



Minutemen On The Road



By PAUL WINAM

IT is a very hot beginning of our summer season, after a busy spring. Aleppo Company has been on the march, constantly since April's breezes. After a busy Memorial Day weekend, the Company was next at "June Day," Ancient & Honorable Artillery Co's . Drum Head Election and parade in Boston. We had the privilege of being witness to the awards ceremony with MA Governor **Duval Patrick's** presentation of the highest Massachusetts honor, to National Guard members, from three different units, for their individual service to those severely injured at the Boston Marathon Bombings.

The next stop was our own Strawberry festival Ceremonial and BBQ, always a treat. Back to work with parades in Milford, followed by the North/South All Star Game, which returned to Bentley University this year. Right around the corner is the Companies July 4th Parade in Needham, one of our largest and important events of the year. And at last, refreshment as we retreat for our annual R&R Weekend/Summer Muster at **Randy & John Ralstons** gracious resort on the 13th of July. Phewwwww! AHH, summer campers, do not get too comfortable, for the remainder of the summer is destined to be as active, if not more so, than the first half of the year. I will leave that constantly changing schedule list with our Captain to fill out your dance cards, but one very important item is the need for numbers for these events. On that subject I will only say on behalf of Your Officers, "Many hands make light the work." Our kids need us, maybe more now than ever, with federal cutbacks, program cuts, the burden to help our kids falls on us even more. For all of our Historic and Masonic significance, our most important function is helping our Shrine, to help our kids at our 22 hospitals across North America. If we have fun while we are at it, so much the better. That is after all sort of the idea.

On company news, I have heard that our long battling Lt. made it to Arlington. Huzzah to **Ed Magiera** , good to get you back on the road, at least for one. We are all routing for you. I have also heard that some of our extended family will join us at John & Randy's, it will be good to see **Sandy, Gloria,**

and maybe **Isabella**, make it to our summer outing. Reminder, though it is hot now, "tempis fugit," the Captain is entertaining RSVP's for our Christmas extravaganza. Keep cool, enjoy, peace to you and yours; see you at **Johns**. "Ole Fart"



THE MINUTEMEN UNIT MARCHED IN THE WILMINGTON MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

Circus! Circus! Circus!

WELL ,the 2013 Aleppo Shrine Circus is in the books and everything is packed away until April of 2014 when we will again gather for this spectacular event.

Even the Minutemen got into the Circus spirit. Our own **Charley Roseman** and **Shaun "Neddy" Flanagan** dressed in his full uniform were seen taking photos with the talented acrobats in the center ring, although I think they both were merely dazzled by the amazingly beautiful girls of the act who helped get them into position for the photo. I never knew Neddy had that much balance, its amazing what you can do when distracted by such beauty!

This year's circus was a spectacular event and one that was especially rewarding for me.

In my first months as Captain of the Minuteman Unit I am learning the ropes. One of my new duties is to draft a volunteer schedule for our unit members to work the ticket booths for the rides, a job we were lucky to be assigned a few years ago and one which is extremely gratifying. The men and Ladies of our unit stepped up to the plate again this year and gave graciously of their time to work the booths and I am grateful to you all. That is not to say we handled it totally on our own, no way, as always we received a great deal of help from many other Aleppo Nobles and Ladies who also worked tirelessly to accomplish this task. Thanks to every one of you who filled the blanks in the schedule and helped us take care of business, we could not do it without you, your time and efforts are appreciated by every member of our Unit and I am quite sure the entire Aleppo Divan.

As for me, this year I had the opportunity to spend a lot of quality time with my fellow Nobles and their Ladies and one thing I can say with absolute certainty is that we are lucky to have every one of them at Aleppo.

I spent the first two evenings of the show working the booth at the Train Ride. My heart was warmed by the incredible smiles on the faces of the children as they waited with great excitement for the train ride to begin. Oh what childhood memories this brought back. There is nothing more exciting to a child than the sights and sounds of a Circus.

Then between the shows and breaks in the action I learned all about Millie the Elephant and Rufus the Camel, and how dedicated the trainers and owners are to these amazing creatures. I watched Millie, this huge creature, show such calmness when they prepared her for the show and you could really see the bond and the love between animal and trainer. I also learned about the many different circus families that work in the Royal Hannaford Circus and spoke to many of them about their amazing talents and crushing travel schedules and I felt tired just thinking of their work week. I look forward to seeing them all again next year when we do this all over again.

Then on Friday night and all of Saturday I worked at the Elephant and Camel ride booth and the excitement and joy of the children and yes, even some adults, as they waited for that once in a lifetime ride was no less heartwarming. However at this booth I witnessed an act of kindness that reminded me of why I became a Shriner.

On Friday night, as my lady and I worked hard to get tickets to everyone in line, I was waiting on a couple who wanted to take their young child for a ride on the Elephant. It was obvious that the child had some medical issues but whatever issues he had it could not dim the smile on his face or the excitement in his eyes as he looked forward to that ride. Then, while the parents were about to pay for the tickets a Noble approached from my left and pushed his hand in front of the husbands and said "this one is on me" he then promptly paid for the tickets and stepped back into the crowd. The parents were grateful and amazed at the generosity of this Noble and at that moment I knew why I became a Shriner, "Kids and Kindness." From this point on I worked the ticket booth with a new found energy and for reasons I cannot explain I could not stop smiling, I guess I realized that I was a part of something great, the amazing "Shrine Machine." My plan now is to "pay it forward" and take my lead from the man who showed me what being a Shriner it is truly all about. Thank you sir for your generous act of kindness and thank you for being a Shriner.

I have come away from this year's Circus with a greater understanding of what it means to be a Shriner and a new found energy for the work we do. I look forward to the upcoming Parades and Ceremonials with a new perspective.

I want to encourage every Noble and Lady to attend next year's Circus and work the shows. I am confident that you will get the chance to experience what I call the complete Shrine experience and I hope, that as I did, you will get a chance to experience a dedicated Shriner in action, but you must be alert and pay attention because like the superheroes they are, they do their good deeds and quickly fade into the crowd, only to appear again somewhere else to perform another good deed for a child in need.

Again, thanks to all of you who helped renew my energy as an Aleppo Shriner.

Lester A. Davis
Captain Commanding
Aleppo Shrine Minutemen



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