

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

The "20/20" Flash

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Editorially: I have added "The Projects" section to this newsletter as a way to thin out the "Upcoming Events" section of overly repetitive stuff.

New stuff will appear in the "upcoming events" and it will be covered in detail, like the Community Based Transition Unit Bi-Annual Get Together. Stuff happening before the next newsletter will probably be blasted across the page, in big bold letters. But the stuff carried from newsletter to newsletter will be shifted to the Projects section.

Member Info: In the last Newsletter you might have read about **George**. We added him to our mailing list but we did not know much about him. He sent the following information: Thanks for adding me to the list. A little more info about myself. I am 26yrs old and grew up on a small farm in Central VA. My family still operates a farm there today.

I was commissioned in the infantry in May of 2005, and shortly after attended Infantry Officer Basic, and Ranger School. After completion of both, I was assigned to Ft. Drum NY, and was soon on my way to Iraq (Aug 2006 to Nov 2007).

After 15 months at a patrol base in S.W.

Baghdad, I returned to Ft. Drum. June of 2008 I attended SFAS and was selected for the Special Forces Qualification Course.

Before the SFQC, in July of 2008 I attended the Maneuver Captains Career Course, graduating in Dec of 2008. Currently, I am at Ft. Bragg preparing to begin the Special Forces Qualification Course. I'll be out of the loop for the next 3 months beginning next Monday, so I apologize if I fail to answer your emails.

Respectfully, George

The Next Chapter Business Meeting:

The next business meeting is at the

Glockenspiel Restaurant
Tues, Mar 3rd, 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.)

See the for agenda items.

Meeting Agenda Items

- Upcoming events
- Update on military-historical information on Kenneth Worthley
- 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.)

Upcoming Events/ Activities:

Lunch at the Minnesota Bi-Annual Community Based Warrior Transition Unit Get Together is Sunday, March 15th, starting at 8:30 with soldiers checking in, socializing, coffee—I presume, with the guest speaker starting at 9 am.

Now, here is the low down on the Community Based Warrior Transition Unit, (CBWTU.)

Soldiers who are hurt overseas, and have to leave theater, are sent to Germany. If they are injured bad enough, they are sent back to the US.

They are assigned to a Warrior Transition Unit (WTU) at an active military base and they are helped on their recovery. Once they reach a point in their recovery where they can be put on out patient status, they get assigned to a CBWTU unit.

The Rock Island Arsenal, with cadre and control of the soldiers, is main regional unit that covers this area. The Wounded Warriors are then sent to their respective states and are assigned to armories or recruiting stations as their duty stations.

They live at home and have the support of their families during their recovery. The soldiers' job descriptions are to keep all of their appointments, and to help out, in some fashion, at their duty station.

Right now we have 25 soldiers on CBWTU status in MN, 1 active duty, 6 reserve, and 18 National Guard. Minnesota is leading the way in supporting our heroes. We are the only State to have an event like this.

The Get Together includes different topics and discussions for Minnesota's Wounded Warriors. This year their guest speaker is Dana.

Dana was with 7th SFG(A) and went on to become a member of the US Army Golden Knights Parachute Team. You might remember the two Golden Knights who had a mid-air collision back in the 1980's. One did not survive, the other, Dana, survived but lost both of his legs, at the knee (I think.)

Dana went on to become a motivational speaker, so ... he has been invited to speak at the Get Together.

Somehow, either because John knew him back in 7th Group, or because of John's current job with the Minnesota National Guard, John brought word of the event to the Chapter and we are getting set up to have lunch with the Wounded Warriors and Dana.

Now, it started out innocently enough: an ol' 7th Group guy passing through town, give him an invite to lunch; or dinner; or a few drinks, and see if we can get a group of folks to link up with him.

But there was no good time. Dana speaks to the Wounded Warriors at 9 am, then hangs around to mingle with the soldiers before heading for the airport.

I figured we could treat him to lunch on his way to the airport.

But we did not want to pull him away from the Wounded Warriors too soon, or screw up getting him to the airport too late.

Well how about we bring lunch to him?

Yeah, ... but ... how can we bring food in to him, in a polite, appropriate manner?

What kind of food?

I don't know, how about one of those long sub sandwiches from Subway?

How many people do you think are coming?

I dunno.

Let me check with the boss.

Days later, and about seven different conversations later, we, the Chapter, in some form are invited to hear Dana speak and then we are going to treat Dana and the Wounded Warriors to lunch.

(Which means: John and I are footing the bill for the Subway food, and if the Chapter pays us back, fine. If not, that's okay too. I even talked John into reconning for a Subway shop and ordering the sandwiches.)

Now, to clarify, if you think someone is taking advantage of the Chapter, that just ain't so. There has been a building of

enthusiasm, with an eye on protocol, and trying to work out details, and this is just the final version.

So, you: SF, Airborne, other veterans, family and friends, are invited to

**Minnesota Bi-Annual Get Together
with the Wounded Warriors
on Sunday, March 15th**

The program starts at

8:30,

with Dana speaking at 9 am.

Getting you into hear Dana's presentation is probably going to happen, in some form, but I can't remember those details. Give John Stepan a call at 612-968-3196 and ask if he can get you in.

Between Dana's presentation and lunch, while the Wounded Warriors are in other presentations, we will be cooling our jets out of the way.

Come enjoy lunch with Dana and the Wounded Warriors. Call John at 612-968-3196 and let him know if you can attend.

And while I know that it will be held in the Rose-dale Mall surrounding area, I don't know exactly where. You will be able to find out at the meeting. Or after the meeting (Tues) for can call John or me for directions

The May 2nd Freefall Blast.

Tricia is planning on making her first freefall jump on May 2nd in Baldwin, Wisconsin. Info is in the projects section.

World War II History

Round Table. "The Glider Operations in World War II" featuring veterans of the Glider Units of 82d and 101st

Airborne Divisions is on May 14th. The Round Table meets in the Historic Fort Snelling Visitor Center at 7pm.

Read an AAR on the February Round Table, the OSS, later in this newsletter.

The Two Harbors Heritage Days parade is suppose to be the Saturday following the 4th of July. So, I presume the Parade will be Saturday, July 11th.

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 and info will start appearing in the Projects section. (Of course, it won't get in there until next month.)

The 1st Special Forces Group Reunion will

be June 16th to the 29th, 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:

The Chapter February Business Meeting:

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

Jeff	Oly
Matt	John
John	Art
Doug	Don
Steve	Ed
Ron	Mark
Rich	Doug
Trudell	Olaf
Laurie and Dan	

**A Chapter Website
www.SFA20.org**

Doug has taken the initiative to get a Chapter website up and running.

It looks great to me. Some might argue that there is not much there yet. Well, duh. Doug just got it set up. The first goal was to get it running. We're there. Improvements will be coming.

The "Members Only" section did not work on my computer, but we will be getting that fixed.

Registration Forms for the member's only section will be provided soon. (That means: Doug told me about them but I can't remember where to find them.)

First, Olaf was introduced to the crowd. Olaf is a retired Norwegian officer who moved to

Minnesota sometime after his retirement.
(And we have added him to our mailing list.)

Olaf did a lot of work with SF Groups and the U.S. military, in general, from the 70's to 90's. He described his job, which I can not do justice to here, and regaled us with a few stories. He mentioned that he did work with John (a Chapter member) while in the Norwegian military and he worked with Steve at the Twin City International Airport after his retirement.

Steve invited him to the meeting, as Olaf said, because similar minds tend to group together.

Ed made a motion to accept the January Meeting Minutes, as amended here and published in the February Chapter Newsletter.

The amendment (more official and curt here than in the discussion) was that elections were brought up to meet SFA requirements and in no way reflect in any negative manner on Rick. Rick is a great guy and we love him like a brother. Seconded by John M. and Carried.

Jeff made a motion to accept the Financial Report, as given by Matt. Doug seconded the motion and it was carried.

Trudell Discussed the Corrigedor Dinner.

We talked about Two Harbors. We discussed the missing Chapter Banner. We still have not found it. (It is described later in this Newsletter.) We want everyone to dig through their stuff and look for it. Even if you have never made a Chapter meeting or activity—look through your stuff.

We discussed Ron's email about the Jon Krancich Memorial Ride. It sounds like fun. If you can make it, please do.

Trudell noted that the All Airborne activities are on the 9 August this year. We will dedicate at least one Monument stone on the Airborne Circle in Fort National Cemetery. The Midwest All Airborne Alliance is in the process of deciding which unit to dedicate the stone to.

We discussed the Monument stone for the 555 Parachute Infantry Regiment, the Triple Nickel, of World War II. The Triple Nickel will be having their Reunion in the Twin Cities over Labor Day weekend. Dedication of their Monument stone, All Airborne Days or Labor Day weekend, will be in accordance with their wishes.

Trudell mentioned that the Midwest All Airborne will be collecting donations soon for the stones. Someone recommended that we started asking for donations for the Triple Nickel Memorial Stone. It was decided to use the Chapter Newsletter to ask for the donations. If not in this Newsletter, then in the next (it is a time management thing.) You will start seeing a separate box somewhere in the Newsletter for this fundraising.

If you already want to donate money, you can send your contribution to Matt at the address in the Newsletter masthead. Matt asked that all donations have "555" or something like that written into the memo line on your checks so that he can keep track of what money is what.

Trudell reiterated the need for a Chapter XX representative at the Midwest All Airborne meetings.

Laurie showed her copy of the First Special Service Force Association's publication, the Spearhead, to the crowd. The Spearhead had a great article of their August 2008 Reunion, with lots of pictures, and they thanked everyone who was able to help at the Reunion.

We talked about the Bio of Kenneth Worthley for the Christmas Dinner program. Keith is collecting info from Ken's early years. Jeff said he would start on Ken's military information.

We briefly discussed the Chaplain's email about the World War II Karin Tribesmen from Burma. Matt could not remember anything more about the topic, and since the Chaplain is deploying with the 34th Infantry Division, we decided to table the topic until someone can bring us more information.

Dan Kaiser (that would be me) talked about his plan to go to the four corners of the State during the summer and have lunch with whoever he can link up with, for lunch.

I mentioned that we recently got information on a new member in the very southwest corner of the State. And he lives just miles away from another Chapter member in the same area.

Since I am a teacher, and since I have a mythical “summer off” (it never really happens, it gets filled up with stuff that I can’t do during the school year), I plan to hit different corners of the State and see who I can round up for lunch.

Over the next few months I will be contacting people in different areas of the State to see who is interested in a get-together, when we can do it, and where: a local restaurant, the Legion/VFW, whatever.

If you are already interested, call (507-647-3526) or email (kais0063@umn.edu) and we can start working out details.

And, further, once we get a time and a place ironed out, I intend to let the other Airborne associations know the details. The goal is twofold: make face to face contact with as many Chapter members as possible, and to get as much participation as possible.

Next we talked about the Prop Blast Mug that we are trying to get to the Canadian Special Operations Regiment (CSOR). Rick has shipped it to the CSOR, but as of the meeting, the Canadians had not yet received it.

Rick is going to get a tracer going on the package. We talked about making another one. We figured we could wait until the Post Office tries to track it down.

We discussed having Chapter elections. It has been too long since we have had elections, so we are doing it. Nominations will be accepted at the next meeting. We will hold nominations open until the close of the April Business meeting. You can call me or email with your nominations and I will

present them to the Chapter (asking for seconds to the nominations, if necessary.)

We will publish the slate of nominations in the May Newsletter, along with some form of a mail in ballot. We will then vote at the May Business meeting for the Chapter Elections.

We talked about Tricia’s upcoming first Freerfall jump. See the info in the Projects section.

As covered, and expanded on earlier, we talked about the Community Based Warrior Transition Lunch on March 15th.

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

The Corrigedor Dinner, sponsored by Chapter 15 of the 173rd or by the Midwest All Airborne Alliance, was held on February 21st at the Fort Snelling Officer’s Club.

Ed and Babs, John and Pat, Roger and Berle, Jeff, Art and Dan were able to attend for the Chapter.

I had a great time.

Al is planning to get married in September (or was it October) in Thailand. Now, Al has already proposed and his girlfriend has accepted—it is not like Al is going over to Thailand just to find some girl to marry. (But I figured I better be clear on that point.)

John is trying to get as many people to fly to Thailand, for the wedding, as he can. For the wedding—I figure I better be pretty clear there too.

Art is also planning to make the meeting. Art and I were talking about different things during dinner, including the SFA and the world. At the meeting we may discuss how the second paragraph of the SFA Constitution (promoting SF ideals) affects us, the Chapter, and how we can support it.

And did you know Art has a granddaughter? He, at one point, mentioned trying to relate to his 12 year-old granddaughter and both Jeff and I had to laugh out loud. If you are amazed at some of the things these kids do, then you are not alone.

Trudell did give the floor to Chapter XX for a few items. We mentioned Tricia May 2nd Freefall Jump. Our goal here was trying to get more people to come out, at least for the picnic, if not for the jumping. (Oh, and by the way: Ed mentioned it to Babs, in a joking way, that she should go jump too. And she is going to. The more the merrier.)

We also mentioned the plan, covered in the Chapter Business meeting, about going to different parts of the state through the summer, to link up with other SFA and Airborne folks. The goal being to link up with the folks who have the long drives and they might have trouble making it to any of the activities.

Big Thanks go out to Rollin. He was playing the roll of photographer at the event. He has already sent the pictures to me and I will send them up to Doug for inclusion in the Website Photo Album.

And another, "Oh by the way:" One of the bartenders turned out to be Ranger Glenn's nephew. He has been working at the Club for as long as I can remember and no one told me he is Glenn's nephew. After all of these years; and who knew?

Seriously, who knew? And why didn't you tell the rest of us.

In closing this AAR, let me say, I had a great time. These Airborne and SFA activities are almost always a great time. But; who knew? Seriously, who knew?

World War II History Round Table. Rich, a friend of Matt's, sent out the following information from the February Round Table on the OSS: Another good presentation this month that covered the structure and operations of the OSS mainly focused on Europe. Last year they did a round table on the OSS in Burma - China - India.

The author Patrick O'Donnell gave a talk about his book "The Brenner Assignment", the story of OSS operatives who went in to block the Brenner Pass and sever Axis communications.

There were five OSS veterans at the month's round table who talked about their experiences.

Two were Carpetbaggers, both gunners, who flew night missions in B-24's over occupied Europe dropping "Joes", dropping supplies to resistance groups and Jedburgh teams, and making leaflet drops. Both flew at least 25 missions.

One veteran was a B-17 navigator in the 15th AF who told of his experience on a mission where his crew was tasked to drop a OSS "Joe" into occupied France near Leon. He also shared the story of a mission to bomb Budapest. The target was covered by clouds so his bomb group dropped from 30,000 ft to 13,000 to get below the clouds. During the bomb run they lost their #1 engine to flak. Heading back home they were attacked by a FW-190 and 3 BF-109's; their #3 propeller was hit by cannon fire, so they feathered that engine. The crew shot down the FW-190 and a flight of P-38 escorts showed up to chase the 109's off. They looked at the aircraft when they got on the ground – 300 holes from flak, 30 cannon holes in the aircraft. He flew 50 missions including 9 to the Ploesti oil fields. He considers himself a lucky guy.

The fourth veteran was an aide to Donovan when he came to China and he helped to plan and execute the "Mercy Missions" to liberate the POWs from Japanese camps. The POWs included MG Wainwright, Doolittle fliers, and Bataan Death March survivors. He knew Donovan pretty well and shared several anecdotal stories about him.

The fifth OSS veteran was a radio direction finding expert and he shared his experiences of tracking down axis spies in North Africa and Italy with direction finding equipment.

FROM AROUND THE SFA AND CHAPTER:
From SFA National HQ's: To all Chapter President, reference the Chapter Presidents Meeting.

We are beginning the Process of developing the agenda for the Presidents

meeting. Please provide feedback/input on any issue or subject you would like added to the agenda for the Presidents meeting. Please send issues as you identify them so that we have time to research and prepare an accurate informed response and information.

Each chapter has a voice at the meeting "the Chapter President" or his designated representative. On or before the 1st of June I will ask for confirmation that you will attend; if not, to identify who will be your representative (must be a current member of your Chapter).

Presidents packets will include the agenda, copies of the Articles of Incorporation, Constitution, policies, 2008 financial reports, 2008 tax filing (990) and copies of the 2008 audits for the SFA & MBF and handed out prior to the meeting. Packets for Chapters Presidents who are unable to attend and do not identify a representative will be mailed on return from the convention.

By-Laws Reminder: Chapters with by-laws must review them to comply with any changes to the Articles of Incorporation and SFA Constitution. By-Laws must be forwarded to national for review and approval in accordance with the SFA Constitution. The President has set a 31 March suspense for Chapters with by-laws to complete this action. Chapters are not required to have by-laws.

Philip Neri Nominations: Only one nomination has been received so far and one inquiry. Deadline 28 February. Nominations received after that date cannot be considered. We can award up to 1-gold and 1-gold posthumously; and 2-silver awards. Bronze award nominations are submitted through the SFGs, USASFC(A) and USAJFKSWCS.

Member/Associate of the Year: One nomination received to date.
DE Oppresso Liber, Mel Smith, Secretary

From Dick: Fwd: Friends, one of my bud's sent me this link and it is worth checking out. HBO made a movie about this to be aired on Feb 21. It is the story of a Marine KIA and his journey home to Wyoming. It got me all

tear'ed up, but also proud to be an American, proud to be a Vet.

<http://www.hbo.com/events/takingchance/>

PROJECTS:

The Kenneth Worthley Bio: As noted in the Chapter Business Meeting AAR, Jeff was going to start researching Ken's military history. Keith is checking on what info we might need on his brother for the back of next years Christmas Program.

The May 2nd Freefall Blast. Tricia and Babs are planning on making their first freefall jumps on May 2nd in Baldwin, Wisconsin.

We will be having a BBQ picnic as part of the activities. The place has a pavilion with gas grills and John is coordinating that end of it. I presume it will be one of those bring-something deals but I don't know for sure yet. More details as we get them.

John will be asking for RSVP for the picnic. We don't the info until later, but if you want to let him know now, give him a call at 612-308-5723.

If you want to jump, then you can also John. The tandem jump costs around \$200.00 and if you want the jump videotaped, the will cost another \$100.00. (The video is well worth it, you can ask my daughter.)

We will be putting directions in a later Newsletter.

The Jon Krancich Memorial Ride.

Background: Jon was killed in Afghanistan by a suicide bomber in Dec of 2006. Last year we went to Sturgis, the week before the big Sturgis stuff, and it was great, no long lines, but yet we could still experience Sturgis without the crowds.

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.

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, 507-318-9935

The All Airborne Motorcycle Club, from Frank. 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.

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 65th & 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 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.