



# The 6th Dimension

Volume I Issue 2      25 January 2004

**6th Weather Squadron  
(Mobile)  
Alumni Association**

P. O. Box 96922  
Oklahoma City, OK 73143-6922

### Board Of Directors

- Chuck Miller — Chair
- Chuck Hewitt — Vice Chair
- Carl Bishop — Treasurer
- John Lassiter — Asst. Treasurer
- Elmo Reddick — Secretary
- Don Garbutt — Past Chair
- Ted Lungwitz — Member
- Jerry Hunt — Member
- Leonard Allen — Member
- Chuck Morris — Member
- Rick Tasetano — Member

### Membership Committee

- Buck Bucklin — Chair
- Shirley Bdrinhoff — Vice Chair
- Wilbur Biggs — Member
- Bill King — Member
- Joe Kerwin — Member
- Tom Rivers — Member
- Gordon McCann — Member
- Barbara Mc Cann — Member



Don Garbutt    Elmo Reddick    Carl Bishop    Chuck Miller    John Lassiter



Chuck Hewitt



Jerry Hunt



Ted Lungwitz



No Photo for  
Leonard Allen  
Chuck Morris  
Rick Tasetano

## Your BOD Wishes for Each of You



## Welcome *New Members*

Cesar Contreras  
Douglas 'Doug' Freese  
Robert 'Bob' Hill

## Membership Profile

Active Members	71
Lapsed Members	107
Potential Members	17
Honorary Members	23
Associate Members	1

**See How YOU can change the  
Numbers on Page 2**

### What Prescription Drugs Really Cost!

Submitted by Tom Rivers



I received this from a friend, and as I always do, I checked it at the Urban Legends site ([www.snopes.com](http://www.snopes.com)) and IT'S TRUE! If you'd like to check it at Snopes, click on the link and type "Costco" in the search engine there. I think this was the second link in the list that came up. There are also more links to dig deeper into the subject.

So you feel a little guilty about getting your medications in Mexico? DON'T! We are being ripped off by a bunch of thieves who just happen to own pharmacies. Apparently, Costco is really the best place in this country to buy your medications. As Snopes will tell you, you do not have to be a member - just tell them you are there to use the pharmacy and they must admit you.

(see Drugs Page 2)

### Members Become Homeless!!!

Before you become too alarmed, it was totally by choice, and actually a once-in-a-lifetime unexpected opportunity.

You know the McCanns', Gordon and Barbara, the charter members who always showed up at the reunion with several different types of wine— wine from their very own winery; well, as it turned out, they were residing on a very coveted spread of property.

It began over four months ago near their 40th wedding anniversary, when they were approached with an offer to sell their mountain property. Perfectly happy there, they had not even entertained the thought of selling at any time before the offer.

The unsolicited offer was so great it was accepted.

This set Gordo and Barb off to record a new—traveling—chapter in their already full and adventuresome life. **Congratulations...** on both your 40th and your new adventure.



**DRUGS**  
(Continued from Page 1)

P.S. Maybe we should all contact our representatives and demand that they ignore the lobbyists and put a stop to this robbery! What with the government using tax money to subsidize drugs for seniors, now what they are doing is a **FEDERAL CRIME!** (Does anybody know of a member of congress who would upstage the huge lobbies and the money they get from them? Does such an animal exist? I don't know of one.)

(Drugs continue Page 3)

**Member Writes of Son's Achievement**

Dear Friends,

We're back home and freezing (in Tucson, anything below 50 degrees is freezing). Betsy, son Dave, and I flew to Miami,



Florida, on Wed. Nov 19th. Arrived late, slept over. Thursday we drove to Key West; couldn't resist surprising Betsy with a convertible rental, which made that one hundred fifty mile drive so delightfully panoramic. For once, we were surrounded by the deep blue ocean, instead of the light green desert. Loved the Keys--the whole rocky chain stretching some one hundred eighty miles. Loved the drive. In Key West--the proverbial island of gold at the southern end of the rainbow, Thursday, Friday, half of Saturday. Loved Key West--saw as much as we could, and there's plenty to see.

Friday, Steve Jr. got the diploma and the coveted Scuba Badge: **Combat Diver.** We repeatedly were allowed past the guard and the gate onto the Navy Base at Trumbo Point, on the north side of Key



West. We visited the Special Forces Underwater Operations Unit and learned in depth what it took to complete the five weeks of training and become the upper two percent of the upper two percent of the Special Forces.

Saturday, three of Steve Jr.'s training sergeants (two of whom flew down for his graduation and the dive that he didn't get during the class--from Tucson and Ft. Lauderdale) took him down for his first deep dive below 40 feet--to 185 feet; some wreck called the Curb...What a perfect ending for him. The rest of the class of 40 Special Forces guys didn't get the 130 foot dive part of the course due to high winds, choppy seas. Fifty-eight career Special Forces men began the Pre-Scuba; fifty qualified for the Scuba School--thirty-six career Special Forces and twelve career Air Force Para-Jumpers, one career Chemical Officer training to get into Special Forces, and Steve Jr., a Second Lieutenant Aviation Cadet. Forty completed the training...



**Lets Change The MEMBERSHIP PROFILE To More ACTIVE Less LAPSED**

**Each member can review the Membership Directory, then;**

- **Contact a Lapsed member & Encourage them to renew.**
- **Contact a 6th WS member you don't see on the list & encourage him or her to Join or. . .**

**Provide their information to MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

**GWSAA DECALS**

**For your Auto Window!!!**  
**How many of you members would order**  
**If they were made Available???**  
**Please Respond ASAP**

**The PATCH Is Available For Purchase At \$2.50 Each**



**Correction**

In the last Newsletter, we listed members who attended the 2003 reunion. The following members were omitted;  
Chuck and Carmell Morris and Ernie's wife, Diane Workman.  
**We apologize for this oversight.**



**DRUGS**  
(Continued from Page 2)

Did you ever wonder how much it costs a drug company for the active ingredient in prescription medications? Some people think it must cost a lot since many drugs sell for more than \$2.00 per tablet. We did a search of off-shore chemical synthesizers that supply the active ingredients found in drugs approved by the FDA. As we have revealed in past issues of Life Extension, a significant percentage of drugs sold in the United States contain active ingredients made in other countries.

In our independent investigation of how much profit drug companies really make, we obtained the actual price of active ingredients used in some of the most popular drugs sold in America. The chart below speaks for itself

DRUG BRAND NAME	CONSUMER PRICE	100 TABS	GENERAL ACTIVE INGREDIENTS' COST	% MARKUP
Celebrex	100 mg	\$130.27	\$0.60	21,712%
Claritin	10 mg	\$215.17	\$0.71	30,306%
Keflex	250 mg	\$157.39	\$1.88	8,372%
Lipitor	20 mg	\$272.37	\$ 5.80	4,696%
Norvasc	10 mg	\$188.29	\$0.14	134,493%
Paxil	20 mg	\$220.27	\$7.60	2,898%
Prevacid	30 mg	\$44.77	\$1.01	34,136%
Prilosec	20 mg	\$360.97	\$0.52	69,417%
Prozac	20 mg	\$247.47	\$0.11	224,973%
Tenormin	50 mg	\$104.47	\$0.13	80,362%
Vasotec	10 mg	\$102.37	\$0.20	51,185%
Xanax	1 mg	\$136.79	\$0.02	4569,958%
Zestril	20 mg	\$89.89	\$3.20	2,809%
Zithromax	600 mg	\$1,482.19	\$18.78	7,892%
Zocor	40 mg	\$350.27	\$8.63	4,059%
Zoloft	50 mg	\$206.87	\$1.75	11,821%

Since the cost of prescription drugs is so outrageous, I thought everyone I knew should know about this. Please read the following and pass it on. It pays to shop around. This helps to solve the mystery as to why they can afford to put a Walgreens on every corner. On Monday night, Steve Wilson, an investigative reporter for channel 7 News in Detroit, did a story on generic drug price gouging by pharmacies. He found in his investigation, that some of these generic drugs were marked up as much as 3,000% or more. Yes, that's not a typo..... three thousand percent!

So often, we blame the drug companies for the high cost of drugs, and usually rightfully so. But in this case, the fault clearly lies with the pharmacies themselves. For example, if you had to buy a prescription drug, and bought the name brand, you might pay \$100 for 100 pills. The pharmacist might tell you that if you get the generic equivalent, they would only cost \$80, making you think you are "saving" \$20. What the pharmacist is not telling you is that those 100 generic pills may have only cost him \$10.

At the end of the report, one of the anchors asked Mr. Wilson whether or not there were any pharmacies that did not adhere to this practice, and he said that Costco consistently charged little over their cost for the generic drugs

I went to the Costco site, where you can look up any drug, and get its online price. It says that the in-store prices are consistent with the online prices. I was appalled. Just to give you one example from my own experience, I had to use the drug, Compazine, which helps prevent nausea in chemo patients. I used the generic equivalent, which cost \$54.99 for 60 pills at CVS. I checked the price at Costco, and I could have bought 100 pills for \$19.89. For 145 of my pain pills, I paid \$72.57. I could have got 150 at Costco for \$28.08. I would like to mention, that although Costco is a "membership" type store, you do NOT have to be a member to buy prescriptions there, as it is a federally regulated substance. You just tell them at the door that you wish to use the pharmacy, and they will let you in.

I am asking each of you to please help me by sending this to everyone you know.



## 6th Weather Squadron (Mobile) Alumni Association

### BOD Minutes

22 Nov 03

Tinker AFB Golf Clubhouse

#### Board Members Present:

Chuck Miller – Chair  
Chuck Hewitt – Vice Chair  
Carl Bishop – Treasurer  
John Lassiter – Assistant Treasurer  
Elmo Reddick – Secretary  
Don Garbutt – Past Chair

#### Board Members Absent:

Ted Lungwitz – Member  
Leonard Allen – Member  
Rick Tasetano – Member  
Jerry Hunt – Member  
Chuck Morris – Member

Although the Agenda was emailed to each BOD member with email, a printed copy was available for distribution to all present.

Meeting was called to order 09:06 by the Chair.

Approval of the agenda: Motion to accept – John Lassiter and seconded by Chuck Hewitt.

Reading of 7/29/03 minutes by Elmo Reddick: *Carl Bishop had a correction to the Treasurer's Report; the sentence "The accrued funds as of Jun 30<sup>th</sup> ..." should read "The accrued and reserved funds as of Jun 30<sup>th</sup> ..."* Motion by John Lassiter to accept as corrected and seconded by Chuck Hewitt.

#### Reports by Treasurer:

- Financial update was given by Carl Bishop. We had reserved and accrued funds of \$1902.
- Coin: *A printed copy of an email from Joe Kerwin was distributed in which Joe recommended we design one.* Coin was put on hold for more information.

#### Old Business:

- Patches received by Elmo—price offered to members is \$2.50. Motion was made to accept by John Lassiter and seconded by Chuck Hewitt. Accepted by all.
- Decal—*a printed copy of an email from Ted Lungwitz was distributed in which Ted provided some information on sizes and prices. Don suggested we poll members in newsletter for interest in Decals.* Decal was put on hold till Ted Lungwitz could find out more about it *and we hear back from members.* Motion was made by Elmo Reddick and Chuck Hewitt seconded.
- Membership committee progress
  - Letters mailed--Invitations to renew membership packages were sent out by Shirley. *Carl Bishop said Leonard Anderson and Donald Bronson were returned to our mail box; addresses were no good. Carl reported that Doug Freeze responded with Dues for two years. Carl sent a letter and application to Bob Hill who was referred to him by John Lassiter. Also, he reported that Buck is working on New members while Shirley is working on Renewals.*

2. Address correction--Alice Coffman--Kerwin sent a new address.

3. Potential new member(s)--Cesar Contreras, referred by Tom Rivers—Chuck Miller will send him an e-mail package.

#### New Business:

a. History—new ventures (Airman's History, Air Force Weather History) it was agreed to send contact info to Shirley and give her latitude to investigate 6WSAA's participation in both of these at her discretion.

John Lassiter made motion to accept and Chuck Hewitt seconded. Accepted by all.

b. Coin—Don Garbutt agreed to investigate a design, prices and availability and have info by the next meeting. He has contacts at a Trophy shop.

c. Newsletter—articles Chuck Morris and wife, Carmel, and Ernie Workman's wife, Diana's names were left off the newsletter attendance for the last reunion. Chuck Miller will include a correction in the next newsletter.

d. Mail out—newsletter; one will be sent to Doug Freeze.

e. Next meeting—16 Apr 04 9:00am at the Base Golf Course.

Motion to adjourn by John Lassiter and Chuck Miller seconded. Accepted by all. Adjourned at 10:40.

Submitted by Elmo Reddick, Secretary, with added notes by Chuck Miller, Chair