Birthday." We need volunteers to help with parking, communication, and decorating the Sea Cadets, Auxiliary, and Veterans floats.

## Membership (Cont.)

As your First Vice Commander, I take my oath to this post seriously, but our success is only possible with your involvement. I invite you to witness the Executive Board of each entity take their oath of office on July 1, 2026, at 6:00 PM.

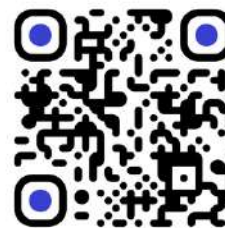
I am asking each of you to be active in whatever capacity you can. Whether it is through professional skills like electrical and plumbing work or assisting with community relations and veteran outreach, your input is vital. Please consider attending our General Assembly Meetings on the third Tuesday of every month.

Together, we can continue to fulfill the American Legion's mission: "Since 1919, The American Legion has operated with a clear and enduring purpose: to serve those who have served, strengthen the nation, and uphold the values that define American democracy. That purpose is built on four foundational pillars: **Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children & Youth**. These pillars guide our organization's advocacy, outreach, and service across thousands of local posts and millions of members nationwide." (1) [Legion.org](https://www.legion.org)

For more information on the programs we support please visit [Floridalegion.org](https://www.floridalegion.org) and [Legion.org](https://www.legion.org).

On a personal note, I am exceedingly grateful to all of our members, who have made this year an amazing success. Your dedication to the programs, functions/events, your support as your First Vice Commander and Membership Chair has been the impetus behind everything I do. Thank you for allowing me to share in your success! On to 2026/2027!!

For God and Country,  
Kelly Valliere, First Vice Commander



Scan to go to  
[www.legion.org](https://www.legion.org)



# American Legion

POST 57

# MENU

LAKE CITY, FL



## Burgers

Classic Burger	\$6.00
Cheeseburger	\$6.50
Bacon Cheeseburger	\$7.00

## Sandwiches

Patty Melt	\$6.50
Hot Dog	\$4.75
Grilled Cheese	\$4.25
Fried Chicken Sandwich	\$5.75
BLT	\$5.75
Chicken Salad Sandwich	\$5.25
Fried Fish Sandwich	\$5.50
Grilled Chicken Sandwich	\$6.75

## Salads

Chef Salad with Ham	\$7.25
Chef Salad with Chicken Salad	\$7.25
Chef Salad with Grilled Chicken	\$8.25
Chef Salad with Fried Chicken	\$8.25
Small Salad	\$2.25
Scoop Chicken Salad	\$4.00

## Extras

Extra Ham	\$2.50
Extra Bacon	\$2.50
Extra Burger Patty	\$3.50
Extra Dressing	\$.50
Extra Crackers	\$.25
To Go Boxes	\$.50

## Appetizers

Egg Rolls (2)	\$4.25
Chicken Strips	\$7.00
French Fries	\$3.75
Onion Rings	\$4.25
Fried Mushrooms	\$4.75
Fried Green Beans	\$4.25
Corn Nuggets	\$5.25
Jalapeno Peppers	\$4.75
Mozzarella Sticks	\$5.75
Shrimp	\$5.25
Potato Skins	\$7.75
Sampler (any 3 above)	\$5.00
Corn Dogs (2)	\$4.25
Curly Fries	\$4.25

## Wings & Pizza

6 Wings	\$6.50
10 Wings	\$10.25
10 Wings with Fries	\$11.75
Whole Pizza	\$8.25

## Drinks & Candy

Soda	\$1.50
Water	\$1.50
Candy	\$2.50
Cookies	\$1.00
Chips	\$.75

LUNCH  
MONDAY THUR FRIDAY  
11:00AM TO 1:00PM



Place an online order by  
scanning this QR code

DINNER  
SATURDAY THRU THURSDAY  
4:00PM TO 8:00PM  
FRIDAYS ARE FAMILY DINNERS  
5:30PM TO 7:30PM

AMERICAN LEGION POST 57 - PHONE: (386) 752-7260 - ADDRESS: 2602 SW MAIN BLVD, LAKE CITY, FL 32025  
PRICES EFFECTIVE 3/1/2026



## Kitchen Hours:

- Lunch -

**Monday Thru Friday**

11:00am to 1:00pm

- Dinner -

**Saturday Thru Thursday**

4:00pm to 8:00pm

**Fridays**

5:30pm to 7:30pm

**Kitchen Phone:**

(386) 752-7260



Now you can order online  
on our website or scan the  
QR code on the menu!

**Order Online**



## Auxiliary News

It is with heartfelt thanks that we see Donna Sessa off to her 'civilian' life as she exits as the President of the Auxiliary. She will continue to be involved in the many aspects of our Legions endeavors as a teacher and participant in our activities. And, of course, you will see her in the lounge as she remains one of our bartenders. On that note, we welcome Weegie Garcia as our new President. We look forward to her sharing her many creative ideas and most of all her energy and drive. We will have an active year ahead with all of the new Board members as well as the re-elected members.

### Our New Executive Team:

President: Louise "Weegie" Garcia  
1st Vice President: Janet Hamlin York  
2nd Vice President: Stephanie Massey  
3rd Vice President: Maryann Dennis  
Secretary: Melissa Haley-Lane  
Treasurer: Judy Morelan  
Chaplain: Gwendolyn Allen-Mathis  
Historian: Patty Koon  
Sgt. At Arms: Cheryl Luker  
Membership: Cathy Bell  
Members at Large: Dominique "Niki" Patterson  
Karen Kraszewski  
Mallory Fetzer

On June 25th we hosted the monthly Afternoon Tea for the ladies at the Dom. It is such a great honor to work with these veteran soldiers. All had a great time and enjoyed the goodies while building relationships.

Carolyn Anderson is the chairperson for the poppy committee. As a new Auxiliary rule, a poppy table can be set up at any event at any time. You will see us giving out these wonderful reminders of the sacrifices of our veterans at all of our events as well as around town.

Weegie Garcia hosted the June Auxiliary dinner serving another scrumptious Cuban dinner. Irma Wehrli, another of our great cooks, will be hosting July's dinner on July 3.

### **Ongoing projects and opportunities to be involved:**

Quilts of Valor is an ongoing project, and we host 1- 2 classes monthly teaching basic sewing skills in order to make the quilt tops. Bringing your own portable sewing machine would be helpful.

## Auxiliary News (Cont.)

On September 12th we will have our annual indoor yard sale. Time to clean out cupboards, closets, the garage and any other place in your home that needs purging. We will take anything that is not objectional. We can take furniture and other big items along with clothing and household goods. We cannot collect any items until the week of the sale and future notices will go out when you can begin to bring things to the post. Large items can only come into the hall on Friday morning before the sale day. On Friday, September 11th we are planning to meet in the hall to organize and display our wares. More times will be announced in the future. This year we will have 2 boutique areas: one for our Legionnaire Dogs and one for our Junior Auxiliary. You can donate some of your items to either of these areas. We ask that these be more upscale items as we will be pricing them a little higher. Please do not designate everything you are bringing to these areas, only those items that are "boutique" quality.

We continue to collect soda can pop tops for the Ronald McDonald House. When you have a small (or large) plastic bag filled you can turn these into the bar, into a large container in the bingo hall or at any of the Auxiliary meetings. These tops do not need to come exclusively from soda cans. Soup and vegetable cans are acceptable.

We also continue to collect new cosmetic bags to be stuffed with hygiene products. These go to homeless teens and adult women through various organizations and to school nurses in Columbia County schools for distribution as needed. If you know of an organization that could use these, please let Donna know as we have a supply of them in our meeting room closet.

We will be gearing up soon to begin candy collections for our fall activities.

Dates to remember in July:

July 3rd –Auxiliary Dinner with Irma Wehrli as Chief Chef

July 18th -Quilts of Valor sewing class.

July 24th-26 – Ala Workshop in Orlando – all members invited.

Look for emails from the Auxiliary if there is more information on the happenings.

Donna Sessa  
President Unit 57 Auxiliary  
For Spirit of Service, Not Self





## Sons of the American Legion News

### SAL Squadron 57

Wow, summer is here!!!!!! We have quite a few things going on this month and we are still recovering from a fantastic month of June. Our new Officers will be installed on July 1 st , congratulations to all of our new leadership team. Thank you again to all our volunteers for the SAL dinner and Roadkill Bingo nights, both were very successful. We had an awesome raffle for the Roadkill Bingo crowd which included two free Son's dinner tickets, 4 tickets to a race night at North Florida Racetrack and of course two big racks of ribs.

We have our Squadron meeting on July 7 th at 1830 and our SAL Friday night dinner on July 24th, 1730, hours. Our Roadkill Bingo is on July 11, 1700-1900 hours.

We are currently working on a date in September for a Picnic with a live band, car show, and a few more surprises. Please keep an eye out for the dates and times as we continue to try and make your summer and fall full of exciting things to participate in at Post 57.

If you are a member of the Sons, please try to attend our meetings and participate in the events. We would love to have more help.

Looking forward to a good month

Stay safe,

Eric Gibson

SAL Commander

**Join us on  
Facebook!**



## Honor Guard Volunteers Needed



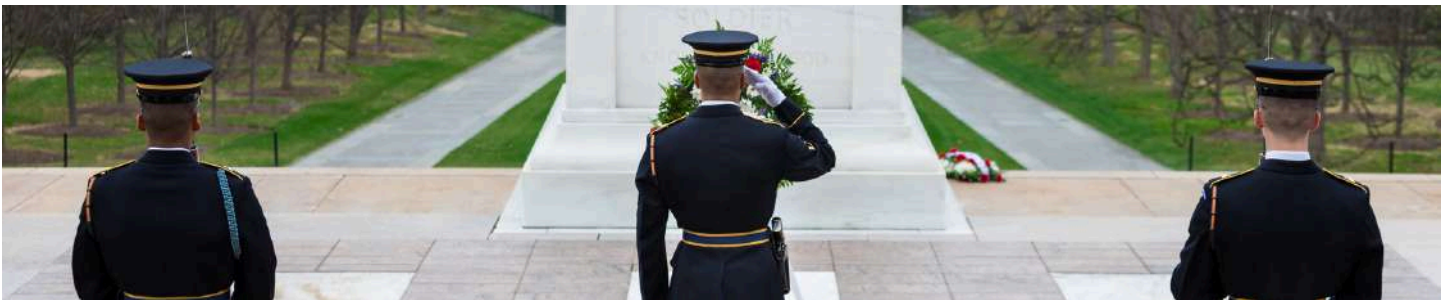
**Practice:**

**Every Third Wednesday at 11:00am at the Post**

**Interested?**

**Contact Kelly Luker (386) 213-2369**





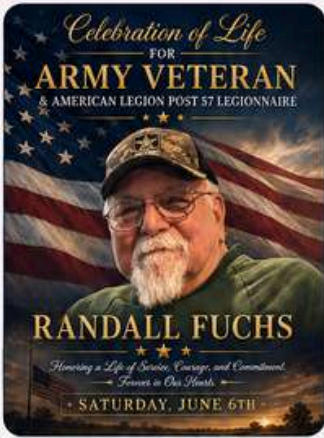
## Honor Guard



# POST 57 HONOR GUARD TIMELINE NEWSLETTER

POST 57

JUNE 2026 — HONORING SERVICE, SUPPORTING FAMILIES, AND SERVING OUR COMMUNITY



*Celebration of Life*  
FOR  
**ARMY VETERAN**  
& AMERICAN LEGION POST 57 LEGIONNAIRE

**RANDALL FUCHS**

*Honoring a Life of Service, Courage, and Commitment  
— Forever in Our Hearts —*

• SATURDAY, JUNE 6TH •

**JUNE 6, 2026**  
**Celebration of Life for Randall Fuchs**

The Post 57 Honor Guard proudly rendered military honors during the Celebration of Life for veteran Randall Fuchs. Through the ceremonial folding and presentation of the American flag, rifle salute, and the sounding of Taps, our team paid tribute to a life of service and sacrifice.

*“Honoring a Life of Service, Love, and Legacy.”*



**JUNE 13, 2026**  
**Funeral Ceremony for  
Petty Officer Dale Ray Dotson**

One week later, Honor Guard members were privileged to provide military honors for Petty Officer Dale Ray Dotson, U.S. Navy. The ceremony reflected our unwavering commitment to ensuring every veteran receives the respect and dignity they have earned through their service to our nation.

*Fair winds and following seas, Shipmate.*

**POST 57 LADIES**  
**PACK**  
*the*  
**BACKPACK!**

Show a lucky man how special he is this Father's Day by donating to the Father's Day Backpack!

**AUCTION**  
Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup>  
*Proceeds down to the Honor Guard*

*Thank you for making a difference!*

**JUNE 20, 2026**  
**Pack the Backpack Auction Fundraiser**

The month concluded with our Pack the Backpack Auction, a Father's Day fundraiser benefiting the Post 57 Honor Guard's efforts to compete at Nationals in Kentucky. Community members, veterans, and supporters came together to help raise funds for our team.

*Thanks to everyone who donated, participated, and supported this successful event.*

**JUNE AT A GLANCE**

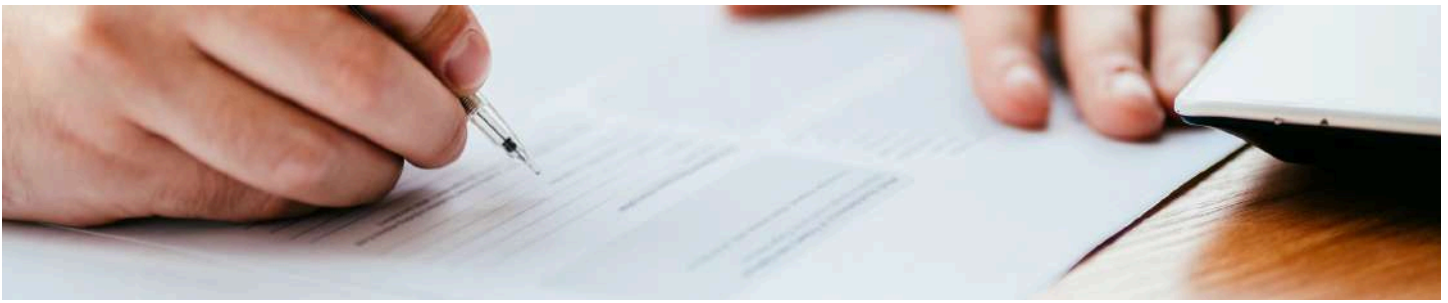
- ✓ Celebration of Life for Randall Fuchs
- ✓ Military Funeral Honors for Petty Officer Dale Ray Dotson
- ✓ Pack the Backpack Fundraiser Auction
- ✓ Continued commitment to honoring veterans and serving their families

**MISSION STATEMENT**

The American Legion Post 57 Honor Guard remains dedicated to preserving military traditions, honoring our fallen veterans, supporting their families, and representing Post 57 and our community with pride and professionalism.

*Service Not Self*



## Post Service Officer

### Service Office Corner:

Greetings Comrades. Myself along with Mike Williams were recently appointed as Veteran Service Officers for Post 57. We coordinate with various agencies within the VA as well as local social services to ensure our veterans and their families receive the benefits due to them, and to help veterans in immediate need. Additionally Mike and I are Service Officers for DAV Chapter 126. and are certified to assist in the VA claims process. We look forward to doing what we do best, Helping Veterans.

Mike Poreda 386-466-4964

Mike Williams 386-867-0177



**American Legion Post 57 is in need of 2 part-time line cooks.  
Apply in person at 2602 SW Main Blvd between 11am and 3 pm.**





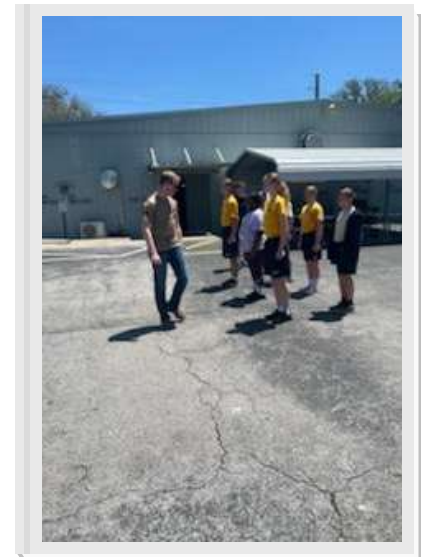
## Sea Cadets

Sea Cadets are young men and women aged 10 to 18. We are supported by the U.S. Navy and U.S. Coast Guard, and our Cadets train on naval bases and other military installations. Sea Cadets gain unique and valuable experiences that incorporate hands-on learning and teamwork. We meet at the American Legion in Lake City twice a month for drill. The cadets have many opportunities to go to training over the summer and winter. If you are interested and would like more information, you can contact Niki Patterson 303-725-3889. You can also click the link to get more information America's Sea Cadets - The US Navy's youth development program.

Our Sea Cadet drills are scheduled for 2026 -2027, These are the drills for the year, are subject to change.

August 1st, 2026 , August 15, 2026, September 5th, 2026, September 19th, 2026, October 3rd, 2026m October 17thm 2026, November 7th, 2026, November 21st , 2026, December 5th, 2026, December 19th, 2026, January 9th, 2027, January 23rd, 2027, February 6th, 2027, February 20th, 2027, March 6th, 2027, March 20th, 2027, April 3rd, 2027, April 17th, 2027, May 1st, 2027, and May 15th, 2027.




Sea Cadet fundraiser dinners are schedule as followed for until the end of this year:  
July 31st , 2026.





# JULY



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> \$1.75 Draft Post 57 Installation of Officers 6:00pm	<b>2</b> Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm	<b>3</b> Red Shirt Friday Auxiliary Friday Night Dinner 5:30pm-7:30pm Karaoke 6:30pm Texas Hold'em 7:00pm	<b>4</b> Independence Day Fourth of July Cookout 11:00am-1:00pm Queen of Hearts 6:00pm
<b>5</b> Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm 	<b>6</b> Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm Texas Hold'em 7:00pm	<b>7</b> SAL Squadron 57 Meeting 6:30pm-7:30pm Marine Corps League Meeting 6:30pm-7:30pm	<b>8</b> \$1.75 Draft Auxiliary Bingo (Domiciliary) 6:00pm-7:30pm	<b>9</b> Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm	<b>10</b> Red Shirt Friday Riders Friday Night Dinner 5:30pm-7:30pm Texas Hold'em 7:00 PM	<b>11</b> SAL Roadkill Bingo 5:00pm-7:00pm Queen of Hearts 6:00pm
<b>12</b> Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm	<b>13</b> Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm Texas Hold'em 7:00pm	<b>14</b> Legion & Auxiliary Executive Meeting 6:30pm-7:30pm	<b>15</b> Honor Guard Practice 11:00am \$1.75 Draft Buddy Checks 1:00pm-3:00pm 	<b>16</b> Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm	<b>17</b> Red Shirt Friday Marine Corps League Friday Night Dinner 5:30pm-7:30pm Texas Hold'em 7:00 PM	<b>18</b> Sewing Class 10:00am Paddle Auction 5:00pm-7:00pm Queen of Hearts 6:00pm
<b>19</b> Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm	<b>20</b> Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm DAV Meeting 4:45pm-5:45pm Texas Hold'em 7:00pm	<b>21</b> Legion & Auxiliary General Membership Meeting 6:30pm-7:30pm	<b>22</b> \$1.75 Draft Legion Bingo (Domiciliary) 6:00pm-7:30pm	<b>23</b> Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm	<b>24</b> Red Shirt Friday Auxiliary Workshop LC Youth Bowl (Hall Rental) 5:30pm SAL Friday Night Dinner 5:30pm-7:30pm Texas Hold'em 7:00 PM	<b>25</b> Auxiliary Workshop Breakfast with the Chief 9:00am-10:30am Rider's Roadkill Bingo 5:00pm-7:00pm Queen of Hearts 6:00pm
<b>26</b> Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm	<b>27</b> Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm Texas Hold'em 7:00pm	<b>28</b> Rider's Meeting 6:30pm-7:30pm 	<b>29</b> Sewing Class 10:00am \$1.75 Draft Buddy Checks 1:00pm-3:00pm	<b>30</b> Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm	<b>31</b> Red Shirt Friday Sea Cadet Friday Night Dinner 5:30pm-7:30pm Texas Hold'em 7:00 PM	

