



Seal Beach Host Lions Club

The Growl
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OFFICERS

President:

Scott Newton

5431 Purdue Avenue
Westminster, CA 92683
(714) 892-1486

Secretary:

Scot Mattox

3162 Main Way Drive
Los Alamitos, CA 90720
(562) 430-9452

Treasurer:

Ray Longoria

250 Clipper Way
Seal Beach, CA 90740
(562) 431-7254

First Vice-President:

Dave Hubbard

(714) 842-4256

Second Vice President:

Mike McFadden

(714) 377-3906

Third Vice President:

Tom Ahrens

(714) 562-7502

Board of Directors:

Terry Barton, Cathy Bekke,
Jeff Coplen, Biff Horvatin,
Gail Hubbard, Chris
Langlais, George Layman,
Carol Linehan, Georga
Syrengelas

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Dino Syrengelas

Lion Tamers:

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Bonnie Moision-Boire

Past President:

George Dooley

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SealBeachLions.com

Mike Narz

Growl Editor:



The President's Message:

October 3rd, 2004

"On the road again" is the song that keeps popping in my head as I continue a greater than anticipated travel schedule. This week's travel will take me to eight states on the East Coast but the good news is that Mary is joining me and we are mixing in a little pleasure with the business. I will definitely make the

October 20th meeting where we have a great speaker from the Orange County Vector Control Center speaking about the West Nile Virus.

A big thanks goes out to all the Lions who helped out our Leo club at their annual Art Fest BBQ earlier in September. Without the Sandcastle event this year, they were not able to make as much money but they were able to raise approximately \$3000 in two days. The River Clean-Up this year was held much closer to home and without as much dust. Thank you to Lion Jeff Coplen who chaired the project.



Seven Lions and seven Leo's worked a new project this past weekend at the Blind Children's Learning Center in Santa Ana. We provided and cooked lunch for the 125+ people who attended their reunion event. Besides cooking and serving, we had the opportunity to get to meet several of the students and former students in attendance. One little boy really stole our hearts - his name is Ben. He's about six or seven years old, is blind, and has an incredible personality. After talking with him for a while, we found that he knew the Lyrics to almost every 'oldie' we threw at him. This was so fascinating to me that I introduced him to Lion George

and the two hit it off immediately. This kid really latched on to George making it a great time for both of them.

Meeting schedule: First and Third Wednesday of the month. Meetings begin at 7pm sharp and are held at 'The Lone Star SteakHouse', 6575 E. Pacific Coast Highway, Long Beach, CA

E-mail: President@SealBeachLions.com - Secretary@SealBeachLions.com - Treasurer@SealBeachLions.com



The President's Message: continued



The event had a Lions International Video crew in attendance shooting a video on how Lions and Leo's work together. Myself, Leo Jasa and Leo Adam were all interviewed for the video. Of course, you will see our guys in the background cooking and serving as always. This was a great project that I hope we can continue with.

And finally, Lions were out in full force last Saturday night at the CASA Auction. It was the Dooley's first time so Lion Diane made sure her bids made up for the years they missed. A good time for all as usual but we missed seeing Myldred who at 95 was not up to coming this year. One of the interesting bidding highlights was when Lion Mark and his sister-in-law, Sonja, bid on and won a trip-for-two to New Orleans without their spouses present. The four of them were still trying to figure out how to split the trip between them when we left.

See you soon at one of our meetings or service projects!

In Lionism,

Scott



Club Calendar:

Saturday, October 2

Casa Youth Shelter

White Cane Days

Sunday, October 3

White Cane Days

Tuesday, October 5

Westminster Lions Club visitation cancelled

Wednesday, October 6

7:00 pm : Seal Beach Host Lions Club General & Board Meeting

Monday, October 11

COLUMBUS DAY

Wednesday, October 13

6:30 pm : Veteran's Bingo

Saturday, October 16

Sail for the Blind

Monday, October 18

6:00 pm : Leo Board Meeting

6:30 pm : Leo General Meeting

Wednesday, October 20

7:00 pm : Seal Beach Host Lions Club Meeting & Program night

Saturday, October 23

McGaugh Carnival

Rebuilding Together ??

Sunday, October 31

Halloween

District Cabinet Meeting

2:00 am : Daylight Saving Time Ends.

Veterans Corner:

Do you know who's Medal of Honor is the longest delayed in military history? Does the initials TR give you a hint?

Well, it is Teddy Roosevelt. After a gallant charge up San Juan Hill with the Rough Riders TR was in line for the Medal. However, on their way back to the States they were delayed and forced to bivouac in a mosquito-infested swamp where they lost more men than they had in combat. TR made the fatal mistake of criticizing the War Department and the Secretary of War quickly squashed the Medal of Honor Citation. It would then take over a century for the Department of the Army to reinstate the medal. He is the only recipient of both the Medal of Honor and the Nobel Peace Prize. BULLY!





Celebrating Member Anniversaries

October

David Blasi	1999
Alan Chavez I	1993
Victor Grgas	1988
Bob Griffiths	1987
Michael Maloney	1986
Kathleen McGlynn	1996
Scott Newton	1988
Rodney Pabst	1993
Jim Dunn	2003

Cannoncocks build miniature version of Fenway Park in Iraq



Cannoncocks build miniature version of Fenway Park in Iraq

Submitted by: 1st Marine Division

Story by: Computed Name: Cpl. Veronika R. Tuskowski

CAMP RAMADI, Iraq (31 August 2004) -- Captain Stephen Pritchard has the ultimate offer to the Boston Red Sox CEO, John Henry, and Red Sox general manager Theo Epstein.

"If the Spring Training venue in Sarasota, Fla., ever proves to be untenable, then you are more than welcome to hold Spring Training here in Ar Ramadi, Iraq," said Pritchard, a logistics officer with 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment.

Why such a gracious offer?

Cannoncocks of 3rd Battalion 11th Marine Regiment constructed a miniature version of the Red Sox's Fenway Park at Camp Ramadi, Iraq.

"The Army here on base had their own baseball field, and we had to travel over there whenever we wanted to play," said Pritchard, from Weymouth, Mass. "So we cleared up an area and built one ourselves."

Pritchard provided the inspiration behind modeling the diamond after Boston's famous baseball park.

"I am a big Red Sox fan, and Fenway has the most famous left field fence in the Major Leagues," Pritchard said. "Not just that, but it is the most identifiable feature of any American sporting venue."



Cannoncocks continued

The Marines used over 200 panels of recycled wood to construct the outer fence of the field that reaches 290 feet to center field. They used old light poles as foul line poles and over 120 gallons of green paint. The left field has an unmistakable feature like Fenway: the "Green Monster," a 64-foot long and 18-foot high wall.

"It was a two-week project," said Cpl. Jason M. Samuels, 22, and an artillery mechanic with the unit. "Putting up the Green Monster was the hardest part. We built it on the ground and stood it up. We had 30 guys lifting it up and it was shifting and wobbling."

The field was named "Phelps Field" after Pfc. Chance Phelps, who was killed April 9 during combat operations in Iraq. He was the only Marine the battalion lost while in Iraq.

Even though it is named "Phelps Field," Pritchard has nicknamed it Fenway East... as in Middle East.

And where would the mini-Fenway be if it weren't for advertising? The Marines paid \$20 each to make advertisements along the fence. The funding goes to the unit's Marine Corps Ball in November.

Despite creating a likeness to Fenway, the real reason for building the field was to help the Marines through their seven-month-long deployment.

"I think by building this field we have provided all troops on this base an outlet for stress and tension," said Pritchard. "It gives them a chance to forget about the daily grind of the day and just enjoy some softball."

"I grew up with the Red Sox, so this field makes me feel like I am back home with American traditions," said Petty Officer 1st Class Fernald J. Darrin, a company chief with Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 14. "It makes you feel like you aren't in a war zone. It's a stress reliever."

"None of the Seabees can reach the Green monster," said Petty Officer 1st Class James Cochran, operations chief, NMCB-14. "But it's not about winning with us, we just come out here to heckle each other and have a good time."

Soon 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment will be heading back to the states and their replacements, 2nd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, will be coming to a fully furnished camp.

"This field is one of our capstones," said Pritchard, who keeps the field meticulously maintained. "This is a good start for the 2/11 Marines to pick up where we left off. We built this to try to erase some of the scars of the war, so if you stay here at Camp Ramadi for seven months it wouldn't be so bad."

Seal Beach Host Lions Club
1198 Pacific Coast Highway Suite D-305
Seal Beach, California 90740

