**The American Legion Riders**

**Department of California**

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*For God and Country*

DEC MINUTES

November 21, 2024

1. **Call to Order** – Director Mike Smith @ 1900 hours
2. **Invocation** – Chaplain Cristina Molina
3. **Pause for POW/MIA** – Director Mike Smith
4. **Pledge of Allegiance** – SAA Jeff Carson
5. **ALR Preamble** – Director Mike Smith
6. **Roll Call** - Secretary Debbie Proffitt

**Director-** Mike Smith

**Vice Director** – Ralph Wenzinger

**Sergeant-At-Arms** – Jeff Carson

**Area 1 Vice-D** – Martin Glenn

**Area 2 Vice-D** – Pete Torrecillas

**Area 3 Vice-D/ Quartermaster** – Mike Phillips

**Area 4 Vice-D** – Milan Morgan (Interim)

**Area 5 Vice-D** – Robert Partlow

**Area 6 Vice-D** – Stephanie Huff

**Jr Past** – Rey Ruiz (In Memoriam)

**Treasurer** – Stan Tehee

**Secretary** - Debbie Proffitt

**Chaplain** – Cristina Molina

**Historian** – Louisa Carson

**Judge Advocate** – Donny Brannon

**Membership/ Legacy Run** - Rochelle Billet-Smith

**Parliamentarian-** Mick Sobczak

**Safety Officer** – Andrew Trapani

**Service Officer** - George Smith EXCUSED

**Awards and Recognition** – Missy Griffiths

**Convention & Rally** – Bob Atchley

**PP/DC** – Dennis Kee ABSENT

**Ways and Means** - Kathleen McClary

**Webmaster/Public Relations** – Tom Lively EXCUSED

**Guests: (TALDOC, TAL ALR Commissioners, ALR, etc)**

Ch 30 Bob Radcliff, Ch 108 Pat Burkhardt, Ch 507 Rich Carrillo, Ch 64 Jacque James,

Ch 82 Ed Caler, Ch 383 Pete DePalma.

PP Mick Sobczak-Keep doing really well.

Rochelle Billet-Smith-D15 1st Vice.

Stephanie Huff-D18 President.

Ralph Wenzinger-3rd Area Adjutant.

1. **Additions to the Agenda** –

Delete 18C.

1. **Approval of Minutes** – October 24, 2024 ALRDOC DEC Minutes

Accepted as electronically transmitted.

1. **Financial Report** – Stan Tehee

General Accounting as of 11/15/24

Beginning Bank Balance $ 39,685.83

Bank Deposits $ 1,365.00

Interest on bank account $ 0.36

Bank Withdraws $ 6,035.00

Ending Bank Balance $ 35,016.19

PayPal Balance $ 4,520.80

Ending Total Balance $ 39,536.99

Motion to accept the finance report as given pending audit by Ralph Wenzinger. 2nd by Mike Phillips. Passed by vote of DEC.

1. **Director’s Report** – Mike Smith

 November 2 – Attended Area 2 Meeting

 November 4 – Legacy Run Committee Zoom meeting

 November 16 – Attended Chapter 61 Battleship Boogie

 November 19 – Convention and Rally Zoom Meeting

 November 20 – TALDOC Convention Committee Zoom Meeting as Technical Advisor

Comments

 Deadlines are coming up. Debbie will be sending out updates. As we get closer to Convention, things will start coming fast. We did well on this last year. Let’s keep it up.

 Area meetings. I sent an email out November 19th to all Area Vice Directors. It is self-

explanatory. Let’s get it done.

 February 2-7 are the dates I have been given for the National Commanders visit to California.

The National Commander will be visiting the north this year. Standby to standby for

information.

 Be safe and have a great Thanksgiving!

The bike is running well after removing a bracket.

Stay safe on the road!

1. **Vice Director’s Report** – Ralph Wenzinger

October 25-26 TAL Area 3 Revitalization / Business meeting Post 26 Bakersfield

November 2 ALR Area 1 meeting Chapter 95 Oroville

November 11 Veterans Day Parade Post 26 Bakersfield

November 16 TAL District 15 meeting Post 124 Delano

November 19 Convention and Rally committee meeting

Events within my Area in the coming weeks & month:

November 25 California Legacy Run committee

December 7 World War II Memorial Ceremony Bakersfield

December 8 Bakersfield Toy Run

Events planned for the months to come:

March 8 ALR Area 3 meeting Chapter 108 Sutter Creek

March 29 Veterans Memorial Run Chapter 26 Bakersfield

The next round of names on the WW2 memorial will be unveiled.

1. **Sgt. At Arms’ Report** – Jeff Carson

Since our last DEC meeting I have attended several events. I attended the coffee with a Vet Wednesday’s morning at the Memorial Building. On November 2nd we attended the Area 1 Directors Meeting in Oroville Post 95. On November 7th we stayed the a few nights with Tom Lively and his wife Danelle after my Dr. Appointment in Chino. On November 8th we went to the Chapter 299 Dinner at Post 299. Then on November 9th I was a guest judge at Post 801 in Bombay Beach chili cook off. On November 15th we attended the Porterville Elks Veteran Appreciation Dinner. On November 16th we attended the Battleship Boogie on the USS Iowa with Chapter 61. Then on November 17th we went down to Newport Beach to Post 291 for live music and Lunch.

1. **Secretary’s Report** – Debbie Proffitt

Deadlines:

Online roster update-January 31, 2025. The online roster must show it has been updated in December or January.

Per Capita-January 31, 2025. The chapter per capita amount is listed at the bottom of the online roster. It can be paid after the online roster has been updated. Please pay by the PayPal button at the bottom of the roster. If mailing a check, please notify me when it is mailed.

Had a great time in Barstow. 24 bikes, 4 cages. 34 riders and friends attended. Greater participation from the residents. Next year will be November 15, 2025.

Chapter 716 will have their 16th annual Toys for Tots breakfast on Sunday December 1, 2024 from 9am until noon.

I have 2 projects going for convention. One is the stuffed animal drive information that was sent out to all POCs to distribute to all chapter members. The other will be revealed at convention.

1. **Area Reports** –
2. **Area 1 Vice D –** Martin Glenn

Greetings ALRDOC Executive Committee.

I have not been as active working to further the cause and agenda of California American Legion Riders as I would have liked. It has become obvious to me that I have taken on more legion responsibilities than I find comfortable. I am determined, however, to serve each of these responsibilities well and improve the condition of every aspect of the American Legion that I have become involved. Some I am doing because I have discovered a passion by being involved, and others I am doing because there is need. The commitments that have me because of need will have an end game, and I will be working towards an exit strategy. Once that is accomplished, I can give some more energy to the passion. The riders are my passion.

Here is what I have done this passed month.

On Saturday, November 2nd, Area 1 held its first area meeting since before my McCloud chapter was chartered. The meeting was attended by seven of the fourteen active chapters in the area. The meeting was also attended by five ALRDOC officers. Our meeting was honored by the presence of Director, Mike Smith, Vice Director, Ralph Wenzinger, Membership and Legacy Run Chair, Rochelle Billet-Smith, Sergeant

at Arms, Jeff Carson and Historian Louisa Carson. The chapters that were represented were Chapter 77, Woodland, Chapter 92, McCloud, Chapter 95, Oroville, Chapter 111, Healdsburg, Chapter 119, Placerville Chapter 210, Gridley, and Chapter 383, Fair Oaks. I feel okay with the turn out considering that we did not know, before September, that there was a requirement for two area meetings to be held each year before convention. Knowledge is power, and the knowledge I’ve gained will help me hammer the chapters with invitations to the next meeting. Our next meeting will be February 15, 2025, at Healdsburg Post 111 starting at 10 am. One problem that affects Area 1 is probably true for all the large areas; large areas are large and large distances usually separate chapters. The closest chapter to my chapter in McCloud is Oroville Chapter 95 at 166 miles. I’m guessing distance often causes isolation. The distance factor can certainly become an obstacle that hinders a chapter’s ability or willingness to interact

with another. Not everyone likes long rides. We have lost three chapters in Area 1 since I began the push to form Chapter 92 during the summer of 2023. Because it was the first Area meeting that I chaired, the meeting was light on business, in fact there was no unfinished or old business. For new business, we discussed what we could do to better connect Area 1 chapters to create a better network of support. Vice Director, Wenzinger suggested the passport program that I think Area 5 has established. I think there is merit, and it is worth exploring. Chapter 95 member Veronica “Skwerl” Jawor suggested a capture the flag type game that looks like it could be a real hoot, and if chapters would get onboard, it would be an activity that could take on a life of its own. We also made a tentative plan for the next meeting.

I finally spoke with Fred Branson, I believe, of Fort Bragg Chapter 96. He reported that the remaining members had voted to shut down. He gave the following reasons: the members are aging out, a lack of attendance at meetings, and the bikes that members own are not conducive with travel. We are saddened by the loss of another chapter, but the silver lining in this news is there are one or two members who are still interested in being ALR. Chapter 111 has extended welcome arms, so those members may transfer.

Area 1 is lacking in complete compliance with department reporting requirements. This is sum of different factors. The biggest factor, I believe hinges on building relationships. Relationships take commitment and time. We as leaders need to find ways to show our members reasons that make them desire to belong and why it is in their best interest to comply. We as Vice Director and Alternates need to up our game. Be patient with Area 1. There is great potential. Cudos to Chapter 95. More than 100 Thanksgiving dinner baskets in 17 minutes!

1. **Area 2 Vice D –** Pete Torrecillas

Held area 2 Vice Director Meeting.

Participated in November 2nd, ALR D28 1st annual Fill the Bank Car & Motorcycle Show Fundraiser for Food Bank of Monterey County.

Participated in Watsonville Veterans Day Parade

Participated in Monterey County Veterans Day Parade

Participated in 2 Honor mission:

Miles Ridden = 116

Volunteer hours = 2.5

Upcoming events

Wreaths Across America

Share your holiday parade

We had 6 chapters present at the Area 2 meeting. The next meeting will be February 28, 2025 at Santa Clara.

**Ch 64**

Events planned for the months to come:

Helping to host and prep for American

Legion District Meeting. Continuing to find ways and places to raise membership.

Have one new member as of 11/10/24.

**Ch 69**

We sponsored the Nov 9th Poker run over 50 people attended.

We had 5 Funeral Escorts.

**Ch 82**

What Charities/events did your Chapter/District support?

Operation Care Comfort, Elks Lodge San Mateo, Redwood City

Santa Clara for Oct Flt. Donation to Honor Flight. Fleet Week Electronics Arts:EA Sports

**Ch 105**

Donated 110 Volunteer Hours, rode 799 DOC Miles Participated in 9 Honor Details and Rode 1822 Group miles. Participated in the USMC Amphibious Tractor Memorial Event.

Events within my Area in the coming weeks & month:

Veterans Day Ceremony at Post 105

Events planned for the months to come:

In the months to come we will continue supporting our Heroes Families by participating in not only Honor Details, but also Community Events such as Wreaths Across America and the Lighted Boat Festival.

**Ch 202**

Funeral Escort for ANG MSgt (Ret) Marcos Corona (10/12)

Veterans Day Lab Ride 18 to the Alameda County Firehouse (11/7)

City of Brentwood Veterans Day Parade (Also participating: District 9, District 13,

Patriot Guard Riders) (11/10)

City of Brentwood Veteran Day Ceremony (11/11)

Events within my Area in the coming weeks & month:

City of Brentwood Holiday Parade (11/30)

Post 202 new members: Mike Grillo and Paul Radliffe.

Post 202 gave a $300 donation to Operation Creekside, which packs and sends care packages to deployed troops.

**Ch 591**

10/4/2024 Cal Central Coast Vet Cemetery Foundation Mo. Mtg

10/8/2024 PGR Mission- Harris

10/12/2024 DDay Mission- WWII Vet Honoree

10/14/2024 Project Hero Rest Stop Support

10/26/2024 ALR Area 2 Vice Dir Meeting

10/30/2024 United Vets Council Mo. Mtg

**D9**

Since our last meeting we have participated in the following:

Post 202 Casino night 19 Oct 2024

Events within my Area in the coming weeks & month:

Veterans Day parade 10 Nov 2024 sponsored by City of Brentwood Ca, and Veteran day festivities at Veterans Park Brentwood Ca 11 November 2024

**D10**

Tattered Flags Escort Veteran Day.

Our annual San Leandro Community Senior Center Veterans Day program

Second program at Carlton Senior Center in San Leandro

Memorial Ride funeral to VA Livermore longtime employee Angela Yolanda Woods. Was our contact recreation therapist for our Area 2 picnic for years.

Memorial for Jerry Yahiro the longtime Executive director of the 4-day East Bay Stand down. The largest Stand down in the Nation.

Pleasanton Veterans Day parade.

**D28**

Since our last meeting we have participated in the following:

Issue Food Bank meals for Chualar Community.

4 Honor Missions: Manuel Romero USA, Gerald Tansey USA, William

Grady Harris USN, & William Mills USN

Events within my Chapter in the coming weeks & month:

Issue Food Bank meals for Chualar Community, 2nd Thursday Every Month.

November 2nd, ALR D28 1st annual Fill the Bank Car & Motorcycle Show fundraiser for Food Bank of Monterey County.

November 9th, ALR Chapter 69 Veterans Poker Run

November 11th - ALR D28 Annual Veterans Day Ceremony

Events planned for the months to come:

December 13th - Run to KSBW Share Your Holidays, benefits The Salvation Army

December 14th – Wreaths Across America

December 14th – ALR D28 Annual Christmas Party

1. **Area 3 Vice D –** Mike Phillips

During this month I participated in the Porterville Veterans Day Parade, Coffee with a Vet Post 785, attended the District 15 meeting in Delano, Veterans service/flag line at Mooney Grove Park and handed out candy at a Trunk or Treat event.

Below is a list of events Area 3 Chapters have participated in during the last month:

Chapter – 18 Matthew HD Honor Flight event, Battleship Boogie, District 15 Meeting, Coffee with a Vet X3 at Post 785, Veteran service/flag line at Mooney Grove Park, Post 801 Chili cook off, Chapter 299 dinner, Area 1 Directors Meeting, Porterville Veterans Day Parade, Trunk or Treat.

Chapter – 20 Battleship Boogie and Porterville Veterans Day Parade

Chapter – 26 Bakersfield Veterans Day Parade

Chapter – 147 Matthews HD Honor Flight Event, Clawson Motorsports Veterans Poker run

No other Chapters report any activities during this reporting period.

Ch 18 will be hosting a Toys for Tots drive on December 7th and 14th.

1. **Area 4 Vice D –** Milan Morgan (Interim)

On Oct 29th, Area 4 VD Brian Toal resigned from his current position for personal reasons, and I have been asked to cover his position as the Interim Area 4 VD by Dept Director Mike Smith. I agreed, and I am also interested in being considered for the permanent position at this month’s DEC meeting.

**Chapter 61 -**

● Oct 19th - Chapter 61 Supported the Surface Navy Association by attending their event on the Battleship Iowa which consisted of a presentation on the &Surface Navy

Operations in the Red Sea by Tim Lenderking, US Special Envoy to Yemen and the Red Sea, RDML Phil Sobeck USN, Commander Military Sealift Command, and VIP guest H. Delano Roosevelt.

● Nov 9th - Chapter 61 attended the Santa Clarita Harley Davidson grand re-opening

community event.

● Nov 16th - Chapter 61 held their 1st annual “Battleship Boogie” event aboard the

Battleship Iowa. Over 400 people attended including ALRDOC Dept Leadership and

members of numerous Chapters.

**Chapter 184** - Nothing to report

**Chapter 804** - Nothing to report

1. **Area 5 Vice D –** Robert Partlow

10/22 TAL Post 460 meeting

10/23 Chapter 460 meeting

11/10 Marine Corps Birthday Celebration

11/11 Veterans Day Celebration (numerous post)

11/16 Barstow veterans Home Visit

11/20 Chapter 460 meeting

Upcoming Area 5 Director Meeting

January 25 Hosted by Chapter 460

Let’s continue to get out and visit each other. I had a great time this past weekend at the Barstow Veterans home. There were many highlights to the day and one of those being the time we spent with each other in the parking lot just catching up with each other.

1. **Area 6 Vice D –** Stephanie Huff

I am working on planning the Area 6 meeting, so the details will be provided once information is confirmed.

Chapters have been organizing for upcoming Christmas parades.

Looking to have an area meeting in February. Mike asked her to work on the 2nd meeting now as well.

1. **Officer Reports-**
   1. **Jr. Past President –** Rey Ruiz (In Memoriam)
   2. **Chaplain –** Cristina Molina

Rider Fred Hirz from Chapter 43 went down. He's in stable condition. No further information is available until we visit him. Please keep him in your prayers.

Reminder that if anyone needs to talk, to pray, to vent, whatever... please reach out to me.

Stay safe and well.

* 1. **Historian –** Louisa Carson

Since our last DEC meeting I have attended several events. I attended the coffee with a Vet Wednesday’s morning at the Memorial Building. On November 2nd we attended the Area 1 Directors Meeting in Oroville Post 95. On November 7th we stayed there a few nights with Tom Lively and his wife Danelle. On November 8th we went to the Chapter 299 Dinner at Post 299. Then on November 9th Jeff was a guest judge at Post 801 in Bombay Beach chili cook off. On November 15th we attended the Porterville Elks Veterans Appreciation Dinner. On November 16th we attended the Battleship Boogie on the USS Iowa with Chapter 61. Then on November 17th we went down to Newport Beach to Post 291 for live music and Lunch.

* 1. **Judge Advocate –** Donny Brannon

There are still some chapters requiring riders to turn in their patches if they transfer or do not renew. A quick reminder that if your chapter requires the rider to pay for the patch, it is now their property. There was some question about adding the fee to the original application but not listing this as a cost, this is not allowed. If the chapter pays for the back patch or rocker, they can ask for it back. Otherwise, it is the property of the purchaser.

I have had a few inquiries to the post/chapter relationship as well. A rider DOES NOT need to belong to the host post of the Chapter they are riding in. They just have to be a member in good standing of either the TAL, SON or AUX.

I bought a new bike.

Events Attended (on a motorcycle):

11/3 – American Legion Post 328 Breakfast

11/10 – American Legion Auxillary Post 328 Breakfast

11/17 – American Legion Riders Post 328 Breakfast

11/19 – American Legion Riders Post 299 wing night – yes, I rode to this as well.

We are still supporting Veterans Village. They are in need of socks, t shirts and towels.

See you all shortly.

* 1. **Membership Officer –** Rochelle Billet-Smith

October 25th Post 26 Friday Night Dinner, selling Dinner Tickets

October 26th Legionnaire's Meeting at Post 26

November 2nd Area 1 Directors Meeting

November 8th Post 26 Friday Night Dinner, selling Dinner Tickets

November 11th Veterans Day, Memorial Service, Parade, selling Raffle Tickets

November 13th Chapter 26 E-Board and Chapter Meeting

November 16th District 15 Auxiliary Meeting

* 1. **Parliamentarian –** Mick Sobczak

Progress

* 1. **Quartermaster –** Mike Phillips

Currently we have 2 orders Invoiced, 3 order in Process, 1 order Payment Received pending processing, 5 Orders in processing and 3 orders were completed during this month. Please pay for all orders submitted in a timely manner and your orders will get out to you as quickly as possible.

We got a new shipment of berets in. These are not like the last patch of berets we got in, these are single layer and not as thick as the last batch we had.

I understand many Chapters aren’t receiving their invoices when they place an order. If you do not receive your invoice with 4 days of placing your order, first check your spam as I have found that some of my invoices go there and if it still is not there email me at alrdocquartermast@gmail.com and I will email you a copy of your invoice. PLEASE DO NOT PAY FOR YOUR ORDER IN THE DONATION AREA OF THE WEBSITE UNLESS INSTRUCTED TO BY MYSELF OR DEBBIE AS WE HAVE NO WAY OF KNOWING YOU DID THIS.

The quartermaster website, when working properly, tracks all payment made and make

automatic changes indicating your payment on the tracking log.

If you have any questions regarding your orders, feel free to give an email or a call. Leave a message and I will return your call as I don’t generally answer numbers I don’t know. 559-759-7705.

* 1. **Safety Officer –** Andrew Trapani

An incident was reported that on Saturday in Area 5 Chapter 852 had a rider go down and became part of Rider Everlasting. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

My safety articles will be issued monthly and starting in October I will be putting out three good riding habits during the DEC Meeting.

Shaving my hair will be up for auction at convention with the money raised going to the California Legacy run.

* 1. **Service Officer –** George Smith
  2. **Webmaster/Public Relations –** Tom Lively

Webmaster

Fixed access for several individuals and actively responding to emails.

Maintaining Calendar and News.

Exploring opportunities for new website.

Public Relations Committee Chair

Monitoring Area and Department Facebook pages.

1. **Committee Reports** –
   1. **Awards and Recognition** – Missy Griffiths

Nothing to report.

* 1. **California Legacy Run** –Rochelle Billet-Smith
  2. **Convention and Rally** –Bob Atchley

2025 ALR/DOC West Coast Rally

**11 months out report to DEC:**

Tom Lively, Chapter 299

Both Post & Chapter minutes have been received showing support of the 2025 ALR/DOC West Coast Rally. Tom did receive the guideline for the West Coast Rally. Rally committee is being established. Location of the Rally will be at Post 299 in Chino. A site visit will be identified at a later date by Director Smith.

Next report will be on February 18th.

2026 ALR/DOC Convention

**21 months out report to DEC:**

Tio, Chapter 328

Both Post & Chapter minutes have been received showing support of the 2026 ALR/DOC Convention. Convention dates are April 17, 18 & 19, 2026. Spoke with the City of Norco. City stated that a deposit will need to be made by April 17, 2025 to reserve the building. The convention is penciled in for the April 2026 dates. A contract will be worked up by the city to hold the convention on those dates. Working on establishing a convention committee within the chapter. Hope to have that finalized by next meeting. Working on designs and where they can get a good price on t-shirts. Guide lines have been received and are working on meeting all time lines.

Next report will be on February 18th.

\*\*There will be a meeting of the C & R Committee on January 21, 2025 at 1900 hrs. to update the Convention & Rally Guidelines.

Pete Torrecillas-Received the coins for convention. Received the t shirts for convention but they run several sizes too small. Working with the printed to contact the manufacturer of the shirts.

* 1. **PP/DC –** Dennis Kee
  2. **Ways and Means** –Kathleen McClary

I will be emailing Chapter POC’s this weekend to remind the Chapters to remember to sell their tickets and send the stubs and checks to me as soon as possible. I have received a check and ticket stubs for the 2025 Quilt from Bloomington Chapter, and will turn the check over to Debbie Profitt. I hope to make 2025 a better donation year than the past few.

1. **Unfinished Business-**
   1. Update of Area 1, Chapter 96 Fort Bragg turning in charter.

Motion to accept the return of the Ch 96 Fort Bragg charter by Martin Glenn. 2nd by Mike Phillips. Passed by vote of DEC.

* 1. Update from Finance Officer feasibility of taking money from reserve to invest into

6-month CD to dram more interest.

No update.

1. **New Business-**
   1. Accept resignation of Brian Toal, Area 4 Vice Director

Motion to accept the resignation of Area 4 Vice Director Brian Toal by Mike Phillips.

2nd by Jeff Carson. Passed by vote of DEC.

* 1. Ratify Milan Morgan as Area 4 Vice Director

Motion to ratify Milan Morgan as the Area 4 Vice Director by Jeff Carson. 2nd by Ralph Wenzinger. Passed by vote of DEC.

1. **Sick / Memorial-**

**Ill/injured:**

Ch 26-Don Kinkade currently in ICU for stroke.

Ch 43-Fred Hirz went down on his bike.

Ch 53-Mick Sobczak had a medical procedure done.

Ch 20-John Alba has cancer.

Ch 26-Rochelle Billet-Smith will have a procedure done for sciatica.

Ch 92-Martin Glenn had surgery for knee replacement.

Ch 92-Linda Hicklin had heart bypass surgery.

Ch 18-Mike Phillips has upcoming surgery.

Ch 20-Julian Palomino is recovering after a blowout on his bike.

**Rider Everlasting:**

1. **Good of the Riders-**

Andrew-Please email me when anyone in the chapter has an accident.

Cris-I have been volunteering yearly at the Painted Turtle Camp for chronically ill kids. They are moving forward with a fundraising motorcycle run.

Mike Phillips-My youngest son passed the board and is getting his Sergeant’s stripe. Go Army.

Ralph-Happy Thanksgiving. Remember all the troops that will be standing watch.

Mike Smith-Remember our troops and first responders. Happy Thanksgiving.

1. **Next Meeting Date** – December 19, 2024 @ 1900 hours via Zoom.
2. **Benediction** – Chaplain Cristina Molina
3. **Adjournment** – Director Mike Smith @ 8:01pm