



The



Kettle Moraine Marine

June 2011 Serving the Kettle Moraine area since 2005 Vol VII Issue 6
Commandant: Jim Ramage Kettle Moraine Det, MCL#1203 Editor: Jason Waier



***Kettle Moraine Detachment Color Guard
kicks off the summer by leading the
Memorial Day Parade in West Bend!***

**Our next Meeting will be held: 7pm, MONDAY June 20th, 2011!
It will be conducted at Moraine Park Technical College North Campus in West Bend.
Hope to see you there!**

Newsletter Highlights

Cover: *KetMorDet Color Guard in West Bend*

Page 3: *Minutes from May Meeting*

Page 4: *Stories from the front*

Page 5: *KetMorDet in Action!*

Page 6: *Officer Comments*

Page 8: *Reminder to Veterans*

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2011-2012 Detachment Officers

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George Wujcik
(262) 338-8426

Calendar of Events (Subject to change)

Jun 15		38th Annual Disabled Vets "Take a Vet Fishing"
Jun 19	1800	Color Guard- Slinger Speedway
Jun 20-26		Marine Week St Louis
June 20	1900	Regular Det. Meeting. MPTC West Bend
June 26	1800	Color Guard- Slinger Speedway
Jul 9		Rose Distribution Fundraiser- West Bend Walmart
Jul 8		Rose Dist Fundraiser- Miller Park 7pm game
July 18	1900	Regular Det Meeting, MPTC West Bend
Jul 20	0900	Veterans Appreciation Day-Washington Cty Fair
Aug		Seventh Annual Fisher House Golf Outing in Menomonee Falls
Aug 12		Rose Distribution Fundraiser- West Bend Walmart
Aug 13		Rose Dist Fundraiser - Miller Park 6pm game
Aug 22	1900	Regular Det Meeting, MPTC West Bend
Sep 10		Second Annual House of Harley/Fisher House Benefit Ride in Milwaukee
Mar 17-18		MCL State Convention Hosted by KetMorDet



NEWSLETTER INFO

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THE KETTLE MORAINNE MARINE Newsletter is normally published prior to monthly scheduled meetings for the information and use of Detachment Members. Articles and letters are invited but the Editor retains the right to edit any submission. Submit typed materials or photographs marked for the Newsletter to the Editor by the first Monday of the month using either e-mail: jwaier@charter.net or snail mail to 2235 Sylvan Way Apt #6 West Bend, WI 53095. Annual donation for ads is \$100 for a single block and \$175 for a double. Half or full page ads are also available.

Editor: Jason Waier (262) 623-1417

See the Newsletter and other Detachment info at www.ketmordet.com

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Kettle Moraine Detachment 1203, Marine Corps League
Minutes of Meeting Held May 23d, 2011
16 Members Present

The meeting was held at Moraine Park Technical College, West Bend, Wisconsin. The Senior Vice Commandant, Danny O'Toole, called the meeting to order at 1900. Sergeant at arms posted the colors, and the Chaplain opened the meeting with a prayer, the bible is open.

Roll Call of Officers

Commandant: Jim Ramage (ex)
Sr. Vice Commandant: Danny O'Toole
Jr. Vice Commandant: John Stern
Adjutant: Paul Schleif
Judge Advocate: Charlie Keller (ex)

Paymaster: Roger Cross
Chaplain: George Wujcik
Sergeant at Arms: Bill Wallace
Historian: Jason Waier

Other Members Attending

Other members in attendance were Steve Chantelois, Carl Heiman, George Kaczmarek, John Krause, Gil Lucka, Roland Moericke, Barry Oelerich, Cal Racine and Ken Unertl. Cal it was good to see you again, realizing you haven't been able to make a meeting for quite a while with your work. Welcome back!

New Members and Guests

No new members or guests were in attendance.

Reading of the Minutes

John Krause motioned with Jason seconding that the minutes be accepted as published in the newsletter. The motion passed.

Paymasters Report

Roger reports that we are seeing some increased activity in our books as summertime approaches, which is when we are most active. Our accounts have been moved to bank mutual and are secured there now. We made donations to Allenton Youth baseball as well as Kewaskum Little League. On the report there were two payments to Kruepke Printing as they never billed us for the last newsletter printing, as well as the current one. We are caught up now, and it was simply an oversight with record-keeping in their business.

It is also noted that Roger purchased a Cabelas gift certificate that was given to Gil Lucka for an Eagle Scout presentation. This is noted in the minutes as Roger is also an employee of Cabelas and although he is an avid sportsman, he is not buying gift certificates for himself!

Barry motioned, with George Wujcik seconding the motion to accept the paymasters report. The motion passed; well-done Roger, and thank-you for your work and time keeping track of our finances.

Chaplains Report

No new reports of members sick or in distress. Charlie Keller continues to rehab from when his knee was injured by a car when he was crossing the street; it's a long road, remember to keep Charlie in your thoughts and prayers for a successful recovery.

Correspondence Received or Delivered

A very nice card was received from Ken Unertl's grand-daughter thanking the detachment for her scholarship that she received at the last meeting. It had an Eagle Globe and Anchor on the front as well as two beautiful graduation pictures!

Report of Standing Committees

Flag History Presentation Team: There is a flag history presentation scheduled to take place at the Gables in Germantown on May 27th. On June 13th there is another flag history presentation scheduled at Cedar Community.

Color Guard: The Memorial Day parade is right around the corner! There is a sign-up sheet for color guard members who can make it. Muster at 0900 a Main and Oak Street.

Fundraising: We have two conflicts, (doubled days) on our fundraising calendar. On July 8th and August 13th we are scheduled to raise funds at both Wal Mart and the Brewer game at Miller Park. It was felt by the detachment that we should concentrate our efforts at Miller Park and for-go fundraising at Wal Mart those days. **Continued on Page 8**

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Don't Bring a Motorbike to a Tank Fight

May 27, 2011

Stars and Stripes by Matt Millham

MUSA QALA, Afghanistan -- For the first five months of the deployment, insurgents were smart enough to stay out of Freak Show's way.

That is until May 18, when a plain-clothes militant -- or maybe more -- fired a rocket-propelled grenade and a PKM machine gun at some 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment Marines on patrol near Patrol Base



Salaam Bazaar, a new outpost on a route coalition forces are fighting to secure. The Marines sighted one fighter, who dropped his weapon, jumped on a motorcycle and fled.

Maybe the insurgent didn't realize that Freak Show was so close. Maybe he thought he could outrun it. Or maybe he didn't realize that you don't bring a motorcycle to a tank fight.

Because that's what Freak Show is: an Abrams main battle tank.

"A lot of times we just go out and sit and wait for something to happen," said Lance Cpl. David Willsie, Freak Show's driver.

But nothing usually does. Until last Wednesday, the tank platoon, part of

Company D, 1st Tank Battalion, had just one operation in which it fired on enemy targets. The insurgents, Willsie said, are afraid of them.

After identifying the fighter, the Marine patrol radioed Freak Show, which was just on the other side of a complex of mud-walled compounds.

Willsie steered the tank around the block and came up almost directly behind the would-be hit-and-run insurgent.

"We knew who it was right off the bat, so we started engaging," said Sgt. Frank Valli, who strafed the runaway gunner with the tank's 7.62 millimeter machine gun.

"The main gun's kind of overkill, especially because we don't want to overdo it," said 2nd Lt. Elliott Simpson. The smaller gun was enough for the job.

"He somersaulted over the front of the motorcycle, did kind of like a side roll, and scampered behind a compound wall," Valli said.

Freak Show's crew lost sight of him after he disappeared into a compound, where they wouldn't follow, even though it would have been nothing for the tank to bust through its mud walls. "I don't know if he got killed," Simpson said. "He was definitely wounded."

Recon Marine awarded Navy Cross for thriving in heavy combat

5/13/2011 By Sgt. Michael S. Cifuentes, Headquarters Marine Corps

ARLINGTON, Va. - Gunnery Sgt. Brian M. Blonder shot and killed an insurgent who was aiming a rocket-propelled grenade at his Marines. After that, Blonder and his

Marines averaged killing one insurgent about every 10 minutes.

At the end of an all-day fight, more than 50 Taliban were dead, scores were retreating, and the Marines took control of a key supply route through the village of Shewan, Afghanistan.

Blonder said it was what he came to



do, and it's what Marines do best - kill the enemy. And his unit did that exceptionally well that even though the Taliban outnumbered the Marines roughly eight to one.

For thriving in the face of danger, Blonder, a native of Deer Beach, Fla., was awarded the Navy Cross during a ceremony at the Marine Corps War Memorial in Arlington, Va., May 10. Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus presented the award and said Blonder is "one of the most selfless and disciplined Marines" he's ever met.

"He'll be remembered for this for generations," Mabus said. "His attack was relentless. The insurgents grew afraid."

Blonder deployed to Afghanistan in the

Continued on Page 7

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The Memorial Day Parade in West Bend was once again proudly led by Marines John Stern, Roger Cross, Fritz Montag, and John Krause of Kettle Moraine Detachment. Among the various floats was the VVA Chapter 448 POW-MIA entry. 1987 West Bend West graduate Marine Lt. Col. Kerry Krell was also on hand while home on leave and took some time to pose with Marines Jason Waier and Andrew Moericke.

Memorial Day History:

When was Memorial Day first celebrated? Memorial day was first celebrated on May 30, 1868. It was observed by placing flowers on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers during the first national celebration. Gen. James Garfield made a speech at Arlington National Cemetery, after which around 5,000 participants helped to decorate the graves of the more than 20,000 Union and Confederate soldiers who were buried there.

Why is Memorial Day celebrated on May 30? Three years after the Civil War ended, on May 5, 1868, the head of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) established Decoration Day as a time for the nation to decorate the graves of the war dead with flowers. Maj. Gen. John A. Logan declared that Decoration Day should be observed on May 30. This date was chosen because flowers would be in bloom all over the country.

What is the National Moment of Remembrance Resolution? In the year 2000 the National Moment of Remembrance Resolution passed. At 3pm on Memorial Day all Americans are asked to voluntarily and informally observe in their own way a moment of remembrance & respect by pausing from whatever they are doing for a moment of silence or listening to taps.

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Report of Officers and Committee Chairs

In order to expedite the regular monthly meeting, all Officers and standing committee chairs are afforded the opportunity to provide their input to the Newsletter by the first Monday of each month. Members are also welcome to submit something. This will enable all Members to review items of interest and reduce discussion at the meetings. Additionally, it provides any Member who is unable to make it to a regular meeting, the opportunity to remain abreast of current Detachment activities. Any submission may be edited and use depends on available space.

Commandant Jim Ramage reports:

I have a problem with work meeting on Monday nights and couldn't get vacation for the last meeting. I am requesting a half vacation day so I can make next meeting. I have been pushing vacation time for performing my duties for detachment and State. I had to use vacation for installing officers for North Shore and Agerholm-Gross Detachments and two other meetings with North Shore due some problems where the State was requested to help with. I am taking vacation for the State Convention in Neenah and medical procedures at the VA. I have contacted two places for our conference in Spring of 2012. One of the places is the new Hampton INN in West Bend near Walmart and Hampton INN in Grafton. I would appreciate some help if someone knows of any other place in West Bend. I am leaning toward West Bend Hampton and address is perfect 1775 18th AVE. I will be taking OIC for Saturday 6/11 Roses at WalMart. John Stern took the lead to OIC Friday 6/10 WalMart I appreciate John stepping up. I hope to make meeting so I can discuss some of the above mentioned issues. I'm looking forward to next Aug when I will be able to more active with

MCL and VVA with no work obligations.

Jim Ramage

Sr Vice Commandant Danny O'Toole reports:

Nothing reported

Jr. Vice Commandant John Stern reports:

Nothing new to report

Judge Advocate Charlie Keller reports:

Nothing new to report

Adjutant Paul Schleif:

Per last months meeting I have called West Bend Walmart and cancelled the July 8th and August 13th dates so that the Detachment can go to Miller Park for a Rose Dist Fundraiser there.

George Wujcik reports:

Nothing reported

Paymaster Roger Cross:

Nothing reported

Historian/Editor Jason Waier reports:

I would like to thank Danny O'Toole for doing an outstanding job filling in Commandant Ramage as Jim could not get away from work to attend the meeting. We are a volunteer organization and sometimes our real jobs take precedence.

At the meeting Danny did take some time to discuss the Newsletter, and reminded everyone that as of December I will no longer be the Editor and asked if anyone would be willing to take over. There was not anyone willing to step forward at the meeting. If

you are truly interested in doing this very rewarding and yet very time consuming job please contact me. I am willing to help out while you get your feet wet, but at the same time encourage you to make the newsletter your own work. No matter how many kudos the newsletter has recieved in the past does not mean that you can not take it to the next level.

There are many aspects of the Newsletter that will take some time getting used to, so the sooner you can start the easier the transition will be.

I would like to wish: David Bertling Sr., Gil Lucka, Brian Rahn, Otto Quandt Happy Birthday.


Wounded Ranger to Be Awarded Medal of Honor

WASHINGTON -- An Army Ranger who lost his right hand and suffered shrapnel wounds after throwing an armed grenade away from his fellow Soldiers will be the second living Medal of Honor recipient from the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

On July 12, 2011, President Obama will award Sgt. 1st Class Leroy Arthur Petry with the Medal of Honor for conspicuous gallantry. Petry will receive the honor for his courageous actions during combat operations against an armed enemy in Paktya, Afghanistan, on May 26, 2008.

Be sure check out next months issue for the rest of the story....

Jason Waier Editor



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summer of 2008 with 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment. As a reconnaissance Marine by trade, he was serving as platoon sergeant for Force Reconnaissance Platoon, a group of 30 Marines, who were attached to the battalion's Company G.

The firefight began when Marines and Afghan National Police were patrolling in Shewan, Afghanistan, a desert village in southern Afghanistan closer to the Iranian border, late morning Aug. 8, 2008. Blonder and Force Recon Platoon, along with an equal-sized element from Company G, were patrolling the village streets, anticipating enemy activity. Blonder and his Marines entered the village from its eastern border, while the Company G Marines entered from the North.

Taliban insurgents had control of the village and were known to man fighting positions along Route 517, a major roadway in southern Afghanistan.

Blonder said Afghan National Police had previously reported heavy resistance from insurgents in the village, to include many roadside bombs on Route 517. The Marines' mission was to gain control of the roadway, rid the village of Taliban, and help the Afghan police establish a presence in the village.

The Marines planned weeks in advance for a sure fight when they stepped foot into Shewan. Blonder wasn't surprised when he saw the inhabitants had either left or stayed inside their homes.

"It's standard when Marines or coalition forces enter towns with insurgents that the local populace don't come out," Blonder said.

Force Recon Platoon patrolled for three hours before the first shot was fired. Taliban fighters, who were hidden in a drainage trench, fired an RPG at Blonder and his crew. Chief Petty Officer Joe Martin, the platoon's Navy corpsman, spotted the enemy through the smoke trail of the RPG.

Blonder and Martin dropped into the trench, which the three-man enemy RPG team used as a getaway path, and pursued the attackers.

"At one point, one of them kind of popped up and silhouetted himself. So, I shot that guy and killed him. The other two continued on down the trench line," Blonder said.

A four-man team of Marines, lead by Gunnery Sgt. Garrett Dean, supported the pursuit by flanking the enemy's escape.

The pursuit ended in minutes when the two insurgents were killed by Dean's team.

When intense small arms fire and explosions erupted nearby, Blonder and his men moved to the sound of the fight. Taliban had ambushed the Company G Marines and were in multiple fortified fighting positions firing a barrage of RPGs. Blonder's team rescued a destroyed humvee's occupants and withdrew to a safe area away from Taliban gunfire.

Blonder repositioned his outnumbered Marines, and in direct, close combat, maneuvered against the enemy.

Through Blonder's order, the aggressiveness of the Marines, and their leaders' selfless actions and initiative, a unit of approximately 30 Marines ousted a force of an estimated 250 Taliban combatants - some intelligence reports claimed there were as many as 500 insurgents. Blonder's planned flanking attacks slowly but surely gained more and more territory that was once occupied by Taliban insurgents earlier in the day.

The Marines' assault was also bolstered by mortar and air support. Several 500 to 1,000-pound bombs were dropped on enemy positions.

"Our goal was to push the enemy out of their trenches," said Blonder. "We kept pressing the attack until we did just that." More than 50 insurgents were confirmed dead and numerous more were wounded, while the Marines suffered no losses. Blonder was personally responsible for killing at least three that day.

Fighting ceased by sunset when the enemy had either fled or were killed.

Blonder said he was happy to be

victorious.

"When it was all over with, and I was standing on the battlefield and the enemy was gone, I had a great sense of pride and accomplishment," Blonder said. "When you're not standing on the ground of the enemy at the end of the day, the enemy won. Instead, we took the stand, we drove the enemy out of their homes, and then we left on our own terms when we were ready to."

Many Marines who participated in the battle were awarded with medals for valor.

"When you inflict that number of casualties on the enemy and none of us were killed, that's a pretty successful fight," said Martin. "The more chaotic things got, the more calm and on point [Blonder] was. I don't think I'll ever have another platoon sergeant like Gunny Blonder."

Their mission of seizing control of Shewan's portion of Route 517 and ridding insurgents from the village was accomplished. In fact, Blonder said he hadn't heard of Marines or coalition forces receiving any more casualties in that area from insurgents during the rest of the deployment. The victory disrupted several Taliban unit networks, which Blonder said crippled Taliban spirits in southern Afghanistan.

"Our number one job is to locate, close with and kill the enemy," said Dean. "What we did that day is what we trained for, and that's what we'll always do."

Blonder remembers the triumphant and tiring day vividly. From the rifle fire Sgt. Frank Simmons bestowed upon the enemy, killing "countless" insurgents with single shots to the head or chest, to the accurate sniper fire of Staff Sgt. Richard Powell, Blonder said he'll wear the Navy Cross as a representation of the Marines he fought alongside that day.

"It was a busy day," Blonder said. "Every Marine out there was a huge part of that fight. From the NCO (noncommissioned officer) leadership all the way up to the officer leadership - everyone contributed all they had to that fight."

Taken from a forwarded email



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Continued from Minutes Page 3

We will contact Wal Mart to cancel those two days so they can be made available to other organizations.

Old Business

The state convention is going to be taking place in Neenah. We are paying for our commandant to go, should the detachment also pay milage for other members who wish to go? Following discussion Jason motioned for the detachment to pay milage for other members who wish to go, but the motion was rescinded for a new motion by Steve Chantelois, who motioned that the detachment pays half the milage fee for attending. This motion died for lack of a second.

The topic of Eagle Scout certificates was discussed. Currently our detachment is paying for certificates for any Eagle Scout in the state whose troop contacts us. From now on if we create a certificate for a scout out of the county, Gil will submit a bill to state to pay for it. The cost of the Cabelas gift cards was also discussed. They are quite an expense for our detachment; we've paid out \$850.00 dollars for gift cards this year alone. In light of the fact that we receive very little feedback in the way of appreciation or publicity from this practice a motion was made by Jason, and seconded Steve Chantelois to discontinue the of buying Cabelas gift cards for new Eagle Scouts. The motion passed.

New Business

We received a request from Marine Corps League National HQ to buy ad space in their program. This created spirited discussion among the members whether we should put money toward a national program, versus keeping our funds local. Nobody has attended national or even seen the program from it. A half-page ad goes for 90.00 dollars. A motion was made by Roger and seconded by Gil to purchase a half-page ad in the national convention brochure. The motion passed, with two detachment members voting against it. Jason can lay out the ad, and we will request a copy of the program be sent to us. Jim Ramage has started checking on places to host the state convention in 2012, March 17th and 18th. Keep this in mind for next year!

Good of the League

The postage fee for our newsletter has increased by three cents. Jason continues to do an outstanding job with the newsletter, but everyone needs to remember that in December he will be stepping down to take a well-deserved retirement from doing it. For anyone interested in producing the newsletter, Jason would be very willing to help you out and show you the ropes. We need a member to take this on, please give it some consideration. The Gung-Ho Detachment #650 is raffling off an M-1 Garand rifle to raise funds. If anyone is interested in buying a chance to win it Roger has tickets to purchase.

Meeting Closed

With no further business to conduct, the Senior-Vice Commandant gave the order to close the meeting at 2003. The Sergeant at Arms retired the colors and the Chaplain gave the closing prayer. The Senior Vice Commandant thanked all members for attending and asked that they secure new members. Danny, you did a good job filling in this evening, thank-you. The Marine Hymn was sung in closing the meeting. The Bible is closed.

Respectfully submitted by:
Paul Schleif, Adjutant

Reminder for Veterans

WASHINGTON --Veterans and active-duty military not in uniform can now render the military-style hand salute during the playing of the national anthem, thanks to changes in federal law that took effect this month. "The military salute is a unique gesture of respect that marks those who have served in our nation's armed forces," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. James B. Peake. "This provision allows the application of that honor in all events involving our nation's flag."

The new provision improves upon a little known change in federal law last year that authorized veterans to render the military-style hand salute during the raising, lowering or passing of the flag, but it did not address salutes during the national anthem. Last year's provision also applied to members of the armed forces while not in uniform. Traditionally, members of the nation's veterans service organizations have rendered the hand-salute during the national anthem and at events involving the national flag while wearing their organization's official head-gear.

The most recent change, authorizing hand-salutes during the national anthem by veterans and out-of-uniform military personnel, was sponsored by Sen. Jim Inhofe of Oklahoma, an Army veteran. It was included in the Defense Authorization Act of 2009, which President Bush signed on Oct. 14. The earlier provision authorizing hand-salutes for veterans and out-of-uniform military personnel during the raising, lowering or passing of the flag, was contained in the National Defense Authorization Act of 2008, which took effect Jan. 28, 2008.