



# Special Forces Association

SFC Allen C. Johnson Memorial Chapter – LXXXIX (89)

Northern California • Southwestern Oregon • Northwestern Nevada

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## Fall Newsletter–2009

This Chapter is dedicated and named in honor of Sergeant First Class Allen C. Johnson from Los Molinos, California, his wife, two children and parents. Allen was an SF Medic serving with the 7th Special Forces Group in Afghanistan, when he gave "The Last Full Measure of Devotion" on 23 April 2005. SFC Johnson was awarded the Bronze Star with "V" device for Valor for his heroic actions on that date.

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#### Vice President

Scott Masterson

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Jim Wipf

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Bob Maraviiov

#### Sergeant-at-Arms

Jim Sorensen

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### Chapter President's Column:

TEAM,

Before I get into comments on Chapter activities I want to thank a couple of people for their enormous support of our Chapter and its goals. First Jenny Johnson, who continues to raise money for Allen's Scholarship Program. A Huge Tip of the Beret to her. Next I want to recognize the Professionalism and Patriotic attitude of the Skagen Designs, Ltd Company in Reno Nevada. These folks have sponsored our Special Forces Association Newsletter since last year. The SFA Chapter 89 Newsletter is without a doubt the most outstanding Veteran Newsletter I have ever seen. This is also the point of view of hundreds of other Veterans who have read our Quarterly over the past 9 months and sent their opinions of it back to me. The two Chapter members behind this effort are Jim Wipf and Mark King. Thanks guys for a world class product.

Well we have had a very busy summer and early fall. Our Chapter continues to involve itself in Veterans

Activities and Projects. Bob Maraviiov has arranged for the Shasta County CA Veterans Day Flyover on November 7th. I hope as many Chapter Members and their families as possible will show up for the parade. We are also having a party afterwards at Bob Maraviiov's house. Our SFA Banners have arrived and are they ever beautiful. This will line the outside of the Float we will have in this year's local Veterans Day Parade. We plan to have a short meeting that day and also during the Christmas 19th. We have modified the yearly calendar to accommodate the large number of Chapter members who must travel the high mountain passes East and West of Redding to attend our meetings. The November and December event days will then serve as our new meeting dates. (11-7-09 & 12-19-09)

DE OPPRESSO LIBER

John



Scott Masterson, John Cleckner, Bob Maraviiov, Jack Bowles at the SFC/ROTC Award. (Doris C.)

## Spotlight on Sponsors:

This is a newly instituted column of the Chapter Newsletter. It is intended to appropriately recognize and publicize those sponsors who do so much to make possible and enhance the quality of the Chapter's endeavors. In this inaugural "Spotlight on Sponsors" we take great pleasure and pride in spotlighting Skagen Designs, the Chapter sponsor who has made this "new and improved" Newsletter possible. In addition to the unmatched and invaluable support of Skagen, this Chapter is also very fortunate to have the

talents of Chapter member Mark King, who, along with Skagen, has made this Newsletter what it has become. For those who might not be aware, Mark is a designer for Skagen and it is he who has made all this possible. This initial spotlight on sponsors has been developed by Mark, the individual best qualified to highlight and discuss Skagen. A great big Tip of the Beret and SF Thank You to both Mark and Skagen Designs.



**Charlotte and Henrik Jorst in Skagen, Denmark.**

The founders and owners of Skagen Designs, Ltd., Charlotte and Henrik Jorst, natives of Copenhagen, Denmark emigrated to the United States in 1987 in order to follow their dream of owning and running their own company. They founded Skagen Designs in 1989, originally designing watches from their apartment and storing and distributing product from their garage. The name, Skagen, was inspired by the northern-most town on the Danish Jutland, a quiet picturesque fishing village, long the destination of artists and nature lovers. The often violent—always beautiful—meeting of the two seas, the Kattegat and Skagerak, was the inspiration for the Skagen Designs symbol. The Skagen Designs product lines have always showcased the Danish design principles of simple beauty and exacting function.

In 1993 Skagen Designs outgrew their Long Island home and moved to Lake Tahoe, Nevada where they continued to grow, with the watch line being picked up by Bloomingdales department stores in 1995, followed shortly by other major department chains. In 1997 the company came full circle, opening distributorship agreements in Europe. In 1999 Skagen Designs was named to the Inc. 500 fastest growing small businesses in the United States and in 2000 they won

the prestigious Blue Chip Enterprise Award from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. In 2003 they again outgrew their location and moved to a larger facility in Reno, Nevada and in 2005 they opened their New York Showroom, followed by a flagship store in the village of Skagen, Denmark in 2007 and in Copenhagen, Denmark; Osaka, Japan; and Taipei, Taiwan in 2008 and in Nagoya, Japan in 2009. In 2008 Skagen Designs began selling watches in Kohls department stores under the Grenen Denmark name. In 2009 Skagen Designs celebrates its 20th Anniversary!

With offices in the United States, Hong Kong and Denmark and distributed and sold in over 60 counties today, Skagen Designs has grown exponentially in the last 20 years, yet they have managed to maintain the small, family company feel that has made them so successful. Charlotte and Henrik are personally involved in every aspect of the company and feel it important to give back to the communities that have helped make the company what it is today. Skagen Designs participates each year in many different community sponsorships

through financial donations, product donations, and employee volunteer time. Skagen contributes directly to St. Judes Children's Hospital, the Junior Diabetes Research Foundation, TMCC, the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Awareness Foundation, Boys and Girls Club, for Go Red for Women (an American Heart Association campaign) and the American Lung Association.

Outside of the office, Charlotte embraces her love of everything outdoors, including regular competition at the highest levels (short of the Olympic team) of horse dressage, in addition to owning and running Skagen Stables, a small horse farm located in Reno. A highly competitive tennis player, Henrik now acts as a member of The International Tennis Club of Denmark. Off the court and on the greens, Henrik also pursues his passion for golf. In addition, Henrik is an avid collector of classic cars. With 21 cars currently in his collection, including rare Jaguars, a Porsche, a Ferrari "Dino" and two Cadillacs, Henrik's fascination with mechanics, from timepieces to cars, is apparent.

Skagen Designs—and Charlotte and Henrik Jorst—are proud to be associated with the Special Forces Association and the SFC Allen C. Johnson Memorial Chapter.

## Chapter 89 Activities and events for the last Quarter:

### Jenny Johnson's September Yard Sale:

For a very long period of time around the Labor Day weekend, Jenny conducted a yard sale to help benefit and support Chapter 89 activities. This endeavor was in addition to the very successful yard sale back in April of this year in support of the **SFC Allen C. Johnson Scholarship Fund** program. As you should recall, the April yard sale campaign was an unqualified success that, along with a very generous donation by "VETS", made it possible to award thirteen (13) scholarships at Los Molinos HS in June. **\$2900.00** worth of scholarships. Checks for ten (10) of those 13 scholarships have been provided to those awardees.

The yard sale in late August/early September was an additional effort made by Jenny in support of the Chapter. This was an endeavor which, with the exception of a bit of Chapter help in setting up, was handled solely by Jenny and her good neighbor, Cindy (sp). Jenny, in a selfless example of dedication to the Chapter and generous Chapter support, donated one half of the yard sale proceeds to the Chapter's coffers to be used wherever/whenever it might be useful. In September, a check for **\$417.65**, was presented to the Chapter Treasurer. Thank you... Jenny!!

### September Chapter business meeting:

The September ("back to work") Chapter business meeting was conducted at the **Maraviov Team House** on the 12th of September. Twelve members and guests made the trek to Shasta Lake and took care of business and enjoyed the libations, vittles and fellowship that followed. The Chapter business meeting minutes have been sent earlier (email or 'snail mail") to all Chapter members.



Chapter meeting (Sep-2009) Rear row (l-r) Max H., John C., Gary M., Jack B., Scott M., Jim S. Front row (l-r) Bob M., Matt H., Susan H., Marlie B., Kathy M.



Guess who's the winner ?? Jim Sorensen wasting his time checking for the winning ticket. Gary has won...AGAIN !!



Jack Bowles, Gary Maraviov, Jim Sorensen, and Scott Masterson absolutely captivated at the September meeting.

**Chapter 89 Activities and events for the last Quarter:**



Jim Wipf, Scott Masterson, John Cleckner, COL (R) Roger Donlon (MOH) @the SFA Convention



Wes Fowler, John Cleckner, LTC (R) Jim Duffy at the convention.



John Cleckner presenting a Certificate of Appreciation to SFC Cathy Strudle, Commander, CA NG TM 6. (Doris C.)



Denney Drewery, COL (R) Peterson, Jim Wipf, John Cleckner, Jack Bowles at the SFA Convention.

### Chapter Fund Raiser Raffle

As it has been a long summer and ticket sales have declined noticeably since the campaign began, **Bob Maraviov** asked that I remind all that the Chapter fund raiser is still ongoing. Bob has reported that a number of tickets have been sold; however, there is still plenty of time to get out there and either purchase or sell more.

The raffle drawing will be held after the Veteran's Day Parade at the Maraviov Team House on the 7th of November 2009. Displayed below are the Raffle prizes:

Anyone needing more tickets should contact Bob Maraviov soonest.



Gamo Hunter Extreme. 177 Air Rifle donated by Jenny Johnson.



Custom made quilt beautifully created by Kathy Maraviov.



Tramontia cookware set (8 piece) donated by Scott Masterson.



Winchester Model 94 Commemorative knife donated by Jack Bowles.

### New Chapter T-Shirts:

“Fund Raiser Guru” **Bob** has reported that the Chapter now has a new edition of the Chapter T-Shirt. The new T-Shirt is gray in color and has the Chapter logo on the front of the shirt only. Those interested in

obtaining a new edition of the Chapter T-Shirt as well as supporting the ongoing fund raising efforts may contact either **Bob** or **Scott**. The cost of the new T-shirt is only \$16.00 each.

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### Northern California Veteran’s Cemetery:

It has been reported that the Chapter’s SF Monument at Igo has been upgraded as part of the NCVC’s beautification program. The “annuals” at the Monument base that had been planted and maintained by the individual units responsible for the monuments have been replaced by “perennials”. The change was evidently made in an attempt to standardize the plantings around the monuments throughout the cemetery.

**Bob Maraviov**, the Chapter’s “Jack of all Trades” and Chapter President **John Cleckner’s** “Go To Guy” reports that the NCVC’s Monument Memorial Trail has been determined and grade and route have been flagged.



The Veteran’s Memorial Shasta Lake, CA where Bob spends his spare time when not raking leaves or driving “Kathy’s” new ride.



Kathy Maraviov’s “New Ride”. Which Bob has yet to let her drive?? Who’s car is it??

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### Annual SFA Membership Dues:

It’s that time of the year once again. The 2010 SFA Dues... ARE ...due. Those Chapter members on the annual plan are reminded that dues must be at SFA National NLT 30 January 2010. Chapter members subject to the annual payment of dues are reminded to please submit the dues to Bob rather than submitting directly to SFA National. Bob will then submit one check to National. This makes the chore of record keeping and management of the Chapter dues to National much easier and more efficient for Bob.

SFA National has requested that the Special Forces Association Membership Renewal Form (SFA Form-02) accompany each dues payment. This form is available for download on the SFA website. If you do not have computer access, Bob will fill in the form for you, IF, you will provide the following information: **Full name; Current mailing address; Home telephone; Work telephone; Email address; Date of birth; and retired rank/rank at separation.** If all of the information requested is current as is listed on the Chapter Membership Roster, there is not a need to submit anything except a check in the amount of \$30.00 for the 2010 dues.

**Chapter Business Meeting Date Changes:**

- **October 12th Meeting:**  
As you will already be aware the October meeting was cancelled. Too many members had conflicts preventing attendance. As a quorum obviously would not be possible, the meeting was cancelled.
- **November 14th Meeting:**  
The scheduled meeting on the 14th was cancelled. A short meeting will be conducted after the Veteran’s Day Parade on the 7th of November at the Maraviiov Team House.
- **December 12th Meeting**  
The meeting scheduled for the 12th has been cancelled. The meeting has been rescheduled for the 19th of December. A short meeting will be held around the annual Christmas Party gathering.

These November and December changes were made in consideration of those out of area Chapter members traveling a fair distance and facing the possibility of adverse weather conditions. Now the decision will not have to be made between a business meeting and/or a Chapter Activity gathering. Thanks, Chapter Leadership Team!!

**Veteran’s Day Parade:**

As previously announced, the decision has been made by the Lions Club to hold the annual parade in Shasta City on the 7th of November. All Chapter members are encouraged, along with family members, to “be there or be square” and ride the Chapter float. The brand new Chapter Banners, as designed by **Mark King** and fine

tuned by **Jim Sorensen**, will be unveiled for their inaugural parade. Chapter members are requested to meet at **Bob & Kathy Maraviiov’s** at a time TBA. Yes... That ever popular crowd pleaser, the C-17 “flyover” is a GO!! **Brother Bob** has once again been successful in getting that scheduled for the parade.

**Annual Chapter Christmas Party Gathering:**

Scheduled for the 19th of December @ the **Cleckner’s Team House**. Time TBA as we get closer. Chapter members are reminded, each male attending should bring a male gift and each female should bring a female gift for the gift exchange. **Santa Scott** will be in action again this year. Perhaps, in a Santa suit?? The customary value of

exchange gifts remain as in past years, at least \$10.00.. See you there!! PS- Bob and Jim have volunteered to provide the beer rather than imposing upon John to buy his “beer”. This was in response to a popular membership request. J

**Chapter Annual Special Recognition Awards:**

At the September Chapter Business meeting, Chapter President **John Cleckner, Sr**, announced the following awards & recognition for

2009. Awards to be made at the Chapter’s Annual Christmas Party. Being recognized for 2009 are:

- “Chapter Associate Member of the Year”: . . . . .**Ken Delfino**
- “Chapter Special Recognition of the Year” (Individual):. . . . .**Mark King**
- “Chapter Special Recognition of the Year” (Other) : . . . . .**Skagen Designs**
- “Chapter Member of The Year”: . . . . .**Jim Wipf**

## Chapter Member Birth Date & Wedding Anniversaries:

### Recently Celebrated & this upcoming Quarter:

#### Birthdays

7 August.....Jim Sorensen (BD)  
21 August.....Mark King (BD)  
24 August....."JW" Wipf (BD)  
25 September.....Sally King (BD)  
28 September.....Bob Maraviov ( BD)  
1 October.....Louise Nieland (BD)  
25 October.....Jim Wipf (BD)  
30 October.....Marlie Byrd (BD)  
1 November.....Jan Sorensen (BD)  
4 December .....Kathy Maraviov (BD)  
12 December .....John Cleckner, Sr. (BD)  
17 January.....Doris Cleckner (BD)

#### Wedding Anniversaries

9 February .....Mark & Sally King (WA)  
9 September .....Ken & Melba Delfino (WA- the 10th)  
10 September .....Jim & Jan Sorensen (WA)  
11 September .....John & Doris Cleckner (WA)  
6 December .....Bob & Kathy Maraviov (WA)  
8 January.....John & Louise Nieland (WA)

CONGRATULATIONS to ALL those celebrating birthdays and wedding anniversaries during this period. Many thanks for providing the data.

### Away From the Flag Pole:

Chapter member John Nieland, SFA CH-89 Midwest Contingent. 1st & 7th SFG(A)



## Chapter members "Happenings & Other News" this past quarter:

It was recently reported that a Chapter member, who has chosen to remain **anonymous**, has once again been actively representing the Chapter in the local area. On the 23rd of August this Chapter's "masked man" was part of a local cleanup crew at the Veteran's Memorial in downtown Shasta Lake. It was reported that foremost in their efforts was the draining, cleaning, and rebuild/repair of the fountain at the Memorial. **Hi Yo...Masked Man !!**

On the 1st of September, after a hearty breakfast of biscuits & gravy at the Maraviov team house, **Bob Maraviov** and **Scott Masterson** travelled to Los Molinos. Their mission, which they chose to accept, was in response to a call for assistance from **Jenny**. Although Jenny had earlier indicated that she did not require assistance during the September yard sale, she could/would appreciate assistance with setting up for the yard sale. A big tip of the beret to Bob and Scott for answering that call on behalf of the Chapter.

Chapter member **John "Doc" Cleckner** is off on yet another deployment. This time to someplace in Europe. Although the length of the deployment is unknown at this writing, the Chapter looks forward to having him back with us. Safe and sound. Fortunately, a family gathering was able to be held in June prior to this most recent deployment.

**Mike Walker**, still deployed as a contractor in Afghanistan, has reportedly seen some very unusual action. Although security requirements and Mike's humble nature dictate that we be a bit circumspect with the details, it has been reported by Carrie, that Mike was recently involved in a conflict with the infamous and reportedly ferocious Jihadist Afghanistan Wasp (AKA, the "Airborne Winged Stinger"). Unconfirmed, but usually reliable sources, report that, while Mike is now okay, those infamous and ferocious Afghanistan Wasps did inflict some great pain and discomfort. Perhaps, a care package of wasp spray might be in order. Would the "Green Hornet" award be appropriate for this action??? (J) Mike is scheduled to be back among us in December.

**Jenny Johnson's** apparently unbounded and unlimited energy, in support of this Chapter, has really been working overtime and doing double duty over this past year.

**Stew Carnes** is apparently out there still doing all those things that he does so well. Stew, we miss hearing from you and getting those periodic updates. Perhaps, you'll be back near us over the Holiday Season?

## Sick and Distressed:

Chapter condolences and well wishes are sincerely and respectfully offered to **Gary** and **Bonnie Maraviov** for their recent loss in the family.

Chapter President **John Cleckner** continues to report that Chapter member **Rodney Dean** continues to get better over there on the North Coast. We miss you Rodney!

**Gary Maraviov**, much to the appreciation of **Ken Delfino**, but, the chagrin of other Chapter members has taken the 'heat' off of Ken at the Chapter Raffle Drawings. Gary has been the big winner at the last two Chapter Raffles. Let's hear it for the "out of area" folks.

**Brad & Carol Hines** son, **MSG Brady Hines**, continues to serve as the NCOIC at the SF Clinic @ Camp Mackall, NC. Reportedly, still no decision with respect to his fast approaching RFAD possible date. Mother Carol, is, for all of the understandable reasons, encouraging retirement. Dad, Brad, is also very anxious for Brady's retirement. Not, just for the obvious reasons, that being so many deployments in harm's way over the years. But, it seems that dad & mom have been storing a lot of Brady's personal items for a whole bunch of years. J

LTC "**Bull**" **Navarro** and family have, as shared earlier, relocated to Fort Bragg, NC. Well, at least the family is at Fort Bragg. Unofficial reports have it that the "Bull" has been very busy off doing all of those things that we all wish we could still do. Militarily, of course.

**John Nieland** (SFA Ch 89 -"Mid West Contingent") along with the local American Legion Commander, **Mary Clapp**, have recently taken on the mission of sending local WWII Veteran's to Washington D.C. to visit the WWII Memorial. This is part of a nationwide effort called "**Honor Flights**". John & Mary's long range plans include becoming the "Hub" where local WWII veterans depart. (Note: John lives in Marion, IA. He is also the past mayor of Marion, IA.) However, in the mean time, it is reported that they were recently granted 80 seats on a November flight out of Moline, Illinois. John further stated that they received that information on 28th of August 2009 and were informed that they had to come up with \$30,000.00 by the 17th of September. They met that goal on the 16th of September!!! Way to go, Brother John & Mary!!!

Finally, a great big "Tip of the Beret" and heartfelt thanks filled with pride to all of those **Chapter members still serving**, either as AD or Contractor, and the sons of Chapter members still serving. Not only do we "FOG's" ( friendly old guys J) appreciate you're service and carrying on the tradition and legacy of the Brotherhood, but, moreover, presuming to speak for most of us "FOG's", providing the opportunity for us to relive vicariously "the good ol' days" through your exploits.

Well wishes to **John** and **Doris's niece** who was involved in a serious automobile/truck accident on the 12th of September near Yreka, CA. We trust that you're OK.



3rd SFG Demonstration Team at Hattiesburg, PA, Armed Forces Day, May 1969, standing by the C-47 in which they traveled. A young Brad Hines is kneeling at the far right.



Tien Phouc (A-102) (Jan '69): CPT John Cleckner (CO), SSG Bob Cashon, 1LT Tim Schulty



Dong Tre (A-222)  
 Standing: (L-R) 1LT John Cleckner (Tm XO), SSG Bob Cashon, COL Kelly (5th GP CDR), CPT Edmonds (Tm CO)  
 Kneeling: SFC Lasher, SFC Hugh Hill, SP4 Larry Voorhees, SGT Dave Doughy, SFC Carl Wilson.

## Final Thoughts and Reminder:

- The Chapter President has threatened me grievous bodily harm IF I cannot get some more photos for the "Back in The Day" section. Please help!
- Although the Chapter still enjoys 30 SFA Members on the rolls, we do need to be "beating the bushes" for more members. Especially, members living closer to the "flag pole". Chapter obligations are wearing down Brother Bob. When I first met Bob about three years ago he was almost 6' 2" (Well, perhaps, only after a couple of beers). He's now only about 5'6". J
- Current photos of Chapter members are still being sought. For the same old reason. It would be very nice to be able to identify Chapter Members living far distant from the "flag pole" to all Chapter members.
- Last month a request was sent out by the Chapter President asking for the birth dates (day NOT year) of Chapter members & spouses,

and the wedding anniversary dates. It would be nice to be able to acknowledge those special dates of Chapter members. As of this date, I have received this information from SIX Chapter Members. (My old SF & basic FA math indicates that this is < 17% of the Chapter membership).

May God, or whomever you place your faith & trust, Bless, protect and watch over all of you and most especially, all of those Warriors still fighting the fight.

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For the Chapter President  
Jim Wipf  
SFA Chapter 89 Secretary

This will be mailed as a "hard copy" to all Chapter members and to SFA National.

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**SPECIAL FORCES ASSOCIATION  
Chapter LXXXIX (89)  
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA**

John Cleckner  
President

Ph# (530) 243-2100  
[usasf@charter.net](mailto:usasf@charter.net)



**SPECIAL FORCES ASSOCIATION  
Chapter LXXXIX  
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Special Forces Association Chapter 89  
John Cleckner, Chapter President  
3560 Dwayne Court  
Redding, CA 96001-3454