

BIRMA Bulletin

August 2013

Published Bi-Monthly for Members of the Big Island Retired Military Association

Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard

AUGUST MEETING



Guest Speaker – Jen Lawson

Our next meeting will be at the home of our President, Skip Hickey, and his wife, Wendie. We will meet on **Saturday, August 24, 2013**. A delicious lunch is being prepared by our hosts:

Cheese and Crackers
Skip's Ono Veggie/Bean Dip
Hawaiian Roasted Chicken
Mixed Vegetables
Tutu's Potato Salad
Tossed Salad
Fruit Salad
Desert: Wendie's Famous Ice Cream Cake
Beer, Wine, Soda, Coffee, Tea

The guest speaker, Jen Lawson, is the Executive Director at the Waikoloa Dry Forest Initiative where she coordinates dry forest restoration, native plant propagation, education and volunteer programs. <http://waikoloadryforest.org/> Jen grew up on the

central coast of California in the small town of Paso Robles where she learned the value of growing her own food and spending time outdoors. She holds a degree in Botany from Portland State University in Oregon and has been working in conservation in Hawai'i for the past five years. Previous to her work in Hawai'i, Jen worked on conservation projects in California, Oregon and Massachusetts. She enjoys sharing her enthusiasm for plants both in her work and in her personal life and would be happy to give you a tour of the Waikoloa Dry Forest.

Cost is only \$10 per person! So, please plan to attend...guests are welcome. Directions are attached.

Contact **Neal Herbert** at 935-1946 (nfherbert@hawaiiantel.net) with your reservation... no later than August 18, please.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Skip Hickey

Aloha All,
Our next meeting will be August 24th at my home in Waikoloa Village. The Board of Directors will meet at 1030. All members are invited and encouraged to attend. Following the Board of Directors meeting, at about noon time, we will open the general meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Our last meeting was held at Pohakuloa Training Area hosted by LTC Eric Shwedo, Commanding Officer of PTA, and Command Sergeant Major Allen Higgs. The day started with coffee and donuts followed by a Power Point briefing by LTC Shwedo. If one word can describe what they do at PTA, that word would be training. And they are serious about giving our war fighters the best possible preparation before they enter battle. We toured a Cobra attack helicopter and a Huey "Yankee" model helicopter. Being able to talk story with the pilots, aircrew and ground maintenance Marines made

that part of the tour very special. A tour and in depth explanation of the "shoot house" gave us an appreciation of the complexity and the serious nature of the Marine's training. The final highlight of the day was the great lunch prepared by the PX staff. Believe it or not, the PX has made it into the 21st century...good food and good service. Well done to them.

Finally, I'm looking for two volunteers. The first volunteer would head the Programs Committee. This assignment is not to arrange bi-monthly meeting venues but to simply coordinate them and work with those people that will be hosting the meetings. Please let me know if you are interested.

The second volunteer I'm looking for would be the BIRMA rep for the East Hawaii Mayor's Advisory Committee. This assignment would require attending a monthly meeting in Hilo. Anyone interested, please let me know.

JULY LUNCH MEETING AT THE POHAKULOA TRAINING AREA

As noted above and in the attached meeting minutes, 31 of us had a great time at PTA. Some photos are also attached. For some additional pictures, see following link provided by Frank Dickinson:

http://checkmygoodies.com/fun/birma_072013_t/

WELCOME ABOARD!



HARRIET OWENS AND JOE MESZAROS

Harriet and Joe joined BIRMA at our recent meeting at PTA. Harriet joined the US Navy in 1974 and served until 1978. She met her ex and had a daughter (while on active duty). After divorce, she joined the reserves in Tallahassee, FL and remained in the

reserves for 20 years, advancing to First Class Personnelman. She met Joe in 2000 and they have been in Hawaii since 2004. Joe moved when he retired and asked Harriet to come along. Joe's previous job was a transportation specialist. He sold Cadillacs and Buicks and BMW for 20 years at the same dealership in Daytona Beach, Florida and says if someone needs help with a purchase or a lease or what type to purchase, he would be glad to help.

DUES

Annual membership dues for July 1, 2013 thru June 30, 2014 are now being collected. Dues are \$20.00 for a couple or single; \$12.00 for those 71 years or older. You can pay at any meeting or mail dues to BIRMA, c/o 224 Paukaa Dr, Hilo HI 96720. Call **Neal Herbert** at 935-1946 with any questions.

2013 CALENDAR

The schedule for the rest of this year is as follows...**mark your calendars now!**

October 26 – To be determined

December 14 – Annual Christmas party in Kona

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Big Island Retired Military Association
Pohakuloa Training Area (PTA)
July 20, 2013
Minutes

Activities Memo

0800 31 BIRMA attendees met for coffee and pastries at building 95 (Rec Hall). LTC Eric Shwedo, Commanding Officer, PTA, provided an overview of the PTA mission, activities, and environmental issues.

0930 -1200 BIRMA members were transported on post vehicles on a guided tour to include ranges, aircraft static displays, shoot house, and personal interaction with US Marine Unit Personnel.

1200 -1330 Lunch was followed by a presentation to the PTA staff. Skip presented a plaque from BIRMA to LTC Shwedo and CSM Alan Higgs expressing his thanks for the excellent Program and efforts of the PTA staff.

The 50/50 Drawing was for \$53 won by Jan Kama, Wymond's guest. A total of \$106 was collected.

There was no General Membership Meeting.

Board of Directors Meeting

Meeting was called to order at 1345

Board attendees: Skip Hickey, Neal Herbert, Al Lamke, and Jim Traxler

A motion to accept the minutes dated 4-27-13 as published in the July 2013 Bulletin was approved.

The Board reviewed and approved the Treasurer's Report summarized as follows:

Checking Balance	7/20/13	\$1,838.12
CD Balance	6/30/13	<u>\$2,177.55</u>
		\$4,015.67

Committee Reports

*Scholarship- No report

*Welfare- No report

*Membership- Neal provided the latest membership roster. New members signing up today included Ervin and Rosey Harris and Harriet Owens and her partner, Joe Meszaros.

*Publicity- No report

*Legislative- No report

*Faded Glory- Several flags are already been collected. The next flag retirement ceremony is planned for the summer of 2014.

*Programs- There was some discussion about a program chairman. If any member is interested in helping, please contact Skip. The tentative program is as follows:

August 24- Home of Skip and Wendie Hickey in Waikoloa Village.

October 26 - Neal will investigate changing the October meeting to the east side to balance out the program.

December- Christmas Party to be coordinated by Martha Tumbleson and Frank Dickinson.

Other Items

*Jim confirmed that the annual BIRMA Business Registration has been paid.

*Neal stated that name tags are now available through Wilson Trophies in Hilo.

*There was some discussion about the Mayor's Veterans Advisory Council. BIRMA is not represented on this Council at this time.

The meeting was adjourned by Skip Hickey at 1415 hours.

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BIRMA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING AGENDA
August 24, 2013
Skip and Wendie's Home, Waikoloa, HI

Call meeting to order – Time TBA

Secretary – July 20, 2013 BOD Minutes posted in August 2013 Bulletin. Read, discuss, and accept minutes

Treasurer – Treasurer's report

Committees:

Welfare -

Scholarship -

Membership – Status and New Members

Publicity -

Legislative – Dave Bateman update

Faded Glory – Report on flags collected to date

Programs – Hosts for 2013 meetings

August 24, Hickey home, Waikoloa Village

October 26, To be determined

December 14, Frank D. and Martha T., Venue TBA

Other Items:

East Hawaii Veteran's Advisory Committee, need a volunteer, status?

Volunteer to head Programs Committee.

Items from the floor

Adjourn

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Directions to Skip and Wendie's home in Waikoloa Village

68-1789 Auhili Loop
Waikoloa, HI 96738
781-424-1630

Turn off Waikoloa Road onto Paniolo Ave, go ¾ mile and take the third right onto Ka Uhiwai St. At the stop sign (about 50 yards) turn left onto Auhili Loop. Our house is the 10th house on the right.

If all else fails, simply follow the BIRMA signs (among the garage sale signs) after entering the village.



