

THE VERDE VALLEY BUGLE CALL

Post 25 Cottonwood AZ
480 S. Calvary Way



POST
25
COTTONWOOD AZ

THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY



September 2026

Newsletter@alpost25az.org

Editor: David Kauppinen (USN)

Commander: John Scott (USN)

First Vice Cdr: David Kauppinen (USN)

Adjutant: Winifrid Follett (USAF)

Executive Committee: Keith Vogler (USMC) - Clint Lisk (USAF) - Mark Wood (USAF)

Finance Officer: DeDe Dexter (USAF)

Second Vice Cdr: Rick Powers (USA)

Sergeant-at-Arms: Dave Bickel (USA)

Commander Message



Hello fellow members of the Legion Family,

We're now eight weeks into the American Legion Post 25 Renovation Plan with lots of progress. September was a busy month marking implementation of the Preventive Maintenance Program with significant effort to identify and repair several areas of neglected equipment. These include our water system, bar and kitchen major components such as coolers, dishwashers, refrigerators, ice machine, air conditioners and other areas that keep our Post running. Many thanks to Rick, our new 2nd Vice

Commander and the dozens of volunteers who've helped out. Special shout out to our Kitchen Renovation Group lead by Jody, our new Kitchen Manager of a dozen volunteers who came in on Saturday September 22nd and put in a huge team effort to clean and renovate our Kitchen. The result was very favorable comments from the Yavapai Food Service Inspector. These improvements will continue throughout the year under the Preventive Maintenance Program.

Computer System and Administration Modernization: In September our focus is on computer systems and revising our administrative documents so we can communicate and update all our essential business documents for the American Legion and the State of Arizona. These documents include Post Standing Orders compliance with American Legion standards including administration and support of numerous Post programs for all of our multiple family members – Legion, Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion, and American Legion Riders. Several Standing Orders are ready to update and you will see them in the coming weeks. We plan for the rest of them to be completed this month.

Membership: We are also beginning a full focus on our Membership program this month instead of waiting for January as has been done in the past. Winifrid, our new Adjutant is in transition for renewals and new member processing, and First Vice Cdr David and I are creating applicant resources for transfers and returning previous members. This effort will continue for the rest of the year.

More to report as we progress. Viva Post 25! John Scott, President

Veterans Service Officer Message



The Veterans Pension program provides monthly payments to wartime Veterans who meet certain age or disability requirements, who have income and net worth within certain limits, and who served in the military during specific time periods. To determine your eligibility see <https://www.va.gov/pension/eligibility/>

Jamie Galczynski, VRO

New Officer Profiles

Second Vice Commander - Rick Powers



Rick has been a member of the American Legion for 7 years and is in his first year at Post 25. Prior to transferring, he was First Vice Commander at Post 93 for 4 years. Currently he is the Second Vice Commander. In addition to being the Chairperson of the Planning Committee, he has oversight of the Kitchen and Bar, and helps with Post repairs. He served in the Army from 1968 to 1971 as an E-5. His speciality was Armored Recon Specialist and Demolition Expert. Rick was stationed at Fort Lewis (WA), Fort Knox (KY), and Fort Benning (GA). Rick is married to Sandra and lives in Camp Verde. He has 2 daughters, 1 stepson, 7 grandchildren, and 5 great grandchildren. After the service, he worked as a Welder and a Mechanic. His hobby is building custom Harley motorcycles. He is also known by his nickname "Rounder RVN".

Executive Committeeperson - Mark Wood (Woody)



Woody has been a member of the American Legion for 32 years and Post 25 for 3 years. Currently he is on the Executive Committee and volunteers regularly at the Post to help with the Friday night Fish Frys and volunteers during the yard sale. He served in the Air Force from November 1978 to August 1989 as a Tech Sergeant (E-6), Munitions Logistics. Mark was stationed at Luke AFB (Arizona), RAF Bentwaters Base (United Kingdom), and Andrews AFB (Maryland). Woody is married to Anita and lives in Cottonwood. They have 4 sons and 3 grandchildren. Prior to his retirement, his profession was Management of Transportation Logistics: UPS 14 years, NAD 4 years, and Fedex 15 years. Woody's hobbies include golf, camping, and bowling. He says "I would like to make an impact and give back to our community."

American Legion Riders Director Message



Hey everyone. The month of September will be a busy one for the American Legion Riders. We are hosting a Labor Day Pot Luck (Sept. 7) from 1-4:00 pm, and will be raffling off a mini-bike at 3:00 pm. So bring ya dish to share with your Legion Family members and join in on the fellowship. Oh yes, don't forget to get a raffle ticket as well. ALR 25 will host an ALR District 8 meeting on the 9th, and on the 16th ALR 25 will be at the Cottonwood Grade School for our annual Tykes on Bikes. To finish off the month, we are hosting a Poker Run during the Thunder Valley Rally on the 19th. Finally, I truly hope to see you all at the Pot Luck on the 7th.

Respectfully, Gary Wilharm, ALR Chapter Director

SAL Squadron Commander Message



Reminder our next meeting will be on **Tuesday** September 8th at 5 pm due to Labor Day being on Monday September 7th.

The Sons Dinner will be on Thursday September 10th starting at 5pm. We will be serving Chili, Cornbread and Rice Krispy Treats for \$12.00.

There will be a 911 Commemoration on Friday September 11 at 4pm.

American Legion Riders Post 25 are raffling off a Coleman Power-Sport 196cc Minibike. Tickets are \$10.00 per each (only 500 tickets available). See Gary Wilharm or the Bartender for tickets. Drawing will be on Labor Day, September 7th. The winner does not need to be present to win.

We have our 2027 membership cards. You can stop at the Post to get yours or renew your membership on-line at Membership SAL-Renew. Membership fees are \$40.00. To renew your membership in person, see Rick Shriver or Vinny Berdar. Membership dues can also be paid by mail to: American Legion Post 25, Attention Rick Shriver, 480 S. Calvery Way Cottonwood AZ 86326. Checks should be made out to "American Legion Squadron 25".

Rick Shriver, Squadron Commander

Upcoming Post Activities – September 2026

Legion Family meeting dates and additional information can be found on the Post Calendar at <https://alpost25az.org> and <https://www.facebook.com/AmLeg.Post.25>

- The following meals will occur on Thursday Bingo nights this month from 5PM to 6:30PM:
 - September 03 - Dog Town Food Truck: Hot Dogs
 - September 10 - SAL: Chili, Cornbread and Rice Krispy Treats
 - September 17 - Spaghetti & Meatballs, Salad, Garlic Bread & Cookies
 - September 24 - Auxiliary: Lasagna, Salad, Garlic Bread
- September 7 - Labor Day Potluck: 1PM-4PM with ALR Raffle at 3PM
- September 9 - Shuffleboard Brunch: 10-11:30AM
- September 15 - Auxiliary Taco Tuesday: Noon to 3PM
- September 22 - SAL Lunch: 12-3PM (or until sold out): Chicken Sandwich, Coleslaw, and Chips

Veterans Benefit

The Home Depot has partnered with The Army & Air Force Exchange Services (AAFES) and the Navy Exchange (NEX) to provide eligible customers with tax-free shopping, exclusive military pricing, and free delivery on major appliances. See details at <https://www.homedepot.com/c/military-exchange>.

Honorably discharged Veterans of all United States Armed Forces, including the Air Force, Army, Navy, Marines and Coast Guard as well as the Air Force Reserve, Army Reserve, Navy Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve, Coast Guard Reserve and National Guard all qualify for these benefits. To shop, create an account at <https://www.shopmyexchange.com/>

Military History

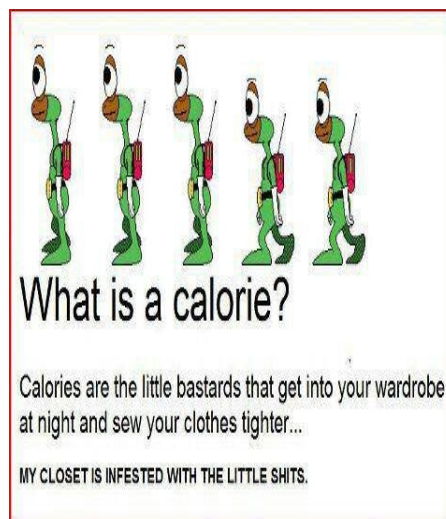


The USS Halibut (SSN-587) was a unique nuclear-powered submarine modified for Operation Ivy Bells, a covert Cold War mission to tap Soviet underwater communication cables in the Sea of Okhotsk. The Soviets assumed that no foreign sub could operate undetected in their restricted waters. The top-secret nature of the Halibut's mission precluded most of the submarine crew from knowing what the true nature of the mission was.

In 1971, operating at depths of 400 feet in freezing conditions, saturation divers (using helium-oxygen breathing mixtures) worked for several hours and attached a 20-foot induction-tap pod to a cable which connected the Russian Pacific Fleet base at Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky to the mainland and Moscow. This enabled the National Security Agency (NSA) to intercept unencrypted Soviet naval communications for nearly a decade. The Halibut and several other submarines would periodically return to retrieve the data tapes and replace the tapping device.

Ivy Bells was ultimately compromised in 1980 when NSA analyst Ronald Pelton sold the mission details to the Soviet Union for approximately \$35,000. The Soviets retrieved the tap device and ended the wiretapping effort. However, the intelligence gathered provided critical insights into Soviet military capabilities and nuclear intentions during a tense period of the Cold War.

Traitor Ronald Pelton's eventual identification as a spy was triggered by the defection of KGB officer Vitaly Yurchenko in July 1985, who recalled meeting a red-haired NSA analyst in 1980. The FBI used this description to narrow down suspects, identified Pelton's voice on intercepted 1980 tapes, and ultimately secured his confession during a direct confrontation. After serving 29 years in prison Pelton was released in 2015. (Ref: [Naval Order - Ivy Bells](#) and [Popular Mechanics - Ivy Bells](#))



Previous issues of this newsletter are available at <https://alpost25az.org>