

# **SOUNDOFF**

March — April 2013

George P. Vanderveer Post 129 American Legion (Established 1919) 2025 Church Road Toms River, NJ 08753

#### COMMANDERS MESSAGE

It has been 4 months since Sandy struck the Jersey Shore and although it seems that we are back on track, we have a long way to go. One only needs to go over either the Seaside or Mantoloking Bridges to see that there is still much to be done. Although the mainland "appears" to be back to normal, many of our communities, in particular Silverton, Anchorage, Snug Harbor, Windsor Park, Shelter Cove as well as some of the Route 37 corridor and Pelican Island are still either in disarray or still fighting to survive. Many have still not settled with their insurance companies and many houses continue to be vacant and uninhabitable. Those of us who have accepted our insurance payments are still seeking competent contractors to do the work and are attempting to navigate the process either with FE-MA or our local government. There continue to be many unanswered questions with regards to rebuilding and/or height requirements. The Governor recently announced that there will be Federal Grant money available for anyone that wants to raise their homes. While it is apparent that we will come back stronger than ever, it will take time. We must continue to be ever helpful, not only to our Legion Family, but our neighbors in our community as well. Take some time to offer some help where needed but sometimes just to listen. We all need a helping hand sometimes. We have just been informed that the Post is now in a flood zone and we are

now required to have flood insurance. Our elevation is at 24 feet and during Hurricane Sandy; we had no water even on our property and in fact never lost power. If water reaches our elevation, we better start building an ARK.

Members of the Union Beach/ Keyport American Legion lost their post due to Sandy. Our Post made a contribution to their building fund and their Commander and members of their Executive Board came to our Post to visit and personally say thank you for the donation. They were given a guided tour and were amazed at our facility and gained some insight into how they will rebuild.

Fortunately, more and more individuals have been "stepping up to the plate" at the Post so the workload has been more evenly distributed. Thanks to Mike Dolan and his crew from Pioneer Painting for the beautiful job they did in the Banquet Hall. It's very difficult

to recognize everyone all the time for their volunteer service that they do at the Post. I want to say thank you to Emery, Jimmy and Timmy for their dedication and work ethic at our Post. Of course, I would be remiss if I didn't say thanks to Phil Jones (PJ) for his invaluable assistance as well as his smiling face every day.

The canteen continues to do well under the direction of Eric Inauen and Rich Godfrey. They continue to implement new ideas and many of our bartenders are now involved with ways to make money for our Post. You will see a new found energy in our bartenders. There are many new events coming shortly. Start practicing for our Giant Karaoke Contest. The jukebox has been permanently mounted and the ceiling speakers have been hooked up and it is making money for the post. Be sure to read "The Canteen News".

(continued page 4)



#### RIDERS MESSAGE

Winter is upon us and the only riding being done is by our brother Mel Chmura, who is lucky enough to winter on the sunny west coast of Florida. I truly envy him for that.

On the local front the riders are having a spaghetti dinner February 24th to assist Bob Joerg, whom you are probably aware had a very serious motorcycle accident just after hurricane Sandy. Bob is home from the hospital but still has many months of recuperation from surgery on both his leg and back. Bob is one of the Post members that always volunteers to help others and all aspects of our Post. Now the Post in turn is coming through when Bob needs a little assistance. The camaraderie of Post 129 members to Bob has been nothing less than amazing. We are truly a family here that takes care of our own.

The Riders are in the process of preparing for their annual fundraiser. This year the Riders are having a combination Poker Run and Family BBQ. The recipient of our fundraiser this year will be VetWork of Lacey Twp. This organization has been in existence since the mid 1980's and 100% of our donation will go to Veterans. VetWork helps with finding homes for disabled veterans, and homeless veterans, Special Needs of children of Veterans, transportation of Veterans to medical facilities, assisting Veterans with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder as well as a food pantry for Veterans and their families.

Obviously we feel this to be a very worthy organization to assist. For motorcyclist we will have a Poker Run through the pines end-

ing back at our Post. For those without motorcycles you may come to the picnic area of the post, members, friends, families, and persons wishing to have a good time are all invited to an afternoon of fun. We have Timepiece playing for the third year at our fundraiser, all day BBQ being served from noon till 5:00 PM. Beer and Soda, all for \$15.00 for adults, children under 12 \$5.00, sorry no beer just soda for you under 21. Can't get much better than that. Hope you will mark Sunday June 9<sup>th</sup>on your calendar for this worthy event.

Respectfully,

Art Brown, President ALR Post 129



#### **MEMBERSHIP**

We are gaining on membership over last year's numbers, which was 1435, we are currently at 1369. We need 67 more paid members to go, so we can be at 100% paid Membership.

Your annual dues help support programs in your community and across the nation, American Legion programs and services include, Troop Support, Child & Welfare Foundation, Heroes to Home Towns, American Legion Baseball, Dept.Service Officers Support Network, Flag Advocacy & Etiquette, Junior ROTC & ROTC, Operation Comfort Warriors, Scholarships, Veterans Job Fairs, and Many others.

Thank you for ensuring that The American Legion remains the most powerful voice in America on behalf of Veterans, Servicemembers their families, and communities across the nation

Any member that is struggling with their month-to-month bills and can't pay their dues please contact me at rjg548@comcast.net or call me at 732-604-8326. I can help.

For God and Country

Rich Godfrey Membership Chairman



#### NOTICE

# Re: SUPER STORM SANDY

#### **National Emergency Fund**

The American Legion National has extended the Deadline for NEF applications. All applications and documentation must be at Department Headquarters no later than.

#### Friday March 15<sup>th</sup>.

You can find the application on the Department website under 'Forms & Documents, other.' Please remember, the NEF is for OUT-OF-POCKET expenses while displaced for, SHELTER, FOOD, GAS and CLOTHING. Please read the information sheet carefully.

Bob Scheiderman, Adjutant

#### NOTICE

#### SAL

#### Greetings:

Squadron 129 would like to thank all who attended, helped plan, and make our annual Valentine's Dinner Dance a success. The event was almost a sell out! Food and dancing was first rate. Thanks to all!

Squadron nominations have begun for 2013-2014 Officers. Nominations will be held again at our regular meeting in March and final nominations and elections will be held at our regular April meeting.

SAL meetings are held at the post the second Wednesday of every month from 7:30 to 8:30. All Squadron 129 members, Regular, Junior, and Dual are welcome and encouraged to attend.

SAL dues are now \$20.00 for those 21 and over and \$15.00 for those under 21. Your membership is very important to us we are, after all, the biggest and best squadron in this state. You can leave the dues at the canteen or mail to Don Sikorski, Membership Chair, 990 Stamler Dr., Toms River, N.J. 08753.

Looking forward to seeing you at the post!!

For God and Country, Dan Curran SAL Squadron 129 Vice Commander / Adjutant



#### POST EVERLASTING



Mary Shaw, 81, US Navy, CIA, WWII Patsy Sciarra, 87, US Navy, WWII Pete 'Bosco' Gresek, 85, US Navy, WWII Robert Lai, US Army, Korea

Bob Scheiderman, Ritual Chairman

#### **AUXILIARY**

To all members...

...hello and welcome to our busy season. We started off with the Psychic Fair on February 1<sup>st</sup> and thanks to Dolores Llaib and her committee it was a great success. Thanks to all who came out to help.

On Wednesday, February 13<sup>th</sup> a few members went to a local nursing home. This was set up by Jane and I heard from one member that a wonderful time was had by the volunteers and the patients; thank you Jane for setting this up for us.

On February 17<sup>th</sup> Mary Nolan (girl's state chairman) held girls state interviews at our post.

Applicants from the 4 schools in our area were interviewed by Mary, Bernice, Jane and Pam. By our next meeting we should know who they chose to send to girls' state at Georgian Court College. This is not an easy task to do but I know these ladies will choose wisely.

On February 22<sup>nd</sup> Jane set up another nursing home visit. This time to Hampton Ridge on Stevens Road in Toms River. Again I'm sure all will have a wonderful time. Thanks again Jane.

On March 3rd the auxiliary will

hold its 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Victorian tea. I hope you will come out and enjoy the tea and sandwiches. Also there will be a small gift auction at this event. This is a lovely way to spend a Sunday afternoon. I hope you come and join us. To Maryann and her committee; job well done ladies.

Don't forget about our gift auction on Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup> from 2 to 6 PM. This is our biggest fund raiser so please come out to help Bernice and her committee to make this event a wonderful success. Thank you Bernice for taking on this task. I know it will be a great success.

On April 28<sup>th</sup> Tara will be in charge of the spring flea market. Come and shop or sell your stuff. Tara will need some volunteers so contact her if you can help. Thanks Tara for doing the fall and spring flea market. To all auxiliary members; thank you for standing behind me when things got a little tough.

For God and Country Your Auxiliary President Dina Lynam



#### COMMANDERS MESSAGE

(from page 1)

Ryan's, our in house caterers continue to work closely with our organization. All of the food for The Pasta Dinner Benefit for Bobby Joerg was donated by Ryan's. Don't forget to support them by having lunch or dinner at the Post. We would also like to welcome lvy Roig, our new Banquet Manager. We are planning to put many of her new ideas in motion. Ryan's is also responsible for the snow plowing of our parking lot and that service has been donated as well.

The Italian-American Club of Silver Ridge continues to supply us with books, puzzles and personal hygiene products which we have been distributing to the Veterans, the Armory and the hospitals and nursing homes.

The Oratorical Contest was held at our Post on January 23. The results are as follows. First place went to Jared Wrath, Second Place to Eric Doran and Third place went to Rich Liput. All three are students at Toms River East High School. They all received a certificate as well as a cash award from our Post. They will also receive State recognition at our convention in Wildwood. Thanks to Nat Amadeo and ZZZZ for making this happen.

Ginger Harris of Caregivers is still looking for volunteers to strengthen her organization. Many of these Veterans can no longer drive and need some form of assistance. It's a great opportunity to utilize some of your free time to "Help a Vet in Need". After all, it is what we do. Ginger can be reached at 732-505-2273, Ext. 208 or give me a call if you would like further information.

The Executive Board and Trustees have been meeting to work on our Budget for next year. We

continue to improve our financial picture and this is the result of the many events that we hold. This coupled with Bingo, our Pull Tab machines and Hall Rentals has enabled us to give greater support to our Veterans and our community. We are also in the process of updating our security system.

The American Cancer Society is honoring us as the Volunteer Organization of the year at their "Tides of Change" Gala to be held on March 22 at the Woodlake Country Club at 6PM. As I have stated so many times in the past, we are about Veterans and Community and thus are being recognized for our endeavors.

I had occasion to recently meet with Sean Kumpf, the new VA/FWS, Administrator and Financial Advisor for the Veterans at Ocean County College. Sean will be present at our next meeting to give a brief presentation to the membership regarding financial assistance to any veteran that plans on attending college. The post 911 GI Bill is very different then our forefathers.

Spring will be here before you know it. Stop by for lunch or dinner. Meet some old friends and make some new ones. Bring a group or come by yourself. We always welcome new faces.

I'm often told that I "talk" too much in the newsletter-so I'll end it here. Be kind and compassionate to each other. Stop by the post, bring a friend and sign the book or sign them up and remember:

P.T.S.D. Not all wounds are visible

Questions and/or concerns Give me a call

Rich Gato Commander 732-330-2430

#### **CANTEEN NEWS**

American Legion Post 129

Rich Godfrey—Eric Inauen

As the Holidays have been flying by, the Caissons keep rolling along at the Canteen. New Year's Eve and St. Valentine's Day were huge successes, and St. Patty's Day is right around the corner.

Speaking of St. Patrick's Day, our Dinner-Dance Celebration, in the Hall, is second to none. For \$25 per person, on Sunday, March 17, from 5 to 9 PM, our Ryan's Catering Staff will be serving Corn Beef, Cabbage, Chicken Murphy, Potatoes, Carrots and Dessert. Draft Beer and Soda are INCLUDED in the price of vour ticket. For those who would like imbibe in wine and liquor, a cash bar will be available at our already low discounted prices. Entertainment will be provided by the CROSSTONES, along with Tom King and The Shamrock & Thistles Pipes & Drums. Tickets go fast. They are available at the Canteen or by calling Mary Jane Cohen, at 732-539-7693.

In getting ready for St, Patty's Day, the Canteen will be providing Murphy's Stout, along with Bud, Coors Lite, Miller Lite, Yuengling, Michelob Ultra, Heineken and Stella on Tap. Also, along with our Guinness Cans, we will be providing Killian's Irish Red and Killian's Irish Stout in Bottles. If Irish Beer is not your pleasure, you can always have a bottle of Bud, Bud Lite, Coors Lite, Miller (continued page 5)



#### **CANTEEN NEWS**

(from page 4)

Lite, Becks, Michelob Ultra, Heineken, Heineken Lite, Corona, Corona Lite or Blue Moon. We know there are a lot of choices, but we never said picking one would be easy.

On that note, going to the Canteen to watch your favorite NFL team on Sundays was an easy decision. Duke and Dave, our Sunday Bartenders, confirmed what we already knew. NFL Sundays were a huge success. Our \$1.50 drafts, giveaways, and Free Half Time Buffets were big crowd pleasers with all of our Super Bowl Sunday Members. was the highlight of the season, since it was SRO. The blackout had NO Effect on our Members. Everyone was able to drink though it. Remember, our Members are professionals, and proud of it.



Another big hit has been Saturday Night Karaoke. We hear our singing bartenders really strike a chord. It has been suggested that we host a Canteen Bartender Sing Off. We know that some of you would pay big bucks to see Bernice, Wendy, Robin, Warren, Emory, Ron, Duke and Dave hitting the high notes. Cheering and Booing will be allowed and welcomed. Supposedly, Rich and Eric, our bar chairs, have been booed at kid's birthday parties, when they sing Happy Birthday.

Those too young to boo, cried.

Our doors open at 11 AM every morning. Hot lunches and dinners are provided by Ryan's Catering at bargain prices, 7 days a week. Can't find a lunch anywhere on a Monday? Stop by the Canteen.

In our last SOUNDOFF we said we were trying to put together a night for our Young Veterans in the Hall on a Friday Night. At this time, we were not able to pull it off. We have spoken with members of other Posts and VFW's, and they have said they have not had success either, and have given up. That WILL NOT be the case at Post 129. We will continue to reach out to our Young Veteran Brothers and Sisters to get them involved in the Post. Let it be known, that no one appreciates their dedication, service and sacrifice more than our legionnaires.



YOUNG VETERANS: At Post 129. Commander Rich Gato, the Executive Board and all of its Members would love for you to get involved. We know, sometimes it is difficult to step forward, when you don't know the people personally. You may feel uncomfortable, and maybe even unwelcome. Again, that is not the case at Post 129. We know that you are the future of our Post, and we will welcome you with open arms. You will be the ones to carry on the work in helping our fellow veteran brothers and sisters, the

community and the Post, as we do now. So stop by the Canteen and talk to any of our Members. We would love to get your ideas and input on how to make the Post even better than it already is.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**: We will be having our first **Burger Balooza Cook Off Picnic** on Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, at the Bunker Bar. If you have a special burger recipe, and would like to compete in the Cook Off, contact Wendy at the Canteen, Monday thru Friday, from 11 AM to 4 PM, about the details.

Our Memorial Day Picnic, at the Bunker, will be held on Sunday, May 26. If it rains, it will be held on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

Remember, when you support Post 129, you support the greatest Post in the USA.





...every Thursday. Doors open at 5 PM - play starts at 7 PM. Progressive-Refreshments served 50/50 - Mystery Prizes

#### SPECIAL BINGO

April, 13, 2013 From 12-4

Door Prizes
Cake, Coffee w/Admission

For more info Contact Ralph Morantz. @ 908-278-3568 Tom Moore @ 732-859-7209

#### **REAL ARMY WIVES**

I heard something the other day and I decided I needed to define what a Real Army Wife was and is. I was an Army wife for 21 years. Went through good and bad times, lack of money as well as crappy housing. There were really great experiences as well, travel to Germany and all the sights of Europe I could take in during my husbands tour. I went to Paris, Austria, and Switzerland. Our children grew up in Germany on the economy, we lived with the Germans only five minutes from the base in Landstuhl just outside Ramstein AFB. We all learned German, the children easier than us, but I loved the whole adventure.

During the 21 years I have great memories and met great friends. The wives I met where helpful, hopeful, and full of love. We only had each other when our husbands were away and we supported each other. Unlike the TV show we did not have affairs with the ones left home. These were the good parts of being an Army Wife.

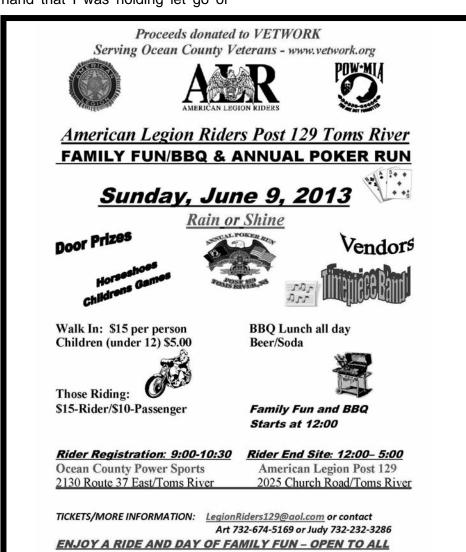
OK the bad parts. My first experience of being a Real Army Wife was when my daughter was only 10 months old and my husband was sent to Vietnam for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time. I moved back home. rented an apartment close to my family and acclimated myself to being a single mom for a year. While I watched the news every night and prayed that he would return unharmed I cried myself to sleep every night and held my daughter as close as possible. After 6 months I went to Hawaii to meet my husband for R&R. I had never flown before or done anything on my own but I had grown over those 6 months and I looked at it as an adventure. I arrived the day before my husband so I

stayed at the base with other wives waiting for their husbands to arrive the next day. We all stayed up all night talking, showing pictures of our families, and a little wine. The next morning we got on the bus to go the hangar where the guys would be arriving. There must have been hundreds of peo-There were wives, ple waiting. moms, dads, sisters. We stood in a circle holding hands all excited to catch a glimpse of them when they got off their bus. Before they got there an announcement was made that the following persons should report to the chapel. All of us knew what that meant and we held each others hands as tight as we could thinking that if we did our name would not be called. As the hand that I was holding let go of mine I saw the pain she had and I wanted to help her and knew that I couldn't. I prayed that my name would not be called and felt guilty for that thought. As I watched the families leave that room my heart broke and it has been in my thoughts every day and I say a prayer for them everyday.

This is what a Real Army Wife is, not the TV show, not a wife that can't wait for her husband to leave so she can have a fling. A Real Army Wife is the one waiting for her husband to return from every tour that he's on and loving the minute he walks through the door again to complete the family.

Signed,

A Real Army Wife



#### HALL RENTALS

Call Ivy Roig, Banquet Manager at 732-551-2819 for hall rental and catering information or email ryanscateringatpost129@gmail.com

Our banquet hall is a new state of the art facility and an ideal location for your next celebration. The room is spacious and includes a dance floor. It will accommodate parties 50 to 250 people. It is also wi-fi enabled for your next corporate event.

Monday through Thursday (Daytime\*)

Friday (Evening)

Saturday (Daytime\*)

Saturday (Evening)

Sunday (Daytime\*)

Sunday (Evening)

\*Daytime: 8:00AM-5:00PM

### Think You Know

**Your Civics?** 

Try these questions from the governments "Naturalization Test" !!!No fair looking it up, Okay?

- **1.** What is the supreme law of the land?
- **2.** What do we call the first ten amendments to the Constitution?
- **3.** Who was president during the World War I?
- **4.** Name two rights only for United States citizens.
- **5.** We elect a US Senator for how many years?

Answers Below...
Submitted by Bob Scheiderman

xiS.δ

4. Serve on a jury & Vote in a federal election

3. Woodron Wilson

2. Bill of Rights

 $\operatorname{L}$  US Constitution

Civics Test Answers:

#### **CANTEEN LUNCH MENU**

**MOZZARELLA STICKS \$5** 

CHICKEN QUESADILLA \$7

**BUFFALO WINGS \$6** 

BAR PIE \$6

**GARDEN SALAD \$4** 

**SPRING SALAD \$6** 

TOPPED W/ CHICKEN SALAD

**ALL AMERICAN BURGER \$7** 

**BACON SWISS CHEESE BURGER \$7** 

**JERSEY BURGER \$7** 

**BLACK & BLUE BURGER \$7** 

CHICKEN CORDON BLUE \$7

**PASTRAMI REUBEN \$7** 

**HOT CORNED BEEF \$7** 

CHEESE STEAK \$7

PEPPERS & ONIONS

PORK ROLL, EGG & CHEESE ON A KAISER \$5

GRILLED CHEESE WI TOMATO & BACON \$6

**TUNA MELT \$5** 

**HOT OPEN FACED ROAST BEEF WI GRAVY \$7** 

**CHICKEN FINGER BASKET \$6** 

HAM & CHEESE CLUB SANDWICH \$6

Daily Specials Listed On The Board (Menu Items Occasionally Change)

#### **Peace Corps Founded**

On March 1, 1961, President John F. Kennedy established the Peace Corps. The Peace Corps is an independent agency sponsored by the United States government that promotes peace and friendship by living and working in developing countries.

Birthstone March 2013 Aquamarine									
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday			
					1	2			
3  Alexander Graham Bell 1847	4 General Meeting - Legion Auxiliary Mtg. 7:00PM	5	Atlantic Coast Storm 1962	7 BINGO	8	9			
10 Daylight Saving Time Begins 02:00AM	11	Girl Scout Day	13 SAL Meeting 7:00PM	14 BING	Beware The Ides of March	16			
17 Corned Beef Dinner \$25 Each 5-9PM	Board & Trustee Meeting 7:00PM	19	Vernal Equinox 07:02AM	21 BINGO	22	23			
24 Palm Sunday	Riders Meeting 7:00PM	Dept. Commander Visits Ocean County Post 129	Full Worm Moon	28  OPINE  BINGO	29 Good Friday	30			
31 Easter Sunday	Annual St. Patrick's Day, Corned Beef Dinner, \$25 Per Person St. Patrick's Day 5PM9PM Entertainment by:  'The Crosstones' and 'Shamrock and Thistle Pipe Band' Department Commander 'Gene O'Grady Visits Ocean County 26th at Post 129,								

#### **April Fools Day**

"The first of April is the day we remember what we are the other 364 days of the year." - American humorist Mark Twain

BIRTHSTONE April 2013 DIAMOND									
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday			
	1 General Meeting - Legion Auxiliary Mtg. 7:00PM	2	Washington Irving 1783	4 BINGO	5	6			
7 Auxiliary Spring Gift Auction 2 PM - 6 PM	8	9	SAL Meeting 7:00PM	BINGO	Civil War Began 1861	Thomas Jefferson 1743			
Dept. Cdr. Gene O'Grady Testimonial Luncheon	Heating 7:00PM	16	17	Doolittle's Raid 1942 BINGO	19	20			
21	Riders Meeting 7:00PM	James Buchanan 1791	24	25  BINGO  Full Pink  Moon	26 Arbor Day	27			
Auxiliary Flea Market 9 AM - 3 PM	29	30							

14 April - Department Commander Gene O'Grady Testimonial The Holiday Inn, Rte. 72 East, Manahawkin, Noon-4:00PM Tickets \$45

18 April 1942, 08:20-09:19

Sixteen B-25 Bombers launch from the USS Wasp, the mission, to bomb Tokyo and cities on the island of Honshu, is commanded by Lt. Col. James Doolittle, US Army Air Corp.

4 April 1968 - Dr. Martin Luther King shot and killed, Memphis Tenn.

22 April 1864 - "In God We Trust" Included on all newly minted coins by an Act of Congress

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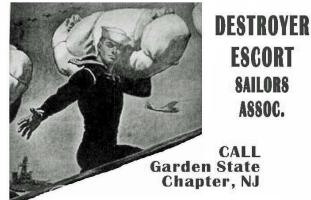
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# MEMBERS WANTED U. S. NAVY & COAST GUARD DE/APD/FF



For More Information John 732-255-7009

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#### SOUNDOFF...

#### Published...

...6 times per year and mailed to over 2100 members.

#### Deadline...

...for the next issue (May/June) is April 17. Submissions can be emailed to:

#### soundoff.al.post129@comcast.net

or via U.S. mail to:

Al Harbord, 1038 Audubon Drive, Toms River, NJ 08753.

#### Events...

...send your events for the calendar to Bob Scheiderman at: knottoday1@comcast.net

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- ★ Support Your Veterans Hire And Buy American And We All Work

US)

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