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SOUTHERN ARIZONA CHAPTER
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY



Hello Jeff,

Happy President's Day in Southern Arizona, or wherever you may find yourself this week. If you found yourself back at the Zoo this past weekend, you would have had the chance to visit Falcon Stadium to see the Colorado Avalanche play the Los Angeles Kings on a temporary rink set up in the middle of the playing surface. The Academy has been making a concerted effort to use the stadium for public-accessible events over the past year or so, and this partnership with the NHL for their 2020 stadium series was a perfect example. Other than some traffic problems trying to move over 46,000 folks in and out of the Academy grounds while I-25 is currently a construction nightmare, it was a huge success.

As for me, a survivor of the 1990 BYU game, you'll never catch me sitting in the stands of that stadium in February after dark regardless of what's happening on the field...

SAVE THE DATE!

- **Founder's Day will be Friday, the 1st of May at 1800.** We have a very special guest speaker this year whom you will all be interested to hear, and the venue we have lined up is perfect for a USAFA Founder's Day event. Look for details in your inbox in a couple of weeks.

Other upcoming local events:

- **11 Apr: Habitat for Humanity Veteran's Build.** Back at the chapter annual business meeting in January, Len Summers ('76) stepped up and volunteered to be the chair of the charity committee. He then immediately went out and found a perfect event for the chapter to support. Here's the description straight from Len:
- "The Habitat for Humanity has a unique event coming up on Saturday, April 11 called Veteran's Build. It is located near Ruthrauff and I-10, specifically **Carter's Court, 2800 West Diamond Court**. It requires 40 folks, and they will be sending a sign up sheet electronically so they can get an idea of how many holes are being filled. It is scheduled 0645 to 1300, and I will look for a nearby restaurant where we can eat as a group afterwards."
- If you're interested in attending the event, please e-mail Len directly

at cctscwbys@aol.com for details on how to sign up. I'll be there wearing a tool belt full of cool USAFA swag to give away. Hope to see you there!

Class Rep Program

So far, despite a limited outreach effort, the following intrepid graduates have stepped up to be AOG Chapter representatives for their classmates in Arizona: Leigh Hunt ('59), Warren Priddy ('74), Jim Taylor ('85), John Masee ('86) and Julian Pacheco ('96). There about a half dozen more who've given us the old "I'll-do-it-if-no-one-else-volunteers," along with another handful who are blue-bleeding grads who we know are going to say yes and knock it out of the park.

What is this and why should I do it?

As a chapter, we have over 400 grads, ALOs, parents and assorted friends of USAFA on our contact list within 75 miles of Tucson. Additionally, we have access to over 1100 more grads who live in the rest of the state. Class reps are a single point of contact for each class who have the ability to call up their classmates directly because these are people you know.

For instance, when I look at the list of '92 grads in Arizona I see names of people I haven't talked to in decades, but with whom I have great memories from the Academy and from our Air Force careers. One of them even crashed our wedding back in 1993 and wound up being an usher with a saber and the whole deal--it's a classic story. I would have no trouble calling any of these people directly to let them know if something important is happening or to help out if we were to find out that they were having trouble.

One of the most important functions of an alumni group is to make sure we're taking care of our own. By having a class rep, it makes it much easier to reach out with a familiar name and a friendly face.

That said, the "workload" is minimal to non-existent, but you'll get a shout out in the newsletter, a cool "CLASS REP" tag in your profile in the chapter database, and the self-satisfaction of knowing you're serving your fellow grads.

Legacy Class Program

This newsletter is already going a little long, so I'll save this for next month. The teaser is that the program marries up new classes with their predecessors from 50 years prior, and it will be a meaningful part of Founder's Day.

The program is run by MJ Kellenbence ('80) who says, "Get my brother involved down there!! Scott van Valkenburg ('79)"

She then continues by helpfully passing on Scott's cell number, street address, and the fact that both of his sons are grads ('08 and '10).

So, Scott, the '79 Class Rep spot is open. Just let us know...

Go Falcons!

[Click Here For the Chapter Facebook Page](#)



Mark your Calendars



Soon-to-be-finished

Mark your calendars

The "Grad Gaggle" (my term) is back for its second edition this summer. Last year, with limited marketing, the GG drew a big crowd and was a huge hit. This year, you can probably expect double the participation. For me personally, my son will be a firstie 2nd BCT cadre, so I'll be "marching" back with him.

Find more details on the chapter [Facebook page](#).

Soon to be finished...

The chapter's crack web-design team is furiously working on the chapter's site. It will have all the pertinent information about what the chapter is doing without forcing you to go to a social media platform.

More details soon.



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