



SPECIAL FORCES ASSOCIATION WASHINGTON AREA



**SFA CHAPTER XI
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September 2008 NEWSLETTER

First Chapter XI Fall Meeting September 26, 2008 Harvest Moon 7260 Arlington Blvd, Falls Church, VA 22042	Chapter XI Planned Activities		
	October Meeting	24	2008
	December Christmas Party	TBD	2008
	January Meeting	30	2009
	February Meeting	27	2009
	March Meeting	27	2009
	April Meeting	17	2009
	April Dinner Dance	25	2009

My efforts will be to keep the chapter on course in achieving them.

One of these goals is increasing chapter membership. This is a goal that requires the efforts of all, not just the chapter officers. I suspect that many chapter members know one or two Special Forces men at work, school, church or other social organizations who are not members of SFA or, if they are members, are not members of Chapter XI. I urge you to invite them to a chapter meeting. The programs, the speakers and, most importantly, the camaraderie, should encourage them to join. While on the subject of speakers, please make any recommendations for future speakers to VP Lynn Mariano.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

My predecessor as chapter president, Al Paddock, established goals for the improvement of the chapter. As these were both excellent and of continuing relevance and value, I see no need to revise or add to them.

Chapter Xi Picnic. On July 26, Charlie and Virginia Norton hosted the annual Chapter XI Pool Party at their home in Mclean Virginia. Forty-seven Chapter members, spouses and guests joined in a most enjoyable outing. All the ingredients were present for a great time:

good food, ample sarsaparilla, most importantly good friends. Even the weather cooperated; producing a very typical, warm, humid Washington DC area summer day -- just right for a dip in the pool. Charlie and Virginia were, as always, superb hosts and a splendid time was had by all. Of course we want to add or special thanks to those chapter members that assisted Charlie in preparation and breakdown. As always there were ample volunteers who chipped in to make this great event.

➤ **Pete Steminski designated by SFA National Member of the Year Runner up.** We are very proud to announce that Pete Steminski was recognized by Special Forces National as runner-up for the SFA Member of the Year Award. "Major" Steminski (USAR) was unable to attend the picnic as he is serving on active duty with HQ CENTCOM. The award, presented by Al Paddock, was received on Pete's behalf by his wife Kerrie and son Michael. (See Picture, page 4)

➤ **SFA recognizes Chapter XI Newsletter** as Special Forces Association "Newsletter of the Year." Due largely to Pete Steminski and Al Paddock's efforts, the Chapter XI newsletter was recognized as SFA's "Best Chapter Newsletter for 2007." Of course the most important point is that Pete and Al, as well as the other contributing Chapter officers and members, made a significant effort to see that the Chapter Members are informed and that was recognized formally by the Special Forces Association. Thanks for a job well done.

➤ **CHAPTER XI Financial Report: *Provided by Chapter Treasurer, John Mohler.***

Chapter Bank Balance:	\$14,494.77
Less funds for SWOF	\$ 953.00
Remaining Operating Funds:	\$13,541.77
2) Contributions since 6/23/08:	
John Schramm:	\$ 75.00

➤ **SICK AND SHUT INS:**

The chapter officers want to reach out to its membership. If you know of anyone that is ill or having difficulty, please let our chaplain, Gene Russell know so that we can contact them and their family.

The Chapter would like to wish the follow members a speedy recovery: Walt Henderson and his wife, Ann are going through some challenges medically and working with the medical staff to resolve. Doug Dillard's wife, Virginia, continues to show improvement following major heart surgery.

Lou Perkins has fully recovered from hip replacement surgery and hoping to sign on with the local sheriff's department.

➤ **CHAPTER NOTES:**

➤ **Pool Party Lost and Found:** The Norton's still have one dark blue windbreaker with George Washington University on the left chest, a glass pyrex dish (which had potato salad in it), and a white bath towel. Please claim them.

➤ **CHAPTER XI WEB SITE.**

<http://www.sfa11.org>. We have a very good web site thanks to the efforts of Greg Fair. We would like to encourage you to access this site from time to time to find out the latest. We intend to use the web site increasingly to post information of interest.

➤ **Additional Web site of interest.** While not in the business of advertising web sites, we have noticed that the following offers worth while VA information that may be of interest http://post_119_gulfport_ms.tripod.com/rao1.html

This site is a site is from **the "RAO Baguio"** "The Baguio Retiree Assistance Office (RAO) is put out by a volunteer group. "It provides a means for Veterans to keep abreast of benefit changes or pending Veteran related legislation." The bulletin provides a wide range of information of interest to veterans. Bulletins are posted on the 1st & 15th of each month. One can

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simply visit or sign up for the bulletins for electronic delivery – no charge

➤ **SPECIAL NOTICE:**

Reminder: Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Donald D. "Don" Blackburn's funeral will be on 5 November 2008, at 1100 at Arlington National Cemetery.

Joseph w. Lagattuta. Although not a Chapter member, we would like to inform you of the passing of Lt. Col. Joseph w. Lagattuta, U. S. Army Ret, (1921 – 2008) on August 9th, 2008. Lt Col Lagattuta was a former member of the OSS. His Memorial service will be held at The Ft. Myer old Post Chapel, Arlington National Cemetery Arlington, Virginia on Thursday, October 30th, 2008 at 8:45.

➤ **CHAPTER XI WAS REPRESENTED AT THE FOLLOWING FUNERALS DURING THIS PERIOD**

- **General (Ret.) Walter T. Kerwin, Jr.** was buried at Arlington National Cemetery on 5 August 2008 with full military honors. Chapter attendees were MG Jack Singlaub, MG & Mrs Vic Hugo, Charlie Norton, and Monika Stoy.
- **Chapter member Paul Agosta** was buried at Arlington National Cemetery on 7 August with full military honors. Chapter attendees were Scot Crerar, Gene Russell, Charlie Norton and Bruce Gerrity.
- **Lee Myers**, a long time 10th SFG Veteran and Chapter XXXIII member died on 23 July and was remembered with a Funeral Mass at Highland Springs, VA on July 28. Art McRae of Chapter XXXIII and Charlie and Virginia Norton attended. Charlie and Virginia Norton delivered the SFA plaque to the family a week later.



From Left. Michael and Kerri Steminski accept SFA Runner Up “Member of the Year”, and the citation for “SFA Best Newsletter of the year on behalf of Major Pete Steminski, USAR, now on active duty with CENTCOM. Presented by Al Paddock (right)

**MAP TO Chapter XI Meeting site: Harvest Moon Restaurant, (courtesy of Google Maps)
Chapter XI Picnic, 1830, 26 Sept 2008**

