



GREEN BERET CHAPTER XV

The Alamo Chapter

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

Issue # 2-19

February 2019

President: Bill Smith
Vice-President: Juan Lopez
Secretary: J.W. Martin
Asst. Secretary: David Marshall
Treasurer: Buddy Gee
Asst. Treasurer: Mike Pagel
Sgt at Arms: Raul de la Garza
Asst. Sgt at Arms: Gordon Lee
Membership Secy: Marti Scott
Past President: Chuck Rose
Editors: Buddy & Sharon Gee
Webmaster: Steve Wolverton
VGSA Rep: Raul de la Garza
Chaplains: R. Johnson & S. Rindahl

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www.sfa-xv.org



Committee Chairs

By-Laws: Bill Smith
Nominations: Chuck Rose
JROTC Awards: Juan Lopez
Scholarships: Pat Connolly
Wounded Warriors: J.W. 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
Chapter Memorial Svc: J.W. Martin

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS



February 2 — Membership Meeting

VFW Post 8541, 2222 Austin Highway

1200 — noon meal served (beef tips & noodles)

1300 — Business meeting

February 14 — Valentine's Day

February 18 — President's Day

February 28 — March Board meeting

March 8-10 — Cotulla Wild Hog Cookoff



DON'T FORGET



- Annual dues are now past due. See Marti's note and dues renewal application on Page 9.
- Folks signed up for the 2nd Annual Chapter XV Cruise must make final payment by Feb. 5. See Karen Hermann.
- Mark your calendar for a big weekend at the Cotulla Wild Hog Cookoff March 8-10 in Cotulla. POC is Mike Brown.
- Sick call at 1300 hours every Sunday at the VFW. POC is Bill Beall.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

President Sends:

I hope everyone is having a great winter. It is funny how quick the weather changes around our town. Our Board Meeting will be this Thursday 31 January at 1400 hrs. Our membership meeting is set for Saturday 2 February with lunch at noon and the meeting at 1300 hrs.

Time is drawing near for the final payment of the 2nd Annual Chapter XV cruise. If you have questions please contact Karen or talk with her at the meeting.

Our next big event is the Cotulla Hog Cook-off and I have no doubt our team will win this year — or at least get a participation trophy. The motel rooms are going fast and I may have an extra one if needed. This year is turning out to be our best year building up to this event.

I am looking for a member to take over the Christmas Banquet. I am setting it up this year and it is a good time for a right-seat ride. It is a preset event and runs pretty smooth. Let me know if you are interested.

This year is an election year and we will be looking for

individuals to come forward to fill some vacant positions.

We have an amazing organization and hope to see it grow more in the future.

We will have our April Memorial Ceremony during our meeting time in April. It is a solemn event and one of great importance.

I am working with the Special Forces Brotherhood and Rangers to attempt a SF/Ranger breakfast in March. We will work it out at our next meeting.

Until Saturday, I hope everyone stays safe and enjoys their family

William Smith
Chapter XV President

presidentchapterxv@gmail.com



\$\$\$ DOLLARS AND CENTS

Treasurer's Report, January 2019

We had a great turn-out for the January Chapter meeting with 50-plus members and guests in attendance. Annual and monthly financial reports were briefed and approved by the members.

The request for donors to fund the 2019 Meeting Meals was overwhelmingly successful. Twelve members donated and two others pledged, so Meeting Meals for the year will be covered without Chapter supplements! A big thank-you to all the generous folks who chipped in: Barry Archer, Lou Calantoni, Pat Connolly, Brent Davis, Raul de la Garza, Gordon Lee, Juan Lopez, Dion Popoy, Chuck Rose, Marsha Scott, Ken Sienko, Mike Simpson, Bob Walker and Steve Wolverton.

Congratulations to Mike Brown and Sergio Venegas for their new life memberships. Other January income included monthly donations from John Rodden and Ramiro Daniel; newsletter ad sales; merchandise sales, door prize

drawings, Fiesta medal sales and \$178 from the Go Fund Me account. Assistant Treasurer Mike Pagel reports there were three donations to that online account: one anonymous donation of \$100 and two others from Elena Rios and Linda Houston. Thank you!

January expenses included our annual donation to VFW Post 8541, Cotulla reservation, fees for Web site maintenance and Fiesta Commission registration. (With our new trailer and our new Fiesta medals, we'll have a great presence—and great fun!—at this year's Fiesta San Antonio.)

Bottom line: The Chapter treasury is healthy and capable to support our charities and the annual budget.

We hope to see you at the membership meeting this Saturday.

Buddy Gee
Chapter XV Treasurer



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Minutes of January Meeting

Chapter Meeting Date: 12 January 2019

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

William Smith welcomed new members/associate members and guests to the Chapter:

Wayne Riddle, new member
Steve Schoenicke, relocated back to San Antonio
Steve Wolverton & Linda Houston from Arkansas
Sarina Rose (**Chuck Rose's** niece)
Joel De La Garza (**Raul De La Garza's** brother)

Members Sick or in Distress: **J.W. Martin's** mother-in-law

OLD BUSINESS:

- Budget & Treasurer's Report:** **Buddy Gee** presented the monthly and annual budget reports and they were accepted as read.
- Membership report:** **Marti Scott** stated that we currently have 199 members.
- Minutes Approval:** Minutes were accepted as read.

- Cruise:** **Karen Hermann**, will take place 28 April to 5 May 2019.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Scholarship:** **Pat Connolly** explained the changes on how scholarships will be decided.
- Cotulla Wild Hog Cookoff:** **Mike Brown & Steve Hermann**, set for 8-10 March 2019.
- Canyon Lake Picnic:** **Raul De La Garza**, set for 17-19 May 2019.
- Appreciation plaques presented to: **Mike & Laura Brown, Mike Pagel, and Brent Davis.**
- SFA Chapter XV donation to VFW Post 8541: **Juan Lopez** presented a check to VFW Commander **Bill Smith.**
- Open Discussion:** Chapter XV door prize drawing was conducted by **Raul De La Garza.**

Meeting Adjourned

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



Left: President Bill presents plaque of appreciation to Laura Brown of Medical Team Hospice for her donation of appetizers at annual Christmas Banquets. Center: Chuck Rose with niece Sarina Rose, a veterinary student pending approval for jump school. Right: Another plaque is presented to Brett Davis for his volunteer work on decorating the cargo trailer.



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Chapter News

Big news: Big fun on tap for Fiesta 2019



From Karen Hermann:

We are now an official non-profit member of the Fiesta San Antonio Commission!

Two hundred of our SFA Fiesta medals were dropped off at the Fiesta Store for sale this week by Dana Gordon and myself. The Fiesta “pin people”

are excited to support us as they don’t have many military organizations and there is a big request for them. They are going to feature us in some social media blasts and are aware of our charities to explain to customers, which is a big deal for medal buyers. They are taking 20% of our \$10 selling price.

We are signed up for the Fiesta Pindamonium event, where all the official Fiesta organizations are invited to come sell pins to the public. All proceeds from this event are ours and we can charge what we like. This event is April 18; volunteers are needed to sell.

We are awaiting confirmation and rate for our space at the Fort Sam Houston Fiesta Fireworks on April 20. All of

the paperwork and 501c info has been submitted. This is a fun family event, free to the public, with continuous live



entertainment, food and beverage vendors, carnival rides and military displays at MacArthur Parade Field.

We will need the trailer and volunteers to set up and sell for that date as well. Come early, bring your kids, grandkids, lawn chairs and stay for the grand fireworks finale. The event is from 1 to 9 p.m., with set-up around 11 a.m. We can do shifts.

We are also invited to be a part of the Fiesta Commission’s Veterans Day event this fall, and if we have them, we can release our 2020 Fiesta Medals at that event!



(Editor’s Note: It’s good to see our new Fiesta medals, new cargo trailer and new association with the Fiesta Commission coming together for great, fun events in the future. Viva Fiesta!)

Coming Up this Spring:



March 8-10: Cotulla Wild Hog Cookoff at LaSalle County Fair, Cotulla, Texas. For information, contact Mike Brown.

April 6: Chapter XV Memorial Service, Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery. POC is JW Martin.

April 18 — Fiesta Pin Pandemonium. Volunteers needed to sell Fiesta medals. Contact Karen Hermann.



April 20 — Fort Sam Houston Fiesta Fireworks. Volunteers needed to set up and sell.

April 28—May 5. Second Annual Chapter XV Caribbean Cruise. Round trip from Galveston.

May 17-19 — Annual Canyon Lake Picnic. POC: Raul de la Garza.



Bill Smith, in VFW Commander’s hat, accepts donation from Chapter XV vice president Juan Lopez and treasurer Buddy Gee.



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12/2017



Remembering St. Valentine's sacrifice

February is the month of red, white, and pink decorations, cheap candy, and sentimental cards. It is, of course, St. Valentine's Day when thoughts turn to relationships. To whom are we married or who are we dating (or, why is there an absence of those relationships).

For some—most frequently those in new relationships—more effort will be put in. You may plan an evening out at a place more romantic than usual or maybe even a weekend away. The point, whether thought about or not, is to make small sacrifices (money, time, etc.) in order to demonstrate the greater love you have for your Valentine.

Valentine's Day is named after St. Valentine who was a priest that refused to renounce his faith and betray the people of his church. As a result of his refusal to renounce his faith, St. Valentine, at the order of the Roman Emperor, was beaten and then beheaded (14 Feb 269 or 270). St. Valentine was martyred due to his greater love for his parishioners and for God than his own life.

St. Valentine was of course motivated by both the words and example of Jesus who said, "Greater love has no one than

this, that someone lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13) and later surrendered His life.

This willingness to self-sacrifice for the sake of others is understood by those who have entered into battle. The greater love of family, country, the soldier to your left and right fighting with you, all motivate a willingness to sacrifice.

How all of that resulted in the modern practice of giving candy hearts and romantic dinners is a mystery. Regardless, as you enjoy a special day with your Valentine keep in mind the power of sacrificial love.

Buen Camino,

Fr Steve

CH (MAJ-Ret) Steven G Rindahl, DMin
A-663 (Life)



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1/20



Annual Members Delinquent as of Jan. 31

**From Marsha 'Marti' Scott,
Membership Secretary**

Should you pay your dues as of this notice, you will need to add an additional \$5.00 for reinstatement which will be a total of \$45.00 for your fees.

Members: If you are an Annual Paying Member, you are delinquent as of Dec. 31, 2018 and are given a 30-day grace period which ends Jan. 31, 2019.

Please try and make a note on your calendar for this year (2019) to have your dues in before Dec 31, 2019 if you are an Annual Member.

**Chapter XV
Special Forces Association
PO Box 33782
San Antonio, TX
78265-3782**

**Membership Renewal Form
(Not for use by new members)**

Dues pay period is from 1 October through 31 January. Any annual members who have not paid their dues by the grace period will be placed in an Inactive roster and will be removed from the mailing list.

I, _____ (Print Last Name, First Name, MI) _____ (Membership Number) hereby apply for renewal of my membership in Chapter _____ of the Special Forces Association and submit the following information:

CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING BOXES:

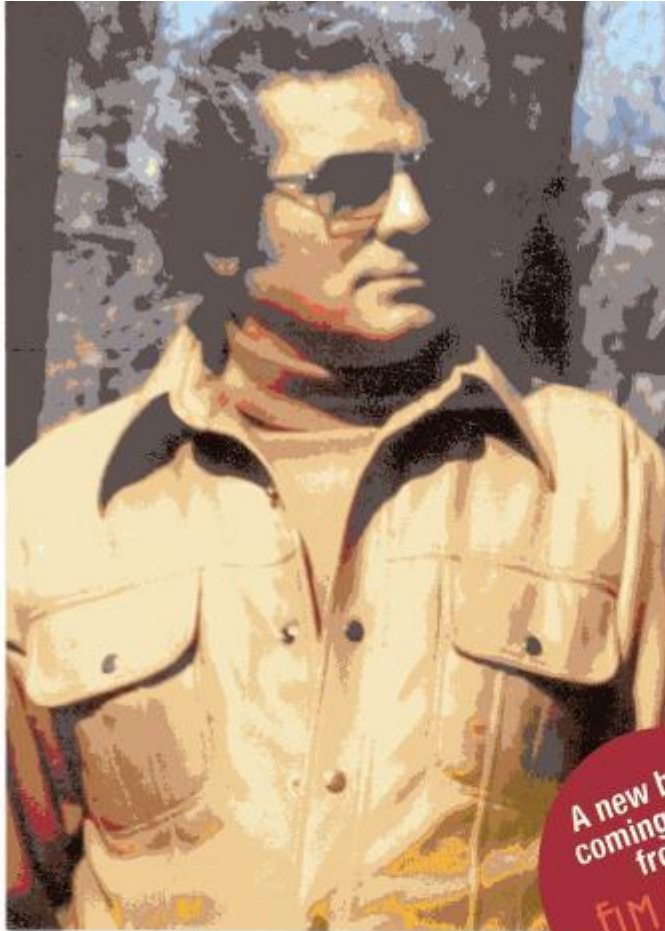
- Annual Dues.** Enclosed is a check or money order for **\$40.00** for a one-year renewal of my membership. Note: Annual renewal is \$40.00 if paid before 30 January of each year.
- Reinstatement.** Enclosed is a check or money order for **\$45.00**, which includes a \$5.00 reinstatement fee along with the \$40.00 annual renewal fee. Note: annual renewals are \$45.00 after 30 January of each year.
- Life Membership.** Enclosed is a check or money order **\$440.00** for a lifetime membership. The \$440.00 fee applies to members in good standing only.
- Reinstatement & Life Membership.** Enclosed is a check or money order **\$475.00** for reinstatement and lifetime membership of which \$440.00 is the life membership fee, \$30.00 is for annual dues and \$5.00 is for reinstatement.
- Life Membership (65 and over). Date of Birth _____.** Enclosed is a check or money order for **\$320.00** for a lifetime membership. The \$320.00 fee applies to members in good standing only.
- Reinstatement & Life Membership (65 and over). Date of Birth _____.** Enclosed is a check or money order for **\$345.00** for reinstatement and a lifetime membership of which \$320.00 is the life membership fee, \$20.00 is for annual dues and \$5.00 is for reinstatement

Current mailing address: _____
Address City State Zip + 4

Home Telephone: (_____) _____ - _____ Work Telephone :(_____) _____ - _____

Email Address: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Retired Rank/Rank at Separation: _____



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MICK J. PRODGER with TUTUC CELLINI

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Born in New York and raised in Italy, Vito "Tutuc" Cellini went from street gangster to soldier to resistance fighter to secret agent – all before he was twenty-one years of age.

Drafted into the fascist Italian army against his will and sent to the front line, he deserted and joined Tito's Yugoslavian Partisans fighting the Nazis, returning to Italy to join the Allies amid one of the biggest cover-ups of the European war.

He ended the war working covertly with the American OSS (forerunner of the CIA) hunting down criminals and undesirables.

Sailing home to New York in 1948 with a forged Italian passport and just 12 cents in his pocket, he was arrested at Ellis Island. Since then, Cellini's inventiveness, reputation and irrepressible sense of adventure have taken him all over the world, often putting his life in great peril.

Respected by the New York Mafia, Cellini later negotiated with some of the most feared organized crime syndicates in Italy. Nicaragua's President Somoza sought his advice on guerilla warfare and weapons tactics, and while in Nicaragua he was embroiled in the assassination of a high profile journalist and had

to flee for his life.

Cellini has kept Federal Agents informed of credible plots to assassinate known enemies of the United States. He even served for a short time, albeit inadvertently, as bodyguard for a notorious drug lord in Mexico.

He has never been afraid of taking the law into his own hands because, he says, sometimes that is the only way to survive.

His inventions, including the *Cellini Muzzle Brake*, have earned him 19 patents and the undying respect and gratitude of members of the U.S. Special Forces and Law Enforcement. He has been privileged to count some of America's most revered and decorated military heroes among his closest friends.

Cellini is, more than anything, a patriot; a man who puts honor above all. And while some of his adventures make fictional spies and secret agents pale by comparison, unlike his fictitious counterparts, Cellini always remained faithful to one woman.

Now at the age of 94, he finally feels comfortable talking about his life, and he isn't pulling any punches.

The good. The bad. The ugly. The truth.

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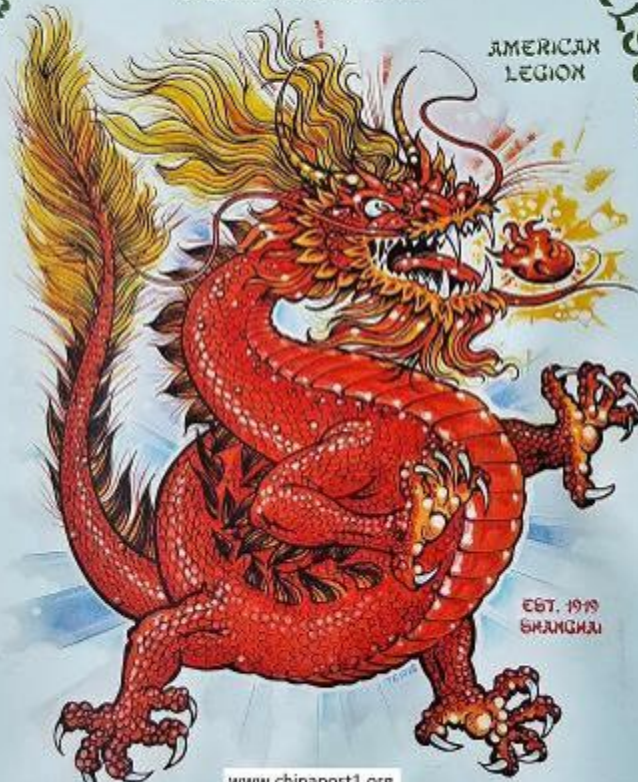
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Terrazas and Associates, Inc.

GREEN BERET CHAPTER XV 2019 CALENDAR

<u>JANUARY</u>	<u>FEBRUARY</u>	<u>MARCH</u>
10 Board Meeting 1400 12 Membership Meeting 31 February Board Meeting	2 Membership Meeting 15 Drop Input Due 26 Ch. XV 42nd anniversary 28 March Board Meeting	2 Membership Meeting 8-10 Cotulla Wild Hog Cookoff 29 Vietnam Veterans Day
<u>APRIL</u>	<u>MAY</u>	<u>JUNE</u>
4 Board Meeting 1400 6 Chapter Memorial Service 0900 6 Membership Meeting 28-5 Ch. XV Cruise/fundraiser TBD JROTC Presentations	2 Board Meeting 1400 NO MEMBERSHIP MEETING 15 Drop Input Due 17-19 Canyon Lake Picnic 27 Memorial Day Serv 0930 TBD - JROTC Presentations 30 June Board Meeting 1400	1 Membership Meeting 14 Flag Day & Army Birthday TBD JROTC Presentations
<u>JULY</u>	<u>AUGUST</u>	<u>SEPTEMBER</u>
4 Independence Day 11 Board Meeting 1400 13 Membership Meeting	1 Board Meeting 1400 3 Membership Meeting 13-18 SFA National Convention 15 Drop Input Due	5 Board Meeting 1400 7 Membership Meeting 20 POW/MIA Day TBD Scholarship Applications Due
<u>OCTOBER</u>	<u>NOVEMBER</u>	<u>DECEMBER</u>
3 Board Meeting 1400 5 Membership Meeting 31 November Board meeting	2 Membership Meeting Officer Elections 11 Veterans Day Ceremony 1000 15 Drop Input Due	5 Board Meeting 1400 7 Pearl Harbor Day NO MEMBERSHIP MEETING 14 Christmas Banquet
<p>All Chapter Meetings, unless announced otherwise, will be held at VFW Post 8541. Membership Meetings begin at 1300 hrs on the first Saturday of the month (unless otherwise noted in the calendar.) A lunch meal will be served from 1200 to 1300 hrs prior to each Membership Meeting. Board Meetings will be held the Thursday prior to the Membership Meeting at 1400 hours unless announced otherwise.</p>		

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

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



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

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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



Calendar of Significant Special Forces Events

13-18 AUG 2019 SFA International Convention, Charleston, WV.
Charleston Marriott Town Center
POC Kevin Harry, divemedic@yahoo.com.

16-21 SEPT 2019 5th Special Forces Group Reunion, Clarksville, TN
Country Inn & Suites
POC: www.sfa38.org

13-17 OCT 2019 1st Special Forces Group Reunion, Las Vegas, NV.
The Plaza Hotel & Casino
POC Phil Grounds, steppingwild@gmail.com

Thanks to Ben Scott for photos in this issue.

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.

The Editors



“Carry on!”