

BIRMA Bulletin

October 2013

Published Bi-Monthly for Members of the Big Island Retired Military Association
Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard

OCTOBER MEETING



NANI MAU GARDENS

Plan to come to our next lunch meeting at the beautifully renovated **Nani Mau Gardens** in Hilo on Saturday, October 26, at 1200. The new management of the Gardens under **Mark Mattos**, who also operates the Coconut Grill where we have had many enjoyable BIRMA functions, has really spiffed up the grounds, restoring them to even better condition than the original. We will have a delicious three entree meal. Operations permitting, we will have a special presentation by the **U S Coast Guard Cutter KISKA**, home ported in Hilo, on current Coast Guard missions. And, you will have **free admission** to view the Gardens either before or after our meeting (see attached brochure)! But the best thing is being with your good BIRMA friends again! The Plumeria Island Buffet menu:

Rock Salt Crusted Roast Pork-pan style gravy
Grilled Mahi Mahi-caper lemon butter
Hibachi Boneless Chicken-pineapple relish
Steamed Rice and Vegetables
Garlic Mashed Potatoes

Garden Salads

Dessert

Coffee, Iced Tea, Soft Drinks

Wine, beer available at extra charge

Cost is only \$15 per person...hard to beat for all that's included! However, we have a contract minimum of 25 attendees for the luncheon, so please plan to attend...guests are welcome. Those coming from West Hawaii will now have a much faster trip at less fuel cost, thanks to the recently realigned Saddle road. To further reduce travel expense, consider car-pooling...a list of attendees will be provided by e-mail before the 26th. Directions are attached

Contact **Marilyn Herbert** at 935-1946 or by e-mail at (nfherbert@hawaiiintel.net) with your reservation...no later than October 16, please.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Skip Hickey

Aloha All,

Our next meeting will be October 26th at the Nani Mau Gardens. 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 my home in Waikoloa Village. Many thanks to the east side members who attended. The extra effort in making the long drive is appreciated. A special thanks to my wife Wendie and her mom for the meal they prepared, especially the homemade ice cream cake...delicious!!! This was our first time to host a meeting in our home. For anyone who would like to host a meeting in your home, a couple of thoughts from a first timer. It's a lot of work, but it is fun and rewarding. Preplanning

is the key to success. My wife, as apprehensive as she was, is looking forward to hosting another meeting. She really enjoyed it. Jen Lawson, Executive Director of the Waikoloa Dry Forest Initiative, gave a very informative talk about the dry forest past and present. The talk was interesting and thought provoking as evidenced by the number of questions asked by the attendees.

A special thanks and recognition goes out to three of our members for volunteering for special assignments. First, mahalo to Jim Traxler for volunteering to be our representative on the Mayor's Veterans Advisory Committee. When you hear the mayor talk and sound so informed about veteran's issues it's behind the scenes work that Jim has taken on that makes that happen. Second, I want to thank Harry Correa for taking on the job of heading the Programs Committee. Harry will coordinate and advise meeting host volunteers in planning a meeting. And last but not least, thanks to Bob Wilson for volunteering to submit articles to West Hawaii Today about what's happening in BIRMA.

Finally, a reminder there will be **no case lot sale** in Hilo this month due to a scheduling conflict.

AUGUST LUNCH MEETING AT THE HICKEY'S

As noted above, 27 BIRMA members and guests enjoyed a great home-style meal and program at the Waikoloa Village residence of **Skip and Wendie Hickey** on August 24. A big MAHALO to Skip and Wendie for hosting us. Some additional pictures of the meeting are attached.

WELCOME ABOARD!



NEW MEMBERS – ANNETTE AND CHARLES SCHLEGELMILCH

Both Annette and Charlie are retired from the Navy. They received their Navy commissions through the NROTC scholarship program with Annette attending the University of Rochester in New York and, Charlie, Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Annette was raised in up-state New York on Lake Champlain where she developed a strong love for being on the water. So naturally, she joined the Navy and was one of the first female officers to serve as a Surface Warfare Officer at sea. Her initial sea assignments took her to the Mediterranean where she served in the 6th Fleet Flagship until moving to Hawaii for a ship out of Oahu and deployments to the Western Pacific. Her shore tours included major staffs in Washington DC (OPNAV and OJCS) and the International Military Staff at NATO Headquarters in Brussels, Belgium. She was also selected to be one of the first female officers assigned to a combatant that deployed to the Caribbean on counter-narcotics operations. In retirement, Annette set up and ran the NJROTC unit at Waiakea High School in Hilo.

Charlie was born in South Dakota but spent his younger years in the Portland, Oregon area and lived in various parts of the world as his father, who had a 30 year army career, was transferred to Japan, Texas, Austria, Missouri, and Nebraska. Naturally after all that moving around as an Army Brat (four different high schools), Charlie chose to go in the Navy. He went into surface combatants and had three command tours at sea. His major shore assignments included a two year in country Vietnam tour, four Washington DC tours, a NATO Headquarters assignment, and service with the CINCPAC staff on Oahu. He is a graduate of the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey and the NATO Defense College in Rome, Italy. He, like his father, retired after 30 years of active duty.

Charlie and Annette have three children...oldest son Barret, 2011 NROTC graduate UCLA astrophysics program and Navy Nuclear Power School (now serving on a Navy submarine); son Orion, who received BIRMA's 2013 Mark Allen Traxler Memorial Scholarship; and daughter Brianne, currently at St. Joseph's High.

DUES

Dues for July 1, 2013 thru June 30, 2014 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 935-1946 with any questions.

SPACE STATION VIDEO

Member **Joe Meszaros** advises the following link for a great video tour of the Space Station:

<http://www.youtube.com/embed/doN4t5NKW-k>

WORLD WAR II PHOTOGRAPHS

An interesting compilation of rare photos about the Pacific theater during WW2 can be accessed at the following link:

<http://blogs.denverpost.com/captured/2010/03/18/captured-blog-the-pacific-and-adjacent-theaters/>

ORIGIN OF TAPS?

Reportedly, it all began in 1862 during the Civil War, when Union Army Captain Robert Elli was with his men near Harrison's Landing in Virginia. The Confederate Army was on the other side of the narrow strip of land. During the night, Captain Elli heard the moans of a soldier who lay severely wounded on the field. Not knowing if it was a Union or Confederate soldier, the Captain decided to risk his life and bring the stricken man back for medical attention. Crawling on his stomach through the gunfire, the Captain reached the stricken soldier and began pulling him toward his encampment.

When the Captain finally reached his own lines, he discovered it was actually a Confederate soldier, but the soldier was dead. The Captain lit a lantern and suddenly caught his breath and went numb with shock. In the dim light, he saw the face of the soldier. It was his own son. The boy had been studying music in the South when the war broke out. Without telling his father, the boy enlisted in the Confederate Army.

The following morning, heartbroken, the father asked permission of his superiors to give his son a full military burial, despite his enemy status. His request was only partially granted. The Captain had asked if he could have a group of Army band members play a funeral dirge for his son at the funeral.

The request was turned down since the soldier was a Confederate. But, out of respect for the father, they did say they could give him only one musician. The Captain chose a bugler. He asked the bugler to play a series of musical notes he had found on a piece of paper in the pocket of the dead youth's uniform. This wish was granted. The haunting melody, we now know as 'Taps' used at military funerals was born. The words:

Day is done. Gone the sun. From the lakes. From the hills. From the sky. All is well.
Safely rest.
God is nigh.

Fading light. Dims the sight. And a star. Gems the sky. Gleaming bright. From afar.
Drawing nigh.
Falls the night.

Thanks and praise. For our days. Neath the sun. Neath the stars. Neath the sky. As we go. This we know. God is nigh

1ST ANNUAL EAST HAWAII JAZZ AND BLUES FESTIVAL

The **Hawaii Island Veterans Memorial** is sponsoring a special fund raiser for the construction of a new Veterans Center in Hilo on October 27. Details are in a separate e-mail due to file size.

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Big Island Retired Military Association
Skip and Wendy Hickey's Home-Waikoloa
August 24, 2013

Board of Directors Meeting

Meeting was called to order at 1040

Board attendees: Skip Hickey, Al Lamke, Bob Wilson, Harry Correa and Jim Traxler

A motion to accept the minutes dated 7-20-13 as published in the August 2013 Bulletin was approved.

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

Checking Balance	08/24/13	\$2,096.83
CD Balance	06/30/13	\$2,177.55
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		\$4,274.38

Committee Reports

*Scholarship- No report

*Welfare- No report

*Membership- Neal provided a written report since he was absent. Changes since the last report: Charles and Annette Schlegelmilch joined on 7/31/13; Jeanne Box passed away. George Kuwada is still a tentative member. Based on a suggestion from Neal, the BOD voted to identify members that moved away to the mainland but were very active in BIRMA while on the Island. These individuals would be afforded Honorary membership and continue to receive the bulletin. Jim and Neal will put together a tentative list so that action can be taken at the next meeting.

*Publicity- Bob Wilson volunteered to provide meeting notices to the West Hawaii Today for future meetings.

*Legislative- Jim mentioned that the West Hawaii Veteran's Council will receive \$300k this fiscal year for site selection and design of a proposed West Hawaii Veteran's Center.

*Faded Glory- Additional flags have been collected. The next flag retirement ceremony is still planned for the summer of 2014.

*Programs- Harry Correa volunteered to be our new program chairman. The tentative program is as follows:

October 26-Neal is working on the Hilo Bay Café. If this doesn't work, he will recommend another venue in East Hawaii.

December 14- Christmas Party to be coordinated by Martha Tumbleson and Frank Dickinson. Planned location is the new VFW Veteran's Center in Kona.

Other Items

*The Board voted to purchase an appropriate US Flag with staff to be used for West side activities.

*Harry announced that there will not be a Case Lot Sale in October.

The meeting was adjourned by Skip Hickey at 1120 hours.

General Membership Meeting

Meeting called to order at 1315 hours

Pledge of allegiance

Jen Lawson, Executive Director at the Waikoloa Dry Forest Initiative gave an interesting and informative presentation.

Frank Dickinson won the 50-50 at a \$37.50 split.

Meeting adjourned at 1400 hours.

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**BIRMA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
AGENDA**

October 26, 2013

- Call meeting to order – 1030
- Secretary – August 24, 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
 - December 14, Frank D. and Martha T., VFW Kona
Hosts for 2014 meetings
- Other Items:
 - Mayor’s Veteran’s Advisory Committee, report.
 - Status of new west side flag pole.
- Items from the floor
- Adjourn

AUGUST 24 LUNCHEON AT THE HICKEY RESIDENCE



Members enjoying talk by Jen Lawson



More attendees



Al doing the 50-50 with Jen



Norm questioning Jen



Jen and Marie helping Wendie's mom in the kitchen