

July 2022



Yarnell Regional Community Center

Serving the Weaver Mountains' Communities

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pa·tri·ot·ism | \ 'pā-trē-ə-, tī-zəm

: love for or devotion to one's country. (Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary)
Although poles apart ideologically, they are both unashamed of their patriotism.

I really like this sample sentence. Unashamed. Patriotism. That's me. We're not perfect, but we have it good and the rest of the world knows it even when we don't. But regardless of where you fall in the conversation, hopefully we can celebrate...together.

July 4th, Independence Day, is one of my favorite holidays. The fireworks of course. But blankets or beach chairs in parks or on beaches with hotdogs, or hamburgers, potato salad, favorite beverages, and lots of red, white, and blue. A shared moment of beauty, a glimpse of humor, of lightness, of heroic pursuits, of people living for one another. And I'm convinced all over again that there is more light than dark, more hope than anger, and more joy than sorrow. Fighting for a better world, one that we won't so easily forget.

One of my favorite memories is the fireworks over the water in the lake behind our house in North Carolina. We rented a home that we were blessed to enjoy for several years. One resident across the lake evidently loved the holiday as much as we did, but also had the funds to purchase some serious fireworks. He would put on a private show that we got to enjoy for free. The reflections of the fireworks over the water were just amazing! The combination of color exploding over a body of water doubles the pleasure.

The story goes that fireworks made their way from China to Europe in the 13th century and by the 15th century they were widely used for religious festivals and public entertainment. European rulers were especially fond of the use of fireworks to "enchant their subjects and illuminate their castles on important occasions." Early U.S. settlers brought their love of fireworks with them to the New World and fireworks were part of the very first Independence Day – a tradition that continues every 4th of July when we celebrate as John Adams had hoped "with pomp, parade.... bonfires and illuminations from one end of this continent to the other." Americans continue to use fireworks year-round to celebrate at festivals, special events, and sporting traditions such as the Olympics and Super Bowl, but July 4th Fireworks will always be the "Big Day" for me. Hope you have a Happy 4th!

Jimmy

Club Yarnell events for July are listed on the menu and here's a sneak peak...

YRCC Concert Series – with Danny Caudle & Friends.

Chair Yoga – with Shari.

Poetry in Motion -with David Devaney.

July Birthday Celebration – Music at Lunch by Vanessa Purdy & Michelle Jacobson.