



MTSSAR Gazette



A periodic newsletter of the
Montana Society -
Sons of the American Revolution
February 12, 2023
Editor - Steve Armstrong, Glacier Chapter SAR

Montana Society of the Sons of the American Revolution

2023 Annual Meeting

April 29, 2023, starting at 11:00 AM

Montana Rib and Chop House

2159 Burke St, Bozeman, MT 59718

(406) 548-9050

<https://ribandchophouse.com/bozeman-montana/>

MTSSAR attendees are expected to order their lunch
from the menu options

Annual Meeting details - This is an in-person meeting, with no ZOOM option. Compatriots attending in-person with spouses, significant others, friends, are welcome to attend. Sourdough Chapter President John Rice is facilitating this meeting at the Montana Rib and Chop House in Bozeman. John would appreciate members informing him prior to the meeting of their plans to attend. Please email John at jwrice46@gmail.com.

The meeting will start promptly at 11:00 a.m. The end of the meeting will be no later than 3:00 p.m., although it is likely that the meeting could finish earlier.

A detailed agenda will be emailed to MTSSAR members by the end of March 2023



Montana Society - Sons of the American Revolution has an opportunity to be a state leader in celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

MTSSAR can and will continue to participate in celebratory parades in the coming years. The parade floats have become an excellent method for MTSSAR to showcase the organization. Parade attendees appreciate and applaud the floats and the occupants wearing Revolutionary War replica uniforms.

Liberty Tree Chapter in Missoula hosts its annual July 4th Encampment, where the Declaration of Independence is read aloud at least twice during that day.

Please remember that the Semiquincentennial is not just celebrated in the year 2026, but should be celebrated in the time leading up to 2026.

MTSSAR is eager for Compatriot suggestions on activities that will showcase MTSSAR as well as promoting a greater understanding of the meaning of the Declaration of Independence, not only as it was read in 1776, but even its meaning for our citizens in our third century of independence.

When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.--That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, -- That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security . . .

To this end, the 2023 session of the Montana Legislature is preparing to pass legislation to create a state Semiquincentennial Commission. Several states have already passed legislation to create their own state commissions. Details of this legislation can be found on the 2023 Montana Legislature website. MTSSAR will be kept apprised of this legislation.

Montana Society - SAR website and communication

MTSSAR's website is developed and maintained by Liberty Tree Compatriot Don Murphy.

<https://www.mtssar.org>



Don has made the site easy to navigate and it is regularly updated. We are grateful to Don for keeping this crucial piece of information available for us and the public to enjoy.

Regarding communication, it works well for our society to utilize email to send out announcements. If you have an email address, please let us know. It is costly to send out hard copy notices.

President's Report, by MTSSAR President Don Reed

2022 was an exciting year for our organization and I'd like to share the key events where we were able to showcase our fine organization.

This summer we commissioned into service our second float, dubbed the flag float. Upon deeming the float and trailer field ready, Patriot Wayne Bequette took delivery and transported to its christening event, the Fourth of July camp at Fort Missoula, run by Liberty Tree Chapter.

Both floats were kept busy this year with the addition of ever more parades.

We started this parade season with the Memorial Day Parade in East Helena, gleaning support from DAR, Liberty Tree, Glacier and Guardian Chapters and utilized the camp float. We then went on to the Big Timber Rodeo Parade, this event was special in that we also were able to present Patriot John Robinson with his retirement sword. Supporting this endeavor was Sourdough,

Liberty Tree and Guardian Chapter with our members show casing the camp float. Next we held double events over the Fourth of July. Liberty Tree Chapter highlighted our Flag Float at the educational encampment at Fort Missoula and our Camp Float participated in the 3rd and 4th of July parades in Cody, Wyoming. We had participation from DAR, Yellowstone, Guardian and Wyoming's very own, Big horn Basin Chapter for the Cody Parades. On we journeyed to a new event for us, the Phillipsburg's Flint Creek Valley Days parade, during which we utilized the flag float and were blessed with participation from DAR, Glacier, Liberty tree and Guardian Chapters. Next on our busy schedule was the Stevensville Creamery Day Parade with the flag float highlighted and participation from DAR, Liberty Tree and Guardian Chapters. Not to mention, an after parade BBQ hosted by Don Murphy and his lovely Bride. Rounding out the summer we went on to Dillion for their Labor Day Parade, with Guardian, Liberty Tree, Glacier and Montana Continentals chapter participation. Closing out the 2022 parade season we braved the elements, flew our Betsy Ross Flags along with Ole Glory and attended the East Helena Veterans Day Parade. A hearty Huzzah to all the Patriots that helped make this year a success.

In addition to parade attendance, we were able to present Dale Beard, President Yellowstone River Chapter with their Chapter certification. I was also able to attend the Annual MSDAR meeting as both a guest speaker and award presenter and was both a guest speaker and member of the Color Guard at the Constitution Day Ceremony at the Capital. DAR, Guardian and Glacier Chapter supported this event.

Presidents planned awards for 2022

President's Award for Chapter Growth: TBD

President's Award for Historical Display: TBD

President's Award for Best Patriotic Display: TBD

Presidents Distinguished Service Award: John Rice

President's Exemplary Service Award: Steve Armstrong.

President's Nine Award: Pat Duncan.

President's Molly Pitcher Award: For Best DAR Support in 2022 Barb Bequette.

Major acquisitions:

- 1) Flag Float
- 2) A firing Cannon, christened at the Memorial Day Parade in East Helena
- 3) Rebuilt the faux Cannon and mounted it on the Flag Float

2023 schedule of events:

- MTSSSAR Annual Meeting 4/29/2023

- Constitution Day event at the Capital JV with DAR
- Wreaths Across American Event at the Capitol Rotunda with DAR
- Memorial Day Parade in East Helena.
- Big Timber Rodeo Parade
- Clancy Days Parade.
- 3rd of July parade Cody, Wyoming.
- 4th of July parade either in Red Lodge or Bozeman TBD. This is depending on local chapter commitment to support.
- 4th of July Camp Missoula.
- Phillipsburg Flint Creek Valley Days Parade.
- Stevensville Creamery Day Parade.
- Dillion Labor Day Parade.
- East Helena Veterans Day Parade in East Helena.
- Any other events proposed by membership? Please remember, we have two floats now.

Proposals for 2023

- Contact the School System and explore interest in and the possibility of establishing an educational reenactment camp.
- Promote passage of HB377 and seek an appointment to the 250th Commission

Registrar's Update, Bruce Taylor - MTSSAR Registrar

There have been several efforts made by Genealogist General Gary O. Green to improve the education and function of the Registrars at both the state and chapter levels. There is now an 8-part video training program available on SAR.org. These video sessions include the following topics: Application Preparation; Documentation and Citation; Application Printing, Review and Submission; Genealogy Best Practices; Genealogical Proof; Final Topics and Thoughts; Comprehensive Guidance; and The Patriot Research System. To access the training members will first need to create an account on SAR.org. Once a member had logged on to the system, hover over the Genealogy tab and then click on the link for Genealogy Resources. The modules are listed in the available resources. There are several other helpful guides to assist in preparing an application.

Every member should have an account of SAR.org. NSSAR is making an effort to improve the online application format. The current format is not very user friendly as there are several quirks in the program that the user has to use “work arounds” to get the application properly filled out and printed. Once the upgrade is completed there will be a transition period before making the online application form the primary method of completing all types of applications. It is a goal of NSSAR that the .pdf application form will be phased out of use in the next few years. The online application system can be accessed on SAR.org. Once logged in simply hover on the Quick Links tab then click on Online Membership Database (Blue). There you will find several tabs on the left side. On your dashboard you can review and update your contact information. Under the tab “My Applications” you can start a new application. State and Chapter Registrars will be able to view and edit applications in progress. It would be best for members to become familiar with the Members Database prior to the day when use of the online system becomes mandatory in the next few years.

There have been several changes to the application process in effort to make the review process shorter and reduce the number of pended applications. Currently, the backlog of New Member applications is staying steady at 12-13 weeks. The backlog for Supplemental Applications has been reduced from 37 weeks to 26 weeks. While many of the changes have occurred in the Genealogy Generals office, there has been a re-formatting of the Application Preparation Manual trying to make it easier to learn the process. The manual is now called The Application Preparation Guide. The guide, along with many other instructional manuals, is available at SAR.org/Members/Forms and Manuals.

New Members Approved as of April 2022

Liberty Tree Chapter	3
Yellowstone River Chapter	3
Guardian Chapter	4
Sourdough Chapter	3

Secretary’s Update, by MTSSAR Secretary Jim Gustafson

As of January 31, 2023

Regular Members	89
Dual Members (Montana not primary state)	11
Total Members	100

Chapter Membership as of January 31, 2023

Liberty Tree Chapter	32
Glacier Chapter	7
Yellowstone River Chapter	11
Guardian Chapter	23
Sourdough Chapter	21
Montana Continentals Chapter	6
Total	100

In Memoriam
Dr. Benjamin Marchello, 1947-2022
Yellowstone River Chapter
originally assigned to Sourdough Chapter in 2000

Chapter News

Yellowstone River Chapter, Dale Beard - President

Greetings from Yellowstone River Chapter. We are alive and running here in the southeastern corner of the state. We came into existence in April of 2022. We started with five members and now have a total of eleven. Four new members of this Chapter are new to SAR! There are two more applicants in the process of receiving membership. The age range of our Chapter is ten years of age to eighty-seven.

Presently, there are no activities scheduled, but we will be planning some in the future as the season changes. Our first Chapter meeting will take place in the very near future as well. Looking forward to hearing from fellow Compatriots.

Sourdough Chapter, John Rice - President

The Montana Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (MTSSAR) Sourdough Chapter currently has 22 members and several potential new members. The current officers, who were elected at the 15 October 2022 chapter meeting, are President John W. Rice, Vice President Charles (Chip) Roe, Secretary Pete Oakander, Treasurer William (Bill) Jones, and Registrar Advisor John J. Robinson. One member, John Rice, attended in person the 2022 MTSSAR Annual Meeting in Helena, MT and two members, John Robinson and Pete Oakander participated via Zoom.

The Chapter has held five in-person meetings in June, July, August, and October of 2022 and February 2023 and one Zoom meeting in December 2023, since the last MTSSAR Annual Meeting. These in-person meetings were held in Big Timber since a majority of the active chapter members are located there.

The 11 June 2022 chapter meeting focused on defining a path-forward for the chapter based on the results of a survey of active chapter members regarding what activities they were interested in supporting. John Rice agreed to serve as acting chapter president until the annual election in October 2022 thereby replacing Matt Henningsen, who stepped down as chapter president based on significant home and work commitments. The chapter considered presenting award certificates to those who routinely fly the American flag. After conducting a survey at several locations of

those businesses or individuals who would be eligible for this award, it was concluded that the number of eligible recipients far exceeded the capability of the chapter to recognize all of them. The chapter therefore elected to leave it up to each member to determine who should received the award based on their degree of contribution. The chapter also had a member support the MTSSAR float in the Big Timber Rodeo Parade. At the 27 August 2022 and 15 October 2022 chapter meetings, Chapter President John Rice presented a number of awards and certificates to chapter members for their length of membership in the SAR and for their contributions to the MTSSAR and Sourdough Chapter.

During the last three chapter meeting the members have discussed support for the chapter hosting the 2023 MTSSAR Annual Meeting in Bozeman on 29 April 2023 at the Rib and Chop Restaurant. Future chapter efforts will primarily focus on genealogical research for existing members and support for potential new members.

Guardian Chapter, Don Reed - President

2022 was an exciting year for the Patriots of the Guardian Chapter and I'd like to share the key events some of our members participated in.

We started this parade season with the Memorial Day Parade in East Helena, utilizing the camp float. We then went on to the Big Timber Rodeo Parade, again utilizing the camp float. Next we traveled out of State with the Camp Float and participated in the 3rd and 4th of July parades in Cody, Wyoming. Then on we journeyed to a new event for us, the Phillipsburg's Flint Creek Valley Days parade, during which we made our presence known by riding on the flag float.

Next on our busy schedule was the Stevensville Creamery Day Parade and attending an after parade BBQ hosted by Don Murphy and his lovely Bride. Rounding out the summer we went on to Dillion for their Labor Day Parade, and of special mention was Patriot Warren Dupuis who was a crowd favorite as he boldly tried to recruit patriots from the crowd of parade watchers to our cause.

Closing out the 2022 parade season we braved the elements, flew our Betsy Ross Flags along with Ole Glory and attended the East Helena Veterans Day Parade. A hearty Huzzah to all the Patriots that helped make this year a success, Keith Kramlick, Kevin Kramlick, Pat Duncan, James Gustafson, Warren Dupuis and Doug Fraser.

In addition to parade attendance, Guardian members participated as honor guard members in both the Constitution day and Wreath across America events held at the Capital. On top of this, Guardian members also were active participants in laying wreaths at the Fort Harrison ceremony and participated in the Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans event held at the State Capital.

The year 2022 also saw the Guardian Chapter blessed with the addition of four new members. Timothy Peters, Jerry Spencer, Cooper Whitehouse and Cole Whitehouse.

Glacier Chapter, Steve Armstrong - President

Glacier Chapter had another busy year with the annual Wreaths Across America celebration on December 17, 2022. While the celebration is just the one day, countless hours are necessary for fundraising, recruiting community volunteers, seeking media publicity and so much more.

We are fortunate to have a core group of donors who annually give to this cause. In reality, that donor base is about 36 individuals and businesses. Several of our donors are getting older with the health issues that arise with this: one died last year while another passed away last month. Most of our donors are older. I am working to broaden our donor base.

Our ceremony was comprised of the Columbia High School Sonifers (choir), our regular bugler, a chaplain and Glacier Chapter President Steve Armstrong continuing his role as master of ceremony. We had a wrinkle for the first time: the delivery of our wreaths did not occur when it was supposed to, delayed by weather and problematic road conditions. We had a crowd of about 100 folks at our ceremony – about half of those returned 6-hours later to place the wreaths on graves after the delivery.

Glacier Chapter also participates in three flag placement ceremonies at the Montana Veteran's Home Cemetery: Memorial Day, July 4th and Veteran's Day. Glacier Chapter Compatriots Dan Sanders and Steve Armstrong participated.

We are pleased to welcome Idaho Society transferee Mathew Pickar. Although his paperwork for his transfer is still in progress, he is most definitely enthusiastic to participate in Glacier Chapter. You will see Mathew's article about the success he had with the Patriot Chests in Idaho.

While Glacier Chapter is small in numbers, the chapter continues its success with the Wreaths Across America program, as well as participating in activities at the Montana Veteran's Home. Steve Armstrong is in his eleventh year coordinating this program.

Patriot Chests by Mathew Pickar, Glacier Chapter

While I was a member of the Idaho Society of the Sons of the American Revolution I had the distinct honor to be able to present items from the North Idaho Patriot Chest. Idaho has a chest for both the Fort Boise and Teton chapters and a chest for the future North Idaho chapter. The Patriot Chest is a collection of items that go on display and are presented to an audience.

Items that were in the North Idaho Chest were as follows:

Child's Uniform blue with red facing, replica flintlock pistol, an inkwell with quills, ink and period correct paper. Wax with a wax stamp, 18th Century cooking DVD, fishing kit, soap, 18th century wire fork with a wooden bowl, replica currency, tumpline with wool blanket, candles, children's toys, drum, buttons and sewing kit. Pot scrubber, hand fan, herbs in a seasoning tin, hand mirror, fire starting kit, powder horn, tricorne hat, music CD with 18th century music.

Items I owned that I added to the chest but still retained possession of were:

Elk hide, buffalo hide, officers brazier (cooking stove), officer wedge tent, knapsack, cooking pot, rifle

Since 2020 finding a place that would allow a presentation due to COVID presented a challenge. Outdoor events proved successful. In Southern Idaho around the Boise area the Fort Boise Chapter had success presenting at Community Centers, homeschool groups and Elementary schools. Further exploration would be needed to see if doing presentations at a Library or museum would work.

Goals of the Patriot Chest presentations are to teach history and attempt to spark an interest in Colonial America by relating items used in everyday life. Secondly it serves as a starting point to gain interest in the Society and can ignite a passion for an individual to look into their own family history.





Liberty Tree Chapter, Larry Mylnechuk - President

Liberty Tree Chapter continues its monthly meetings. We had one program on education efforts to Ukrainian youth online. A flag certificate was presented to the local Cabelas for flags displayed last Labor Day. We are holding our annual Presidents' Day dinner with the local Bitterroot Chapter DAR on February 20, 2023, at a local restaurant!

Larry Mylnechuk's Historical Presentations

I have given the following presentations and have others scheduled:

- Jan 4 - **The Traitors** to Hamilton Chapter, Vietnam Veterans of America;
- Jan 14 - **The Mysterious Death of Meriwether Lewis** to Bitterroot Chapter, DAR
- Feb 4 - **Mysterioius Death....** To George Rodgers Clark Chapter, Washington Society SAR
- Feb 15 - **The History of David Thatcher** to Missoula Rotary Club
- Feb 20 - **The History of David Thatcher** to Liberty Tree Chapter

I also gave two ZOOM presentations to Missouri Society and Oregon Society

FLOATS and parade participation as public outreach

Montana Society - Sons of the American Revolution has demonstrated continued success and community outreach with both the Encampment Float and the Flag Float.

In MTSSAR's earlier history, there appeared to be no discussion or effort to engage in much community outreach.

The newly formed Portage Chapter (chartered c. 1987) had the first float, a flag float, at one of the Montana Bicentennial Parades. Chapter members purchased the flags and donated them to the cause. That flag set eventually made its way to Glacier Chapter (c. 2011) and was used in parades in the Flathead. This picture of the flag float was from a Columbia Falls parade in July 2015. Glacier Chapter member Steve Armstrong is to the left.



Montana Continentals Founder and President Bob Gunderson created a flag float that was used at the Dillon Labor Day Parade. First used in 2014, Compatriot Gunderson invited members of DAR to join with the float. Bob sought name recognition for both Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution.



During the joint 125th anniversary celebration of both MTSSAR and MSDAR in April 2019, Bob Gunderson created a birthday cake themed float. This float was used in other parades during that year of celebration.



Compatriot Don Reed of the newly formed Guardian Chapter took idea of floats to another level with the creation of the Encampment Float, which has been used in multiple parades and displays throughout the state and even Wyoming. This has been upgrade to include a firing cannon.



Sourdough Chapter Compatriot Pete Oakander created the USS Montana Float, to honor the soon to be commissioned USS Montana nuclear submarine. Pictured with this float (l-r) are John Rice, Rodney Wheeler, Keith Kramlick and Don Reed. The USS Montana cut-out is now displayed in the Bigfork area at the Flathead Lake Lodge.



MTSSAR President Don Reed upgraded a flag float. This was used in several parades and at Liberty Tree's July 4th Encampment at Ft. Missoula, all in 2022.



The Flag Float pictured above at the Phillipsburg parade (July 2022) includes (l-r) Steve Armstrong (Glacier Chapter), Don Reed (Guardian Chapter), Wayne Bequette (Liberty Tree Chapter), Bruce Taylor (Liberty Tree Chapter) and Larry Mylnechuk (Liberty Tree Chapter).

Please see MTSSAR President Don Reed's potential list of parade opportunities in his report. Detailed dates and times will be emailed to MTSSAR Compatriots as they become finalized.