

Volume 9, Issue 1

15 March 2005



Rustic News

www.rustic.org

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NEXT RUSTIC REUNION--ONLY SIX MONTHS AWAY. Rendezvous Point: Ramada Plaza Beach Resort, Ft Walton Beach, FL, 22-25 Sep 2005. It's time to mark your calendar and start saving those nickels so you can attend this year's reunion. It's going to be another great Rustic gathering! Bring the spouse, or a friend, and expect a grand time on the snow white beach of the Emerald Coast. One of the highlights of the reunion will be a tour of Hurlburt Field which will include an update on Hurlburt's Special Ops activities and a visit to the Air Park to see the new FAC Memorial and all the FAC aircraft on display to include Rustic OV-10

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bird #626. **Reunion Registration Forms will be mailed out in the June 2005 Newsletter.**

WHO'S COMING? It's still early, but the following have already indicated they plan to attend the 2005 reunion: **Adams, Aitken, Capps, Carruthers, Dandeneau, W. Dodd, Echelberger, Edwards, Eklund, Ellis, Ernst, Gabel, Gagne (from France), Goddard, Haller, Hamann, Koepfel, McClellan, Newland, Col Oum, Seibold, Sleigh, Stratton, Thompson, Van Dyke, Van Kirk and Wilson.** Others who hope to come are: **Calvanelli, Gibson, Green, Harshaw, J. Hetherington, Hull, Mittendorf, Ross, Underwood and Winkler.** If you're planning to attend and your name is not on this list, please send Claude Newland an E mail at: rustic 19@cox.net. He will add your name to the growing list which will be published in the June Newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP AND TREASURER'S REPORT. Don Ellis.

Membership: Currently, the Association has 79 members for 2005 which consists of 35 Lifetime members and 44 annual dues paying members--the number of Lifetime Memberships continues to grow. "Thanks" to all of you who continue to support our association through your membership dues! Since this is a reunion year, we hope others will seek to renew their membership at, or before, the reunion.

Treasurer's Report. Your association is in great financial shape. A full treasurer's report will be presented at the 2005 Reunion Business Meeting. Our projected budget for 2005 is approx \$1,100 which covers administration and website expenses.

NOMINATIONS BEING ACCEPTED—ELECTION OF ASSOCIATION OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS TO OCCUR IN SEP 2005. The Rustics have been an Association now for almost three years. Per our By-Laws, elections will be held in conjunction with our 2005 reunion, 22-25 Sep. All offices are up for election to include: President, Vice-president, Secretary, Treasurer, and three (3) Directors.

The Rustic Board has selected a Nominating Committee which will work to prepare a slate of nominees for election. The slate of nominees and ballots will be included in the June 2005 newsletter (that's only 3 months away.) If you'd like to run for an office, please contact one of the following Nominating Committee members NLT 1 May 2005:

Jon Safley	rdleader@aol.com	703-690-0034
Dave Dekoker	davedekoker@earthlink.net	813-319-9183
Jerry Dufresne	JerAndRose@aol.com	928-778-0121
Jim Gabel	jagabel@aol.com	605-342-6158

FREE REUNION PHOTO CD ENCLOSED FOR 2005 ASSOCIATION MEMBERS. A CD containing photos taken at the previous three Rustic reunions (1997, 1999, and 2002) is included with this newsletter as the Association's way of saying 'Thank You' for your continued support and membership! A big Rustic "Shack" goes to **Jim Seibold** who initiated the project and worked many long hours to see it to a successful conclusion. Well done Jim!!

(Editor's Note: Included at the end of this newsletter are instructions provided by Jim on how to use a slide show with the CD.)

YOU'VE GOT MAIL! RUSTICS ESTABLISH THEIR OWN GROUP COMMUNICATION SITE: The Rustics now have their own Yahoo group communication site thanks to **Ned 'Crash' Helm.** The site is EXCLUSIVELY for Rustics and their invited guests. It allows Rustics to send messages to all other Rustics on the Rustic net. This is a great way to stay in touch with your Rustic buds. One message reaches all! The site works the same as the FAC Association's FACNET. Ned and Lendy are the Rustic's site moderators. If you'd like to join the Rustic Yahoo Group Net, contact Ned at: ned@wingset.com He'll explain the ROE and get you started.

FIVE 'MISSING' RUSTICS LOCATED. **Roger Hamann**, Rustic Yankee, has taken over the chairmanship of the Search Committee and has been blazing a hot trail. In the past three months alone, he has found 5 Rustics and numerous Sundog and Tilly interpreters. See 'Roster Updates' below for latest info:

ROSTER UPDATES:

Noel W. Baker	PO Box 119, 26551 Hwy 84, Chromo, Co. 81128, (H) (970) 264-9996, stumpbaker@cs.com
Roland L. Deshaies*	Rustic GIB "Yankee", 638 Congaree Rd., Greenville, SC 29607-3518, (864) 286-1038 rolanddeshaies1@aol.com
David Van Dyke	(913) 897-5072
Dick Goddard	judenkern@cox.net , rustic-nail20@cox.net
David Hull	(269) 323-2669, davhull@sbcglobal.net
Jack Koppin	colkops1@verizon.net
Blake Lancaster*	(Rustic 38, MI-Wants to keep a low profile.)
Nick Lewis	(H) (321) 259-2579, nicklewis@cfl.rr.com
Marcel Morneau	170 Easton Manor Dr, Monroe, Ohio 45050, (H) (513) 360-0136, (W) (513) 243-4048 (C) (513) 465-3476
Kohn Om	4617 Willow Run Drive, Annandale, Virginia 22003-6228, (H) 703-256-9860. (W) 540-347-1300.
Bill Rember*	305 Lauder Ave., Moscow, ID 83843-4407, (208) 882-1087, rember@uidaho.edu (Ubon Intel)
Arnold Sims*	252 County Road 1784, London, AR 72847, (Rustic 20, OV-10, Bien Hoa)
Jim Twaddell	jimmytaa@verizon.net
Richard H. Wood	4563 El Dorado Way, #124, Bellingham, WA 98226
Randy Wright*	8441 Sandy Berry Cove, Germantown, TN 38138, (H) (901) 751-1289, (W) (901) 751-2410 trunnel@earthlink.net

* "Missing" Rustics found by **Roger Hamann**—our super sleuth Search Committee Chairman! **Nice Work Roger!**

Non Rustic Personnel from our "Missing list" who were found by **Roger**:

Gabriel Babin (Sundog GIB)	817 Mustang Dr., Saginaw, TX 76179-2023, (817) 232-1267, gbabin8890@aol.com
Jacques S. Dion (Sundog GIB)	Apache Ln., Lebanon, ME 04027, (207) 339-1500
Jerome L. Hume (Nile, Issue FAC/0-2)	1169 N 169th East Ave, Tulsa, OK 74116-4210, (918) 234-3677, jilhume@cox.net
Charles R. Manuel (Tilly GIB)	9817 W Camino De Oro, Peoria, AZ 85383-1171, (623) 362-8795, chuckrmanuel@hotmail.com
Nick Past (Sundog FAC)	5333 Primrose, Unit 2A, Fair Oaks, CA, (916) 965-5271
Oscar Remielien (Sundog GIB)	Returned to Haiti (as per Gabriel Babin)

COPIES OF HISTORIC PHOTO SENT TO RUSTIC INTERPRETERS. Rustic Historian, **Jim Gabel**, recently made copies of some prized photos received from **Clint Murphy** which showed our Bien Hoa Rustic Interpreters FINALLY being awarded their Aircrew Wings. He mailed copies of these photos to each person in the picture. Master copies are being preserved in the Rustic Archives--which Jim maintains. (Editor's note: "Thanks" Jim for stepping up and voluntarily taking on this important task!)



L-R: Tom Adams, Walt Friedhofen, Bob Montmarquet, & Joe Paquin

L-R: Tom Adams, Joe Paquin & George "Lunchbox" Larson

RUSTIC CALL SIGN LIVES ON WITH 74TH FIGHTER SQUADRON, "FLYING TIGERS". A contingent of 5 Rustics (**Aitken, Edwards, Mercer, Newland, and Safley**) visited the 74th 'Flying Tiger' A-10 squadron on , Friday, 18 Feb, at Pope AFB for a full day of squadron orientation, tours, A-10 simulators (what a blast!), mission briefings and discussions on Rustic history. The 74 FS is now using the Rustic call sign and their sister squadron is using the Nail call sign. The 74 FS actually found us on the internet and that precipitated our visit to Pope AFB. What a great group of guys and gals! Their last deployment was to...where else... Iraq and they will deploy to Afghanistan in May.

Capt John 'BATT' Platt was the squadron project officer for our visit. He met us at the front gate and guided us through a full day of activities. At the end of the day, we met the squadron pilots and briefed them on the Rustic's SEA era FAC mission and then presented the Squadron/CC, **LTC Jeff Cowan**, a copy of our original self-published Rustic 'Black' Book and a copy of our commercially published book, Call Sign Rustic. After an exchange of patches and gifts, we all convened to the squadron bar, i.e. now correctly referred to as the "Heritage Room," for swapping war stories, camaraderie and liquid libation. A great way to end the day with these young warriors! ...Ah, the memories...to be so young again!

Since the 'Flying Tigers' will be deploying to Afghanistan in May, we are



L-R: Newland, Mercer, Edwards, Capt "Batt" Platt, Aitken and Safley.

looking into the feasibility of establishing informal communication channels with the members of the squadron so we can keep in touch with them during their 'days in the desert.' More on this in future newsletters.

(Editor's note: Man, could you imagine what it would have been like to have had a 30 mm gun (like the A-10's) while FACING over Cambodia? Awesome!!)

2004 BOOK ROYALTIES RECEIVED. Dick Wood: The Rustic FAC Association's 2004 royalty fees from sales of our commercial book, "Call Sign Rustic" was \$315.47. These funds will be earmarked for Cambodian Charities as previously approved by the membership.

TOM CAPPS ON HIS WAY TO CAMBODIA AND VIETNAM. Tom Capps, Rustic 12, reports: I have been invited to be part of a team to train Vietnamese pastors who have a vision for planting churches every 50 KM along the Ho Chi Minh Trail. United World Missions from Charlotte is the organization putting the trip together. Tentatively, the team will be gone from 6-16 March. However, I intend to add a few days so I can visit Ubon and Cambodia as well. The team will go to Chiang Mai, Thailand initially and will bring the Vietnamese pastors there so training will not be constrained. Then, the team will go to Ho Chi Minh City to visit other church leaders. That's all the details I have on the trip. The mission's pastor from my church will be on the team to evaluate how it might support church plants along a portion of the trail.

In addition to the work the team has planned, I'm looking forward to seeing Ubon AB again--it's the commercial airport now. Hopefully, I'll be able to move around the old base. My contact in Ho Chi Minh City says he thinks he can get me on Bien Hoa AB. What was your experience when you were there? I just spoke to my Cambodian contact who said he will take me to Kompong Cham and Kompong Thom. I plan to go to Cambodia to see some of the sites most of us have never seen, save those of you who made the trip earlier. More importantly, I would like to visit folks who are members of the newly formed military Christian fellowships (MCF) in Cambodia and Vietnam. Peggy and I met the Cambodian MCF leaders in September while we were in Seoul attending the World Conference of the Association of Military Christian Fellowships (AMCF). At the conference, we had 1,532 delegates from 132 nations. If time permits, I would like to visit some other sites in the country including Kompong Cham (House of Hope and orphanage).

In Vietnam, I want to visit members of the new MCF there and if possible, journey along a portion of the Ho Chi Minh Trail. I have read about motorcycle and small bus tours that are offered. However, most of the tours are along the new Ho Chi Minh Highway built totally in Vietnam over the past four years.

There's one additional thing I would like to do while in "Saigon." From May to September 1971 at Bien Hoa, I taught about 30 Vietnamese refugee school children how to speak English at the old French school on base. I have their photos and names plus letters from most of them. They are now 40 to 50 years old. I would love to attempt contact with some of them.

Hopefully, I will be able to take digital still and video cameras as well as my laptop to record and report the trip. Don't know how much connectivity I'll have.

(Editor's Note: Rustics who went on our previous trip to Cambodia and Vietnam have been in touch with Tom and passed on as much info as possible to assist him in his travels.)

RUSTICS DONATE \$2,000 TO CAMBODIAN CHARITIES. Lendy Edwards. "Thanks" to everyone who continues to support our Cambodian Charity Funds. Your donations do so much good in Cambodia—the average person only makes a dollar a day in Cambodia, so your contributions go a long way over there!

In March 2005, the Rustics will send \$1,400 to the House of Hope and \$600 to the Kompong Cham Orphanage. Rustic **Tom Capps** will personally deliver the funds to the HOH Director, **Diane Moss**, in Kompong Cham on 23 March. Tom reports he will arrive in Phnom Penh on 23 March and will spend the night at Diane's location that evening. He and Diane are already communicating via email. He will be a guest of the HOH on 23 March.

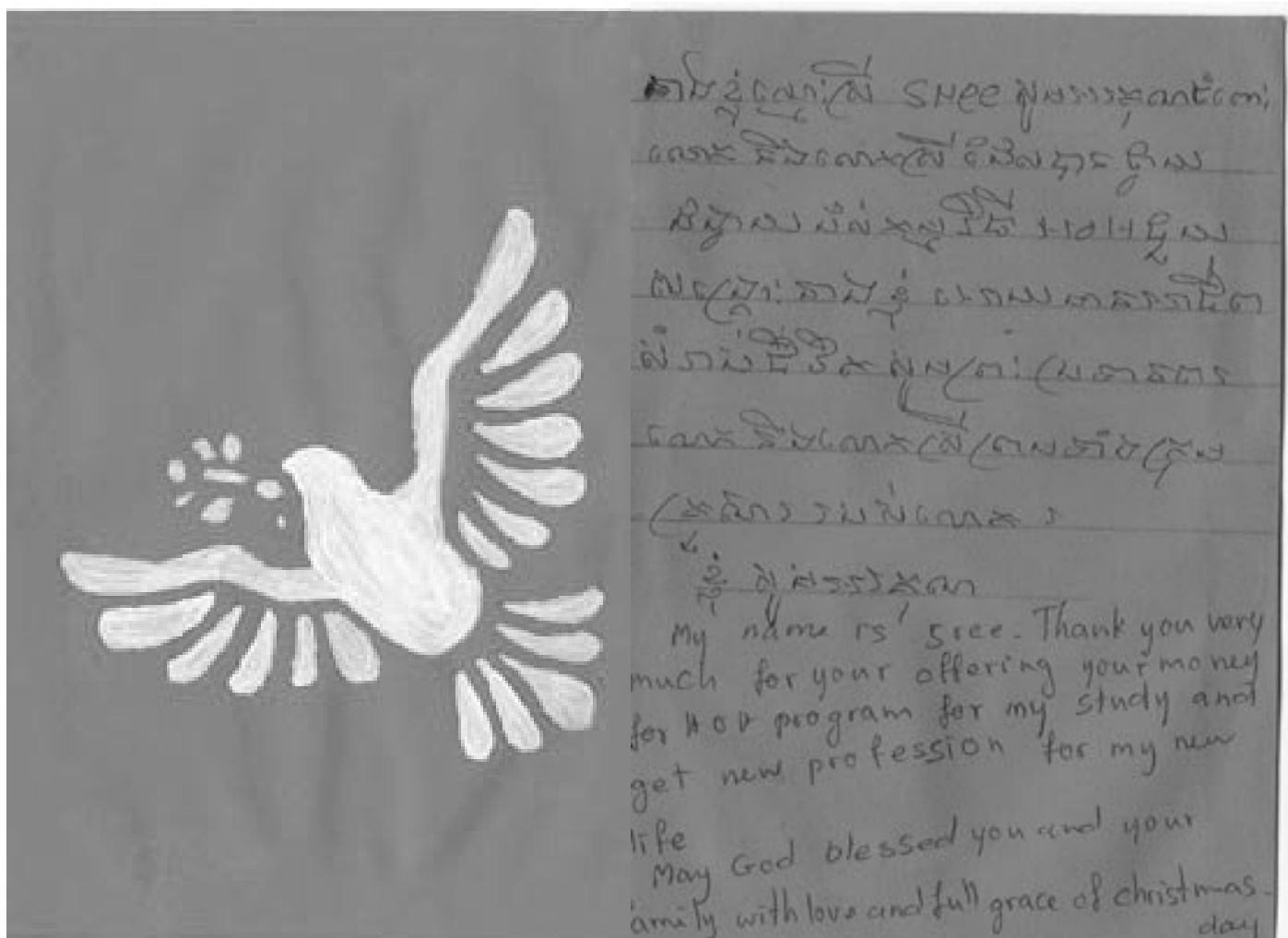
Once Tom Returns, we hope to get a full mission debrief on his travels. He will be at the 2005 reunion, so we'll probably get a thorough debrief then...one more reason to come to the reunion!

RUSTICS RECEIVE CHRISTMAS CARD FROM THE HOUSE OF HOPE. Don Ellis, Treasurer: This past December, I received a hand-made Christmas card from the girls at the **House of Hope** that was sent to me on behalf of all Rustics. The HOH Director states, "This was a lovely and thoughtful idea that came from the entire staff. The girls drew the cards and wrote the message in Khmer and a staff person translated the message. Interestingly, this is the first "card" that our girls have ever been able to write on their own. This a huge accomplishment."

The Card reads: Dear Don and all you Rustics folks,

Thank you so much for making dreams come true! Merry Christmas from House of Hope! And God's blessings to you.

signed Diane Moss



Translation of message on card: My name is **Sree**. Thank you very much for your offering your money for HOH program for my study and get new profession for my new life. May God bless you and your family with love and full grace of Christmas day.

Again, I hope you can see this expression of thankfulness from one of the girls that we have helped. Merry Christmas to all.

BACKGROUND ON HOUSE OF HOPE AND KOMPONG CHAM ORPHANAGE. The following information was provided to us by the House of Hope Director, **Diane Moss**.

The House of Hope in Kompong Cham is innerCHANGE's only House of Hope in Cambodia--though there are many other House's of Hope around the world.

The local Kompong Cham orphanage has been government run for the last 10 years. 68 children from infant - 18 years old currently. Always in need of support for food and grants for children to go on to college, when their grades permit. Vocational training is a recent issue - how to train those who aren't able to go on to college with skills to become self-supporting - this is where the idea for teaching the older girls to sew came from.

HOH is a holistic ministry serving children and young women who have worked as CSWs (Commercial Sex Workers) and those who are the victims of rape or other forms of sexual assault/abuse. We target young women between the ages of 16-22 years old and we accept clients regardless of ethnic background (e.g. Khmer, Cham, Vietnamese, Kampuchea Krom, etc.) who have worked as CSWs. For the first 4-1/2 years we only took in clients who worked in Kompong Cham (where we are located) or were born in KC. Recently we decided to remove that criteria so we could receive all CSWs regardless of their birth provinces or place of work.

We have the capacity to take in 20 young women for up to 2 years. We limit our program to just 20 because we value going deep and having quality care for our clients. We don't want to be an institution with a high student to low teacher/staff ration. We opt for the opposite so we can see quality and lasting transformation in the lives of the clients. Unlike most centers, we tend to encourage our clients to stay for a long time (up to 2 years) so they can have a deeper and more significant value change and healing to their hearts and lives.

Our students study Monday to Friday from 7:30-5:00pm with a 2-1/2 hour lunch break. Saturdays are half days till

11:30am. Our program is comprehensive as I mentioned above. We provide the following services/training for our clients: medical care and health lessons, human rights lessons, literacy, reading/writing in Khmer and basic math, one-to-one and group counseling, life skills management classes, vocational training (tailoring and handicrafts), agriculture, fine arts (traditional dance and songs), exercise, recreation, and Bible lessons/devotions and prayer. When clients leave we help them find jobs in local factories or help them set up their own small businesses if they have the capacity. Also we have a small business connected with HOH which we call Hands of Hope. This business enables our clients to earn an income through sewing handicraft items which we sell abroad. We follow up on clients 2 years after they leave our program.

We have 17 national staff working with us (15 are full time and 2 are part time). I am the Program Director and only foreigner working with HOH at this point. We are focused on training our national staff to take over the daily operation of HOH.

Also of note, **Lendy [Edwards]** is correct in our teaching the girls about Christianity. The choice of acceptance is the girls. We have some girls who do become Christians, but most do not. Services, love and follow-up care after leaving our center are not based on their beliefs in any way. **Diane Moss**

DID YOU KNOW YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE HOH, KOMPONG CHAM ORPHANAGE, AND OUR CAMBODIAN FRIENDS' FUND ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE? Yep, the Rustics are organized as a non-profit veterans' organization and any charitable donations you make are tax deductible. We thought it might be good to remind everyone of this fact—since your donations make such a big difference in that part of the world.

FAC MUSEUM ESTABLISHES FUNDING GOALS. (Jim Gabel) Heads Up! The FACM Steering Committee is mailing out an Appeal Letter and the Giving Goals that explain the necessary funding levels needed to continue developing a FACM at Meachem Field, Ft Worth TX. This is a major undertaking which will require a lot of individual support from the FAC community. Since one of our Association's aims is to 'preserve our history', we ask that you give this project serious consideration. If you didn't get a solicitation letter and you'd like to know how you can support this worthy project, please contact me at: jagabel@aol.com. I'll be happy to fill you in on the particulars.

SHORTBURSTS:

- 1) **Sundog Website:** <http://www.oneko.org/sundog/index.html>
- 2) **New Addition: Don And Katrin Echelberger** are expecting their second grandchild. They are now living in Panama City. Their daughter and son-in-law are stationed at nearby Tyndall AFB.
- 3) **Another OV-10 saved?** Jerry ??? (in message to Lendy) reports there is a fledgling air museum at the Amarillo, TX airport trying to take hold. Recently they brought in an OV-10 from somewhere. I've been trying to find out more about it. (Editor: Jerry, please tell us more about this OV-10. Can you provide us the tail number?)
- 4) **FAC Generals.** The FAC Generals web site (<http://www.davidlattin.com/military/facgen/>) has been updated to reflect recent retirements; most of them have retired in the last few months. Only 4 left on active duty (de-aging of the force?) We're getting old folks - last one turn out the light! As always, any corrections, additions, comments help at glattin@prodigy.net. George Lattin, Walt 20.
- 5) **Interpreters Reunite-Jean Claude Gestes** visited **George Larson** in Florida in Nov and had dinner together.
- 6) **Marcel and Denise Morneau** are the proud grandparents of a new grandson, Owen Marcel Canfield, born a few days before Christmas. *Congratulations!*
- 7) **Mike Gagne** reports he is pre-retired at 54 and traveling a bit too. I get up to Belgium once in a while, supposed to drop in and see **Hank Keese** one of these days; I am planning on the next Rustic reunion! As for France, like I usually say, it's a real nice place, too bad the Frenchmen live here ;-)
- 8) **FAC Reunion in Brisbane, Australia, 23-26 Apr 05.** ANZAC Day--they will have a group in Brisbane. Visitors are most welcome. Contact Rustic **Dick Green** for more info: RGreen42@compuserve.com
- 9) **Flight Academy.** The Pensacola Naval Air Museum announced they will open a Flight Academy in 2007.
- 10) **Claude Newland**, Rustic 19, retired from Delta Air Lines on 1 Dec 2005.
- 11) **Showmanship.** Did you know **Arnie Sims** has owned a Czech Ziln 526F aerobatic aircraft for over 30 years—which he has flown in numerous air shows. He still has it!

ANOTHER RUSTIC HAS BOOK PUBLISHED: Last year **Tom Capps** authored a book which was published in July 2004. It's titled, *Pray and Plan, Discovering and Obeying the Heart of God* and contains 230 pages. It describes a concept for Christian strategic planning that he learned and applied through 32 years of international military ministry. The book sells for \$14.95 plus \$1.05 of NC tax (if applicable) and shipping and handling. The book can be ordered by contacting Tom or by visiting the book website at www.prayandplan.com.

Thomas E. (Tom) Capps, Covenant Concepts, Inc. 609 Bowdoin Drive, Raleigh NC 27615, (H) 919-846+5411 FAX 919-846-9965

NIGHT 0-2 RUSTICS HOLD FIRST REUNION AT SEA. Don Mercer, Rustic 41. The first Night Rustic reunion

was held October 20-25, 2004 beginning with a pool party and dinner on Wednesday evening, October 20, at the Wyndham Fort Lauderdale Airport Hotel hosted by Bob Harris – Rustic 33. The party moved inside for awhile due to thunderstorms in the area and resumed at the pool later in the evening.

Dave Dekoker – Rustic 32 – had worked diligently for close to a year along with **Dick Roberd's** (Rustic 21) wife, **Marcy**, to coordinate a 5 day - 4 night cruise on the Royal Caribbean International ship *Enchantment of the Seas*. **Bob Harris** had coordinated with a staff reporter, Ken Kaye, at the Fort Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel, who wrote an article about our reunion after having interviewed several of us by phone in the preceding weeks. The article, published on October 20, awaited us as we arrived in Fort Lauderdale.

Sixteen Night Rustics and their ladies boarded the ship on Thursday, October 21, beginning at 2 PM. Also in attendance was **Don Hagle's** (Rustic 40) widow, **Lynette**. By 5 PM we were departing the port at Fort Lauderdale. Shortly thereafter we were all treated to the results of tremendous efforts expended by **Dave Dekoker** and two pilots of "Warbird" O-2A aircraft.

As we headed for the open sea, two restored O-2s made a twenty-minute flyby of the ship that provided quite a thrill – and surprise – for all the Night Rustics as well as many of the others on board. The coordination required in these days of Homeland Security and FAA vigilance, along with other related issues, was immense and kudos especially go to **Dave Dekoker**.

After their flyby, the O-2 pilots then headed for Key West, which was the first destination of our cruise. **Don and Noreen Mercer** hosted a "bon voyage" party in the lounge atop the ship on Thursday evening.

On arriving in Key West on Friday morning, the pilots, with assistance from their accompanying maintenance team – **Denny Labbe**, **Don Neiser**, **Larry Good** and **Mark Oliver** – provided rides to many in our group. After some 33 years it was grand to fly down the channel by the ship at 500 feet with Key West in the background and take a few pictures. Following the flights, a rendezvous was held at Jimmy Buffett's restaurant and bar, "Margaritaville."

Friday night brought with it the formal dinner followed by the presentation of the Air Medal for a mission flown on July 5, 1971, and Aircrew Member Badge – "wings" – to **Don Dorr**, our intelligence officer on the night shift at Bien Hoa. As with other recognition for which we have succeeded in obtaining approval, this was long overdue and well deserved. **Dick Roberds** officiated at the awards ceremony held in a conference room on board as we were underway for Cozumel, Mexico. **Don Neiser** and **Denny Labbe** offered thoughtful comments at the conclusion of the ceremony, which were greatly appreciated by us all.

Once in Cozumel on Saturday morning some headed into town while a sizable contingent gathered on a catamaran at a



L-R: Dick Roberds & Don Dorr



Don Dorr

nearby dock to snorkel. Those having a higher level of intelligence (translated as thirstier as well as those having a respect for man-eating things) stood shark watch and protected the beer and margaritas – not necessarily in that order. After snorkeling (or standing guard) for a half-hour, we then sailed to a beach for an additional hour of basking in the sun before returning to the ship.

Those on board – some 80+ in all together with the crew – were treated to our group's performing on the catamaran's deck to the tune of "YMCA" with valiant (but unsuccessful) attempts at coordinating the arm movements. This scene was ac-



**Kneeling - Dave Hull, Mike Thrower, Mick Gibbar and Dave Dekoker;
Standing - Larry Driskill, Dick Roberds, Jack Strickland, Drake Greene, Jim Hetherington,
Steve Hopkins, Bob Harris, Damon Gonzalez, Merle Shields, Don Mercer and Don Dorr.**

companied by a conga line that proceeded under the cruise director, sitting atop the bar, who was pouring margaritas – that is, aiming for open mouths – as each person passed by. Needless to say, it was a most enjoyable excursion. We did forego carrier landings thankfully. However, some pictures of this trip and other activities are “classified” so I’ve been told.

By 8 PM Saturday evening we were casting off for the return trip of 36 hours at 20+ knots to Fort Lauderdale. The ship, a 74,000-ton vessel of Norwegian registry, was a superb host for our reunion. Everything from a casino, shops, buffets at all hours, a couple art auctions with champagne provided and grand views along the way – sunrise over the mountains of western Cuba and the moon setting over Key West on the return – provided a fantastic reunion and trip.

On Sunday evening, a brief business meeting was held to discuss the feasibility of future gatherings. **Lynette Hagle** also treated us to 20 minutes of film that Don had taken while a Rustic and on his TDY in support of Lam Son 719 over Laos. **Steve Hopkins** (Rustic 45) provided Reunion caps with reunion t-shirts provided by **Dave Dekoker** and **Don Mercer**.

Those in attendance were: **Dick & Marcy Roberds, Jim & June Hetherington, Drake & Suzi Greene, Mick & Mary Gibbar, David & Linda Hull, Dave & Sue Dekoker, Bob Harris and Jeanie Ralston, Mike & B Thrower, Larry & Pat Driskill, Frank & Maggee Sovich, Merle & Margaret Shields, Jack & Judy Strickland, Don & Noreen Mercer, Steve & Karin Hopkins, Damon & Mary Gonzalez, Don & Jan Dorr, and Lynette Hagle.** The O-2 crews who joined us in Key West for the remainder of the cruise were also accompanied by their wives: **Connie Neiser, Gail Labbe, Joyce Good** and **Karen Oliver.** It just doesn’t get any better!

O-2 PILOTS, DID YOU FLY SHIP 67-21334? If so, please contact **Jon McLinden** at jmclinen@satx.rr.com. **Karen Oliver** (LadyO2Pilot@aol.com) reports that Jon has recently purchased an O-2A which was with 20th TASS at DaNang and

Cam Rahn Bay according to his records. Jon is interested in communicating with FACs who flew her. The B/N is 67-21334 and was in country 67-71. He will try to add your name to his plane in acknowledgement of your flights so he wants Name, Rank, Call Sign, dates in country. Any help would be appreciated. Cheers, **Karen**

RUSTIC OV-10 (tail number 639) TO BE ADDED TO AUSSIE MUSEUM—DID YOU FLY HER? If so, please contact **Darrel Whitcomb** at: nail25@aol.com. Darrel is compiling a history of the aircraft which he will present to the museum. Darrel would appreciate as much information as possible: i.e. type mission, crew names, dates, airstrikes, etc. Rustic interpreter **George Larson** reports he flew 8 missions in this bird from 17 Jan 71 – 18 May 71.

FAC HISTORY BOOK CD AVAILABLE: **AL Matheson** at: citabriair@yahoo.com. Hey Troops...the year's last increment of FAC History Computer disks is on it's way to the late comers. That means as of 10 January 2005...on/about...all known members of the FAC Association should have received their personal copy of the epoch making tome (OVER 4,000 PAGES.).

If you have any concerns about your membership status, contact **Ken Blutt**...at kblutt@adelphia.net or 719-559-0557.

If you have trouble with the CD (it is not a music thingy, by the way) playing on your computer please let me return the CD for a prompt replacement.

For any who missed out on Christmas and need ten or twenty replacements to share with the strap hangers, price is still 1/10 of the value...only \$10.00 per CD plus \$5.00 per mailing.

Let me know if you need copies. **AL Matheson/Nail 213**, 8847 West 2200 South, Cedar City, Utah 84720-4829

(Editor's note: Guys, this is an absolutely amazing CD! It's the FAC story from A to Z: early FAC History, a FAC Memorial, over 4,000 pages, 100 songs, a complete section on the Rustics, and FAC stories you wouldn't believe. It's a bargain at \$10. Impressive!!)

SOME INTERESTING BACKGROUND ON DON MERCER'S 1999 TRIP TO CAMBODIA. Don Mercer:

When I was planning my trip to Cambodia that took place in March 1999, I went to the Embassy of Cambodia, as I recall, two months prior in January to obtain my visa. I arrived there and, for whatever reason, seemed to be getting a considerable number of questions from the man behind the desk. He seemed most preoccupied as to why I wanted to visit his country as he explained only 180,000 had visited since the attempted coup in July 1997.

After answering what I felt was becoming an unreasonable number of questions, I became frustrated and simply stated that I had been a pilot in the Air Force and had taken part in bombing the Khmer Rouge in 1970 and 1971. I explained that I wanted to get that situation resolved before entering the country as opposed to being asked to leave when landing at Pochentong Airport. That got his attention but, of more import, another man came through the French doors behind the functionary. He had apparently been listening to our exchange and asked me to step across the room with him. It was at this point that I realized that I had best remember I was on the sovereign ground of Cambodia.

Once across the room, the man - much to my surprise - asked if I had been a Rustic pilot to which I responded yes. He then hugged me. That must have been a sight to behold as he was much shorter and considerably smaller than me. When he did this, he told me that I and my fellow pilots had saved him and his men in the Chup Plantation in March 1971. In fact, I had conducted a number of missions over the Chup during that period and we exchanged comments about his plight in the jungle there and how, when he had looked skyward, that he felt we were his salvation - his words. It was humbling to hear of his experiences. **Nou Hak** had been a policeman in Phnom Penh who had been conscripted into the Army and then saw service under Lon Nol and was in a number of battles in our Area of Operation.

From that point, **Nou Hak**, First Secretary and Consul at the Embassy, was a friend for life. We chatted for awhile before he took me back to the desk so that I could finish applying for my visa which he then expedited. Before leaving the Embassy, he asked where I wanted to go in his country and I explained that I most wanted to visit Skoun, Tang Kouk and Kompong Cham but that I had little knowledge of what travel would be like to those areas. He said that he would be in touch.

Over the next few days he called my house and we discussed my upcoming trip. On one such call he said that he wanted me to call **Sue Lloyd**, an American missionary, in Kompong Cham as she operated an NGO (non-governmental organization) there. I took the number for her and, as he had called at 2AM, I got up and placed the call given that it was in the afternoon in Cambodia. After several days of attempting to contact Ms. Lloyd, I finally reached her one evening and began to explain why I wanted to return to visit Cambodia. I would have loved to have seen her expression during this call on hearing of my desire to return and my prior involvement in Cambodia. In any event, she was accepting of my explanation without any reservation and offered to meet me in Phnom Penh and escort me on my travels to the interior.

Over the course of the weeks prior to my trip I recall only speaking with her on one other occasion and that was to provide her my itinerary and specifically when I would be able to meet her in Phnom Penh, how long I could stay in Kompong Cham, and what I wanted to see. On arriving in Phnom Penh, I called her on a Saturday and left word of my arrival. She then met me on a Sunday morning at 8 AM at Le Royal, the hotel where I was staying. She had arranged to have a driver and car

bring her to Phnom Penh to pick me up and said that she had arranged to return to Kompong Cham and act as my tour guide as she spoke Khmer fluently. She would accommodate me to the greatest extent possible as to where I wanted to go.

We then left and visited Skoun and Tang Kouk. The day in Tang Kouk, March 21, was unforgettable. We stopped at the market and she chatted in the native language with the folks there and explained why I had returned. We located, with the help of villagers, a man who had been 12 in 1970 and then went to his house. He and his wife welcomed us and it was most interesting that they had a type of blackboard against one wall with English words on it. He explained to Sue that they were trying to teach themselves English so that they could hopefully better their lot in life.

He related to her how he had been on an errand on the road leading north out of Tang Kouk and seen the machine gun firing at **Garrett Eddy's** and **Michael Vrablick's** O-2 on the morning of October 1, 1970. Of course, the man did not recall the exact date, but I filled that in. He then volunteered to take us to a man outside the village who lived beside the trail to an old site of a pagoda. En route we stopped at the clump of trees from which he said the machine gun was firing that long-ago morning. This man to whom we were being taken, we were told, had been in the pagoda the day our plane came to rest in front of it after having been shot down.

We then arrived at the house and the man was sitting on his porch high above the ground as the house was built on stilts, poles most likely to keep it clear of water in the monsoons in the wet season and snakes in the dry season. He changed from his sarong and no shirt to what was probably what we would call "his Sunday best," an old pair of trousers and a shirt. He was delighted to join us. With this addition we now had me, Sue and the man from Tang Kouk in the back seat along with our new-found guide and the driver in the front seat of a Toyota Camry that had seen better days. We headed down the dykes of rice paddies and out into the clearings that, after perhaps four kilometers or so of having the car repeatedly bottom out in the ruts, then placed us at the site of some brick rubble.

I expressed some concern to **Sue Lloyd** during this ride about land mines and she said that she had total faith in the villagers as to where best to go. My anxiety was a bit more than hers as I had seen all too many results of land mine explosions in Phnom Penh in the form of numerous amputees who, I assumed, had also thought they knew where it was safe to go.

When we arrived at the site, it was explained to me how the plane had been shot down and where exactly it came to rest. The man was thorough in the details of that morning as he had been preparing to teach a class in the pagoda in the early hours before the children would have to work in the fields. He was with the monks who took the bodies and placed them on a table after the crash. He then went on to describe how the Khmer Rouge several years later had forced the villagers to tear down the pagoda and one room schoolhouse brick by brick.

It was quite apparent that **Sue Lloyd** was learning much about a segment of Cambodia's history of which she had little knowledge. My understanding from her was that she knew a considerable amount about Cambodia under the rule of King Siha-nouk prior to 1970. She was also very much aware of the reign of Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge beginning in 1975, but that this was all new information resulting from my visit.

I felt that during the remainder of that day and into the next we gained a great mutual respect for each other. That was strengthened ironically by her asking me, along with the other American and European ladies at the House of Hope, after dinner that evening, if I would like to visit the banks of the Mekong as the sun set. We arrived to find a young Caucasian man sitting at one of the rusted tables above the river bank drinking a Tiger beer. As we sat down at an adjacent table, I casually asked if he was British and part of their de-mining operation in the province.

He responded "no" and that he was American. He offered that he was in the military and I then asked if he was by any chance a member of the Joint Task Force - Full Accounting, to which he expressed surprise. When he responded "yes," I then explained about how a team had located a Brother Rat of mine from VMI, a fellow O2-A FAC in I Corps, who had been lost in August 1971, had his remains located in the early 1990's and subsequently buried at Arlington National Cemetery in 1996. That discussion led to my being invited to join with the 11-man team the next morning for a flight 27 miles east of KPC where they were attempting to locate the remains of a 2-man crew on an OH-6. Having read my journals again that I kept while in Vietnam prior to making this trip, I asked if it was the OH-6 lost in December 1970 which added to the man's surprise, along with my sitting in front of him, a sole American apparently wandering through the countryside of Cambodia. It made for a most interesting evening and following day.

Well, that is the semi-long version to your comments. **Sue Lloyd** gained, I think, substantial insight into what we as Rustics had tried to do in our work with Cambodians and I came away with immense respect for her work and that of CRM - House of Hope. She imparted to me what their work was all about and I brought that to the attention of the Association. Someone prior to my trip had raised the issue of possibly supporting the orphanage in KPC and I discussed that briefly with Sue along with our possibly providing some support to the House of Hope. On my return and reporting of my trip and information gathered, others within the Association picked up the ball. It has fortunately resulted in our willingness to assist both the House of Hope and the orphanage in Kompong Cham.

My return trip to Cambodia was the most exhilarating of my life. It was steeped in fateful contacts and was a most unusual experience with seemingly one situation after another simply unfolding in the most unique circumstances. Sue then assisted those who returned to Cambodia in 2000 as a group which further strengthened our ties with the House of Hope and its mission.

DUTY ON NUI BA DEN: FACNET. Eddie Howell, SUND OG FACS, Rustic 34, Sundog 39:

I served atop Nui ba Den for almost 5 months. It is not easy for me to say this. It took me years to open up and over 30 years to go to the VA for help for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. It was hell serving atop Sundog Alpha. Nights were sleepless, sometimes V.C. harassment was nightly. I was there when it got overrun several times during the night and it took Spectre AC-130's and 119 gunships to bail us out. Most of us there have suffered from nightmares and stressful lives with memories of those times atop Nui. We never were recognized or awarded any medals for serving atop one of the most dangerous places in South Vietnam. I'm not trying to down place any other place----but only give credit to all those who served atop Sundog Alpha. It was like being in the middle of the VC headquarters.

I have a request, and plea. Is there any FAC out there that really appreciated our jobs atop Nui? We dedicated our lives to make sure you FACs were safe and we kept logs and flight followed (communications) you during your 5 hour duties into Cambodia and the AN Loc area.

I need a letter of support (notarized) that Sundog Alpha (Nui Ba Den) was one of the most dangerous if not the most dangerous FOL in South Vietnam and that we operated under very stressful conditions both physically and psychologically. If you could I would appreciate it if you could contact me since I am applying for PTSD disability.

Thank You, **Eddie Howell** Radio Operator (Sundog 102) Nov 1971 - Nov 1972

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

From Damon Gonzales, 0-2 Rustic:

Hi Claude, Thanks for contacting me. My mailing address is: Seven Anna Court, Novato, California 94945-2201. My mobile (in case you suddenly have a desperate need to hear my voice) is (415) 328-5151. I can also be reached at my office: (415) 897-7167.

Other than trying to stay ahead of rainstorms, the cold and all the leaves from my neighbor's oak trees things are pretty much fine. I'm what they refer to as a serial entrepreneur out here and so I'm working on another start-up. God forbid things should be organized and easy - I'm getting grey hair.

The Night Rustic crowd just got back from a four-day cruise out of Ft. Lauderdale to Cozumel. It was a great get-together and a great trip. Happy Holidays, **Damon**

From Jon Safley, Rustic 19, Ubon, '72:

Fellow Rustics, I just recently joined **Doug Aitken, Claude Newland, Lendy Edwards, and Don Mercer** on a tour of the 74th Fighter Squadron, the OA-10 outfit that resurrected the Rustic call sign. We had a great day with these young warriors...and re-living the days of yore and the battles we fought.

I am continuing to fight another battle that began on September 11, 2001. On that tragic day as we all watched in horror, I lost good friends on American Flt 77, the 757 that augured into the Pentagon. Soon thereafter, I became involved in the Coalition of Airline Pilots Association (CAPA) headquartered in Washington DC. CAPA's mission is to address aviation security and safety issues by working through Congress and the myriad of bureaucracies that deal with aviation security.

I ask for your support of CAPA and invite you to browse our website, www.capapilots.org, and subscribe to our free E-List, by clicking on the bar at the top of our home page: "Join Our Action E-List.". By subscribing, we will keep you informed of CAPA's legislative efforts to improve aviation security.

Thanks, and with your help we can continue to keep our nation's skies and airports safe. Cheers, **Jon**

From Capt John "BATT" Platt, 74 FS World Famous Flying Tigers, Rustic 22, Project Officer for our visit to Pope AFB:

Doug, [Aitken] I appreciate your words, but believe me it was my pleasure. I had the greatest time having you all here and I hope that we can do it again and now that all the other Rustics are bound to hear what a great time it was they will want to attend as well. I also wanted to thank you for all of the gifts you provided us. We appreciate them and look forward to getting them put out into the squadron.

I don't think anyone was bored, in fact all I have heard today since I have been at work is "that was great!" or "those guys had some awesome stories". I realize I am the lucky one as I got to spend the entire day with you and they only had a glimpse throughout the day.

I have attached the art work for the patch.

I would like to know if any of you have the translation of what that Cambodian Blood Chit says, I know Claude gave us the rough translation, but we would like to find the exact one and have it framed along with the chit.

Thanks again for coming and telling us about our heritage. Please keep in touch, and hopefully we can plan to do it again in the near future. Maybe after we get home...then we can tell you our war stories. **John "BATT" Platt Rustic 22**

From LTC Jeff Cowan, Squadron/CC, 74 FS, Claw 1, Rustic 1/49:

Fellow Rustic FACs,

Thank you for a rewarding day of fellowship and camaraderie! What a pleasure to hear firsthand accounts of your heroics and successes. My young guys and old guys hunger for the stories of the past. We, in the 74th FS, hope our visit was as enjoyable!

Please pass my best along to the rest of the Rustics when you meet again. We hope our next deployment lives up to the fine traditions of the Rustics, the World Famous Flying Tigers, and the USAF!

Good Speed, Sincerely, **Jeff Cowan**, LT Col, USAF, Claw 1, Rustic 1/49"

From Ron Dandeneau, Rustic Foxtrot:

Just a short note to let you all know that after 48 years with the Air Force (military and civilian) I will be retiring at the end of the month (31 Dec 2004.) They are actually having my retirement luncheon on 16th December and I will go on leave 17-29. Have to go back to work for one day on 30th (rule that you have to be at work on your last day before retirement). **Ron**

(Editors Note: Ron, Congratulations from all the Rustics.)

GETTING & USING IRFANVIEW SLIDESHOW PROGRAM

Let's locate the program to download.

Type in <http://www.tucows.com> At top of screen in the SEARCH LIBRARIES box, type in irfanview. Click on GO!

Go down to Irfan View 3.85. Click on it. Next window click on your operation system ie. Me, XP, 98, etc.

Once downloaded, double click on Irfan View desktop shortcut or go to the program and open it.

INSTRUCTION ON HOW TO USE THE SLIDESHOW PROGRAM WITH YOUR ENCLOSED RUSTIC REUNION CD. Jim Seibold,

Once opened, the screen is almost solid black with crap on top 1". CLICK ON FILE, then CLICK ON SLIDE SHOW. Now let's set up this screen for your best use: Toward bottom left is box called ADVANCED OPTIONS---CLICK ON IT. Folder comes up "Sort Order" Click on top left (dot in circle) "by name (ascending)" 2/3 of way down---have check in "Auto sort file list after insert" CLICK OK. 2/3 of way down on this screen you'll see portion labeled "slideshow options". Have checks in "Suppress errors during slideshow" & "Show image filename". In portion labeled "Slide Advancement", have "Automatic after -----sec" marked (dot in circle) In the box, put in the time you want to see slide before next one appears---3 sec is good, maybe 4 sec if you have not seen pics before. You decide what you want.

Now it is time to locate the file you want to view. Top Center "Look in:---CLICK ON DOWN ARROW. Locate folder & double click on it. Each pic's name will be displayed. Then CLICK on box to left called "ADD ALL". That will import the pics to "Slideshow files" on left.

CLICK ON PLAY & watch show.

When finished, or you want to quit viewing pics, press ESC key.

If through, X out right top box. If you want to view another file, CLICK ON FILE, then SLIDESHOW like you did earlier. Then CLICK on "REMOVE ALL" to delete last batch of pics you watched. It does not delete them from your computer.

Pull up another file for "Look in".

Repeat procedures.

If you have any problems downloading program or running it, call me. 480-969-3523 and I'll walk you through this.

Jim



Rustic News

www.rustic.org

Board of Directors:

President: Claude Newland, Rustic19@cox.net
Vice President: Jack Thompson, jackov10@sbcglobal.net
Treasurer: Don Ellis, donellis@sc.rr.com
Secretary: Marcel Morneau, rusticv@juno.net

Director: Doug Aitken, daitken@nc.rr.com
Director: Don Mercer, rustic41@earthlink.net
Director: Mike Wilson, sher85745@mac.com
Historian: Jim Gabel, jagabel@aol.com

Project Coordinators:

Website/Database: Lendy Edwards, lendy@cox.net
Commercial Book: Dick Wood, woodrh@ix.netcom.com
Air Park Liaison: Ned Helm, ned@wingset.com
FACM Committee: Jim Gabel, jagabel@aol.com

Rustic SEA Photo CD: Ned Helms, ned@wingset.com
Rustic Reunion Photo CD: Jim Seibold, seiboldjim@aol.com
OBA Liaison: Jack Thompson, Jackov10@sbcglobal.net
Search Committee: Rog Hamann, RusticYankee72@aol.com

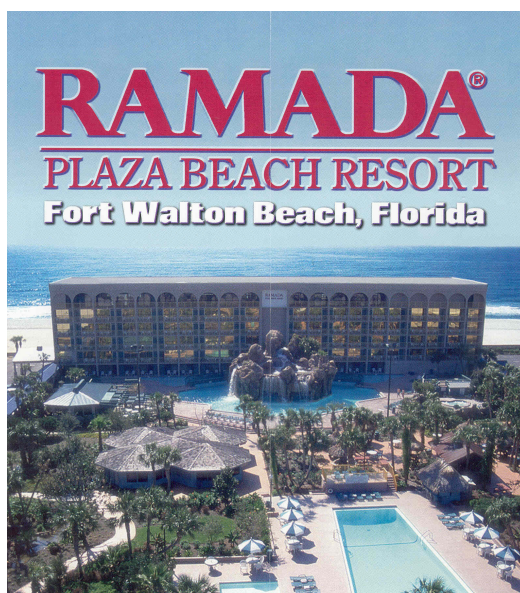
2005 Reunion Registration Issue

The Rustic Reunion is fast approaching! September 22-25, Ramada Plaza Beach Resort, Ft Walton Beach, FL

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TIME TO REGISTER: Enclosed are the 2005 reunion details and the Reunion Registration Form. Please mail us your registration NLT 15 Aug 2005. This will ensure the reunion hats and shirts are ordered and received in time for the reunion.

You don't want to miss this gala gathering of Rustics and friends! Wives and guests are cordially invited. Highlights of the reunion will include great camaraderie, sunset sailing, seafood, work on various Rustic History projects, a trip to Hurlburt Field to include briefings on SEA, a base tour and a visit to the Air Park to view the FAC aircraft on display (Rustic OV-10 #626 will be there) and the new FAC Memorial. **Roger Dodd** and his renown band will entertain us at the Saturday night banquet.



LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION: The Ramada Plaza Beach Resort on Okaloosa Island (www.ramadafwb.com) will again be the site of our reunion. What a great place! A block of rooms with discounted rates have been reserved. Each person is to contact the Ramada and make their own reservation. Please identify yourself as part of the "Rustic FAC Reunion." The Ramada has been completely renovated since Hurricane Ivan hit last year. Four types of rooms are available. Most rooms have two queen size beds, unless you specify a king. The rates have gone up a bit since our last reunion, but the location is to die for.

To make reservations, call toll free: 1-800-874-8962 Address: 1500 Miracle Strip Parkway, SE, Ft Walton Beach, FL 32548

<u>Type Room:</u>	<u>Location:</u>	<u>Rate:</u>
Standard	(Rooms face away from courtyard)	\$90
Courtyard	(Rooms face in toward courtyard)	\$100
Poolside	(Towers Bldg-facing in to pool)	\$115
Gulf View	(Towers Bldg-facing gulf front)	\$130

Add 10% tax to the above rates. Rate is for 2 persons/room. Extra person is \$10/night.

OTHER LODGING OPTIONS: Please make your own reservations.

1) **Destin Army Recreation Area**--On the bay, Destin, FL Reservations can be made 4 months prior. Military ID required.
 Call: 800-642-0466 This is a beautiful facility with cabins, motel rooms, RV area, marina, boat rentals, and pool.
www.benningmwr.com

2) **Sea Isle Motel** --Across street and one block west of Ramada; on Okaloosa Island. Rate: \$69 for 2 people. Extra person is \$6/night.
 Call: 800-408-2200 2 double beds per room or king. 1214 U.S. Highway 98 East.

REUNION ATTENDEES WILL RECEIVE FREE RUSTIC BOOK CD: A free CD of the Rustic's original self-published book will be provided to each Rustic who attends the 2005 reunion. If you can't attend but would like to order a book CD, cost is \$15 (includes shipping and handling.) See Registration Form to order.

*A BIG Rustic "Thanks" goes to **John Charlton** who made the CDs for us.*

WHO'S COMING? The following Rustics and friends have already indicated they plan to attend the 2005 reunion: **Adams, Aitken, Barazzotto, Capps, Carruthers, Dandeneau, R. Dodd, W. Dodd, Echelberger, Edwards, Eklund, Ellis, Ernst, Friedhhofen, Gabel, Gagne** (from France), **Goddard, Haller, Hamann, Kimbell, Koepfel, Larson, McClellan, Newland, Col Oum, Seibold, Sleigh, Stratton, Thompson, Van Dyke, Van Kirk and Wilson.** Most are bringing their wives. Others who hope to come: **Calvanelli, Gibson, Green, Harshaw, J. Hetherington, Hull, Mittendorf, Ross, Underwood and Winkler.**

We expect many more to attend--but if your buddy's name is not on this list, it's time to call him up and tell him to rendezvous with you on the sugar white beaches of the Emerald Coast!. Hey, we're not getting any younger and great weekends like these are few and far between. Cleared HOT!

HOT*PLEASE BRING YOUR RUSTIC SEA PHOTOS TO THE REUNION WITH YOU***.** Ned Helm and Jim Gabel will scan your photos at the reunion and then return them to you before you leave. The photos will be included in a Rustic Photo Album CD. This CD will be an excellent VISUAL HISTORY of the Rustics. Please support this worthy effort! If you'd like to assist Ned and Jim at the reunion, please contact Ned at: ned@wingset.com

COL OUM AND KOHN OM COMING TO REUNION. The Rustics are please to announce that **Col Oum** and **Kohn Om** will again be our guests at this year's reunion. **Doug Aitken** has already purchased their airline tickets. If you'd like to help ensure we have all their expenses covered, please make a contribution to our **Cambodian Reunion Fund** (see Reunion Registration Form.) Your donation will help cover airfare, meals, lodging, and misc. expenses. "Thanks" for your generosity! Every little bit helps.

REUNION SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

WEDNESDAY, 21 SEP 2005

1800-2200 PRE-PARTY—All Invited

Newland's Residence, Destin
 4033 Indian Trail Dr. Phone (850) 654-2955

THURSDAY, 22 SEP 2005

1200-2200 **REGISTRATION OPENS**

--Reunion Sign-in
 --Drinks and refreshments
 --Display Memorabilia

Rustic Hootch (Poolside), Ramada

1800-2100 **WELCOME PARTY AND DINNER**

--Flight Suits/Party Shirts Encouraged

Rustic Hootch

FRIDAY, 23 SEP 2005

0730 **BREAKFAST** (At your leisure?)

TBA or Garden Café?

0800 **RUSTIC HOOTCH OPEN**

0900	TOUR AND BRIEFINGS, HURLBURT FIELD	
1230	LUNCH	Hurlburt Soundside Club
DEPART SOUNDSTIDE CLUB FOR RAMADA		
1545	SUNSET SAILING CRUISE (optional)	Destin Harbor
1900	DINNER AT LUCKY SNAPPER REST.	Destin Harbor
	--Optional activity. Group reservation made. Open Seating. Order off menu. No program.	
2100-Till	RUSTIC HOOTCH OPEN/EVENING AT LEISURE.	
	--Moonlight walks on the beach	

SATURDAY, 24 SEP 2005

0800	BREAKFAST AT LEISURE	Ramada Garden Café
	RUSTIC HOOTCH OPEN	
0700-1330	RUSTIC GOLF TOURNAMENT	0700 - Meet at Rustic Hootch
0800-1300	MORNING FREE FOR OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:	
	--Golf	Hurlburt Field?
	--½ Day Fishing	Destin Harbor
	--Sight Seeing to Seaside Village and Beaches	15 miles east of Destin on Hwy 30A
	--Shopping at Silver Sands Factory Outlets 4 miles east of Destin on Hwy 98	
	--Eglin Armament Museum and Static Displays	Eglin AFB
1430	RUSTIC BUSINESS MEETING (all Rustics)	Rustic Hootch
1800-1900	BANQUET HAPPY HOUR—CASH BAR	Forum Room
	--Individual and Couple photos	
1830-1900	RUSTIC GROUP PHOTOS	Forum Room
1900-TILL	DINNER BANQUET/DANCING	Forum Room
2200-TILL	RUSTIC HOOTCH OPEN	

SUNDAY, 25 SEP 2005

0800-0930	FAREWELL BREAKFAST	Forum Room
0900	RUSTIC HOOTCH OPEN	
	--Remove memorabilia from Hootch	
	--Farewells	
1100	HOTEL ROOM CHECKOUT TIME	
1200	RUSTIC HOOTCH CLOSES	

MISC REUNION NOTES:

Registration Fee includes Welcome Party/Dinner on Thursday, 22 Sep., free drinks at the Hootch for the entire weekend, name tags, banquet program, and other misc. reunion expenses.

Golfers: If you want to rent clubs, the Registration Form has a place for you to indicate what type: Standard are \$5; Pings are \$25. Pay when you play. The Golf Committee will reserve the clubs for you.

Ladies: You won't believe how nearby Destin, FL has grown into a shopping mecca. For the guys, there's even a Bass Pro shop.

Banquet Dinner: "Destin Seafood Buffet" – includes: Wine, Roast Round of Beef, Fried Gulf Shrimp, Deep Fried Oysters, Peel and eat Shrimp, Baked Mahi Mahi, Seafood Creole w/ White Rice, Roasted Lemon Pepper Chicken Breast, Seafood Pasta Salad, Coleslaw Home Style, Fresh Cucumber and Tomato Salad, Mixed Green Salad, Hushpuppies, Assorted Rolls and Butter, and Key Lime Pie.

ASSOCIATION ELECTIONS IN PROGRESS--BALLOT ENCLOSED. If you're an active Rustic Association member (i.e. dues paying), a ballot is enclosed for our upcoming elections. Our By-laws state our elections will be held in conjunction with our reunions. Please mail in your ballot now—final vote count will be at the Reunion Business Meeting. Write-in names are permissible, but you should first contact the person to confirm he is willing to serve. Our thanks go to the Nominating Committee members, **Jerry Dufresne, Jon Safley, Jim Gabel, and Dave Dekoker** --who were appointed by the Board of Directors. See Ballot for nominees.

IF YOU'RE NOT A MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATION, BUT WOULD LIKE TO JOIN: Simple...just complete the enclosed Membership Form and mail it Lendy Edwards. You will then be mailed a ballot. To confirm your membership status, check the mailing label on your newsletter. It's your membership which allows us to stay in touch with one another and make our reunions possible. Currently, we have 37 Lifetime members and 46 annual members. Time to get on board!

PERSONNEL CHANGES:

Mike Gagne rustic_kilo@cegetel.net
Carl D. Goemmel Raven FAC, 1288 Riverside Pl., Vero Beach, FL 32963-5522
Roger Dodd 21 Somerset Lane, Cartersville, GA 30121
rogerhdodd@bellsouth.net, 770-607-9057
Doug Robertson 7 Pacini Ave, Pittsburg, CA 94565
Para4T5@comcast.net?
Jack Koppin 11105 Star Rush Place, Bradenton, FL 34202
(H) 941-907-1102

SCOTT GREGG--WAS HE AN 0-2 RUSTIC? (Roger Hamann.) Scott Gregg is listed on our Rustic "Missing" roster as a 0-2 Rustic, but we're not sure if he actually became a Rustic. Can anyone verify this? **Don Mercer** reports he flew a CAP 3 mission as a Sleepytime FAC with Gregg on Dec 10, 1970 with Gregg in his right seat. So far, none of our 0-2 Rustics can verify that **Scott Gregg** was a Rustic. If you have any helpful information on **Scott Gregg**, please contact me at: rusticyan-kee72@aol.com or (207) 375-4883.

HOUSE OF HOPE AND KOMPONG CHAM ORPHANAGE (Lendy Edwards.) Thanks to your generous contributions, the Rustics recently donated \$1400 to the House of Hope and \$600 to the Kompong Cham Orphanage. Our courier for the money was none other than Rustic **Tom Capps** who has just completed a return visit to Thailand, Vietnam and Cambodia. Tom was part of a ministerial team that is working to establish churches in Vietnam, but he arranged his schedule so he could also visit Cambodia. Tom will be at the reunion and we hope to get a thorough debrief. We recently received the following message from the HOH's director, **Diane Moss**:

Dear **Lendy**, Hello from HOH and Sunrise! 'Wanted to let you know that we have received the funds that were sent via **Tom Capps**. What a joy it was to have him and **Sareth** [*Thai Col accompanying Tom*] come and visit us. They had a one-day whirlwind tour - orphanage, prison, hospital, House of Hope, Sunrise.

I have divided the money as you indicated. I have a friend currently helping at the orphanage and will be asking her what she hears and sees as their real needs for now. The director tends to lean towards things that help him. I mentioned the pigs, but he says it is too hot right now. I asked him about the cost to buy and feed versus the cost he can later sell them for and he didn't really know. So I assured him we wouldn't be able to assist with anything that we hadn't thought through properly regarding cost and profit.

So as things develop I will let you know. It is important to me that we are able to monitor how the money is used and the that children really receive the benefit. Stories abound of organizations giving things to groups and then the groups selling them and taking the money. Even things like rice...so really wanting to be wise. The last money that was sent for housemothers is almost gone. We've been giving it out at \$7.50 per housemother per month (\$45) and that money is almost finished. I will check to see how they are set (by asking the housemothers how much they are getting from elsewhere) and will keep you informed.

The money that Rustics sent for House of Hope will be used for the girls to go home for Khmer New Year and for regular expenses in running the home each month.

Again, thank you for your partnership and support! **Diane Moss**

SOME STATISTICS ON CAMBODIA. (Reported from various sources)

173 street youth using amphetamine-type stimulants were recently tested, resulting in 28.3% HIV+. Another study of non-drug using street youth showed 11% HIV+. National average 2003 for adults 15-49 yrs old = 2.6%

During 2005, the national orphanage level is projected by UNAIDS to rise to 105,000 and by 2010 to 142,000. Many of these may become street children.

Of all Cambodians only 44% have access to clean water, 22% to toilets or latrines, 17% to electricity, 0.2% to the internet, and only 4% of roads are paved.

Currently 78% of Cambodians live on less than \$2 a day. This has only decreased 8% in the last 15 years. During the same time frame, Thailand decreased 61%, China 54%, Vietnam 41% and Indonesia 37%.

TOM CAPPS RETURNS TO CAMBODIA. OV-10 pilot **Tom Capps** (Rustic 12) recently completed a trip to Thailand, Vietnam and Cambodia as part of a team to train Vietnamese pastors to plant home churches every 30 KM along the new Ho Chi Minh highway from Saigon to Hanoi. He also met with military Christian fellowship (MCF) leaders in Bangkok, Chiang Mai, Saigon and Phnom Penh where he gave instruction on his recent book, Pray and Plan, Discovering and Obeying the Heart of God. Tom will give us a complete report on his trip at the reunion. He was in Southeast Asia from 10 to 29 March. Some highlights of his trip include visits to: Raja's (in Bangkok), River Kwai, Ubon AB, Ho Chi Minh City, Bien Hoa, Vung Tau (by Russian hydrofoil), a bus ride from Saigon to Phnom Penh, Kompong Cham, Kompong Thom and Hanoi. Here's part of one of Tom's report as he begins his overland trip from Ho Chi Minh City:

“The ride to Cambodia was nice. There was lots of traffic along the way (buses, trucks, cars, motorcycles and bikes). About halfway to the border, the bus made a potty stop and many purchased French bread with meat. I stayed on the bus. At the border, we got off the bus and walked to the processing building. Inside I met **Robert Schwab** from Georgia who was also on my bus. He was a U. S. Army radio operator for MACV before becoming a journalist who has studied Vietnam and Cambodia extensively. We ate lunch together on the Cambodian side and met two young Cambodian Americans from Seattle.

When we reached the Mekong River, we had to wait for a ferry to cross. There were many children begging and women selling food from baskets they carried on their heads. The roads in Cambodia are definitely inferior to those in Vietnam. And the Cambodian roads east of the Mekong are better than those to the west due to Vietnam's economic influence. We arrived at the bus station in Phnom Penh at 1200, and it was so good to see my friend, **Duong Sareth** [Cambodian MCF leader], waiting for me there. We ate lunch at Big Burger World which uses an inverted golden arch logo as their symbol. I took a photo of the logo and was asked not to take anymore. I think they have had to fight with McDonald's which is likely trying to establish a presence in Phnom Penh.

After lunch, we tried to find **Nady Tan**, a government official who knows our friendly ground commander "**Sam**" Sansok. I wanted to invite the "**Sam**" to our squadron reunion in September. Then, we drove to Kompong Cham which is about 120 KM northeast of Phnom Penh along the Mekong River. We both stayed at the Mekong Hotel for \$13 for two beds, air conditioning, breakfast and a free car wash. On Wednesday evening, I called Peggy and my brother, George, by internet phone for a nickel a minute. They were surprised to hear from me. By the way, you get 38 Baht for a dollar; in 1971 it was only 20 Baht.

On Thursday morning we met a man who saw **Lanny Trapp's** OV-10 exploding over the city. He indicated the plane crashed in the river about 30 meters from the shore in front of the Mekong Hotel. He said that the Cambodian radio operator parachuted on the road a few hundred meters north of the Mekong Hotel and that Lanny landed along a thoroughfare further in town. I could not find anyone who knows the Cambodian.

Next we proceeded to Sunrise which is the ministry center supported by the Rustics. We met **Diane Moss, Rosalie Thompson, Mr. Vuta** and **Mr. Lee**. Mr. Vuta led a time of devotion and prayer. Then, we visited the state-operated orphanage where there are 34 students and a capacity of 68. There are separate dorms for boys and girls. They have a sewing room for the girls with treadle Singer machines supplied by the Rustics. They also have an art studio where all the students paint and draw. They have done some fantastic work. The orphanage has a vegetable garden and concrete pig pen for 32 animals.

We then visited the prison where Sunrise teaches classes. There are 390 prisoners including 20 women. There are no women guards. The accommodations are very sparse—about 30 in each cell.

We visited the AIDS clinic at the hospital where there are 34 patients. Diane says the caregivers there are very apathetic, and patients do not do well under their care. Sunrise has a hospice for 6 AIDS patients (4 men and 2 women). Their success far exceeds the hospital care, and many of the hospice patients get well enough to return home.

Sunrise operates a House of Hope for girls coming out of prostitution. They currently have 11 girls ranging from 14 to 22. They have had as many as 24 girls in residence. The girls stay at HOH for up to 2 years.

Sunrise also operates Hands of Hope, a sewing business that allows the HOH girls to earn up to \$125 per month compared to \$40 per month in a factory. However, many girls chose to work in the factory rather than stay at HOH for the full two years. I purchased one of the table runners I'll bring to the reunion.

On Thursday afternoon, we drove to Kompong Thom where the Rustics worked with **Colonel Oum**, a Cambodian ground commander. I called **Doug Aitken**, a Rustic OV-10 pilot, by internet phone. He was very pleased to receive the call and said he looked forward to my Southeast Asia trip report at the reunion in September.

On Friday morning, 25 Mar, we started our trip to Phnom Penh with numerous stops along the way looking for people who knew **Colonel Oum** and "**Sam**" Sansok who was a Cambodian ground commander just south of Kompong Thom. We found one 80 year old man whose brother was a radio operator for Oum and whose son was Oum's bodyguard. I have photos of all the people we talked with as well as photos of the cities we visited.”

Tom's efforts to contact Nady Tan and "Sam the FAC" were unsuccessful, but we look forward to hearing more from him at the reunion and seeing his photos!

REMFs AND O'CLUB RULES IN A COMBAT ZONE (Dave Van Dyke, Rustic 4, FACNET.) When the Rustics first started in June 70, a bunch of us were impressed out of Tay Ninh. We only had the flight suit we were wearing, not even a change of underwear. We were staging out of TSN and debriefing with 7th AF there. I had just finished two 5 hr missions over Cambodia in a little less than 24 hrs and was hungry, so after the debrief, I sauntered over to the O Club in my sweaty flight suit. Imagine my surprise when I was kicked out for not being in 1505's. So I went back to 7th AF, enlisted **Col. Perry Dahl**, the 7th Honcho, and he explained the facts of life to the Club Officer who sat me at a prominent table, by myself, away from the well washed gentry who frequented the place. Got that meal, and I don't think they made me pay either. Thanks, Col. Dahl. That's supporting the troops.

OBA/FACM TO RECEIVE TWO OV-10s—ONE A FORMER RUSTIC BIRD (Jim Hodgson, OBA.) When it rains it pours...The OV-10 Bronco Association Board of Directors proudly announces we have been awarded NOT ONE, BUT TWO real Broncos. You can get full details on our Broncos at www.ov-10bronco.net. Here's the lowdown:

OV-10A # 426: The General Services Administration has approved the release of OV-10A, Military serial # 155426, from the California Department of Forestry to the OBA. It was the 66th Bronco manufactured and the 37th for the Marine Corps. It was delivered to the US Marine Corp for active service on June 28, 1968 to Marine Light Helicopter Squadron 267 at Camp Pendleton, California. At that time, the OV-10 had not yet seen combat in Vietnam. That would take place two weeks later on July 6, 1968 in Da Nang, Republic of Vietnam, where 426 arrived on August 8, 1968. It was assigned to Marine Observation Squadron 2 (VMO-2), Marine Air Group 16 (MAG-16) at MCALF Marble Mountain. In February 1970 VMO-2 moved to Marine Air Group 11 at Da Nang AB. During its 32 month Vietnam tour it probably flew over 2500 hours on over 1000 missions. This bird also flew in support of Desert Storm...great history here. The OBA is compiling a complete history of this aircraft.

OV-10A # 825: Shortly on the heels of obtaining # 426, an enterprising OBA member, **Gordy "Hostage Bear" Evans**, located another OV-10A which became available after another museum couldn't take delivery. The aircraft is a former Air Force airplane, #825. It was crated to SEA in 1969 and assigned to the 23 TASS (Rustics flew this bird out of Ubon, Thailand) until 1973 when it was transferred to the 601 TCW at Sembach Germany and then may have had a tour at Osan AB, Korea. In 1984 it was serving with the Bureau of Land Management as the "City of Fairbanks." It went to CDF in 1999.

The aircraft is in much the same condition as the other one, missing parts but mostly intact. Like the other one, fees and transportation will cost around \$10,000. Seems all you blue suites now have a reason to step up. Maybe it's a race?

This is great news for all of us. We now will have a Marine airplane that served in Vietnam and Desert Storm and an Air Force airplane that served in SEA and the Cold War.



OV-10 # 825, (former "Rustic" bird) during her days as a BLM aircraft....Very Sporty eh what!!

HELP SAVE A BRONCO. Here's the challenge for the FAC community! The acquisition of the two Broncos by the OBA/FAC Museum has been a long process, but now another hurdle has to be crossed: dismantling, transporting and final reassembly at the OBA/FACM Museum in Fort Worth, TX. The OBA estimates that it will cost in excess of \$10,000 to deliver each aircraft to Fort Worth. They are a small museum and their treasury is already strained from the expense of acquiring the QF-4S "SCOOBY" (F-4). They plan to do much of the work themselves and with FAC volunteers to help reduce costs.

Some of you may not be aware that the OBA's non-profit charter is to preserve and perpetuate the history of the OV-10 Bronco and the people who have and are serving with it throughout the world. We have now accomplished one of our primary stated missions of acquiring and preserving an OV-10.

To help restore # 825 and bring her to her new home, please send your tax deductible check (payable to "OBA" and designated for "OV-10 # 825 restoration") to: **OBA/FACM**, 505 NW 38th Street, Hangar 33s, Fort Worth, TX 76106

Note: All donations are tax deductible. The OV-10 Bronco Association/FAC Museum is an IRS registered 501c3 not for profit museum. Rustics, 'Hope you'll contribute to this worthy effort.

IF YOU FLEW OV-10A # 825, PLEASE CONTACT "CRASH". (Ned "Crash" Helm.) Guys, I'm compiling the complete history of OV-10A #825. It was a proud Rustic bird at Ubon, so if you flew this machine, please send me any information (or photos you have) on the aircraft, crew, dates, type of mission, and mission particulars at: ned@wingset.com or mail me at: 221 Caswell Dr., Defuniak Springs, FL 32435,

A number of Rustics and others have confirmed they flew # 825:

Lendy Edwards flew seven missions from both NKP and Ubon.

John Charlton flew her at Ubon and Sembach

Rustic Yankee, Roger Hamann, flew her in the summer of 72 in Cambodia

Nail 38 flew her in fall/winter 72 and early spring 73 in Laos?

I flew her in 78 in Germany and Spain

Garry Goff got his two ship lead check in her in summer of 84 at the Sembach

Brad Wright FCF'd her in the summer of 84 before she returned to CONUS....then the trail gets cold.

I need more inputs!

Crash Ain't this fun!!!!

OK guys, the OBA/FACM has found her, and with your financial support will get her properly restored. I hope you'll contribute to this worthy effort! 'Hope you'll send your check today.

This is one of my favorite OV pix...I simply can not believe this is the AC that the OBA/FACM just saved!!!! Love it!! This is FATE!! Guys loved this bird because the NKP paint shop (or maybe the guys at Ubon?) put the playboy bunnies in the exhaust paint on the boom!! Behind her is the infamous PP bomb dump where we rearmed our guns (until they took them away)...and upon occasion exchanged WP or empty tubes for HE...or God forbid fleschettes.(As **Mark Berent**.... Air Attaché said in his FACbook contribution...."it was not uncommon to see a Rustic or a Nail walking across the ramp with a 2.75 on each shoulder...."). This is a great picture to restore her from. Here she is, in her prime in an exotic location.....



RUSTIC/SLEEPYTIME O-2 DELIVERED TO OBA/FACM. **Jim Hodgson, OBA/FACM**, reports that the OBA/FACM has a line on two O-2 hulks that could be had for \$2,000. NAIL 57, **Jerry Stephan**, recently visited the site to inspect the air frames. Good news and bad news. The hulks are just that, empty fuselages with enough assorted parts to provide the shell of an airplane for static display. The good news is one airframe is mostly intact, including interior, engine shells, props, racks, gear, gunsight and maybe rocket launchers. The price for that airplane is \$2,500. (Special good deal, today only, usually \$3,900.)

This airplane would not be purchased with any consideration for restoring it beyond the static display level. It is however, mostly intact with an interior so people could view and sit in a real O-2 and make airplanes noises. The tail number on this aircraft is 67-21361. It is an O-2A built in 1967. It is believed to have been assigned to the 19 TASS. (Rustic **Dick Wood** has confirmed this bird was, in fact, assigned to Bien Hoa and was the one involved in a belly up landing by two Rustic pilots.) We know very little beyond that.

We have some pledges, but not enough to acquire the airplane. The owner will deliver the aircraft for the stated price and assist in reassembling. We feel this is an excellent opportunity for FACM. As you may know, the Bird Dog Association is looking for an O-1 for static display at FACM as well. An O-2 along with an O-1 and the two OV-10s, we have acquired, would complete the trifecta of most widely used FAC aircraft from Vietnam. We need a communal response to bring this one home, so fill in the blanks with its history and belly up.

For those of you interested in a real flying O-2, A or B, the going price is \$65,000 with civilian registration. We can put you in touch with the source, but would like to keep that to ourselves until we can make this deal.

Update: Sunday, 22 May: Oscar Deuce #361 arrives at the OBA/FACM from Oklahoma. Proud papa, **Jerry Stephan**, and a team of OBA/FACM volunteers reassemble the bird Sunday afternoon. If you'd like to help the OBA/FACM restore this venerable Rustic Bird, please send your tax deductible check (payable to "OBA" and designated for "O-2 tail # 67-21361") to: OBA/FACM, 505 NW 38th Street, Hangar 33s, Fort Worth, TX 76106



O-2 #67-21361 as seen in SEA (photos 1 & 2) and now (photo 3) being restored for the FACM by OBA

OK Guys....Here is the chance for you Duck Drivers.....see if you flew this bird....we need to know its history.....Needless to say...don't applaud...just throw money! If any of you O-2 drivers are interested in helping compile the history of O-2 # 67-21361, please contact **Jim Gabel**, Rustic Historian, at jagabel@aol.com or call: (605) 342-6158

CALLING ALL DUCK DRIVERS. Ned Helm. The gauntlet has arrived at the feet of the Duck drivers...make it happen guys!! I have 50 hours in the Duck acquired while slumming in Osan before the OV's arrived...geeze did I just admit that? This bird...assuming that the one we are talking about is really 361...appears to have been crash landed by two Sleepytime/Rustic FACs (19th Tass) on a sand bar in the Saigon River in Aug of 1970...and had been sitting on a pallet ever since...lots of history...more when it becomes firm (the tail # that is). We even have pix of her wingless body in the revetments at Bien Hoa from the original Rustic book!!

WHO WAS RUSTIC 18 ON AUG 7, 1972? If you know, please contact **Roger Hamann, Rustic "Y"**, at rusticyan-kee72@aol.com or call (207) 375-4883. Roger flew a mission at Ubon with Rustic 18 on Aug 7, 1972 in OV-10A # 825, but doesn't recall the name of the pilot. Our Rustic 'Black' book doesn't list anyone with a Rustic 18 call sign for that date. The mission was Rog's 158th, was 4.6 hours long and included one airstrike.

ENEMY GUNNERS TOO CLOSE FOR COMFORT. (Arnie Sims, Rustic 20, "Close Call"— approx. Feb. 1971.) Unfortunately on Nov. 1988 my house was hit by an F-4 tornado (storm.) Most of my personal history was lost. However, I do have a few Rustic pictures. About all I remember about "that mission" WAS THE LANDING. I'm sure that the backseater was a Cambodian that I only flew with once. There was nothing outstanding except that we knew that we had taken hits early in the mission because of the racket they made striking the A/C. My relief looked us over on the way out (Hellwig, I think) and it had been long enough that by the time we were back, we expected a normal landing.



I had taken hits in the [left] wheel-well and the axle was shafted. The visual gear check was normal but the wheel and tire immediately disappeared on contact with the R/W. The bird went in a full left skid. That was when I slammed down on the rudder so hard it fractured my foot. All I could do now was about 75% on the left [engine] and shutdown the right and got it balanced on the right wheel then managed to hold off the left gear "stub" until about 15 kts. 'Love that OV-10; 'can't think of another A/C you could do it with!!!!

The manual said that directional control couldn't be maintained with just a blown tire. It was written up in the AF Times as the monthly "well done." Would anyone have a copy of that issue? Here is the photo proof I stopped it right on C/L. Thanks, and here is some more history!!! I hope to have a lot of interesting stuff before your Sept.[reunion] meeting. **Arnie.**

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From **William Phinizy**, Fountain Valley, CA. Subject: 1Lt **Garrett Eddy**

Mr. [Lendy] Edwards,

I hope I do not intrude; I am writing to you because I stumbled across the Rustics web site and you were listed as a contact.

I was a captain in the USAF between 1969 and 1978. During the Viet Nam war, I was about as far away from the action that you undoubtedly saw as one could be. I worked at HQ SAC/DOCODW and sat at a desk. Had my eyes been better, I would have yearned to be in an O-2 or OV-10. My first boss, **Lt Col Roy Borthick** flew them out of Udorn in the late 60s and his stories only made my desk work that much more regrettable.

The purpose in writing to you is to express my admiration and respect for the bravery you all exhibited in the missions you flew in SEA. It's one thing to be sitting in a B-52 and quite another to be flying an aircraft that is little more than a civilian private aircraft over the extremely impolite NVA. The other reason is because I attended the Menlo School in the San Francisco Bay Area and graduated in 1964 with one of your members -- **Garrett Eddy**. Some 40 years later, I was (finally) apprised of the sad news that Garrett "was killed in Viet Nam". In searching the web, I came upon him referenced on your web site; I started

delving into the fascinating tale of the FACs who comprised the Rustics. Needless to say, **Dick Wood's** book is on order here and will be consumed as soon as it arrives. Your story is a fascinating one and I want to be sure that my classmates know more about the men with whom Garrett served.

My thanks for your service to our country and warmest regards, **William Phinizy**

A copy of the above message was sent to Garrett Eddy's kin, along with a copy of our March Rustic newsletter.

From **Roland Deshaies**:

'Mailed my check today to **Don Ellis** for the original 260 page Rustic book. My sister is also anxious to read it as it was part of her brother's life experience.

Here's a story about one of my "interesting" missions. I believe the Rustic pilot during this mission was **Siebold** but not certain. (I sent him an email regarding this, but have not heard back.) I, as back seater, was in process of looking out the canopy (right side) when there was a sudden jolt, then a sudden altitude drop and the plane ended on a starboard approx 20 degree list and I noticed the right engine had come to complete stop.

The pilot reported to the command ship that we were having difficulty maintaining proper altitude and advised me to tighten up my straps. Pilot flipped SOS switch & it seemed to me that within 5 minutes a fighter plane was under our belly making a visual & noticed smoke emitting from the exhaust and appeared to fighter pilot as a possible hydraulic smoke emission.

Command allowed the Rustic pilot to decide whether to eject or attempt to return to home base. Pilot was able to stabilize the OV-10 but still had difficulty achieving proper required altitude but decided to try & return to home base.

The mission was accomplished & pilot received an "Atta Boy" for returning us & the aircraft safely.

I knew the Rustic pilots were good, but gained a greater admiration for them after that mission for the professional and level headed way the entire process was accomplished in such a short time and they say "Your in good hands with that insurance company." I think the Rustic pilots can lay claim to that statement before that insurance company.

As a side note, the movie "Wind Talkers" remind me of the Rustic Back Seaters. For those not familiar with movie "Wind Talkers" American Indians spoke in their native tongue to pass on coordinate info etc, over the comm system. Now I refer myself as a "French Talker" maybe not identical as "Wind Talker" but similar.

Thanks again Rustic Pres. for your email and hope the Rustic pilot can be identified **Roland (Pepé) Deshaies**

Can anyone confirm the Rustic pilot who flew this mission with Deshaies?

From **Lt John "BATT" Platt**, 74 FS World Famous Flying Tigers, Rustic 22, 29 March 05.

Rustics,

Sorry I have been neglecting my e-mailing you guys but things have been extremely hectic lately. We are still set to step out the door during the first week of May [to Afghanistan.] We have undergone an extensive spin up process as a squadron and are just about ready to depart.

I have also been busy because I was put into the 2 ship Flight Lead upgrade last month and it has been a sprint to get it done before we leave. Another notable event was that the Rustic visit influenced the leadership to nominate me for the 23 FG CGO of the quarter and I won that. So I thank you guys for taking an interest, showing up, and contributing to that. Claude's letter of appreciation helped with that too.

I will be taking your e-mail address Doug, with me to the desert and will provide some periodic updates on what we are doing over there. Hopefully you can pass that on to the other Rustics.

I am also hoping that we can begin to think about the possibility of another visit here at Pope with the involvement of more of the Original Rustics. Obviously we would shoot for sometime next year after we have been home for a while and settled back into our routines. I hope all is well with each of you and I will talk to you all again soon. **"Batt"**

5 Jun 05 Greetings from lovely Bagram AB! Sorry it has taken so long to get in touch, but we have been busy getting through the turnover, getting settled in, and getting into a routine. The deployment is going well so far. everyone seems to be in high spirits and the conditions here are better than most expected I think. The weather is hot and windy but during the evening the temperatures are very comfortable. The country itself is actually very beautiful, especially from the air. There are numerous snow covered mountain ranges that provide some beautiful backdrops to the chaos that is sometimes unfolding on the ground. This place is also rich with history both recent and ancient. Reminders of the Russian presence in this country are everywhere you look. There are wrecked T-55 tanks, old MIGs, and other relics from that period still visible today. That doesn't mention all the landmines they left behind.

Our squadron is all set up in the old Russian control tower building. Civilian ATC types have moved in and provide control from the tower cab. We have many spaces in the tower dedicated to the squadron. We have two large rooms that serve as the main work area, Mission Planning Cell and Intel area. We have another room which we call the alert shack. It has a lot of comfortable couches and chairs, a projection TV a Nintendo and a DVD player. That is where most of us spend our off time,

although we have been known to slip in there during work hours for a quick breather. The other rooms we own are a life support office, a life support locker room where our gear is stored, and another room where the alert pilots can hang out and relax in peace and quiet.

Our hooches are adequate. They are made out of plywood and have 8 rooms per hooch. We own multiple hooches, but the pilots all live in or around what we call the Stalag. We have our own, pilot made, fenced in compound complete with a "bar" that serves the finest near beer you ever tasted, and the Bada Bing which is another area with a TV and stuff. Sopranos Fans will probably know where the namesake came from.

The flying has been going well. We have some obstacles to overcome such as the runway being under construction and all. The jets have been healthy and serving well. Maintenance really is taking care of business over here. Most of our missions have been convoy escort, XCAS, or JTAC training. We have had a few exciting moments and some of us in the squadron have proven ourselves by employing in combat. The bad guys are still out there and are still causing trouble.

Many of the guys here have taken your advice to heart and have started a journal. I know I have, but I only really write about my flying activities, because so far that is the only excitement that there is around here.

Well that is the quick update from here, I hope that all is well with all of you and your families. Thanks to all of you and Claude for the letter you sent the squadron. It was appreciated greatly. I hope to hear from you soon. **Capt John "BATT" Platt**

CONDOLENCES: Our condolences go to Rustic Hotel, Joe Vaillancourt on the loss of his wife Collette in late March.

SHORT BURSTS:

1) Bronco Fest V and Founders Day, July 15-17 in Ft Worth, TX. will include a fly-in as part of the 40th anniversary celebration. They are anticipating, O-1s, O-2s, OV-10s and other FAC related airplanes. This part of the event alone will be worth coming out for. Bronco Fest V isn't just for OV-10 people; it's open to all comers. Contact: OBA/FACM at 1-800-575-0535.

2) Bien Hoa Detachment 6, 600th Photographic Squadron, Website: <http://www.ih2000.net/wayne/aircraftframes.htm>

3) Donut Dollie Reunion. Southeast Asia era Donut Dollies are having a reunion in Albuquerque in July. They are trying to update their records and find all 640 of them. If you can help with a name or address, or would like more info about the reunion, contact **Nancy Smoyer** at: fnrs@UAF.EDU.

0-2 NOSE ART (Ned Helm.) Remember the O-2 Lady Duck Driver, **Karen**, who gave orientation rides at our 2002 San Antonio **Rustic** reunion? Here is a picture of the proposed Nose Art for her plane. As many of you know, her 0-2 flew the trail...as a matter of fact **Doc Lambert**....(OBA muckedy muck--how can a duck driver be an OV assn officer....well a FAC is a FAC!!) flew this bird as a Nail over the Trail (oops, I rhymed!!).

Both he and yours truly have been after Karen to "Name" her bird. The nose art was designed by **Brian J Goad**.

The name will be "Steel Tiger"...and it will be complete with Cricket stencil on the other side. Looking good Karen...now make it happen. **Crash**



2005 REUNION REGISTRATION FORM

22-25 Sep, 2005

Please print all information requested and return with payment **NLT 15 AUG, 2005**. (This will ensure time to order reunion shirts and hats, etc.)

Name _____ Nickname (for name tag) _____
 Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Telephone (____) _____ E Mail _____ FAX (____) _____
 Spouse/Guest Name _____ Nickname (for name tag) _____
 Rustic/Other Call Sign _____ Rustic Dates: Month _____ Yr _____ to Month _____ Yr _____
 What day and time do you plan to arrive at the reunion? Wed. _____ Thurs. _____ Fri. _____ Sat. _____
 Approx. time of day: _____ Coming by: Car _____ Air _____ (Flight Number _____)
 I'm arriving at the following airport: Okaloosa County Regional. Airport _____ Pensacola Regional Airport _____
 If unaccompanied, would you be interested in sharing a room/expenses with another Rustic? Yes _____ No _____
Do you or your guest require any special assistance while at the reunion? Please Specify: _____

Survey:

I'd like to see the next Rustic Reunion held in: 2006 _____ 2007 _____ 2008 _____
 I'd like to see the next Rustic reunion held? (Indicate priority 1 thru 8, or name location)

Las Vegas _____ Tucson _____ Wash DC _____ Ft Walton Beach _____ Orlando _____ Denver _____ Branson _____ 74FS, Pope AFB _____
 Other _____ Would you help sponsor the reunion? Yes _____

I'm willing to help man the Rustic Hootch for a couple of hours. Yes _____
 I/we will be attending the pre-party at the Newland's House on Wed, 21 Sep? Yes _____
I will bring my SEA photos to the reunion for scanning. Yes _____

I will not be attending the reunion, but would like the items ordered below mailed to me. _____

Please mail completed Registration Form and check (payable to: "Rustics") NLT 15 Aug 2005 to: Lendy Edwards, 11 Poplar Ave, Shalimar, FL 32579-1113

REGISTRATION FEES

	<u>Cost:</u>	<u>Number:</u>	<u>Sub-total:</u>
Registration Fee: \$35 for each Rustic; \$25 per Guest	\$35 / \$25	x _____	= \$ _____
Not required for guests attending just the Sat. night Reunion Banquet.)			
Lunch, Hurlburt Club (Part of Base Tour), Fri, 23 Sep	\$12.00	x _____	= \$ _____
Sunset Sailing, Destin Harbor Fri. pm, 23 Sep (optional):	\$33.00	x _____	= \$ _____
Golf Tournament: Sat. am, 24 Sep. (Green Fee, Cart and Prizes)	\$30.00	x _____	= \$ _____
"Reserve" me the following clubs: Standard (\$5) _____ Ping (\$25) _____ (Pay when you play)			
Reunion Banquet , Sat. pm, 24 Sep:	\$45.00	x _____	= \$ _____
Farewell Breakfast, Ramada : Sun am, 25 Sep (optional)	\$13.50	x _____	= \$ _____

Contribution to Cambodian Reunion Guest Fund (Tax deductible):	\$ _____
Contribution to House of Hope Fund (Tax deductible):	\$ _____
Rustic Commercial Book Order (Optional): Pick up at reunion: \$18.00	x _____ = \$ _____
Mail me the book: \$21.00	x _____ = \$ _____

Reunion Memorabilia Items:

You can pick them up at the reunion (or have them shipped to you if you are not coming.)

Rustic's Original Self-published Book CD	\$ 15.00 ea	x _____	= \$ _____
Rustic Reunions and Rustic Trip to Cambodia/SEA CD	\$ 15.00 ea	x _____	= \$ _____
White Polo Shirt: Men's Large _____ Men's X Large _____	\$ 27.00 ea	x _____	= \$ _____
Ladies Large _____ Ladies X Large _____	\$ 27.00 ea	x _____	= \$ _____
Men's XX Large _____ Men's XXX Large _____	\$ 29.00 ea	x _____	= \$ _____
Ladies XX Large _____ Ladies XXX Large _____	\$ 29.00 ea	x _____	= \$ _____

(Shirt front will have Reunion Logo over heart)

Baseball Caps: Maroon with "RUSTIC" and 'Reconnaissance Armee', and will have crossed flags on the side.

\$ 10.00	x _____	= \$ _____
Shipping costs if not attending reunion: Hat: \$2.50 Shirt: \$3.00 Hat & Shirt: \$3.50	x _____	= \$ _____

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

2005 Membership Renewal Form and Survey

Name: _____ Spouses name: _____
 Street Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____ Telephone () _____ - _____
 E Mail Address: _____ Rustic Call Sign: _____

I have additional Rustic Stories for inclusion in the Rustic/FAC History Book Projects. Yes ___ No ___

I'd like to be interviewed at the reunion to document my Rustic history. Yes _____

Enclosed are my dues for 2005.

Amount Enclosed:

2005 Annual Dues of \$20.00

\$ _____

Lifetime Membership in the Rustic FAC Association:

Age: Lifetime Membership Rates:

55 & younger \$ 250

56-60 \$ 225

61-65 \$ 200

66-or older \$ 175

My age is: _____ \$ _____

Contribution to help bring our Cambodian friends to the 2005 Reunion \$ _____

2005 Tax Deductible Contribution to House of Hope \$ _____

2005 Tax Deductible Contribution to Kompong Cham Orphanage \$ _____

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Please make check payable to 'Rustics' and mail to: Lendy Edwards, 11 Poplar Avenue, Shalimar, FL 332579-1113

**Rustic FAC Association
 4033 Indian Trail Drive
 Destin, FL 32541**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Volume 9, Issue 3

1 September 2005



Rustic News

www.rustic.org

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FACM Committee:	Jim Gabel, jagabel@aol.com	Search Committee:	Rog Hamann, RusticYankee72@aol.com

IT'S THAT TIME ALREADY! RUSTIC RENDEVOUZ: 22-25 Sep 2005

REUNION 2005 JUST AROUND THE CORNER: Rustics, the target is marked. TOT is **September 22-25** at the Ramada Plaza Beach Resort in Fort Walton Beach, FL. The weather on the Emerald Coast has been fantastic--warm and sunny. It's not too late to register for the reunion...or, if you must, just show up if your schedule permits. The Ramada is in first-class condition. If you need to register, time is getting short, so please contact **Lendy Edwards** at lendy@cox.net or call him at 1-850-651-6766. You can also get the

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registration forms and the entire reunion schedule off our website: www.rustic.org. (Look under 'Newsletters' and search the "June 2005" issue.) It's too late to order the special Rustic Reunion T shirts, but we may have a few extras at the reunion. Gatherings like these don't come along often so come join us! Life is short and there's no guarantee we'll be around for the next big rendezvous. Highlights of this year's reunion will be a visit to the new FAC Memorial at Hurlburt and a series of informative briefings on SEA. Of course, we'll get a little "sand in our shoes", do some golfing and deep sea fishing, sail the seas, dine on some great seafood and...just maybe...have a drink or two with our buds. Ah, life is good!! See you there.

Every Rustic attending this year's reunion will receive a free copy of the Rustic Black Book on CD—thanks to the great efforts of **John Charlton**. Copies of the FAC Assoc. History Book CD will be on sale for a nominal fee.

If anyone needs a place to stay, a couple spare bedrooms are available with one of the local Rustics. If you'd like to take advantage of this offer, contact **Claude Newland**, 1-850-654-2955.

A reunion pre-party will take place Wednesday pm at the Newlands at 4033 Indian Trail Dr. in Destin. If you're in town early come join us. Call 850-654-2955 for details. Registration will open at noon on Thursday, 22 Sep, at the Oasis Room (FAC Hootch) near the pool and the Welcome Party and Dinner will start at 6 pm. Dress is flight suits, party suits/shirts or casual.

DRESS FOR THE BANQUET WILL BE SPORT COAT OR DRESSY CASUAL.

Jim Seibold has volunteered to take pictures of everyone who attends the banquet—so lookin' good!

WHO'S COMING: So far, the following have registered. **Aitken (2), Barazzotto (2), Capps (2), Carruthers (2), Dahle (1), Dandeneau (2), Drury (1), W. Dodd (1), Dufresne (2), Early (2), Ecklund (1), Edwards (2), Ellis (2), Friedhofen (2), Gabel (2), Goddard (1), Helm (2), Keese (2),**

Koeppel (4), Larson (2), Lester (2), Mercer (1), McClellan (2), Mittendorf (1), Morneau (2), Newland (2), Nuber (1), Kohn Om (1), Col Oum (1), Roberds (2), Seibold (2), Sleigh (2), Stratton (2), Thomas (2), Van Dyke (2), Wilson (2), Wood (1)

If your buddies aren't on this list, it's time to call 'em and give 'em orders to "report" to Ft Walton Beach. Cleared Hot!

RAMADA RESERVATIONS: Please call the hotel toll free at 1-800-874-8962 to make your own reservations. Request the "Rustic FAC Reunion" special rates. Rates for the Ramada and other alternative lodging are listed on the Rustic Website (www.rustic.org) Newsletter, or call **Lendy Edwards** if you have any questions, 850-651-6766.

WHAT TO BRING: The temperatures in September will be 75-80 degrees; warm days and cool evening with low humidity. Perfect Fall weather for the beach, golf, fishing or sight seeing. Bring your camera, Rustic memorabilia, Rustic photo albums, swim-suit and summer clothes, but include a sweater or light jacket for the evening or sunset sailing.

SEA RUSTIC PHOTO HISTORY CD/DVD PROJECT UNDERWAY. Reunion attendees are reminded to bring their Rustic SEA photo scrapbook to the reunion (if you haven't already had **Ned Helm** scan your photos.) Ned is building a great photo history of the Rustics. All photos are being put on one CD/DVD and copies will be made for your personal libraries. Ned will scan your photos while you are at the reunion and will return them to you before the reunion is over.

RUSTIC MEMORABILIA: During the reunion, Rustic memorabilia will be displayed in the FAC Hootch. Bring anything you care to share. This usually generates some interesting items and stimulates conversation and/or debates. A new Rustic Banner will be displayed at the Hootch and a long-lost Ubon Rustic bar bell will magically reappear. (Bet you never thought you'd see it again! Who wants to buy a round?)

REUNION 6 HOUR FISHING TRIP PLANNED. Yep, a few stout hearted Rustics are going to test their sea legs on Saturday, 24 September. We have added a 6 hour deep sea fishing trip to the Saturday morning schedule. A dozen Rustics have already signed up. The boat leaves the Destin docks at 8am and returns at 2 pm. Several wives have signed up. Here's the details:



Destin Princess



This could be the Rustics on 24 Sep...all aboard!

Ship: Destin Princess, 65' Catamaran (Capacity: 45), Fast, Clean, Air Conditioned.

www.destinpartyboatfishing.com

Located: at 210 Harbor Blvd, Destin, FL, ½ mile east of Destin Bridge behind the Fisherman's Wharf Restaurant at the Destin Fishing Fleet Marina.

Rates: 6 hour Trip, \$60 (price includes sales tax), Rider/Observer: \$45, \$50 Kids/Seniors (65 or older)

Reservations: Send in your fee with your reunion Registration Form and the Reunion Committee will sign you up for the trip.

Bring: your own cooler, food, & drinks (Reunion Committee will provide coolers.)

Boat Provides: bait, ice, tackle, & fishing license. Experienced mates offer personal assistance. Catamaran style & boat size reduces motion sickness. Fish cleaning service available at the dock. Appropriate or disposable fishing attire recommended. Bring an old towel.

SOME E MAILS NEED UPDATING: Request the following Rustics send an email to **Lendy Edwards**, Lendy@cox.net, Rustic Database Keeper, to update us on your current e mail address.

Daman Gonzales, "Stump" Baker, Otto Walinski, Milt Ross, and Norm Falcon

2005 RUSTIC ROSTER ENCLOSED: This is our “annual” Rustic Newsletter so we’re including a revised roster. If you find any errors, please bring them to the attention of **Lendy Edwards** at 850-651-6766, or lendy@cox.net.

2006 DUES ARE NOW DUE. At the end of this newsletter is the 2006 Association Dues Renewal Form. We hope you’ll continue to support your association with your annual dues. It’s your dues which keep us going as an association—newsletters, website, reunions, rosters and history projects.

Thanks again to everyone for your continued support of the Rustic FAC Association!! It’s great to be part of an organization with such an enthusiastic membership!! **Rustic Board**

DID YOU KNOW?

Three Digit Rustic Call Signs (Jack Thompson): The Rustics had three digit call signs for a short period in 72. The purpose was for the Rustics to be able to supplement the Nails in Laos. We never did that but we did fly with them for a period. I was Rustic 111. All we did was place a “1” in front of our regular call sign.

Spike Call Sign (Richard Atchison, Nail 229): The “Spike” call sign was used by the 23rd TASS FACs at Ubon in 1972 whose operating area was basically the northern half of Cambodia. In the fall of 71 someone at 7th AF didn’t like our Spike call sign and Ubon became Nails. ‘Suspect that [Gen’l] Momeyer found out someone was using his nickname. Don’t remember a lot about the Rustics going to Ubon. I do remember a leadership conversation supporting changing the Ubon call sign to Rustic because it fit with what we were trying to do with Ubon and Cambodia. A lot of the good things that happened at Ubon, especially in maintenance, were the result of the personal relationships that MacLeay had with the leadership of the 8th TFW and 7th AF.

Al Matheson’s, Nail 213, recollection is that “Spike” was taken upon ourselves just to differentiate between NKP and the OL at UBON. Everyone seemed to know that and no comment was ever made of either concern or indifference. I know that I used the call sign interchangeably all the time, just depended on which field I took off from. It helped in the field to differentiate too, for reference and fuel/ops estimates as well, so I don’t remember Allycat or Moonbeam ever complaining, though Sycamore was confused the first couple of calls... I doubt that the Spike callsign ever went through Blue Chip for a blessing...

“DOUG” NORMAN LOCATED POSTUMOUSLY. Roger Hamann (Rustic Search Committee Chairman.) On July 23rd, 1998, a fellow Rustic GIB passed on without many of us ever realizing it. **Sgt. Carl “Doug” Norman**, “Rustic Mike”, flew as an airborne interpreter with the Rustic FACs out of Ubon RTAFB in 1971-72. Doug was one hell of a warrior and lived life to the fullest.

We all lost track of Doug after we went our separate ways and no one could find him when attempts were made to do so starting with the ‘97 Rustic reunion. A year or two ago, the Rustics were notified by someone that Doug had passed away when he suffered a fatal heart attack while serving with CIA. Doug was 48 years old.

Through some investigative work by one of Doug’s after-SEA tour buddies, **Kent Allison**, who was a roommate of Doug’s at Forbes AFB, KS, in 72-73, we now know that Doug was interred at Quantico National Cemetery, Quantico, Prince William County, Virginia. His plot: 23,0,1164. The listing reflects: TSgt, US Air Force.

Today, I salute Doug, his life as a Rustic and all the people whose lives he enriched by being the man he was. Hoist one for Rustic Mike if you will!

We’ll hoist one for Doug and all our Rustics “departed” at our 2005 reunion banquet. We miss them all!!



Ubon: Doug Norman and John Charlton prior to jumping “in the saddle.”

RUSTIC COUPLE EXPLORE SOUTHERN AFRICA BY AIR. Mike and Sherry Wilson have added yet another great chapter to their extensive list of travel adventures. Here’s Mike’s report:

Sherry and I left Phoenix May 26 for a two week Air Safari in Southern Africa. Below are the websites where Sherry posted some of the photos we took on our trip.

<http://homepage.mac.com/sher85745/PhotoAlbum11.html>

<http://homepage.mac.com/sher85745/PhotoAlbum12.html>

We landed in Johannesburg and had two days there while qualifying for a S. Africa pilot’s certificate. I don’t have a medical right now, so Sherry was PIC. I was the navigator and photographer.

We were in a group of 6 airplanes; three 172's, a C182, Aviat Husky and a Beech 33. We were in a C172. The 182 dropped out the first day because of oil pressure problems. The C182 was a guy from CA with his wife and grown daughter. We put them and their luggage in the other planes and pressed on.

'Visited four game camps, two days at each, and two hotels. We took numerous driving safaris and Sherry and I took one walking safari with an armed guide.

We flew in South Africa, Botswana and Zambia. Flew over Victoria Falls. Flew down on the deck below tree top level. Landed on a vast dry lake. Flew over a big shallow lake, about 100 feet over the water, and thousands of flamingos took flight. It was an unbelievable sight, not soon forgotten.

We saw countless animals, including the BIG FIVE -- Lion, Rhino, Cape Buffalo, Elephant, Leopard.

When we were flying, most of the animals were fairly easy to spot from the air, except Rhinos which looked like gray rocks. Giraffes were easy to spot. Nobody saw any animals but us. Sherry and I would spot a herd of cape buffalos and we'd go down and circle them. Circled herds of zebra and sent them running. None of the other planes spotted anything.

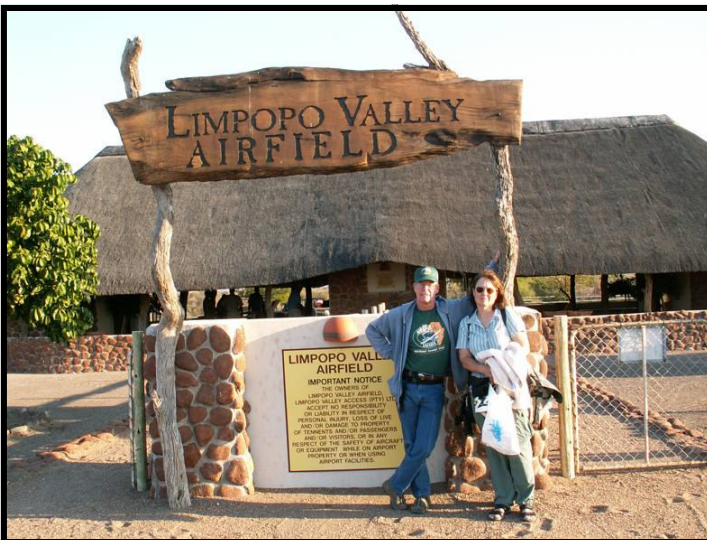
Sherry really got into flying on the deck. I think she'd make a good FAC. Of course, FACs would never fly that low, Ha!

We flew over terrain that looked like the Arizona desert. Then we flew over the delta which looked like the glades in Florida. The dry lake we landed on looked for all the world like the Bonneville Salt Flats. Our last game camp looked just like Eastern Ky.

We stayed at some really fancy camps. Sherry was attacked one night with a mouse in her hair. She sure woke me up and half the camp. Didn't know Sherry could fly without an airplane.

We were charged by an elephant once, a little added excitement to the evening.

In short, a great time was had by all. Hope you have time to check out some of the photos at our websites above. **Mike**



First Stop, Limpopo Airfield



Landed on the Salt

Mike and Sherry, what a great trip! Thanks for sharing it with us.

DO YOU HAVE HOME MOVIES OF YOUR RUSTIC SEA TOUR? **Ned Helm:** If so, we'd like to archive them. Please contact me at ned@wingset.com or 1-850-585-6594. As you know, **Doug Aitken** did a great "Rustic Story" video for our first reunion in 1997-- using some of our home movies—but we know we didn't capture all of your movies in this video. Now we'd like to get them all preserved on one DVD. I'll take the initial lead, so get in touch with me and we'll work out the details together.

What prompted this...you say? I finally got a DVD player...so I plugged in the DVD that one of you GIBs sent me. It turns out to be some GREAT 8 MM movies from Ubon and Bien Hoa...to include **Doug Aitken's** fini, **Sam** and **Oum's** trip to Ubon, etc. Classic stuff...even Missue makes her appearance.

Who sent this....come to the reunion to see it!!!!

Now...who of the rest of you have movies?...if so take them to Wally World and have them put on a DVD and we will archive them.

Most of the footage is Ubon but some is Bien Hoa including a GIB fini complete with jeep and water trailer. Awe-some!!

Crash P S... **Rog [Hamann]**....boy were you young!!

SHORT BURST:

1) News from overseas: Mike Gagne, Rustic Kilo, recently did a two hour conference with some 18 year olds at a local French high school on the Rustics. They were doing a home work assignment on the Vietnam era (in English) and asked if he could participate. He says we should have a few more visits on the Rustic website in the near future!

2) Website sent in by Bill Carruthers—includes some great photography of US troops in action in the desert: <http://www.clermontyellow.accountsupport.com/flash/UntilThen.swf>

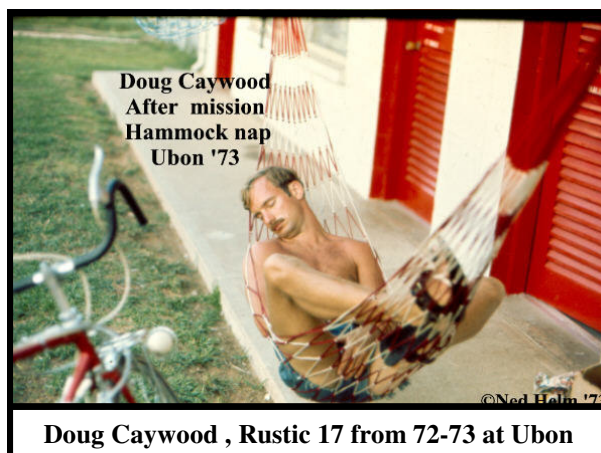
3) Don Ellis undergoes successful gall bladder surgery. "My [steely-eye-keen FAC reflects] must be going as I age; however, I am going to blame the oversight of including the number of members on the last e-mail to my recovery from my gall bladder surgery which was successfully performed on July 15th. The doctor who successfully performed the intubations reported to my wife that I didn't like it at all. I wonder what we say under anesthesia that the doctors don't repeat."

Don, Glad to hear that you're on the mend and all went well! I'll bet you didn't give 'em more than your name, rank and serial number!!

4) DD-214. Walt Krueger reports that retired military personnel can now access their DD-214 on-line by going to the National Personnel Records Center website: <http://www.vetrecs.archives.gov>. This may be particularly helpful when a veteran needs a copy of his DD-214 for employment purposes.

5) Wedding Bells. Congratulations are in order for **Roger Hamann** who celebrated his youngest daughter's wedding (Katie) by walking her down the aisle on 11 June. **Claude Newland** will do the same for his daughter, Andrea, on 15 Oct.

6) Doug Caywood recently joined the Rustic Group Net. This is a Rustic only (and friends by invitation) net. If you'd like information on how to get on board, contact **Ned Helm** at: ned@wingset.com.



Doug Caywood , Rustic 17 from 72-73 at Ubon

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

From **Sy Gaskill**, Rustic 09,

Hello **Don [Ellis]**, allow me to introduce myself. You might remember me. I am **Simon P. Gaskill** (Rustic 09, in the day) I've been "out of the loop for some time, but I've been keeping up with you guys via mailings. I moved back to Hampton, Virginia, my hometown, in 2001 but between health problems and trying to make a living at this ripe old age, it's been tough. I haven't been able to even keep my dues paid, but I still feel a part of the Rustic organization. Thanks for keeping me on the mailing list, guys. I'm proud of the way the organization has grown and succeeded.

I am presently employed by the Boy Scouts of America working with "at risk" units. Its morally rewarding, but doesn't make one wealthy. Anyway, I think I can now manage to get current. Are you allowed to pay life time membership in installments? I'd like to make four \$50.00 payments over the next few months, if that is acceptable.

I've also become friendly with one of our city councilmen here who flew Marine OV-10's in SEA. He and I have been talking about the possibility of establishing a FAC chapter and securing an OV for display either at Langley AFB or at our outstanding Air and Space Center (IMAX and the whole '9 yards) being a politician, he expects me to do the leg work and keep him apprised of my progress. I think he can tell how much I love the OV. I'm going to start investigating it.

Email me back with info about how I get reinstated. I'm excited to see that since the first reunion, you've found two very memorable Rustics. **Mike Wilson** and **Arnie Sims**. My warmest regards to them and to all my Rustic brothers. I would love to hear from any and all. My email address is simongaskill@cox.net and my phone number is (757) 660-1184 **Sy Gaskill**

From **Gil Bellefeuille**:

Evening Claude, 'Mailed off my ballot today. Unless I have some case work out your way, Eglin or Hurlburt, I will not be making the reunion this year. Just got picked up on the OPM contract and will be running around just about all over Florida. I will be submitting an order for the Polo Shirts and Caps. (In a follow-on message) My wife is also scheduled for surgery on 9/15/05 and will need 10 days to 2 weeks of recuperation time after the surgery.

Have been in Columbus, Ohio since 7/31/05 and should be back home by 8/12 or 8/13. I've signed on to do Background Investigations for OPM, which will have me traveling quite a bit. I was planning on having some cases in the Panhandle at reunion time so I could work and play a little also. However, not gonna happen this time around.

Ruth is doing her two weeks active duty this month only she is staying at MacDill. She will not be a fully qualified aircrew member until sometime after 1 October. Reserves ran out of training money and her school is 5-6 weeks at Brooks City Base in San Antonio including altitude chamber training and E & E training. She's anxious to get going. Her unit has a laundry list of places she can volunteer for 120 day stints. If she does this, it puts her at the bottom of the involuntary recall list and those recalls could be for up to one year. Take Care, **Gil**

From **Jim Hodgson (OBA and FAC Museum):**

Claude, great [June] newsletter. Thanks so much for the terrific write-up on our combined efforts to build or living memorial and museum dedicated to all FACs. You went way beyond what I expected and we appreciate your efforts. Thanks, **Jim Hodgson**

From **Roger Hamann:**

Claude, I'm sorry to say that I will not be able to attend this year's reunion. Was looking forward to meeting **Jerry McClellan** again after 33 years, my fini flight pilot and taking a pic next to 626 but guess it'll have to wait. Cheers, **Rog**, Rustic Yankee

From **Bob Ryals:**

Ned [Helm], I saw that [OV-10] 825 is going to the [FAC] museum in Ft Worth. 'Wish it was closer but oh well. I flew 825 on 10 sorties. Three of them (the 8.x sorties) were Phnom Penh "lunch bunch" turns. Here they are with flying times: 28 Feb 73 - 8.6 hrs, 1 Mar 73 - 8.9hrs, 15 Apr 73 - 4.3hrs, 20 Jun 73 - 8.7 hrs, 3 Jul 73 - 3.8 hrs.

The following were training missions at NKP after the war:

9 Oct 73 - 2.0 hrs, 11 Oct 73 - 1.0 hrs.

825 took care of me. 'Look forward to seeing and touching her again.

'Wish I could make it to the reunion in Sept. but changed jobs and little leave time saved up. If a miracle occurs, I may show up and stay with my dad in Destin. How are things going? Been awhile since we last talked. Look forward to hearing from you. **Bob**

*Did anyone else fly OV-10 #825? If so, contact **Ned Helm** who is compiling the complete history of this venerable old war bird.*

From **Capt John Platt**, 74 F S, Pope AFB, (SqN is deployed to Afghanistan)

I apologize for not writing with more frequency. Things have been a bit hectic up until now. We all arrived safely into the AO and got settled in. The handover was smooth but a bit lacking in substance so we spent the first few weeks getting used to how everything worked around here, as well as making up some things as we went along.

The conditions here I imagine are probably very close to what you guys had back in Vietnam as far as quality of life goes. It is very hot, probably not as humid as it was for you all. We have our squadron set up in the old Russian control tower. It is the only original structure remaining in our compound. There are a few more on the Army side but not on the Air Force side. All the rest of our buildings are made from 3/4-inch plywood. We have hot water MOST days and we get to eat at the army chow hall most days. We live 8 guys to a hooch and we have 5 total hooches. Three of which have their own privacy fence around them and we call that compound the STALAG. In there we built an outdoor bar named the Winchester, and an indoor rec room called the BING...from the Sopranos. The squadron area is acceptable, we have a large room that is an MPC/Intel/Briefing area and attached is another large room that serves as the OPS Desk area. Outside the Ops area we have the alert shack, which is where the alert crew spends their day. It is decked out with a DVD player, big TV and an XBOX. Most of us hang out in there when not actively engaged in work or flying.

Flying has been good. It has started to get repetitive and a tad boring at times. The country is actually quite beautiful, lots of mountains that even in the height of summer continue to be snow capped. If you have been following the news then you know about the recent events that occurred and we flew constant coverage for that ordeal for two weeks straight. A lot of guys have gotten to "do the business" if you know what I mean, and that always is good for morale. I have been here about two months and the average sortie count for guys here is in the mid thirties. That doesn't take into account alert tours, but works out to flying about every other day.

Just a few quick words that LTC Cowan asked me to pass along. Based on our squadron's experience of the last two weeks and the mission that we were involved in (Performed by the A-1s in your war) he would like to express his gratitude for you gentlemen coming to our squadron to spend time with us and sharing your experiences. He said although we all enjoy hearing the war stories, it just never hits home until you yourself have been involved in similar situations. Many people may not have identified on a level more that pure aviators until now, that we have flown in combat and understand what that entails, our appreciation for those stories and experiences that you passed to us has grown. He also would like to express that he is proud beyond words of how the 74th performed during the entire operation. We found ourselves having to operate outside of conventional doctrine due to the circumstances surrounding the incident and we all performed well.

Lastly I would like to thank the Rustic FAC Association for the letter that they wrote us right before our departure. I would also like to let you all know that many of us have taken the advice to keep a journal of what has happened here, including

myself. I hope that once I get home I can type it up and maybe share it with all of you. I apologize again for taking so long to get an e-mail out. I will do better in the future. Talk to you again soon. **Capt John "BATT" Platt**, Rustic 22

Anyone wishing to send a message to the 74F FS, Capt Platt, or his squadron mates, can contact them at:
af.John.Platt@baf.afgn.army.mil

From **Jerry McClellan**:

Claude, please forward to whoever wrote the one-liner in the March newsletter of Rustic News on page 6 about "another OV-10 saved?" I was the one who started this rumor.

On one side of the Amarillo airport, I guess long before it became Amarillo AFB, there is an old brick terminal and hangar, with the title "English Field". I do not know the history of the airfield, but now in that area there is a small air museum called the "English Field Museum". I go to Amarillo rather frequently, since I am in the nuke business, and this museum is on the way to and from on US 60.

They have maybe 15-20 airplanes mostly in hangars in various states of repair and disrepair, with 8 total guys who strive to maintain and restore them. They all have their stories, like one Army Viet vet who said that on at least two occasions, those FACs "saved my ass".

They have an F-84, an OV-1, an F-100, several helicopters, and a handicapped F-105, which I called a "low-rider", since it sits on the ramp on blocks like a Ford Fairlane. ["Well, they dug it out of the Mojave desert but left the wheels and struts there!"]

They even have a couple of nuke shapes like a B43, B41, and B53, "on loan from the National Atomic Museum" here in Albuquerque (run by Sandia Labs where I work). They said they had a couple of other nuke shapes, but some of those guys from Sandia came over one day, took them apart then took them away, mumbling something about "too much stuff still inside them...".

So I had heard there was an OV-10, so I went and checked it out. The three gentlemen who helped me out were Paul Easterday (in the office/gift shop), Jack Casey, and Paul Devenney (pdevenney@amaonline.com).

They have a forest green airplane in a hangar marked "NH-OV-10A", S/N "67-14623", and on the tail it says "LD", "67-623", and "IAAFA". There is a poster on an easel next to it which says it was a veteran of SEA (my records show I did NOT fly it), and was then transferred to the Navy for the OV-10D program, but that was cancelled, so it went to the AF at Lackland AFB assigned to the Inter-American Air Force Academy (IAAFA), to train Latin American pilots. It became part of this museum on 27 Apr 98, once it was disassembled and trucked to Amarillo. IAAFA was evidently part of the Air Education and Training Command, as it's crest is on the a/c.

That's all there is.

They challenged me to find out something about the North American MQM-42, "Redhead/Roadrunner", which was a target for guided missiles, and they claim it was used by the Hawk missile system. Anyone know anything about this? Regards **Jerry McClellan**

From **Ned Helm**

Here is a shot from **Ron Van Kirk**...Rustic FAC...who made it to Ft. Worth for Bronco Fest. The OV-10 is the only flyer in civilian hands in the US. It's from the Cactus AF. The aircraft to the right is the nose of "Scooby", the F-4 recently acquired by the OBA.

Here is a shot from Broncofest provided by the gent in the picture...This is the first time that **Ron Van Kirk** has sat in an OV since Ubon. I detect a smile on his face!!



They make a nice couple don't you think!! I think they are having a Growling competition!!

From **Colin Berry**,

Claude, I have my father's (Rustic 17) fini flight on VHS. It shows him preflighting, going to armament, takeoff, doing aerobatics, directing an airstrike, doing BDA, flying over Ankor Wat, and then landing where you guys hosed him down and then drinking champagne.

Where do you want it sent? You'll have my permission to copy it, distribute it, and add it to any compilation. Sincerely,
Colin

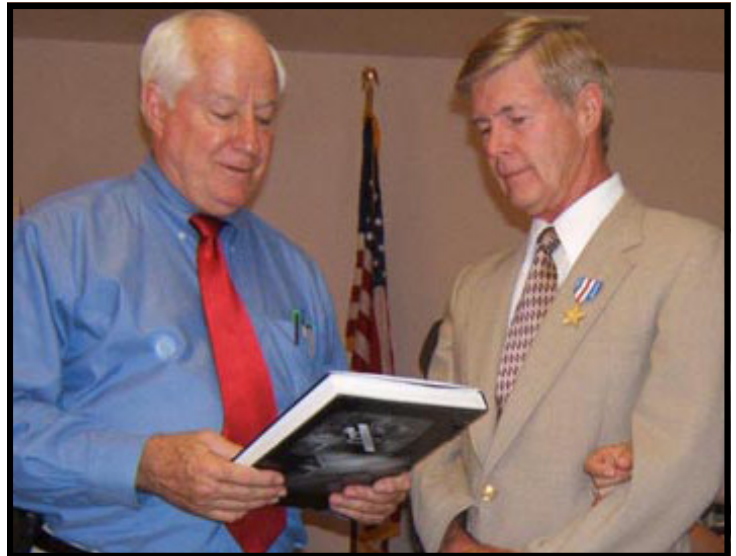
From **Mike Gagne**:

Hi Claude, I have a short non-edited movie of the last reunion I could put on a DVD if you need. Cheers, Mike Gagne

Mike, you betcha...we'd love to get a DVD copy of your home movies of our last reunion. Please send the DVD to me at: 4033 Indian Trail Dr. Destin, FL 43541.

U.S CONGRESSMAN RECOGNIZES MIKE WILSON'S SEA ACTIONS: From KOLD News, Tucson, AZ. Posted 8/22/05.

Arizona U.S. Congressman Jim Kolbe awarded a total of seven military service medals today and although it's been decades since the actions of the men involved took place their days of combat came back to life as their stories of courage were retold. One of the awards Congressman Kolbe presented was the silver star medal to Captain Bill 'Mike' Wilson. "I'm very proud and happy to receive the award and I'm proud to have served my country." On Sept. 23, 1970 while on a top secret mission over Cambodia Wilson came to the rescue of a convoy coming under attack. Flying his OV-10 Bronco light attack plane, Wilson made several passes wiping out dozens of enemy soldiers, "the ground commander kept telling me we were taking fire, well I was busy at the time and I didn't really think about how dangerous it was. It was just that these guys needed help and that's what we were doing." Military officials say because of Capt. Wilson's actions that day over Cambodia more than 150 troops were saved from death or capture.



RICK SCALING TAKES FINAL FLIGHT WEST. Ned Helm. Rustic 09, **Rick Scaling** passed away Friday, 22 Jul 2005, of an apparent heart attack. We were notified of his passing by his sister-in law, Virginia. Services were held in Enid, OK and he was interned on Tuesday, 26 July. Military honors were rendered at graveside....but....there was not a flyby due to the fact that he was not killed on active duty. Can anyone shed light on this?

Rick was a simulator instructor at Vance...thus there is a USAF connection....with all those Talons and Texans seems to me that three or four of them might have wandered over to his service. He was divorced but his fiancée Gloria lived with him. Gloria and Virginia can be reached at Rick's home phone #: 580-234-7174. .

Gloria attended the FAC Reunion at San Antonio with Rick and knew of Rick's love of the Rustics. She took his party suit and helmet to the Funeral home to be displayed. (she almost had him buried in his party suit...he would have loved that!!).

She will donate all his memorabilia to the FACM/Rustics (in that order) per his request. They had stopped by the FAC Museum while on their way to the All FAC reunion in San Antonio last year.

That means that the first two Rustic party suits with Khmer Blood Chits on them will be in the FACM collection.

A FAREWELL TRIBUTE TO RUSTIC 09. Ned Helm.

Last night a great FAC and an even greater character slipped away from us.

I had met him as one of those ILT FACs who had just left his "butter bar" behind. He matured in a week or so and "carried the can" with ease...straight from UPT to the OV.

He flew the Trail (only when directed!), flew in "The Nam" as part of one of the many Rustic Relief forces, and of course he flew Armed Reconnaissance with the Rustic Reconnaissance Armee in Cambodia. His glee when pumping rockets into targets actually caused Nails in his pit to "request that he fly higher". But he never showed his ass....and to my knowledge he never took a scratch...except the day he punched out.

We were never really close in the beginning...he was just one of the family of 12 or so Rustics. We drank together,

played 4-5-6, ate at the club or downtown together. We all flew alone...did our job alone...but we watched each others 6...we were family.

Then one day in hot July at Papa Papa in 73 he lost a left main, skittered across the grass and entered FAC lore as he said

"I'M OUTTA HERE!!"

He swung once.....

This is when I really met Rick....the day after his "Great Adventure" I crashed on self same runway.....Rick was in the Air Attaché's car snapping pix all the way as they chased my burning OV down the runway. It was Rick who ran up to me (as I was curled up in the fetal position by the side of the runway) ...verbally slapped me up side the headand got me back to the real world .

Later his testimony cleared me of "Screwing the pooch" and not only that...it caused the entire OV fleet to be grounded as the Nose Gears were replaced (they waited until after the festivities had ceased...lord knows we can't hurt the sortie count!!). It seems that the Maint Guys had been pressurizing the struts by eyeball (rather than by the gage.)... resulting in grossly over pressurized struts that locked the scissor links...which caused my slightly above average impact with terra firma.

When we finished our mandatory "you crashed our airplane Check Rides"...the rather ingenious Ops officer/Commander of the Rustics...Sy Dahle...ordered that we fly together (it was required that the guilty party fly his first sortie dual after an aircraft accident...and...somewhat understandably...no one really wanted to fly with either of us!!) It was this first ride together that caused our friendship to occur (blossom??). We both had had the Sierra scared out of us and we both had survived. (You know...been there...done that...got the Tee Shirt to prove it!!)....Rick was scared I would prang him on the runway...I was scared he would punch us out if I did!! The hilarity in that cockpit on short final at Papa Papa wasas they say today...priceless....

Don't land hard....

Don't punch me out if I do.....

Ad infinitum...ad Nausem.....

We became Buds....

He DEROSSED as the Rustics taxied out to RTB to NKP and rejoin the hive after the war. I never saw him again....until San Antonio.

When I became the Nail and Rustic editor for the FACBOOK CD....I knew Rick's story had to be told...but where the hell was he...the last I saw him it was Oct 73...it was now 2002. Well ...Any Who...and the internet found him. We resumed our last conversation as if 29 years had not passed. We chatted, we joked, and we even got a bit maudlin.

I coerced him to tell his story (he sent it to me on tape...two hours worth...which I had to transcribe....curse you Red Baron...that Oakie Twang REALLY was hard to understand!!) It is attached...it is a good one ...as it tells the story of Cambodia at the time, as well as his and my misadventures.

Well...I pressed his buttons and he finally relented. He came to the All FAC Reunion in San Antonio. He was slim....I was not. I had hair...he did not! We were like long lost Buds. If it had not been for the reunion...I would NEVER have seen him again. Now it is final. He is gone...I am not...it's not fair....

When someone gets shot down...well...that's life. I mean life goes on...another Jock takes his place and the war goes on. But 30 years later it really sucks when one of us dies...you can't shrug it off...you can't say "War is hell". It seems to hurt more.

He's dead now. The gunners never got him....my landings never got him. As a certain rowdy Nail would saySave me a seat Rick...right up close to the stage....we'll be along shortly.

Rick Scaling, Rustic 09, Sept 72- Sept 73,
Ubun -by-the -sea,



Sa Wa Dee Khraip... from **Crash**

Editor's note: Rick never made it to a Rustic reunion, but I was fortunate to have met him in San Antonio at the 2003 All FAC reunion If you haven't come to a reunion yet, maybe this is the year you should...life is short.

REPLICA RUSTIC PLAQUES FROM THE PHILIPPINES. Ned Helm has taken the initiative to contact Military Plaques Inc in the Philippines. He reports, "They are a company that does all sorts of plaques including SEA vintage. The owner is a Brit who simply will not take no for an answer. Ned found him while "surfing..."

They are making a sample of a Rustic plaque that will be similar to the Ubon plaque but totally hand carved rather than the painted brass sheet (which allows the enamel to fall off).

There is no charge for this one (Cleverly done in my name thank you very much....as mine was lost in a housing fire in the UK) and it will be available for display and discussion by the time the reunion comes around. They are also going to make a carved version of the SEA shoulder patch (IE SEA 100 Missions OV-10).

Note that all their plaques are hand made and there is no set up fee and all may be customized.

Cost is approx \$65 for one which includes airfreight. Cost is approx \$45 if multiple plaques are ordered. More when I get a final drawing.

If you think you'd like to have a plaque, contact me and I'll keep you in the loop: ned@wingset.com or 850-585-6594.

Cut off below portion and mail to Don Ellis, Treasurer, as indicated below.

2006 Membership Renewal Form and Survey

I'd like to maintain my Rustic FAC Association membership in good standing and stay in touch with my Rustic buddies, continue receiving the Rustic newsletter, and help support efforts to promote continued Rustic FAC camaraderie, future reunions, and history projects. Enclosed are my dues for 2006.

Name: _____ Spouses name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____ Telephone () _____ - _____

E Mail Address: _____ Rustic Call Sign: _____

I have additional Rustic Stories for inclusion in the Rustic/FAC History Book Projects. Yes _____

I'll send my Rustic SEA photos to Ned Helm for inclusion in the Rustic SEA Photo History Book. Yes _____

2006 Annual Dues of \$20.00 **Amount Enclosed:**
\$ _____

Lifetime Membership in the Rustic FAC Association:

Age: _____ Lifetime Membership Rates:

55 & younger \$ 250

56-60 \$ 225

61-65 \$ 200

66-or older \$ 175

My age is: _____ \$ _____

Contribution to help bring our Cambodian friends to the 2005 Reunion \$ _____

2005 Tax Deductible Contribution to House of Hope \$ _____

2005 Tax Deductible Contribution to Kompong Cham Orphanage \$ _____

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Please make check payable to 'Rustics' and mail to: Don Ellis, 26 E. Boyce St., Manning, SC 29102



Rustic News

www.rustic.org

Board of Directors:

President: Claude Newland, Rustic19@cox.net
Vice President: Jack Thompson, jackov10@sbcglobal.net
Treasurer: Don Ellis, donellis@sc.rr.com
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Director: Ron Dandeneau, RusticFoxtrot@aol.com
Director: Mike Wilson, sher85745@mac.com
Historian: Jim Gabel, jagabel@aol.com

Project Coordinators:

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Commercial Book: Dick Wood, woodrh@ix.netcom.com
Air Park Liaison: Ned Helm, ned@wingset.com
FACM Committee: Jim Gabel, jagabel@aol.com
Health & Wellness: Doc Thomas, shialary@msn.com

Rustic SEA Photo CD: Ned Helms, ned@wingset.com
Rustic Reunion Photo CD: Jim Seibold, seiboldjim@aol.com
OBA Liaison: Jack Thompson, Jackov10@sbcglobal.net
Search Committee: Rog Hamann, RusticYankee72@aol.com

2005 REUNION—ANOTHER GREAT RUSTIC GATHERING! The 2005 Reunion is now history and what a great reunion it was!! If you weren't there, we missed you; if you were, than you know what we're talking about. Despite the collateral windy weather from Hurricane Rita, we had a blast and many commented that this reunion was the best yet. How each reunion continues to get better is a mystery to me---perhaps it's because we are cherishing our time together more with each reunion...and the fact that we (and our spouses) are getting to know each other better with each gathering.

Those in attendance included: **Doug & Carol Aitken, Zot & Carol Barazzotto, Tom & Peggy Capps, Si Dahle, Ron Dandeneau & Rosemary Gil, John Drury, Waldo Dodd, Roger & Linda Dodd, Jerry & Roselyn Dufresne, Tim Early & Lili Richardson, Lendy & Sue Edwards, Roy Ecklund, Don & Helene Ellis, Walt & Sharon Friedhofen, Jim & Sally Gabel, Dick Goddard, Don & Mary Haller, Ned & Leslie Helm, Hank & Annie Keese, Shad & Carol Kimbell, Ron & Shirley Koepfel plus Garrett and Tammi McLain, Jim & Barbara Lester, Don Mercer, Jerry & Joan McClellan, Mitt Mittendorf, Marcel & Denise Morneau, Claude & Tona Newland, Jim Nuber, Kohn Om, Col Oum, Jim & Diane Seibold, Bill & Nancy Sleigh, Ray & Jan Stratton, Doc & Gayle Thomas, Dick & Susan Van Dyke, Ron & Janette Van Kirk, Mike & Sherry Wilson, and Dick Wood**

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Highlights of the reunion included a pre-party at the Newland's on Wednesday night. The reunion officially kicked off on Thursday with a Welcome Party and catered dinner. Honored guest in attendance included our Cambodian friends **Col Oum** and **Kohn OM**. Friday's events included a tour of Hurlburt Field, several special ops briefings, a visit to the Hurlburt Air Park to see the new FAC Memorial...Rustic OV-10 bird #626 still looks good too...and a luncheon at the Hurlburt Soundside Club. **Tom Capps** gave an informative overview of his recent trip to Vietnam and Cambodia during the luncheon.

The impact of Hurricane Rita (which was threatening Biloxi) was felt on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning. Gusty winds and churning seas caused us to cancel our planned sunset sailing on Friday afternoon but we did gather at the Lucky Snapper restaurant in Destin to enjoy the sunset, quench our thirst, chow down on fresh seafood, and share a few more stories. The ½ day fishing trip on Saturday morning was also cancelled but our fearless golfers didn't let a little "blow" stop them!

As a result of the cancelled events, it took all of about 10 minutes for the Rustics and their ladies to come up with some satisfactory alternative plans ('like FACing...always need to have a backup target in your hip pocket.) Some grouped for exploratory shopping to the many new, exciting shopping centers in the Destin area, a number of ladies gathered in the Hootch for what turned out to be an enjoyable impromptu craft class offered by **Sally Gabel**, and others just spent the day visiting

with their buds. Many believe the adverse weather and novelty of unplanned activities actually helped make the reunion more fun. All agreed, a good time was had by all.

A general membership business meeting was held on Saturday afternoon and then the main event arrived. The Saturday banquet was definitely one of the highlights of the weekend. **Roger Dodd** and 'Flyers' performed during the happy hour and our reunion chronicler, **Jim Seibold**, took group and individual/couple pictures of everyone. **Doug Aitken** did a marvelous job as master of ceremonies. Following the Welcome and a toast to Rustics Remembered, he began the evening by reading a letter from the 74 Fighter Squadron 'Rustics' and explaining that the American Flag displayed on the wall behind him...flown in the cockpit of one of their A-10's while on a combat mission in Afghanistan...was a gift to us from the 74 FS. **Roger Dodd** then led the crowd in a wonderful musical program which included singing all 4 stanzas of the Star Spangled Banner...along with a brief historical explanation of each verse before it was sung...it was as though you were standing there with the composer as he watched the battle in progress...very moving! For many of us, this was the first time we had ever sang all stanzas of this beloved song.



Doug Aitken, Master of Ceremonies

After this stirring musical interlude, **Tom Capps** gave the invocation and a sumptuous seafood buffet dinner followed... another big hit!

This year we decided to keep our "Program" to a minimum (read, no speaker) so we could enjoy time for dancing and camaraderie. It was important, however, to acknowledge the work and contributions of several Rustics. Kudos and a plaque were presented to **Jim Seibold** and **John Charlton** (in absentia) for their efforts in producing the Reunion/Cambodian Trip CD and "Black Book" CD respectively. **Don Mercer** also recapped the many awards and decorations that have been awarded the Rustics since our 2002 reunion--a number of DFC's and 2 Silver Stars. Don has done a wonderful job getting belated recognition for many Rustics and we are truly grateful for his efforts! Following some announcements, the evening ended with dancing and revelry to the rousing music of the Flyers. (*Tona Newland, we didn't know you were a closet country western singer.*)

The reunion concluded Sunday morning with a Farewell Breakfast which allowed us to say our final goodbyes. 'Seems such partings get harder with each reunion...and many confirmed they'll be back in 2007. 'Hope to see you then.

NEXT RUSTIC REUNION TO BE A 10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION-- 18-21 OCT, 2007 at the Ramada Plaza Beach Resort, Ft Walton Beach, FL. By popular demand the membership voted to hold our next reunion again in Ft Walton Beach, FL in Oct 2007. Our "quick on their feet" local reunion committee has already received Board approval for 18-21 Oct 2007 and reservations have been secured at the Ramada Plaza Beach Resort. Can you believe it...2007 will mark 10 years since our first Rustic reunion in 1997? This will undoubtedly be a reunion to celebrate, so we hope you'll start making plans now to attend!!

ELECTION RESULTS. Congratulations go to our newly elected board members, **Ron Dandeneau** (Director) and **Roger Hamann** (Secretary) and a special "thanks" go to **Marcel Morneau** and **Don Mercer** for their outstanding service over the past 3 years as Assn. Sec'y and Director respectively. Incumbents were re-elected to fill all other Board positions. Welcome aboard Ron and Rog!

GOT ANY 2005 REUNION PHOTOS? JIM SEIBOLD WOULD LIKE A COPY. **Jim Seibold** is going to archive all our 2005 reunion photos for inclusion in a new (TBD) reunion CD. Please send your photos to Jim either by mail (for scanning), e mail, or mail him a CD copy of your photos. Contributors so far include **Shad Kimbell**, **Ron Dandeneau** and **Claude Newland**. OK, you shutter bugs, get your pics to me! Thanks.

Send photos to: seibold@aol.com or mail to: 4103 E. Lodgepole Dr., Gilbert, AZ 85297 (Temporary address till May 06)

2006 MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE; MEMBERSHIP REPORT (Don Ellis): The Rustic FAC Assn currently has 43 Life members and 57 annual dues paying members. That's a great showing for an organization no bigger than ours. A big "Thanks" to all of you who actively support the RFA with your dues. It's your continued support which makes this organization possible.

If you haven't already renewed your 2006 membership, a copy of the Annual Membership Renewal Form is included at the end of this newsletter. If you are one who pays your dues "annually", this will be your last issue unless you send in a 2006 Membership Renewal Form. We hope you'll agree, the services, contacts, camaraderie, events, and reunions provided by your association are a bargain for the price. By the way, the annual dues haven't changed in 10 years...it's still the same as it was in 1997...\$20, what a deal!

ROSTER UPDATES: ‘Seems the Rustics are always on the move:

Colin Berry	4034 Gables Lane, Atlanta, GA 30350-5028 (son of Bob Berry)
Tom Canter	1684 Baltusrol Ct, Murrells Inlet, SC 29576
Harvey Cooper*	6125 Burt Street, Omaha, NE 68118, III DASC Intell, and Rustic Intell, Bien Hoa July – Oct ‘71 402-498-2912, Harvey.cooper@cox.net Wife: Rose
Rae Crumpler	32 Sherry Dell Rd, Hampton, VA 23666-1822
Dick Doyle*	149 Via Gayuba, Monterey, CA 93940 Rustic Intell
Sy Gaskill	1359 Coral Place Hampton, Virginia 23669. (H) 757-224-8330 (C) 757-660-1184
Jean-Claude Gestas	1307 W. 7th Street, San Pedro, CA 90732
Steve Hopkins	770-487-1773
Shad Kimbell	449 N. Mary Lynn Lane, Nixa, MO 65714, Wife: Carol , shadkimbell@earthlink.net
A. "Mac" McGarvey	Wife: Mary Jo
Philip Morneault	253 Taylors Farm Drive, Canton, GA 30115, 770-704-4595
Dave Morrison	1401 60th St West, Rosamond, CA 93560
Dave Parsons	10 Weatherly Way, Lake Wylie, SC 29710, (H) 803-831-6242 Cell: 864-905-2952 parsonsdav@aol.com , Website: www.parsonsmministries.org
Glenn Perry	520-529-7397
Paul Riehl	141 Shady Oaks Dr. Lafayette, La. 50506 (for an indefinite period while rebuilding his home in N.O.)
Robert Ryals	joebobl@adelphia.net
Jim Seibold	4103 E. Lodgepole Dr., Gilbert, AZ 85297 (Temporary address till May 06)
Wayne St John	628 W. Ocotillo St., Cottonwood, AZ 86326, 928-639-3220, wstjohn@cableone.net
Michael Thrower	615-481-1374 cell, hitmysmoke@attg.net
Bill Voss	907-227-3036

* Newly Located Rustics

Does anyone know the whereabouts of Wendell Pells? We seem to have lost touch with him. His last known address: 760 San Aleso Ave, Sunnyvale, CA 94086. Please contact **Lendy Edwards**, rustic20@cox.net, if you have any info on Wendell.

TWO NEW RUSTICS LOCATED; HARVEY COOPER AND DICK DOYLE, BOTH RUSTIC INTELL! Glory be, the internet and the Rustic website accomplished what we were unable to do for 12 years...find **Harvey Cooper** and **Dick Doyle**. Harvey actually “found us” on the internet and then went out and located **Dick Doyle**. Here is what Harvey had to say: “Hello, I am **Harvey Cooper**. I was Rustic Intel at Bien Hoa from July through Oct 71, before that being III DASC Intel from October 70 till moving over to Rustic. I found the Rustic site on the internet tonight, and am listed as **Harry Cooper**, Intel, in the unable to locate section.

I left Bien Hoa and went to Offutt AFB in Omaha, Nebraska, where I still live. After I left the Air Force, I went to law school and graduated in 1976, and have been doing that since.

I didn't know the unit went to Thailand. My old boss at the DASC, **Col. Dahl** moved to Udorn but left us behind in Bien Hoa. My Rustic photo collection is live and captioned to the best of my memory at: <http://harveycooper.smugmug.com/gallery/926672>

One interesting note to share, when I left Rustic I went to the 544th Aerospace Technical Recon Wing at Offutt. SAC - enough said. They wanted me to be a general's briefer, that is spick and span, brief the CINSAC, because no one at SAC knew about our little war in Cambodia. Their war was Laos. I respectfully declined, after being told, "You've got to do it, because it's the only war we've got". I chose anonymity went underground and concentrated on Soviet and Chinese strategic missile sites.

Making videos is a hobby of mine, and I made a 30th anniversary video for my wife which opens with my USAF days and a Vietnam composite, drawing on my days at III DASC, Tay Ninh East FOL and Rustic. (See, I remember some of the terminology). Here is the link to the page and click on the first movie. <http://www.coopervideo.com/Family%20and%20Friends%20Videos.htm>
Harvey.cooper@cox.net BTW, I am sitting about 4 feet from my Rustic FACS service plaque. **Harvey**

DICK DOYLE UP ON FREQ – Claude, **Harvey [Cooper]** turned me on to the Rustic website and shared with me some of the information you provided him. This stuff takes me a long way back.

I was an intell puke in 1971-72, working with several FAC organizations. I briefed and debrief pilots. I was sent to four different bases (Bien Hoa, Than son Nhut, Phan Rang and Pleiku) during my 10 month tour in Vietnam, so didn't sink many roots. I can't say it was the happiest time of my life either, but it was an adventure. I looked at the list of names on the Rustic website but drew a blank, with one exception. I think I saw my USAFA classmate **Tom Case** on the list. I suspect that none of those folks would remember me either, as I was more or less just passing through. However, I am pleased that someone has taken the trouble to organize information on this part of the war. My hat is off to you.

I went to Forbes AFB in Topeka upon returning, then to McDill, where I separated to go to graduate school in political science. I got graduate degrees at UW in Seattle, taught for a while at some schools in Idaho and the University of Portland, and then had a chance to work in the Senate, so bolted academia for D.C. I was **Slade Gorton's** LA for Defense and Foreign Policy, and from there (after Slade flunked a critical longevity test) I moved to the staff of the Senate Budget Committee, working the defense portfo-

lio for **Pete Domenici**. I did the Senate thing for four years, then was offered a faculty position here at NPS so fled the east coast for this little city and this great job.

I currently teach at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA, having migrated here from the staff of the Senate Budget Committee, where I had the defense portfolio for a few years. My students think it is somewhat interesting that I was once in a war, but Vietnam seems so long ago to them that now they just sort of roll their eyes. Best, **Dick**

HANS "JOHN" G. FREY RECEIVES DFC (Don Mercer): On 3 Sep 2005, the Air Force Review Board approved a DFC for **Hans "John" G. Frey** for his service as a Rustic backseater. We had hoped to make a formal presentation to John at our 2005 reunion, but, unfortunately, he wasn't able to attend, so his award was forwarded to him along with a letter of congratulations from the Rustics. Congratulations John!! It's about time. *To Don Mercer and all those who supported this effort: Well Done!!!!*

RUSTICS REMEMBER ARNIE SIMS WHO TAKES FINAL FLIGHT WEST. (Claude Newland): Kerry Taylor called on 23 Oct to inform the Rustics that **Arnie Sims, the "Silver Fox"**, (Rustic 20, Bien Hoa OV-10 pilot) passed away early that morning. As many of you know, Arnie had been suffering from emphysema and complications from by-pass surgery.

A memorial service was held at 1100, Tuesday, 25 Oct at the Univ. of the Ozarks campus. Arnie had been employed by the university for 20 years where he had many friends and supporters. Arnie's home overlooked Piney Bay lake and, at his request, he was cremated and his ashes spread over Piney Bay.

In lieu of flowers, the family has asked that donations be made in Arnie's name to: Memorials, University of the Ozarks, 415 N. College Ave, Clarksville, AR 72840

Although Arnie couldn't attend the 2005 reunion, he definitely was with the Rustic "in spirit." His contribution to the reunion was a special home-made video entitled "Top That" in which he demonstrated some of his amorous dexterity and prowess with a willing female "co-pilot" while simultaneously piloting his tandem seat Czech aerobatic Zlin 526F aircraft...a "mile high." Let's just say the bubble canopy offered a view that didn't leave much to the imagination....where do they get women like that?...nice formation flying too. (Yes, the video is in our archives.)

The rousing response from the video prompted us to immediately call Arnie and congratulate him on his daring display of discrete aviation coupling. No AF regulation ever told us you could fly sans gloves and nomex suit...or with nothing on at all. After several choruses of "Him" to Arnie, we passed the phone around for everyone to say their "hellos." All agreed...his video will be hard to top. We're going to miss you Arnie! God speed and fair skies.



L to R Bob Clifford and Arnie Simms

DO YOU KNOW IF ANY OF OUR FELLOW RUSTICS (OR SPOUSE) ARE IN ILL HEALTH? One of the concerns expressed at the reunion membership meeting was our need to stay in touch with one another and be aware if any of our members (or their spouses) are "under the weather" or not doing well health wise...we aren't getting any younger, you know.

Doc Thomas (former gun runner...and Rustic Flight Surgeon at Bien Hoa) has volunteered to serve as Rustic OPR/ coordinator for this information. Our intent is not to be nosey but to be more aware of the health issues of our members so we can provide mutual support if needed.

If you have any information on yourself, or others, that fall into this category, please contact Doc at: shialary@msn.com or call him at: 314-458-1581.

Doc also requests a volunteer from each of the major Rustic groups to assist him as a liaison with your respective group. (i.e O-2 pilot, Bien Hoa OV-10 pilot, Backseater, Ubon pilot, and Support.) You would primarily help Doc by staying in touch with those in your own group category i.e. your buds...who have health concerns. The goal is to ensure we don't overlook any member. This is not a time consuming job (we hope the numbers remain small) but it may be one of the most important things we can do for one another. Everyone needs a good wingman. **If you'd like to help, please contact Doc.**

SHORT BURSTS:

1) Well done John Charlton! A letter of appreciation and plaque were sent to **John Charlton** for his outstanding efforts in providing the RFA 100 free CD copies of our book, "The Rustics, A Top Secret Air War in Cambodia." Each Rustic who attended the 2005 reunion received a free copy. Copies of the CD can be ordered from the Rustic Store on our Rustic website.

2) 74 FS "Rustics" Welcomed Home. On behalf of the RFA, **Claude Newland** sent a letter to the commander of the 74 FS welcoming them home from their recent deployment to Afghanistan...all are home safe. We also thanked them for the beautiful American Flag which they sent to the Rustics. The Flag, which was flown in the cockpit of one of their A-10's during a combat mission, was proudly displayed at our Saturday night reunion banquet.

- 3) **Lendy Edwards represented the Rustics at the annual Air Commando Assn. memorial service** on Monday, 10 Oct. He read the names of the Rustics who have taken their final flights this past year. Unfortunately, we'll have additional names to report in 2006.
- 4) **Roger Hamann reports the Natl. Museum of the USAF now has a free monthly e mail newsletter...**you can keep up with what's happening at the world's largest aviation museum. To receive the e mail news, send an e-mail to: nationalmuseum.mup@wpafb.af.mil, give them your email address and indicate you want to receive the monthly newsletter.
- 5) **Two Names Added To Hurlburt FAC Memorial.** George Ferkes, FAC Assn Treasurer, reports that the two additional pilot names were recently added to the FAC Memorial at Hurlburt Field.
- 6) **OBA Website Upgraded.** "Crash" reports: Hey guys check out the new OBA website: www.ov-10bronco.net Wow...what a web page....and even a place to make donations...great pix and all kinds of stories....and they just had a F-5E donated by the Navy....where oh where did the USAF museum go wrong!!! Great Job!!
- 7) **Web site for the complete Vietnam Combat Re-enactment video at the Aviation Nation 2005 Nellis Air Show**, featuring Rick Clemens' Cactus Air Force OV-10 Bronco. Lee "Thumper" Griffin is the pilot and Juan Redick is the backseater. <http://www.tvworldwide.com/events/airshows/051112/default.cfm?id=6351&type=wmhigh>
- 8) **Close Call.** Our prayers for a speedy recovery are with Marcel Morneau's niece. She was involved in a bad car accident in the Tampa area in early Oct but she will be OK. She was rear-ended at 60 MPH while sitting still at a traffic light. Marcel reports that the only thing that saved her was her boyfriend's tool box on the back seat. It absorbed most of the shock. Two circular saws went thru the windshield and thru the rear window of the car in front of her. She was driving a GEO Portage...one lucky girl!
- 9) **Congratulations go to Ron Dandeneau and Dick Roberds who have recently retired.**
- 10) **Our condolences go to Dave Parsons, Rustic 08, on the death of his father.** Dave goes back to Vietnam every October for 16 days, and has been doing so for 10 years. He says it's a phenomenal experience! Regrettably, Dave had to cut this year's medical trip short due to the death of his father on 15 Oct. You can learn a great deal about Dave, his medical team ministries and his trip to Vietnam on his website: www.parsonsmministries.org. Check it out! His other trips include Cuba, Israel and Mexico.
- 11) **0-2 Rustics, did you fly 0-2 serial # 67-21334?** If you have any pictures of 334 from the war years, please contact Tim Eby at: teby@htcomp.net. Jon Mclinden (San Antonio) is restoring this bird and Tim will forward your pics and/or war stories to Mclinden.
- 12) **Jami Mari Clayman is working with the OV-10 Bronco Association on a documentary titled "OV-10: The Men, the Plane, the Missions."** She is collecting stories from those who flew or were associated with the OV-10, as well any archive material--whether film, video, photographs, patches, diaries, or audio files, etc. If you are interested in sharing your story and/or your material, please contact her at: jami@imajri.com or call 940-391-9736.

GET READY—NEXT ALL FAC REUNION—4 thru 8 OCT 2006—LOOK OUT DAYTON, OH! This fourth ALL FAC Reunion should be a gangbuster event which you won't want to miss. Just imagine what it will be like enjoying the banquet meal with all your FAC buds in the Air Force Museum Hangar surrounded by all those historic aircraft...what a grand event it will be! 'Wonder if we'll be able to hear the ghosts of our aviation past?

One of the highlights of the 2006 All FAC Reunion will be a memorial service and dedication of a new FAC Memorial which will include the names of all FAC TASS personnel (officer and enlisted) who "gave all" while serving in SEA. Many KIA family members will be in attendance. Another important topic of discussion at the reunion will be "what to do about preserving our FAC history and memorabilia?" for the long term, i.e. what about the future of the FACM? Be there so your voice can be heard.

Mark your calendar and start making plans to attend. We hope to have a good Rustic showing! "Cleared Hot!"

Zot Barazzotto, Rustic 55, is one of the main honchos for the reunion. To make this event even more meaningful, get involved and help out--with either the planning or execution phases. If you can help, contact Zot at: zot250@ameritech.net

RUSTIC'S CONTINUE THEIR SUPPORT OF THE FLEDGLING FAC MUSEUM (FACM). (Jim Gabel): After a thorough discussion at the reunion business meeting, the Rustics voted to renew their "corporate" sponsorship of the FACM for 2005 (Note: the FACM year runs from July to July.) A letter from **Claude Newland** on behalf of the Rustics and a check for \$500 was mailed to the FACM Steering Committee in mid Oct. I'll continue to serve as the Rustic's rep to the FAC Steering Committee for the 2005 term. This donation is a one time donation and does not imply nor obligate the Rustic FAC Assoc. for future contributions.

More good news...our contribution (and an accompanying letter of support to the FAC Assn) seemed to bear fruit as the FAC Assn shortly thereafter anteed up a \$2,000 contribution to the OBA/FACM. Good on them!

OBA NEWS RELEASE – 21 Nov. The first of two veteran OV-10 Broncos arrived at the OV-10 Bronco Association (OBA) Museum at Meacham Airport, Ft. Worth, Texas. The [first] aircraft [OV-10 #426] arrived late last night from California, on a flatbed truck and will be unloaded today. This former U.S. Marine Corps aircraft served in Vietnam with Marine Observation Squadron Two (VMO-2). Following the Vietnam War aircraft 426 served with VMO-6 in Okinawa, Japan and later with VMO-2 again in Camp Pendleton, California. After its military service, it operated with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and later with the California Department of Forestry (CDF) leading other aircraft to dropped fire retarding chemicals on wild fires. Jim Hodgson, a former Marine Corps OV-10 pilot and current President of the OBA said, "Veterans and civilians all over

the country have worked hard to bring these Broncos to the Museum. Today we attained this Prime Directive of OBA set 8 years ago. Those of us here in the DFW area are excited to restore these treasured war veterans."

The second OV-10 [former Rustic bird - to be delivered soon] served with the U.S. Air Force 23rd TASS (Tactical Air Support Squadron) during the Vietnam War. Later, aircraft 825 served in the Cold War throughout West Germany and South Korea. Number 825, along side 426, flew with the BLM and directed fire missions with the CDF. **Jim Bloomberg**, Director of Air Operations and Aircraft Acquisitions remarked, "Our experience in restoring the Museum's F-4 will come in handy as we bring these Broncos up to speed." People from Texarkana, Richardson, Plano, Arlington, Flower Mound, North Richland Hills, Ft. Worth, etc. are traveling to restore this war horse. Restoration of OBA aircraft takes place on the second Saturday of each month. More aircraft will be arriving in 2006.

OV-10 # 825 "RECOVERY" PROJECT UNDERWAY.

Rustic **Doug Roberston**, Rustic Radio, '71-'72, reports:

Guys, I spent the day at Mather [Sunday, 16 Oct] helping in the OV-10 recovery effort for #825 and #426. A great bunch of guys working their butts off to get these planes ready for dis-assembly. I just wish I could have given more time to the effort. We made a lot of progress today. I spent most of my time helping unbolt the big bolts that hold the fuselage, wing and booms together. Cotter pin extraction was a pain due to limited access in areas but we managed to get them all loose and ready to remove. We had a rough go on a hand full of screws holding on some of the panels on the tail section but after much drilling, E-Z outs and vise grips and a little swearing we finally got them all out. I even came up with the idea to bring the tail down to earth so we could work on the removal of the tail. We got the gear retracted on one of the planes and the tail removed from the other. Both are ready for tomorrow when the crew will be assisted by the Guard members who have volunteered with the dis-assembly.

On another note, during the course of discussion over a cold one at the end of the day it was determined that I had (during my Rustic Tour) had contact with former Nail **Tom Kemp** at Ubon and **Gene Hamner** when I was a Rustic Alpha. Small world, 30 plus years later taking OV's apart in Sacramento. Cheers to all, **Doug Robertson**

RUSTIC'S LEADING THE CHARGE TO HELP GET

OV-10 # 825 TO THE FACM! Great Guns...the Rustics are getting fired up over helping get OV-10 tail # 825 to the FACM. This was a Rustic bird and many of you flew her.

Brief Recap: The OBA/FACM recently located and purchased two OV-10s; one a marine bird and the other an AF Bird (# 825). This is the first time the FAC community has had the opportunity to be directly involved in saving a part of our aviation heritage...and several Rustics are fanning the flames.

Four Rustics, **Hank Keese**, **Rog Hamann**, **Doug Aitken** and **Lendy Edwards** have already pledged a combined total of \$1,100 to the 825 "recovery" project. Hank threw down the gauntlet to the Rustics (and the AF OV-10 FAC community) and got things started with a very generous donation. Rog responded by making his contribution in memory of his good friend and fellow backseater, **Doug Norman**. Not to be outdone by one of our own backseaters, Doug and Lendy jumped into the fray.

825 has been disassembled and is awaiting transport to Ft Worth, but a lot of bucks are still needed to cover expected expenses...transportation...reassembly...renovation...and restoration... to name a few.

Won't you join in supporting to this worthy effort? Every little bit helps! OK, it's Christmas and things are tight right now, but you can still make a pledge to the fund...it's time to dig deep and help...make your pledge now...payment can come later.

Someday you'll look back with pride knowing you helped made a difference in preserving one of our venerable Rustic war birds for generations to come. Make your check payable to "OBA" and earmarked for "825 Restoration"

Send your pledge or contribution to: OBA/FACM, 505 NW 38th Street, Hangar 33s, Fort Worth, TX 76106



BACKSEATERS INPUT REQUESTED (Ron Dandeneau): The Rustics have an opportunity to memorialize the enlisted members' contributions to the Rustic Mission by submitting the name of one of the Rustic Backseaters to the OV-10 Bronco Association (OBA) for possible encryption on the canopy rail of OV-10 # 825 (former Rustic bird.) The RF Assn. will send a formal letter of request to the OBA/FACM, but we'd like the backseaters to decide which name to submit. Any backseater is eligible.

Request you submit the name(s) of the "Rustic Backseater(s)" that you think most deserving of this consideration and indicate "Why" you selected him/them. Two names have already been submitted, but your choices are not limited to them. They are:

Jerry Dufresne – Flew first Rustic OV-10 backseat mission

Doug Norman – First Rustic backseater to pass away (deceased)

To nominate a backseater, use the Nomination Form at end of newsletter or contact Ron at: rusticfoxtrot@aol.com or 703-451-8498.

ARCHIVES REPORT (Jim Gabel): Two large Cambodian flags were added to the Rustic Archives at the reunion; one from **Tim Early** and the other from **Jim Seibold**. The latter was temporarily loaned to **Ned Helm**.

I have a request: If anyone has memorabilia in their possession that belongs to the Rustic FAC Assn., please let me know so that I can properly index/catalogue these items for our records. I don't want to physically control them; I just want to know where they are. Two items come to mind, but I am sure they are not the only things that fall into this category; they are just meant as examples: the flag that the 74 FS flew over Afghanistan and some of **Clint Murphy's** material that **Doc Thomas** sent directly to **Don Mercer** for use in his book. Please contact me at: jagabel@aol.com or call 605-342-6158. (*Newland reports he has the flag from the 74 FS.*)

SEA PHOTO CD PROJECT (Ned Helm): Rustics, I'm in need of someone with SCANNING ABILITY to help me scan the pictures I've received...it's a fun project. If you can assist, PLEASE contact me at: ned@wingset.com or call 850-892-6342.

"Thanks" go to **Doug Aitken, Zot Barazotto, Ron Dandeneau, Jerry McClellan, and Doc Thomas** who provided me their Rustic 35mm slides, photo albums or photo CDs at the reunion for inclusion in this project. As soon as I get these photos copied, I'll be returning your albums, etc. to you.

OK, guys, if you haven't sent in your photos yet, hop to it! Ned's going to do a great job on this CD, but he can't do it without your photos. Time is of the essence...we hope to have the CD ready for the 2007 reunion. Contact Ned as indicated above.

DOUG AITKEN STARTS NEW RUSTIC SEA HOME MOVIES DVD PROJECT. Do you have 8mm home movies taken during your Rustic tour in SEA? If so, **Doug Aitken** would like to hear from you. As you recall, Doug put together a "Rustic Story" video for our first Rustic Reunion in 1997. Unfortunately, a lot of you couldn't contribute to that project due to time constraints and the fact that we may not have even located you back then.

Doug is going to create a new comprehensive Rustic DVD which will contain the SEA home movies taken by all the Rustics. He will review and edit any new footage received and incorporate the footage from the "Rustic Story" video. (If you sent in footage for the Rustic Story, no need to respond to this request—Doug has your input.)

So, if you have some additional 8mm footage or video please contact Doug at daitken@nc.rr.com or mail your movies or videos to him at: 42 Oxtown Circle, Pinehurst, NC 28374

The goal is to complete this project in time for our 2007 reunion. This will be a great compliment to our written histories! So far, new contributors include: **Jerry McClellan, Doc Thomas, Bob Berry, and Mike Wilson.**

*Rustics, this is your last best chance to contribute to our Rustic movie history extravaganza. There probably won't ever be another project like this one once this project is completed...and there definitely won't be another talent like **Cecil B D'Aitken** to make it happen.*

RUSTIC COMMERCIAL BOOK UPDATE. (Dick Wood): Our publisher, Smithsonian Institution Press, no longer exists; it folded because it wasn't making any money. I think I can explain that. They didn't market their books hardly at all. If the books are not marketed, they are not bought. As of November, 2005, there were 2,189 copies of the book in the warehouse waiting for the book fairy or maybe Santa Clause to buy them. That should tell us that there isn't going to be a second printing of the book until someone starts marketing it. If the total ever drops to around 500 copies, it might pay us to buy up the remainder cheap! That's not something we need to worry about this year. Based on my author's contract, they are supposed to give me first shot at any remaining copies.

The Smithsonian still owns the book and is managing it through a small office called Smithsonian Books under their Smithsonian Business Ventures department. They still pay the royalties on sales, but they do not get involved in the selling and they are definitely out of the publishing business. That has been taken over by HarperCollins Publishers which is a huge publishing agency. They do not sell to individuals, but distribute to other book sellers.

The Rustic FAC Association should be able to purchase books from HarperCollins for resale.

The RFA is in the process of ordering additional books from Harper Collins. These books are advertised at a discounted price of \$22 on our Rustic website and are available to any interested buyer.

PLANNING A TRIP? RUSTIC LOCATOR MAP NOW AVAILABLE. Roger Hamann has set up a new Rustic Locator Map so that Rustics can get a bird's eye view of where their fellow Rustics are located throughout the "world." By simply going to the map website at www.frappr.com/rusticsfac and filling out the three blank boxes, your location will automatically show up on the map. No privacy concerns to worry about. Simply fill in your:

- 1) Name
- 2) Zip Code
- 3) Shoutout box (optional: this is where you put in your callsign, Rustic tour dates, type a/c and anything else you'd like known about yourself).

For a sample of what this will look like, click on to any one of the map markers already located throughout the US/ world map or click on to one of the names under "Members". BINGO.....you're done.....mission accomplished!

If you should make a mistake while filling in your information and want it corrected, rewrite your info as a new "shoutout", and let Rog know that you want the original "shoutout" removed and Rog (as site administrator) will take care of it.

Since the Locator Map displays cities only (and not addresses-- unless you voluntarily elect to put your address in the "shoutout" box,) we have asked Roger to go ahead and place all known Rustics on the map. If you desire yourself not to be listed, please contact Roger at rusticyankee72@aol.com and he will remove you from the map.

HAVE YOU GOT SOME COMPUTER MEDIA/PHOTO SKILLS? RUSTICS SEEK TO DEVELOP A RUSTIC SEA ELECTRONIC PHOTO ALBUM. As Ned Helm progresses on his work to build a comprehensive Rustic SEA Photo CD, Harvey Cooper (newly found Rustic Intell) points out that there are free websites that can be used to display photos in electronic album form. Harvey has already done this for his family's photo albums.

Is anyone willing to investigate this possibility? Harvey (Harvey.cooper@cox.net; 402-498-2912) could be a good place to start to find out if this concept has possibilities for the Rustics. If you can help, contact Ned Helm at ned@wingset.com.

Such a site often allows the "moderator(s)" to add pictures as needed. This would be an easy way for us to archive our photos and make them available for electronic viewing by the membership. Obviously, Ned's work would be incorporated into such a site. Interesting possibilities!! Such a site could also be linked to our Rustic Website. *Are your creative juices flowing?*

LOST YOUR RUSTIC PLAQUE? – GET A NEW ONE (Ned Helm.) Guys...we now have a source for ordering Rustic plaques (or any other plaque you can design) from the Philippines. This was supposed to be [available] at the reunion....but Murphy struck.

Here's a picture of the Rustic plaque I just received (can order TASS plaques as well....there is no set up charge.) It comes in various sizes and prices as indicated below. The plaque is drop dead gorgeous....colors are brilliant and all is hand carved and hand painted.....not painted metal that drops off.

Mission Patch plaques are also available. All are custom made (hand carved and painted) at no extra charge. You can make up any verbiage you like. See price list below.

Quoted prices include shipping and reflect a 15% discount if we can get an order for the first 10 (of any one type). These would also make excellent gifts for your Rustic buds. To place an order, see what the plaques look like in color, or talk about a custom design, contact me at: ned@wingset.com or call (850) 585-6594. Provide Rank, Name, Call Sign, and Tour Month Dates



Rustic Plaque:				Mission Patch Plaque:			
	Retail:	Rustic Cost:			Retail:	Rustic Cost:	
Size:	8" x 10"	\$34.95	\$29.75	Size:	10" x 10"	\$49.95	\$42.50
	9" x 11"	\$42.95	\$36.50		12" x 12"	\$69.95	\$59.50
	11" x 13"	\$59.95	\$51.00		14" x 14"	\$99.95	\$85.00

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

From Dick Roberds:

Claude, yes, I have officially retired from my post in Academia. So Marcy wants to return to her home state (Florida) to live -- we would be close to our daughter and two grandchildren there, and I think this is what is mainly drawing her there.

Actually I met Marcy while I was going through pilot training at Bartow Air Base near Winter Haven. I made some remark, while I was simply trying to be more friendly to her, that Florida would be a nice place to retire. She has never forgotten that, so I guess I'm committed. We are returning to a retirement community near Kissimmee, so we won't be too far from the pan-handle area.

I'll give you a new address when I get it. Right now we are wondering about (currently in Tennessee) waiting for our house to be finished, so my old address is still the best.

I'm wondering what your future holds for you. As I recall you are a Delta pilot, correct?

See you soon. **Dick, Richard M. Roberds, PhD, Professor Emeritus**

From Roger Hamann, Rustic Yankee, Ubon '71-'72 (from the Rustic Net):

Well, well, well.....while watching the movie "Forrest Gump" last night, it occurred to me that quite a few of the more "melancholy tunes" in the background sounded awfully familiar. Having just watched the Rustic story on DVD a week earlier, I soon realized where I had heard these same songs not long ago. You devil you, Doug Aitken!

I must admit, the "Fini" portion of the Rustic story always hits me hard, more than anything else on that video, (no matter how many times I watch it).....and that melancholy song playing in the background doesn't help any either.....but maybe that's a good thing. It never ceases to remind me of what our Rustic mission was and of how it was all too suddenly... aborted! Those fini movie clips and snapshots are proof positive of the character of the Rustics, the heart with which they gave to their mission, the legacy they left behind as they returned from the Cambodian skies for the last time.

Doug Aitken, Rustic 16, I don't know if I ever thanked you for putting this montage of Rustic history together so I'm doing it now. Thank you for all your time and effort into putting this Rustic story together so that we may all have a small memento of a part of the Vietnam War so many will never know existed. Hand Salute >! (That's my way of showing a bent elbow, >).

And now, our illustrious **Ned "Crash" Helm** is proceeding with the next step of our history by gathering more pics, video and the like so that"the rest of the story" may be told for future generations to come. Crash, thank you also for all that you are doing. Your endeavor will be much appreciated by all who see the final results.

Merci beaucoup a tous, **Rog**

From Ned Helm: 9/7/05

Guys, here is the "Before" Pix of the "Ugly" Duck O-2 that Nail 57, **Jerry Stephan**, has been working on for the FACM. Now you know what it looks like before all the restoration paint!! The light blue paint being stripped was House Paint by the [previous owner] in Las Vegas. Keep sending bucks.... damn'it. It ain't done by a long shot. Good on you guys working on it!!
Crash

Any support from our O-2 Rustics for the two O-2 war birds being restored? Contributions should be earmarked for "O-2 Restoration." and sent to: OBA/FACM, 505 NW 38th Street, Hangar 33s, Fort Worth, TX 76106



From Rae Crumpler, Rustic 19, 17 Sep

Claude, I just bought new home...thought I had updated everything...thank you for keeping me in the loop. Correct address is: 32 Sherry Dell Dr., Hampton, VA. 23666. (H) 757-325-2342 (C) 757-262-6793. Wife of 35 years... Stella. Me: Plant maint. mgr. Mica Co. of Canada, Newport News, VA.

Sadly, I see we have some unscheduled departures. **Rick [Scaling]**, like the other Rustics', was my friend, even though I had not seen him since my Sa Wa Dee at the Playboy Club Ubon in '73. **Ned Helm's** Tribute to Rustic 09 brought tears...and a large number of "hims" and beers. The pic in the newsletter of 09 is just priceless...typically Rick...He always had a way to 'git 'er dun' and he 'got 'er dun' in style...farewell my friend, thanks for being my friend. Tis' a sad Sa Wa Dee Khraip indeed, **Rae**.

PS: He taught me how to FAC one very late night at the Rustic Inn. He and I, Ting or Toy looked on in amazement, the bar was the runway or mountain/karst and the free-standing ash receiver was mobile target for rockets, willies and nails (actually...wet balls of toilet paper). Rick would sometime come in from the back door and at others he would come in either side door. Then it would be my turn on deck. I think even the bar dollies took turns "hidin" the target. Rick would 'talk' me in and off target (now THAT's a language all its own!) He seemed to have such a passion for those kinds of things. That was such a

simple thing but I loved it and he seemed to also. Dumb, huh? I will forever miss it. If its still standing I bet some of those 'rockets' are still on the ...ceiling(?)!!! I wonder what happen to all the name tags on the walls (Red Birds or Dogs? Me thinks.).

Ned "Crash" Helm's reunion report to the FAC Assn:

I spent last weekend with **Zot [Barazzotto]** and about 60 other Rustics and their ladies in Ft. Walton. As usual the Rustics set the standard for organization and fun. A good time was had by all....some had ALLOT of much fun. I know....I was the Hooch Bar Mother.

A note...the Rustics SHOULD have their Sierra together....they had their first Reunion in 97, redux in 99, then they [helped] plan the "Mother of All Reunions" in 2000 (from whence we came), and then again in 2002. Don't fix it if it ain't broken...they didn't.

...and it was GREAT to meet Zot who was a "rent a Rustic" loaned to us from the Coveys.

I spent a great Friday night (and early Saturday morning) outside the hootch with **Doc Thomas, Greg Freix, Dave Van Dyke, Annie and Hank Keese, and Jim Seibold**....The whiskey front was severe...but enjoyable. If you missed the reunion....those who have been to all said this was the best except for the first.....you blew it!!

Next one is two years from now...at FWB...and in late October. Start saving now...make it less painful!!

Doug Aitken's e mail to the 74 FS/CC:

Jeff, I am sending this to several addresses, as I am not sure of your exact return date [from Afghanistan.] Just wanted to give you a quick update on our reunion last week-end.

You guys got quite an ovation. We had the flag hanging on the wall, and at the start of the banquet, I gave the background on how it came to be displayed there. I then read the citation which came with the flag, and that got the first round. I then read several paragraph's of your letter, Jeff, and that got the second round.

We then did something different--our band, the FLYERS, made up of one very talented Rustic, **Roger Dodd**, and his buddy, **Bill Hartley**, led us in the Star Spangled Banner. Roger gave a brief intro into the circumstances surrounding Francis Scott Key writing the song, and then he led us in singing the first verse. He then gave a small amount of information on each succeeding verse, before leading us in singing each one, in turn.

I was not the only one who had never sung the last three verses, and it really struck home with all of us--goose bumpy stuff for we old farts. Again, lots of applause followed. We stole the idea from the writer, **Issac Assimov**.

Then we said the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag which had flown with "Batt."

All in all, a great start to a really fun evening. Yes, we did remember our departed Rustics, and toasted them with water, but made up for it later, as they would have wished.

All the Rustics wish you a safe trip home and a joyful reunion with your loved ones. I know this has to be a very happy, emotional time. Rest assured that all the Rustics appreciate your sacrifices, your dedication, and your skill.

I know you guys are leaving for parts south sometime in the future. Do you have a date yet for that to happen? Fun and games never ends does it?

Again, thanks for thinking of us as we had a wonderful reunion--rest assured we were thinking of you warriors also. Cheers, **Doug Aitken, Rustic 16**

From Capt John "Batt" Platt, 74 FS/DOW, to Doug Aitken, 3 November, 2005. Subject: Rustic Reunion.

Doug, thanks for the letter. I am glad that the Rustics enjoyed the flag. I am happy to hear that the Reunion went well. The last few months over there were pretty slow; it had really died down a lot over our time there. Not to say we were not busy, but not a lot of excitement. We are all back home now and are in the process of reconstitution, get all spun back up on all the things we did not do on a regular basis in the desert.

I kept a journal over there of the missions I flew, I am going to type it up because my handwriting isn't the greatest, and I will send you a copy if you are interested in reading it.

Our move to Valdosta GA will be in about 14-18 months. At least we will be closer to Fla, maybe we can make it to a reunion sometime.

Anyhow, I just wanted to let you know we were back in town. Thanks for all of the support from the Rustics these past few months. Let me know if there is anymore interest in another Rustic visit. "Batt"



From Ron Dandeneau to Jim Gabel, Oct 05

Hi Jim, when you are talking to **Jim Hodgson** (OBA Pres.) would you please pass on my thanks for providing the OV-10 model and Rustic Hat for my retirement. The folks from my former office contacted him and got the items for presentation at my retirement ceremony in Dec 05. They thought he was a Rustic and wanted me to thank him in Fort Walton Beach but of course he was not there. They then placed the OV-10 with a DFC and Gold Shield in a glass case for presentation at the retirement ceremony. It was really impressive.

PS: I had to go home to NH to visit a sick relative immediately upon my return from our Reunion. I took the opportunity to stop by and visit **Joe Vaillancourt** while I was there. He still greatly misses his wife but personally he looked real good. We spoke for a couple of hours about the Reunion and old times. Ron D.

From: Bill Rember to Lendy Edwards, 19 Sep 05.

Dear Lendy, It is really nice to hear from you. After I talked with **Rog Hamann** I started remembering that year in Ubon I had put largely in the back of my mind. I look at the Rustic organization with very fond memories. If I remember right you were the fellow who had play professional baseball and was on good short stop on our slow pitch and soft ball teams that. Am I on the right page?

Unfortunately I am extremely busy this fall and will not make the reunion. I will stay in contact and plan on attending the next one. Again I want to thank your group for finding and asking me [to join.] More importantly 34 years ago your group transferred from Bien Hoa to Ubon you welcomed me immediately into "the Rustic family". **David Tisdale** and the wonderful Major that was your exofficer made me feel particularly welcome. I'm not too good with names from that long ago and I would sure like to have his name and e-mail/telephone if possible. Please tell every one who was there 71-72 "hello" for me. **Bill**

From Sy Gaskill to Don Ellis, Nov 05

Hey Don, All the best to you and yours. Yes, I have recently moved and the new address is 1359 Coral Place Hampton, Virginia 23669. My phone numbers are: (757) 224-8330 home and (757) 660-1184 cell. I've noticed there is another Rustic here in Hampton. I am going to try and contact him this week-end.

Tonight, my wife and I attended an affair saluting a Military affairs committee of which I am a member. It was held in our fabulous Air and Space Center. In browsing around I found that of all the aircraft represented in the form of models, pictures, mock-ups, etc. there is NO OV-10 anywhere. One of our City Councilmen flew Marine OV's, and he and I registered a protest with the Director as well as the Mayor. Director said he would check it out and contact me. Do we have access to any outstanding models, pictures or whatever that I can secure for display? We discussed working to secure an OV for our Air Park, but that will have to wait a while.

Question. Were the Rustics ever awarded any medals or other decorations for its work? I got a pot full of Air Medals and two DFCs, but almost everyone I know got a Bronze or Silver Star except me. I don't know if I was slighted or not. Anyway, I thought I heard that someone had requested an award for the unit.

I'll get you the next installment of my dues next week. Thanks for the reminder. **Simon P.**

*Editor: Sy, to our knowledge the Rustics never received any unit awards or citation. **Ned Helm** (ned@wingset.com) can help you obtain a really nifty model. Keep pressing to get an OV-10 for the Air and Space Center Air Park!!*

From Bill Ernst, Rustic 04—Visit to the Hawaii Punchbowl FAC Memorial.

I went to the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific today [10 Nov] and cleaned and polished our FAC memorial. The memorial is in very good condition. The smaller gold letters in the center are fading but the gray marble base and the black marble plaque are excellent. I placed a red/white flower lei on the corner of the base, put another nickel in the grass and rendered a salute for all of us.

There will be a ceremony in the Punchbowl commemorating veterans on Friday, Nov. 11th., beginning at 10:00. The seating, flags, bandstand, traffic signs and other decorations are in place. I was told that the ceremony should last about an hour. The weather today was CAVU, temperature about 75 with light easterly winds. Forecast for tomorrow will be more of the same.

I hope that all of you have a great day tomorrow. **Bill Ernst**

NOMINATION FORM

(To be used by Backseaters Only—Cut off and mail to **Ron Dandeneau**: 7775 Drurer Court, Springfield, VA 22153)

I nominate (in order of priority) the following Rustic backseater(s) to be considered for having their name inscribed on the canopy rail of OV-10 #825.

NAME:	"WHY" I SELECTED THIS PERSON:
First Choice: _____	_____
Second Choice: _____	_____
Third Choice: _____	_____

Signed: _____

Phone: _____

E Mail: _____

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2006 Membership Renewal Form and Survey

I'd like to stay in touch with my Rustic buddies, continue receiving the Rustic newsletter, and help support efforts to promote continued Rustic FAC camaraderie, future reunions, and history projects. Enclosed are my dues for 2006.

Name: _____ Address: _____
Telephone () _____-_____ E Mail Address: _____ Rustic Call Sign: _____

_____ I have 8mm Rustic home movies to send to Doug Aitken for our inclusion in the Rustic SEA Home Movie DVD project.

_____ I have Rustic SEA photos to send to Ned Helm for inclusion in the Rustic SEA Photo History CD Book.

2006 Annual Dues of \$20.00 Amount Enclosed:
\$ _____

Lifetime Membership in the Rustic FAC Association:

<u>Age:</u>	<u>Lifetime Membership Rate:</u>	My age is: _____	\$ _____
55 or less	\$ 250		
56-60	\$ 225		
61-65	\$ 200		
66-or older	\$ 175		

Contribution to help bring our Cambodian friends to the 2007 Reunion \$ _____

2005 Tax Deductible Contribution to House of Hope \$ _____

2005 Tax Deductible Contribution to Kompong Cham Orphanage \$ _____

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Please make check payable to 'Rustics' and mail this form to: Don Ellis, 26 E. Boyce St., Manning, SC 29102

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Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Rustic FAC Association
4033 Indian Trail Drive
Destin, FL 32541

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED