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June 2nd – Commander Kenny Fields, United States Navy Retired &
Colonel George Marrett, United States Air Force Retired
present

"The Rescue of Streetcar 304"

at 6:00 PM at a pot luck at Suzanne and Mel's Hanger

This is a war story. It's about a young Navy carrier pilot shot down on his first combat mission and subsequently rescued by a team of Air Force pilots who pulled him out of a Laotian jungle in the midst of a strong force of Pathet Lao guerillas and a division of North Vietnamese regulars. We have the pilot who was shot down and a significant member of the rescue team giving a combined narrative. It was one of a handful of remarkable air combat rescues in the Vietnam War. Don't miss it!

"Nail 66 was stunned. A Navy A-7 jet, call sign Streetcar 304, had just dropped four 500 pound bombs on top of Nail's designated target and was now climbing to clear the target area. Suddenly, Nail saw a large section of one of the A-7's wings blown off by enemy AAA, and now the A-7 was falling downward at a high rate of speed tumbling end over end. Nail 66 shouted over his radio 'You're hit, you're hit. Eject, eject'."

With those riveting words, the saga of Streetcar 304 began. It was to last forty hours...

On 31 May 1968, **Lt. Kenny Fields** catapulted off USS *America* on his very first combat mission. His target was two hundred miles away along the Ho Chi Minh trail in Laos. What the planners did not know was that Kenny was en route to a massive concentration of AAA gun sites amidst a full North Vietnamese division.

The Rescue of Streetcar 304 is Kenny's exhilarating narrative of his forty hours on the run in Laos and what turned out to be one of the largest and most spine-tingling air rescues of the Vietnam war.



In two combat tours, Kenny flew 139 combat missions, was awarded the Bronze Star, Purple Heart and many other

medals. He retired from the Navy with 22 years of service in 1984, 3350 flight hours and 475 carrier landings. Today he lives with his wife, Shirley, in Mooresville, North Carolina.

Captain George Marrett was a major participant in Kenny's rescue effort. He flew multiple sorties in his A-1 Skyraider *Sock it to 'em* during the effort to get Kenny out. The "Sandies", as his squadron, the 602nd, was called, had a superb reputation. They were past masters at close air support and air combat rescue. Before it was over, the Air Force had flown 189 sorties to rescue Kenny, and in the process four pilots had ejected, seven planes were lost or heavily damaged, and one pilot became a POW.



George flew 188 missions in the war and logged over 600 combat hours. He was awarded the DFC with two Oak Leaf Clusters and eight Air Medals.

George was an Air Force test pilot before the war at Edwards Air Force Base and retired to become a civilian test pilot for Hughes Aircraft after the war. He has authored four books. He describes Kenny's rescue in his book *Cheating Death: Air Combat Rescues in Vietnam and Laos*. George now lives in Atascadero, CA.