Ah, summertime! Warm - hot actually - weather brings a spate of outdoor activities, taking the business of our nation out into the fresh air and sunshine. Already this past month we’ve had a naval expedition to nearby Washoe Lake and Naval Infantry weapons training. Another naval expedition is planned, as well as a great voyage of discovery along the Pacific Coast. We may even deploy Outpost Molossia, an event that hasn’t occurred for several years. Of course the day-to-day activities of Molossia continue, as well - events never stop in Molossia. We are after all an active, functioning nation, with all of the trials and triumphs that any nation might have. But we have the advantage of size; being small makes it easy to accomplish things that a larger nation might struggle with. Molossia is a family nation and we get along very well. We work together as a family and as a nation to accomplish our goals and make things happen. Together, we make Molossia great!

Naval Infantry Weapons Training

On Sunday, 19 June 2016 XXXIX the Molossian Naval Infantry engaged in weapons training to improve their overall state of readiness. On a warm summer day the Naval Infantry set out for their rifle range in the foothills of the nearby Molossian Alps. Setting up on a dusty hillside, they began with archery practice, using the Chief Constable’s compound bow and two longbows. Following that the Naval Infantry practiced bayonet charges against practice dummies resembling East German soldiers. Next, the troops participated in weapons training and target practice. The weapons used initially were Pattern 1853 Enfield Rifle Muskets, the standard firearm of our Naval Infantry. The Enfield is a muzzle-loaded, black powder rifle, that fires a .58 caliber bullet; it can be complex to use for the uninitiated. Nevertheless our troops quickly gained proficiency in the weapon, hitting their targets accurately every time. Following musket practice, the Naval Infantry practiced using a few more modern rifles and pistols. After several hours, our troops as a whole were considered to be accomplished in the use of their weapons and the training mission was declared a success. We are proud of our Naval Infantry and are confident in their ability to defend our homeland with ease and skill.
**Washoe Lake Voyage**

On 5 June 2016 XXXIX, the mighty Molossian Navy embarked on its first ever voyage on Washoe Lake. Washoe Lake is a shallow lake located about 49 Imperial Nortons (39 mi/49 km) northwest of Molossia. The lake is subject to wide fluctuations in volume and has suffered a loss of area in recent years due to the ongoing drought. In the fall of 2015 the lake dried up completely, leaving only a damp playa where once fish and migratory birds flourished. This year, thanks to El Niño, has been a wet one and the lake has recharged somewhat. After last year's drought our Navy deployed to measure the effect of this year's wet winter on the lake.

On a warm June afternoon the Navy set sail upon Washoe Lake, from the dock on the north end of the lake. Deploying from a sandbar the Navy sailed south, quickly discovering that El Niño hadn't done as a good job as hoped in recharging the lake. The water depth was very shallow, at no point during the voyage exceeding four Nortons (28 in/70 cm). Indeed, the vessels occasionally ran aground during the first part of the voyage and drowned shrubs could be seen emerging from the water. As the mission continued it was also discovered that the lake possesses a current of sorts that runs north into a wildlife refuge. This created a significant obstacle in returning the flotilla to the dock. Eventually it became necessary to dismount from the boats and pull them to shore while wading. In spite of this setback, overall the voyage was a success, determining the effect of the drought on the lake and how it is recovering. It appears that the lake still has a way to go before full recovery and may yet decline later this year. Our Navy will continue its research on the disappearing lake and the effect of the environment on this valuable natural resource.

**Mighty Molossia Meetup**

On 11 June 2016 XXXIX a major gathering of Molossians took place in our fair nation. The occasion was the graduation of Molossia's Bryce Cardoza from high school, which he attended over the border in the US. This was his final year and his commencement ceremony took place on a warm Saturday morning in nearby Virginia City, Nevada. In honor of this milestone, Molossians arrived from all over the US. Most Molossians, as the reader knows, do not physically live in our nation, but instead reside as expatriates elsewhere. Thus members of our Molossian family traveled from nearby Dayton, Carson City and Reno, Nevada, as well as distant Boulder, Colorado, and western North Carolina. This was one of the largest musters of our scattered citizens in many years, and it was an amazing event. It is wonderful to see much of our great Molossian family in one place and we hope and anticipate to see them all again, the sooner the better.
The Molossian Kitchen - Our Most Popular Foods

Molossia's national cuisine is simple and tasty. Most popular meals center around meat or pasta. The ingredients and spices for these dishes are generally found in many Molossian homes and restaurants.

Lasagna is a traditional Christmas entree, enjoyed year-round as well.

Spaghetti and Meatballs is a perennial favorite, hearkening back to the Old Country. It is often served with black olives on the side.

Pizza is another Molossian favorite.

The Muffuletta is a sandwich that was created in 1906 at the Central Grocery in the French Quarter. It is made up of olive salad, ham, cheese, salami, and pepperoni tucked inside Focaccia bread. Great for St. Expeditus Day!

Cookie dough is a staple at "Cookie Dough Fests", traditional Molossian celebrations held in honor of any holiday or event Molossians want to celebrate. At a Cookie Dough Fest, Molossians eat copious amounts of cookie dough (usually cookie dough ice cream - safety first) and watch (usually bad) scary movies. Any excuse will do, and they're always great fun!

A Quiet Corner Of Molossia
Visit Molossia’s website at www.molossia.org.

We’re also on Facebook, at www.tinyurl.com/MolossiaFacebook

And follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/Molossia.

The Last Word With The First Lady

July is here and so is the heat! Doesn't it feel like summer came so fast? Sometimes life just flies by! It’s easy to take life for granted. I sometimes say, I will do this later or I will visit them next time, but sometimes it’s too late. My favorite aunt passed away a few weeks ago and even though I regret not spending more time with her, I will always cherish the time that we did spend together. Life events like this get people to stop and think about their life. Am I telling people what they mean to me? Am I living my life to my maximum capability? Maybe I shouldn't put this off. I urge you to reach out to someone today that you haven't spoke to in a while and just say hello. Let people know that they are important to you. You will feel better for it and so will they!

Thank you all and until next time...

Make each moment count!

~Adrianne