

Greetings Tom and Wyma,

By way of introduction, I am Christian Eck USMC (ret), wife of 53 years is Carolyn. We are members of the Arkansas SMART Hogs since March 2001 and have served as past Chapter VP, President, Muster Master and Chaplain (Chaplain Jarhead). I currently serve as the *SMART South Central Regional Director* and member of the SMART BOD. I will also be the *National Muster Chairman for the SMART 2008 National Muster* to be held in Mobile, Alabama during *March 16 - 21 2008*.....sure hope you will make that muster. We reside in Calico Rock, Arkansas and really enjoy our life, camaraderie and experience with SMART and the "Hogs" We retired from the Marine Corps in 1975, have 3 sons and their families...all are doing well

Your names appeared in email received and I sure look forward to meeting you folks. We have quite a few Hog "family" members in the Northwest corner of the state; several in the Bella Vista area, others in West Fork, Ft. Smith and Mena. We have 4 to 5 Chapter muster per year plus one Regional (includes 5 states of Arkansas, Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee and the panhandle of Florida.) then one National muster. In addition we have service projects, occasional luncheons, small group camping events and area get togethers. One forthcoming event will be the *Annual Christmas luncheon* which will be held 11 december at Little Rock AFB. Sure looking forward to seeing you there. Information follows:

As you know the SMART Hogs Christmas Party is set for Dec 11,2007 (11 to 1:00) at the Hanger 1080 (old NCO Club) LRAFB Cost is \$11.00 per person which includes pre lunch refreshments, Lunch and tip. **PLEASE e-mail Archie Musselman AJMuss@alltel.net if you plan to attend by Dec. 3, 2007.**

We are once again planning to help make Christmas a happy time for military families. This year Marion has found two families. As we understand 2 young Airman, 2 parent families and each family has two children. (Info below) You can take in different ways. Buy gifts based on gender and age or send money to Marion and she and Kathie will arrange for Christmas dinner, Gifts and other Goodies. Please don't leave all the gift buying to Marion and Kathie. **Bring Gifts to the Christmas Party.**

Lawrence Family: Alicia 11 Years old & Hannah 4 Years Old.

Taggart Family: Keltin (Boy) 9 Years old & Anastasia 3 Years old.

Also remember our single Airman living in the dorms at LRAFB and take part in the annual COOKIE DROP. You can bring your cookies to the Christmas Party or deliver them to the retiree office (Bldg. 1255).

We also have an outstanding Chapter Web Site www.arsmarthogs.com That is being administered by one of your "neighbors" Sandy Percy who live in Bella Vista. Click that link and browse....you'll really like it. Nationally we have the SMART Traveler magazine and the National Web Site www.smartrving.net to keep you informed and in touch. View them all.

I'll close for now but will stay in contact. Once more, *Welcome Aboard*, Smooth Seas and Following Winds

Christian Eck

South Central Region Director (SCRD)