

BLUE RIDGE CHAPTER
North Carolina Society
Sons of the American Revolution

Volume VIII, Number 2, page 1

April 2006

April Meeting

Our April meeting will be held on April 22 in the Holiday Inn near the Asheville Airport where we were in February. The arrangements will be the same. We will gather around 11:30 AM for our social time, and lunch will be at noon. Cost of the lunch will be \$16.00 per person, which includes tax and gratuity. The main dish will be a ham and cheese quiche.

Payment in advance by check is required. Make your check out to the Blue Ridge Chapter SAR, and mail it to Wayne Riggle, 2303 Appalachian Blvd., Arden NC 28704. Wives, neighbors and friends are welcome to join us at this meeting. Bring them along...

Directions to the Holiday Inn:

Directions from Asheville:

South on I-26 to the Airport exit, turn **left** on US 280 across the bridge and turn left into the Holiday Inn parking lot.

From Hendersonville:

North on I-26 to the Airport exit, turn **right** on US 280 and **immediately** turn left into the Holiday Inn parking lot.

The April meeting will highlight our new President, Tom Whetstone, and he will lead a member discussion forum on plans for the coming year. He will also offer a mini-program on "George Washington and the Cellphone". Officer reports will include comments by C. D. Williams on the South Atlantic District and by John Higdon on the Fourth of July ceremonies and the fall trip to Williamsburg/Jamestown.

Next Meeting Schedule

Our next meeting will be held June 10 at the Airport Holiday Inn.

* * * * *

Applications in Process:

William Russell Elliott
Paul Rivers Grass
Robert Charles Halliday

New Members:

David Mason Adams
John Furman Bickerstaff
James Lee Harmon, Sr.
Timothy Dale Jones
Michael Norwood Justus
James D. Lee
Winston Walden Pulliam
William Charles Stiefel, Jr.

Date of Approval

(transfer)
(transfer)
10/11/05
10/19/05
1/27/06
(transfer)
11/29/05
(transfer)

Let us welcome our new members, and help those with applications in process.

Summary of the Executive Board Meeting held 25 March 2006

Tom Whetstone, C. D. Williams, John Higdon, Wayne Riggle, Bruce Whitaker, Harold Leiby, James Brush and Kathy Williams attended.

Tom expressed appreciation to those attending the supper with past President General Carl Hoffman and his wife Pat on 21 March.

The accuracy of the document "Remember the Price of Liberty", which was to be read at the Fourth of July Celebration, was questioned. Tom agreed to research the document.

Tom distributed copies of unofficial chapter bylaws which will be discussed at the next Executive Committee meeting. After any needed modification they will be presented to the membership for approval.

Programs for the next several chapter meetings were discussed. The annual August picnic is planned for August 12 and will include an auction. State President Joe Harris will speak. Kathy Williams agreed to see if we can book the Governor's Mansion for the picnic with the same caterer as before. A backup site is needed since the Governor can bump us at the last minute.

John Higdon reported on planning for the Williamsburg/Jamestown bus trip for late October. The board agreed that we should begin planning and promoting this trip. Members of other chapters as well as non-members will be welcome.

Dana Elementary has requested a patriotic presentation. John Higdon and Gerald McDonald will be asked to investigate this.

The chapter will work with Pat Patterson of Mineral Wells, Texas, who is planning a graveside ceremony for his ancestor Jacob Wetzel on Sunday, 21 May in Brevard (contact Tom Whetstone for more detail).

Jim Brush suggested we consider e-mailing the newsletter to those members with e-mail capability, because of the significant cost of printing and postage.

The chapter budget may be too low. This will be discussed at the next board meeting.

Reactivating the Eagle Scout Program was discussed.

C. D. Williams is to speak at the Georgia State Convention on 1 April. He and Tom Whetstone will attend the N. C. State Convention in Raleigh, 7-8 April.

A Report from John Higdon

John and Ruth Higdon attended the annual JROTC meeting for A. C. Reynolds High School during the month. Col. Burgeron told the many that were in attendance of the various Fourth of July programs given by our SAR members. We enjoy the many remarks that are heard about our chapter and the Independence Day Celebration.

The annual auction was reinstated. **THE AUCTION WILL BE HELD DURING THE AUGUST MEETING.** Location will be released later. We will be thinking of the items we will bring. A good way to keep our funds up.

Our chapter is now working on a trip by charter bus to WILLIAMSBURG in October 2006. The price, date, and the various places we will visit and other information will be announced later.

We will have a good year. President Tom Whetstone will measure up to our expectation.

Submitted by John A. Higdon

A Note from the Editor

Your comments and contributions to the newsletter are welcome. We will be exploring the possibility of using e-mail to those who are willing to receive the newsletter by that method. The savings in postage and copying would be considerable.

Celebrations and Meetings

- March 18-19 225th Celebration, Guilford Courthouse (we were represented by C. D.)
- April 7-9 NCSSAR Annual Convention, Raleigh (C. D. and Tom Whetstone attended)
- April 15 Halifax Day, Halifax, NC
- April 22 Blue Ridge Chapter meeting in the Airport Holiday Inn
- May 13 Alamance Battleground Patriot's Day Celebration (see page 4)
- May 20 Second annual celebration of the history and heritage of Transylvania County will be held in downtown Brevard.
- May 21 2:00 pm Graveside Ceremony for Patriot Jacob Wetzel in Brevard, NC
(Contact Tom Whetstone for more information)
- May 27-28 Waxhaws Battlefield, Buford's Massacre, near Lancaster, SC.
- June 10 Regular meeting of the Blue Ridge Chapter, Holiday Inn
- June 11 Ramsour's Mill, near Lincolnton NC
- July 4 Biltmore Forest and Downtown Asheville (see programs for Biltmore Forest and downtown Asheville attached to this newsletter)
- July 8-12 National Congress, Dallas, TX
- August 12 Annual picnic and meeting of the Blue Ridge Chapter (location to be determined)
- September 29-30 Fall 2006 National Trustees Meeting, Louisville, KY
- October 7 King's Mountain Celebration
- October 14 Regular meeting of the Blue Ridge Chapter
- October 18 Planned date for our trip to Williamsburg/Jamestown
- October 18-22 225th Anniversary, Yorktown VA

CHAPTER OFFICERS

(828) 891-4550

President

J. THOMAS WHETSTONE
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Don't forget to set aside items for the auction! By contributing to the auction we will not only be getting rid of items we don't need but also we will be adding to our Chapter's income and thereby reducing the need to increase dues.

1st Vice President

HAROLD LEIBY
2533 H'ville Hwy. apt 211
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Patriots' Day in Alamance County

The Alamance Battleground Chapter is sponsoring the Tenth Annual Patriots' Day celebration on Saturday May 13 at the Alamance Battleground State Park, 5803 NC 62 South, Burlington NC. There will be a formal wreath-laying ceremony at 2:00 PM to commemorate Alamance County's three 1781 Revolutionary Battles: Pyle's Defeat, Clapp's Mill, and Lindley's Mill at the Patriots' Monument, Alamance Battleground State Park. Color guards and JROTC units will lead the procession to the monument.

2nd Vice President

BRUCE WHITAKER
661 Old Fort Road
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(828) 628-1089
Chesley2@charter.net

Please see Tom Whetstone for further information if you would like to attend. He will need to submit information by May 7 to Nat Clark.

Secretary

JAMES BRUSH
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**President's Letter to the Blue Ridge Chapter,
Sons of the American Revolution**

Dear Compatriots,

Treasurer

WAYNE RIGGLE
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I thank you all for entrusting me with the honor and privilege of serving as your president. While considering the challenges and plans for returning our chapter to prominence in the North Carolina and National Societies, and my limitations, I nevertheless have grown hopeful and optimistic. This is because of our outstanding membership and the dedication and enthusiastic commitment of our entire complement of officers. I realize more each day what outstanding people, men and women, come to our meetings and support SAR, DAR, and CAR activities. I am confident we will have a successful year of programs and service as patriots honoring our great heritage and country and our God, and in helping to educate the rising generations as to the sacrifices and principled leadership of our nation's Founders.

Registrar.

JOHN ROBINSON
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Candler NC 28715
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barjoh@brinet.com

You are strongly encouraged to attend the next chapter meeting at noon on Saturday, 22 April, at the Holiday Inn Airport. I will offer a very short (mini) program on how George Washington might have used the cellphone. It is meant to bring some humor as well as some morsels for serious consideration. The major portion of the program will be devoted to an open membership forum where we will hear of activities planned for the coming months and entertain your comments and suggestions. We need your active participation and contributions. We also need to grow, so consider whom you can invite to activities and as new member candidates.

Chaplain

F. F. BICKERSTAFF
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Sylva NC 28779
(828) 586-8330
sylvabick@aol.com

Genealogist

J. KENNETH COZIER
58 Stony Ridge
Asheville NC 28804
(828) 253-4806
Jkc58@charter.net

Most sincerely yours,

ROTC Chairman
RICHARD W. GARDNER
590 Sunset Drive
Hendersonville NC 28739

J. Thomas (Tom) Whetstone

p.s.:

Here is a joke I heard at the 7-8 April NCSSAR Convention in Raleigh:

Osama bin Laden died and went to the gates of paradise, as he expected. He was met by George Washington who came out of heaven to greet him. President Washington took out his sword and rammed it through Osama's right shoulder, declaring that this was because the terrorist had attacked the country that he had fought and led to found. John Randolph approached bin Laden and slapped him because he had endangered American property and lives. Thomas Jefferson pushed bin Laden to the ground and stomped on him for trying to deny people of their inalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. James Madison slugged the terrorist for attacking our Constitutional republic and individual rights. James Monroe picked Osama from the ground and then threw him back down, denouncing him for transgressing the Monroe Doctrine. Patrick Henry said he had been willing to die for liberty and kicked Osama for defaming it. Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson pummeled bin Laden for attacking the Pentagon in their home state. Osama, bleeding and mangled, called out to St. Peter, protesting, "Why is this happening to me? Allah promised that I would be greeted by 72 magnificent virgins!" St. Peter responded, "Oh, you misunderstood. The promise was that you would be greeted by 72 magnificent Virginians. And there are 64 more waiting to so greet you, now and forever!"

A Report from President Whetstone on his attendance at the 78th Annual State Society Convention & South Atlantic District Meeting on 7-8 April at the North Ridge Hilton in Raleigh:

Blue Ridge Compatriots C. D. Williams and Tom Whetstone represented the chapter at this year's state convention hosted by Raleigh chapter.

The convention commenced with South Atlantic District Vice President General C. D. Williams's Reception on Friday evening attended by President General Roland G. Downing and his wife Norma, C. D. and Kathy Williams, and officers and wives of the South Atlantic District. It closed with the banquet at the Carolina Country Club on Saturday night. As well as an excellent reception and buffet, the banquet featured a color guard processional and recession, remarks by President General Downing on the history of national headquarters and the current fund raising effort, and award presentations to outstanding chapters and members. The highest award, the silver Patriot Medal, was presented to LTC (ret.) Frank Horton of Fayetteville's le Marquis de Lafayette Chapter.

Saturday morning, Compatriot Bill Snyder of the Nathaniel Greene chapter hosted the George Washington Endowment Fund Fellows Breakfast, challenging chapter presidents to encourage their members to contribute to this fund which is the only support the various national committees have for their programs. A person can become a George Washington Fellow by contributing \$1000.00.

Vice President General C. D. Williams conducted the annual meeting of the South Atlantic District (FL, GA, NC, SC) from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday. State Presidents Joe Harris (NC), Greg Ohanesian (SC), George Wheelless (for George Thurman) (GA) were among those present and reporting. Florida's Lindsey Brock was unable to attend due to a family funeral, sending his report via letter. The first part of this time was given to campaign speeches by two competitors for the office of Genealogist General: Ralph D. Nelson, Jr. of the Delaware Society and Charles (Chuck) F. Bragg of the Indiana Society. Each seeks votes at the upcoming Dallas National Convention this summer.

C. D. expertly led the district meeting, which covered considerable ground.

He overcame his hearing and sight impairments with great panache and skill. Meeting highlights included discussion of future national congresses in the district (2009 in GA, 2011 in NC, and 2012 in FL). The selection of the next District Vice President General was deferred to the SC Society. A motion was approved (M/S/A) to request \$500.00 from the George Washington Endowment Fund, and to solicit a matching gift, for hiring a professional photographer for this October's 225th Anniversary of the Siege of Yorktown. The South Atlantic District discussed making a district contribution of \$1000.00 to the Center for Advancing America's Heritage operated by national headquarters in Louisville, with each of the four states asking its membership to approve a \$250 share of the contribution. The district plans to hold breakfast meetings at future national congresses.

NC President Joe Harris urged further sales of \$25 raffle tickets for the rifle to the owner of the winning ticket drawn on October 19 at Yorktown. Members were invited by the GA Society to Georgia Patriots Day Activities 18-19 April, 2006, on St. Simons Island, GA. SC President Greg Ohanesian invited members to this year's Colonial Debutante Ball. Members were encouraged to attend the Col. William R. Davie Grave Marking Ceremony in Lancaster, SC, on June 24th.

National Chairman Larry Guzy reported on membership, noting that a member bringing in 10 or more completed applications receives the Liberty Medal. National Chairman Joe Harris reported for the ROTC committee and Managing Editor Ralph Nelson described the educational web resources of The Real Story of the American Revolution (RSAR). The website www.rsar.org is highly recommended to our members and students for filling in gaps and inadequacies of our current school system. President General Downing closed by noting that the SAR is a service organization as well as an elite genealogical society. He exhorted on behalf of recruiting new members and contributing to the \$4 million still needed for funding the Center for Advancing America's Heritage, the renovated building and new library at national headquarters.

At the Saturday Luncheon the speaker was Mr. Randall Jones who stressed the importance of using stories in effective communication. Senior Vice President Sam Powell presented poster, JROTC, Eagle Scout, and Knight Essay Youth awards.

The highlights of the annual meeting of the North Carolina Society held Saturday 2:30-4:00 p.m. are reported as follows:

NC President Joe Harris seeks to raise at least \$1000.00 for a NCSSAR contribution to the Center for Advancing America's Heritage. A goal of \$100.00 was set for each chapter (M/S/A). In addition, NCSSAR will contribute the NC share to the South Atlantic District's contribution.

There has been a disappointing response by members regarding the National Society's outreach cards. Tom Whetstone will distribute these cards to Blue Ridge members at the next chapter meeting.

NCSSAR will host the 2011 National SAR Congress. Funds for this purpose need to be raised. The profits on the rifle raffle (up to \$10,000) will give the state society a good start.

Delegates were nominated for the 116th Congress in Dallas. Not all places were filled but President Harris has the prerogative to complete the voting positions prior to the congress.

President General Downing gave a report featuring the fund raising efforts for the Center for Advancing America's Heritage in Louisville, KY. The bottom line is that while approximately \$3 million has been raised, mostly in large increments, there is a need to raise \$4 million more. He challenged the North Carolina Society to support his efforts.

For additional information, see C. D. Williams or Tom Whetstone. President Whetstone has four additional \$25 raffle tickets for the rifle, reserved for chapter members.

A Brief "Bio" of our New President Tom Whetstone

Compatriot John Thomas (Tom) Whetstone, III, was installed as Chapter President on February 25, 2006. Dr. Whetstone was born in Tuscaloosa, Alabama and graduated from Washington & Lee University, M.I.T., and Reformed Theological Seminary. He received his Doctor of Philosophy from the University of Oxford, UK. He served as Captain in the U.S. Army Reserves and is a ruling elder at Arden Presbyterian Church. After a career in corporate staff management, he currently is Associate Professor of Business & Philosophy at Montreat College. He has published a number of journal articles and book chapters, most recently on business ethics and organizational leadership, and serves as a judge for the annual Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl competition. He served as 2nd V.P. (ROTC awards), 1st V.P. (programs), and President of the Jacksonville, FL, SAR Chapter, which was designated an outstanding chapter by the Florida State Society SAR in 2002. He is currently State Secretary for the Sons of the Revolution in the State of North Carolina. He lives in Arden with his wife, Nancy, and nine-year-old son, James Daniel.

(Editor's Note: from the "This Month" publication of Montreat College, we read that "Dr. J. Thomas Whetstone, Dean of Students, will serve as a judge at the national Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl on March 2 in Jacksonville, Florida. He will also chair a session of academic papers at the annual conference of the Association of Practical and Professional Ethics on March 4.")

PROGRAMS FOR JULY 4, 2006

BILTMORE FOREST

At the Police Station 10:00 AM

Welcome	George Goosmann, Mayor of Biltmore Forest
Introduction	the Rev. John Bickerstaff
Pledge of Allegiance	Chief of Police Tinsley
National Anthem	the Rev. John Barton
Invocation	“Bic” Bickerstaff
Patriotic Reading	the Rev. John Bickerstaff
Parade	Lead-off by Hobart Crites, bagpiper Reynolds High School JROTC, Colonel Bergeron, Officer in Charge Sons of the American Revolution

At the Park

Why We Celebrate	the Rev. John Bickerstaff
JROTC Presentation	Colonel Bergeron
Benediction	“Bic” Bickerstaff

ASHEVILLE, NC

Downtown 3:00 PM

Fanfare	
Welcome	Dr. Tom Whetstone, President, Blue Ridge Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution
Invocation	the Rev. Gayle Brown
Presentation of the Colors	Colonel Watts, JROTC Hobart Crites, bagpiper SAR Color Guard
National Anthem	the Rev. John Barton
Pledge of Allegiance	Dr. Tom Whetstone
Patriotic Reading	Dr. Tom Whetstone
Benediction	the Rev. Gayle Brown

James W. Brush, Editor
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