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Rustic News



www.rustic.org



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NEW LIFE MEMBERS:

Jim Frick 11610 Grenelefe Ave. N., White Bear Lake, MN 55110
Sally Gabel 120 Gause Drive, Venice, FL 34293, 605-786-2448

Sally asked us to share her address and telephone number with the Rustics. She would like to keep in touch with everyone. She looks forward to attending the 2015 Rustic Reunion next year.

NEW FOUND RUSTIC. Doyle Crawford, , Rustic Alpha j2horse@yahoo.com. See Letters to the Rustics.

ANNUAL RUSTIC NEWSLETTER - ROSTER/PERSONNEL UPDATES: This newsletter is our annual issue which goes out to every Rustic, regardless of membership status. We do this in hopes that everyone will attempt to stay in touch with their Rustic buds. Please keep us informed of any changes to your mailing address, email, or phone number. Attached is the 2014 Rustic Personnel Roster. Feel free to send in any communication as we want to hear about what each of you have been doing lately. Send inputs to rustic19@cox.net.

WINGMAN SUPPORT. Lunchbox **George Larsen**, Rustic U, had to cancel out of the All-FAC reunion in October due to medical issues. You might want to give him a call to let him know you are thinking of him, 407-277-8502.

RUSTIC SEA PHOTO ALBUM INPUTS REQUESTED (Ned Helm): We have had a number of new-found Rustics this past year or two. If any of you have any SEA photos of yourself, or your work areas, etc. please send them to me via email at: rusticfac15@gmail.com. I'll add them to our comprehensive digital Rustic Photo album.

Marcel Morneau, do you still have some did 35mm SEA slides to be scanned?

DISPOSITION OF ORIGINAL RUSTIC BOOKS. We have about 6 original hardcover Rustic books still available for distribution to museums or other organizations that might benefit from a copy. Do you have any suggestions? Send inputs to rustic 19@cox.net or call 850-654-2955. A copy has been sent to the Perrin Air Force Base Historical Museum, Denison, TX and to the FAC Museum in Fort Worth, TX. Any other inputs?

All-FAC REUNION REPORT. Approximately 400 FACs and their guests attended the "Second Mother of All FAC Reunions" in Ft Walton Beach, FL, 22-26 Oct 2014. The weather was perfect the entire week and camaraderie, fellowship, and old war stories abounded.

The week's activities began with a pre-party BBQ at the Ramada Plaza Beach Resort on Tuesday evening that was attended by about 130 early arrivals. Registration began on Wednesday and continued throughout Thursday. Official activities began Wednesday afternoon with a poolside "Homecoming" cookout followed by a "Welcome" party and Authors Book signing table event. The FAC hooch that night (and every night) was a lively place as old friends reconnected and new friend were made.

The following Rustics were in attendance: **Zot & Judy Barrazotto, Don Brooks, Tom & Vicki Calvinelli, Bob & Dorte Clifford, Roger Dodd & Margaret Hakun, Don Echelberger, Lendy & Sue Edwards, Phil & Beth Frischmuth, Bill & Sylvia Healey, Rowdy Hetherington, Claude & Tona Newland, Jack & Anne Thompson, Dave Van Dyke, and Tom & Theresa Wolford (Rustic Alpha).**

Thursday's main event was a charter bus tour to the National Naval Aviation Museum in Pensacola, FL. One of the highlights of this visit was a presentation on the new National Flight Academy and the summer camp programs being offered to young people to introduce them to aviation. The Academy is billed as America's number aviation-themed learning adventure for 7-12 graders. The camp's entire week's training is based on the premise that you are living on an aircraft carrier. A tour of their brand new facilities followed. Information on the Flight Academy can be found at: www.nationalflightacademy.com.

Thursday evening was a chance to enjoy the beauty of the Florida gulf coast with a dinner at the nearby Crab Trap Restaurant.

Friday morning was filled with a number of optional events that offered something for just about everyone. About 80 attendees went 40 miles north to the beautiful Sky Ranch Airport where everyone, including wives, were treated to a short flight in the 0-1 aircraft and lunch, compliments of the local chapter of the international Birddog Assoc. The birddogs also provide a four-ship flyby for the FAC memorial service on Saturday at Hurlburt Field.

Other Friday AM events included a golf tournament at the Gator Lakes course at Hurlburt, deep sea fishing from the nearby Destin harbor (the fish were biting!), and a tour of the Destin History and Fishing Museum followed by a visit to the Silver Sands Shopping Outlet Mall. The main event that afternoon was a Dolphin/Sunset cruise from the scenic Destin harbor on three different vessels (over 300 in attendance) and a seafood dinner at the newly opened Jimmy Buffet Margaritaville restaurant on the waterfront.

Saturday's events were clearly the highlight of the entire reunion. The day began with a bus tour of Hurlburt Field (it was amazing to see how much the base has grown), a Command Briefing on the missions of the AF Special Operations Command, and an excellent update briefing by the 23 Special Tactics Squadron on how our modern-day Joint Tactical Air Controllers (JTACs) are carrying on the FAC legacy.

Everyone gathered at the Hurlburt Air Park on an absolutely beautiful sunny day for a FAC memorial ceremony honoring our FAC brethren who Gave All. In addition to the 22 Honor Family members present, we were also blessed to have Dorie Day (wife of MOH recipient Bud Day, deceased) as a special guest. The Emerald Coast Pipes and Drum Corps provided music before and during the ceremony and the Gloryland men's chorus led everyone in a stirring rendition of the national anthem.

The ceremony began with a few Hurlburt Reflections by Claude Newland and Col Dave Hill, FAC Assoc. Chaplain, provided a wonderful eulogy and a brief recap of the FAC mission (which many would like to see posted on the FAC website.) Following the Roll Call of names, the Hurlburt Honor Guard played taps and the four-ship 0-1 flyby occurred right on cue as the bagpipers played Amazing Grace. At the end of the ceremony a memorial wreath was place at the FAC memorial by the Honor Families and a number of group photos were taken with the various FAC Aircraft. The Hurlburt visit concluded with a buffet lunch at the Hurlburt Sound-side Club which was followed by an afternoon business meeting at the Ramada.

A full house FAC Banquet was held Saturday night. Entertainment before and after the banquet was provided by a master of musical revelry, Roger Dodd, and his Seiko Watch Tool Band. Special guests for the evening included our six FAC Aussie mates from Down under and their wives. Following the Australian and US national anthems, the effervescent Ken Semmler led everyone in singing the unofficial Australian national anthem, Waltzing Matilda.

Col Ed Hubbard, SEA POW and author of, "Escape From The Box, The Wonder of Human Potential" was the featured speaker. He recounted how he survived his POW experience, but more importantly how his lessons learned have taught him, and thousands of others, how to never have another Bad Day. His book is one that should be read by everyone. It may change your life!

The evening concluded with the FAC Association recognizing the leadership efforts of Charlie Pocock, Bob Gorman, and Peter Condon who were all instrumental in getting our FAC history Books, Cleared Hot, Vol. I and Vol. II, into print. The outgoing officers of the Assoc and the new officers were also recognized. The next FAC Association reunion will be held in Williamsburg, VA in 2015. Hope to see you there.

KOMPONG CHAM CHARITIES AND ORPHANAGE (Lendy Edwards): I continue to receive the quarterly reports from Darany Hang at Sunrise Ministries. All reports are posted on the web page under Inner-change News. There has been no information on the orphanage in quite some time so I have no updates. It may be time to make another donation to the charities.

2015 RUSTIC REUNION COMMITTEE REPORT. (Jack Thompson & Bill McAdams): The 2015 Rustic reunion in Fort Worth is set for Thursday, Oct 8 through Sunday morning, Oct 11. We have rooms reserved at the Radisson hotel located at I-35 and Meacham Blvd. The rate is \$109 per room which includes breakfast. We are looking at the following events:

- Tour of the F-35 production line
- Golf outing
- Dinner in the stock yards and a rodeo
- Visit to the Fort Worth Aviation Museum and our FAC Museum
- Banquet

More details to come. Start making plans now to come join us.

HOLY LAND TRIP PLANNED. (Doug Aiken). Attention Rustic travelers. Last Jan-Feb, Carol and I joined Jim and Diane Seibold for a 10-day trip with their Church to the Holy Land. I was so impressed that I urged my own Church in Southern Pines, Our Savior Lutheran Church, to take the same trip. The dates for the trip are Oct 26-Nov 6, 2015. It will be led by our Pastor, Todd Rauscher, and the tour company is Faith Journeys out of Tempe, Arizona. While it is later in the same month as the Rustic Reunion in Dallas, perhaps some of you would like to join us. We found this to be a wonderful experience from historical, current event, and religious viewpoints. If you are interested, email me at daitken@nc.rr.com and I will be glad to send you the pdf brochure with all the details. There is also an optional 3-day extension into Jordan,

Author's note: Claude and Tona Newland have signed up for the trip and 3 day extension.

RUSTIC DAVE PARSONS RETRIEVES ISSUE FAC BAR BELL. Dave Parson, Rustic 08, was one of the original seven Rustic OV-10 pilots at Bien Hoa. Prior to becoming a Rustic he served as an Issue FAC at CuChi in III Corps. Dave has been the keeper of the Issue FAC bar bell all these years and he has decided to donate it to the FAC Museum at Meachem Field, Fort Worth, Tx. Here's Dave's message:

Hi Claude, the Issue FAC Bar Bell is "in the mail" and will arrive Wednesday. I send it with great reservation. It has been one of my personal treasures. I struggle with my war memories because some are horrible but some are very fulfilling because of the lives we saved. The bell brings so many memories alive. I had wonderful friends in my flying career and giving away the bell is like a final goodbye.

I am asked constantly if I miss surgery. The answer is no but I really do miss flying! Not a day goes by that I am not inverted and pulling Gs in my mind. Say Hi to the guys and thank you for all you do! David Parsons, MD ><

OV-10 UPDATE AND "WELCOME HOME" Jim Hodgson. Mar 1, 2014. 46 years ago today the Marine Corps introduced the OV-10 Bronco into active service in SEA. The Air Force would follow closely behind. A total of 360 Broncos were produced. The airplane is still in active service with CAL Fire, SOCOM, The Philippines, Colombia, Indonesia and Venezuela. Civilian operators include Tony de Bruyn in Belgium, one in

France, Rick Clemens in Nevada and one in Florida. There are others on display around the world including our three. Next year we will celebrate the 50th year of the Bronco at BroncoFest X in October of 2015. Congratulations all!

"Welcome Home" is a new series which tells the story of Vietnam Veterans, from all branches of the service, in their own words. It is scheduled for release in 2015, the 40th anniversary year of the end of the War. It is a thank you -- and a welcome home that is long, long, overdue. For updates on the series visit: www.sleepingdogtv.com or info@sleepingdogtv.com.

From August of 1964--when the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution gave President Lyndon Baines Johnson license to prosecute the Vietnam War using American blood and treasure--until April of 1975, when Saigon fell to the North Vietnamese, some 2.7 million Americans served in Southeast Asia. Fifty-eight thousand of them never returned. Those that did return found themselves in a country very different from the one that sent them off to war. Vietnam veterans came home to a nation that did not wholly comprehend where they had been or why, nor what they had seen and done.

But, there, "in country", as they say, they found something else: The brotherhood. That was one thing on which they soon learned they could bet their lives: The sacred bond Vietnam Veterans had with each other. It is a bond that never has been, and never will be, broken. So, when they returned home to a nation that was, at best indifferent, and at worst, contemptuous of them, they relied on that bond. Vietnam Veterans adopted the heart-rending custom of greeting each other with a simple, "Welcome Home". It is a custom they practice to this day.

Chey yo!!!!!! Xay sa na !!!!!

UNITED STATES SENATE PASSES KHMER RESOLUTION, Scott Walker, IKA.

Team members, it is with great pleasure to announce to you that your hard work has paid off. Below is confirmation that **United States Senate Resolution 462** was passed unanimously by the US Senate on July 24, 2014. This marks the very first time the United States of America has formally recognized the Khmer, Loa/Hmong soldier, past and present, and the people of Cambodia and Laos for supporting US forces and defending freedom and democracy in Southeast Asia.

I wanted to personally inform you of the passage before it was made public. We will discuss our future plans with regard to H. Res 596 at our bi-weekly teleconference. Congratulations!

The IKA will be sending a press release out shortly informing all news media in the United States as well as in Southeast Asia of our accomplishment. Congressman Duffy and Senator Rubio will be doing the same.

Rep. Sean Duffy (R-WI) has introduced a companion resolution, H. Res. 596, in the **U.S. House of Representatives**. Congressman **Dana Rohrabacher** has agreed to co-sponsor the resolution.

A similar resolution was passed in Minnesota in 2012. Full text of the resolution is below:

RUBIO, KLOBUCHAR RESOLUTION HONORING VIETNAM WAR FREEDOM FIGHTERS PASSES SENATE

Washington, D.C., 28 July 2014 – U.S. Senators Marco Rubio (R-FL) and Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) today announced the Senate passage of their bipartisan resolution to honor the Khmer and Lao/Hmong Freedom Fighters for their brave support of the United States during the Vietnam War.

The resolution recognizes the Freedom Fighters for their heroic efforts to support and defend the United States during the conflict in Southeast Asia, and acknowledges that Freedom Fighters remain subject to intimidation, discrimination, and even death if identified in Cambodia or Laos.

“The contributions made by these courageous freedom fighters are immeasurable,” Rubio said. “Their support and loyalty to the United States Armed Forces during the Vietnam conflict was heroic and should never be forgotten. I’m pleased the Senate passed this measure to finally give them the official recognition they deserve, which has been long overdue.”

“The Freedom Fighters not only provided food and shelter to U.S. soldiers, but they fought and died with them,” Klobuchar said. “While these men deserve recognition for the sacrifices they made then, they also de-

serve recognition for the sacrifices they continue to make today as many still face persecution. Although overdue, this resolution rightfully claims them as our heroic veterans and thanks them for their service.”

RESOLUTION

Recognizing the Khmer and Lao/Hmong Freedom Fighters of Cambodia and Laos for supporting and defending the United States Armed Forces during the conflict in Southeast Asia and for their continued support and defense of the United States.

Whereas the Khmer and Lao/Hmong Freedom Fighters (also known as the `Khmer and Lao/Hmong veterans') fought and died with United States Armed Forces during the conflict in Southeast Asia;

Whereas the Khmer and Lao/Hmong Freedom Fighters rescued United States pilots shot down in enemy-controlled territory and returned the pilots to safety;

Whereas the Khmer and Lao/Hmong Freedom Fighters retrieved and prevented from falling into enemy hands secret and sensitive information, technology, and equipment;

Whereas the Khmer and Lao/Hmong Freedom Fighters captured and destroyed enemy supplies and prevented enemy forces from using the supplies to kill members of the United States Armed Forces;

Whereas the Khmer and Lao/Hmong Freedom Fighters gathered and provided to the United States Armed Forces intelligence about enemy troop positions, movement, and strength;

Whereas the Khmer and Lao/Hmong Freedom Fighters provided food, shelter, and support to the United States Armed Forces;

Whereas the Khmer and Lao/Hmong Freedom Fighters facilitated the evacuation of the United States Embassy in Phnom Penh on April 12, 1975, by continuing to fight Khmer Rouge forces as the forces advanced upon the capital;

Whereas, in 2014, the Khmer and Lao/Hmong Freedom Fighters are still subject to intimidation, ridicule, discrimination, and death if identified in Cambodia or Laos;

Whereas veterans of the Khmer Mobile Guerrilla Forces, the Lao/Hmong Special Guerrilla Units, and the Khmer Republic Armed Forces defended human rights, freedom of speech, freedom of religion, and freedom of representation and association; and

Whereas the Khmer and Lao/Hmong Freedom Fighters have not yet received official recognition from the United States Government for their heroic efforts and support: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate affirms and recognizes the Khmer and Lao/Hmong Freedom Fighters and the people of Cambodia and Laos for their support and defense of the United States Armed Forces and freedom of democracy in Southeast Asia.

SHORT BURSTS:

1. World Travelers. Jim and Diane Seibold went on a 28-day trip to Australia and New Zealand, 14 Oct-11 Nov, and Jim and Lynn Nuber spent 10 days in Thailand in Aug.

2. Change of address. Dick Roberds is selling his Florida house and moving to Tennessee. His new address: 105 Stagecoach Pass, Tullahoma, TN 37388.

3. Congratulations. Gil Bellefeuille reports, “My bride made Lt. Colonel. She will pin the silver leafs on in December 2014. She is a nurse assigned to MacDill AFB, Tampa, FL

4. 2015 Birddog Unit Reunion. All FACs are invited to attend the 2015 ALL Birddog Military Unit reunion which will be held at the Wyndham Bay Palm Resort in Panama City, FL, October 8-11, 2015. There will be a hospitality rooms for each unit. Details can be found at: www.L19Birddog.com

RUSTICS ATTEND INTERMENT OF JIM GABEL, RUSTIC BRAVO. Doug Aitken and Jon Safley attended **Jim Gabel's** internment at the Arlington National Cemetery. Here's Doug's report:

Claude and Lendy, as usual, **Jon and Kathy [Safley]** were great hosts, getting us to Arlington right on time. We met with **Sally Gabel** and family and then, as usual, the Arlington folks got things started. We queued up in the cars and proceeded towards the gravesite, which was very close to Jim's parents' grave. Half way there we met the caisson, the band, and the honor guard.

The AF men and women did a wonderful job. A very moving time, as it always is. At the gravesite, there was no service, as Jim was not religious, but friends read a letter he had written about "Que Sera, Sera" and it was pretty dang spiritual to me. And then these same friends sang that song. Very nice.

Sally was glad to see the Rustics there and she filled us in on where she is at the present. She has bought a house in Venice FL and is living there. She will return to S. Dakota at some point in the future to clean out the house. Her niece told me that the house is filled from top to bottom, as Jim was quite the packrat.

I took pictures and video. I will send along some of the pics...high quality so will send a couple at a time. Saving the video and will send it to Sally once she gives me her new address. We will have to send Johnny Drury up there when she makes that trek.

We also need to have a full discussion on what to do with all our memorabilia and Jon is ready to assist in that discussion. He is now a docent at the Air and Space in DC and has some contacts with good advice.

It was a beautiful day, as you can tell by the pictures. Jon, Kathy, Carol and I were glad we could be there for Jim and Sally. **Doug**



Jim Gabel's interment, Arlington National Cemetery.

CALENDAR:

- 1)2015 Rustic FAC Reunion, Ft Worth, TX, Oct 8-11, 2015
- 2)2015 BroncoFest X, Ft Worth, TX, 7 Oct 7-11, 2015
- 3)2015 All Birddog Military Combat Unit Reunion, Panama City, FL Oct 10-14, 2015
- 4)2016 All FAC Reunion, Williamsburg, VA (Dates TBA)

LETTERS TO THE RUSTICS

From Doyle Crawford, Rustic Alpha, Aug 2, 2014

Lendy Edwards, I just found the Rustic Website The newsletter shows you as a keeper of the database, so hope I am contacting the right person.

I was the NCOIC of Rustic Control and Rustic Alpha Radio Operations from October 1970 to September 1971. **Lt Col Adams** and **Lt Col Lester** were the unit commanders during my tenure, and my immediate supervisor was **Major Bob Clifford**, Rustic 03.

If possible, I would like to have my name added to the Locator file of previous Rustic members. If you have any questions or require any additional information, you can reach me at j2horse@yahoo.com.

Doyle Crawford, SMSgt, Retired

From: Don Mercer

Claude, Another superb job on our June 2104 Newsletter! It is always nice to catch up on what some are doing and the fact that a few folks are still "finding" us.

Of course, it is sad to read the obits, as was particularly the case with that of Jim Gabel. I have such great respect for him, both from his commitment to the good fight when at Bien Hoa and to all that he contributed to our Rustic FAC Association. I so enjoyed working with him on co-editing Bill Sleight's book.

Hope that you and your family are doing well. I am spending quite a bit of time in an attempt to improve my photography. Just returned a few weeks ago from a trip to Bedford, VA, to photograph the D-Day memorial there and then on to Cuyahoga Valley National Park in Ohio. I'm flying to Jackson, WY, next week for a "Nightscape" workshop in the Tetons; and then a buddy of mine and I are going up to Yellowstone for four days to seek out some wildlife and landscapes to shoot. **Don**

From Lonthol Srun

Hi, I was wondering if **LT Lansford E Trapp**, **SSgt G Bellefeuille**, and **Maj Don Brooks** are still alive. Their planes were shot down in my Provence Kampong Cham. As a young child, I saw these planes flying over me, shooting/dropping bombs with other planes. I just wanted to meet them and if possible ask some questions. Thanks. **Lonthol Sru**, LT, USN, AD

Editor's note; This message was forwarded to Trapp, Bellefeuille, and Brooks.

From Bob Crothers, 1 June 2014

Hi Claude, I'm heading back to New England to visit with family and while home I am donating several of the Rustics book to my old high school library and town library.

Also, we have a local radio station that will talk about the wars and I'm going to give them one of the books in hope the talk show host reads it. The host is a local attorney, about our age, and supports the military with many stories and tributes on his radio show. Not expecting anything from it. I think he'll enjoy the book as I have. My niece even enjoyed reading the book. She in her mid-thirties now. Just wanted to let you know. No response is required. **Bob**

From Jim Hodgson, Fort Worth Aviation Museum

We reported last month that it is time for our Air Force OV-10 #825 to get a much needed facelift. The last time this Bronco was refurbished was in 2009. The Texas sun has taken a toll on the paint and now its old Bureau of Land Management stripes are peeking through on the wings and most of the markings are fading away. Our plan is to have a fresh livery on this combat veteran for BroncoFest X in October of 2015. Next year will also mark the 50th anniversary of the first flight of the OV-10 Bronco.

From Jim Nuber, Aug. 6, 2014

Claude, I'm coordinating a reunion of my pilot training class for September 2014. I was wondering who or what did you use to make name tags for the Rustic reunions?

Hope your summer went well. Ours has been a little slow/tough, as I had major back surgery on 30 June. I

now have 2 new disks, 2 titanium rods, 6 screws and a bone graft. It took the doc 5+ hours, and full recovery will 6 months to 1 year. I'll be fine, but bored to tears, since I do nothing but walk. Our best to you and Tona, Nubes, Rustic 05

*Editor's Note: **Lendy Edwards** provided Jim the requested info on ordering name tags.*

From Bob Harris, Rustic Redeye, July 25, 2014

To all my family, friends and new acquaintances: It's been some time since I've corresponded and here is the explanation. For the last nine months I have been dealing with a debilitating gastric condition. I won't bore you with the details but it was no fun. Lots of potentially embarrassing situations and depression. Bottom line is I am feeling better than I have felt in almost a year. It all stems back to the cancer surgery I had four and a half years ago. I was told that the surgeon probably saved my life but the way he put me back together was totally unorthodox. Oh well, at least I am around to tell the story.

Just so you know (and you may not), I am not retiring July 31st. That was the plan since January but ten days ago I decided that the timing was not right. You know I bought a house in southern Oklahoma and it will be a great place to retire, but not now. So, I extended my current employment for another six months that just might turn into another year or longer. Really depends on how my health continues to improve. Plus, it's getting exciting again with what I have the opportunity to deal with. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) can be an unusual organization to be a part of. Never quite sure what to expect. Not that what I do is that important but it is like being a fly on the wall.

I do have some travel plans that will take me hopefully to San Antonio mid-September then in October I will attend my 50th Borger High School Reunion, Borger, TX. Will be nice to get acquainted again. Would really like to get back down to Florida before too long.

Only other major plan is to get my left knee replaced. Probably do that in November, if I can work it into my schedule.

I promise not to be so anti-social. Just didn't feel like sharing my challenges. Let me hear from you when you have a chance. Love Ya, **Bob "Redeye"**

