

Dear Fellow Rustics,

Date: 28 Mar '96

MISSION OBJECTIVE:

IT'S TIME TO HAVE A RUSTIC REUNION! It's been twenty five years--can you believe it?--and I'm sure many of you, like me, are wondering where are all the Rustics today, what are they up to, and why hasn't some one organized a reunion?

Well, I've wondered the same thing...then it came to me that maybe I'm the one who should "get the ball rollin."

This past Christmas, I happened to meet Dave Lester who is the brother of Col Jim Lester, who was the first Rustic commander. I discovered Jim Lester also lives here in the Ft Walton Beach, FL area where he works for A.G. Edwards & Sons (I live nearby in Destin.)

After a surprise visit to Jim's office with my old Rustic photo album, Jim and I began to discuss the possibilities of a Rustic reunion...so...we are going to make it happen.

PREMISSION PLANNING:

I've already started a search through the AF Worldwide Locator Service to locate as many Rustics as possible, but there are many who are still unaccounted (see roster enclosed.) A big part of the problem is not knowing exact legal names, middle initials, etc. or someone has separated from the service and no forwarding address is known. So, if you can help me with correct names, or know the whereabouts of any missing Rustics, please let me know. It's time to put on a full court press to locate people, so they will "get the word" and have sufficient time to make plans to attend the reunion.

A reunion planning group/committee is being formed and will have it's first meeting here in Ft Walton Beach on Saturday, 4 May 96. The meeting is opened to everyone. If you'd like to attend, let me know and Jim Lester and I can put you up for the weekend, so you won't have to worry about accommodations. To date, the planning group consists of Jim Lester, myself, Jim Reese and Sy Gaskill (Jim Reese and Sy Gaskill are coming down from the Atlanta area.)

INTELL:

To help us get organized, and to get everyone else on-board/up-to-speed, we've enclosed the following with this letter:

1. Rustic Personnel Roster
2. Reunion Questionnaire (to be mailed to Claude Newland)
3. History Overview/Guidelines Letter
4. History Questionnaire (to be mailed to Jim Reese)

Please return the Rustic Reunion Questionnaire to me to arrive ~~NOT~~ **ASAP** ~~1 MAY 96~~. This information will be used to select a reunion date and to begin initial planning.

TOT:

Our goal is to advise you of the reunion dates NLT 1 JUN 96 so everyone has as much lead time as possible for planning purposes. We have no set agenda, as yet, so give us your comments/recommendations.

The date is "up-for-grabs." My own personal analysis suggests an early summer weekend might be best (13-15 JUN 97 or 20-22 JUN 97) for the following reasons:

1. Weather is warm, but pleasant.
2. Schools will be out/graduations over.
3. Avoids family get-togethers over the holiday periods.
4. Frees up rest of the summer.
5. July and August are heavier vacation months here on the Emerald Coast (but still do-able.)

Any time is a good time for me...but what's best for you? Fill out the questionnaire and let us know.

POST-MISSION REPORTS:

Also, please complete the History Questionnaire and send it to Jim Reese. We hope you'll become as excited as we are about our efforts to develop an unofficial history of the Rustics. (You made history--you lived it--now, lets document it!! Someday you'll be glad you did.)

Reunion planning will include information on hotels/motels, costs, etc. We also plan to send you periodic updates through a Rustic Newsletter.

BDA:

As you can see, there is going to be quite a bit of correspondence/administrative work required for the reunion--to include future newsletter updates and the development of our unofficial history.

To help cover the costs of these activities, we're asking each Rustic, if able, to enclose a check for \$20.00, payable to Claude Newland, with their completed Rustic Reunion Questionnaire. Accurate expense records will be kept, and any unused funds will be applied towards our reunion activities.

If you're not sure if you can attend the reunion, we hope you'll still want to support or efforts to locate everyone, and develop a Rustic history.

TIME TO GO TO THE BAR:

I've enjoyed hearing from many of you through your letters and phone calls. Feel free to call me if you have any questions. Expect an update in early June 96.

Sincerely,

Claude Newland

Claude Newland
4033 Indian Trail Dr.
Destin, FL
(904) 654-2955

"RUSTIC 19"

Dear Fellow Rustics,

8 Jun 96

Greetings from the Emerald Coast. It's raining outside and I have a reprieve from my landscaping project I've been working on, so this is a good time to bring you up-to-date on what's happening with our reunion planning. I'm also getting acquainted with my new computer and Microsoft Word-so bear with me if you see some of the attached rosters have columns not lined up perfectly, etc. I'm still "breaking the code" on how to use this system. The good news is that we should be able to communicate better in the future with this enhanced capability. I've also hooked up to the "net" and now have an E-mail address cnewland@gnt.net

REUNION PLANNING MEETING:

A reunion planning weekend was held here on the weekend of the 4 May 96. Jim and Marcia Reese, and Sy and Ree Gaskill came down from the Atlanta area to spend the weekend with us. I hadn't seen Sy (who was my roommate at Bien Hoa) since we had left Vietnam. Jim Lester, who lives here in Mary Esther (just down the road from Hurlburt Field), also joined us for the planning session. Jim Lester was the first Rustic commander when the program started operating on a shoe-string budget out of a two star general's office at Ton Son Nhut Air Base, Saigon. Jim Reese and Sy had not seen Jim Lester in over 25 years either, so needless to say, there was a lot of reminiscing going on throughout the weekend. Jim Lester's many entertaining stories about how the Rustic operation got started will make for some interesting reading in our Rustic History. I'm sure you'll want to hear about them.

Our Saturday schedule included a driving tour of Hurlburt Field, a visit to the Hurlburt O'Club, lunch at Harpoon Hanna's (a new gulf-front restaurant with boardwalk, next to the Ramada Inn on Okaloosa Island), a visit of the Ramada Inn (on the Beach) and a evening dinner with the wives at Nicometo's Seafood Restaurant in Niceville.

Sunday, Jim Reese got up early and went fishing on a half day fishing trip with his brother and brother's family, who were also staying at our house (yes, we had a house full.) Sy, Ree, Tona and I went to church together and then met the fishing boat as they came in with their catch. The good news is they caught some fish, but it's not like it was 25 years ago when you could count on catching some big red snappers. It's mostly trigger fish, smaller Mingo snappers and a few groupers. But, it was a beautiful day for fishing and they had a great time out on the water together. After a short visit to the Destin Harbor Oaks art gallery, we had lunch at the Fisherman's Wharf Restaurant and then bade our farewells till our next meeting.

We all agreed we had a great weekend together. The wives got to do some sight-seeing, there was good fun and fellowship, good food, and we came up with a reunion date and a tentative reunion schedule of events.

NEXT PLANNING MEETING:

Our next reunion planning meeting will be sometime next spring or early summer '97 to finalize details. The date will be announced in a future newsletter so that others who would like to attend can join us. This meeting will be particularly important because we will try to organize/finalize the various activities of the reunion so that it's a quality event which will be enjoyed by wives and Rustics alike.

REUNION DATES: 18-21 SEP 97

After discussing a lot of pros and cons, we selected 18-21 Sep 97 for our reunion dates. We realize there is no perfect date which will meet everyone's' needs, but we've given it our best effort. September is a great time of year to visit and enjoy the Emerald Coast, so we hope you'll make every effort to clear your calendar and come join us for this very special weekend. We selected this date because:

1. It gives us off- season rates which save approx. 200/0 on room rates.
2. Allows us to book a beach-side hotel.
3. The weather is beeeautiful in late September. Still great beach weather. September and October are the two most popular months for reunion groups in this area according to the hotels and the Hurlburt Field Public Relations office. .
4. There are no big crowds... the tourists have gone home and the snowbirds haven't arrived yet.
5. Most of our kids are grown and out of the house, or are able to take care of themselves if mom and dad need to get away for a few days, so it's not critical to select a summer month-besides, it's quite warm and humid here in the summer. NOTE: Our reunion is still a family event, so bring the kids if you can. They'll have a great time around the pool and on the beach.

REUNION SCHEDULE:

The reunion schedule (first draft) is enclosed. Additional comments are included on the schedule. We would appreciate your comments/suggestions, so give us your reactions, etc.

RUSTIC ROSTER:

Many thanks to those of you who have helped us locate some of our missing Rustics. As you can see, a number of additional Rustics have been located since our initial mailing of 28 Mar 96. Your continued help is still needed to find those who are unaccounted for-let us hear from you if you have any leads, or better yet, see if you can take the lead in trying to find some of those who you may have some information on. I think the Air Force Worldwide Locator will only be of further use if we can come up with more complete names, or perhaps social security numbers, etc., so send those to me and I'll keep working with the A.F. Locator.

We still haven't located any of our Cambodian friends who were fortunate enough to relocate to the U.S. George Brower thinks Col Oum (Hotel 302) purchased a Winchell's Donut shop in southern Calif and his family is helping him run the business. George is going to investigate (can anyone else help?) Also, we heard Lt Tim Tanh (ground cmdr at KPT, and brother-in-law to Lon Nol) may be in the Austin, TX area. Can someone check on this? If we are fortunate to locate anyone of these or other Cambodians, they may know the whereabouts of others. Send me the names of any Cambodians you remember and I'll add them to our lists.

HOTEL/BILLITING COSTS:

We haven't entered into any agreements with any hotels as yet, but we have done some looking around. Several hotels are located right on the gulf on Okaloosa Island (near the Ft Walton Beach bridge.)

The Ramada Inn and the Holiday Inn would both be great locations-on the beach. They both have recently been renovated, compliments of Hurricane Opal. Both are classy places, with the Ramada being the best this area has to offer. Both have swimming pools and Hospitality Suite accommodations. A ball park figure for room rates would be \$60- 75/night. These would be gulf-front or poolside/courtyard rooms depending on where we stay. Many other hotels/motels are in the area. Some with \$35-50/night rates, but they won't be on the waterfront, nor have the ambiance, facilities, etc.

After looking at the Hurlburt O'Club, we have decided that we don't want it to be the focal location of the reunion. The local hotels are much nicer and the use of a Hospitality Suite (which we can stock with food/drinks, etc.) will be a key element in making the reunion a success. The hospitality suite will become the focal point for informal socializing. They are scenically located, usually poolside, and large enough to handle a group our size. If we get enough people to stay at the hotel, there is no charge for the hospitality suite.

We'll send out more information and a survey in a later newsletter before we make a final decision. This should give you of some idea of what to expect, so start saving your pocket change. (We are cost sensitive. We don't want anyone to stay home because of hotel/reunion costs.)

RUSTIC HISTORY:

As you now know, we are planning to write our unofficial "story" about the Rustics, documenting our experiences in Vietnam and telling it like it was from our perspective. Our goal is to have a "draft" history prepared for the reunion.

Enclosed is a suggested format for our "Rustic History", prepared by Jim Reese who has volunteered to oversee this project We hope to include information from every Rustic in our unofficial history, so if you haven't yet started writing your input, we encourage you to do so Jim has included some instructions on how to expedite your inputs using his E-mail address or Microsoft word if you have a computer at home. To date, we have received a number of history inputs-all which make for some very interesting reading. Col Wood sent in a five page story detailing a particular mission in support of Kompong Thom where there was a problem with the bad guys being located in a pogada - he relates how this problem was handled tactically, and his subsequent meeting with General "Moose" Hardin in Saigon where he had been summoned to explain his actions. You'll have to get a copy of our history to "get the rest of the story"

Wally Friedhofen, Rustic R, probably holds the longevity record as a Rustic. He served as a Rustic for 15 months-and to our eternal gratitude, he kept a lot of written records He has already sent us numerous copies of photos and about 10 pages of personal stories and remembrances with paragraphs titled:

How I became a Rustic.	Holding the Record
Designing the Rustic Patch	Remember Dick Wood
Sy Gaskill blows up lounge	Roger "Ramjet" Dodd
Mr. Nude male throttle jockey contest	Back-up systems are a must
Cooperation is the key to winning the war	Relief from the relief tube
Scarriest mission	The monsoon water spout
"Magnet Ass" Seibold-how he got that name	Tragedy in the AO

'Thought you might enjoy hearing one of Wally, stories:

HOW I BECAME A RUSTIC (by Wally Friedhofen):

"I arrived in theater in Apr 70 as an airman assigned to USAF Advisory Team #95 - Three Corps Direct Air Support Center (III DASC.) I was a radio

operator responsible for receiving and recording aircraft sortie after-action reports from forward operating locations for all aircraft in III Corps and Cambodia. SSgt Gil Bellevielle was my immediate supervisor.

"In early Jul 70 (Rustic went into operation on Jun 24 according to my records) Gil talked me into submitting my name as an interpreter. I continued to work at the DASC but was placed on standby for emergencies, but I flew no missions.

"On the morning of 10 Aug 70 after working a midnight shift, I was asleep in my bunk at the III DASC compound, an old French villa on the outskirts of Bien Hoa, when I was awakened by a Major (Clifford) and a Captain (Brower?) who asked me if I was AIC Friedhofen. I replied that I was and was told to pack immediately. . I was going to Rustic "It's a good thing I didn't have to pee and that I was still sitting on the edge of the bed It spared me a lot of possible embarrassment But we were off to Rustic Ops within 20 minutes. Following some preliminaries there I was immediately taken to the Rustic hootch by MSgt Ron Dandeneau That evening, my head still spinning and thinking about making out a will, Rustic 04, Capt. Dave Van Dyke, sat me down with some kind of manual about the OV-10.

"I had absolutely no idea what he was talking about, not only because I was scared and lost, but because Dave mumbled so bad I couldn't understand a word he was saying. Nevertheless, the following morning, 11 Aug 70, I took off in Dave's back seat of acft tail #662 for a 5.4 hour mission during which I had no idea what I was doing. I was hooked-scared but hooked."

We hope more of you will send us your inputs in the near future. This could be quite time consuming for Jim Reese, so early inputs would be greatly appreciated. Also, be assured, we'll try to use good judgment about what goes in our history. Again, 'thanks" to Jim) Reese for taking the lead in this project!

George Larson, Rustic U, was interviewed on tape by Clint Murphy just before George DEROS'd. George has a 25 page transcript of the interview which he is sending it to us.

FUTURE CORRESPONDENCE:

PLEASE NOTE: SEND ALL RUSTIC REUNION CORRESPONDENCE, INCLUDING HISTORY INPUTS, TO CLAUDE NEWLAND. (THIS IS A CHANGE. I'LL FORWARD ALL HISTORY INPUTS TO JIM REESE. THIS WILL KEEP EVERONE IN THE LOOP AND SIMPLIFY YOUR MAILINGS TO ONE ADDRESS.-BUT, YOU ARE STILL ENCOURAGED TO COMMUNICATE DIRECTLY WITH JIM REESE IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, OR CAN BE OF HELP TO HIM.)

Financial REPORT:

Thanks to all of you who have been able to send a check to help underwrite this effort. So far, we have received \$120.00. Our expenses have come to about \$55.00. If you would like to help with the administrative costs of the reunion and help promote the Rustic History project, your financial help is greatly appreciated. All money will go directly towards costs' of communications (i.e. these newsletters, etc.) and the publishing/printing costs of our unofficial history; Suggested contribution is \$20.00 per person.

A WORD TO THE WIVES:

If the planning weekend was any indication, we think the wives will have just as much fun at our reunion as the guys. We have tried to create a schedule

that will make the weekend an enjoyable event for all-and we'll make a special effort to get everyone acquainted, so come expecting to make some new friends, as well as renew your friendships with the old ones.

FINAL DEBRIEF:

It's been great hearing from everyone. Keep those cards and letters coming! I've mailed out questionnaires to some of you who I haven't heard from yet, so I hope this Rustic update will spur you to get them in the mail. Perhaps some of you will want to try to drop me a line on E-mail-Isn't this a great new toy?

If you have any questions, suggestions, or just want to keep in touch, let me hear from you. As they say, "many hands make light work." Thanks again for all of your encouragement and positive feedback.

Jim Lester, Sy Gaskill, and Jim Reese send you their regards!

Cheers,

Claude Newland

Claude Newland, Rustic 19
4033 Indian Trail Dr.
Destin, FL 32541
(904) 654-2955

RUSTIC REUNION SCHEDULE
18-21 SEP 97
FT WALTON BEACH, FL

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>ACTIVITY</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
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18 SEP 97- THURSDAY

1700-1930	HOTEL REGISTRATION REUNION SIGN-IN --SIGN-UP FOR OPTIONAL REUNION ACTIVITIES	HOTEL FRONT DESK RUSTIC HOSPITALITY SUITE (pool-side)
HOSPITALITY SUITE	OPEN	
1830-1930	GET ACQUAINTED MEETING --INTRODUCE WIVES	HOSPITALITY SUITE
1930-1000	GROUP DINNER! OR AT YOUR LEISURE.	RESTAURANT TBA

19 SEP 97-FRIDAY

0700-0800	EARLY BIRDS WALK-ON-THE-BEACH	MEET AT HOSPITALITY SUITE (optional)
0800-0900	BREAKFAST	HOTEL POOLSIDE CAFE
0915-0930	GATHER AT HOSPITALITY SUITE	POOL-SIDE
0930-1230	TOUR OF HURLBURT FLD (Air force bus picks us up at hotel)	HURLBURT FLD
	--SHORT BUS TOUR OF BASE (it's grown!)	
	-- VISIT AIR GROUND OPERATIONS SCHOOL	
	--BRIEFING (F AC School)	
	--MISSION BRIEFING ON 16m SPECIAL OPERATIONS WING	
	--BRIEFING UPDATE ON SE ASIA /CAMBODIA	
	--VISIT AIR PARK/AIRCRAFT STATIC DISPLAY	
	--GROUP PHOTO	
1230-1330	LUNCH	HURLBURT FLD O'CLUB
1330-1345	BUS RETURNS TO HOTEL	
1345-1700	LEISURE TIME --HOSPITALITY SUITE OPEN --BRING MEMORABILIA TO HOSPITALITY SUITE FOR DISPLAY --PICK UP Copy OF RUSTIC HISTORY --WAR STORIES? --PROVIDE ADDITIONAL HISTORY INPUTS? --SHOPPING/SIGHT -SEEING (factor)' outlets)	HOSPITALITY SUITE
1700-1800	WIFE'S HAPPY HOUR --GROUP PHOTO	HOTEL- TBA

19 SEP 97-FRIDAY (cont)

1700-1800	RUSTIC HAPPY HOUR (GUYS ONLY) Sorry ladies. We hope you don't mind--this will be the only time we do this) --GROUP PHOTO --SHORT BUSINESS MEETING	HOSPITALITY SUITE
1800-2100	DINNER	HARPOON HANNA'S (next door to hotel. on the beach)

or

	SUNSET CRUISE	DESTIN HARBOR! CHOCTAWHATCHEE BAY POOLSIDE
2100-till	HOSPITALITY SUITE OPEN --MOONLIGHT W ALK-ON- THE-BEACH --CONFIRM PLANS FOR SAT. ACTIVITIES	

20 SEP 97-SATURDAY

0800-till	BREAKFAST AT LEISURE	HOTEL POOL SIDE CAFE
0900-0915	GROUP-UP FOR DAY'S ACTIVITIES (If not done so already)	HOSPITALITY SUITE
0800-1400	OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES --GOLF --FISHING --SIGHT-SEEING --SHOPPING (Factory Outlets) --COOKOUT/BBQ ON BAY (pontoon boats/waverunners) -- VISIT EGLIN AFB ARMAMENT MUSEUM & AIRCRAFT STATIC DISPLAYS	
1400-1800	HOSPITALITY SUITE OPEN	POOLSIDE
1400-1600	REUNION DINNER SET-UP	HOTEL DINING ROOM
1800-1900	HAPPY HOUR HOTEL --FAMILY/COUPLES PHOTOS --INDIVIDUAL RUSTIC PHOTOS	DINING ROOM
1900- 2130	RUSTIC REUNION DINNER (coat & tie) --WELCOMEJINTRODUCTIONS --DINNER --RECOGNITION/ A WARDS --HISTORY OF RUSTICS (Hope to have all Rustic Cmdrs.) --1970-73 REMEMBER WHEN? --SLIDFJVIDEO SHOW (if we have enough inputs) --TOAST TO COMRADES --RUSTIC GROUP PHOTO --ETC.	HOTEL DINING ROOM

20SEP 97 - SATURDAY (cont)

2130-till	HOSPIT ALITY SUITE OPEN	POOLSIDE
	--MOONLIGHT WALK-ON-THE-BEACH (optional)	

21 SEP 97-SUNDAY

0830-0930	EARLY BIRD WALK-ON-THE-BEACH	
0900-1100	BREAKFAST BUFFET HOTEL	POOLSIDE CAFE
1000-1300	HOSPITALITY SUITE OPEN	
	HOTEL CHECK-OUT	
	FAREWELLS	

COMMENTS ON SCHEDULE

We welcome your comments/feedback on the above schedule Nothing is in concrete, except the dates. Several Rustics mentioned In their initial responses to us that they would like to see a lot of free time for informal socializing7 so the schedule was built with that in mind. Optional activities for Saturday morning will be made available to you when you sign-in at the Hospitality Suite.

Our intent "as to leave Friday evening free for some free-lance visiting of your old haunts (although many of them may be hard to recognize or have

disappeared altogether—I'll have an intell brief to bring the pilots up-to-date.) For those who are new to the area, we'll start making some new - "Rustic" memories of the area by checking out those places which catch our eye. An optional sunset cruise of the Destin Harbor will be available or, if a group wants to get together, there are a lot of great restaurants (especially seafood) in the area. Right next door to the Ramada Inn is a nice beachfront restaurant called Harpoon Hanna's. Also, many ,great restaurants are located only five minutes away to the East in Destin. If enough interest is expressed in getting a group together for dinner, we'll have time to coordinate the details after everyone arrives.

By the way, Destin has really grown-up. Everyone should try to get over to the Destin harbor sometime during your visit

And yes, Jim Nuber, the American Legion Hall is still thriving in Destin, but its no longer on a dirt road at the edge of town it' s located on a 2 lane road in the middle of town. (Jim has an "interesting" story about his run-in with some of the local good 'boys late one night down at the parking lot of the American Legion Hall where they let their shotgun do most of their talking. Jim, I think most of those guys have long since left the area Destin has come a long way since then.

The main event will be the Rustic Reunion dinner on Sat evening. It's probably safe to say that most of us Rustics have never seen each other with a tie on (green "dirt bags" were unquestionable the uniform-of-the-day in "Nam") but in deference to this special occasion it was unanimous by the planning committee that we should try to raise our usual standards just this once- besides, the weather in late September is as pretty as it gets down here and a sport coat will actually feel pretty good in the evening. If you have any thoughts on what would make this evening more meaningful, or any suggestions, let us hear from you.

Hurlburt Field is no longer a well-kept secret. Dynamic growth and the expansion of the Air Force Special Ops mission has doubled the population of the base in the last three years alone. The tour of the base, mission briefing, and visit to the Air Ground Operations School will give you a greater appreciation of our special ops capabilities and how today's battles are being fought and won through sophisticated, high tech battlefield management. Also, you' will be interested is seeing how our 'ol FAC school s surviving in this modern era, and will learn what the future holds for the school.

The only thing "firm" about this schedule are the dates. We feel we owe it to every one to set the dates so everyone can start making plans. Etc. We're not sure if this will be the first of several Rustic reunions-only time will tell-but we're doing all we can to make you want to come to our first one- it will definitely be our best to date!

So, mark the dates on your calendar and plan to make this reunion a "must." Those that can come will be glad they did, and those that can't will be sorely missed!!



L TO RIGHT ↑
JIM LESTER
DOUG HELLWIG
CLAUDE NEWLAND
GEORGE BROWER

"RUSTIC BAR"

GEORGE LARSON LT TANH

BACK ROW L-R: →
HANK KEESE
SY GASKILL
CAMBOOIAN
"DOC" THOMAS
JIM GABEL



← SITTING
LT THANN
JIM NUBER
JIM SEIBOLD
BOB CLIFFARO

CHRIS POLK JIM REESE SY GASKILL WALLY FRIEDHOFFEN, CLINT MURPHY, JOE V.
JERRY, DUFRESNE



Dear Fellow Rustics,

12 Aug 96

Here's a quick update on our latest Rustic Reunion planning.

REUNION PLANNING MEETING: Saturday, 21 September '96 at my house in Destin, FL. Objective: visit local hotels/motels to select a reunion site. Jim Reese, Sy Gaskill, and Jim Lester, and I (along with our wives) will visit the various locations and make a determination as to which site will best suite our reunion needs. We hope to find a suitable gulf-front location. If you would like to join us, we have room for a few more people, so you won't need to find a motel room. Anyone and everyone is welcome. Out-of-town guests should arrive Friday evening, 20 Sep. Let us hear from you if you can join us.

We also plan to work on the reunion schedule. We'll get a good preview of what the weather will be like since this meeting is approx. one year from our planned reunion date of 25-28 Sep 97.

HISTORY INPUTS: Jim Reese has received a number of history inputs for our "unofficial" Rustic History. "Thanks" to everyone who has sent in inputs. He's still hoping to hear from a bunch more of you. His plan is place our personal recollections in a section of the history which will be called Chronology of Major Events, and we would like to have some input from every Rustic. If you haven't started yet, it's time to clear off the desk and pen a few lines. Jim would appreciate your input as soon as possible. This project will have an exciting impact during our reunion when Jim will have copies of the 1st draft of our unofficial history.

Lannie Trapp has confirmed that our Rustic Daily Intell Summaries still exist, but they are still classified. Someday, we may have access to them. In the meantime, several of you have brought up concerns that our unofficial history may still be of a sensitive nature, so Jim Reese is researching procedures through Air Force for having our 'history' reviewed, if necessary, to be sure we are not printing something that might be construed to still be classified. But, keep sending in your history inputs. My guess is our 'recollections' are not national secrets today.

35MM SLIDES/MOVIES: If you have movies or 35mm slides we could use for the reunion, please let me know. If there is sufficient response, we'll try to put together a program using them. Does anyone have experience in this area? Suggestions?

ORAL HISTORY INPUTS (TYPING SUPPORT NEEDED): If the best way for you to input your history is to put it on audio tape, then please do! We anticipate we will get several interviews on tape and will need to have them typed up. We could use some help here. If you would be willing to help with the typing of these interviews, let me know. We'll send the tapes to you with instructions, etc.

NEW FOUND RUSTICS: Tom Adams (we have now located all three of the Rustic commanders), Bill Leydorf, Don Shinafelt, Bob Clifford, and Putt Richards. I mailed a 6th package to the Air Force Worldwide Locator a couple weeks ago with the updated info everyone has been sending me. I hope we locate a few more as a result of this effort. If anyone has social security numbers of any of our missing Rustics, send them to me. (Ron, I have the ones you sent me.) Perhaps, we can locate them using SSNs. Any ideas here? Anyone willing to take on this angle of search?

TREASURER'S REPORTS As of 11 Aug 96: (Does not include expenses for this newsletter mailing.)

Received: \$210.00

Expenses: 94.47

Balance: \$115.53

"Thanks" to everyone who has contributed. If you would like to contribute, but haven't yet, the suggested donation is \$20. So far, we haven't covered any expenses for printing our unofficial history—that will come. Expenses to date have been for postage and printing costs of newsletters, etc.

ONE LINERS (OR IT'S A SMALL WORLD:)

Several A-37 'Rap' pilots live here in the local area—I'll try to get a list of names.

My next door neighbor's son recently returned from a visit to Cambodia, Vietnam and Thailand.

(He was in the area of Bien Hoa—says base is in pretty bad shape.)
I have access to the photo collection of Arturo Menillo who was the photographer for the US Embassy in Saigon for most of the war. His son and I are working on another history project for the city of Destin.

Bob Hafner, 19th TASS Exec. Officer lives here in Destin. Deros'd Jun 71.

Col Anderson, 19th TASS/CC after Ltc Morton, lives here in Poquito Bayou, Fort Walton Beach.

Nuber, Trapp, and Bellefeuille have E mail. See roster update below.

Gil Bellefeuille may have located Roger Lanoue, one of our Rustic interpreters. No info yet.

We have a copy George Larson's 31 page interview which was taken by Clint Murphy before

George Deros'd. George really had a memory for details.

Finding Clint Murphy would be a great boost for our history project. He seemed to have a knack for interviewing people and then took the time to get it down on paper. Any ideas how to locate him? The AF Locator doesn't have an address since he seemed to have separated from the service.

ROSTER UPDATE:

THOMAS B. ADAMS VIRGINIA 506 WOODHAVEN RD (912) 922-2953
COL RET. CENTERVILLE, GA 31028
RUSTIC 01 (2ND CMDR) FAX: (912) 922-3145
COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE

ROBERT R. CLIFFORD DORTE CHEMIN RIEU #15 41-(0)22-346.42.63
COL RET. GENEVA, SWITZERLAND
RUSTIC 03 CH-1208
FAX: 41-(0)22-346.47.31

BILL LEYDORF DONNA 227 CHUNILOTI WAY (423) 458-0533
RUSTIC ? LOUDON, TN 37774

"PUTT" RICHARDS 11415 KNOLL VISTA (909) 485-0034
RUSTIC 14 MORENO VALLEY, CA 92555

DON J. SHINAFELT ANNETTE 2906 DARNLEY PLACE (703) 255-9521
RUSTIC ? VIENNA, VA 22181-6136
US PATENT AND TRADEMARK E MAIL: SHINAFEL@ix.netcom.com

E MAIL: JIM NUBER jnubes@aol.com
LANNIE TRAPP trappl@af.pentagon.mil
GIL BELLEFEUILLE gbellef105@aol.com

REUNION PHOTOGRAPHER: During the reunion, we plan to take several group photos, etc. If anyone would like to serve as the Reunion photographer for these events, i.e. has cameras, tripods, etc., let me know. We will have someone available to snap the pictures so you'll be in the photo too. We encourage everyone to bring their own camera. There'll be lots of informal photo opportunities.

NEXT UPDATE: Expect an update following our 21 Sep 96 planning meeting.

Till then, keep your mach up and fly safe,

Claude

Claude G. Newland, Rustic 19

MISSING RUSTICS.

PILOTS:

CAPT HARRY COOPER (INTELL)
CAPT LOU CURRIER (L)
CAPT ROGER DODD (19 TASS IP)
MAJ JIM HETHERINGTON
LT JOHN DRURY (L)
LT MICHAEL JOHNSON (L)
CAPT KIMBALL (NAME?)

CAPT ALLEN METCALF (S)
COL WILLIAM MORTON 19 TASS/CC (L)
LT or CAPT DAN RATLEDGE (L)

CAPT ARNIE SIMMS (S)
LT JOE SPENCER (S)
JOHN STAVA (19 TASS SEFE) (L)
CAPT WAYNE ST. JOHN (L)
"DOC" THOMAS (NAME?) (FLT SURG)
CAPT DAVE VAN DYKE (L)
CAPT PAUL RIEHL (L)
CAPT GIL WILLIAMS (L)
CAPT MIKE WILSON (L)
CAPT PAUL WAGNER (L)
CAPT VAN KIRK (NAME?)
OTHERS?

INTERPRETERS:

AIC ROGER D. BLAIS (L)
TSGT EMIL H. BRUNEL (L)
SGT NORMAN CIMON (S)
SSGT STANLEY CHANG (D-JAN 94)
SGT ROLAND "DEKE" DESHAISE (S)
SGT JOHN DUHON (S)
TSGT ROGER LANOUE (L)
AIC PIERRE LIGONDE (Last address: New York City)
SGT CHARLES R. MANUEL (L)
AIC ROBERT MONTMARQUET (L)
AIC PHILLIP MORNERULT (L) sn 006-44-5746
CAPT CLINT MURPHY (S)
TSGT ROBERT PAQUIN (or JOE?)
TSGT ARTHUR X. 'BOB' PARADIS (L) sn 003-18-1122
SGT NORMAN FALCON (L) sn 045-30-1512
AIC JEAN P. G. DOYON (L) sn 005-48-8350
AIC MICHAEL J. GAGNE (S)
AIC RONALD GAMACHE (S)
SGT TIMOTHY E. EARLY (L) sn 402-60-7692
OTHERS?

CAMBODIAN FRIENDS:

COL OUM (Southern Calif. area?)
LT TIM TANH (Austin, Tx. area?)
OTHERS?

(S) = SEPARATED (ACCORDING TO AF WORLDWIDE LOCATOR)
(D) = DECEASED (ACCORDING TO AF WORLDWIDE LOCATOR)
(L) = LETTER FORWARDED BY AF WORLDWIDE LOCATOR TO SOMEONE BY THIS
NAME (NO RESPONSE)
sn = SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER

** TO MAKE CORRECTIONS, ADDITIONS, OR IF YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION THAT
MIGHT BE HELPFUL IN LOCATING ANY OF OUR MISSING RUSTICS, PLEASE
CONTACT ME:

CLAUDE G. NEWLAND (RUSTIC 19)
4033 INDIAN TRAIL DR.
DESTIN, FL 32541
(904) 654-2955

(COMPLETE NAMES WITH MIDDLE INITIALS SEEM TO GET THE BEST RESULTS
FROM THE AIR FORCE WORLDWIDE LOCATOR. SO CHECK YOUR RECORDS,
ORDERS, ETC. TO SEE IF YOU CAN HELP WITH CORRECT SPELLINGS, ETC.
IF YOU HAVE SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS, SEND THOSE ALSO. SSNs MAY BE A
WAY TO LOCATE MISSING RUSTICS THROUGH OTHER SOURCES.)

Portions of Gil Bellefeuille's account of his shoot down while flying with Don Brooks

My best recollection is that the mission started out as a nice morning. Good flying weather. Some high putty clouds but basically CVU. Takeoff was between 0700-0800 because we were credited with four hours flying time that day and I believe our main activity was covering a convoy which had been attacked during the night. We were climbing out of 3000 feet when we were hit. We were later told that it was a 50 cal high explosive round and best guess is the hydraulic and fuel lines just behind me got severed and fed the fire in the back cargo bay. Don Brooks looked in his rearview mirror... all he saw was a ball of fire in the back seat. I do remember that it got real warm very quickly and I had a minor burn on my shin, but that is all I recall. I do know that I was as covered as I could be. Sleeves rolled down and velcro'd over them. Basically, I was protected as I could be. Which, I guess explains, the lack of burn injuries. Don fire walled the power and started a jinking climb as soon as he realized we'd been hit. I recall ejecting immediately as soon as Don gave the word. (Don) told me later that when I created that hole in the canopy, it created a nice venting effect which sucked the fire around him. I believe this prompted him to abandon the idea of saving the aircraft and instead abandoning it.

The ejection seat worked as advertised. I screwed up. I was looking down at the handle when I pulled it. I got a super stiff neck out of it. I had a good chute. forgot to deploy my seat kit. I not do recall seeing Don eject, however, I recall looking to my left and seeing Don in his chute and the airplane going nose up and turning to the right. The back half of it was on fire and it appeared to stall because it just kinda fell off of the right wing and flew into the ground. It was an explosive crash but completely soundless. I started looking to where I would land. I thought I was gonna hit a tree but came down about 100 feet from it. I was also knocked out. I was told that my seat kit probably caught me behind the knees and may have banged me in the tail bone... finally shed my parachute and went to the tree and sort of kinda crouched. I knew I was in indian country, but did not know how far from the friendlies... I took a drink of water to sort of calm me down, it didn't work, I was still scared shitless. Then I heard troops moving toward me. I pulled out my 38 and rolled onto the ground and peeked from around the tree.

I fully intended to use 5 rounds on the bad guys and the last one for me. I did not feel it was in my or the Rustic's best interest to be captured. Two things made me guess that they were not the bad guys. First, they were were noisy as hell and they kept repeating "friend" in french. Plus, they were a really rag-tag group of troops. The epitome of the saying peasant troops... they created a perimeter about 100 feet in diameter around me. The Khmer Huey had picked up Don first and I believe Shadow was vectoring the chopper to my position. I remember attempting to pop smoke... popped the smoke and the Huey picked me up. I gave the Khmers who found me the rest of my water and cigarettes and got on the Huey. They flew us back to Phnom Penh, took us to a clinic, checked us out and said we were OK. What Don and I did not realize is that 7th Air Force was screaming for our return and that Jolly Greens were at the airport waiting to take us back to Bien Hoa. The Khmers were insulted. They wanted to wine and dine us. Of course, Don and I thought that was OK. However, we received a visit from the air attache or one of the attaches... he told us in no uncertain terms that there would be no party. We were heading back to Bien Hoa as soon as possible. While the attache is telling us that, a Khmer officer with us was insisting that no, we could not return and that we must stay under medical observation for 24 hours. The Khmers were attempting to take us away from the hospital (kidnap us) and not tell the embassy where we were. Obviously, the attache and 7th AF won out. We were back at Bien Hoa late that afternoon. (THAT WAS A HAPPY DAY FOR ALL OF US ')

L-R:
POLK
BELLEFEUILLE
CLIFFORD
THANH
BROWER





BOB CLIFFORD
LTC ADAMS



L-R:
"BUBBA"
"NOONER"
RON D.
"NURES"

"CHAMPAGNE
TIME"



JERRY DUFRESNE

HERE, JIM, SOME OF MY
CHILE WILL MAKE IT BETTER!





DAVE
VAN DYKE



COTTON
BALLS?
DICK
GREEN
JIM
NUBER



BILL
"LEYDORF"

NEWLAND "MISSIE" CLIFFORD, SIMS, WALLY



Dear Fellow Rustics,

4 Dec 96

Seasons Greetings from the Everald Coast. Here's the latest update on our Rustic Reunion planning:

REUNION DATE MOVED UP ONE WEEK EARLIER TO 18-21 SEP 97: The reunion planning group met on Saturday, 21 Sep to visit local hotels/motels to select a reunion site. During our discussions and planning it became apparent that it would also be best to move the reunion up one week, so we are announcing this change now. Mark it on your calendar! This date is final and will not change. Start making your plans now so you can join us for this historic first Rustic FAC Reunion. (Should you decide to fly to the reunion, this date will still enable you to get discounted airfares-which usually become available after 15 Sep.)

REUNION LOCATION: After visiting 5 different properties, the reunion planning group selected the Ramada Inn Beach Resort Hotel as our reunion site. It is a beautiful resort hotel located on the beach on Okaloosa Island between Ft Walton Beach and Destin. It has all the amenities of a first-class resort with hospitality suites, two fabulous pools with large courtyards, banquet facilities, and a great location on the Gulf of Mexico. Also, thanks to hurricane Opel, this facility has received a complete renovation and everything is practically brand new.

This will be the site of our hospitality suite, informal gatherings, and the Saturday evening reunion banquet.

We have tentatively reserved rooms for the reunion. More information on when and how to reserve your room will be in next newsletter. For now, suffice to say that when the time comes each person will call direct to the hotel to make their own individual reservations. An advanced group deposit of \$150.00 is due 18 Jun 97 and will be paid by the reunion planning group to hold our rooms.

For planning purposes, discounted rates for rooms are as follows:

LOCATION (overlooking):	COST:
Parking Lot	\$65/night =same size/type room as courtyard/pool room
Courtyard/pool	\$70/night
Poolside Towers	\$75/night High-rise tower with room facing courtyard/pool
Gulffront Towers	\$85/night High-rise tower with room facing gulf front

MISC: Add 9% tax to all room rates. Our hospitality suite will be located next to the courtyard/pool. Any room location will get you a nice room.

ALTERNATE HOTEL: Rooms are also available at the Sea Isle Motel which is located across the street and about a half block away from the Ramada (within walking distance.) Its a very nice motel, recently renovated, and rooms are approximately \$45/night + 9 %tax. Serves a continental breakfast; no restaurant facilities; has small pool. More info on this option in next newsletter.

HISTORY INPUTS: Jim Reese received a package from Jerry Dufresne which contained a number of interesting items: Map of Cambodia, a 100 mission poster, patches and flags, his personal mission log with names of pilots, a Phnom Penh tourist brochure in English, several photographs, and a few personal thoughts. "Thanks" Jerry for your input.

Jim Reese continues to work on putting together our Rustic History and he's still looking to hear from a number of you. Send your "war stories, remembrances etc. to Claude Newland, and he will forward them to Jim.

Last month while on a layover in Austin, TX, I looked up Walt Arellano (3rd Rustic Task Force/CC.) Walt replaced Tom Adams as CC. We got together for a visit/lunch and I taped his oral history of his experiences/tour as a Rustic and as our commander.

Jim Reese and I also interview Jim Lester (1st Rustic Task Force/CC) in conjunction with our recent reunion planning meeting. We got Jim Lester's entire oral history as the Rustic' first commander on tape. This is particularly significant because Jim Lester has all the background on "when" and "how" the Rustics got started. You'll enjoy reading about it in our history when it gets published.

Two weeks ago, Jim Reese and I visited Tom Adams at his home. We interviewed Tom to get his oral history of his tenure as the 2nd Rustic Task Force commander. More good info here!

We now have the oral history of 3 out of the 4 Rustic Task Force Commanders. We don't have Ray Stratton's yet, but we hope to get it before too long. Once we get Ray's history, we'll then have a fairly broad brush of the entire life of the Rustic mission.

However, we still want, and need, inputs from each individual Rustic to give our history the completeness it deserves. Hope our efforts will inspire each of you to send in your inputs, if you haven't done so already.

HELP NEEDED: Can you help us with our Rustic History project?

Greg Freix has already volunteered to type up the oral interviews we did on Walt Arellano and Jim Lester. "Thanks" Greg!

However, we need additional typists to help with our history project, since we now have Tom Adam's oral history and plan to get others. If you have a computer and would be willing to help type up an interview, let me hear from you. The 'ol saying "many hands make light work" definitely applies here. Don't assume someone else is going to do this—if you don't get involved, it may not get done in time for our reunion. (Besides, you'll get an early glimpse of some very interesting Rustic history.)

How 'bout it? Can you help? The last time I put out a general appeal, I received no responses. Maybe this time it will be different. Perhaps this is the time for you to step up and get involved in supporting our history project.

NEW FOUND RUSTICS: Ray Stratton (4th Rustic Task Force/CC.-commanded unit after it left Bien Hoa Air Base and until Rustic mission ceased. Unit eventually moved to Thailand. Ray was instrumental in organizing the effort to sponsor Col Oum, and Col Oum's family, to come to the States after the war); Dick Roberds (O-2), and Jack Koppin (O-2), John Litton (O-2).

MISSING RUSTICS: A lot of new names are being added to our list of missing Rustic. Ray Stratton is trying to get me a list of the OV-10 Rustics who served under him. Additionally, Dick Roberds has a list of the O-2 Rustics who worked for him and he is forwarding that list to me also. Up until this point, we have not had many of the names of the O-2 Rustics because we had not located any of them until just recently. Hopefully, we can find a number of them in time for them to make our reunion.

Dick Roberds is assisting me by starting a search to locate missing O-2 Rustics. If you know the names, or the whereabouts, of any O-2 Rustics, let me or Dick hear from you.

HOTEL 302—GREAT NEWS!! We have located Col Oum. He is living in Austin, TX.—retired and is very much interested in attending our first Rustic Reunion. As some of you recall, he was the ground commander at Kompong Thom.

Address: Col Lieou Phin Oum
7008 Teaberry Dr.
Austin, TX 78745
(512) 442-8360

TREASURER'S REPORT: As of 10 Nov 96 (does not include expenses for this newsletter mailing):

Received: \$275.00

Expenses: 175.55

Balance: \$ 99.45

"Thanks" to those (13) who have been able to send in a contribution. Due to the increased size of our mailing list, cost of printing and mailing the quarterly newsletter is now approximately \$45.00. If you would like to contribute, but haven't yet, the suggested donation is \$20.00. Send contribution to Claude Newland, 4033 Indian Trail Dr., Destin, FL 32541.

SHORT BURSTS:

An A-37 static display aircraft is being added to the Hurlburt Field Air Park this week.

No OV-10 aircraft available as yet, but they have requested one.

A-37 "Rap" reunion to be held in Las Vegas in Apr 97 in conjunction with the Air Force's 50th

Anniversary celebration.

The Hurlburt Field Air Park has a FAC Memorial which lists the names of FACs killed in SEA.

This list of names is known to be incomplete. I'll include list in a subsequent newsletter for your review.

Texas Tech is the center for Vietnam Conflict studies. Their next annual conference will be 18-19

Apr 97 at the campus. Adm Zumwalt, Chairman. Theme: "What should we teach about the

Vietnam War?" For information, contact: Dr. Rechner (Texas Tech) E-mail: JJREC@ttu.edu

Wild Weasels have their own internet home page developed by Kim Pepperell E-mail: KimP@TL.com

Rap A-37 pilots reunion POC: Ollie Maier 306 Village West Drive, San Marcos, TX 78666

1st OV-10 arrived Hurlburt Field on 26 Feb 68

First OV-10 class graduated on 22 May 68

Greg Freix has recently retired, and is looking to start his 2nd career. He's in the search mode now.

Any suggestions or leads for him?

NEXT REUNION PLANNING MEETING:

Look for an April '97 planning meeting to be held in Atlanta. Jim Reese will host meeting at his house and we'll probably go out to dinner or lunch afterwards. Details to be announced. By having this meeting in Atlanta, We are hoping that those of you who live in and around the Atlanta area can come join us. Agenda will include planning our Reunion Banquet, working on history project, finalizing the reunion schedule and, in general, having a good time! Hope you can join us if you are in the area. Contact Jim Reese for details.

BLACKBEARD ATTACKS EMERALD COAST:

Blackbeard has captured the Destin Harbor with a fleet of sailing ships which fly the Jolly Roger and strike terror into the hearts of the surrounding cities on the Emerald Coast. The local native population, however, has found favor with this infamous pirate of the seas, and his ships are available for three hour afternoon sunset cruises whereby we can plunder the coastline and party the evening away to our own delight.

You can be pressed into service on his Friday evening cruise (19 Sep 97) if you care to take to the friendly seas and experience the excitement of a pirate ship on the prowl for unsuspecting merchant ships.

We have demanded Blackbeard make one of his ships available to the fearless Rustics for an evening of sailing from 4-7 pm on 19 Sep 97 (Fri.) Cost is only \$17 per person (normal rates are \$25 per person.) This sunset cruise will be a first-come, first-serve, and is limited to the first 40 Rustic "pirates" who want to join up. The price includes soft drinks, beer, ice and what ever else we would like to bring. Come one, come all and join up.

Contracts for this cruise will be made firm, if we have enough response, so indicate on the feedback form attached to this newsletter if you'd like to sail into the sunset with us on the Blackbeard.

There are many fine restaurants in Destin, (many on the Destin Harbor,) so plan to stay for dinner. We'll make group reservations, for those who want to get together for dinner. Sign-up for dinner reservations will be when you arrive for the reunion and register at the hospitality suite.

RUSTIC BANQUET (SAT, 20 SEP '97):

If you have any suggestions/ideas about what you'd like to see included in the program for the evening, let me hear from you. We have a tentative outline which we will fine tune at our April '97 planning meeting.

FEEDBACK FORM:

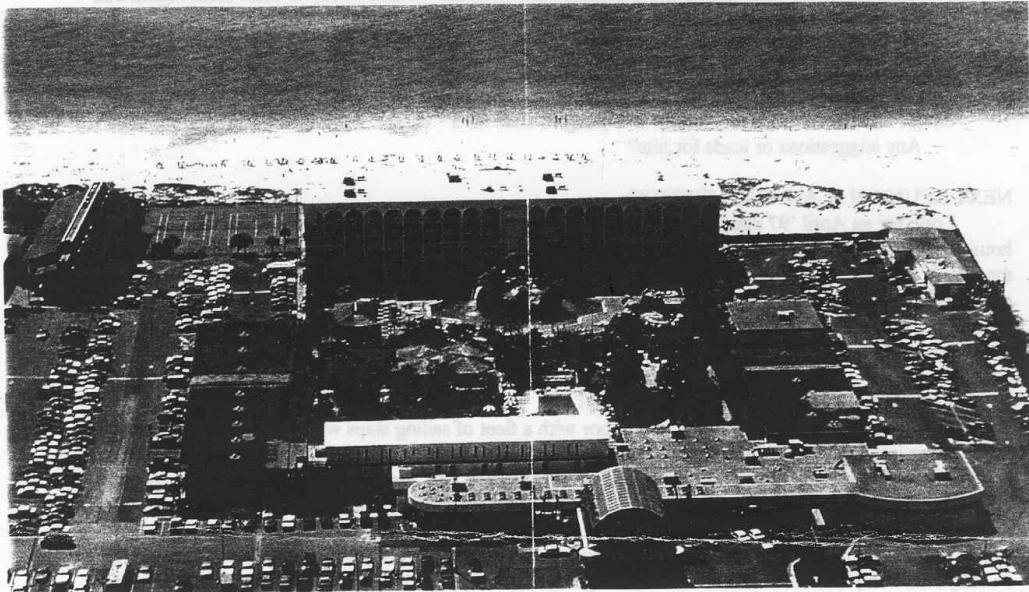
Request everyone please complete the attached feedback form on the next page and mail it back to me, so we will have a tentative idea of how many Rustics to expect for our historic first reunion. This is not a firm commitment (we're collecting no deposits/registration fees yet.....that will come in summer '97.) Even if you know you can't come this time, send in a response so I will know you are still receiving these newsletters. (and we still would like to get your history input.)

In the spirit of the holidays, this might be a good time to send a card or letter to someone who hasn't heard from you in a while.

Hope you all have a happy holiday season and the new year brings you good tidings.

CHEERS,

Claude "Route 19"



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