



GREEN BERET CHAPTER XV

The Alamo Chapter

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

Issue # 10-16

December 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: Jose Campos
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

Dec. 1 — December Board meeting
1400—VFW Post 8541, 2222 Austin Hwy.

NO MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Dec. 10 — Chapter Christmas Banquet
El Tropicano Hotel

1400 Hospitality Room

1700 Cocktails

1830 Dinner & program

2000 - 2300 Live Music & Dancing



DON'T FORGET

- **Annual dues (\$40)** are due. Please mail check to SFA Chapter XV, P.O. Box 33782, San Antonio, TX 78265-3782

Merry Christmas! Happy New Year!



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

President Sends:

I hope everyone is well and doing fine. Our Christmas Banquet is on track and will happen on December 10th. I had a meeting with Yvette at the hotel this last week and all is good. I owe her the final numbers by the 7th of December. There are still a couple tickets left, so if you need one let me know immediately. I appreciate the assistance from some of the members getting this set up. I look forward to seeing everyone there and having a good time.

I want to remind everyone we are still having the board meeting on Thursday the 1st of December at 1400 hrs. I also want to apologize for not getting an email out for our last board meeting. I truly try to stay on top of things, but we all know life gets in the way at times. We have a great chapter and I appreciate the support and will work on not dropping the ball too many times in the future. Unlike my Eagles who always drop the ball. HAHA

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving and enjoyed their time with family. After the first of the year we will prepare for Cotulla and other upcoming events. We are still selling Rifle donation tickets and hope to have all 500 gone as soon as possible.

I want to congratulate Natalie Rae, granddaughter of Jose Campos, and Brendan Hopgood, grandson of Dan Hopgood, for being selected as recipients of the 2016 Scholarships from our chapter. It is a great thing our chapter does by providing these scholarships.

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, November 2016

The finance committee presented a proposed 2017 budget to the Membership at our November meeting, which was voted and passed. The budget is used by the board of officers as a roadmap for supporting our charities and sets spending limits for Chapter functions.

Revenue for November looks good on paper, but most of the income is already spent. Christmas Banquet ticket sales cover the cost of food, and the Chapter covers incidentals such as the band and bartenders. Thanks to Laura Brown for donating the fruit and veggie trays for our Hospitality Room snacks.

Expenses for November include \$750 to cover the Chapter charities for 2016.

Eight more members are needed to donate \$150 each to cover the cost of the noon meal for our monthly meetings next year. The treasurer accepts cash, checks and credit cards.

Bill Smith and I shared the cost of an AR-15 that was donated for the Dick's Last Resort Silent Auction, and we've donated it back to the Chapter. Five hundred tickets have been printed and are \$10 each for a chance to win the rifle. The winning ticket will be drawn when all 500 tickets are sold, or at the annual Jack Hogue Picnic in May.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and safe travels.

Buddy Gee
Chapter XV Treasurer

Chapter XV Meeting Minutes

Chapter Meeting Date: 5 November 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.

Ivan Davis (SFA Ch 47 member out of Oregon & Vietnam veteran)

Charles Poole (former SF)

Laura Brown RN talked about Gentiva Hospice Care services and the need for power of attorneys.

Members Sick or In Distress:

Gen Valenzuela's mother is sick

Gen Trombitas's mother fell and broke a few ribs and is recovering

Bobby Walker's brother is sick

Sue Miller's mother passed away; she was 107 yrs old

OLD BUSINESS:

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

Membership Report: presented by **Bill Smith**, 200 current members. Annual dues are now due and can be paid through 31 Dec 2016.

Veterans Affairs: **JR Garza** was absent due to foot surgery.

Christmas Banquet: Tickets on sale now for \$50.00

per person and \$99.00 per night at El Tropicano Hotel, 10 Dec 2016.

Scholarships: Pat Connolly reported that there are two scholarship applicants as of now.

JROTC: Jose Campos will head the JROTC awards program.

NEW BUSINESS:

a. **SFA Ch XV Combat Skills Motorcycle Ride: Gordon Lee**, we had 24 people attend; great support from the Blue Knights & Special Forces Brotherhood Motorcycle Club. We have sponsors looking at supporting us for next year.

b. **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.

c. **Veteran's Day Ceremony:** Fort Sam Cemetery at 9am.

d. **Cotulla Hog Cook-off: Mike Brown**, we are looking at the first or second weekend of March 2017.

e. **Recognitions: Marti Scott** was recognized as an honorary member at the SOAR Convention in Las Vegas.

f. **Open discussion: SFA National** has been flooded out and needs assistance. We are looking at ways to help.

Meeting Adjourned

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



NOVEMBER MEETING: (Left to right) Guest speaker Laura Brown; Jose Campos with Henry Jimenez; Art Medina with Jeff Dahlby.

Army-Notre Dame Tailgate Party

November 12, 2016



Above: Gang of SFers from Chapter XV meet outside the Alamodome for a lively tailgate party before the Army-Notre Dame game. Also attending was "The Chief," Army deuce-and-a-half owned by Mike Maloy and Bill Beall. Below, Bill Beall and Raul de la Garza give the keg a workout, while West Point cadets stop to chat with Mike Brown (left), David Marshall and George Davila.



Tailgate party



THE PARTY WAS GREAT (The Game, not so much)

1) Shotgun! Army experts demonstrate the fastest way to down a beer. 2) Plenty of delicious burgers cooked by Michael Terry. 3) George Davila toasts Tom Grogan, the lone "Irish" fan who came to the party. 4) Patriotic scene at the tailgate 5) Brent Davis, host and organizer of the party, gets a hand from his dad Ivan Davis, who was visiting from Oregon.



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>1 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



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This is a quarter-page ad (vertical)

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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
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2/2/18

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



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DECIDE TODAY
WILL BE WHAT
PROVIDES FOR
TOMORROW



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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>

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- **Annual dues members, please remember to renew your membership not later than Jan. 31, 2017. Mail check for \$40 to SFA Chapter XV, P.O. Box 33782, San Antonio, TX 78265-3782. Any questions about annual dues or life membership should be directed to Membership Secretary Marsha Scott.**

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!"