

The Dragons Jaw



The Official Voice of VVA Chapter 480 Owego New York

Volume 2 Issue 8

Editor Jack T. Hartzel

September 2006



Grand Prize - Aaron White - 11.35lbs

Aaron won a brand new 14 ft Deep V Tracker Boat, Trailer, 9.9HP Mercury Outboard motor, Electric Trolling motor and a Fish Finder.

On June 3rd & 4th we held our 11th Annual All Night Catfish Derby. It turned out very well considering we had Monsoon rain storms the entire weekend. We had 209 less fisherman this year then last because of the rain. I guess all of the fair weather fishermen stayed home. I would like to thank everyone who worked the Derby this year. We had to work under unbelievable conditions. We would like to thank all that did show up and hope to see all of them again next year. Maybe we will have better weather next year.

On May 29th 2005 our Chapter marched in the Owego Memorial Day Parade and participated in a Memorial service. There were 8 of our members that marched in the parade and a couple more members participated in other

units. I think we looked very good! Thanks to all that participated!



Here are the Chapter members that marched in the Memorial Day Parade in Owego!

Members present were front L to R: Johnny Sims, Frank Williams, and Jack Hartzel, back: Dave Honnick, Gary Rogers, Rick Deubler, Ron Traue and Joe Buttacavoli



Also on May 29th five of our members attended a ceremony at Evergreen Cemetery in Owego to honor Medal of Honor recipient "Landsman" Richard Stout. The four members that attended from l to r are: in VFW uniforms, Joe Brown, Dean Morgan, Jack Hartzel & Joe Buttacavoli. Past

President Chet Harding and his wife Anita were also present.

Here is a picture of our Color Guard who participated in The Strawberry Fest Parade on June 17th.



Jack Hartzel Rick Deubler Gary Rogers Ron Traue



“The New Riders of the Purple Sage”



Eleven of our members plus the veterans in the house!
On July 29th and 30th Pete and Sherry Clare of Turkey Trot Acres put up their own money to hire

the psychedelic country rock band **The New Riders of the Purple Sage** to put on a Concert for our Chapter. It was two days of Music and Fun and we also raised money for our treasury. Twenty-Two of our members got treated to a great dinner and a concert for free. I was humbled by their generosity and we all felt very honored! Plus a live DVD was shot of both days and we will receive 100 DVD's of the concert to sell just before Christmas. We all had a great time. I know I'm buying three DVD's for myself! This concert will also help to bolster our treasury after our slow "Monsoon" Catfish Derby this year! Thanks Pete and Sherry! We all love you!

To all my Brethren, as my first official act as your secretary, I want to give you a look if not a taste of what took place Saturday August 12th, 2006 at Hickories Park in Owego, NY. I arrived at noon to find your President, Jack Hartzel and others busy setting up the grill and getting things ready. There were hamburgers, hot dogs, potato salad, macaroni salad, tossed salad, corn on the cob, desserts of all kinds and last but not least the clams. We listened to old music and played horse shoes, darts.

We want to give special thanks to Jack and Sue Hartzel for the food they purchased. To Vince who got Thompson's Grocery to donate the hamburgers and bought the clams and other items. Jeff and Mary Jo Rudler for letting us use their steamer, as you may or may not know they have been our chapter benefactors for many years. If you see them say thanks! Thank you to member Bill Perkins for cooking the hamburgers and his wife for just been there. We would like thank Ron Traue for bringing the horseshoes and the CD player so that we had music and for purchasing the corn and the Nathan's mustard. We need to thank all of these folks for without their support functions such as these wouldn't happen. Bob Spawn picked up the ice from the American Legion in Owego and he shucked most of the corn. Rick Deubler went to the VFW and picked up a couple of tubs with our clambake things in it. Thanks to Dean Morgan for helping in the clean up and for all he does. Thanks to Nelson Gee for all he's done for us in the past and for cooking the clams.

Thanks to Chuck Hunt and his son Damien who is serving in the military now and will be deploying soon to Iraq. We all want to wish him God's Speed and a safe return from his tour of duty. Jack Hartzel has suggested we adopt Damien's unit to send care packages and other items they may need. Sounds like a great idea, we should adopt and carry through.

Some of the guests that attended were our new life member Bob Walkley and his wife and son, Joe Buttacavoli and his son's Joe Jr, and Mike, Ron Traue and his lady friend, Gary and Donna Rogers and their guest, Bob Williams, Bob Spawn and his family, Dean Morgan, Suz McManus, Al Sibley, myself and my fiancé Lisa.

Suz McManus and some of the ladies were making VVA jewelry; people were rekindling old friendships and making new ones. All I can say is our Clam Bake was a great success and all who attended had a wonderful time. My Brethren, in order for our chapter to succeed and have times like this, we all need to make it a point to participate and come to meetings so your voice can be heard. Attend these functions not just for the food and friendship, but also to support the hard work of those who do so much. You are the reason this chapter exists and it's because of you that we can be strong now and in the future. As I am new to this chapter, I look forward to meeting you and having the opportunity to get to know you over the years.

Respectfully submitted,
Ken Wolf, Secretary VVA Chapter 480

VA INFORMATION

If you have a VA Disability rating of 10% or more you are eligible to receive Hearing Aids and Eye Glasses at the VA Hospital. However, in certain circumstances you may still be eligible without a disability rating.

DISABLED VET JOBS: Disabled veterans are participating in a new virtual program that not only pays them for training on their home computers, but places them in jobs that allow them to work from home. The veterans are earning in the range of \$15 to \$22 an hour, with benefits, working from home in the information industry. They are trained for jobs such as market researchers, data managers, hot-line responders, Web site order processors, help-desk managers, customer care and service coordinators, administration and billing clerks. Training consists of 15-weeks 600-hour program of web based, on-line classroom and practical training. Students report in to the virtual classroom each morning, and as the instructor presents the material, he or she will stop if any of the students have a question The training, accredited by Northern Virginia Community College, pays \$11 an hour for a total of \$6,600. At the conclusion of the training program, each veteran trainee will have a thorough understanding of a very complex, VOIP predictive dialing web-based system that is utilized world-wide. About 100

veterans who have completed the training so far have all been placed in jobs with companies such as The Home Depot, FedEx, JetBlue, Dell Computer, and financial services company PNC. The program is provided by the nonprofit Military Order of the Purple Heart Service Foundation. To qualify, a veteran must have a disability rating from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and a copy of his or her DD-214. A Purple Heart award is not required. Those involved in the program range from veterans of the current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, to the Korean War, age 19 to 74. To complete the training, a high-speed Internet connection is needed. According to Ken Smith, the program director for the Military Order of the Purple Heart Service Foundation, they are preparing to train another 350 veterans who have applied from all over the country. Those interested should call (800) 720-9596 or go online at www.purpleheartfoundation.org/job_training.asp to fill out the On-line Application. For additional information contact

ksmith@purpleheartfoundation.org. Sen. Larry Craig (R-ID), chairman of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, praised the program in a 27 JUL press conference. He said that when private-sector programs are combined with government programs and opportunities we can be all that we need to be for our veterans. [Source: Navy Times Karen Jowers article Aug 6 ++]

On September 4th our Chapter will be marching in the Nichols Labor Day Parade. We will meet at the Nichols American Legion Post parking lot at 9:30 am. If you would like to participate just show up!

Our next meeting will be on September 5th at 7pm at the Owego VFW Post 1371, Upstairs Hall! Some of you members out there might try attending our meetings ! You might be surprised! There are many new faces and we average from 7 to 12 members almost every meeting. There is no more arguing and fighting! Our Chapter has truly changed for the better! We now have 83 members and we are growing fast! My personal goal is to have one hundred members by the next election. We now have a Chapter Website: www.vva480.org

If anyone knows of a legitimate Veteran In Need let us know and we will attempt to help!

Chapter Officers

- President -Jack Hartzel 570-395-0227
- Vice Preside nt-Bob Spawn 607-642-5260
- Treasurer-Vince Trawinski 607-589-6935
- Secretary- Ken Wolf 570-888-2376
- VFW Post 1371 607-687-1371