

SFA Chapter 78 September 2025 Chapter Meeting

Photos by How Miller and Debra Holm

**Guest Speaker,
James “Jim” Shorten
AKA Wild Carrot
Veteran—Navy, Army Special
Forces (13 months in MACV-SOG),
Air Force/CA National Guard,
Pararescue (PJ)**

1 Jim Shorten being presented a Chapter 78 Challenge coin by VP James McLanahan. As the guest speaker, Jim Shorten shared the amazing story of his life’s journey—a true adventure.

As a boy, he dreamed of living a life of adventure, and he certainly has. He served 20 years in the U.S. military, first volunteering for Vietnam while in the Navy. Inspired by “The Ballad of the Green Beret,” he shifted his goal from becoming a SEAL to joining the Army Special Forces, later volunteering for MACV-SOG.

After leaving active duty, Jim joined the 12th SFG (Reserves), worked in law enforcement, then trained as an Air Force Pararescue Jumper. He served as a paramedic for the first three Space Shuttle launches and during the Mt. St. Helens eruption.

Even after an injury ended his military career, Jim kept moving—earning a doctorate in radiology and practicing for 20 years. He’s also a dedicated meteorite hunter and has twice returned to Cambodia searching for the Phantom crew his team sought during a 1970 Bright Light mission.

Jim’s boyhood dream of a life filled with adventure? Mission accomplished. But, Jim shows no sign of slowing down—and we look forward to hearing more as his story continues to unfold.

2 The meeting was hosted by the ACL Afghan Community in Mojave, CA. A group of the Afghan veterans was introduced.

3 A group of youngsters from the community were on hand to help.

4 The women of the community prepared a delicious lunch of traditional Afghan dishes.

5 Amy Griffen, wife of chapter member Mark, made the trip out to Mojave for the meeting.



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