

AAR for Cav Event, Hingham, MA

This past weekend (13-14 June) several hearty souls: Darwin, Lisa, Aaron, Mike, Michelle, Andy, Ellie, and Wayne participated in the 35th VA Cav's 20th Anniversary Event.

This event was held in Wompatuck State Park, a very large and pleasant area. We had a GREAT day on Saturday sandwiched in between two rainy days on Friday and Sunday. The event was very small and was by-invite-only. But it was one of the best times I have had in many years. It was "free flowing" which means it had little structure and demands except to have fun. Which we did.

Friday: Three tents were set up in light rain and after it stopped the Brady's arrived and we set their tent up for the first time in the RHs' camp.

Saturday: Saw a lot of fun activities. We started our battle scenario early around 1030 and were not done until about noon. This was not because we were engaged all that time, just the opposite. It seems (never heard this before) the Union did not follow the directions and in addition got lost. None the less we fired several rounds and fight bravely in defense of our cannon.

Later that day we had a surprise birthday cake for our very own Private "Lee".

After a fine dinner, we challenged our host to a kickball game. The Artillery vs. the Cav. It was lots of fun and we even had the park ranger on our team. Some great plays were made and some runs were scored, but when the game was over we lost a close, hard-fought 7-6 game. We had a great time and look forward to a rematch in the future and as early as Fort Adams. For some of us this exercise brought out the danger of our heads getting ahead of our bodies. Some of us "older" guys have hurts in places we have forgot we had muscles.

Later Saturday, we did a night firing that brought great cheers from all who witness the display.

After our firing we were invited to the Cav Camp and lifted a cup to celebrate their anniversary.

Back in camp, we toasted a few marshmallows on the fire, but for most it was a relatively early to bed after a productive and nice day.

Sunday: brought more rain and the event was called. We packed up and returned home a little soggy then we started, but happy that we came.

Several **FIRST** occurred at this event:

- (1) First time the Brady family campout with the RHs
- (2) First time the new trailer was taken to an event loaded with our gear and cannon.
- (3) First time during an event we played Kickball.

NOTE: Cadet Andy received high praise for his outstanding scouting of the Union forces and keeping the Major informed of their movements.

I would highly recommend attending any event the 35th puts on and it might be the same place next year when the town of Hingham, MA celebrates its 375th anniversary.