



Members of Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego's Single Marine Program make a splash during their visit to Knott's Berry Farm Nov. 14. Cpl. Shawn Dickens/Chevron

Single Marines visit Knott's Berry Farm, Medieval Times

BY CPL. SHAWN DICKENS
Chevron staff

MCRD San Diego's Single Marine Program hosted a free trip to Knott's Berry Farm and Medieval Times in Buena Park, Calif., Nov. 14. Single Marines and sailors aboard the depot were invited to spend the day enjoying all the rides they could handle during the day, and an evening of knightly competition.

Knott's Berry Farm boasts the title of being, "America's first theme park and the 12th most visited amusement park in the country."

The park got its start when the original owners, Walter and Cordelia Knott, started The Chicken Dinner Restaurant as a way of making ends meet during the Great Depression. In 1934 Cordelia served chicken dinners on the china she received as a wedding gift for the all-inclusive price of 65 cents.

By 1940, the restaurant was serving 4,000 diners a night. It was then that Walter decided to give waiting patrons something to do. Walter, a Wild West enthusiast, decided to create an amusement park designed to resemble a small ghost town. He even shipped in buildings from actual ghost towns to make his park more authentic.

Over the years, more themes and rides were added until the park evolved into what it is today.

After the single Marines and sailors got their fill of

cotton candy and roller coasters, it was time to head to Medieval Times.

While patrons dined on baby dragon (roasted chicken) and beef ribs, the sound of clashing swords and lances smashing on shields filled the air as knights battled it out inside the arena for the right to be called champion of the realm.

Between the competitions, guests were entertained by demonstration of the purebred Spanish Andalusian horses used in the show. The two horses, referred to as the King of Horses and the Horse of Kings, performed various tricks and feats of agility.

Other entertainment included a falconer demonstration and a knight ceremony.

After the winner of the competition was given his prize and a rousing three cheers, his majesty the king bid his guests good morrow and safe travels as they left his castle to return to their own.

Knott's Berry Farm is providing free park admission for servicemembers and one guest until Thursday as part of a tribute to past and present U.S. armed forces personnel during Veteran's Month. Up to six additional tickets can be purchased for \$15 each. Military ID or a DD214 presented with a photo ID is required for the discount.

For more information on either Knott's Berry Farm or Medieval Times, visit their websites at www.knotts.com or www.medievaltimes.com.

BRIEFS

Parking lot closure

The parking lot in front of Bldg. 31 along Henderson Avenue will be secured Sunday evening through Monday morning. This is to make room for the concrete truck and pumper needed for the repair work at Bldg. 31. For more information, call (619) 524-0690.

CG's Welcome Aboard

The depot's next Commanding General's Welcome Aboard is scheduled on Tuesday. The Welcome Aboard is an information-based orientation that begins at 8:30 a.m. at Marine & Family Services, Bldg. 14., with a formal welcome and an overview of programs and services. Following the brief is a bus tour that includes stops at key points of interest aboard the depot.

The bus tour finishes at the Recreation Center, Bldg. 590, where attendees will be treated to a complimentary luncheon and an "Info Expo" outlining various programs and support activities that may be of particular interest to them. Newly-arriving service members, their spouses, dependents, retirees, civil service/DoD, and NAF employees are invited to attend.

The Welcome Aboard is a mandatory attendance function for all newly-arriving Marines.

Childcare is available. To obtain childcare arrangement information, call the MCRD Marine Corps Family Team Building Program office at (619) 524-0916.

Gamers' Grub Video Release Lunch

The video release lunch will be held Tuesday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the depot Recreation Center, Bldg. 590. Newly-released video games of the month and free food will be offered. To register, call (619) 524-8083.

Brown Bag Lunch Seminar

The next Personal Financial Brown Bag Lunch Seminar will be "How to become a military millionaire," Wednesday from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Marine & Family Services' Classroom, Bldg. 14. Seminars are free and open to authorized depot personnel and their families: active duty; reservists; retired military members; civil service and contract personnel. A free light lunch will be served, but attendees are welcome to bring their lunch. To register, call (619) 524-5728.

Thanksgiving buffet

The depot's Bay View Restaurant will host a Thanksgiving buffet from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday for active duty, reservists, retirees, DoD personnel and their guests. The price is \$24.95 for adults and \$12.50 for children ages 3 to 11. Children under 3 eat free. Traditional Thanksgiving dishes and trimmings will be served. For information and reservations, call (619) 725-6388.

Santa at the Exchange Mall

Santa Claus will be at the depot's Exchange Mall on Nov. 27 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Entertainment will also be provided. The event is open to active duty, reservists, retirees, DoD and their guests.

SEND BRIEFS TO:

MCRDSDPAO@usmc.mil. The Chevron staff reserves the right to publish only those briefs that comply with Department of Defense regulations and the standards of the U.S. Government.

AROUND THE DEPOT



A Marine from the depot's Provost Marshal Office directs recruits from Platoon 2150, Company G, on the proper way to fold the garrison flag after evening colors, Nov. 8. Cpl. Shawn Dickens/Chevron