

Inside this issue:

- Vice President's Words
- 2009 Lancaster Veterans Parade
- National Convention Report
- Pete Knight Airplane Wash (sort of)
- 2009 Holiday Party

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

BAE SYSTEMS



Knight's News



15 February 2010

Words From the President

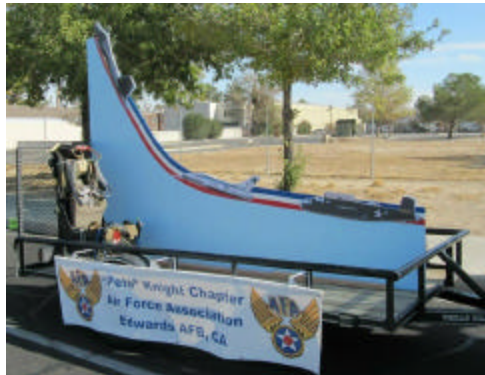
The William J. "Pete" Knight Chapter of the Air Force Association continues to thrive with a great Board of Directors and a supporting membership of over 300 members. A great big thank you to our Community Partners who help with our special projects and help send an important signal to the Air Force that our area cares about the United States Air Force and especially the Edwards Air Force Base and Plant 42.

Thanks to Leigh Kelly for an outstanding Chapter Christmas Dinner. It was the biggest in recent history. MG David Eichhorn, Commander of the Flight Test Center and one of

our strongest supporters honored us with his attendance. We presented several Certificates of Recognition for outstanding service to the following: David Smith as Warrior of the Year, Leigh Kelly for Best-Wingwoman of the Year; Cindy Phillips for Sustained Excellence as Chapter Secretary, Awards Chairman, Youth Education, etc; Ryan Marcott and Conrad Hernandez for Meritorious Service, Paul Vitale as Director of the Year, and Randy Kelly as the Jack of All Trades of the Year. A big thanks to all of those who helped with our entry in the Antelope Valley Veterans Day Parade: Conrad and Ginny

Hernandez, Randy and Leigh Kelly, Paul Vitale, and one of Conrad's Cadets and a Parent from his Jr.AFROTC Unit. Thanks to Paul Vitale for attending the National Convention in D.C. and accepting our "Gold Award". We continue to work hard to support the Air Force Association's Mission of the following:
To educate the public about the critical role of aerospace power in the defense of our nation. To advocate aerospace power and a strong national defense. To support the United States Air Force and the Air Force family and aerospace education.

2009 Lancaster Veterans Parade



The Pete Knight Chapter joined the Lancaster and Palmdale communities to honor Antelope Valley veterans in the 11 November 2009 Veterans parade. The chapter constructed an Air Force heritage themed (who'da thunk;-) float over several days in the week prior to the event. Considering the fact the parade was kicked off with a flyover of a "legacy" P-38 Lighting, and a modern F-

Above: The Pete Knight Chapters "Salute to Historic Air Force Veterans" float from both sides. Below: The "Heritage" Flyover start of the parade.



Story continued on page 3

16 "Viper" (Ed: Only the Air Force "establishment" calls it a Falcon ;-), we all thought we made a pretty good choice of a theme. CH 294 President Rex Moen, Director LtCol David "Jester" Smith and CH VP Randy Kelly were the designated "float riders



LA County Board of Supervisors

The Charles Wallasch Family



Devonshire Inn and Motel, Rosamond CA.



2009AFA Convention (A.K.A. Paul's Excellent Adventure)

Delegates from 48 of the 50 states gathered in Washington DC at the recently opened Gaylord National Resort. The Gaylord is a new venue for the Air Force Association beginning a ten year partnership with the resort. The first day of business for the delegates was taken up with the introduction of candidates for national and regional offices.

Although AFA membership has been on the decline, the quality of the candidates for vacant offices is amazingly high. Members from all aspects of life and occupations have taken up the calling to volunteer for these offices. It is a testimony to our Association that we are blessed with these individuals. After business for the day was adjourned, we returned later in

the evening for the Field Awards and Reception Dinner. During the awards portion of the dinner this writer was privileged to accept our National Gold Award for Community Partners. We on the Board of Directors know that the award really was won by our Chapter president Rex Moen. His tireless effort and ability was
Continued on page 5.



Paul, Rex, and Ryan on the Sabre—Conrad hiding behind the Rhino somewhere, while Randy supervises and takes pictures.

As we noted last month (because the newsletter was late again :-), Pete Knight members showed up in their "washin duds" for the Joe Davies Airpark wash day in October 2009. The November Wash day conflicted with the Veterans day festivities, and the December washday was

Monthly Joe Davies Airpark Wash Day



cancelled due to weather. Joe Davies "washdays" are normally the second Saturday of each month. See our Chapter or the City of Palmdale Website for the washday schedule.



--Free Admission--

EAFB Museum Open Tuesday – Saturday 9 am. to 5 pm Please contact EAFB Public Affairs prior to your visit, to arrange base access. Phone: (661) 277-3510

Blackbird Airpark Open Friday – Sunday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. 2503 E. Ave P. Palmdale

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

===== **SPIDERMAN WANTED ALIVE** by WJPK Chapter Got talent taking pictures, writing story lines and spinning webs? Great!! 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 interested. =====

TIDBITS RETIREE INFORMATION?

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: electricrow@pobox.com

2009 Lancaster Veterans Parade Preparations



What kind of Union job is this?? Paul taping up the "low end" of the float.



Leigh cuts out paper airplanes and makes sure all the edges are nice and square.



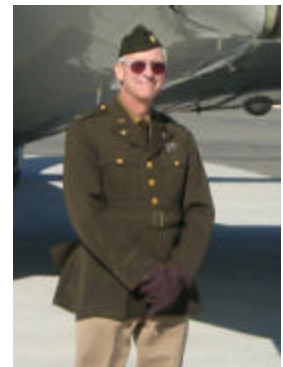
Paul, Conrad and Randy taping the top of the arch.

and wavers" while Conrad Hernandez and Paul Vitale towed the float behind Conrads truck. Like many social endeavors, the parade was EZ—it was all the work behind the scenes that made it such a memorable event.

"Komrade Conrad" proposed the Chapter participate in the parade during the August Board Meeting, and over the next few board meetings, the informal "float committee" developed the "concept" over margaritas at Ramone's Restaurant. (Can you think of a better way to plan an event?) After the "Legacy" theme was decided on, the team "divided to conquer" the task. Conrad and Gennie Hernandez provided the trailer and workspace and lots of hot chocolate. Paul Vitale became the "shop steward" for the labor effort, and Randy and Leigh Kelly volunteered to acquire the lumber, and Randy printed up the aircraft graphics. The week prior to the event everybody bought the "heavy" stuff and started assembling the trailer/sign and the "flight arch" background. The whole team converged at Conrad and Ginnies house the evening before the parade—and a cold evening it was too. Under Leigh's and Ginnie's guidance, Paul, Conrad and Randy mounted (so to speak) the AFA sign rails on the trailer, bolted in the "flight arch" and striped the arch in red white and blue duct tape. (Less messy than paint ;-). While the "trailer team" got all the "rolling stock" put together, Leigh and Ginnie assembled the aircraft graphics and glued them to foam core so we would have semi-rigid graphics to mount of the "flight arch". Hum—cutting out pic-

tures and glueing them together and cutting them out must be the EZ part you say? Not so fast Bubba—that ended up being the hardest part of the job. The "heavy assembly" only took about 3 hours—complete by 10PM that evening, while the graphics stretched on till almost 0300L the morning before the parade. (We forgot to shoot a picture of Conrad sleeping in a chair next to the table.)

Anyway, after a very short night, the team reassembled (0800) in Lancaster, loaded up the ejection seat (part of "Jesters" "fighter pilot" getup) and reported to the "ready line" just North of Lancaster Blvd and 10thWest. Randy showed up in his real WW2 Army Air



Randy in a AAF uniform older than he is. (How discouraging.)

Corps Nav/Observer dress greens. Jester showed up after getting confusing directions from one of the other members, Rex returned from cruising the crowd, then we loaded and paraded. It was a great parade. The organization and everybody but Randy (whom nobody recognized in the AAF uniform got recognized by the reviewing stand. (Good EWOs know how to melt into the background ;-). Hours and hours of work culminated in a brief 15 minute run down the line saluting the veterans, then it was time to tear it all apart—which took significantly less time than putting it together. Guess we'll try again next year!!



"Jester" in a "go fast" suit rubs elbows with 95ABWs Chief Eric Jaren and Capt O'Brien.

2009 Pete Knight Chapter Holiday Social

The Pete Knight Chapter held their 2009 Holiday Social on December 7th at Giovanni's Restaurant in Lancaster. Unlike a previous "previous day that (would) live in infamy", this event was quite memorable for good times. Historically the Holiday Party (entirely paid for by the attendees) have by design been small intimate gatherings, because putting together a big event for 300+ members was a real nightmare. This year we decided to "play it like the big organizations". Specifically, most large volunteer/veterans organizations rarely are able to get more than 10% of their membership to get to an event. So we gritted our teeth, found a venue that could seat 20%, and sent invites to all the members we had email addresses for. Guess what—only about 10% of the membership RSVPed, and we ended up with a nice comfy party for about 30 people, which is more than twice the size of our previous events, but still manageable.

Anyway, Leigh, Randy, Conrad, and Ginnie began the decorations and goodies setup about an hour prior. "Stuff happened" dragging out the setup (as usual), LtC Dave "Jester" Smith, his friend Gail, our newest board member Linda Mitchell and her spouse LtC Brad Mitchell also pitched in to help us meet the deadline. Other than the restaurant



"Jester", Gail, Linda, Ginnie, and another unidentified Chapter member enjoying wine and conversation.



Rex, Leigh, and Gen Eichhorn mixing before the meal.

LtC Mitchell and Laura Jaren enjoying conversation with some of the VIPs and Chapter members.>>



bringing out the wine late (meaning we had lots of wine left over, which a bunch of us recorked and took home) everything else went fine. Chapter President Rex Moen and our impromptu speaker Maj Gen David "Ike" Eichhorn who had gone to the public unveiling of the the Virgin Galactic SpaceShip II, AKA, VSS Enterprise and were expected to be late, even managed to show up on time. (Rex got a real neat jacket and lots of goodies out of the affair, but alas, Gen Eichhorn couldn't get any of the real

"good stuff" because of the ethics rules. Too bad Congress can't obey the same ethics rules they impose on the rest of the nations servants and military.) In the end, everybody had a wonderful time. Soo—all you CH294 chapter members, be sure to make sure we have your current email addresses and keep an eye open for an invitation to next years event.



^^ We even had light music.. Metallica on classical guitar anybody?

Wow look at the neat jacket Rex >> showed up to the party with? Guess what ST fans, the first commercial spacecraft is named "Enterprise". You think maybe Sir Richard Branson is a fan? Ever seen the "Evolution of Man" graphic, how about "Evolution of Private Spacecraft?"



^^ So you think General Officers are serious all the time huh? Maj Gen "Ike" Eichhorn tells a funny story. Rex is unfazed (figures), while past Chapter Secretary and long time AFA Friend Pam Belzil struggles to keep from busting out laughing. (Wish I could remember what was so funny. Do you remember Pam??)

2009AFA Convention (Continued)

the real reason we garnered this award for our Chapter. So, thank you Rex for all you do in getting us nationally known. We are lucky to have you. After the dinner and award ceremony, the local regions convened their local caucuses. Our Far West regional caucus was privileged to have all the candidates visit us. They answered our questions as to their individual qualifications and what plans they hope to bring to their respective offices. We burned the midnight oil (literally to midnight), when the last candidate departed and left us to consider our vote on the following day of business.

On day 2, the Chairman of the Board began business with his report on the state of the AFA. Following that, the VCOB reported on the operation of the Field Councils, an analysis of existing chapter performance, and on AFA's leadership development workshops. As a part of that ongoing effort, the AFA has started a series of video recording of leaders past and present as a way to preserve our history and heritage.

The Treasurers report was good and bad news. As an organization we've had issues with declining dues revenue and a down turned market. The AFA21 implementation, downsizing of the staff and other cost saving measures saved addition funds. Rental space in our office building is up too, bringing more money. The revenue from the Orlando Exposition was up, as well as the Air and Space Conference exhibition hall at the Gaylord selling out.

The Presidents speech opened with a comment on the USC win over Ohio St., drawing immediate hisses from the Ohio delegation. His speech was cut short with the arrival of Congressman Jim Marshall. Cong. Marshall (D) represents the Eighth District of Georgia, and is a member of the Air Force Caucus. He spoke on many issues concerning AF members and families. He also gave

some insights on programs likely to be saved or cut by the present administration. Upon the conclusion of Cong. Marshall's comments, voting for the candidates was commenced.

After lunch, they announced the winning candidates. Among the winners was the leader of the California delegation, and past president of the CAFA Wayne Kaufman who was elected Far West Regional National Director. Congratulations Wayne, good luck in your new position. The business part of the Convention adjourned late Sunday afternoon. A portion of the delegates were taken by buses to an education session at the local Lockheed Martin facility. Mock ups of various aircraft and other systems as well as simulators were available for delegates to put hands on.

The second part of the Convention started Monday morning with the opening of the Air and Space Exposition. The opening ribbon was cut by several Air Force and AFA dignitaries. SECAF Michael Donnelly, CSAF Gen. Norton Schwartz, CMSAF James Roy, and COB Joe Sutter cut the ribbon officially opening the Conference. The exhibition hall was jam packed with everything any aviationophile would find fascinating. It took this writer many hours of wandering to appreciate all of what the hall held. Many items and various swag was taken, hoping that somehow I would get it all through security at Dulles when I headed home.

We gathered at the exposition hall later that evening to have a meet and greet with the 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year. Lockheed Martin provided the drinks and appetizers for the event. After much drink and schmoozing with multi-star gentleman, we were ready for the dinner and entertainment for the guests of honor. I was truly impressed by the level of participation by the Air Force. The AF Honor Guard, the AF

Band, the Singing Sergeants and the AF Brass all participated in an evening celebrating the lives and careers of these 12 amazing individuals.

The conference held many workshops over the three days. The workshops covered a wide variety of topics from AF policy in Africa to outer space. Many experts in various fields of expertise spoke and answered questions for willing and eager throngs of people.

The final day of the Exposition, the AFA held a reception celebrating 62 years of the Air Force, and 63 years of the Association. Once again the AFA poured it's considerable resources to make the evening unforgettable. Many awards were presented during the evening, and a feeling of patriotism was wafting throughout the room. But two awards stood out for this writer, both Lifetime Achievement awards presented to the Doolittle Raiders, and the Tuskegee Airman. The exploits of both groups were shown on two large screens on either side of the room. Representatives from both groups were in attendance to accept the awards and the extended standing ovations of all. The W. Stuart Symington award was given to Sen. Orrin Hatch (R) of Utah for his ongoing support to the Air Force and its members and families.

Any chapter member is eligible to become a California delegate to the convention. If you are interested in becoming a delegate, we urge you to contact us here at this website. Partial expenses are reimbursed by the chapter and CAFA, but are limited to the first 20 delegates.



Paul Vitale in his important meeting clothes :-)



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

- 23 February 2010 -- Chapter Board meeting @ SAIC Rosamond, 6:00 PM
- 7 March 2010 -- Airplane Wash Day @ Joe Davies Airpark, Palmdale, 8:00 AM
- 23 March 2010 -- Chapter Board meeting @ SAIC Rosamond, 6:00 PM
- 2 April 2010 -- Chapter Board meeting @ SAIC Rosamond, 6:00 PM
- 11 April 2010 -- Airplane Wash Day @ Joe Davies Airpark, Palmdale, 8:00 AM

OTHER ROUTINE STUFF

Do you know about the AFA Veteran Benefits Association?

AFA Veteran Benefits Association (AFAVBA) was created as a result of the consolidation of the Air Force Association and the Aerospace Education Foundation to provide benefits to military Veterans and to AFA Members. AFA's programs will continue unchanged, but under the AFA Veteran Benefits Association name. All AFA members are eligible to participate in these AFAVBA Programs. The Life and Accident Insurance Programs, however, require that you meet one of the following requirements:

1. Served or serving in the U.S Military
 2. Spouse or Widow(er) of someone who served or is serving in the U.S. Military
- Ancestor or Lineal Descendent of someone who served or is serving in the U.S. Military. (This means you're the child, grandchild, great grandchild, etc., or the father, mother, grandfather, grandmother, etc. of someone who served or is serving in the U.S. Military. Aunts and

uncles do not qualify.

Other things you can get from AFA:

- Military member and spouse scholarships
- Vacation and rental car discounts
- Discounts on Dell and Apple computers
- Reduced rates on insurance
- Reduced rates on dental, pharmacy, vision and chiropractic services
- No origination fee mortgages and lower closing costs



Who are these guys, and why do they look so happy??

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.

H1N1 Vaccine Available at EAFB

The EAFB Immunization Clinic is now offering the H1N1 vaccine to the Edwards community to include retirees. The Immunization clinic is a walk-in clinic with hours on Monday, Tuesday and Friday, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, from noon to 4:30 p.m., and on Thursday, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Individuals should bring a DOD identification card and any immunization records.

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.

No 2010 EAFB Airshow

Although the 2009 Edwards Airshow, "Flight Test Nation 2009" was a big success, it is a significant drain on base personnel and resources. EAFB currently is not planning another airshow until Fall 2011. For more information, go to the base website: <http://www.edwards.af.mil/>

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.



AFA Chapter 294
P.O. Box 294
Edwards, CA
93524-0294
Phone: 661-400-0203
Fax: 661-256-4882
Email:

webmaster@antelopevalleyafa.org



We're on the Web
www.antelopevalleyafa.org/