

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

The "20/20" Flash

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The Chapter extends its condolences and sincere sympathy to Jean and Keith Larson and Ben Fenske's family and friends. Jean recently lost her mother and Ben passed on in late June. John Nowlan provided the following obituary on his friend Ben.

Bernard (Ben) Fenske, SGM (Ret) 78, went to his eternal home June 20, 2009 at VA Medical Center in Minneapolis, MN. He was born July 21, 1930. He married Sarah E. Cook on September 2, 1949 in Franklin, KY.

SGM Fenske served 22 years in Special Forces and other airborne units, serving 11 years overseas in Korea, Japan, Germany, and Laos. SGM Fenske served with the 187th Regimental Combat Team (Abn) during the Korean Conflict, the 11th Airborne in Munich, the 10th Group in Bad Tolz, and in Laos, Operation White Star, with the Special Forces. He was an artilleryman prior to joining SF.

During his military career he was an avid sport parachutist, as well as a military parachutist accumulating a total of 350 jumps.

His military awards and decorations include the Master Parachutist Badge, Halo Jump Master Badge, Army Commendation Ribbon, 7 awards of the Good Conduct Medal, Army of Occupation (Japan), National

Defense Service Medal, with Oak Leaf Cluster, Korean Service Medal with 2 Campaign Stars, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, The Korean Presidential Unit Citation, and the United Nations Medal.

Survivors include 3 sons, 2 daughters, 19 Grandchildren and 33 Great Grandchildren.

Memorial services were held Thursday, June 25th at St. Martins Evangelical Lutheran Church 1100-1400, in Winona, MN. Ben chose cremation and was buried at Fort Snelling National Cemetery in Minneapolis, MN Friday, June 26th at 1300.

Some members were able to attend the services in Winona and some of us were able to attend the burial at Fort Snelling. We had guys representing Ben's service units, including the Chapter, the 187th Regimental Combat Team, and the 11th Airborne Division.

After meeting Ben's three sons and two daughter, one of Ben's son used a car CD player to play the Ballad of the Green Berets and then the family went to visit the Airborne Circle.

New Members: Dan Thorsen sent us info on Sergio "Huey" Johnson. Huey is Karen's step brother. He recently retired from the

Two Harbors Heritage Days Parade

Friday evening,
July 12th, for Dinner at
Keith and Jeans.

Saturday, July 11th,
11 o'clock at the corner
of 7th Street and 7th
Avenue.

Marine Corps after 30 years of service. Huey spent most of his career in aviation and retired as an E-9, Master Gunnery Sergeant.

Dan also sent us info on **Ricardo Rivas**. Ricardo is a Sergeant First Class working as a recruiter out of Owatonna. Dan met Ricardo at South Central Community College in Faribault where Dan's daughter Ashley was taking some college assessment tests.

Ricardo was previously assigned to the support battalion of 10th Group, and had spent seven years there. He would like to go back, but he will have to finish this recruiting gig first.

All of **Doug Brown's** work on the Charter website has paid off quite well. The pay off includes several folks contacting the Chapter.

Joe Ryan contacted us back in April and he has attended one Charter Business Meeting at the Glockenspiel. He wanted to be at the skydiving stuff back in May, but his son's birthday (5 years old) was on the same day.

We also heard from **Jim Behr**. Jim is currently in Aruba working for US CBP (Customs and Border Protection) on a two year assignment. Jim said Aruba is a nice place to visit, especially in winter. It has not been a nice place to live (for Americans), at all. Jim and his wife Kim can't wait to get back home, early in 2010, they hope.

Jim was born in Richfield. He lived there most of his life, and he still owns a house there.

The Behr's have four kids, two live in the cities, one son has been an Edina cop (detective) for the last 11 years. Two of the other kids also live fairly close. Between all of the kids, there are 3 grandkids.

Jim has been a member of SFA for couple of years now. He was an SF medic with 10th SF out of Ft Devens and made it over to Bad Tolz - 1972-1975. He was on same 'A' team as our current SFA president, Ron (Beaver) McCan. Jim went through SF

dive qualification, was on a Scuba team, and did the initial testing on whether to add kayaks to our arsenal.

Jim has dived around the world since getting out of the service. He also described himself as one of those nuts who, ever since airborne, couldn't get enough of running and still runs alot. He has done over 100 marathons and 7 of the Ironman triathlons, at one point ranking 5th in the US.

After the service he spent about 20 years in public safety, paramedic, fireman and police, and then flew 5 years commercial with NW Airlink (Saab 340) out of Minneapolis.

He then managed a retail running store, for about 5 years, and then got on with CBP and has been with them for last 6 years.

And, we also heard from **Ron Wilson**. Unfortunately all I know about Ron is that he served with the 5th 7th and 10th SF Groups. Hopefully more info will follow.

We met **Jamie LeClair** at the Ricfield American Legion after Ben Fenske's funeral service. Jamie, part of the Patriot Riders, had been at the Fort Snelling Cemetery honoring some other fallen comrades and we bumped into him at the Legion.

Jamie was with the the Marine Corps Force Recon for thirteen years and he has now been with the Minnesota Army National Guard for seven years. Part of the reason we spotted Jamie was that he was wearing, as part of Patriot Rider vest, the Ranger tab, the Scuba badge, and the Marine Corps Airborne wings.

Now, Jamie was a little bit hesitant about being added to our mailing list. He smiled and said he would take the Newsletter, but he did not know how much he would be able to participate. Between the job, the Patriot Riders, and 16 other fraternal organizations, he did not know if could be very active. (16 is my made up number, not his.)

We told him that we just wanted him on the mailing list, and if he could make any

activities, that would be great. Otherwise, it is not a big deal.

Then we asked him to spread the word to any other Force Recon or Airborne folks that he knows. We are all in this together.

John Nowlan is back on the mailing list. He was one the mailing list before, but life and circumstances caused mailing problems, and now, here we are.

Gentlemen, Welcome to the Chapter,

The Next Chapter Business Meeting:

The next business meeting is at the

Glockenspiel Restaurant Tues, July 7th, 2009.

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.)

Meeting Agenda Items include:

- Discuss Upcoming events
- Reports from Midwest All Airborne Alliance meeting
- Ask for the latest info on the CSOR Prop Blast Mug.
- The Kenneth Worthley bio for the Christmas Dinner program.
- See what else Dan has gotten done on his plans for the Summer Odyssey

Upcoming Events/ Activities:

The Two Harbors Heritage Days Parade is Saturday, July 11th.

Friday evening starts with a barbecue dinner at Keith and Jean's house. Saturday morning we go to the Volunteer Fire Department Pancake Breakfast.

Our rally point for the parade is the tavern at the corner of 7th Street and 7th Avenue. (That is one of the streets with a traffic light.) Link up time is at 12:00 for a 1

pm start time, but some of us will be manning the link up point by 11:00.

One phone number for Keith should be 218-834-4600. (At least that is what you get if you web/google search the phone book.)

The All Airborne Days are Saturday August 9th, 12:00, at the Fort Snelling Contact Club. We will not be dedicating any Monuments in the Airborne Circle this year. We are planning to dedicate one for the 555 Parachute Infantry Regiment over Labor Day Weekend.

The Midwest All Airborne does have to provide a list of guests to the gate at Fort Snelling.

To get on the list, call Al Porter (612-722-7358) or Jerry Huntington (612-866-4204)

If you call Al or Jerry, to get on the list, and then you can't make it, it should not be a problem. You might be able to get in without being on the list, but why take the chance.

After Action Reviews: The Chapter June Business Meeting:

The Meeting was called to order at 7 pm on June 2nd, 2009. Present at the meeting were:

Steve Alfveby	John Murphy
Jeff Arnold	John Stepan
Doug Brown	John Roy
Laurie Johnson	Dawn
Dan Kaiser	Rich Gabatino
Matt Mitlyng	

Steve made a motion to accept the May Meeting Minutes, as published in the June Newsletter. Doug seconded the motion and it carried.

John S. made a motion to accept the Financial Report, as given by Matt. Steve seconded the motion and it was carried.

On the Two Harbors Heritage Days Parade: Everything seemed set for the Parade; flags (from Jack), rifles (since we don't have to them, we are going without), and other odd little parts.

Someone said Jack Running might be able to bring his mechanical mule up to Two Harbors, but Jack was not there to confirm it.

Someone else asked if Dan Thorsen was going to bring his jeep up. We did not know, but I think someone was going to ask him about it.

John Roy made a motion to donate up to \$75.00 for the Jeep hauler and \$40.00 for the Mule hauler, if they can make it up to Two Harbors. Motion was seconded by John S. and carried.

On the Canadian Special Operations Regiment (CSOR) Prop Blast Mug: we still have not gotten word back from the Canadian Postal service on whether they can find the Mug or not. Laurie Johnson said if we can find it by August 15th, she will be at the FSSF Reunion and she will give to the CSOR folks who attend it.

As a fall back to not finding the Mug, John S. made a motion that we authorize Doug Bekke (or some other Chapter member) to spend the necessary funds to prepare another artillery shell as a Prop Blast Mug. Motion was seconded by Steve and carried.

[As a follow up, the Canadian Postal Service has found the Mug. They will be returning it to Rick Pieper, who will then get it to John Roy.]

On the Kenneth Worthley bio for the Christmas Dinner program: Jeff Arnold will turn the info from John Plaster's book into a computer word document. Dan said he would call Ken's brother to see if Ken's DD 214 is available.

[And Tim Kirk made a heck of a find, the information is in the projects section.]

On the summer Odyssey: Dan had nothing new here.

On the Chapter website, <http://www.sfa20.org/>, Doug is looking for stuff to put on the web site. In discussing it, someone mentioned adding the Chapter history. Steve mentioned that he might have a picture of the original Chapter founders. More to follow.

There being no further business, we adjourned the meeting at 7:35 and then we socialized for quite a while.

Websites to visit. A lot of members and friends have been sending in websites and video clips to watch. I have looked at most of these. I couple websites/clips I am sending cold, so I am not sure what you will be getting.

And, if you don't do that computer stuff yet, you can head down to your local library and ask the Librarian to get you started.

For SFA Green Blazers Chuck Jenkins emailed: Good morning. We have had a lot of inquiries about a higher quality, "Made in the USA", wool/poly blend, Special Forces Hunter Green Blazer.

Susan has done a great job coordinating with one of our US based manufacturers to make these available. You can get the 100% Polyester Blazer for \$160, sizes 36-50, and \$175, sizes 52-60. Turn time is generally one week depending on size availability/ stock. We will continue to carry the 100% polyester SF Hunter Green Blazers available for \$99.

These can be ordered online at www.uniformspro.com

For SFA baseball-style hats, This went through about ten email addresses, but it goes back to Larry McMillin. Guys, please go to my web page and look at the Regiment cap. Best Regards, Larry
<http://www.regimental.org>

From Tim Kirk: This is really good. The video gives a new perspective on freedom and democracy. It describes the different forms of government and how countries transition from one form to the another.
<http://www.wimp.com/thegovernment/><<http://www.wimp.com/thegovernment/>>

The Chapter Phone Tree

Get on the Chapter Phone Tree today by calling Tricia Hofeld at
(H) 651-464-1937
(C) 612-807-6281
9323 N. 239th St
Forest Lake, MN 55025
T_Hofeld@hotmail.com

From Jeff Arnold, Fw: the Congressional Medal of Honor. A well produced video showing exceptional Americans. Well worth viewing, enjoy.
<http://www.greatamericans.com/videos/bb4e88dbab/congressional-medal-of-honor-recipients-part-1-from-fantaskey>

From Rick Pieper, forwardibng an email from Bill Chaney, Subject: Harry Truman--war criminal? I think you will like this commentary and reporting. Finally someone with reasonable sense.
http://www.pjtv.com/video/Afterburner_/Jon_Stewart%2C_War_Criminals_%26_The_True_Story_of_the_Atomic_Bombs/1808/

From Bill Snider, Secretary, SFA Chapter 9, forwarding an email from Bill Coombs, Subject: Interesting Video of SF in Vietnam. It is about 51 minutes long. Some of you will recall a lot of this stuff, it brings back memories. Some good and some not so good. Charlton Heston is the narrator.
<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=8372728786235644815>

From Ed Komac: All you ever wanted to know about Vietnam and much more. I hanen't seen a more "comprehensive" compilation of info about Vietnam. The people who put together deserve a huge thanks.
<http://www.cc.gatech.edu/fac/Thomas.Pilsch/Vietnam.html>

From Bill Snider, forwardering an email from Lou Rothenstein, Subject: The Veterans Network - TV of Possible interest. Go to: <http://veteransnetwork.net/home.php> for Vet-related Organizations and shows.

And: Green Berets to meet at Special Forces Symposium
http://www.shadowspear.com/special_operations_news/1290.html

Sent out as a bulk email to the SFA Chapters: Greetings, I would like to invite you

to visit our new website, The American Veteran, www.theamericanveteran.org

The purpose of this site is to have a list of all the different veterans groups in the United States and all their locations.Â If the group has a website we are going to link it to ours.

The site is work in progress, but we have started with the veterans group that you are associated with.Â Once the veterans groups are listed we will start collecting other things of interest for veterans such as monuments and memorials in the different states.

From Rollin Goldsberry: Watch the video at <http://biggeekdaddy.com/miscvideos/Military/Currahee.html>

PROJECTS:

The Kenneth Worthley Bio: Jeff Arnold is the guy working on researching Ken's military history for a biography of Ken.

And Tim Kirk is helping. Tim sent: Hi guys, I hit the jackpot with Bob Garcia, SOG, CCC. As his reply states, he knew Ken through their entire army careers.

They went to basic training together at Ft. Lewis, Washington. From there, they went on to Ft. Gordon, Georgia where Ken went to MP school. From Ft. Gordon, GA they went to Ft. Benning, GA (Jump School) and took a bus together to Ft. Bragg, NC. There, they attended SF Tng Grp together and graduated in Dec '67. Ken was assigned to the 7th SFG and was there until deployed to Vietnam. Ken and Bob Garcia met up in May '68 at CCC FOB 2.

The Summer Odyssey: I have received word from about three people who are interested in getting together; southeast and north central come to mind. I, unfortunately, have not gotten off my butt and picked any dates or locations.

If you can pick a date and location, let me know and I should be able to make it. If you are interested in just getting together,

without being the person who has to pick a date or time, then let me know that you are interested, call at 507-647-3526 or email me at kais0063@umn.edu.

The Jon Krancich Memorial Ride. WHO: Past and present Rangers, SF and friends of those throughout the years, wives, families 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.

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 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

The All Airborne Motorcycle Club, from Frank Lopez. Anyone that is interested can e-mail me at frank82ndabn@hotmail.com or they can call me at 763 717 6864 or 612 270 8568 my cell.

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.

FROM AROUND THE SFA

From Bill Snider, Secretary, SFA Chapter 9, Fwd: In the recent edition of VERITAS MAGAZINE published by the US Army Special Operations Command at Fort Bragg, there is the first part of a two-part article on the Lodge Act soldiers. The Lodge Act allowed 2,500 unmarried foreign national males to join the US Army. More than 100 of these Eastern European males eventually ended up in Special Forces.

One soldier mentioned prominently in

the article is Chapter 54 member, Henryk Szarek. Some of the others that I know and you might know are Julius "The Bear" Reinitzer who is in Chapter 72 in New Hampshire, Paul Ettman, John Anderson and Martin Urich. I met all of them when I was in the 10th SFG in Bad Toelz, Germany. If you can find a copy of VERITAS, I recommend the article to you. There was also an article about the OSS

Operational Groups. The story was about an operation in the Indian Ocean during World War II. Chapter member Ernie Trudeau was in an OSS OG that operated in France.

If you would like to get on the mailing list for VERITAS, send a request to: USASOC

ATTN: AOHS VERITAS
E-2929 Desert Storm Drive,
Fort Bragg, NC 28310

Let them know you were / are in SF.

From Clyde Sincere: Gentlemen, The SOA wishes to invite you to participate in what the SOA considers a super "bargain" at a time when the economy "sucks".

KUTMASTER of Utica, New York, a producer of SOA knives has very recently offered four (4) of its outstanding knife products to the SOA membership and their extended families at a spectacular 65% savings. (See attached "Flyer").

The Jon Krancich Memorial Ride

You do not have to have a motorcycle to fit.

Spearfish SD
Chris' Camp
701 Christenson Drive
(1-800-350-2239)
July 25th to August 2nd

Be there for all of it or just be there for part of it.

If you, or any member of your Chapter wishes to purchase one, or more of these knives, you are more than welcome to do so at the same savings as the SOA is receiving. These knives are:

- a. an outstanding utility knife.
- b. a great gift to a son, or friend.
- c. a super fund raiser for the Chapter Quartermaster when one considers the offered price and the price that the Chapter may elect to offer to its membership.

This is a "limited" one time offer to the SOA and its extended family. Go For It. You interface directly with KUTMASTER.

FYI: the SOA has worked with KUTMASTER for the past four+ (4) years. KUTMASTER has been "super" over the years in supporting a myriad of SOA activities, i.e., The George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Program, The SOA "Operation Brightlight" Program, The SOA Personal Video History Project, The SOA STMP Project, etc.

Additionally, you are invited to visit the Special Operations Association Web Site: www.specialoperations.org

Any query whatsoever, don't hesitate to contact the undersigned. Request you RSVP that you did receive this "Flyer".

Finally, FYI, I'm (my computer) limited in the number of Addressees that will receive any email from me at any given time, but, I'll get to all of you before the end of the day. It just will take more than two or three emails, Thank you. Warmest regards, Clyde C.J. Sincere, Jr., Chairman, SOA Fund Raising Committee

From Chapter 54, Massachusetts: The MSG (R) James C. "Jimmy" Dean Scholarship has been expanded to include grandchildren of active duty and retired soldiers who were/are affiliated with a Special Forces, Civil Affairs or Psychological Operations unit. Information about the scholarship is posted in the January issue of Museum Musings and also on the website at: www.jfkwebstore.com Information is also posted on the SF

Associates website under the JFK Museum page.

And: One of the most interesting sites I have ever seen. Just put your mouse on a city anywhere in the world and the newspaper headlines pop up... Double click and the page gets larger.... <http://www.newseum.org/todaysfrontpages/flash/>

Also, if you look at the European papers, the far left side of Germany will pop up as The Stars & Stripes (European edition, of course). AND, this site changes everyday with the publication of new editions of the paper. Hope you enjoy this..

And: The 10th SFG Old Timer's reunion site is built. You can get total information on the reunion, anniversary ball, and sign up, so check it out. Make your reservations early, there are only 60 rooms at the reunion price.

Go to <http://www.militaryreunionplanners.com/10sfg> for all your information and sign up. All monies are handled by Military Reunion Planners, a company that specializes in military events. The Son Tay Raiders Association and the NAM-POWs have used them in the pass and found their services to be excellent.

On "Wannabe's:" Chuck Jenkins, fwd, Subject: FBI JTTF Assistance Finding Ronald Bryant.

SUBJECT: Ronald Alan Bryant, White male, 6'2", DOB: June 9, 1966, Florida DL B653-721-66-209-0 (Revoked.)

The above subject is posing as a Command Sergeant Major from both 3rd and 7th SF Groups. He has assumed the identity of an active duty SGM with a similar name in 3rd Group. He travels between the Los Angeles area and Fayetteville (Fort Bragg). The subject has appeared around Ft. Stewart, Ft. Benning, Ft. Campbell, San Diego, Miramar Naval Bases, Eglin, MacDill and Los Angeles Air Force Bases.

Subject is a prior service E-4 and 100% DAV. This allows him access to military installations.

In Fayetteville/Spring Lake/Ft Bragg, NC subject has been known to frequent Charlie Mikes, Legends, FUBAR, and the GB Club. He also may have attended SFA functions and activities.

VEHICLE: 1995 White Ford Bronco expired Florida DAV Plates.

If you have information contact:

TFA Michael Hohan

FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force

Charlotte Division, Fayetteville RA

Fayetteville NC

Phone (910) 483-5163

Dir Line (910) 321-2109

michael.hohan@ic.fbi.gov

Locally and unconfirmed: One member, John, sent an email about a questionable character. I will not put the character's name in the Newsletter because of legal issues. If you run across some guy from the Minneapolis area who claims to have been a USMC Sniper assigned to MACVSOG let us know. He says all his missions are still classified. He wears a CIB, with star, and

Jump Wings, also with a combat jump star. John was made aware of this guy from a friend who's trying to find out if this character is legit or not.

Thanks, John

If you have information, or know of this fellow, one way or the other, let me know.

Editorially: For those of you who might have read the Newsletter on the website, or if you get your Newsletter by email, I emailed out a working copy of the Newsletter. It included about six pages of odd-ball information that I am waiting to put in the Newsletter.

Space and cost are the big issues. I normally add some of this odd-ball information to the Newsletters to fill out the Newsletters to four or eight pages. Last month, I just sent the Newsletter out in a hurry.

For you emailed folks, or you folks who read the Newsletter on the website: if you liked some part of that information then let me know and I will cram it in where I can. Dan K.

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 65th & 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 173rd Airborne Brigade (Separate), meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at the Hearthside Restaurant, 1641 Rice St. (Rice St. & Larpenteur Ave.)

The **Minnesota Screaming Eagles, 101st Airborne Division Association**, Inc, contact is Colin Day, by email at crd50bmg@hotmail.com, by mail at 465 Diedrich Dr., Carver, MN. 55315; phone is 952 448 4933

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

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

The **511th Parachute Infantry Regiment Association**. Contact *Leo Kocher*, 2514 Alexander Court, Richland, WA 99352, leodonna@owt.com. Their quarterly newsletter is *Winds Aloft*.

The **75th Ranger Regiment Association**: Ron Edwards (256) 831-7146, e-mail rgrock@brevard.net, or www.75thangers.org.