

Inside this issue:

- President's Words!
- Pete Knight F-100 wash-day
- CAFA Convention News

**"PETE" KNIGHT
CHAPTER SAYS
"THANKS" TO
IT'S
COMMUNITY
PARTNERS**

BAE SYSTEMS



High Desert Knight's



2008 CAFA State

June 2008

Words From the President

After what seemed a long winter, we welcomed the "Dog Days of Summer". Late evenings and the prominence of star Sirius B (the "Dog Star", in constellation Canis Major, only 2.6 parsecs distant) was not the only body up late at night. Chapter 294 members were immersed in preparations for the upcoming July California Air Force Association (CAFA) Convention at Edwards AFB.

At the 2007 CAFA state convention in Sacramento almost a year earlier, Chapter 294 volunteered to hold the 2008 convention. After the 2001 convention, the Pete Knight Chapter had a significant reputation to uphold. Unlike the single day events that seem to have become the "norm" for CAFA Conventions, the Pete Knight Chapter hosted a 2+ day event in 2001. 294 secured on-base

billeting and hosted a social, a set of tours and two awards ceremonies, one for CAFA and one for the state's military award winners.

The 2008 convention was shaping up to be a much "tougher nuts to crack". The "post 9-11" environment was proving to be a much different beast from 2001. Base security was more problematic, and Edwards AFB was no longer a base with a sole research commitment. America was a war, and the military, contractors and civilians of Edwards AFB were in it "up to their necks". The base security forces had been composed of over 50% reservists as the main forces were "deployed" overseas. The closure of other bases by BRAC had resulted in the arrival of the 46th Marine Air Group helicopter unit at Edwards. Edwards AFB military and civilian engineering members, both men and women were routinely deploying to "the

theater" to support short notice testing and fill critical support positions. The remaining "flat" organizations were pulling heavily on everybody's spare time, and Chapter 294 was no exception. After the loss of Chapter 294 Secretary Ed Lewis in Nov 2007, the Chapter grieved and regrouped. LtCol David Smith volunteered to be the 2008 Convention operations officer and immediately began the high level coordination to get facilities, speakers and tour agendas in place. In May 2008, LtCol Smith was deployed to Baghdad. Chapter 294 persevered and kept up the preparations. As of early July the tours were scheduled and reservations were starting to roll in by mail, phone and fax. Kudos to all the committee members who will pull this event off.

Randy Kelly

Pete Knight Chapter F-100 Monthly Wash

On a cold Saturday morning in March 2008, the Pete Knight Chapter took "possession" of an F-100 fighter in the Joe Davies Airpark in Palmdale. Since that time our small dedicated crew of washers has continued keep up with the monthly up-keep.

Saturday April 5th was the first "recurrent" wash day. Several of our members were busy building houses for "Habitat for Humanity", but enough folks showed up for use to complete the wash. The President had asked the group to complete an "additional

duty", mainly, getting another copy of Rex Moen next to Pete Knight's name on the airplane—but everybody was so busy washing, they forgot to take the picture. (The Editor is therefore shamelessly using a file photo from the first wash as filler. We'll get another picture

of Rex and the Knight name at a later date.) The "group" showed up again (according to our calendar) on Saturday 3 May to sweep, weed, and rake the pad and wash the dust and bird poop from our namesake's Century series fighter. The only problem with the 3 May wash was that our normal defacto



photographer (who shall remain nameless, but is one of the smiling faces in last months "motley crew" photo) forgot to bring his camera. See page 2.



LA County Board
Of Supervisors

The Charles
Wallasch Family



Devonshire
Inn and Motel.
Rosamond CA.



Pete Knight Chapter F-100 Monthly Wash (Continued from Page 1)

(The editor will again shame-
lessly use this Chapter indignity
to advertise for another official
photographer. ;-)

=====

SPIDERMAN WANTED ALIVE by WPK Chapter

Got talent taking pictures, writ-
ing story lines and spinning
webs? Have we got a job for
you! We really really need a
volunteer to feed us pictures
and stories for our newsletter
and website. Call or Email
Randy Kelly if you're inter-
ested.

=====

craft are on indefinite load to
the City of Palmdale.

The Joe Davies Airpark is lo-
cated at the AF Plant 42, 2001
East Ave P., adjacent to Black-
bird Heritage Airpark. (No af-
filiation other than sharing a
bathroom ;-).



please contact our "Crew
Chief", Paul Vitale at 661-
723-7239, or email vita-
lep@yahoo.com.



**2001 E. Ave P.
Palmdale**

--Free Admission--

Fraturdays, Saturdays and Sundays
11 am to 4 pm

Guided Tours can be ar-
ranged at
Phone: (661) 267-5300

The purpose of the Joe Da-
vies Heritage Airpark is to
showcase the various aircraft
that have either been de-
signed, flown, tested, pro-
duced or modified at Palm-
dale's AF Plant 42. The air-
park currently possesses over
14 retired aircraft from the
various services. All the air-

Any and all chapter mem-
bers are urged to volunteer
a little time and effort for
this worthy cause. It's also
a good way to spend some
quality time with fellow AFA
members as we help keep
aviation history alive and
well.. For information on
upcoming work parties



--Free Admission--

EAFB Museum Open
Tuesday – Saturday 9 am.
to 5 pm

Blackbird Airpark Open
Friday – Sunday 10 a.m. to
5 p.m.

2503 E. Ave P. Palmdale

Please contact EAFB Pub-
lic Affairs prior to your visit,
to arrange base access.
Phone: (661) 277-3510

AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION

The Air Force Association is an
independent, non-profit, 501(c)3
civilian organization promoting
public understanding of aerospace
power and the role it plays in
USA National Security.



NASA DRYDEN FLIGHTLINE TOURS

Most Weekdays -- 10:15
By Reservation

Contact NASA Public Affairs to make
arrangements: (661) 276-3449

TIDBITS RETIREE INFORMA- TION?

www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/afretire

VOLUNTEERS DO MAKE ORGANIZATIONS GROW - BE ONE

*If you're not a Pete Knight AFA
Member, call Randy Kelly (hm:
661-256-1616) email: elec-
tricrow@pobox.com*

2008 CAFA State Convention Planning Progress

As we noted in the High Desert Knights last quarter, the 2008 California AFA State Convention is going to be at Edwards AFB on 24, 25 and 26 July. The planning committee has been so totally immersed in getting ready for the Convention we've had little time for much else. Last November, the committee had laid out a "what has to be done by when" schedule for all the major items. Our Ch 294 Deputy for Operations, LtCol David "Jester" Smith and President Randy Kelly had formulated the basic plan and schedule of events by March 2008. Those "unexpected" things that always seem to come up had begun to raise their ugly heads by that time. The first unplanned "gotcha" came in the form of "Jester" suddenly ending up with

a deployment to Baghdad. Jester deployed in mid April and the "hits kept on coming". A sudden surge in AFFTC Reserve office taskings began cutting heavily into "Miss Cindy's" valuable time. Slips to the Global Hawk program began interfering with several of the senior planners (Kevin, Randy) schedules and for a while it looked as if several of us might even be deployed during the convention. Lt Doug Wilson of the 31st TES who had volunteered to help set up a registration database was also in near mortal combat with Global Hawk mission planning and preliminary data correlation. Our treasurer Capt Ryan Marcotte had done such a good job for us and the 418 Flight Test Squadron, he

got himself promoted to a new job as the Executive Officer for the 412th Operations Group Commander—with the resulting 50% workload increase for him. Lt Scott Mihlon who had volunteered to help draft up the initial scripts and programs for the Friday and Saturday night programs ended up with a deployment—with an unknown when will he be back date. By the end of May the committee was on a 2 week meeting schedule. By early June, we had the registration packets built and posted to our Antelopevalleyafa.org website. "Miss Cindy" printed up hard copy registration packets for all the EAFB officials on the "2 letter list", and they had gone into the mail. Now the official PO Box 594 vigil began.

In late May we thought we

were going to be able to rent Air Force buses to carry our folks around—at least that is what the regulations said. We then discovered we would have to set up a Program Introduction Document (PID), just like any test program at Edwards to reimburse the government for the buses as the regulation told us we were going to have to do. We drafted and submitted a PID and began the typical waiting period you have to do anytime you are working with the government.

In the mean time, the Global Hawk test program had finally gotten started. While Kevin was kept busy keeping up with mission plans and data logs, Randy got sent back East for 2 weeks in June to supervise data collection operations there. Somewhere about this time, the 46th Marine Air Group folks who were going to help with the "combat checkin" Jester had planned, informed us that they had a sudden commitment and would not be able to help us. Randy got back from the data analysis deploy-

ment (2 days before the Area 2 meeting) and promptly (along with Kevin and Doug) was suddenly immersed in Global Hawk data analysis and report writing.

About this time, we got a call from the AFFTC Plans and Programs shop who told us there was a problem with the PID. (Silly us, we all assumed that because the regulation told us we had to do reimburse the government for any additional effort they performed, that we actually could do that.) We suddenly discovered that even as an official chartered entity of Edwards AFB, that we weren't an official entity as far as the financial and contracting community was, and couldn't set up an account with which to reimburse the government. (The USAF is NOT the IRS.) So now we had to start looking for private busses to move our folks during the convention.

Whew!! Well as the quarter came to an end,

we had the preliminary schedule done, the registration packets out, and had begun contracting with a private bus company for transportation. As hectic as it seems, we are pretty much "on track" with being ready for the convention in late July. Hope to see you all there.

Member Benefit Magazine Highlights \$50 Cash Back AFA Member Reward on Sprint/Nextel

Whether you are an existing Sprint/Nextel customer or looking to switch to Sprint/Nextel, AFA members get a \$50 Cash Back Reward when you order or renew Sprint/Nextel through the AFA Wireless Center. Visit www.afawireless.com or call a wireless solutions expert at 866-281-0004.

Many Vets May be Missing Out on Special Compensation

Just because an Air Force veteran was not injured storming the beaches at Normandy does not mean he or she may not be entitled to receive combat-related special compensation, or CRSC. Many Air Force veterans may be missing out on hundreds, if not thousands, of dollars every month because they have not applied for the compensation. Go to <http://www.tricare.mil/> for more information.



Domingo's Restaurant, Boron CA.



Antelope Valley Eye Care
Lancaster CA



Ms. Gail Knight

Individual Donors:

- Albert and Cathy Hansen
- Mr. Rex Moen
- Mr. Randy Kelly
- Mojave Desert Bank
- Talbot Associates

"PETE" KNIGHT CHAPTER UPCOMING EVENTS

- 6 May 2008 -- EAFB Honor Guard Banquet, Club Muroc @ 5:30PM
- 27 May 2008 -- WJPK Chapter board meeting, Zuma's Restaurant @ 6:00PM
- 14 June 2008 -- CAFA Area II Meeting, Location TBD
- 24 June 2008 -- WJPK Chapter board meeting, Zuma's Restaurant @ 6:00PM
- 22 July 2008 -- WJPK Chapter board meeting, Location TBD @ 6:00PM
- 24, 25, 26 July 2008 – CAFA State Convention, Lancaster CA/Edwards AFB
- 26 August 2008 -- WJPK Chapter board meeting, Location TBD @ 6:00PM
- 23 Sept 2008 -- WJPK Chapter board meeting, Location TBD @ 6:00PM
- 28 October 2008 -- WJPK Chapter board meeting, Location TBD @ 6:00PM
- October 2008-- Edwards AFB, Air Force Ball/Gala
- 25 Nov 2008 -- WJPK Holiday Party, TBD @ 6:00PM
- TBD Dec 2008 -- Chapter board meeting/holiday party at TBD Restaurant @ 6:30PM

Special Work Note: The Joe Davies Heritage Airpark "Wash Day" is normally the first Saturday of each month.

OTHER ROUTINE STUFF

ZUMA'S CLOSES!

Oh NO! Zuma's restaurant, our favorite meeting haunt for over the last year and a half is going out of business in July. :(According to Mark, our favorite Chef and restauranteer, the problems with the economy translates to lower attendance levels at restaurants as folks try to save money. According to the Mark, the falling number of diners at Zuma's combined with having to replace a lot of kitchen equipment apparently reduced their profit below the line required by the small business administration to get a small business loan. Sadly, that means our monthly dinner meetings at Zuma's will become history next month. Stay tuned for alternate locations for our meetings and dinners.

Fortunately, Mark tells us he has found another job with the aerospace community down in the LA basin. Goodbye Mark and Roselyn—we're really going to miss you

"The Last Word" A gift from beyond?

NEW POST OFFICE BOX

Air Force Association Chapter 294, AKA the Pete Knight Chapter has a new mailing address. After attempting to get P.O. Box 294 (which matches our chapter number) for almost 20 years, we finally managed to get it. Or rather, call it a "gift" from our late chapter secretary Ed Lewis. (What did you say!??)

Here's the story.

After Ms. Cindy sent out all the registration packages with the legacy P.O. Box 594 address, she discovered her key didn't work. The President's key didn't work either, so a trip to the Edwards Post Office revealed the rent had come due and the delinquent letter had been mailed to the official listed POC for the mail box, that was, Ed Lewis. Unfortunately, Ed wasn't in a position to renew the

box, so it expired and they locked us out. Fortunately, the box hadn't been re-rented yet so we were able to recover. Also, on a whim, we asked (again) about the availability of P.O. Box 294, and discovered it was available. So we renewed P.O. Box 594 for 6 months, and rented P.O. Box 294, which will be the new snail-mail home for the chapter. Ed must be sitting on a cloud somewhere laughing at us. Thanks again Ed. We sure miss you.



AFA Mission

- To **advocate** aerospace power and a strong national defense.
- To **support** the United States Air Force and the Air Force family.
- To **promote** aerospace education to the American People.



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