



RUSTIC NEWS

Volume 2, Issue 2

April 30, 1998

NEXT RUSTIC FAC REUNION 23-26 SEP 99, FT WALTON BEACH, FL

QUARTERLY MEETING: The Rustic reunion planning group met on Thursday, 8 April, for dinner at Claude and Tona Newland's home. Claude served up famous spicy 'South-of-the-Border' cuisine and the quarterly Rustic business meeting was conducted afterwards. *Jim Lester, Bill Sleigh, Sue and Lendy Edwards* and the *Newlands* were in attendance. (*Don Echelberger* was absent due to some minor surgery. 'Hope you're feeling better Don.')

TREASURE'S REPORT: *Lendy Edwards* says the response has been good from Rustics who want to support a more formal Rustic FAC Association. Over 80 Rustic have already sent in their annual dues of \$20.00, so the Rustics should have no problem continuing with their quarterly newsletter and annual roster mailings. If you've received this newsletter it means you are either a dues paying member (i.e. Rustic or Associate Member) or the family point-of-contact for the Eddy, Gambino, or Vrablick families which will continue to receive the Rustic newsletter at no charge as Honorary Members of the Rustic FAC Association. Thanks to all who continue to support our Rustic FAC Association efforts.

RUSTIC MEMORIAL BRICK FUND: The three Air Commando Association Memorial Bricks to honor the memory of our three fallen Rustics, *Lts Garret Eddy, Joseph Gambino, and Michael Vrablick*, have been purchased and are in the process of being mounted in the new Air Commando Association museum which is located 3.5 miles west of Hurlburt Field on Highway 98. Your voluntary contributions to this memorial fund have helped us honor the memory and sacrifice of our fellow Rustics, while also contributing to a very worthwhile ACA museum building fund project. Thanks to everyone who generously contributed this memorial fund!

EXCESS FUNDS: \$355.00 remained in the Memorial Brick Fund after the purchase of our three ACA Rustic memorial bricks. (Each brick costs \$100.00.) The Planning Group unanimously voted to retain this money and set it aside in a separate 'Memorial fund' which could be used as possible seed money to help with the establishment of a more suitable FAC memorial at the Hurlburt AFB Air Park. This will probably be on the business agenda for our next reunion. (End)

The Rustic Directory for the History Book is missing data on a lot of our people. Soon I will have to go to press with what I have. If you think you have not provided your data, please email me at lendy@bsc.net or call 850-651-6766. Thanks.
Lendy Edwards

RUSTIC HISTORY BOOK UPDATE: By *JIM REESE*
Fellow Rustics, there are two things you can do to really help the book project at this time:

1) **Personal Stories:** If you are going to send in a personal story to be included in the Rustic History, the time is getting short. Thanks to all of you who have already done so, but there are still many of you who have not. Sometime this summer we will begin the process of going final. Granted, this will be a lengthy process, but it will be much harder to incorporate any new material after we begin. So please send your stories in right away if you're going to--to your respective chapter point-of-contact (See below.)

2) **Photographs:** Have you got a photograph that you think should go in the book? We need your help. *Please go through your photo albums now, today, immediately.* Do not put it off. If you have photo(s) that you think should be in the book, please send the photos to the **appropriate chapter authors** listed in the next paragraph. *Clearly mark the back of each photo with your name, date of photo, and appropriate remarks about the scene/persons (List person's names if appropriate, etc.)* We promise to handle them carefully and return them when we are finished. Getting the right photographs will help our book tremendously, so don't hold out on us. If in doubt, send it in. We may not be able to use all the photos, but we'd like to get maximum participation so we can get the best ones for our history.

Here's how the book looks now: The standard complement of pages before and after the main chapters to include: Title Page, Table of Contents, Rustic Chronology, Command Structure, Rustic Personnel Roster, Glossary, Rustics Remembered, and a Biography section, etc. Right now there are six main chapters, perhaps a seventh, as follows (**chapter author's are indicated—their addresses are on the Rustic Roster. If you need assistance with addresses contact me: 1-770-394-1769 or E mail: jawmreese@aol.com**)

Ch 1 Historical Perspective—Jim Reese
Ch 2 Bien Hoa OV-10s—Jim Reese
Ch 3 O-2s—Dick Roberds
Ch 4 Interpreters—Clint Murphy
Ch 5 Ubon OV-10s—Jon Safely
Ch 6 Cambodians—Doug Aitken (new Chapter)
Ch 7 Rustic Miscellany—Jim Reese

Chapter titles (and book title, for that matter) are still to be determined. Chapter Six is a latecomer which Doug Aitken has volunteered to write. We are still gathering material and this will probably be the last chapter written. It slows down the overall project, but I think it will be well worth the wait to have the perspective of the Cambodians themselves. We plan to include recollections from Col Oum, Col Om and Nady Tan. Nady Tan came to the states (sponsored by Doug

continued on page 2

Aitken),but has now returned to Cambodia and is active in current governmental affairs.

TIMELINE: Here's a rough estimate. Once all draft inputs have been received and chapter authors have updated their chapters (perhaps late this summer), we will produce an updated draft which will be sent out to our Book Review Committee (BRC) and all Rustic/CCs and ALOs for final review. The BRC will take their last cut on the draft. This will be intensive editing and will take some time to accomplish. We hope to have this finished by early 1999. When all comments have been received, two or three of us will meet to make the final decisions. This final editing and formatting will probably take place at Dick Wood's home in Washington. He has the computers, facilities, and has graciously extended an invitation. This process should take just a few days. This final draft will then be sent to Dick Roberds who has agreed to be our proofreader. Dick will take some time with this, perhaps a month or so, then we will incorporate his suggestions. So this brings us to Spring 1999, just six months before our Second Rustic Reunion. That should be enough time to send our manuscript to the printer we select, have the Rustic History printed, and mailed back to us in time to distribute at the Reunion. I know this sounds like a lengthy process, but we did not want to hold ourselves to an arbitrary deadline and in so doing diminish the quality of our history.

I hope you agree. In closing, there are so many Rustics who are doing so much work on this project, I know we will all be very proud of the results.

ONE LINERS:

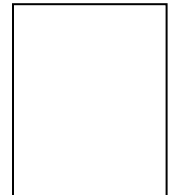
◆ The **A-37 Pilot's Reunion Association** has declined our invitation to jointly hold their 1999 reunion with the Rustics, due to the fact they have already made plans in '99 for the Texas Gulf Coast; however, their membership has expressed an interest in joining us for a 2001 reunion, if the offer remains open.

◆ The **Rustic FAC Association Committee**, chaired by *Don Mercer*, has notified us that they have a package in the mail to the Rustic Planning Group with their initial findings which will include a recommendation that we form an informal unincorporated association. (More to come once details are known. Thanks to Don and his group for their work on this project!!)

◆ *Lendy Edwards* is investigating the feasibility of developing a **Rustic internet Web Page** which can be developed at no cost to the Rustics.

Newsletter inputs: Send to Claude Newland 4033 Indian Trail Dr. Destin, FL 32541 or E Mail: cnewland@gnt.net

**Claude C. Newland
4033 Indian Trail Drive
Destin, FL 32541**



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

. .
. .

SIDEBAR ARTICLES

This sidebar article was created with a text box. You can use a sidebar article for any information you want to keep separate from other articles or information that highlights an article next to it. These could include a list of contributors, addresses or contact information, a smaller self-contained story, a preview of the next issue, or a calendar of schedule. The example below shows a Calendar of Events.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SPECIAL EVENT

PLACE

TIME

Type a description of your event here.

SPECIAL EVENT

PLACE

TIME

Type a description of your event here.

SPECIAL EVENT

PLACE

TIME

Type a description of your event here.

SPECIAL EVENT

PLACE

TIME

Type a description of your event here.

Return Address - Use this style in a mailing label to type your address.

Picture Caption - Use this style to type a description of a picture or illustration.

Subtitle - Use this style to type sub-headings in an article.

Use PullQuote to excerpt text from the main text of a story to draw a reader's attention to the page. See page 4 for an example.

continued from page 1



Return Address
Street Number and Name
City, State 98765-4321

BULK RATE
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO.
98765

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Mailing Address
Street Number and Name
City, State 98765-4321



RUSTIC NEWS

Volume 2, Issue 3

July 31, 1998

NEXT GALA RUSTIC FAC REUNION: 23-26 Sep 99, FT WALTON BEACH, FL

(Come party on the Emerald Coast with your Rustic friends and plan to get your personal copy of the Rustic History Book autographed by those who were there with you.)

QUARTERLY REUNION PLANNING MEETING: The local Emerald Coast Rustic Reunion Planning Committee held it's quarterly meeting on Sunday evening, 19 Jul, at the Crab Trap Restaurant (formerly Harpoon Hanna's) overlooking the beautiful white beaches of Ft Walton Beach. You may recall, this restaurant is located just west of the Ramada Beach Resort hotel where we held our last reunion. Those in attendance were *Don and Kathrin Echelberger, Lendy and Sue Edwards, Jim Lester, Claude and Tona Newland, and Bill and Nancy Sleigh.* (*Barbara Lester* was a little under the weather, so she couldn't make it.) We had a great meeting as usual! We all look forward to our get-togethers—it's like a mini reunion each time we gather and the Snow Crab specials made the dinner a really special treat.

Contract: *Claude Newland* reported that the contract with the Ramada Beach Resort on Okaloosa Island for our next reunion has been signed. Reunion dates are 23-26 Sep 99 (Same location.)

Reunion Schedule: The consensus was 'If it ain't broke, don't fix it.' The '99 Reunion schedule will be similar to the '97 schedule, with some 'fine tuning.' We will offer a *Hurlburt Field Tour* again with emphasis on visiting the Air Force's new Osprey Squadron, which should be operational

by then. We may also visit the *Air Commando Museum*, which is nearby. Of course, we will plan a continue to offer a variety of 'optional' activities, including a sunset cruise on Friday. If you have any suggestions, let us hear from you. The Banquet will be Sat. evening and we may look for a *guest speaker* (singular—we think we successfully filled our square for marathon speechmaking at our last reunion—but what a special treat is was to hear from all of our former commanders and our dear Cambodian and Vietnamese friends!!) Any ideas here?

RUSTIC HISTORY BOOK PROJECT: The Rustic Book Review Committee (BRC) has been extremely busy getting the final draft of our unit history book ready for printing. Since almost all of the members working on this project have E mail, there has been a ton of E mail coordination messages flying about to address the many issues and questions that need to be resolved. It's really exciting to see the enthusiasm, which this project has generated, and again, we can't express our appreciation enough to all of those who have, and are continuing to, contribute to this effort. Here's the latest on what's been happening:

Chapter 2 (Bien Hoa OV-10's) Coordinator Change: *Dick Wood* is now the chapter coordinator for the Bien Hoa OV-10 chapter. He stepped forward and answered *Jim Reese's* call for assistance. *Dick* has already completed the final draft of chapter 2, but there still is time to submit last minute stories to him if you hurry. (See next item.)

Last Chance: If you have a story you'd like to contribute to the book, it needs to be submitted to your chapter coordinator or *Jim Reese* NLT 15 Aug 98. *Jim* has asked the Chapter coordinators to get their updated final draft to him by **1 Sep 98.** If you have any questions, call *Jim Reese* (770) 394-1769. Time is now of the essence. Don't get left out of your book—be a contributor. Submit your 'own story/stories' now before it's too late!!

Book Dedication: It has been suggested that our book be dedicated to our fallen Rustics who were KIA and to our Cambodian friends and comrades who fought with us for their county's freedom. If you have any thoughts or suggestions on this, please pass them on to *Jim Reese.*

Maps and Pictures: Pictures: To be truthful, not many photographs have been sent in to the chapter coordinators. If you have any photographs that you think should be in the book, please send them to your respective chapter's coordinator (These were published in our last newsletter.)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1** Reunion Planning Committee Notices
- 1** History Book Update
- 2** Book Update cont.
- 2** Announcements
- 3** Treasurer's Report
- 3** New Found Rustics
- 3** One Liners

continued on page 2

35mm slides are best, but black and white or color photos are fine too. Dick Wood would like to locate a picture of the following:

a) OV-10 on ramp at Bien Hoa with standard Rustic load (big belly tank and four tubes of rockets.) Identify any people in the picture. (35mm slide or color photo.)

b) Color picture (35mm slide) of Mekong River convoy activity.

Maps: *Dick Wood* has a set of 1:250,000 maps, so we don't need any more of these. If you have others that might be helpful, send them to Dick or call (425) 335-1327.

Copyrights: We will definitely copyright our Rustic Unit History Book. Since we have not, as yet, formed a formal Rustic FAC Association, we plan to copyright the book in *Jim Reese's* name (Jim is the BRC chairman) and will transfer the copyright at a later date to the Association. *Dick Wood* says the transfer process is fairly simple and this way we will have our book protected from the very beginning.

Timeline: 15 Aug 98 -- Final story inputs to Chapter Coordinators

1 Sep 98 -- Chapter Coordinators send final chapter draft to *Jim Reese*.

15 Oct 98 -- Final draft mailed to all BRC members and all former Rustic/CC's and ALO's for review.

15 Feb 99 -- Final Draft to *Dick Roberds* for editing.

1 Apr 99 -- Manuscript to Printer

23 Sep 99-- Hand out Rustic History Book at Reunion. If you're not there, it will be mailed to you.

Book orders: Cost per book has not yet been determined, but expect more information on this in the next quarterly newsletter.

In the meantime, give some thought as to how many copies you think you might want. This book will be part of your history and you might want several copies for family and friends.

CAMBODIAN UPDATE FROM DOUG AITKEN:

Editor's note: Doug is writing the chapter on our Cambodian friends, Col Oum, LTC Om and Nady Tan.

"Well guys, I received in the mail a wonderfully detailed history from my friend Nady. He covers his early life, his career, and, with great detail, the fall of Cambodia. If the story of how he left his two oldest behind in the country and how they were eventually reunited doesn't bring tears to your eyes, then you don't have a heart. He also goes into extreme detail on what he and his family and friends went through last July when the Prince left the country and there was a coup. He is 63 and it sounded like he was not gonna survive—especially since he was a biggie in FUNIPEC and Hun Sen was killing those guys. As good as it is, that portion is sorta political, and I do not plan on using it.

"As I see it, and as I recall, we now have the stories of three officers who were in different places when the country fell, and who had different paths to

escape. Col Oum was already out of the country in Thailand. Nady Tan was at Battambang (the day the country fell, he flew to KP Chanang to put down an uprising of the junior officers against the generals) and he escaped the same day it fell. As I recall LTC Om Kohn's story at the reunion, he was forced to stay behind. Should provide some good contrasts. I hope to get with Col Oum in May after he returns from his trip. Cheers. Doug."

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP)--Khmer Rouge guerrillas made a bloody return to Cambodia politics by spraying a convoy of election workers with automatic weapons fire, killing two people, authorities said Saturday.

The Khmer Rouge had been considered all but crushed after its last stronghold fell to government troops in April and longtime leader Pol Pot died the same month. Despite Friday's attack however, the group is unlikely to have much impact on the July 26 election...

"It is Khmer Rouge under the command of Ta Mok from along the border" Chea Mann said. "They are trying to disrupt the elections."

General Ta Mok, known as "The Butcher" for his revolutionary brutality, seized control from Pol Pot last year. He is believed to control only a few hundred guerrillas along the rugged border with Thailand.

The Khmer Rouge has nearly disappeared because of mass defections during the past two years. In 1993, they still numbered more than 10,000 fighters but were unable to wreak the havoc they had promised on U.N.-organized elections then.

Announcements:

- Marine Black Pony Website:** <http://www.blackpony.org>
- OV-10 Aircraft in Vietnam Website:** <http://www.mv.com/ipusers/pab/pusaf.html>. Peter A. Bird is putting the web site together and is requesting additional help in locating pictures of the OV-10. E mail: peterb@pab.mv.com
- Does anyone know **Dan Shinafelt's Rustic call sign?** Please notify **Lendy Edwards and Dick Woods**.
- OV-10 BRONCO Association** now being formed. Those taking the lead are the Marine Black Ponies. The Coordinator is Jim Hogson (817) 329-0883. E mail: txavi8or@flash.net They are trying to locate every group that flew the Bronco and are also putting together a 'Find a Friend' web site: <http://www.ov-10bronco.net> They have located a former Raven OV-10 airframe # 799 and are in the search for others. They hope to obtain additional airframes and are trying to obtain space at Meacham Field in Ft Worth, TX. for a museum. Their Website will contain a "Find A Friend" Directory for all Bronco personnel. They have asked if we would like to have our OV-10 membership names added to their Website directory. We think this might be a good way to expand our network of contacts within the FAC community. Granted, it might also lead to receiving some unsolicited mail, but we think the trade-off is probably worth it. We would also reserve the right to have our names deleted from their directory individually, or collectively, if future unforeseen problems were to arise. **Comments? If there are not objections, we'll look into providing them our list of OV-10 drivers' names.**

5. **All FAC Reunion:** 9-11 Oct 98 in Ft Walton Beach, Fl in conjunction with the annual Air Commando Assoc. reunion. The FACs are planning their own separate dinner/banquet on Friday night. Contact Randy Hetherington for details: (305) 852-8203 E Mail: big-bai@ix.netcom.com If you want a reunion package sent to you contact Jon Alexaitis, E mail: calexaitis@aol.com The TASS with the most members showing up wins a keg of beer and 10 free lap dances a t "Shooters", according to Randy. Randy is looking for one volunteer to be the FAC for each TASS. Their job will be to man the TASS hooch at the hotel and sign in all the different members and hand out reunion packages. For this critically important job, the hotel will comp your room for two nights. The intent of this get-together is to see old friends and to provide an organizing reunion for each of the TASS's. (note: Several local Rustics plan to attend to represent Rustics. If you plan to come and/or need a place to stay, contact Claude Newland (850) 654-2955.)
6. Anyone having details of **Lannie Trapp's shoot down** ,on 26 Sep 71, please contact Dick Wood.
7. We are still looking for **Garrett Eddy's** Call Sign. Can anyone help? Please contact Lendy Edwards.

JUNE 1998 TREASURE'S REPORT: *Lendy Edwards* gave the following financial report at our Quarterly Rustic Planning meeting.

Income for June 98 :	Dues	\$40.00
	Memorial Fund	\$10.00
<u>Expenditures:</u>		<u>None</u>
General Fund Balance:		\$2666.99
Memorial Fund Balance:		\$395.00

86 Rustics have paid dues for 1998. Our thanks to each of you who are supporting our efforts to form a Rustic Fac Association through your annual dues contributions. Your contribution is making this newsletter possible and is helping sustain the camaraderie and fellowship of the Rustics.

Rustic General funds are being used strictly to underwrite the cost of our newsletters and to fund the minimal essential administrative costs. All reunion costs, past and future, have been and will continue to be paid for by funds collected specifically for the reunion . The **Memorial Fund** balance will be maintained to help with the possible development of a future Fac/Rustic Memorial at Hurlburt Field.

NEW FOUND RUSTICS: We have located 7 additional Rustic interpreters since our reunion last Sep. For some reason, we have had good success finding former Rustic interpreters. *Jim Gable* recently E-mailed me a list of names taken from his new '98 CD ROM Telephone Directory. From that list I was able to make a few calls and locate 3 interpreters just this past month. Thanks Jim for your help!! Unfortunately, we haven't had as much success trying to locate missing pilots, so were still asking everyone to get creative and help us locate those Rustic personnel still on our 'Missing Rustic' roster. *We welcome the following back to our Rustic ranks:*

Alphonse A. Deslauriers 3504 Bella Vista DR. Midwest City, OK 73110 (405) 737-8900
Jacques S. Dion Apache Lane 643, East Lebanon, Maine 04027 (207) 339-1500
John M. Duhon 307B Steiner Rd Layfayette, LA 70508 (318) 984-0051

35mm. **Phillip Morneault** 83 Leitao Dr. Oakdale, CT 06370 (860) 838-0072
Carl D. Norman 518 Washington St. Bicknell, IN 47512 (812) 735-3208

RUSTIC DATABASE: To date, the Rustic database maintained by Lendy Edwards has the following:

Rustics -----	175	Tillies -----	3
Fac ASS'n ---	86	Sundogs ----	6
Deceased ----	8	Sleepytime ---	6
Friends -----	32	Missing -----	57

(Here's where we need some renewed effort!)

ONE LINERS:

- 1) **Memorial Bricks:** *Bill Sleigh* reports that the Air Commando Association has now competed the mounting and display of the three 'Rustic Remembered' Memorial Bricks (for Garrett Eddy, Joseph Gambino, Jr., and Michael Vrablick) in their newly opened ACA Museum which is located 4 miles West of Hurlburt Field.
- 2) **A-37 Association Reunion:** The A-37 Association will hold their next reunion on 6-9 May '99 in San Antonio, TX **at the** historic downtown Menger Hotel which is across the street from the Alamo.
- 3) **Rustic Combat Video:** If you haven't purchased your copy of the terrific Rustic OV-10 and O-2 Video put together by Doug Aitken, only a few copies remain so get your order in to Doug (919) 387-8519. Cost is \$25.
- 4) **The following is reprinted from the A-37 Association Newsletter (Raps) for you enjoyment.**

"The top 10 reasons for being a Vietnam vet instead of a draft Dodger"

10. If there's ever a plague outbreak, you've had your shots.
 9. You learned some Vietnamese instead of Swedish. It's a much more useful language. There are very few Swedish restaurants in the U.S.
 8. People ask you what you think of Oliver Stone movies.
 7. You know how napalm really does smell in the morning.
 6. Sometimes over a nice Italian meal you remember the taste of LRRP spaghetti and meat sauce with Nuoc Mam Sauce.
 5. You can blame old war wounds instead of old age for creaks and rattles.
 4. You can attend reunions of your old unit and drink beer and tell war stories. Draft dodgers don't have reunions....
 3. You can march in Memorial Day parades if you can get a uniform which still fits.
 2. You never needed a Presidential Pardon.
- And the number one reason:**
1. You don't have to worry about being chosen as a Democratic presidential candidate....

Lost Email Addresses: I am having problems with email to the following people. If you have contact or know their email addresses, please forward them to Lendy Edwards at lendy@bsc.net. Tom Capps, Ron Gamache, Lanny Trapp, Ben Atkins, Dave Hull, Carolyn Life, Greg Freix, Si Gaskill, Lee Bergeron, Tom Case, Craig Shaum, Ron Grattopp and Phil Frischmuth.



September 23-26, 1999, Fort Walton Beach, Florida

Claude G. Newland
4033 Indian Trail Drive
Destin, Fl 32541

STAMP

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



RUSTIC NEWS

Volume 2, Issue 4

November 15, 1998

PLEASE CAREFULLY READ THIS ISSUE OF THE RUSTIC NEWS IN IT'S ENTIRITY. IT IS THE ANNUAL MAILING TO ALL RUSTICS (including those who are not currently members of the Rustic FAC Association) AND HAS IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON JOINING OR RENEWING YOUR MEMBERSHIP AND AN ORDER FORM FOR THE RUSTIC UNIT HISTORY BOOK. NEXT GALA RUSTIC FAC REUNION: 23 - 26 Sep 99, FT WALTON BEACH, FL

NEXT RUSTIC FAC REUNION: 23-26 Sep 1999, Ft Walton Beach, FL. Planning is underway for the Second Rustic FAC reunion. If you missed the first one, you missed a great gathering, so don't pass up this second opportunity. The reunion will again be at the beautiful Ramada Plaza Beach Resort on the Florida gulf coast. Treat yourself to a vacation and come join us! In addition to seeing all your Rustic buddies and getting a good dose of southern hospitality, we plan to have our Rustic book - "**The Rustics-A Top Secret Air War In Cambodia**" available for first distribution. Come and get your personal copy autographed by the many Rustics in attendance.

QUARTERLY REUNION PLANNING MEETING: *Bill and Nancy Sleigh* hosted the local Emerald Coast Rustic Planning Committee at their home for terrific dinner on Sunday, 1 Nov. Those in attendance were *Claude and Tona Newland, Lendy and Sue Edwards, and Don Echelberger. Jim and Barbara Lester and Kathrin Echelberger* were not able to attend. This meeting starts the 'ball rolling' for planning next year's reunion. It will be hard to 'outdo' our first

reunion, but we are going to try to do just that!! The 'minutes' from this meeting are included in this newsletter..

REUNION DETAILS/RESERVATIONS: The tentative reunion schedule and reservation information will be published in the Spring newsletter. Registration forms will be mailed out in the July 99 newsletter. No action is required on your part till then. In order to continue receiving the Quarterly Newsletters (and information on the reunion), you *must* send in your 1999 Rustic FAC Association Membership Dues.

1999 RUSTIC FAC ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP DUES: The Rustic FAC Association membership dues for 1999 will be \$20.00, the same as last year. A membership form is attached to this newsletter. Please tie a ribbon around your finger right now and leave it on till you have sent in your membership dues. (Last year, several Rustics called asking if we were still sending out our newsletters, because they had not been receiving them. What they discovered was they had not 'joined' the association, so they were not on our active mailing list.)

What your dues do: Association dues are used strictly for administrative costs of keeping the Rustics informed through our newsletters. We will also use part of the '99 dues to develop a Rustic FAC Webb site, which will include information on our Rustic Database, newsletters, reunion news, Rustic FAC projects, the Hurlburt Field FAC Memorial project, Information on other FAC happenings such as the OV-10 Bronco Association, and data links to other organizations such as the Air Commando Association, Raven FACs, and other FAC units.

What your dues don't do: No dues funds are used for any reunion expenses, or 'sponsoring' of guests at the reunion.

FOUR NEW FOUND RUSTICS: As a result of the recent All-FAC reunion held at Ft Walton Beach, FL on 9-11 Oct 98, four 'Missing' Rustics were found. They are: *Tim Eby* (Rustic 40, Jul 70), *Michael Stearns* (Rustic ? , 72), *Bill Powers* (Rustic 01, 73, Rustic/CC), and *Dick Goddard* (Rustic 20 , 73). *Tim Eby* and *Bill Powers* attended the reunion. *Tim* was one of the very first Rustics. He came TDY to the Rustics during its first start-up days and spent just one month TDY from another unit. *Bill Powers* served as the next-to-last Rustic Commander. *Stearns* and *Goddard* were located using leads from other FACs attending the reunion. See enclosed roster for their addresses, etc.

ALL FAC REUNION REPORT: On 9-11 Oct, approximately 50 FACs + wives attended the All FAC reunion held at Ft Walton Beach, FL. This first attempt to revive a FAC Association was

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Reunion Planning Committee Notices
- 1 Rustic Association Information
- 2 Book Update cont.
- 1 All FAC Reunion Report
- 2 Hurlburt FAC Memorial
- 2 ACA Memorial Service
- 2 One Liners

held in conjunction with the annual Air Commando Reunion on the same dates. Local Rustics *Claude Newland*, *Bill Sleigh*, and *Lendy Edwards* attended, plus newfound Rustics *Bill Powers* and *Tim Eby*.

SPECIAL GUESTS attending the Friday night FAC dinner and the Sunday Air Commando Memorial Service were *George Gambino* and *Joseph Gambino Sr.*, brother and father of *Joe Gambino*, Rustic 07, KIA. They had traveled from Panama City, FL to be with the Rustics who were attending this reunion. Needless to say, we were honored by their presence and spent several enjoyable hours visiting with them. On behalf of the Rustics, *Claude Newland* presented them a copy of the Rustic Video made by *Doug Aitken*, which they were most appreciative to receive. They both indicated they plan to attend our next Rustic reunion in Sep 99. We look forward to seeing them there!!

FAC DATABASE TO BE DEVELOPED. Perhaps the biggest positive outcome of the reunion was the decision to develop an ALL-FAC Database. *Rowdy Hetherington*, and *Jon Alexaitis* are going to lead this effort. Volunteers from each TASS were identified who will work to 'find' former FACs assigned to their respective TASSes. The objective is to locate all former FACs, and ensure they are aware of future FAC activities, reunions, and projects of FAC general interest (such as the Hurlburt Field FAC Memorial project, etc.) **More information on how this group will function will be published as they become known. In the meantime, if you want to learn more about this group, contact Rowdy Hetherington (305) 852-6156 or e-mail gibbai@ix.netcom.com.** *Lendy Edwards*, keeper of the Rustic Database, will keep this group informed of any Rustic roster changes/updates.

FAC HISTORIAN IDENTIFIED: *Darrel Whitcomb*, e-mail: *naul25@aol.com*, volunteered to serve as the FAC Historian. *Darrel* is the author of the book "The Rescue of BAT 21" which has just come out in print. (His book is much better than the original book on this same subject published some years ago.) *Darrel* is now in the process of getting a copy of each TASS's history from the Air Force archives at Maxwell AFB so that interested TASS groups can begin reconstructing their histories, etc. (Does this sound familiar? This is exactly how the Rustic book project got started two years ago.)

FAC MEMORIAL NAMES ADDED: With the assistance of those attending the reunion, about 15 names of additional KIA FACs were identified that are not presently on the FAC Memorial at Hurlburt Field. This list will be passed on to the Air Park Committee at Hurlburt.

HURLBURT FIELD FAC MEMORIAL TO BE MOVED/UPDATED: The FAC Memorial in front of the O-2 aircraft in the Hurlburt Air Park is going to be replaced with a new memorial and moved to a new location. The objective is to 1) remove the memorial from in front of the O-2 aircraft so that a standard podium/plaque can be constructed with data about the O-2 aircraft. All of the other aircraft in the Air Park have one of

these standard pedestals now, and 2) install a new FAC memorial, complete with an updated list of KIA names, which will be relocated closer to the nearby chapel-but still close to the present FAC aircraft. The plan is to have this memorial in place by May 2000, for the 10th anniversary celebration of the Hurlburt Special Ops Wing

MEMORIAL FUNDING/SIZE: We've been told that funding is available for the new FAC Memorial. However, the specifics of the memorial are not known at this time. The tentative plan is to put all the FAC KIA names on one big placard, which would be mounted on a single pedestal. Should we desire something more substantial, such as a larger 'granite' memorial, we could elect to help augment the purchase of a larger memorial. *Don Echelberger* has volunteered to be the Rustic liaison with the Hurlburt Air Park committee to keep us informed on this project. We know the Rustics and the FAC community, at large, will be very interested in this project, so we plan to keep everyone informed as to what is happening and how we might be able to contribute to this worthy project and ensure it is done well.

RUSTICS REPRESENTED AT THE AIR COMMANDO'S ANNUAL MEMORIAL SERVICE. For the second year in a row *Claude Newland* represented the Rustics at the Air Commando's annual memorial service which was held on Sunday, 11 Oct. He was happy to report that, to our knowledge, there were no Rustic losses during the previous year.

ONE LINERS:

Mark Berent, 'Papa Wolf', has agreed to write the Forward for our Rustic history book and plans to attend our next reunion.

The Hurlburt Air Park committee says they think they have located an **OV-10 for the Air Park**.

Lendy Edwards and *Claude Newland* are going to try to develop a **Rustic Webb site**. We currently have a draft of the Web Page and are continuing to work on it. We will let you know as soon as we go on line. (Let us know if you have any expertise in this area.)

Reminder to Book Review Committee members: Manuscripts, with your suggested changes, etc. are due back to **Dick Wood NLT 8 Jan 99**.

Is it too late to submit a story to the Rustic History book? No, send your story to **Dick Woods NLT 8 Jan 99**.

The OV-10 Bronco Association now has an OV-10 which they are restoring to flyable condition, a museum and hanger. Their **Webb site** is <http://www.ov-10bronco.net>.

