



4/23/2015

2015 ALRA Directors Report

My second year as State Director for the Alaska American Legion Riders began with a very positive note as I met Mr. Mark Berg of Jack Henry Post 1 as he approached me having heard my Director report to our 2014 Convention at Post 20. He brought his definitive ideas at starting a Chapter of the ALR in Anchorage primarily at Post 1. In fact it was not an idea of what could be, he literally said he could and would get it done if we the Alaska Legion Riders were serious about it. I traveled to Anchorage on several occasions to Mark or Eric Walters of Post 28 providing information and a small amount of encouragement as little was needed as Mark was the most enthusiastic and motivated individual I have encountered in this quest to start a ALR Chapter in Alaska's largest populated area. The awesome chicken fried steak breakfast that can be had at Jack Henry Post 1 on Saturdays was also an enjoyable factor for my visits.

June found some members of the ALR and myself riding with others in the first annual Ride for Respect. This was a worthy cause bring attention to the needs of those who are victims of domestic violence and the poker run was a fun and entertaining way of raising fund and awareness at the same time. The fact that it rained on us (a lot!) and we they still managed to bring 36 bikes and riders to the ride from Anchorage to Seward speaks volumes to the attention this cause attracts and this was the first event. Hopefully the 2nd annual Ride for Respect sometime in the June/July 2015 timeframe will be even more successful.

The weekend following the wet and fun had at the Ride for Respect, Post 5 hosted the 2nd annual ALRA ROMP. It was two full days of riding, camaraderie and just plain fun. Yea we took care of a few ALRA business items but mostly it was about getting together as part of the American Legion Family and raising money for the Legacy Run. The ALR has taken it up as a cause and here in Alaska we raised \$ toward the Legacy Run. I need to thank all the Riders who attended the ROMP, Post 20 for hosting an excellent luncheon on that Friday. The Post, Auxiliary and SAL membership at Post 5 especially Dave Squires, Sharon Dillon, Connie Kullander, Mike Calhoun, David Osborne, Clare Sullivan and our ALR's very own Linda Amberg and Marilyn Sutherland all of who kept me sane during the planning and assisted (or just plain took over) at so many critical times that weekend. It is really amazing when you think that Post 5 was not just hosting the ALR ROMP but that entire week Post 5 hosted the reunion of the 1/52 Infantry Division all Vietnam Veterans and their families!

After all the fun of the ROMP it was back to work watching Mark Berg bring an ALR Chapter to life at Jack Henry Post 1. We scheduled an ALR Promotional Tour or "Pride Ride" of the Anchorage Area Post on Saturday, July 26. Riders from Post 1, 5, 16, 20, 28 and 35 gathered to ride and visit each of the Anchorage area Post to promote the ALR. It was a resounding

success as we started at Jack Henry Post 1, and visited Spenard Post 28, Muldoon Post 29 and Peters Creek Post 33. We would have stopped in at Chappie James but they were closed with a sign on the door saying "See You at the Air Show! very poor planning on my part. Although I have to say it was thrilling riding back to Anchorage along the Glenn Highway with the Thunderbirds roaring overhead directly over the top of us during their routine. Besides that the best part of the day was in the back yard at Post 29 Mark Berg and Eric Walters gathered the riding enthusiast from their Post and discussed officer selections and laid the solid ground work to what would become ALR Chapter 1. The installation was held on the on the 9th of August with our most ardent support Jim Pisa conducting the Installation.

The ALR was called on to provide escort services for the funeral of PFC Wallace and some riders from Post 5 and Post 1 rode with me too to Post 35 to join them in to participate. It was a real honor to be able to provide these services for one of our fallen servicemen. It really hit home when the Private's Father and PFC Wallace's Escort from the Air Force came out to thank us after the escort was finished. The Dad hugged each one of us individually and yes tears were shed. I am thankful that this is not a service we need to provide often but one that I personally take great pride in standing forth to do.

The only other note I have is the seemingly repeated downfall of Chapter 20 as the Director has resigned mainly due to lack of participation and fractional differences in the membership. Although we still consider the riders at Post 20 Legion Riders it will be necessary to reconstitute the membership another project to go along with expanding the ALR in Anchorage and promoting the Legacy Run. Besides all the people mentioned in this report I want to thank Lisa Williamson and Don Ridl who have been a constant source of support and knowledge while I have progressed in learning the role of ALRA Director.

Respectfully Submitted
For God and Country

Robert D Dunno Jr.