

AG Department
Southern Division
18 February 2014

Gentlemen,

The following is primarily a general event status update. It also contains additional information of interest.

1864 Event Updates:

I believe that all of the member organization's annual meetings are now complete. I have heard from most all of the battalions and have a general knowledge of where they've chosen to participate. The following is provided as a quick status update of events that the Division will be participating in (in whole or part) during the current campaign season:

Note: all available registration links can be found on www.southerndivision.org.

Remembrance Day: S-D Max Effort; Saturday, 23 November

The Carolina Legion (some 80+ strong) under the command of Lt. Col. Roberts joined Pidgeon's Command for the grand parade, along with the Constitution Guard, Rob Hodges Company, and the Valley Light Horse. Expectations of participation by 150 infantry, the Carolina Legion Band and Field Music, the 2nd Maryland Fife and Drum, and several mounted horse under Kern were exceeded. We were so big that it might not have been evident to the spectators that we were all together! The weather was fine and the temperature as much as you'd hope for. It was a grand event and Gen'l Anders thanks all for their participation.

Fort Washington: *ADJUNCT EVENT*; 21 - 23 March 2014

Sponsored by the Constitution Guard and hosted by Bobby Small, this popular event has developed and is in final planning and preparation stages. Several S-D organizations have made it their Annual Spring Drill event, including the SWB and CMF. Mike Hendricks has been asked to become the drill instructor for the weekend and has prepared the training schedule and established instructors. His approved plan will cover primary elements of Hardee's Revised from 'School of the Soldier' through 'Battalion Evolutions'. Emphasis will be given to 'Skirmish Drill' and 'Sharpshooter Tactics'. We've made the decision to relax Garrison Evolutions to the bare minimum to concentrate on drill. We have maintained a short school on Military Paperwork for those inclined. Meals will be provided (5 in total) as was done last year. Registration is \$25.

Bermuda Hundred: *ADJUNCT EVENT*; 25 - 27 April 2014

Organized by John Pagano and supported by Chesterfield County, VA, this event's promise is holding up! Location is on the original site of the '64 Federal Hospital and is fully wooded. John and volunteers have cut trees, created abbat, and dug rifle pits. The county will construct over the next few weeks, 150 yards of opposing trenches, with a 100-yard no-man's land between. The event will be a mixture of immersion and traditional event, providing opportunity for participants to operate under a more relaxed personal schedule as desired. The event is limited to 250 total CS. Skip Owens is overall CS commander and has divided his forces into the 15th and 30th Virginia. The 15th is commanded by Brian Hicks and they have recruited over 100. I am commanding the 30th and rounded out my staff with Chris Bopp as AAG and Dan McMichael's (new Pridgeon's Command AAG). We have recruited 70+ broken into 3 companies: CG (Bosworth), S-D (George), and IVR (Hendricks). I've seen Pagaono's proposed scenarios and I believe we are guaranteed an excellent time. The event will end Sunday morning by 10 a.m. Registration has reached the stated 250 level but they are still accepting more. Once cut off we are allowed to do one-for-one substitutions by battalion. **There is no registration fee for this!** If interested get that registration request in.

Wilderness: *S-D MAX EFFORT*; 1-4 May 2014

Planning for this event is moving forward but information is hard to obtain. I've tried Jake Jennette personally several times over the last month and haven't gotten an update. Chris had most recent contact with him and I've added his 1-16-14 update:

"Jake has returned from overseas, and I chatted with him about these two events.

Everything stands as it was, we are responsible for manning the earthworks at Wilderness/Spotsy, and can park there over night if we wish, will be looking for volunteer battalions to do so.

Also we will lead the CS forces into the dawn tactical on Saturday.

That being said, some you must work on is deploying battalions as skirmishers (you know where the reserve platoons are stacked to be used to punch a whole once the front line stretches them thin)

I need to start getting a head count on this, so let me know what numbers you commands expect.

For Cedar Creek we are Gordon, and will operate with a heavy line of sharpshooter battalions.....so as you head into your COI's be sure to work on open order maneuvers.

And I need to start to get a head count for this event as well."

Chris was supposed to be included in scenario development for this and Cedar Creek but thus far the organizers haven't made contact.

This event will be held at the same site as last year's Chancellorsville event. I was able to confirm that the S-D has been allocated a prime wooded campsite central to the site and activities (same as last year for those who attended). The Saturday dawn tactical will be held in a wooded area literally hundreds of yards from the original mule shoe. A recreation of Sanders Field will be held for the public Saturday afternoon, and on Sunday afternoon the recreation of the battle for the Mule Shoe. The event is constructing earth works for the latter. As more information becomes available I'll get it out to you.

New Market: *ADJUNCT EVENT: 16-18 May 2014;*
<http://www2.vmi.edu/museum/nm/index.html>

Another opportunity for those interested! Two options are known at this time:

1. Chris is forming the 1st WV for the event and is supported internally by elements of the CVG and SWB. Elements of both the Mifflin Guard and the National Regiment are also supposed to support the effort. This event is traditionally short of Federals and Chris' effort will help balance numbers and give S-D members the opportunity to use that blue in the closet. "Have fun and give'm Hell" is the motto.
2. The second opportunity is to join Skip Owens as a company of the 22nd VA (General George Patton's grand father). Skip and volunteers will march from Staunton to the site along the original route in company with two VMI cadet companies: under 25 yr's age, and over 25, all current or former Cadets. Paul Boulden is making an excellent effort to support the uniform and equipment acquisition for the Cadets. Marchers will arrive on Thursday May 15th, where non-marchers can join them and then participate in the event. The Cadets and Owens will camp on the east side of Rt. 80 where they originally did. All others are on the west side. Skip requires 15 to form a company. My initial attempt has solicited 9 respondents, so if you're interested get in touch with me. Brian Guesuro has provided me with layout maps for the event, which I'll provide upon request.

Campaign before Richmond (The battle of New Market Heights): *S-D MAX EFFORT; 26-28 September 2014*

Hosted by Henrico County, this event will occur immediately adjacent to Malvern Hill and the actual New Market Heights site. The county is reconstructing Fort Harrison (center of the fighting) for the event. It will also incorporate as many USCT as interested (they earned 11 Medals of Honor there). Fort Harrison was eventually taken by Federal forces after considerable loss (especially to the USCT) and nearly re-taken by CS counter attacks. Chris plans on utilizing the works throughout the weekend, which gives us the opportunity to both hold the works on Friday-Saturday, and assault them on Sunday. Chris and Mike Lavis have made the

pilgrimage for the initial planning meeting and the organizers support has been excellent. It's shaping up to be another MmM. Worth the price of admission alone if we witness a large number of USCT assault us.

Cedar Creek: S-D MAX EFFORT; 17-19 October 2014

Another interesting event put on by the Mason-Dixon Alliance. Plans include:

- A cavalry ride from Kernstown to Middletown/Cedar Creek battlefield.
- An infantry march from Fisher's Hill to the battlefield.
- 3 days of living history at Belle Grove and Cedar Creek battlefield.
- The recreation of the 3rd battle of Winchester.
- The Battle of Cedar Creek.

Additionally, traditional campsites will be changed to enhance the authenticity of the event (now if we can only get them to fight Cedar Creek in it's original direction over the ground!).

Other Events:

The member organizations also have a full slate of events in addition to those above. Please refer to their sites for info.

More info to follow as obtained,

Dick Watters

Individual/Organization Affiliation Requests:

I've received at least 3 individual affiliation requests and have passed them on to battalion commanders in the same geographic area. CVG picked up at least one. The new web site is working.

I've had two serious organization affiliation requests. The first from a set of veteran reenactors from the mid-Atlantic region. Their intent is to individually remain members of their parent organizations and participate with the S-D where their interests extend beyond their 'home' schedule. They stand at 15 currently and when they reach 21 will be attached to one of our major commands. The second inquiry has come from a quality western battalion. They are part of an established organization, which with we regularly work. Their intent, like the first inquiry, is to affiliate event by event when their interest extends beyond their parent organization's schedule. They will be at Wilderness and I will arrange introductions to our various battalion commanders so that they may decide which of our battalions they will work with.

