



GREEN BERET CHAPTER XV

The Alamo Chapter

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

Issue # 09-16

November 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
Editors: 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
Budget Committee: Buddy Gee

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

- 
- 3 — November Board meeting**
 - 5 — Membership Meeting:**
 - Lunch served - 1200
 - Business Meeting - 1300
 - VFW Post 8541, 2222 Austin Hwy.
 - 11 — Veterans Day Ceremony**
 - 15 — Deadline for scholarship applications**

LUNCH MENU

For November Meeting

Spiral Cut Ham
Sweet Potatoes
Green Beans
Mac & Cheese
Salad/ Rolls
Pecan and Pumpkin Pies



DON'T FORGET

- **Christmas Banquet** tickets are available at \$50 per person, including cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, dinner, after-dinner drinks, live music and dancing. 10 December, El Tropicano Hotel.
- **Scholarship applications** must be received by the Scholarship Chairman no later than 15 November. See Page 7.
- **Annual dues** are now due. See Page 3.
- **Veterans Day** Ceremony 9 a.m. at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery. Chapter Honor Guard volunteers are Mike Brown, Raul de la Garza, Delbert Hayes, J.W. Martin, Bob Walker.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

President Sends:

I want to start off by congratulating Marti for being made a Honorary Member of the Special Operations Association. That is awesome! Marti has done many things for our Chapter and I cannot thank her enough. She has done an outstanding job and continues to do great work with memberships.

I hope everyone is well and doing fine. Our meeting is on Saturday 5 November and the Board meeting is Thursday 3 November at 1400 hours. I hope to see everyone there.

Our Dick's Last Resort fundraiser was a great time and I want to thank Fred for all of his hard work. I know he has been busy, but he still managed to put together a great event. We raised roughly \$5,700. I also want to thank everyone who donated items for the silent auction.

I donated a tailgate spot for the upcoming Army v. Notre Dame Game set for 12 November. It is in a prime spot and we should have a good time. Brent will have more information at the meeting. If you are not able to stay to watch the game, at least come by and have some cold ones. Members are getting things donated, like Dave Marshall and some kegs of beer.

Our Christmas Banquet plans are going well. I still have some tickets but they are going quickly. If you do not have your tickets yet, I will have them at the meeting. Also, email me if you want tickets and I will hold for you until the meeting.

We will have the budget to approve in November. 2016 has been a good year and I would like to make some of our events bigger this coming year. I know Mike and Steve do a great job with the Hog Cook-off and it should be even bigger next year. 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, October 2016

The Chapter's annual fundraiser hosted by Dick's Last Resort was a rousing success again this year. We tip our berets to event chairman Fred Solis for his astute planning and management and to the Dick's management team and staff for their cooperation and generous support. The house was packed, and ticket sales and silent auction raised \$5,000 for the Chapter charities. Later in October, the Chapter Motorcycle Challenge brought in \$500.

The budget planning committee will present a proposed budget for calendar year 2017 at the November general membership meeting. There will also be a more detailed treasurer's report for October. Hope to see you there.

Thanks to David Marshall, it is now possible to make purchases, pay membership dues or donate money to the Chapter with cash, check and **credit card**.

Remember, your financial support is important to the success of the Alamo Chapter, so please buy tickets for the door prize drawings -- and consider sponsoring an ad in this newsletter. A business card-size ad is only \$25 for 12 issues.

Buddy Gee
Chapter XV Treasurer

Chapter XV Meeting Minutes

Chapter Meeting Date: 1 October 2016

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

Barry Archer welcomed new members/associate members and guests to the Chapter.

David Shank (retired, former Ranger/medic, Vietnam veteran)

Orion Rose (grandson of **Chuck Rose**)

Members Sick or In Distress:

Ed Fernandez (Regent Convalescent Center)

Edgar Morales (recovering from back surgery)

J.R. Garza (recovering from foot surgery)

OLD BUSINESS:

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

Membership Report: presented by **Marti Scott**, 193 current members. Annual dues are now due and can be paid through 31 Dec 2016.

Veterans Affairs: JR Garza explained MyHealthEvet program and how to register. Also stated that flu shots are available VA and recommends a "super flu shot" for veterans over 70 years of age.

Christmas Banquet: Tickets on sale now for \$50.00 per person and \$99.00 per night at El Tropicano Hotel, 10 Dec 2016. **Mike Brown's** wife will be having her hospice organization do the catering for the event.

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

Combat Skills Motorcycle Ride: Gordon Lee, 29 Oct 2016, 8:30am kickstands up at VFW, \$25.00 per bike, \$10.00 for extra rider.

NEW BUSINESS:

a. **Green Beret Foundation Motorcycle Ride: Barry Archer** reminded the chapter of this event that will be held on 22 Oct 2016 hosted by the GBF and that volunteers are needed to help with the event.

b. **Comedy Show:** 1 Oct 2016, at the VFW, \$30 per person to benefit ReGroup veterans housing assistance.

c. **Tailgate Party: Brent Davis** stated that tickets for the 12 Nov 2016 Army vs Notre Dame game are available at \$30. Tailgate party starts at 8am in the Alamodome parking lot, game starts at 2pm.

d. **Wounded Soldiers at SAMC: Dan Gillard** of the 19th SFG(A) was injured on a jump.

e. **Open Discussions:**

Meeting Adjourned

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

Membership News: Dues Increase

Annual Dues are due starting October 1 each year for those who are Annual Members, and dues **MUST** be paid NLT 31 December each year. Due to administrative expenses, the Annual Dues are being increased from \$30 a year by \$10; therefore, the new amount for Annual Dues is \$40.

This decision was decided upon by the Board of the Special Forces Association and is now in effect for FY 2017. You should mail your dues to: SFA Chapter XV; P.O. Box 33782; San Antonio, TX 78265-3782 The Chapter will process and send to National in order for us to receive our 'small' portion for the Chapter. Thank you for being a part of our Chapter and we look forward to enjoying your presence and fellowship.

Marsha Scott
Membership Secretary

Dick's Last Resort FUNdraiser



Above: Ryan Wood, left, sales manager at Dick's Last Resort on the River Walk, and event chairman Fred Solis pose with "Dick" during October 6 fundraiser. It was a full house all night! Below, Melissa Guerra, daughter of Mario Guerra, gives a high sign, while Sim Trombitas laughs at one of Gordon Lee's bad jokes.



Dick's Fundraiser



Eat, Drink & Be Merry!

1) Ticket sellers Bobby Walker and Brent Davis working hard; 2) Arnulfo Vasquez, Don Iverson with friend; 3) Fred enjoying a cold one; 4) Doug Edwards, Arlene and Pat Connolly at dinner; 5) Barry and Iris Archer between dances; 6) Bill Smith, Melissa Guerra and Buddy Gee in Dick's silly hats.



Dick's Fundraiser



Yes, a good time was had by all!

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

Chapter XV Combat Skills Motorcycle Ride

OCTOBER 29, 2016



Above: Two dozen riders line up bright and early for Chapter XV's Combat Skills Motorcycle Ride, captained by Gordon Lee and Juan Lopez. At right, José Campos, Gordon Lee and Henry Jimenez just before takeoff. Far right: lucky winner of a pair of Old School knives from Mac Tools. Below left, riders and helpers gather in the shade; right, kickstands are up!



Combat Skills Motorcycle Ride (Cont'd.)

From Ride Captain Gordon Lee:

The weather was perfect and the attitudes were great. The riders had fun, and we had some great prizes with special thanks to Mac Tools for providing numerous high-quality giveaways. A few might have had a little trouble getting them home on the bike due to the size or weight, but no one left anything behind. We had a good display of military gear from the Viet Nam era for them to see, as well.

The feedback from the riders was very positive and the bottom line is they wanted more, so we are already talking about a bigger and more challenging run for next year. We also have several organizations that have expressed interest in being sponsors for next year's event.

Special thanks to the volunteers who made this run successful and to the Blue Knights for their great support!



FYI from JR Garza

Presidential Memorial Certificates are issued upon request to recognize the military service of honorably discharged deceased veterans. A Presidential Memorial Certificate (PMC) is an engraved paper certificate, signed by the current President, to honor the memory of honorably discharged deceased veterans.

Next of kin, relatives and friends may apply for a certificate by mailing a completed VA Form 40-0247, Presidential Memorial Certificate Request Form, and a copy of the veteran's military discharge document to

Presidential Memorial Certificates (41A1C),
Department of Veterans Affairs,
5109 Russell Rd.,
Quantico, VA 22134-3903.

Download the form at <http://www.cem.va.gov/pmc.asp>.

FROM SFA HEADQUARTERS



SPECIAL FORCES ASSOCIATION
"The Green Berets"
Post Office Box 41436
Fayetteville, North Carolina 28309-1436
October 29, 2016

Reference: Hurricane Matthew/Damage to SFA Memorial Grounds and Facilities

Special Forces Association Officers and Members,

It is my duty to report to you regarding the damage assessment at the Memorial Grounds in Fayetteville, the actions taken to date by the National Board of Officers, the Memorial Building Fund Officers and the Employees of the Special Forces Association and the plan of action going forward to make the Memorial Grounds and Facilities once again the "home away from home" for the entirety of the Special Forces Regimental Community.

Damage Assessment: The National Headquarters Building, the Special Forces Association "Team House" and the Maintenance Building all received varying depths of flooding. The Nation HQ's Building was flooded to a depth of 3.5+/- feet. The Special Forces Association Team House was flooded to a depth of 3.0+/- feet and the Maintenance Building was flooded to a depth of 2.5+/- feet. Some of the Statuary in the lower memorial park were overturned, the fence along Rockfish Creek and across the east end of the property was knocked down.

The property damage sustained is not covered in our insurance policy since the loss was caused by flood. The SFA will therefore have to pay out of pocket to rebuild from the loss. We are working with our insurance company, and final deposition to follow.

We are working with local and national sponsors for support.

I cannot THANK enough James Parker, Billy Akers and Jamie Carpenter from the MBF, their efforts have been above and beyond.

Actions Taken to-date:

The National Headquarters Building, has been cleared and cleaned, water damaged sheet rock has been removed, carpeting has been removed, all furniture has been removed, all files have been moved and the drying operation continues, all computers were lost and the hard drives have been removed and data has been recovered. This building was the hardest hit and will be the highest priority to bring back on line. The expense to accomplish this task has been conservatively estimated by our Insurance Adjuster at \$250,000.00. Everything in this building that was below 3.5 feet is basically a total loss.

The Special Forces Association "Team House" has had the non-replaceable mementos removed for safe keeping, our tenant Chapter 1-18 has begun removing their Chapter specific business equipment and documents for safe keeping. The "heart pine" floors have buckled and will all need to be replaced, the roof has been damaged by wind and flying debris, the windows and doors have been left open to aid in drying out the interior of the building. The facility repairs may or may not be feasible; this determination will be made and reported as more information on costs, permits, engineering, and other factors become known.

The Maintenance Building sustained the least damage of all three buildings and, with the exception of some equipment issues, there remains no major reported repairs required.

Plan Going Forward: We have arrangements with the Green Beret Foundation to use their facilities in Fayetteville to temporarily house our Head Quarter's Operations. This space will allow us to get the business activities back on-line in the most expeditious manner. Phones will be transferred to that location and our P.O. Box mail will be recovered and responded to until we can move back to the Memorial Grounds. **Do Not Mail items to the Street Address on Doc Bennett Road until notified. Reminder Address, P.O.Box 41436, Fayetteville, NC 28309-1436.**

Working with the MBF and Staff, the NBO will continue to work toward getting the National Headquarters Building re-occupied, at the earliest possible date, and transfer the "flag" back to that location.

Recovery from this disaster is going to be costly and we respectfully request donations from the Membership to help defray the costs involved in setting this issue straight. Donations sent should be marked "Disaster Recovery". Funds received as marked will be used to bring the Special Forces Association Memorial Grounds and Facilities back to a position which will be representative of all the Members of the Regiment who have gone before and who will in the future earn a place in the Regiment.

I will keep all posted as we move forward, we will continue Operations and rebuild better than ever. De Oppresso Liber,

Gary Koenitzer
President
Special Forces Association

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>1 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:

This is a half-page ad (horizontal)

8" x 5"

\$60



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



4/4/17

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"

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Editors' Phone: 210-313-1891

Disabled American Veterans

JR Garza
Commander
Emeritus

San Antonio, Texas

"Serving Disabled Veterans and their Families".

210-722-4256 Cell

BGARZ@SATX.RR.COM



2/2/17

St Francis Church



**Welcomes You
To Join Us in Worship**

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

Pax et Bonum
www.StFrancis.Church



8/4/17

RECUERDO (REMEMBRANCE)

**I sing of one who would remain unsung,
whose name would fade like tracks upon the
sand. For him no bells were ordered to be
rung; no banners lowered by a grieving
land. No bugles blew the moment that he
expired; no clock was stopped to fix the final
hour; no doors were draped in black, no
cannons fired. These are the rites of men of
rank and power.**

**But still I sing of him with mounting pride,
who seized the challenge with uncommon
heart then ran the course with firm
unfaltering stride to reach the mark
determined from the start.**

**The measure of a man who runs the race —
lies in his distance from the starting place.**

Anonymous



#SAPDALWAYSHIRING

WHAT YOU
DECIDE TODAY
WILL BE WHAT
PROVIDES FOR
TOMORROW



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555 ACADEMIC CT | 210.207.5050

Calendar of Significant Special Forces Events

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>

Check Military, CAC, Dependent ID Expiration Dates Now

JR Garza reminds that all Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting system, Command Access Card and military ID card locations throughout Joint Base San Antonio are 100 percent by appointment only, and wait time for an appointment can be up to 30 days. Civilian and military members need to remember that their CACs and military IDs expire and schedule renewal appointments appropriately. Appointments can be made online at <https://rapids-appointments.dmdc.osd.mil>.

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!”