



GREEN BERET CHAPTER XV

The Alamo Chapter

P.O. BOX 33782 SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78265-3782

Issue # 08-16

September 2016

President: Bill Smith
Vice-President: Barry Archer
Secretary: Juan Lopez
Treasurer: Buddy Gee
Sgt at Arms: Raul de la Garza
Asst. Treasurer: Toby Todd
Asst. Sgt at Arms: Gordon Lee
Membership Secy: Marti Scott
Past President: Chuck Rose
Editor: Buddy & Sharon Gee
Webmaster: Scotty Codename
VGSA Rep: Raul de la Garza
DAV/VA: JR Garza
Chaplains: R. Johnson & A. Flores

Visit us at our Home Page:
www.sfa-xv.org



Committee Chairs

By-Laws: Bill Smith
Nominations: TBD
Motorcycle Challenge: Gordon Lee
JROTC Awards: Bill Smith
Scholarships: Pat Connolly
Wounded Warriors: JW Martin
FSH Cemetery Events: Raul de la Garza
Canyon Lake Picnic: Raul de la Garza
Dick's Fund Raiser: Fred Solis
Christmas Banquet: Bill Smith

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS



08 —September Board Meeting 1400

10—Membership Meeting:

Lunch served - 1200

Business Meeting - 1300

VFW Post 8541, 2222 Austin Hwy.

29 — October Board meeting 1400

September menu:

BBQ Chicken
Oven Roasted Potatoes
Corn on the Cob
Bread
Dessert



DON'T FORGET

- **Annual Fundraiser** for Chapter XV will be Thursday, 6 October at Dick's Last Resort on the Riverwalk. Chairman Fred Solis asks Chapter members to solicit prizes, auction items, donations for this fun and fabulous event. Tickets available now. Details on Page 8.
- **Christmas Banquet** tickets are now available. \$50 per person, including cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, dinner, after-dinner drinks, live music and dancing. 10 December, El Tropicano Hotel. See Bill Smith for tickets.
- **Scholarship applications** are being accepted from now until 15 November. See P. 6.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

President Sends:

I hope everyone is well and doing fine. Our meeting is on Saturday 10 September and the Board meeting is Thursday 8 September at 1400. I hope to see everyone there.

Our Dick's Last Resort fundraiser is set for 6 October and I will still have the tickets at the meeting. I want to thank Bobby Walker for already selling 20 tickets. The more tickets we can sell ahead of the 6th the better off we will be. This is our biggest fundraiser and we still need everyone to assist in acquiring auction items and door prizes. Our great treasurer and his wife brought back some desirable cigars from Cuba for the silent auction. I have been contacted by Miguel of the SF Brothers Motorcycle Club, who informed me they are donating an AR-15 with an SF Crest for our silent auction. I feel it is a great thing we continue to support all the SF organizations and stay a team. Let's make this our best year ever.

We continue to work on the budget, and if you would like to have some input or you have ideas please feel free to get with Buddy sooner than later. Our Treasurer Team and Budget Committee continue to do good things and keep our Chapter on track. I hope we can have another successful year this year.

I will continue to have the Christmas Banquet tickets with me at the meetings. It would be good to sell them now and know where we stand for the banquet. Please get your tickets and make your reservations as soon as possible.

Colin has done an outstanding job with our meals for the meetings. I have not heard any issues and have received many compliments that were passed on. It is unfortunate he will no longer be cooking for our meetings. Sharon and Rudy have agreed to assist and will cook the meals in the future. Our VFW has a great group of veterans and they continue to support us in many ways.

Until our meeting I hope everyone stays safe and has a great remainder of the month. My email is listed below if anyone wants to email me.

presidentchapterxv@gmail.com

William Smith
Chapter XV President



\$\$\$ DOLLARS AND CENTS

Treasurer's Report, August 2016

I am pleased to report that the Chapter's August revenues and expenses are keeping pace with the 2016 budget plan. Thanks in part to John Rodden who has a monthly automatic payroll deduction going straight to the Chapter's checking account and to an anonymous member who periodically makes a generous donation of \$200. **We tip our Green Berets to both of you.** Raul turned in \$155 for door prize ticket sales and \$175 for merchandise sales at the August meeting.

Our expenses for the month escalated somewhat because Raul had to restock his merchandise inventory. Art Medina was kind enough to transport a sizeable order back to the Chapter from the JFK Museum at Fort Bragg. Look for new items on the merchandise sales table at the September membership meeting.

October will be one of the most important months of the year for Chapter finances. Our primary source of income is the Dick's Fundraiser, which is 6 October. The budget committee will meet shortly afterward to formulate the 2017 budget. You are invited to help out by selling tickets, donating silent auction items and showing up to work and/or join in the fun at Dick's. If you have ideas for the 2017 budget, please email them to Buddy Gee, sgmggee@aol.com or snag one of the budget committee members (Buddy Gee, Toby Todd, Steve Twining, David Marshall or Bill Smith.) See you at Dick's!

Buddy Gee
Treasurer, Chapter XV

Chapter XV Meeting Minutes

Chapter Meeting Date: 6 August 2016

The meeting was called to order by President **Bill Smith** at 1300 hrs. This was followed by the pledge of allegiance. **Rudy Johnson** gave the invocation. A moment of silence for fallen comrades and POW's was held.

Bill Smith welcomed new members/associate members and guests to the Chapter.

Steve Rindahl (retired Chaplain)
Mike Pagel (7th SFG(A), active)

Members Sick or In Distress:

Nathan Countryman (son of Cory Surla)

OLD BUSINESS:

Treasurer's Report: Buddy Gee presented the monthly & annual budget reports to Ch XV members and it was voted on and accepted as read.

Membership Report: presented by **Marti Scott**, 193 current members.

Veterans Affairs: J.R. Garza mentioned that Memorial Service Detachment thanked us for our \$250.00 donation.

Christmas Banquet: Bill Smith, tickets on sale now for \$50.00 per person and \$99.00 per night at the Tropicana Hotel, 10 Dec 2016. **Jen Paquett** will be recognized and presented with a plaque.

Dicks Last Resort: Fred Solis, still set for 06 Oct 2016, \$25.00 a ticket.

National Convention/Conference: 12th – 19th June 2017 in Fayetteville, N.C.

NEW BUSINESS:

a. **Ads in Newsletter:** Working well and starting to make money for Ch XV.

b. **Scholarship Revision: Pat Connolly, Dan Hopgood and Henry Jimenez** recognized for a job well done.

c. **Wounded Soldier at SAMC: JW, SGM Bill Robles** at SAMC.

d. **Motorcycle Ride: Gordon Lee & John Lopez** still planning for the 29 Oct 2016, \$25.00 per bike, \$10.00 for extra rider.

e. **Open Discussions:** N/A.

Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully submitted,
Juan A. Lopez, D-8306
SFA Chapter XV Secretary

IMO Barbara Ordean Prieser

Barbara Prieser, age 88 of San Antonio, died June 9, 2016. She was the wife of Col. Dale E. Prieser, a member of SFA Chapter XV, who preceded her in death.

She is survived by a daughter, Victoria Pair of San Antonio, and a son, Timothy Prieser of Tampa, FL. She also leaves two granddaughters and two great-grandchildren. One son, Robert Sherman Prieser, was killed in action in the Republic of Vietnam.

Mrs. Prieser was active in numerous veterans organizations auxiliaries. She served as president of the Military Order of the Purple Heart Ladies Auxiliary Unit 1836 for two years and as president of that organization's Department of Texas for one year; a member of Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary Unit 5 where she served as membership chairman; a member of the American Legion Auxiliary and a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary.

August Meeting



Above: Candles blaze at the "Birthday Table" where August babies Dana and Gordon Lee, Chuck Rose and Mike Maloy celebrated their early August b-days during the break.

Below: (L to R) Bobby Walker introduces new member Steve Rindahl; Raul de la Garza sells door-prize tickets; Delbert Hayes tells another story.



August Meeting



FUNNY BUSINESS: Above, Rudy Johnson and Sim Trombitas promise to sell all their tickets for Dick's Last Resort fundraiser. Below, Iris Archer and Linda Todd speculate whether the door prize drawing was fixed, as President Bill Smith (right) held the winning ticket.



FYI



Fort Sam Houston
Memorial Services Detachment
Post Office Box 340422
San Antonio, TX 78234-0422

28 July 2016

*President William Smith
Special Forces Association
Alamo Chapter XV
P. O. Box 33782
San Antonio, TX 78265-3782*

Dear President Smith:

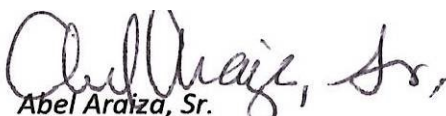
On behalf of the entire membership, I extend my deepest gratitude for the generous donation of \$250.00 to our Memorial Services Detachment. Please know that donations we receive are used only for our operational needs and official needs. All of the services we provide at the National Cemetery are free of charge to the military families we honor. We rely solely on the donations from friends of the Memorial Services Detachment. Thank you for your donation.

Our members continue to be committed to our mission of providing the final honors to our veterans being interred at the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery since our beginning in 1991. Some members have been with the MSD for over 24 years. So it is a commitment that our members make once they join us. Our Detachment has participated in over 34,000 burial services, which is a remarkable accomplishment considering that the average age of our membership is 72 years. Our members served admirably in all branches of our military services and they are extremely proud of their military heritage.

We will be celebrating our 25th year in service in December, 2016, when we will also recognize three of our members who will also reach 25 years of dedicated service.

Thank you again for your support. We will never forget your generosity. With every good wish.

Respectfully,


Abel Ariza, Sr.

Detachment Commander

Scholarship Grants

The Board has approved revised requirements for the Chapter XV Education Grants. Thanks to the Scholarship Committee (Pat Connolly, Dan Hopgood, Henry Jimenez) for working out the new eligibility guidelines. Applications are being accepted from now until 15 November. Below are the revised guidelines.



Special Forces Chapter XV Education Grant

The Special Forces Chapter XV Education Grant is designed to provide a one-time education grant of a minimum of five hundred dollars (\$500.) The number and amount of grants are determined by the Chapter Scholarship Selection Committee with the approval of the Chapter president. Recipients will be announced at the annual Installation of Officers/ Christmas Banquet.

Eligibility:

1. Applicant must be a SFA member or legal dependent or grandchild of a Chapter member in good standing.
2. A high school student anticipating graduation during the school year of application.
3. Grant must be used to attend an accredited college, university or vocational institution.
4. Eligible applicants must submit the following:
 - a. A personal letter detailing the applicant's education plans, career aspirations, school they plan to attend, and planned use for the grant.
 - b. Copies of the most recent academic transcripts, SAT scores and other scholastic achievements, and a recent photograph.
 - c. Two letters of reference from a teacher, school counselor or principal.
 - d. A summary of extracurricular activities, non-academic achievements and hobbies.
 - e. A copy of the application to the school or the acceptance letter.

Applications must be received by the Scholarship Committee no later than 15 November. Send to

President William Smith, SFA Chapter XV
Attn: Scholarship Committee
P. O. Box 33782
San Antonio TX 78265-3782

DICK'S FUNDRAISER



SPECIAL FORCES GREEN BERETS

“The Alamo Chapter” XV

11th Annual

“NIGHT AT DICK'S LAST RESORT”

Thursday, OCT 6th, 2016



It's time to have a good time” at Chapter XV’s Dick’s Last Resort fundraising event. After organizing and participating in many different types of fundraising activities over the years, this event has become our most successful fundraiser. For the past ten years Chapter XV has received great support from Dick’s Corporate Headquarters, and it goes without saying that the staff at our San Antonio location always goes above and beyond to help make each event a success.

In preparation and behind the scenes, Manager Ryan Wood spends many hours planning and supporting our event and this year is no exception. Ryan and his staff agreed to schedule Thursday, October 6th as we have found that a Thursday in early October seems to give us the best results in term of foot traffic on the River Walk. We draw about an equal number of guests from “hawked” passersby as we do from pre-event ticket sales.

Tickets for the event will be available to you at our next monthly meeting. We ask that you sign for ten tickets and help sell them, but more important, please join us as it is truly a fun time. Remember that it is an “all you can eat and drink” for \$25 bucks. The buffet style menu is tops and of course this includes adult beverages. Anyone saying they cannot attend that night can still donate by purchasing a ticket (s) and can be listed as a donation. As you know, anyone with Disabled Veteran license plates can park free in the immediate area.

A key component of the fundraiser is our silent auction. Please think about donating an item or two for the auction and bring ‘em with you to our next meeting. Please contact me if you need assistance with item(s) pick up. In the past military items (especially weapons) have been the most popular with personal services certificates as well as travel and hotel deals a close second. But any item that we can start off as a minimum bid of \$25 will be greatly appreciated.

Please contact me with any comments or questions.

Fred Solis,
Chairman

GREEN BERET CHAPTER XV

2016 CALENDAR

<p><u>JANUARY</u></p> <p>7 Board Meeting 9 Membership Meeting</p>	<p><u>FEBRUARY</u></p> <p>4 Board Meeting 6 Membership Meeting</p>	<p><u>MARCH</u></p> <p>3 Board Meeting 5 Membership Meeting 10-13 Cotulla Cook-off 31 Board Meeting</p>
<p><u>APRIL</u></p> <p>2 Membership Meeting 2 Chpt Memorial Service 30 Board Meeting 1400</p>	<p><u>MAY</u></p> <p>12 Board Meeting 13-15 Jack Hogue Picnic 30 Memorial Day Serv 0930</p>	<p><u>JUNE</u></p> <p>2 Jun Board Meeting 4 Membership Meeting 12-19 National Convention</p>
<p><u>JULY</u></p> <p>4 Fourth of July Parade TBD 7 Board Meeting 9 Membership Meeting</p>	<p><u>AUGUST</u></p> <p>4 Board Meeting 6 Membership Meeting (Scholarship Applications)</p>	<p><u>SEPTEMBER</u></p> <p>8 Board Meeting 10 Membership Meeting 29 Oct. Board Meeting</p>
<p><u>OCTOBER</u></p> <p>3 Membership Meeting 6 Dick's Last Resort Fundraiser 29 Motorcycle Ride</p>	<p><u>NOVEMBER</u></p> <p>3 Board Meeting 5 Membership Meeting (Scholarships due) 11 Veterans Day Ceremony 28 Scholarship Results</p>	<p><u>DECEMBER</u></p> <p>8 Board Meeting 10 Christmas Banquet</p> <p>NO MEMBERSHIP MEETING</p>

All Chapter Meetings, unless announced otherwise, will be held at VFW Post 8541. Membership Meetings are held at 1300 hrs on the first Saturday of the month (unless otherwise noted in the calendar). A meal will be served at 1200 hrs prior to each Membership Meeting. Board Meeting will be held the Thursday prior to the Membership Meeting at 1400 hrs, unless announced otherwise.

Notice to members and friends of SFA Chapter XV, The Alamo Chapter:

A FULL-PAGE AD in this Newsletter is only \$100 for 12 issues.

To start your ad or keep it running, contact Buddy Gee,
sgmgee@aol.com



Other ad sizes available:

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8" x 5"

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This is a quarter-page ad (vertical)

3 3/4" x 5"

\$40

These are business-card ads

3 3/4" x 2"

\$25



Chapter XV, Special Forces Association

P.O. Box 33782

San Antonio, Texas 78265-3782

President: William E. Smith

presidentchapterxv@gmail.com



Special Forces Creed

*I am an American Special Forces Soldier. A professional!
I will do all that my nation requires of me.
I am a volunteer, knowing well the hazards of my profession.
I serve with the memory of those who have gone before me:
Roger's Rangers, Francis Marion, Mosby's Rangers,
the 1st Special Service Force, the Jedburghs, Detachment 101,
and the Special Forces Soldiers of the Vietnam War,
Who were awarded 17 Medals of Honor and 90 Distinguished Service Crosses.
I pledge to uphold the honor and integrity of all these,
In all That I am, all I do.
I am a professional soldier.
I will teach and fight whatever my nation requires,
To liberate the oppressed.
I will strive always, to excel in every art and artifice of war.
I know that I will be called upon to perform tasks in isolation
Far from familiar faces and voices.
With the help and guidance of my God,
I will conquer my fears and succeed.
I will keep my mind and body clean, alert and strong, for this is my debt
to those who depend upon me.
I will not fail those with whom I serve, I will not bring shame upon myself or the
Forces. I will maintain myself, my arms, and my equipment
In an immaculate state as befits a Special Forces Soldier.
My goal is to succeed in any mission—and live to succeed again.
I may not be found wanting, that I will not fail in this sacred trust*

Special Forces Poem

By P.A. White

*I've lifted my glass and drank my fill, Of the wine that's known as pride.
I've walked among some gallant men,
And watched them stride for stride. I've crammed my head with devious ways
To defeat the enemy's goal. And kept inside for loyalty's sake,
The tales that can't be told. The need is gone for my service now,
I'll hang up my green beret and sip no more the wine of pride,
Till called again someday.
The strength and character of an organization are measured by its members.
Bob and Vicki Walker*

Friends of Chapter XV



Louis Dracoulis

Past Master

1414 Vista del Monte
San Antonio, TX 78216

DRACOU LIS45@YAHOO.COM



Alamo Silver Wings Airborne Association

Commander George "Marty" Martinez

PO Box 28695 San Antonio, TX 78228-8695

Editors: Ed L. Fernandez & Hope A. Elizondo-

Fernandez

"Helping Others Today for Their Tomorrows"



Email: SilverWingsAbn@aol.com

Cdr's Phone: 210-590-2817

Editors' Phone: 210-313-1891

Disabled American Veterans

JR Garza
Commander
Emeritus

San Antonio, Texas

"Serving Disabled Veterans and their Families".

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Fr Steven G Rindahl, DMin
SFA Life Member – ASWAA Life Member

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www.StFrancis.Church



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WHAT YOU
DECIDE TODAY
WILL BE WHAT
PROVIDES FOR
TOMORROW



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Calendar of Significant Special Forces Events

- 19-24 SEP 2016 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne) 55th Anniversary Reunion
Fort Campbell, KY/Clarksville, TN
POC: <http://www.sfa38.org/sfa38/index.php/5th-group-reunion>
- 05-10 OCT 2016 Return to Fort Devans Reunion 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne)
Fort Devans, MA
POC: Gary L Baura freefallgb@aol.com
- 17-21 OCT 2016 The Special Operations Association Reunion (SOAR) 2016
Las Vegas, NV
POC: <http://www.specialoperations.org/soa/soar/>
- 05-10 JUN 2017 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne) Reunion
El Paso, TX
POC: jsthong@hotmail.com
- 12-17 JUN 2017 Special Forces Association International Conference 2017
Fayetteville, NC
POC: <http://sfa1-18.org/2017-convention.html>
-

Special thanks to our unofficial photographers who continue to provide photographs of Chapter XV events: Ben and Marti Scott, Henry Jimenez, Barry Archer, Toby and Linda Todd, David Benavides, and Dan Hopgood. Selecting which photos to use is always a difficult decision, but we try to include everyone possible.

The Editors

When submitting articles or photos for the newsletter please enter "SFA newsletter input" in the subject line of your email. Please submit articles and pictures (copies only) for the newsletter to Buddy Gee at sgmgee@aol.com, or mail them to Chapter President Bill Smith at SFA Chapter XV, P.O. Box 33782, San Antonio, TX 78265.



“Carry on!”