

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

# *The "20/20" Flash*

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**February 2014**

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From Jack Running: It is with a heavy heart that I must report that Tom Schepers has passed away. Tom, a Marine, was a regular participant at many Airborne activities and he could be counted on to support our organizations.

Tom was wounded in Vietnam, and was told he would never walk again. Tom recovered from his wounds and was able to give more to his country and his fellow veterans. Tom ran to help raise money for the veteran monuments on the capitol grounds. He ran from the Pacific Ocean to the Atlantic Ocean. He ran from St Paul to the Great Lakes Naval Training Station in Illinois.

Those of us who had the pleasure and honor of knowing Tom will miss him.

### **The Next Chapter Business Meeting:**

The next meeting is at the

## **Glockenspiel Restaurant Tues, Feb 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014.**

The Glockenspiel is near downtown St. Paul, (605 7<sup>th</sup> St W) and the meeting starts at **7:00 pm.** <http://www.glockenspielrestaurant.com/>

We will be talking about All Airborne Dayz coming up this spring or summer, starting a Facebook page, and communications with a local ROTC unit.

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. Come on down.

**After Action Report: The January Business Meeting** was on January 7<sup>th</sup> and started at 7pm. Present were:

Doug Bekke	John Roy
Ron Lachelt	Jack Running
Matt Mitlyng	Dan Kaiser

Matt made a motion to accept the November and December Meeting Minutes as published in the January Newsletter. Doug seconded the motion and it was carried.

Matt gave the Financial Report. John made a motion to accept the Financial Report. Ron seconded the motion and it was carried. Matt noted that he would be working on the Annual Financial Report to SFA National HQ's.

We did a short AAR on the Christmas Dinner, noting particularly the problems with the CD player and how to overcome that problem next year.

We discussed the All Airborne Dayz at the Skydive Twin Cities drop zone in Baldwin, Wisconsin. We identified the need for a "project officer" if the next All Airborne Dayz are going to happen this summer. The important points to handle are contacting and coordinating with the Skydive Twin Cities folks and planning for lunch on the day of the jumping.

Ron asked again for anyone with pictures of any activities to send or email the pictures to him for inclusion in the quarterly SFA magazine, The Drop.

Doug discussed the plans for the Minnesota Military Museum Vietnam Exhibit planned for 2015.

John noted that the Ranger Breakfasts are at the Perkins Restaurant on 84<sup>th</sup> and Lyndale on the first Saturday of the month, starting at 9 am.

There being no other business to discuss, a motion to close was made, seconded and carried.

**Upcoming Activities: The All Airborne Dayz** at the Skydive Twin Cities Drop Zone near Baldwin, Wisconsin. Since the last meeting Ron Lachelt and Dan Thorsen have started talking about the All Airborne Dayz at the Drop Zone, near Baldwin Wisconsin.

They talked about having it on the 3rd weekend in May with the possibility of having a primary date of a Saturday with a back up day on a Sunday.

Dan is going to contact Baldwin to see what plans and dates will work for them.

**A Facebook Page:** Dan T. talk to Ron Lachelt about many of the other chapters having Facebook pages. Dan has used them to find many former teammates and thought that we should set one up also.

**John Plaster** sent a note through the Chapter Website noting that Kenneth Worthley (RT Florida) was mentioned in the Drop (Winter 2013) article on "The Mystery of the Green Beret Murder Affair". The article illustrated a lot of issues between SF and the General Army. This resulted in a number of careers of very talented people ending early.

**From SFA President Jack Tobin:** Gentlemen, 31 January is Roger Donlon's 80th Birthday. The Association has sent a letter recognizing the event. Some would like to take it a little further. Roger's Parkinson's Disease is progressing, so it has been suggested that we flood him with Birthday

Cards. I have mine made out already, so am providing his address to all if anyone wants to join the effort.

COL (R) Roger Donlon  
2101 Wilson Avenue  
Leavenworth, KS 66048

**Also from Jack Tobin**, dated December 30, 2013: Gentlemen, as required by the Constitution I am officially notifying the membership of the intent of the current Board, Jack Tobin, John Dixon, Gary Koenitzer, Jim Blanchard, Glenn Dyke and Nick Panerella to seek reelection. In this letter you will notice that I mention Cliff Newman, he is not running, nor does he need your votes, but he is a critical member of the SFA and his advice and counsel to the Board is invaluable.

I will send out a more definitive letter as to our goals, after the January Board meeting next week, but BLUF (bottom line up front, new term all the rage with current folks),

1. Improve our relationships with the Groups, and Commands, we have made a lot of progress, but we must keep working the issue
2. Continue Chapter support, to include the inclusion of AD troops in our activities, will meet with Regiment and SWC next month and pursue this issue
3. Continue our efforts to keep the SFA financially stable, and to attract more corporate sponsors
4. Continue to improve communications, the DROP is looking good and we need to continue with its improvement, and we need to bring our comms into the 21st Century, more on this later.

Jack

**From SFA HQ's:** Legislation was recently introduced in Congress to award the Office of Strategic Services, the World War II predecessor to the US Special Operations Command, a Congressional Gold Medal (H.R. 3544 and S. 1688). We need two-thirds of the House and Senate,

respectively, as cosponsors to get a vote on both bills.

Please ask your members to contact Congress and ask them support the OSS Congressional Gold Medal Act by using the following website:

<https://www.popvox.com/orgs/osssociety/>

Regards, Charles Pinck, President, The OSS Society, Inc.

7700 Leesburg Pike, #324; Falls Church, VA 22043; 703-356-6667, 703-991-1278 (f)

**Also** from SFA HQ's: We now have 45 and 50 year longevity badges. Unfortunately with the set up fees and costs the price will be \$12.50 plus freight. Please spread the word to our more "seasoned" members.  
Cliff Newman

**Info on 7th SFGA ring:** Mr. Joey Tinklebaugh from Lewis & Co. Jewelers in Crestview created a 7th SFG(A) ring for me. It was something I wanted before I PCS'd. I have already placed him in contact w/ Mrs. Jonalyn Carver and she has put him in contact w/ all the BN Family Readiness Groups. I thought the SFA and the Brotherhood might be interested as well. Please see the attachments to see what the rings look like. The pricing is not final and could be reduced if there is a large interest and lots of orders are placed. Please email Mr. Tinklebaugh at [fjtj@yahoo.com](mailto:fjtj@yahoo.com) if you have any questions.

v/r, MAJ Wes Wilson, 2nd BN 7th SFG(A),  
O: (850)885-2218

**Through SFA National HQs:** From: Stan and Carol Shank.

Subject: SFA Wounded Warrior 2014 Alaska trip information letter, 2014 SFA Alaska Bear Hunt/Fishing Trip Info, SF Wounded Warrior Project

This project is sponsored annually by the SFA and recipients are SF WIA(Green Berets). The trip lasts 18 days and offers a wide variety of events.

The hunt's are donated by Master Guide Wayne Woods in honor of his son Shane Woods who was killed in Iraq in 2006. This

year Rich Mallowney(SFA, SOA and Air America Assoc. member) will host our SF Warriors for the entire event and ensure their travel itineraries are met.. He owns a fishing lodge on the Kenai peninsula. He has donated fishing trips for salmon and halibut, and got numerous donations of money and goods to support this project.

2014 will mark the 5th year SFA has sponsored this event. Each year since its inception Stan Shank D-799 has acted as project officer for this event. It costs approx. \$2100.00 per hunter plus airfare to get these folks to AK and back. So far, transportation has been covered by getting folks to donate frequent flyer miles. The \$2100.00 goes to cover taxidermy fee of \$750.00 per bear skin, \$500.00 to each hunter for baggage fee/meals and \$900.00 hunting and fishing Lic.. Approx \$800-\$900.00 is spent to reimburse Mr Mallowney for fuel expense in moving hunters from one location to another by use of his car or plane.

The SFA Board of Officers (past & present) and I came to an agreement that this project would be funded by individual donations. If donations came up short the Patriot Fund would make up the shortfall. Also an agreement was made that as donations earmarked for this project came in they would be placed in Patriot fund and designated as restricted funds to be used for this project only. I am pleased to say that to date we've been able to raise enough donations each year to cover the costs of this project annually. Each year the excess donations are to be retained in this designated fund and used in the next years project. 100% of all donations go to support this project, there are NO OVERHEAD EXPENSES.

Your consideration of a donation to support this project will be greatly appreciated. Each year we also solicit support of this project by donation of frequent flyer miles to cover air travel. 60,000-70,000 miles on Delta is usually needed per person. Other major airlines also

can be used. Please contact me if you would like to sponsor one of our warriors travel.

Mail donations to----- SFA  
PO Box 41436  
Fayetteville, NC 28309-1436

Make checks payable to SFA and in memo section write AK WIA TRIP.

This will ensure the donation goes in this projects restricted fund account.

TAKING CARE OF OUR OWN

Stan Shank, D-799, c-910-987-1569, Project Officer

carostan@mindspring.com

6011 Woodspring Dr. Hope Mills, NC 28348

**Jim Hovda:** sent an article from the Canadian Legion Magazine. The article was on the "re-introduction" of Canadian Division names, returning to historical names and insignia. The article, two and a half pages of text, included discussing the First Special Service Force, their U.S. Congressional Gold Medal, their history, and current operations through almost one page of the article.

I did go to the Legion Magazine website, legionmagazine.com. I was trying to find a link to the magazine, September/October 2013 issue, or the article in that issue, but I failed miserably. I will bring the article to the next meeting.

**Jim Hovda** sent a Newsletter from his American Legion Post. Extracted from the Post Commander's Section:

One of our hard working members, Jim Hovda, made a suggestion. He took a hard look at organizations that claim to support our retired and active troops. Jim found that the percent of money that the organizations raised for doing work for the troops varied widely. Some organizations gave a lot of what they raised to their work. Some organizations gave a small amount toward their work and a lot of money going to raising funds.

I don't want to give to an ineffective organization. I want most of my money going to support the causes of the organization.

There are various places on the Internet that rate organizations. One is at:

[www.charitynavigator.org](http://www.charitynavigator.org). All of you have causes that should be supported. That led us to the realization that we should publish effective causes and occasionally ineffective causes so that most of our money goes where we want.

We will start off with a favorite of Jim Hovda. He supports The Special Operations Warrior Foundation (SOWF). The SOWF was founded in 1980 to provide support and assistance to the U. S. military's special operations community, which consist Army Special Forces (Green Berets), the Army's 75th Ranger Regiment, the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment, Navy Small Boat Teams, Navy SEALs, Air Force Combat Controllers, Air Force rotary and fixed wing squadrons, and Marine Corps special operations personnel. SOWF's mission includes two major aspects in support of special operations personnel: providing a full college education to the surviving children of those who lose their lives while serving in the U.S. military special operations community, and providing immediate financial assistance and support to ensure that severely wounded personnel are able to have their loved ones at their bedside during recovery.

**Jim Hovda** also sent an email with an AUSA Advisory flyer attached, noting, "An interesting advisory, a good reason to belong to AUSA. They do keep you in the loop on who to write and complain too re our elected officials."

The advisory discussed AUSA efforts to fight the proposed changes to military retirements. The AUSA website is <http://www.ausa.org/Pages/default.aspx> and the flyer had an email header of [Communications@AUSA.ORG](mailto:Communications@AUSA.ORG), which I presume you can use if you want to try and get on some form of the AUSA email list server

