



GREEN BERET CHAPTER XV

The Alamo Chapter

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

Issue # 08-16

October 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
Budget Committee: Buddy Gee

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS



1 — Membership Meeting: Lunch served - 1200

Business Meeting - 1300

VFW Post 8541, 2222 Austin Hwy.

6 — Annual Fundraiser, Dick's Last Resort

on the River Walk, 6 - 9 p.m.

29 — Combat Skills Motorcycle Ride

Registration and staging, VFW Post 8541

DON'T FORGET

- **Tickets** will be available at the door for our big annual fund-raiser 6 October at **Dick's Last Resort**. Just \$25 for all-you-can-eat buffet, open bar, live music and silent auction. What a deal! Tons of fun! Come and bring your friends. Details on Page 7..
- **Christmas Banquet** tickets available at \$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 Page 6.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

President Sends:

I am traveling out of town this Thursday and will return on Sunday. The board meeting is rescheduled for 10 AM Thursday and Barry Archer will be running the Saturday meeting. I will give tickets for both Dick's and our Christmas Banquet to Buddy. If you need any of the tickets, please contact him.



This Saturday night is the Comedy Show to raise money for the Group who spoke at our last meeting. They are establishing transitional housing for soldiers coming off active duty. This is to assist soldiers with getting a good start out of the military and hopefully will limit veteran homelessness. If you are able, it would be good to have a presence there.

I hope everyone is well and doing fine. Our Dicks Last Resort fundraiser is set for 6 October and we need to continue to sell tickets before the event. We are doing well so far. There are many silent auction items, but we could always use more.

I am donating 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 and I believe the tickets are in the \$18 range.

The next couple of months will keep us busy. The GBF is still asking for volunteers to assist with the Matt Pucino Memorial Ride on 22 October. If you are able to assist, let me know and I will consolidate a list. I know we are also looking for assistance with our own MC Ride set for 29 October. If you are able to assist, let Gordon know.

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

President Bill has been doing a great job of selling tickets to our Dick's Last Resort Fundraiser, which is fast approaching. He also has been selling Christmas Banquet tickets. Tickets for both events will be available at this Saturday's meeting. Dick's Fundraiser tickets are \$25 and Christmas Banquet tickets are \$50 per person.

During September, on the income side of the house, Raul sold \$342 in merchandise and raised \$145 in door prize ticket sales. Rudy Johnson bought a full-page ad for \$100.

The Chapter donated \$500 to a soldier (chapter member) in need and made our annual donation of \$250 to the Blue Knights (SAPD Motorcycle Club). While attending the 5th Group reunion at Fort Campbell KY, your treasurer purchased about \$300 worth of Special Forces merchandise. Be sure to check out the new merchandise on the sales table this Saturday.

Our new food caterers are cooking up something special and we hope to see you at the meeting.

Buddy Gee
Treasurer, Chapter XV

Chapter XV Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: 10 September 2016

- 1) CALL TO ORDER- President Bill Smith at 1300hrs
- 2) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE (PRES)
- 3) CHAPLAIN'S INVOCATION – (Rudy Johnson)
- 4) MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR FALLEN COMRADES (PRES)
- 5) WELCOME AND RECOGNITION OF NEW MEMBERS / GUESTS/ VISITORS (PRES)
 - James Booker, Director of Concerned Veterans of America, Texas
 - Ramiro Carasco, new member
 - Tony Ruiz, ReGroup Foundation
- 6) MEMBER'S SICK OR IN DISTRESS – (Rudy Johnson)

Ed Fernandez

7.) OLD BUSINESS

TREASURERS' UPDATE: (BUDDY)
Motion passed

VOTE ON MINUTES: Motion passed,
minutes approved

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE: (MARTI) 195

members

VETERANS AFFAIRS: (J.R.)

CHRISTMAS BANQUET: (BILL) 10 DEC 2016, \$50.00, Hotel \$99.00 per room

DICKS LAST RESORT: (SOLIS) 6 OCT 2016,

NATIONAL CONVENTION: 12-19 JUNE, 2017, Fayetteville, N.C.

MOTORCYCLE RIDE: (LEE) 29 OCT 2016

8.) NEW BUSINESS

PETITION FOR COLIN: Ch XV members signed petition on behalf of Colin Newberry

SCHOLARSHIP : (PAT) 1 scholarship submitted incomplete, needs to be completed.

WOUNDED SOLDIER AT SAMC: JW
OPEN DISCUSSION

MEETING ADJOURNED

Respectfully submitted,

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



At left, President Bill Smith presents Chapter XV's annual donation to Col. Ben Reisz (ret.), president of the Golden Knights SAPD Motorcycle Club, in support of their children's charity events

September happenings



This photo appeared on Facebook Sept. 5 with the following caption: "Bunch of old Green Berets throwing a few back at The Dawson ranch last night. with William Smith." They were celebrating Chapter XV President Bill Smith's retirement from SAPD. (He's wearing flowered shirt near center of the pic.)

Picture below at left shows some of the new SF merchandise available for sale by Chapter XV. Antonio Ruiz (center), director of the ReGroup Foundation, and

James Booker, state director of Concerned Veterans for America, speak at September meeting. Their programs are designed to aid returning veterans.



FYI

From SFA Headquarters:

Cliff Newman sends

Please note the invitation from SF Command for the Wreath Laying Ceremony at Arlington on 19 October.

Mr. Newman,
Below is the Invitation for the upcoming JFK Wreath Laying Ceremony. Thanks for sending this out to your Association.



Major General James E. Kraft, Jr.,
Commanding General, 1st Special Forces
Command (Airborne) requests the honor of
your presence as Brigadier General E. John
Deedrick, Jr., Deputy Commanding General, 1st
Special Forces Command (Airborne) conducts a
Wreath Laying Ceremony to honor President
John F. Kennedy and his commitment to the
Green Berets on Wednesday, the nineteenth of
October, two thousand sixteen at twelve
o'clock, Arlington National Cemetery, President
John F. Kennedy Gravesite, Arlington Virginia.

The point of contact for this invite is Mr. John Condroski,
Chief of Protocol, 1st Special Forces Command
(Airborne), (910) 432-2716. To view your invitation
please click the link below. If you are unable to click on
the link please copy and paste the address into your
web browser.

[https://einvitations.afit.edu/inv/anim.cfm?
i=306735&k=0161440E7852](https://einvitations.afit.edu/inv/anim.cfm?i=306735&k=0161440E7852)

Respectfully,
John Condroski

From J. R. Garza:

Free Flu Shots

The cold and flu season is upon us and the Department
of Veterans Affairs has once again teamed up with
Walgreens Pharmacies to allow all veterans who are
currently enrolled in the VA healthcare system to be
able walk into any of the over 8,000 Walgreens
nationally to receive a vaccination at no
cost. Vaccinations will be available through March 31,
2017.

Veterans wishing to receive the no-cost vaccination
simply need to present a Veterans Identification Card
and a photo ID at any participating Walgreens. After the
Walgreens pharmacist administers the vaccine,
Walgreens will transmit that information securely to VA
where it becomes part of the patient's electronic
medical record.

To locate a Walgreens store near you, call 800-
WALGREENS (800-925-4733), or go
to www.walgreens.com/findastore.

From West Point Society of South Texas



The West Point Society of South Texas invites all to join
our tailgate party to support the Army victory over
Notre Dame! This fundraising tailgate party will be held
at the Alamo Beer Co, 202 Lamar Street, in San Antonio
on game day Nov. 12. The fun starts at 10 a.m. and runs
until 1:30 p.m. It is Family Friendly and will have the
Cadet Spirit Band and Rabble Rousers (Cheerleaders)
performing. Entry to the Tailgate is free.

Funds raised will go to provide Summer Leaders
Experience Scholarships for high school students to
attend the program at the U. S. Military Academy and
the West Point Society of South Texas. Registration for
the Tailgate is at the following webpage:
[www.westpoint.org/society/wps-south-texas/
index.html](http://www.westpoint.org/society/wps-south-texas/index.html)

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 almost here! Time to have a good time” at Chapter XV's Dick's Last Resort fundraising event Oct. 6, from 6 to 9 p.m. 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.

Manager Ryan Wood has spent many hours planning and supporting this year's event. If you haven't sold all your tickets yet, remember this is “all you can eat and drink” for 25 bucks! Give your friends and acquaintances a chance to get in on this great River Walk bargain! The buffet-style menu is tops, and of course this includes adult beverages.

We have some fantastic items for the silent auction (but you still can donate something nice) and the live band and lively waiters make things even more festive. Event chairman Fred Solis says, “Don't miss it!” Tickets will be available at the door.

CHAPTER XV COMBAT SKILLS MOTORCYCLE RIDE

29 October, 2016 *Ride with the Green Berets and test your Combat Skills*

7:00 a.m. Registration and Staging at VFW Post 8541, 2222 Austin Hwy,
San Antonio TX 78218

8:00 a.m. Safety Briefing

8:30 a.m. Kickstands up

2:00 p.m. Last Bike back into VFW Post 8541



Events may include Grenade Toss, Shotgun Skills Test, Pistol Close Range Firing (CO2 45), Sniper Shot w/ single shot pellet with scope, M-60 fire (paintball), Military Equipment Display.

Rider fee: \$20 ... Passenger fee \$10

For registration or more information, contact Ride Captain Gordon Lee (gordonlee@att.net) phone (210) 602-2067

Or Co-Captain Juan Lopez (hdnighttrainrider@yahoo.com) phone (210) 606-3932

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



Alamo Silver Wings Airborne Association

Commander George "Marty" Martinez

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"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".

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To Join Us in Worship**

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

Pax et Bonum
www.StFrancis.Church



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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Calendar of Significant Special Forces Events

- 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!”