

THE SPECIAL FORCES ASSOCIATION  
CHAPTER XX  
THE KENNETH WORTHLEY MEMORIAL CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

## *The "20/20" Flash*

President: Rick Pieper  
president@sfaxx.org  
Vice President: Jeff Arnold  
(952) 920-0549; vpresident@sfaxx.org

**February 2009**

425 3rd Street West  
Winthrop, MN 55396

Secretary/Editor: Dan Kaiser  
(507) 647-3526; secretary@sfaxx.org  
Treasurer: Matt Mittlyng  
treasurer@sfaxx.org

**An understated email from December 8<sup>th</sup>**, from Tim Kirk: My son Leon made his first two jumps today at Ft Benning. I am very proud of him! (Editorially: Come on! Can't you just imagine how proud Tim is?)

**New Members:** We have added **Dennis Strassburg** to the Chapter roster. Dennis lives near the very southwest corner of Minnesota and he was an SFA member before he got a hold of us. And that is all I know about him right now. As we find out more, we will pass it along.

**Laurie Johnson** sent info on **George Webb**. Laurie was traveling somewhere and she started talking to George, who, it turns out has a date with the Special Forces Assessment and Selection Course, or he has been through that, and he is continueing his training.

Congratulations are in order either way and we have added him to our email list.

**Dan Thorsen** sent word on **Don Weed**. Dan's son Ryan worked for a guy who is friends with Don, and Dan met Don at a Christmas Party.

Don Weed, who is married to JoAnne, was with the 82<sup>nd</sup> in the early 50's, and remembers 77th Group. Dan passed Don's info to the 173rd, and he's very interested in becoming involved with both groups.

Gentlemen, Welcome to the Chapter.

**The Next Chapter Business Meeting:**

The next business meeting is at the

## **Glockenspiel Restaurant Tues, Feb 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2008.**

The Meeting starts at **7:00 pm**.

Some folks show up early for dinner, about 6:15. Some folks show up early and

socialize until the meeting. Some folks just come to the meeting. Anyway you can make it, we would love to see you there. (And you don't have to be a Chapter member to attend the meeting.)

See the box on the next page for agenda items.

**Upcoming Events/**

**Activities: The Corrigedor Dinner, sponsored by Chapter 15 of the 173<sup>rd</sup> or by the**

### **The Corrigedor Dinner**

**February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2009**

Fort Snelling Officers Club

Social Hour is 6 pm, Dinner is 7 pm

Meal 1: Prime Rib

Meal 2: Roasted Stuffed Chicken Breast

Meal 3: Parmesan Walleye

All meals include Rice or Potatoes, Vegetables, Freshly Baked Rolls with Butter, Dessert, and Coffee or Tea.

**Cost is \$34.00 a person**

**RSVP by February 14<sup>th</sup>**

to Trudell, in the evening please, at (h) 651-455-3787 or (cell) 651-329-8360

Midwest All Airborne Alliance. See the inset box on pg 1.

### World War II History Round Table.

The Round Table meets in the Historic Fort Snelling Visitor Center at 7pm.

On February 12<sup>th</sup> they will be talking about the OSS, from which Special Forces draws part of its lineage.

Doug Bekke says get there early if you want a seat, the place fills up fast.

Matt Mittlyng sent: Just a reminder that the World War II History Round Table has scheduled "The Glider Operations in World War II" featuring Veterans of the Glider Units of 82d and 101st AB Divisions for May 14th, 2009.

And their web page/schedule is at <http://www.mn-ww2roundtable.org/schedule0809.html>

**The May 2<sup>nd</sup> Freefall Blast.** Tricia Hofeld is planning on making her first freefall jump on May 2<sup>nd</sup> in Baldwin, Wisconsin. Tricia said her two brothers will be heading out to it, but I don't remember if they are planning to jump or not. Tricia's cousin might also jump and we had Tricia's friend thinking about it.

John Stepan has become the NCOIC for the operation. (He works at the Drop Zone. We could talk him into to it. You know: the normal find-a-volunteer-and-stick-him-with-work thing.)

John said planning this early will allow us to fill the plane up with "our" group, but he has to get names together soon. If you are interested in making a tandem freefall jump, give John a call. (612-308-5723)

If you have kids who are at least 18 years old (and they like roller coasters, etc.)

you can get them in on this too. Just let John know.

We are also planning on making a social event out of it, for people who don't want to jump. John will be working this plan. We will get you more information as the time draws nearer. (And if no one gives us more information, we might just start making it up.)

**The Two Harbors Heritage Days parade** is supposed to be the Saturday following the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. So, I presume the Parade will be Saturday, July 11<sup>th</sup>.

## Meeting Agenda Items

- Upcoming events
- Find someone to start gathering military-historical information on Kenneth Worthley
- Karin tribesmen in the Twin Cities (see the note from Chaplain Morris in this Newsletter),
- Ron Reule's email about the Jon Krancich Memorial Ride
- and information from SFA National Headquarters.

(They sent a copy of the SFA Strategic Plan to the Chapter. I will have copies, as handouts, at the Chapter Meeting. You can find a little more information on the Plan later in this Newsletter, page 5, like how to get to a copy.)

Mark your calendars and start planning your summer. Hotels in the area are:

The Americinn of Two Harbors,	218-834-3000
Country Inn of TH	834-5557
Superior Shores	834 5671
Voyageur Motel	834 3644
or Viking Motel	834-2645

Make your reservations early.

**The 1<sup>st</sup> Special Forces Group Reunion** will be June 16<sup>th</sup> to the 29<sup>th</sup>, hosted by Chapter IX in El Paso, Texas. I will be looking for a POC, but you probably won't see it until February.

### After Action Reviews:

**A Follow Up** from the last Newsletter/Meeting minutes: Keith Worthley emailed me and he is already checking on what we might need for info on his brother for the back of next years Christmas meeting. Thanks Keith.

### **The Chapter January Business Meeting:**

The Meeting was called to order at 7 pm on January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Present at the meeting were:

Jeff Arnold  
 Matt Mitlyng  
 Oly Olson  
 John Roy  
 John Stepan  
 Art Videen  
 Tricia Hofeld, her cousin and a friend were also at the meeting, but I forgot to write down their names.

Ed made a motion to accept the October Meeting Minutes, as published in the January Chapter Newsletter. Seconded by John M. and Carried.

John S. made a motion to accept the December Meeting Minutes, as published in the January Chapter Newsletter. Seconded by Jeff and Carried.

Someone made a motion to accept the Financial report, as given by Matt. Someone else seconded the motion and it was carried.

Trudell Discussed the Corrigan Dinner. See the inset box on page one.

As information for Trudell, someone mentioned that they did not like the way the O'Club served the dinners at the Christmas Dinner. They pointed out that all of the chicken meals were served first, then all of the fish, then all of beef. Folks who were served first felt politely obligated to wait until everyone was served before they started to eat.

Lots of folks at the meeting seconded this observation. Trudell took note and said he would work with the O'Club on serving at their dinner.

We talked about Tricia's upcoming first Freefall jump. See the info on the 2<sup>nd</sup> page.

We talked about Two Harbors. I promised to put hotel phone numbers in the Newsletter so folks can start making those reservations.

Trudell noted that the All Airborne activities are on the 9 August this year.

Reservations for Christmas are made for December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

Dan Kaiser asked for a volunteer to represent the Chapter at the Midwest All

Airborne Alliance meetings on the third Thursday of the month. No one volunteered.

Dan mentioned that we are still missing the Chapter Banner.

Someone mentioned the Chapter flowers for Ted Johnson's Funeral. Ed Komac said he ordered the flowers and that he was not worried about being reimbursed. (I had the impression that Ed felt it was a small thing to do for a great friend.)

Ed Komac asked about Chapter elections. Dan said we should probably have elections, because he couldn't remember how long it has been since we've had elections.

In a flurry of voices, many people tried to volunteer others to become the Chapter President. Those folks who were volunteered quickly made it clear that they did not want to be the President. A poor paraphrasing would be to imply that the volunteered folks said that they would not serve as the President.

It quickly became apparent that no one wanted to serve as the next Chapter President.

Someone mentioned that since Rick got that traveling construction job he hasn't made a meeting in a long time.

Dan pointed out that at the last elections we sat in muted silence for about 3 minutes before Rick Pieper finally said he would serve. Another poor paraphrase: 'But how effective can Rick be when he is not here?'

Several of us pointed out that Rick is only a phone call away and that he is as active as possible and he is doing the job.

The conclusion to the discussion amounted to: we can have, and should have, elections, soon. We probably should find someone willing to serve in the job before we get too carried away.

[In a conversation after the meeting it occurred to me why I really do like Rick as the Chapter President. Presidents have to be visionaries. They have to have some plan, goal, or idea for the organization, stated or unstated.

[I am not a visionary. The guy I was talking to guffawed and said that he was no visionary. Rick is, whether he admits or not. And he has good ideas. Regardless of his job location, he still does have those goals and plans, and he works on.

[Heck, every three or four meetings, he gets into town, grabs stuff to work on, and a few days later, heads out of town. They guy travels half way across the country, his truck breaks down in places like Iowa, and he keeps working on Chapter stuff. And my biggest problem with getting a hold of Rick is remembering where I put his goldarn phone number.

[When we have elections, I hope we can find anyone else who is willing to serve in the position. If we can't I will ask Rick to serve again.

[No one is homesteading in any Chapter officer position. Each of us will give their jobs up at the drop of a hat. (Some of us are waiting for anyone else to step forward.)]

Now, back to the meeting, Dan mentioned that he did receive the SF Command DVD on "Why We Fight Now," but he had forgotten it at home. He promised to bring it to the next meeting.

Tricia mentioned that she has the Chapter phone tree filled in and will bring it to the next meeting. If want to be on phone tree, for short notice call outs and activities, get a hold of Tricia Hofeld at Cell # 612-807-6281 or at t\_hofeld@hotmail.com

She then said some very kind words to express her, and her family's appreciation, for everyone who was able to attend Ted Johnson's Funeral. She said the family was grateful and touched by the SFA and Midwest All Airborne folks who were able to attend and help.

John Murphy asked for the floor to talk about a little project he has been working on down in Florida, his winter 'local.' Dunedin, Florida, (at least that is how I think you spell it; Dunedin, not Florida) calls itself The 1<sup>st</sup> Purple Heart City. They have a walkway in

their Veterans' Memorial and they are adding a border to the walkway. The border is made of paving stones with service members' names engraved in them. (John had pictures of the paving stones.)

John has bought a paving brick and he is having Kenneth Worthley's name engraved in it. The paving brick should be emplaced by the next meeting and I presume John will send us some pictures.

(That is crappy editorial speak for: John- I have figured out how to put the pictures into the Newsletter, so send me jpg files if you can.)

Jerry Carlson spoke for a few minutes on MIA POW matters.

Folks asked Doug Bekke about the Fort Snelling WWII Roundtable discussions. Doug said come early to get a chair, the place usually goes to standing room only

There being no further business we closed the meeting at 7:51 pm.

**From Ron Reule:** A little history first, we had our first **Jon Krancich Memorial Ride** last year; Jon was killed in Afghanistan by a suicide bomber in Dec of 2006. Jon was a 2nd Battalion Ranger, a Ranger Instructor, SF Weapons NCO, Team Sergeant and if you knew him a good friend and brother.

We decided to spend a week in Spearfish/Sturgis for some good rides, great food, and lots of story time around the campfire. Last year we went the week before Sturgis and it was great, no long lines, but yet we could still experience Sturgis without the crowds.

I will try to be concise in the rest of this email: WHO: Past and present Rangers, SF and friends of those throughout the years, wives and girlfriends are also invited.

WHAT: Rides (Devils Tower, Mount Rushmore, Sturgis, Lead and Deadwood, Hot Springs, Needles, Crazy Horse, etc.) and Campfire get together.

WHERE: Chris' Camp, 701 Christenson Drive, Spearfish SD (1-800-350-2239), the campground has sites for tents or

full hookups for the big rigs, it also has two shower houses, and a pool for after a day of riding.

WHEN: July 25th 2009 through the morning of August 2nd, 2009

WHY: To remember fallen brothers, reconnect with old friends and make new ones.

Sometimes how: You don't have to have a bike, Speedy came last year with his daughter and still was a part of everything we did. You don't have to stay at the campground you can also stay in one of the many hotels within a mile of the campground (Comfort Inn, Holiday Inn.)

Please disseminate this as far and wide as possible, we look forward to seeing old friendly faces and some new ones as well. Take care, Ron Reule, 507-318-9935

**From SFA National HQ's:** Mark Cooper, SFA Treasurer, sent the SFA Strategic Plan and several SFA position letters to the Chapter by email.

Right now, because of the document sizes, I don't plan to include any of the documents with this Newsletter. They may be in later Newsletters, we'll see. I will have copies of all of them at the next Chapter Meeting.

If you want an email copy, just email me (kais0063@umn.edu) and I will send you pdf files of them. You can also go to the SFA website and read the documents there. If you want a copy mailed to you, call me and let me know. (507-647-3526)

The Strategic Plan covers:

Mission Statement,  
Strengths, Opportunities & Weaknesses,  
Milestones (2 Year, 4 Year, 6 Year, and a 10 Year Plans),  
Core Values,  
Business Objectives,  
Key Strategies,  
Major Goals,  
and a Strategic Action Programs.  
(Outline was extracted from a Chapter 54 email.)

**From John Roy:** Fwd: Army unit coming to Eglin, 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne) to have new home west of Duke Field (Eglin Air Force Base, Florida), November 21, Mona Moore, Daily News

EGLIN AFB - The Air Force signed a Record of Decision on Thursday to bring the Army's 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne) to Eglin Air Force Base as part of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure changes.

An area four miles west of Duke Field will be the Army unit's home. The 500-acre area spans from Duck Pond on the west to Gopher Creek on the east.

With easy access to Duke Field for frequent deployments and room for expansion, the locations for the range and base were Eglin's preferred choices.

The 7th Special Forces Group's base will include operations and maintenance facilities, dining area and facilities for munitions storage and loading. The base will have dormitories but will not include family housing.

The range will be a 10-minute drive or 30-minute walk from the base.

Noise also played a factor in the decision. The location is outside Duke and Eglin's 65-decibel average noise level area. That is important because many of the soldiers sleep during the day when air operations at Eglin are at the highest, Kathleen Ferguson, deputy assistant secretary of the Air Force for installations, said Friday during a teleconference with media.

Col. Bruce McClintock, commander of the 96th Air Base Wing, said the Record of Decision for the realignment of the Special Forces Group was the highlight of the day.

"It's just the next step for Eglin to become a premier installation," he said.

Construction of the dorms and compound will start in 2009. The cost will be \$382 million.

The Army will begin moving 2,200 soldiers and 4,600 family members from Fort

Bragg, N.C., to Eglin in late spring.  
Relocations will continue through 2011.

**From Last October**, Chaplain Morris:  
Matt, St Paul/Mpls has a growing population of Karins from Burma. In WW2 they aided Merrill's Mauraders and were true heroes. They have been hunted and hounded by the Burmese government since 1949.

I am wondering if the Association has any interest in helping these people, since they once helped our SOF predecessors.

COL (RET) Kriesel, Association member and SF officer, visited the Karin refugee camps in Thailand, a year ago. I met w/him yesterday to see if he could rally support for the Karins of St Paul/Mpls.

Thoughts? CH (LTC) John Morris

**From the Chapter VX, 173<sup>rd</sup> November Newsletter:** Please check out our new website at: [\\_www.midwestallairborne.com\\_](http://www.midwestallairborne.com)  
Thanks to Ranger Bill Butler for getting the site up and running.

Bud Ollom has moved and his new address and telephone number is:  
8200 Hadley Ave.  
Room 270  
Cottage Grove, MN 55016  
651-768-6172

**From November**, Frank Lopez: Some of you may know Ed York, the secretary of the Viking Chapter of the 82nd. Ed got a Harley last summer and he really got into it. We were talking and decided to start an ALL AIRBORNE Motorcycle Club. We designed a real nice patch for the back of a jacket or vest and gave it to John Anderson to have made.

You all know the great things John does and I expect that to be a real eye catcher. We are going to be doing some advertising, in some of the Motorcycle Dealers and maybe even some of the Motorcycle Magazines, to see how many Paratroopers we can get to join. I would sure appreciate any efforts, in newsletters or just forwarding of this e-mail, that may help us get the word out.

The Club would be open to all AIRBORNE regardless of unit or branch of service. We have already had several people show an interest in joining the group. We will be having a meeting, of potential members, nearer to the spring but we need to get the word out now. Anything you can do to help will help. Anyone that is interested can either e-mail me at [frank82ndabn@hotmail.com](mailto:frank82ndabn@hotmail.com) or they could call me at 763 717 6864 or 612 270 8568 my cell.

The patch has an upper bar that says ALL AIRBORNE MC, in the center is an American flag with Jump Wings super-imposed over the flag and under that will be a rocker that says MINNESOTA. Just in Case we go national (LOL). Thanks for your help.  
Airborne; Then, Now, Forever; Frank

**From Bernie McDonald**, Chapter XXXIII:  
Ladies and Gentlemen, Click on the link below for a very long list of web site on things of the Vietnam war. Take care.  
<http://www.static.cc.gatech.edu/fac/Thomas.Pilsch/Vietnam.html>

**Pentagon 9/11 Memorial Dedication:** Takes about 5 minutes to watch.  
<<http://www.pentagonmemorialphotos.com/>>

**From Matt Mitlyng:** Fwd: Camp Lejeune Toxic Exposure.

The Marine Corps is searching for at least 500,000 people who have visited Camp Lejeune, NC, and could be at risk for health problems due to the drinking water on base. Chemicals from a building used to wash clothes for dry cleaning and de-greasing were found in the water system. More than 80,000 people have registered, which is only a fraction of the veterans and visitors who could be affected. Those who have visited or lived on the base between 1957 and 1987 should register by visiting the Marine Corps' Camp Lejeune Water Study website <https://clnr.hqi.usmc.mil/clsurvey/> or by calling (877) 261-9782.

**Missing Chapter Banner:** I could not find the Chapter banner. The banner is green nylon with yellow letters (Special Forces Association, Chapter XX, with crest), about 3' tall and 6' long. If you have the banner, or you think you know who has it, please give me a call, Dan at 507-647-3526.

**Want Ads:** The Chapter is looking for a volunteer to attend and represent us at the Midwest All Airborne Alliance monthly meetings. The meetings are held at 7 pm on the 3rd Thursday of the month at American Legion Post #435, near the corner of 65<sup>th</sup> & Portland in Richfield.

Fraternal Organizations of Interest, in the Minnesota area:

The **Midwest All Airborne Association** meets at 1900 hrs on the 3rd Thursday of the month at American Legion #435 at 65<sup>th</sup> & Portland, Richfield. Try not to get lost in the bar area, sometimes we have to hold the meetings in a different room depending on legion events. All Airborne personnel are invited to attend these meetings. Airborne All the Way.

**Chapter XV, Society of the 173<sup>rd</sup> Airborne Brigade (Separate)**, meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month at the Hearthside Restaurant, 1641 Rice St. (Rice St. & Larpenteur Ave.)

The **Minnesota Screaming Eagles, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division Association**, Inc, contact is Colin Day, by email at [crd50bmg@hotmail.com](mailto:crd50bmg@hotmail.com), by mail at 465 Diedrich Dr., Carver, MN. 55315; phone is 952 448 4933

The **Viking Chapter of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Abn Div Assoc.** *Travis Dye*, 18876 Barrington Dr, Eden Prairie, MN 55346, (952) 937-8937. Or Frank Lopez, 763 717 6864.

The **187<sup>th</sup> Airborne Regimental Combat Team Association**, Inc. Contact *Secretary Clay Baker*, 3910 Lochview Court, Myrtle Beach, SC 29588-6759, (843) 650-5880, [raksect@aol.com](mailto:raksect@aol.com).

The **511<sup>th</sup> Parachute Infantry Regiment Association**. Contact *Leo Kocher*, 2514 Alexander Court, Richland, WA 99352, [leodonna@owt.com](mailto:leodonna@owt.com). Their quarterly newsletter is Winds Aloft.

The **75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment Association**: Ron Edwards (256) 831-7146, e-mail [rgrock@brevard.net](mailto:rgrock@brevard.net), or [www.75thangers.org](http://www.75thangers.org).