

Volume 10, Issue 1

15 March 2006



# Rustic News

## www.rustic.org

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**NEXT RUSTIC RENDEZVOUS REUNION: 18-21 Oct, 2007**, Ramada Plaza Beach Resort, Fort Walton Beach, FL. One of the highlights of the 2007 reunion will be a trip to the world famous Naval Aviation Museum in Pensacola, FL. Start making plans now to attend! The 2007 reunion will be our fifth Rustic reunion since we first gathered in 1997 and will be our five year anniversary since formally incorporating as an association...my, how time goes by! Come celebrate with us.

**NEXT All FAC REUNION: 4-8 Oct 2006, Dayton, OH.** This is going to be a gangbuster reunion. Center stage will be a FAC memorial service and the dedication of a new FAC memorial on the grounds of the USAF museum. This will be a major event which will draw FACs and families of deceased FACs from all across the nation. Registration information will be mailed out in the FAC newsletter sometime in early summer, 2006. If you haven't been receiving the FAC newsletter, contact the FAC Newsletter Database Keeper, **Kenneth E. Blutt**, 18040 Bankhurst Ct., Monument, CO 80132; Home: 719-559-0557 [kblutt@adelphia.net](mailto:kblutt@adelphia.net)

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**Zot Barrazotto**, Rustic 55, reports **General Carlson** (AFMC/CC) will serve as the Honorary Chairman for the FAC Reunion. Zot is also extensively involved in the Dayton FAC Memorial project and the planning of the 2006 reunion.

**DAYTON FAC MEMORIAL COMMITTEE ANNOUNCES A 'NICKEL ON THE GRASS' CAMPAIGN TO REMEMBER FALLEN FACs.** (From FACNET, Thursday 2 Mar 2006, **Zot Barazzotto**.) If you know of a loved one of a fallen FAC please make sure that they get this so that they can participate if they wish.

Dear All,

Please excuse the mass mailing but I want to get this out to all of you ASAP. The FAC Memorial is ordered and will be here for the scheduled dedication on October 5th, 2006 at the AF Museum (now the National Museum of the US Air Force) in Dayton, Ohio. We hope you can all make it.

We have another opportunity to remember our loved ones. There is a WW-II song that talks of "throwing a nickel on the grass to save a fighter pilot's ass." Well, the FACs have adopted it as a tradition at funerals for our departed brothers. But in this case rather than litter the grass we are looking at doing something differently. When the foundation of the Memorial is poured in July, nickels will go directly into the concrete and other memorabilia (e.g. pictures, CDROM, etc) will go into a time capsule.

I've also found a source of dog tags in case anyone would like to put a tag in with or in place of a nickel. Two leads for dog tags - <http://www.priorservice.com/dogtag19toto.html> and <http://emarinepx.com/rc-8383.htm>

I'll be the collector of it all so I can figure out who has a nickel and make sure that everyone has at least one. Please put the nickels in a small envelope (or a big one if that is all you have) and write the name of the FAC on the outside. A nickel with the year of their deaths would be perfect. For those who died after the war we would be happy to include a nickel for them also. I'll take everything else and make a time capsule that will hold it for 100 years. CDROMS with pictures and stories would be a good idea (versus just paper pictures.) See you all in Dayton,

**Zot Barazzotto**, 1943 Whitetail Court, Xenia, Ohio 45385 (937) 429-2119 zot250@ameritech.net

**Rog Hamann** has volunteered to be the Rustic point man for this project. The Rustics will participate by providing a nickel to the Memorial Committee for each KIA Rustic and each Rustic who has passed away since' Nam. The year on the nickels will match the year in which our brethren were KIA or passed away. Rog can be reached at: 207-375-4883 or [yankee72@aol.com](mailto:yankee72@aol.com)

Rustic to be honored and remembered:

	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	RANK	DOD
DP	Auth	Edward G (Jerry)	Lt Col (Ret)	13-Apr-94
MP	Berry	Robert O	Capt	22-Jan-94
DM	Brown	Howard D (Rocky)		24-Jun-05
DL	Chang	Stanley	SSgt	19-Jan-94
DM	Corey	Donald L	SMSgt (Ret)	12-Aug-00
DP	Eddy	Garrett	1Lt	1-Oct-70
DP	Gambino	Joseph	1Lt	7-Apr-73
DP	Hagle	Donald H	Lt Col (Ret)	11-Jul-01
DP	Life	Malcom L	Lt Col (Ret)	17-Nov-88
DL	Murphy	Clinton JA (Clint)	Capt (Ret)	10-Jun-03
DL	Norman	Carl D (Doug)	TSgt	23-Jul-98
DP	Polk	Christopher J.	Col (Ret)	23-Feb-06
DP	Scaling	Joseph R		22-Jul-05
DP	Shinafelt	Donald J	Capt	Sep-98
ML	Sigrist	Hans P	SMSgt	
DP	Simms	Arnold		23-Oct-05
DP	Virtue	Robert B	Lt Col (Ret)	1-Jan-01
DP	Vrablick	Michael S (Mike)	1Lt	1-Oct-70

#### ROSTER/PERSONNEL UPDATES:

**Tom Canter** 803-359-1177 [tcanter1@sc.rr.com](mailto:tcanter1@sc.rr.com)  
**Jean Claude Gestas** [gestas@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gestas@sbcglobal.net)  
**Bob "Redeye" Harris** P O Box 710863, Herndon, VA 20171-0863, cell 806-236-0452  
**Tom Jones** [T299@msn.com](mailto:T299@msn.com) (Mailing address unchanged in NM.)  
**Bill Leydorf** 865-408-2518, [bleydorf@charter.net](mailto:bleydorf@charter.net)  
**Bill Rember** 305 Lauder Ave, Moscow, ID 83843-4407  
**Dick Roberds** 536 Milano Rd, Poinciana, FL 34759-4052  
**Mike Thrower** [hitmysmoke@comcast.net](mailto:hitmysmoke@comcast.net)  
**Dave Morrison** zip code in Rosamond, CA is 93560  
**Bill Rember** zip code should be 83843-4407  
**Wayne St. John** zip code should be 86326  
**Randy Wright** zip code should be 38134-8374

**WINGMAN SUPPORT:** (New feature of our newsletter.) Checking each other's 6 is something that comes natural to aircrew members. The problem is...our "threats" have changed; so, let's keep our situational awareness up and offer mutual support as needed... Please keep the following in your thoughts and prayers:

1) **Carol Aiken** has been in the hospital with some neurological and infection problems. This all started with a fainting spell last summer. She has been having some balance and vision problems and is recovering from a viral infection.. Hopefully, she will be home from the hospital by the time you receive this notice. **Doug Aitken** has been posting updates on the Rustic FAC net (another good reason for being on the Rustic net.)

2) **Ron Dandeneau** reports that he has successfully undergone laser eye surgery in both eyes to correct problems with

cataracts. His vision is now 20/20 in one eye and almost 20/20 in the other. He said it's the best thing he has done recently. The procedure was minimally invasive and he is very please with the results. If you have any questions on this procedure, feel free to contact him: 703-451-8498

3) **Emile Brunelle**, Rustic F, in Sierra Vista Arizona is pretty much the sole care giver for his wife, **Tillie**, who has been suffering progressively from Alzheimer's since 2000. He reports his duties keep him home bound most of the time so he was, unfortunately, unable to attend our recent Rustic reunion; however, he sends his regards to the Rustics.

**RUSTIC CHRIS POLK TAKES FINAL FLIGHT WEST.** With great sorrow, **Jon Polk** contacted the Rustics to announce the passing of his father, Col. **Christopher J. Polk** (USAF Ret), Rustic 09/56. Chris died in his sleep on February 23<sup>rd</sup>; he was 59 years old. Chris was a 1Lt OV-10 pilot at Bien Hoa from Dec '70 to Aug '71. A visitation was held on Wednesday, March 1st, from 2-4 p.m. at the Demaine Funeral Home in Springfield, VA. Rustics **Ron Dandeneau** and **Jon Safley** were in attendance and paid their respects to the family on behalf of the Rustics.

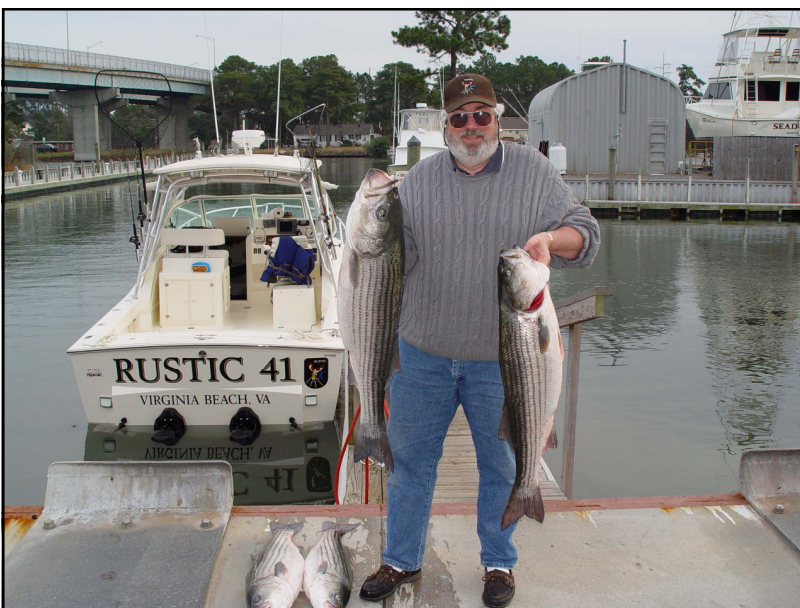
A **Memorial Service** will be held at the Administration Building of Arlington Memorial Cemetery on **Thursday, March 30<sup>th</sup>** at 1pm. Following the service his ashes will be interred at the Arlington Memorial Cemetery Columbarium. Several Rustics, **Lanny Trapp**, **Jon Safley**, **Doug Aitken** and others, have indicated they plan to attend the memorial service on 30 March. The Rustics in attendance hope to be able to get together for a meal before the service. **Jon Safley** has volunteered to be the Rustic point man for this service. If you'd like to attend or get additional information, please contact Jon at: 703-690-0034 or [rdleader@aol.com](mailto:rdleader@aol.com)

In lieu of flowers, the family requests contributions be made to: **The Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation**, P. O. Box 650309, Dallas, TX 75265-0309

For information on the Arlington Cemetery, go to: [http://www.arlingtoncemetery.org/visitor\\_information/index.html](http://www.arlingtoncemetery.org/visitor_information/index.html)



**L-R: Chris Polk, Jim Reese, & Si Gaskill**



**DON MERCER, RUSTIC 41, RETIRED?...**here's the proof. Congratulations Don on your new toy! Early reports indicate Don has put his boat to good use in Chesapeake Bay and has landed some nice catches. Once he gets thing broken in, he says he plans to go off shore for the big ones. Okay guys, here's another good reason to visit Don in Virginia Beach.

**DON MERCER UP TO HIS OLD TRICKS AGAIN; SILVER STAR AWARDED TO JAMES W.**

**BEAUBIEN, III.** Although Don has retired from his regular day job, we are grateful for his on-going efforts on behalf of the Rustics and the FAC community in addressing Awards and Decs issues.

Don's most recent success was on behalf of (non-Rustic) 0-2A FAC **James W. Beaubien III**, Chico 62. On 20 Jan 06, the Air Force Board for Correction of Military Records advised that the Silver Star Medal was approved for **James W. Beaubien, III**, for his heroism at the Battle of An Loc on June 6, 1972. In his meticulous fashion, **Don Mercer**, researched the details of this engagement and provided volumous documentation and

affidavits from those who participated in the events--to include ground commanders and other on-scene personnel. Several Rustics also contributed affidavits to support the case for Beaubien.

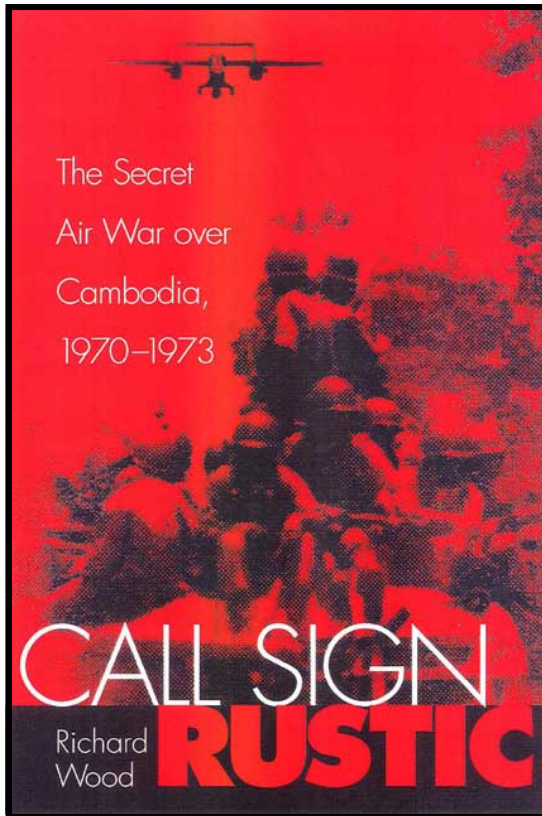
As many of your will recall, the battle of An Loc was a bloody affair. A number of aircraft were shot down during the siege as this was the first battle the enemy introduced the Strella shoulder operated heat-seeking SAM.

Don says he thinks this case set a new record for 1) the shortness of time from submission to approval, and 2) for the quickness in which he was notified once approval had been received...a matter of hours at most.

*Editor's Note: I have a copy of the complete awards package that Don put together for this award...it's as thick as a Sear's catalogue. Well done Don. You are a class act! And thanks to the other Rustics who contributed...you know who you are!*



**BOOK REVIEW:** Here's a recent book review of our commercial Rustic book *CallSign Rustic: The Secret War Over Cambodia, 1970-1973*. By **Richard Wood**. Washington: Smithsonian Institution Press, 2002. ISBN 1-58834-049-X. Maps. Photographs. Appendix. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Pp. xiv, 186. \$24.95.



The forward air controllers (FACs) who flew in Cambodia between June 1970 and August 1973 have received slight historical attention because of the highly classified nature of their work and the paucity of contemporary records. Author Wood—call sign Rustic 11—has made a heroic effort to preserve the memory of his fellow FACs, relying primarily on oral history to document their activities.

Micromanaged by the White House and subject to restrictive—and frequently changing—Rules of Engagement, the Rustics were a central part of President Richard Nixon's efforts to support the Cambodian government while complying with a congressional ban on the use of American ground troops in the beleaguered country. Air assets could be used in the conflict, and the Rustics provided twenty-four-hour target identification for the U.S. Air Force fighter-bombers that were aiding the Lon Nol forces in their losing struggle against the Khmer Rouge.

Some 250 pilots passed through the Rustic program, and three FACs were killed in action. In comparison, thirty-one Raven FACs lost their lives in Laos, at the rate of four per year. In both countries, the FACs developed close relationships with the men on the ground, and most airmen became embittered over the policies of the U.S. government.

One of the more interesting aspects of the Rustic program grew out of language problems. Few Cambodians spoke English and no FACs spoke Cambodian. Thanks to the heritage of French colonial rule, however, Cambodian officers frequently had learned French as a second language. The solution was to recruit—quickly—French-speaking enlisted men. As a result, cooks and clerk-typists ended up in the backseats of OV-10s, performing their demanding duties without (initially) the recognition of wings and air medals, not to mention hazard pay. Although Wood is incorrect in seeing their participation

as "unique"—U.S. Air Force enlisted men flew as Butterfly FACs in Laos with Air America and Continental Air Service—their story forms an especially interesting chapter of the air war in Southeast Asia.

Wood has done a fine job of setting out the organizational nature of the Rustic program, identifying the many problems faced by the FACs, examining the pluses and minuses of the aircraft they flew, and documenting the skill and courage of many of the individuals who participated in the often hazardous missions. One suspects, however, that the Rustics encountered personnel problems that they now prefer to leave in the past. Also, his portrayal of the relationship between the FACs and higher Air Force authority is necessarily one-sided. *Call Sign Rustic* cannot be considered the definitive account of an important aspect of FAC efforts in Southeast Asia, but it will have to serve until better documentary records become available—if they exist.

*There's the rub. ...there aren't many definitive sources that chronicle the FAC war in Cambodia. The Rustics can be proud of the fact that they have preserved their stories for future generations.*

**USAF OV-10 SHIP NUMBER 825 DELIVERED TO FAC MUSEUM ON 18 Jan 2006.** (From OBA member **Garry Goff**, [joepilot@integrity.com](mailto:joepilot@integrity.com).) Gents, The USAF OV-10 tail number 825 was delivered today. I sat in the cockpit that I flew my tactical 2-ship flight lead check ride 20 years ago. The cockpit must have shrunk over time from flying in the rain, or something like that. It must be the same principle as the cleaners shrinking my flight suit and uniform - oh well life happens.





Additional photos by **Bill Spidle** can be found on website [http://www.primeportal.net/hangar/ov-10a\\_oba.htm](http://www.primeportal.net/hangar/ov-10a_oba.htm).

*Rustics...these photos serve as an excellent reminder as to why you might want to consider joining the FACM and supporting the efforts to purchase and restore these venerable FAC aircraft. The OBA/FACM is the only organization that is working, on the FAC community's behalf, to preserve these proud war birds. The FACM folks can be reached at: [FACMuseum@yahoogroups.com](mailto:FACMuseum@yahoogroups.com)*

**RUSTIC BACKSEATERS: SURVEY STILL IN PROGRESS. (Ron Dandeneau.)** The Rustics plan to submit a Rustic interpreter's name to the FACM Steering Committee and request that his name be entered in nomination to be put on the rear canopy rail of OV-10 tail # 825. A Nomination form was included in the Dec 05 Rustic newsletter. We still need to hear from the following:

**Joseph Bergeron, Emile Brunelle, Roland Deshaies, Jean Paul Doyon, Timothy Early, Roy E. Eklund, Walter Friedhofen, Ronald Gamache, Roger Lanoue, Pierre Ligonde, Robert Montmarquet, Phillip Morneault, Arthur X. Paradis and Joseph Vaillancourt.**

I'm sending a letter to each of the above Rustics. Backseaters, if you have any questions, contact me at: 703-451-8498.

#### **RUSTIC STORE ADDS FOUR ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR SALE:**

<u>Item:</u>	<u>Cost:</u> (includes shipping)
1997, 1999 & 2002 Rustic Reunions & Cambodia Trip CD	\$15.00
"The Rustics, A Top Secret Air War in Cambodia CD (Black Book)	\$15.00
"Rustic Story" Video	\$20.00
FAC History Book CDs	\$15.00

You can order the above items from the Rustic Store website, [www.rustic.org](http://www.rustic.org). If you don't have a computer, you can place an order by calling **Don Ellis**, Treasurer, 803-435-4755.

#### **PHILIPPINE OV-10 CRASHES; ONE PILOT KILLED.** (Reports from multiple sources.)

(UPDATE) BULACAN -- A Philippine Air Force pilot was killed and another survived when their OV-10 fighter plane crashed at 9 am on Tuesday, 23 Jan., in a town in Bulacan province.

**Capt. Aniano Amatong**, 31, died in the crash but his copilot, **Capt. James Acosta**, 35, managed to parachute to safety and is recovering at Villamor Air Base Hospital.

The OV-10 plane took off from Danilo Atienza Airfield in Sangley Point, in Cavite City at 8:46 a.m and was enroute to Clark Air Base, Pampanga for a training flight when the accident occurred.

**Acosta** told investigators that they encountered problems with their left engine while over Bulacan and lost altitude trying to stabilize the aircraft. At about 2,000 ft, they decided to eject but **Amatong** stayed longer with the aircraft to ensure it did not hit a populated area, an Air Force statement said, citing the pilot for heroism of the highest order.

Eyewitnesses confirmed Acosta's account, the Air Force said.

Air Force spokesman Lt. Col. **Restituto Padilla Jr.** said investigators were still trying to determine the cause of the accident, and that a rescue team found the plane totally wrecked in the middle of a fishpond. As standard operating procedure, Air Force chief **Lt. Gen. Jose Reyes** ordered the remaining 12 to 14 OV-10 Broncos grounded until the investigation is complete.

The OV-10 Bronco is used by the Armed Forces for close air support missions, aerial reconnaissance and cloud seeding. Acquired from the United States through its Excess Defense Articles Program, the plane has become a mainstay of the Philippine Air Force after it decommissioned its F-5 fighter jets in October 2005.

Recently, the Air Force used the OV-10s to bomb the lairs of suspected Islamic extremists in Mindanao, Padilla said. Padilla added that Amatong and Acosta were on their way to join the "Balance Piston" joint military exercises with US forces, which were conducting training in low level air delivery in Clark Field, Pampanga.

The Angeles City Council, meanwhile, expressed serious concern over the low-level night flights by American pilots, saying that communities near the air base complained about loud aircraft noise.

*Did anyone catch the tail number of this bird?*

**UNITED STATES OPENS ITS FIRST PURPOSE-BUILT EMBASSY IN CAMBODIA ON JANUARY 17, 2006.** ( By **Guy De Launey**, BBC News, Phnom Penh.) The new facility is one of the most prominent buildings in Phnom Penh, with a staff of more than 500.

Recently the US resumed military aid to Cambodia for the first time since the Vietnam war, indicating an increasing involvement in the country. The new embassy is hard to miss. Its black, white and red marble structures occupy an entire block. It is next to Wat Phnom, the landmark temple which gave Phnom Penh its name. And while other major embassies in the city are hidden behind towering walls, the US facility makes do with a set of railings. If the plan was to make an impression, it has succeeded.



**Chinese influence.** The US has had a somewhat ambivalent relationship with Cambodia since its return to peace in the 1990s. But everything about the embassy says the superpower is now keen to be involved here. Some have speculated that the US is trying to counter the increasing influence of other powers in the region. China is now the biggest investor in Cambodia and also provides extensive military aid.

The US has insisted that is not a major concern. But embassy spokesman **Jeff Daigle** said increased involvement was likely. "We are ready for expansion and several different agencies have expressed an interest in coming here and opening up offices. "The bilateral relationship between the US and Cambodia has certainly been growing and deepening and expanding, and so some of these new offices coming in will just be another part of that expansion of the relationship," he said. That includes assistance to the Cambodian armed forces. For the first time since the fall of the Khmer Rouge, US military advisers have been working with local troops. But the US says it will continue to press Cambodia to improve its record on issues like human trafficking and human rights.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

From: **Frank McClellan** to **Lendy Edwards**, 31 Jan 06.-- "Thank you for putting together a wonderful book."

Hello, my name is **Frank McClellan**. My father is **Jerry McClellan** (Rustic 14). I was born within a year of his return home from Cambodia. (funny how that works!) He gave me a very special gift this Christmas. It was the book "The Rustics-A Top Secret Air war in Cambodia". I was of course glued to it cover to cover. Growing up I always knew that a part of my dad's heart stayed in Cambodia. The book clarified even more why. Thank you for taking the effort to put this together so that even the next generation can get a better picture of what all of you did, not only serving your country but the people of Cambodia as well. Someday I can pass this on to my son (18 months) what Grandpa did serving his country in 72! Let me know if there is *anything* I can do to assist the Rustics! **Frank McClellan**, [tranceonly426@msn.com](mailto:tranceonly426@msn.com), Albuquerque, New Mexico

From **Ed Kalkbrenner**, Covey 188/288, Sleepytime 10. (From the FACNET)

Monday night I received the book "Call Sign Rustic." Tuesday night I finished it; it was hard to put down. What a great read! I learned a good deal that I didn't know about the whole Rustic operation, enough that I wish I could have been a part of it. If I had been a Sleepytime 18 months later, I might have been there. In the U.S. Volunteers, I have a former Lao officer reporting to me, so I can now ask him intelligent questions about his participation. **Ed**

**CATASTROPHE OF POCHENTONG, 21 Jan 1971** (From Air Combat Information Group (ACIG) – Website: [http://www.acig.org/artman/publish/article\\_412.shtml](http://www.acig.org/artman/publish/article_412.shtml).) Some of the Bien Hoa Rustics will undoubtedly remember this fateful day.

"The growing capabilities of the AVNK (Cambodian Air Force) and a large number of combat sorties flown could not suppress the activities of the North Vietnamese, especially as Lon Nol saw the reinforced AVNK – exactly like Sihanouk before him – foremost as a threat for his regime. Consequently, in the following years he was foremost interested to slow down the development of the air force. This was directly opposite to what the USA wanted to happen: even more so, Lon Nol's decision came exactly at the time the AVNK was to suffer its worst blow ever.

"In the night of 21 January 1971, 97 sappers of the 367th North Vietnamese Dac Cong Group attacked Pochentong: operating in six groups the Vietnamese cut several corridors through the barbed wire and fought down the security guards of the Cambodian Army before saturating most of the installations on the airfield with heavy fire from automatic weapons and multiple rocket launchers. A group of Vietnamese climbed even to the roof of the commercial terminal at Pochentong and started firing at the ammunition depot – full of napalm bombs. Before anybody could react the Vietnamese disappeared back into the jungle.

"When the smoke cleared on the following morning, the Cambodians could count their casualties: 39 officers and other ranks were killed and 170 injured. Fortunately for the AVNK no pilots were killed: the pilot's quarters were not hit by the Vietnamese sappers, as these mainly targeted the aircraft on apron, and also all the pilots were evacuated to some irrigation dikes near the runway during the attack. However, most of the AVNK aircraft were destroyed, including all MiG-17s, all except six T-28s (these were deployed to Battambang), and UH-1Hs, as well as three O-1s of the SVAF. The catastrophe was so immense that it was later seen as the most influential factor for the demise of Lon Nol's regime. The Pochentong airfield remained closed for almost a week: the tarmac, ammunition depots and the runway had all to be repaired and new equipment brought in from the USA: only days earlier the Congress in Washington decided to supply equipment worth \$175 million, but now the Americans were forced to further increase their deliveries in order to completely rebuild the AVNK. Especially the White House felt compelled to do something: it could not send any troops officially to Cambodia, but it could organize a Military Equipment Delivery Team – Cambodia (MEDTC), which was officially to control the flow of supplies to Phnom Penh, but actually to become deeply involved in training of the Cambodian military."

**FAC MUSEUM CONTEST IN PROGRESS TO FIND A SUITABLE LOGO; DEADLINE: 4 JULY, 2006.** The FAC Museum at Meachem Field, Fort Worth, TX has initiated a contest to find a suitable logo for the budding museum. The contest is

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open to anyone; contest deadline is 4 July 06 so there isn't much time to get your submission turned in. (Cleared Hot!)

Use your imagination! This museum represents everyone who has ever been involved in any of the FAC missions -- from the Civil War balloonists to the current UAV operators and everyone in between. Like **Jim [Hodgson]** says, also consider the international aspects of the FAC mission; practically every country in the world has employed a FAC in one form or another. Think BIG and enter often! The winner will receive a five year membership to FACM and all rights to the logo will become the property of FACM.

If you have a suggested logo, please send it to **Terry Tabor**, FAC Steering Committee Chairman ([FACMuseum@yahoogroups.com](mailto:FACMuseum@yahoogroups.com)) or to **Jim Hodgson**, OBA. ([ov-10@yahoogroups.com](mailto:ov-10@yahoogroups.com).)

*Rustics, can someone do better than this? If you plan to submit a logo or want to work jointly on developing a design, contact **Jim Gabel**, our Rustic rep to the FAC Steering Committee, at: [jagabel@aol.com](mailto:jagabel@aol.com) or call: 605-342-6158*



**CAMBODIAN NEWS REPORT (Roger Hamann)** Cambodia seeks answers to Khmer killing PHNOM PENH, Cambodia, Feb. 17 (UPI) -- Cambodia, with U.N. support, is readying for a tribunal on the Khmer Rouge slaughter whose answers may come from the group's oldest surviving member.

Nuon Chea is known as Brother No. 2 after Pol Pot, now dead, whose regime is blamed for the deaths of some 1.7 million in the years after it took control of the country in 1975.

The tribunal will seek to find answers on why it happened, which has remained a mystery, as well as try some of the old regime's top leaders..

In an interview with the Chicago Tribune in his small wooden home near the Thailand border, the 78-year-old Nuon Chea said the U.S. bombing of Cambodia in 1969-73 had taught his people to use any force necessary.

"That bombing was the primary factor that led to the rise of the Khmer Rouge," he said.

"We must go to court to fight," he added. "I will go to make them understand what happened."

The tribunal in the capital Phnom Penh is set to begin in June, the report said. Nuon Chea and as many as six other former leaders are expected to face trial.

"I have remorse. And pain," Nuon Chea said. "It's not enough just to say that I'm remorseful. I will say more [in court]."

#### SHORT BURSTS:

- 1) Bien Hoa Rustic **Dave Parsons** will be in Cuba on a medical mission trip in late March 2006.
- 2) Do you know which Rustic was a former minor league professional baseball player before joining the Air Force? (Answer: Bill McAdams.)
- 3) **Marcel (Rustic V) and Denise Morneau** went on a sailing cruise on the Norwegian Crews Line ship "Jewel" from the port of Miami on 5-11 March. Stops included: Rotan, Honduras; Ocho Rios, Jamaica; Cayman Islands and the Bahamas. They promised to provide a blow-by-blow account when we get back.
- 4) **Darrel Whitcomb**, Nail 25 ([nail25@aol.com](mailto:nail25@aol.com)) is looking for info on the guys were SEA slow FAC POWS. So far, he has: 1LT **Jack Butcher** - Mar 71, Capt **Lynn Guenther** - Dec 71, Capt **Dave Mott** - May 72, and Capt **Bill Henderson** - Apr 72. Who else?

## 2005 RUSTIC REUNION PHOTOS -22-25 Sep 2005.







Rustic FAC Association  
4033 Indian Trail Drive  
Destin, FL 32541

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



# Rustic News

## www.rustic.org

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<b><u>Health &amp; Wellness:</u></b>	Doc Thomas, shialary@msn.com		

**NAVAL AIR MUSEUM ON TAP FOR NEXT RUSTIC REUNION: 18-21 Oct, 2007**, Ramada Plaza Beach Resort, Fort Walton Beach, FL. The Reunion Committee has completed initial coordination for our planned visit to the world famous Naval Air Museum in Pensacola, FL. on Friday, 19 Oct, 2007. **Claude** and **Tona Newland** visited the museum in mid May and found the staff to be very helpful and eager to support our visit. The museum has over 140 aircraft on display ranging from pre-WWI to present.

The plan is to take chartered buses to Pensacola. The day's events will include an exclusive group guided tours of the museum, lunch at the Cubi Bar Café (in museum; order from menu & very reasonable), an Imax theater presentation and a bus tour of additional museum aircraft on the flight line. Museum admission is free. The charter bus and Imax theater costs should be approx \$30/

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person. This event will undoubtedly be one of the highlights of our 2007 reunion. Start making plans now to join your Rustic "buds" and their wives on the Emerald Coast in 2007. Hey, the Cubi Bar Café alone is worth the trip! (The entire café was transported from NAS Cubi Point, Philippines to the museum when the Navy pulled out of Cubi Point.)

*The museum has one FAC aircraft on display. Can you guess which one? (Yep...the mighty 0-1 Birddog.)*

The museum's website is: <http://naval.aviation.museum/intro.html>.





**RUSTICS TO ATTEND ALL FAC REUNION: 4-9 Oct. 2006, Dayton, OH.** OK, guys, if you're planning to attend this year's All FAC reunion, its time to get in gear and make your room reservations. The June issue of the All FAC newsletter will have all the details, but if you wait till then to make a room reservation, they may be taken.

The reunion HQ hotel is the Holiday Inn, Presidential Drive, Fairborn (937-426-7800). Rates are \$89/room for a non-smoking room with a king size bed. Rumor has it you may be able to get a slightly cheaper rate if you have a retired military ID (it's worth a try.) Rustics **Lendy and Sue Edwards, Claude and Tona Newland, Doug and Carol Aitken, and Ned Helm** are booked at the hotel. Rustic **Zot Baraz-zotto** will also be in attendance (he's got a major role in putting on the whole show!)

The secondary hotel is Homewood Suites (\$99/night; 937-429-0600.)

Both hotels are owned by the same company and are right next to each other. Book your room direct and ask for "Forward Air Control" reunion rate.

Here's a summary of reunion events:

### WEDNESDAY, 4 October 2006

0900 - 2100 - Check In

All Day - AF Museum and local site tours

1800 - 1900 - Informal Get Together - Holiday Inn

Casual Dinner with Friends at local establishments

### THURSDAY, 5 October 2006

0900 - 2100 - Check In

All Day - AF Museum and local site tours

0900 - 1400 - Bus Tour: Countryside and Shopping Trip to Waynesville, Ohio

0900 - 1300 Flying - Rides in O-1/O-2 aircraft - sign up for a flight time.

0915 - 1600 - Symposium - "Back to the Future of FACING." The history we never knew, and the future before us in Forward Air Control. Carney Auditorium, AF Museum, WPAFB (free and open to the public.)

1700-1800 - Dedication of the All FAC Memorial at the AF Museum Memorial Park; A-10, O-1 and O-2 flyover

1800 - 2200 - Casual Dinner at the Air Force Museum. Entertainment - AF Band of Flight/Friends (not a stuffy speech) Time to talk and look at the planes.

### FRIDAY, 6 October 2006

0900 - 2100 - Check In

All Day - AF Museum and local site tours

0900-1700 - FAC Hootch Hours

0800 - 1400 - Golf Outing & Lunch - Twin Base Golf Course, WPAFB

0900 - 1600 Flying - Rides in O-1/O-2 aircraft - sign up for a flight time.

0900 - 1400 - Bus Tour: Dayton City & Aviation Tour

1400-1600 - FAC Association Membership Meeting

### SATURDAY, 8 October 2006

0900 - 1200 - Check In 1800 - 2100 - Informal Get Together

Casual Dinner with Friends at local establishments

All Day - AF Museum and local site tours

0900-1500 - FAC Hootch Hours

0900 - 1000 - All FAC Meeting

0900 - 1600 Flying - Rides in O-1/O-2 aircraft - sign up for a flight time.

0900 - 1400 - Bus Tour: Dayton City & Aviation Tour

1000 - 1200 - A-10 Aircraft Display - WPAFB

1000 1130 - FAC Group Meetings

0900 - 1400 - Flying - Rides in O-1/O-2 aircraft - sign up for a flight time

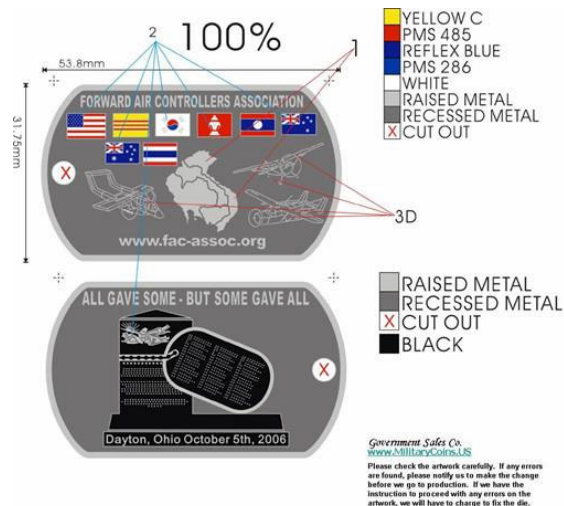
1800 - Dinner at the WPAFB Club. Entertainment - music and stories by SOBA

### SUNDAY, 9 October 2006

0700 - 1000 - Breakfast (on an individual basis) Holiday Inn

Departure

0900-1700 - AF Museum Open



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GUYS, IF YOU'VE NEVER SEEN THE AIR FORCE MUSEUM, THIS IS THE TIME TO DO IT; COME SEE THE NEW PERMANENT FAC DISPLAY AREA AND HELP DEDICATE THE NEW FAC MEMORIAL. CLEARED HOT! If you plan to attend the reunion, please contact **Claude Newland** at: [rustic19@cox.net](mailto:rustic19@cox.net) or 850-654-2955.

**2006 ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP UPDATE:** 43 life members, 44 regular annual Members.

**ROSTER/PERSONNELUPDATES:** **Dick Roberds** 863-438-9647

#### WINGMAN SUPPORT:

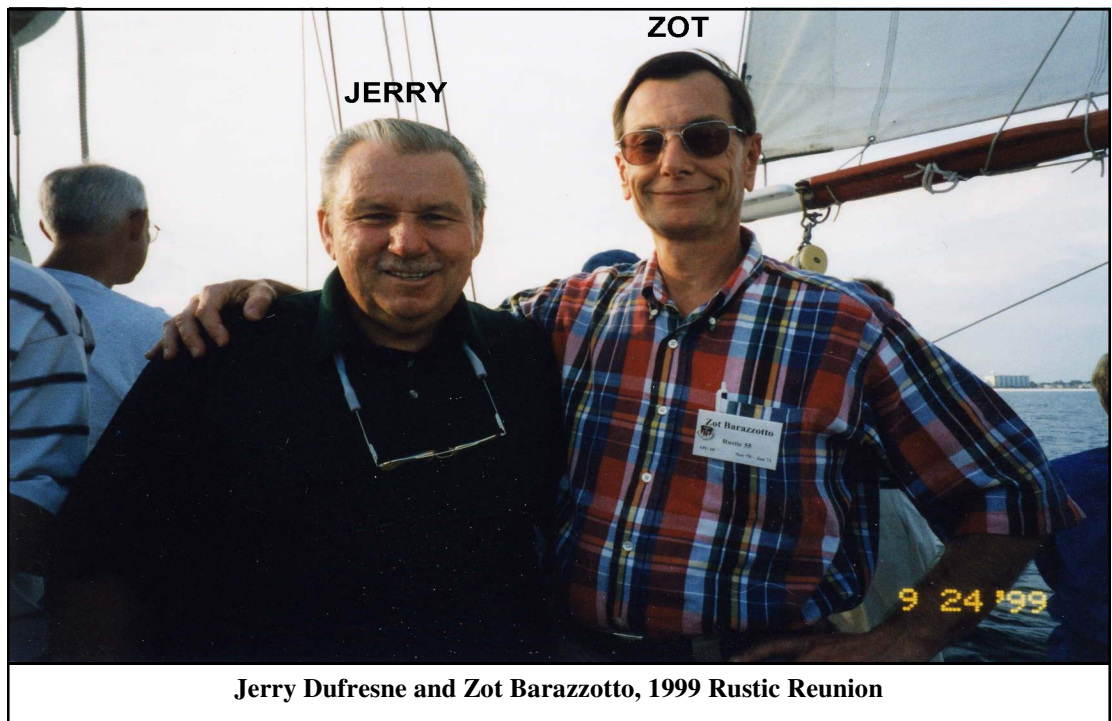
**1) Ubon Rustic/CC Ray Stratton** had a bad fall at the beginning of March and spent approx. 6 weeks in a local Ft Walton Beach FL nursing/rehab facility for a broken neck. The good news is Ray is now at home and able to walk with a "walker." He says he is getting better, but it will be a slow process.

**2) Emile Brunnelle** continues to provide home care to his ailing wife--which he has been doing for quite some time. Unfortunately, his wife is not able to get out and about much and for this reason Emile hasn't been able to attend our recent Rustic reunions.

**3) From Rog Hamann**, Rustic Yankee, Ubon '71-'72. Joan's dad passed away this morning (Fri, 14 Apr 2006) at the age of 91. We had brought him home Thurs. afternoon with hospice care so that he could die at home according to his wishes. The look of content and happiness upon returning to his own home, his own bed, was a true sign that we'd done the right thing. After a 19 hour vigil, Dad died peacefully at 10am with all his family surrounding him.

**JERRY DUFRESNE TO BE NOMINATED TO HAVE NAME PLACED ON OV-10 # 525. (Ron Dandeneau)** The results of the recent Rustic backseater's

survey indicated a clear consensus that **Jerry Dufresne** should be the Rustic nominee to have his name forwarded to the OBA/FACM staff for possible inscription on the rear canopy rail of OV-10 # 525. Aircraft # 525 was an Air Force bird and is one of two OV-10s being restored by the OBA/FACM in Fort Worth, TX. Jerry was selected because he was one of the original Rustic backseaters and was the first backseater/interpreter to fly a mission in the RCP of a Rustic OV-10. While we can't guarantee our nomination will be selected, we believe we will be the first to make such a nomination...and sometimes the early bird does get the meal!



**Jerry Dufresne and Zot Barazzotto, 1999 Rustic Reunion**

***Congratulation Jerry on your nomination!***

**RUSTICS PARTICIPATE IN THE FAC MEMORIAL NICKEL ON THE GRASS PROJECT. (Rog Hamann)** The final construction of the new FAC memorial at Wright-Patterson AFB will soon be complete. In addition to the names that will be inscribed on the memorial, the Memorial Committee has allowed the FAC community to honor all their fallen brethren (KIAs and those who have taken their final flight West) by donating a nickel in their respective names that will be placed into the foundation of the FAC Memorial. The Rustics have enthusiastically supported this project and have sent nickels for each Rustic KIA and each de-

ceased Rustic to be included. The year date of each nickel for our KIA and departed brethren was the specific year they passed from us. The Daytona FAC Memorial will be dedicated on 5 Oct 2006 at the AF Museum Memorial Park and will include a fly over of A-10's, O-1's and O-2 aircraft.

**ARNIE SIMS AWARD ENDOWMENT FUND ESTABLISHED.** The Univ. of The Ozarks recently contacted the Rustics to inform us that Arnie's "family, friends and co-workers" are establishing an endowment in his memory to recognize the support and professional staff employees at Ozarks. Each April the Univ. holds an annual Board of Trustee's awards banquet where recognition is given to the outstanding support and profession staff member as selected by their peers. Arnie was the recipient of this award in 2003.

To fund this award as an endowment in Arnie's name, the requirement is to raise \$20,000. The good news is that they are halfway there. Arnie was a very generous man. He saw to it that more than half the funds necessary to establish such an endowment went to the University upon his death. His friends at the Univ. are working to fully fund his endowment and hope we will join them.

Contributions (Check payable to: "Univ of the Ozarks" for "Sims Award Endowment Fund") can be sent to:

University of the Ozarks  
Office of Advancement  
414 N College Ave  
Clarksville, AR 72830-9989

*For all of you who knew Arnie (and those of you who didn't) this is a great way to honor Arnie's memory.*

#### SHORT BURSTS:

- 1) **"Rustic Story" Available. FYI:** three VHS and three DVD copies of the "Rustic Story" are available in the Rustic Store. Contact **Don Ellis**, Treasurer, if you're interested in purchasing a copy. Details available on the Rustic website: [www.Rustic.org](http://www.Rustic.org)
- 2) **Rustic Memorabilia surfaces. Emile Brunelle** recently advised us he has a small cache of Rustic memorabilia that he has been holding (at **Clint Murphy's** request) since 'Nam. Some of the items include 8mm film, slides and taped and transcribed interviews of people as they were finishing up their tours—some of which are probably a gold mine. Emile is going to turn these items over to **Jim Gabel**, Rustic Historian, in the near future. I'm sure we'll get a full accounting from Jim once he receives these items.
- 3) **74<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron Change of Command.** **Ltc Jeffrey L. Cowan** handed over the reins of the 74FS (A-10 "Rustics" at Pope AFB) on 21 Apr 06 to **Ltc Russell "Oscar" S. Myers.** **Lt Col 'Bingo' Bingham** was tapped as the squadron's new DO. Their wives names are: Tracey and DeeDee. *Congratulations to all.*
- 4) **Rustic SEA Photo CD Project.** **'Crash' Helm** reports the photo project crawls along. He has finished **Mike Wilson's** and is working on **Foxtrot's (Dandeneau)** now. 'Should finish all in hand by early summer...then we can try to figure out how to present them. If any of you RECALCITRANTS have Rustic SEA photos I haven't received yet, GET THEM TO ME...I WANT THEM! Contact me at: 850-892-6342 or [ned@wingset.com](mailto:ned@wingset.com)
- 5) **Rustic Search.** **Rog Hamann** has spent several evenings trying to locate one of our Rustic Radio Operators, **Walter "Smitty" L. Smith.** After 25 phone calls, Smitty is still among our missing Rustics. The search for others continues. Any leads on Smitty from the membership?
- 6) **OV-10 # 675. Did you fly her?** The FAC community is trying to reconstruct the history of Ship # 675. If you flew her, please contact **Claude Newland** at [rustic19@cox.net](mailto:rustic19@cox.net). Please provide any info you have; dates, places, call signs, mission, etc. Nail FAC **Darrel Whitcomb** says he flew 675 out of Ubon on a combat hop over Cambodia for 4.3 hrs on 26 May 73 and flew it for a training sortie on 11 Sep, 73 out of NKP for 2.1 hrs. **Claude Newland** checked his log and the bird was not, to his knowledge, at Bien Hoa in '70-'71.
- 7) **Status of Name Placards on the original Hurlburt FAC Memorial.** **Don Echelberger** recently notified us he has sent all remaining name placards to their associated FAC organization or to each individual's next-of-kin. The last batch of 15 Nail name tags were sent to the Nails thru **Ned Helm.** Don also took the initiative and mounted Rustic **Joe Gambino's** brass name placard on a wooden plaque, along with the Rustic crossed flags, and, on behalf of the Rustics, personally presented the plaque to Joe's brother, George, in Panama City, FL. *Don, well done...another class act by a Rustic!*
- 8) **On the Go. Doug and Carol Aitken** took a two + week trip to Great Britain in April. Doug reports that while Carol is not fully recovered from her [recent] ordeal with a viral infection, she did very well. "Always glad to get home and get caught up...In the Rustics' case, a lot of catching up to do." **Claude and Tona Newland** are also taking a long awaited sea/land cruise to Alaska 29 May – 9 Jun. Bbbrrrrr, its still cold up there this time of year.
- 9) **For Information on the new 2006 FAC Memorial go to:** <http://www.fac-assoc.org/memorial/memorial01.html>

**ANOTHER FAC BOOK?** Aussie FAC **Peter Condon**, (Tamale 15, O-1, 1969; Slugger 23, OV-10, 1969) is hoping to produce a FAC Book based on the FAC Book CD produced by **Bob Gorman** for the FAC Association. Bob has been helping him with the project. It will be large project (450 pages).

The book will be a collection of FAC stories and the market will probably be limited to SEA FACs and their families. Therefore, it's not a money spinner. However, the FAC Association will 'own' it.

Peter saw our [Rustic] book advertised on the Rustic web site and noted our mention of **Mark Gatlin** and thought it would be wise to get some opinions on the ideal size for a 'coffee table' book; also, if it is worthwhile using color. He attached a few pages of the draft book (which looks great!!) and asked if the Rustics had any words of wisdom for him as he ventures into this project.

Several member of our original Rustic Book Committee have contacted Peter already. If you have any inputs for him or questions about his project, contact him at: [petercondon@icunet.com.au](mailto:petercondon@icunet.com.au)

**AWARD AND DECS. (Don Mercer)** All Rustic nominations have been completed and no submissions are in progress at this time. However, as a result of his recent efforts, Don had the privilege of attending a ceremony on the floor of a joint session of the Oklahoma legislative bodies presided over by **Governor Brad Henry** on April 11. Don reports:

**James W. Beaubien, III**, call sign Chico 62 was awarded the Silver Star for his heroic actions on June 6, 1972, during the battle that raged at An Loc, Republic of Vietnam. **Col. Edward Stein, Jr., USA (Ret.)**, whose life was one of those saved that day by then Lt. Beaubien's actions in directing airstrikes, pinned the medal on Jim Beaubien in a moving presentation.

**Major General L. D. Johnston**, USAF (Ret.), who was Jim's roommate at OSU, provided brief remarks from the floor immediately following the Governor's presentation. Over 100 of Jim's friends and fellow veterans, including a number of Sun-dog FACs, from Oklahoma and 13 other states attended the ceremony and celebration following.

It was a wonderful trip to return to the heartland of America and be recharged with just what this great country is all about. If anyone is ever depressed about our country's state of affairs, I highly recommend a visit to Ponca City, OK. That is Jim's home although he now resides in Dallas, TX, and is a retired Delta pilot.

Another retired Army colonel was also present who served on the ground at An Loc. He provided even more insight into the battle that was fought there. **Bill Carruthers**, who flew as both a Night Rustic and, subsequently, as a FAC over An Loc, attended with his wife Chris, a former Air Force officer, and their son, Charlie.

Having worked with a number of politicians' staffs now in various areas of the country while attempting to schedule ceremonies for award recipients, I have to compliment Norman Lamb, Secretary of Veterans Affairs in Oklahoma, for arranging the ceremony for **Jim Beaubien**. He also arranged the ceremony for **Edward G. Auth, Jr.**, a Rustic FAC, in November 2003 at which his widow, Gloria, and her family were presented the Silver Star awarded him posthumously with over 300 in attendance at Tinker AFB. Oklahoma is one state that demonstrates fully its appreciation for those who are serving and have served in our nation's armed forces.

All who have contributed over the years in our efforts to obtain approval for long overdue and well-deserved recognition for Rustic personnel may stand a bit taller as those efforts played an important role in obtaining the approval for **Jim Beaubien's** award.

**HOUSE OF HOPE AND KOMPONG CHAM ORPHANAGE. (Lendy Edwards)** In response to our request to determine if the HOH or orphanage had any special needs the Rustic might help with, I received the following communication on 4 April from the HOH director, **Diane Moss**, [guppy@online.com.kh](mailto:guppy@online.com.kh).

"Greetings from a rather HOT Kompong Cham... it was really nice to be in the USA and enjoy the coolness. I have been able to now see what is needed at the orphanage. There have been a couple of changes:

- 1) The former director is now working for ASPECA, a French NGO who have been helping at the orphanage for the last several years.
- 2) The head of the Social Affairs office here in Kompong Cham embezzled a lot of money and left. He had bought his way into the job and the former head, whom we had worked with so well, was moved back to Phnom Penh. The former head is now back and this is a good thing!

What has been requested is writing books and supplies, plus school uniforms for the students...There are currently 65 children staying at the orphanage and it would cost approximately \$469 for all the children.

Another thought I had this morning was a general help fund. We are regularly hearing of people having emergencies and needing help within the community. These are not the people that we serve through Sunrise, but our neighbors...a child is killed in a traffic accident, no \$ for cremation - \$16. A mother falls from motorcycle driving home from hospital with new born. She is alive and out of coma, but the baby needs milk in the mean time and family needs instruction on how to use clean water etc. A month's supply of formula - \$25. These two events both happened Monday...if Rustics had any desire to help in this way, I could monitor it for you and send a report with pics when appropriate of those you had helped.

Also our local prison has moved and they are having trouble with water. They dug two wells but both seem to have unhealthy arsenic levels...It would be great to be able to help a large group like this (InnerCHANGE paid for their last well and all the hygiene and health of prisoners and guards improved drastically). But with the new land, I'm not sure a good well is really possible, based on the 2 they have dug already.

Please let me know what you think about the above ideas, or if the Rustics might have some other area of interest. Joyfully!" **diane** *(Note: The Rustic's response to Diane's message follows.)*

**RUSTIC'S TO HONOR FALLEN BRETHREN WITH THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO CAMBODIAN CHARITIES.**

"Thanks" to all of you who have continued to give generously in support of the House of Hope (HOH) and the Kompong Cham Orphanage. As a result of your recent contributions, the Rustics will be able to help meet the needs outlined by **Diane Moss** in



her recent letter (above.) The Rustic Board has decided that the following contributions will be made in honor of the memory of **Arnie Sims** and **Chris Polk**--our two Rustics brothers who have passed away this year.

\$469 -- Orphanage: writing books and supplies and school uniforms.

\$500 -- House of Hope.

\$500 -- General Help fund for unforeseen local emergencies.

We're going to send an appropriate letter to CRM (parent of HOH) and to Arnie and Chris's next-of-kin informing them of this contribution in their name.

As always, Diane will provide us with an accounting of how these funds are used. FYI: These contributions will just about deplete our Cambodian Charity funds (but they don't do the Cambodians any good sitting in our bank account.)

**SUPPORT CONTINUES FOR THE FAC MUSEUM FOR THE 2006-2007 YEAR.** As a result of the ongoing progress at the FACM, the Rustic Board approved budgeting \$500 to continue our corporate sponsorship of the FACM for the upcoming 2006-2007 year. Here's **Jim Gabel's** (Rustic Rep to the FACM Steering Committee) latest update:

The FACM is making great strides forward. They currently have \$5426.75 on hand. The actual build out of the museum is progressing with spray insulation of the ceilings and upper walls contracted (~\$2,000). Metal studs for the wall should be installed by 1 July and it is hoped that the room will be completed by the Pop-A-Smoke reunion and Cowtown Warbird Roundup (CWR) and fly-in August 12th. The first FACM bird, the O-2, that **Jerry Stephan** has almost single-handedly rebuilt, is essentially complete with the exception of some minor touch-ups and detail work. Jerry will be paying the cost of displaying the aircraft inside the hangar. There is a possibility that the Nail FACs will take this over as a sponsor. He has contacted **Don Neiser** (who flew one of his O-2s to one of our early reunions) about a second O-2 that is black. Neiser has one available in OKC, and will deliver to FACM for \$1,500. We have a donor who will fund it. Aircraft will be on its gear with limited reassembly required, and limited work needed to make ready for static display. This will possibly be available in a couple months. Added to these are the OBAs two OV-10s, QF-4S and F-5E. So the FACM aircraft display is growing.

**Terry Tabor**, FACM Steering Committee Chairman, will be giving a presentation at the All-FAC Reunion, in hopes of generating new support and membership participation.



**OBA Restored O-2**

There is an ongoing discussion about changing the OBA Bronco Flyer into a FACM newsletter. For those that currently receive the Flyer, you will already notice the transition of the contents to include not only all FACs, but also other associated aircraft organizations. The last newsletter included articles from "The Quiet Aircraft Association" and "The A-37 Association." Just like the FACM is looking for a more reflective logo, they are also looking for a more appropriate name for the "Bronco Flyer" should it permanently morph into the FACM Newsletter. Another need for a name is for the "FAC Controlled Combat Aircraft Airpark," with the idea that the Airpark would include aircraft sponsored by other organizations. If you have any ideas, send them to me. These are also good topics for the next RFA Newsletter.

The Steering Committee agreed that individual memberships will run from 1 January to 31 December. Annual corporate and organization sponsorship dues (\$500 per seat on SC) would run from 1 July to 30 June. So our dues will need to be renewed next month, or soon thereafter.

#### **POLICY ESTABLISHED ON ASSOCIATION'S RESPONSE WHEN A RUSTIC TAKES FINAL FLIGHT WEST.**

Following **Chris Polk's** recent memorial service, **Jon Safley** inquired as to whether the Rustic FAC Assoc. (RFA) has a policy concerning requested donations from the families of deceased Rustics or the sending of flowers? In response, the Rustic Board discussed this matter in detail and felt it would be appropriate to establish an organizational policy.

As background, when the RFA was formed its organizational aims were intentionally kept simple: To promote camaraderie and to help preserve our history. To this end, we established an annual dues rate that we felt would cover our administrative and newsletter expenses, etc. (Reunions are to be self supporting.) The Board intentionally steered clear of extracurricular activities such as scholarship funds or any other activities that would require repeated formal fund raising activities. Since we don't have excess organizational funds for such activities, including donations to memorials, we have steered clear of these types of donations and preferred to leave it up to each individual Rustics to decide if they want to make a contribution.

However, the Board concluded that providing each other mutual support in times of need is of utmost importance, so the primary role of the RFA should continue to be to provide the vital communication links that will enable our members to stay in touch with one another and keep abreast of the latest developments in our lives and the FAC community. If we do this well, our members will be able to provide each other mutual support as needed.

With the above in mind, the Board established the following general guidelines to govern our response to future newly deceased Rustics: The RFA will:

1) Make a timely effort to notify the Rustics of the deceased Rustic's passing (to include information provided by the family on funeral/memorial services and any specific charities which individual Rustics may make a contribution to in honor of the deceased) using all available means to include:

- a) Rustic yahoogroup.net
- b) General E mail notification
- c) Rustic newsletter

2) Send a letter of condolence to the deceased's next of kin. Included in the letter will be an explanation of the "nickel in the grass" tradition and the letter will included two nickels, one for the year served (or year he began his tour) in the Rustics and another for the year he passed.

3) As a general rule, the RFA will not make monetary contributions to the deceased member's charities or send flowers, etc. since the association does not collect or solicit funds for this purpose. Individual RFA members are encouraged to respond according to their inclinations.

*Note: Additionally, all future contributions to Cambodian charities will be made to "honor the memory of" a specific departed Rustic(s) and a letter will be sent to the next of kin with this information.*

**NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE USAF (WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB) SEEKS RUSTIC MEMORABILIA.** Jeff S. Underwood, brother of Rustic flight surgeon Larry Underwood (small world, huh?) is one of the historians at the Natl. Museum of the USAF at Dayton, OH. Jeff contacted the Rustics in April and asked that we let our members know the museum is in the process of preparing a permanent Southeast Asia FAC Display. The exhibit will open in conjunction with the Oct 2006 FAC reunion and the museum is looking forward to helping host this year's reunion. Needless to say, the exhibit will have high visibility since over a million visitors come to the Museum every year.

Since the exhibit is still in the developmental stage, Jeff is seeking photographs, documents, and artifacts relating to the Rustics and other FACs that would be suitable for the new exhibit and for preserving the history of the US Air Force.

If you have any items to contribute (uniforms, patches, photos, maps, or whatever) please contact Jeff at:

NMUSAF/MUA (USAF Natl. Museum Historian)  
 1100 Spaatz St.  
 Wright-Patterson AFB OH 45433-7102  
 Tel: (937) 255-4644 ext. 740  
 E-Mail: [jeffery.underwood@wpafb.af.mil](mailto:jeffery.underwood@wpafb.af.mil)  
 Website: <http://www.wpafb.af.mil/museum/>

**Claude Newland** had a lengthy conversation with Jeff by phone. Jeff has taken a particular interest in overseeing the new FAC display since his brother was a Rustic. Here are the highlights of their conversation:

- The overall museum has grown considerable in the last 10 years.
- Now 17 acres of exhibit space and additional buildings are being added.
- FAC aircraft on display: 0-1, 0-2, and OV-10
- The FAC display will be a permanent addition to the museum.
- They'd appreciate having a copy of our Rustic Book CD. (Did we send them one already?)
- Other Museum FAC Stuff:
  - \* Misty FAC info
  - \* Night Owl flight Suit
  - \* Photo of Pave Nail OV-10
  - \* SA-7 Strella missile
  - \* Red Marker Uniform
- Looking for (would like) a starlight scope
- They will gladly accept any items we have for preservation
- Every donated item will be archived and given a "succession number" for accurate record keeping.
- Donors will get a receipt and succession number info, etc.
- This is a new project, so it's a work in progress.
- They hope to have a decent display available for the Oct 2006 All FAC reunion.

*OK, guys, our present dilemma is that two very well meaning museums are now vying for your Rustic memorabilia; the OBA/FACM in Fort Worth, TX and Natl. Museum of the USAF at Dayton, OH. In the future you will have to make a decision... which to contribute to...but the good news is we probably have enough "stuff" to satisfy/outfit both museums. The important thing is that your "stuff" doesn't end up on E Bay or in the garbage. We leave it to you to decide where your things will go.*

## CALENDAR:

- 1) Cowtown Warbird Roundup, 12 Aug 2006, Ft Worth, TX
- 2) 3) ACA Reunion: 6-9 Oct, 2006, Ft Walton Beach, FL
- 3) Air Force Memorial Dedication, Arlington, VA, 14-15 Oct 06.
- 4) All FAC Reunion: 4-9 Oct 2006, Dayton, OH.
- 5) Next Bronco Fest. Summer 2007, Ft Worth, TX
- 6) Rustic Reunion: 18-21 Oct 2007: Ft Walton Beach, FL.

**SEA TRIP REPORT (BILL ERNST, Rustic 04):** My wife and I just returned from a trip to Southeast Asia. We departed Honolulu on March 2 and returned on the 14th. Our tour was offered by the 15 SVS/SVRI office (Information, Tickets & Tours) 900 Hangar Ave. Hickam AFB, HI 96853-5246. Our guide was **Mrs. Gerri King**, [gerri.king@hickam.af.mil](mailto:gerri.king@hickam.af.mil), 808-271-9455. She manages the office for the Services Squadron and has been conducting tours for many years. Our group consisted of five couples, one widower and Mrs. King.

We flew on China Airlines to Bangkok, toured for several days and then flew on March 7th via Bangkok Airways to **Siem Reap**. Our local guide met us at the airport and took us to the hotel in an air conditioned bus. US Dollars are the preferred currency. Temperature was about 90 each day so you need to carry bottled water. After check in we began our tour of the temples. The next day we toured Angkor Wat and Angkor Thom, the two largest temples. The next day we visited several smaller temples, the Landmine Museum and went for a boat ride on the Tonle Sap lake to visit a fishing village and rode on elephants to visit a temple on top of a hill. We visited some interesting places on our day of departure and our guide took us to the airport.

I was fortunate to have flown over Angkor Wat while working as a Rustic and have read some books and articles about the temples. My first impression of the Siem Reap airport was that it was neat, clean, new buildings, a control tower, a B-737, a AN 22, and several other twin engine aircraft were on the ramp. Personnel inside the terminal building were efficient and many spoke English.

I was astounded to learn that there are 80 hotels in town and more under construction. Route 6 is paved and goes from Thailand to Siem Ream to Phnom Penh and the road from the center of Siem Reap to Angkor Wat is paved, all the rest of the roads are dirt. The hotels appear to be owned by investors from other countries and the site, because of the temples, is rapidly becoming a major tourist stop in Asia

Unfortunately, the general population is extremely poor. They do not have the basic fundamentals that we usually take for granted like drinking water, sanitation facilities, shelter, food, jobs, clothing, medical care etc. In addition, the real threat of land mines is everywhere that some one else or a large animal has not been. The landmine museum is nothing more than a roof under which is a display of thousands of munitions, some photos, maps and descriptions, and the sleeping hammocks for several amputees. Most of the houses are thatch huts without doors or windows, no running water or electricity, and no attempt at sanitation. Clothes and shoes are scarce to non-existent. You must drink bottled water and be very careful where and what you eat.

The temples were spectacular when you consider that they are about 1,000 years old. Those that were made of sandstone show the effects of erosion due to rain, wind and the sun. Many of them have parts that have been destroyed by war or by looters. The carvings are extensive and show that the carvers had great skill. We were told that the blocks of stone were taken from a quarry 53 KM away, and that they were hauled by a herd of 4,000 elephants. Angkor Wat is surrounded by a moat that is about 1,000 meters on a side and about 300 meters wide. All of the temple sides are aligned with N, S, E and West, with West being the major entrance. A causeway built of large blocks crosses the Angkor Wat moat to the West entrance. The moat is about 25 feet above the moat and wide enough for 10 or 12 people to walk abreast.

We left on March 10 and flew to Bangkok and then to Kuala Lumpur to finish our tour in Malaysia. All of the foreign carriers were clean, efficient and their food was excellent.

If you are interested in a tour to Cambodia, I recommend that you consider this tour. It is not considered safe to visit Phnom Penh at this time. The tour office at Hickam schedules about 7 or 8 tours each year. Hong Kong is usually scheduled in the first week of December and Vietnam is usually visited in April.

Contact me if you're interested in more info. I have a lot of information on websites, references and guide books, etc.

**STATUS OF PATRICK OV-10s.** Rustic **George Larson** recently inquired about the status of the Patrick OV-10s. **Eric Huppert** provided the following information on the FACNET.

"Hi guys, I can confirm that the State [Dept] is still using the heck out of the Broncos downrange. Lately they have been taking some big hits...one landed gear up recently after taking rounds in the wheel well severing one release cable.

State just received money to pull the last remaining Ds out of the boneyard. Marsh Aviation in Mesa AZ is converting them to what I called the "G" model when I was Deputy Director of Ops there: 4 bladed Ham Stds, new internal hopper, hydraulic spray system, Garmin 430s, digital electronic HSI and new engine instrumentation. The first one is in the hangar @ Patrick along with one mothballed D and two operational Ds as well. But those two Ds are down right now because the last of the 3 bladed props have been sent downrange to replace holed ones.

---



There hasn't been much flying going on around Patrick lately for a number of reasons but that will pick up here in the near future.

My good friend replaced me as deputy ops director so if anyone has any questions please email me and the answer is a phone call away. I was just in the hangar and had a few beers with him on Friday.

Does anyone on the list have any info on AF tail number 67-14614? If any of you have this one in your logbooks I'd really appreciate some info on it. Was it written off the books after the hurricane at Homestead?

Thanks for any help." Cheers **Eric Huppert**, EHuppert@aol.com

**USMC LOOKS TO REVIVE OV-10s FOR USE IN IRAQ.** By **Joshua Kucera**, JDW Staff Reporter, Washington, DC, Jane's Defence Weekly, April 12, 2006

The U.S. Marine Corps is looking at the possibility of reviving the retired OV-10 Bronco observation aircraft for use in Iraq, according to a top service official. The aircraft, which was retired from U.S. service in 1994, would be used to augment surveillance of roads in Iraq.

Having additional aircraft there could increase the chances of U.S. forces detecting the emplacement of roadside bombs or improvised explosive devices (IEDs), some service officials believe. "If this is a capability we think that will take out the IED or help us catch the IED maker ... you bet [we are interested]," a senior marine commander told Jane's.

Service officials, with the help of an association of retired OV-10 pilots, have identified aircraft and pilots that could be used in Iraq, he said. The Marine Corps Warfighting Laboratory has been tasked to examine the cost of such a plan and the concept of operations it might use, the commander added.

However, not all marine officials are enamoured with the idea. Lieutenant General John Castellaw, the service's deputy commandant for aviation, told Jane's he thought the experience of the Gulf War showed that the aircraft was too vulnerable.

Marsh Aviation, which manages the inventory of the government-owned OV-10s and does upgrade work for international OV-10 customers, could remanufacture 10 or 12 of the aircraft suitable for military use by piecing together parts of various aircraft, said Floyd Stilwell, Marsh Aviation's chief executive officer. The company could start delivering aircraft within 10 months at a normal production rate and faster if the government paid for it, Stilwell said.

The OV-10 proposal is one of many schemes - often secretive - to revive retired aircraft or convert civilian aircraft for use in operations in Iraq and elsewhere.

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

From **Bill Nichols**, [wrungt@hotmail.com](mailto:wrungt@hotmail.com), May 04, 2006

Claude, I got your email from the Rustic webpage. We have two Cessna O2-As, 67-21353 (up and flying) and 68-11152 (just came to us on a trailer). I am interested in any information or if someone may know these aircraft I would like to talk to them, or they may like to come by and take a look. They are at the Aerocountry airport in McKinney Texas. I have been using 67-21353 (we call her N5252C) for my everyday flier. My phone number: 972-978-2357. Thanks, **Bill**.

**3<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL COWTOWN WARBIRDS ROUND-UP.** Gary Goff, Dir. of Public Relations, OV-10 Bronco Assn., joepilot@integrity.com.

FORT WORTH, TX – The OV-10 Bronco Association the Forward Air Controller's Museum and the Vintage Flying Museum have set Saturday, August 12, 2006 as the date for their 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Cowtown Warbird Roundup. This year's theme is "Welcome Home Vets." The event will be open to the public from 11:00 AM until 4:00 PM. All activities will take place at the Vintage Flying Museum facility at Meacham Field in Fort Worth at 505 NW 38<sup>th</sup> Street, Hangar 33s.

This year's fund raising event will incorporate numerous present day jet and helicopter military aircraft for display and inspection. August 12<sup>th</sup> also coincides with the USMC/Combat Helicopter Association's annual reunion, which is taking place in Fort Worth this year. Members of that organization will be attending the Roundup as part of the "Welcome Home Vets" celebration. A broad range of aircraft from World War II to Korea to Vietnam and today will be available for inspection by visitors. Aircraft that have been invited include;

US Air Force:	A-10, F-15, F-16, T-6A, T-37, T-38, QF-4
US Navy:	T-2, T-6, T-34, T-39, T-44, T-45
US Marine Corp:	C-130, F/A-18, AH-1, UH-1, CH-46, CH-53,
Army National Guard:	AH-1, CH-47, OH-58
US Coast Guard:	H-64, DA-20,
Civilian:	T-28, O-1, OV-10, L-5, L-17, O-2, A-1

In addition to these aircraft, the Forward Air Controller's Museum will dedicate it's newly restored US Air Force O-2 Sky-master. Activities are also planned for children. Food and beverages will be available along with other concessions and attractions. Admission will be \$5.00 per person at the gate, no advanced sales. Children under 12 can attend free of charge if accompanied by an adult. Active and reserve servicemen and women, in uniform, will also be admitted free of charge. More details will be available as the event approaches.

Proceeds from this event will help the OV-10Brocno Association, Forward Air Controller's Museum and the Vintage Flying Museum pursue their goals of restoring aircraft for display to the public and provide education programs of an aviation nature to the Fort Worth community. Volunteer assistance to help make this event a success is also needed.

From **Jon Polk**, son of **Chris Polk**, [jonpolk@aol.com](mailto:jonpolk@aol.com), to **Tom Capps**, [tomcapps@nc.rr.com](mailto:tomcapps@nc.rr.com)

Hi Tom, I just wanted to drop you a note to say a heartfelt thank you for the CD you sent with photo images and short movie clips you took at my father, **Chris Polk's**, memorial service at Arlington National Cemetery. You really took some fantastic shots of the event. Although the occasion was sad, the weather and 'pageantry' were beautiful and it's nice for us to have those 'digital' memories to hold onto. My 3 year old son, Henry, loves to watch the procession with the Band over and over. The whole experience made quite an impression on him and I know many years from now he will be glad to have the photos to look back on. Hope you are doing well. Thanks, again, Jon



**Chris Polk's Funeral Service at Arlington**



**L-R: Louise Sagor, Doug Aitken, Kate Lecky & Jon Safley**

*Editor's Note: Photo on the right shows Chris's first wife, Loiuse, and his second wife Kate.*

**OV-10 #426 GETTING NEW LIFE IN THE OBA/FACM AIR PARK.** OBA **Jim Hodgson**. As many of you know first hand, a lot of work has gone into our air park. One of those air-planes is Marine OV-10 #426. Here is a picture supplied to us by **Dick McCord** from 1974.





***If you're in the area, this should prove be a great FAC community gathering and a great event to attend.***

**VIETNAM POW EXHIBIT OPENS AT THE AIR FORCE MUSEUM, DAYTON, Ohio (AFPN)** -- Visitors can get a rare glimpse into the lives of prisoners of war through a dramatic new exhibit at the National Museum of the United States Air Force. The exhibit, titled "Return with Honor: American Prisoners of War in Southeast Asia," located in the museum's Modern Flight Gallery, is now open to the public.

Visitors enter the exhibit next to a reproduced doorway to the "Hanoi Hilton," the name given by Americans to Hoa Lo Prison. Photographs, videos, dioramas and artifacts tell the story of prisoner torture, political exploitation, filthy living conditions and endless attempts at communist indoctrination.

Visitors can look inside re-created, life-size prison cells for an up-close picture of POW living conditions. Several artifacts, including handmade games, rings, cigarette cases and clothing that were created by the prisoners during their confinement, also are on display.

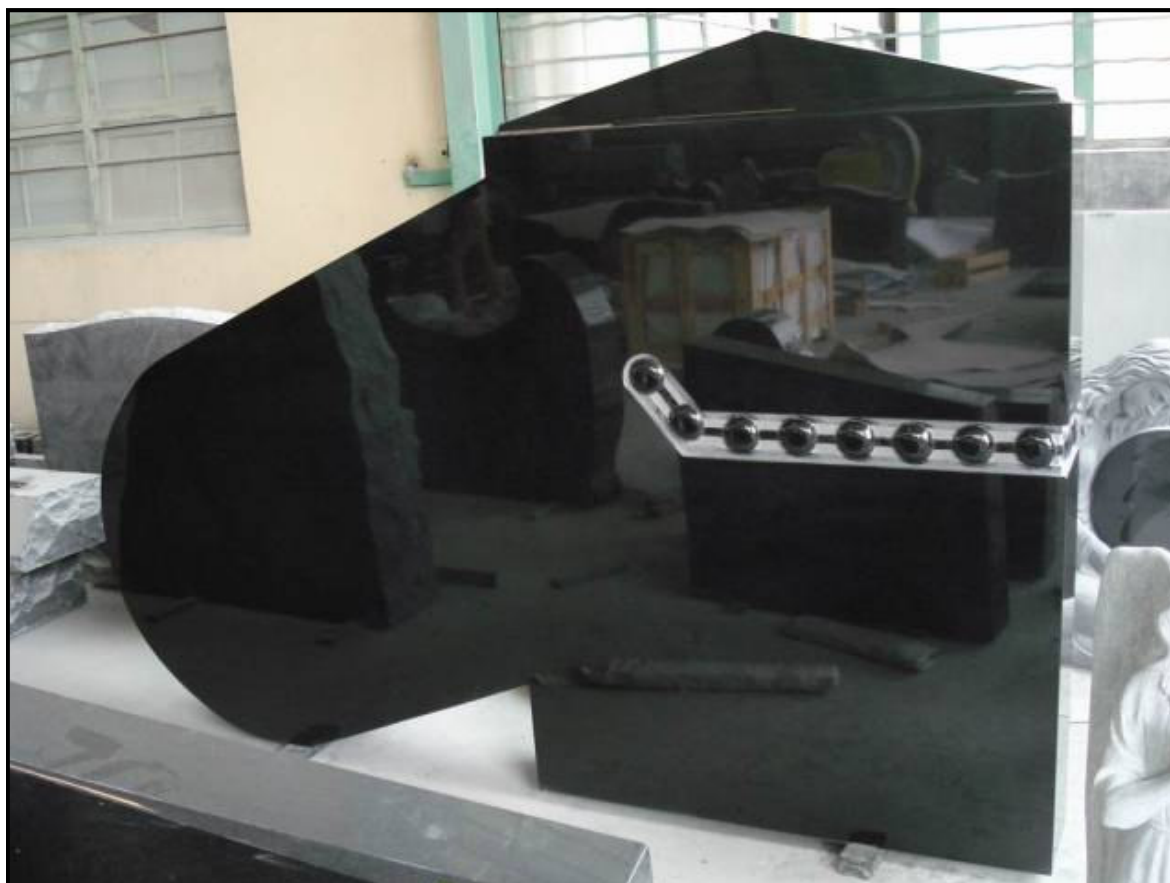
"We are extremely honored to have an exhibit that pays tribute to the courage and bravery exemplified by these POWs," said museum director Charles D. Metcalf. "The POW story is one that ignites emotion and this exhibit will give visitors a greater understanding of the inhumane conditions the POWs endured."

The exhibit also features a Son Tay prison camp rescue raid display. Although the raiders in November 1970 found that the prison camp did not hold any POWs, the raid proved a success in other ways. A daring raid so close to Hanoi showed that the United States had the will to carry out exceptional operations to ensure POW well-being. POW morale soared on account of the raid.

The exhibit also highlights the story of U.S. forces' final combat in Southeast Asia, which occurred in May 1975 when the American cargo ship SS Mayaguez was seized by the Cambodian Khmer Rouge navy while it was in international waters. Featured in this display are a life ring from the Mayaguez and a beret worn by one of the pararescue men who participated in the operation.

The National Museum of the United States Air Force is located on Springfield Pike, six miles northeast of downtown Dayton. It is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. seven days a week (closed Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day).

Admission to the museum and parking are free. For more information about this and other exhibits at the museum, please call (937) 255-3286, Ext. 302. Also, visit the web site at <http://www.wpafb.af.mil/museum/>.



**Actual Stone for the New Memorial**





Rustic FAC Association  
4033 Indian Trail Drive  
Destin, FL 32541

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Volume 10, Issue 3

15 September 2006



# Rustic News

**www.rustic.org**

## Board of Directors:

**President:** Claude Newland, Rustic19@cox.net  
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**Director:** Doug Aitken, daitken@nc.rr.com  
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**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

**RUSTIC REUNION GETTING CLOSER:** Just twelve months till the Rustics flock back to the crystal white beaches of the Emerald Coast for their next reunion on 18-21 Oct 2007 at the Ramada Plaza Beach Resort in Ft Walton Beach, FL. Sun, sand, beaches, 'buds,' and great camaraderie; what a combination! Bring your spouse or guest and start making plans now to attend. See you there!

**PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS:** This is the Rustic FAC Association's (RFA) annual newsletter which means every Rustic will receive a copy. We want to stay in touch with *ALL* Rustics—members and non-members alike. However, if you're

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not a member, we want you to know that you're missing approx 75% of the news we share with each other, so we hope you'll give membership some thought and consider joining us.

Some exciting things are happening within the RFA, as well as within the entire FAC community. FAC aircraft are being restored, aircraft and unit histories are being written, SEA photos are being preserved on a Rustic Photo Album CD, a FAC museum is blossoming in Ft Worth, TX, and FAC reunions in Dayton and Australia are looming. This newsletter will bring you partially up-to-date.

Two other important reasons for being part of the association: "You" make a BIG difference in the lives of a few Cambodians when you join with your other Rustic brothers in supporting the House of Hope and children's orphanage in Kompong Cham. We are consistently amazed at how much they accomplish with the funds they receive...and it is greatly appreciated. Your contributions do make a difference!

Lastly, this has been a hard year for the Rustics. **Arnie Sims**, **Chris Polk** and now **Sy Gaskill** have slipped the surly bonds...more of life's way of poking us in the eye and reminding us that life is short and we are no predictors of the future. Others have had illness or are dealing with difficult family circumstances. Either way, we want to provide wingman support and be of assistance if needed. If you've got a Rustic "bud" you haven't talked to lately, maybe it's time to check-in with him.

You can be justly proud of your association officers, directors, and volunteer project officers. They are doing a great job. Till next time, keep your mach up and hope to see you in Ft Walton Beach in 2007. **Claude**

**ANNUAL DUES ARE DUE:** Yep, another year has passed and its time to renew our memberships for 2007. (You can check your newsletter mailing address label to find out when your dues expire). Please complete the Membership Renewal form at the end of the newsletter and return it to **Don Ellis** (See form for details.) Remember, it's your membership and dues that keep us going! Most would agree, \$20/year is a small price to pay to stay in touch with your Rustic "buds" and reap the benefits of membership which include reunions and numerous FAC history preservation projects. *Thanks to all who have been active supporters of the association throughout the years!*

**TREASURER'S REPORT (Don Ellis):** The association is in great financial condition. Here's a summary of the 31 Jul 06 Financial Report.

Cambodian Charities	\$ 788.30	Savings Acct Bal:	\$ 4,859.89
Cambodian Reunion Support	483.08	Certificate of Deposit	\$ 8,205.84 (@ 4.29%)
Lifetime Dues	8,300.00	Certificate of Deposit	\$ 5,000.00 (@ 5.30%)
Memorial Fund	415.00		
House of Hope	612.00		
Orphanage	.00		
General	<u>7,517.94</u>		
Balance:	\$18,116.32		

## PERSONNEL UPDATES:

**Roland Deshaies** Cell Phone 864-303-8197.  
**Jon Safley** rdleader@verizon.net  
**Simon P. Gaskill Family** 1359 Coral Place, Hampton, VA 23669 757-224-8330  
**Chuck Bopp** Col, USAF (Ret) 3216 Stonehenge Ln., Carrollton, TX 75006  
**Doc Thomas** 6364 Devonshire Ave, St. Louis, MO 63109

**SY GASKILL, RUSTIC 09, MAKES FINAL FLIGHT WEST.** **Simon P. Gaskill II**, one of our Bien Hoa OV-10 pilots, slipped the surly bonds on Thursday morning, 17 Aug 2006. Sy was at home when he apparently had an asthma attack that led to a fatal heart attack. (Sy had a history of asthma problems.) His funeral service was held Wed, 23 Aug 2006, at St Vincent DePaul's Catholic Church in Newport News, VA. As many of you may recall, Sy was our 1997 Rustic reunion banquet master of ceremonies.

Prior to the services, **Claude Newland** was in touch with the Gaskill family. Sy's wife, "**Ree**", decided to carry on the tradition of throwing a symbolic "Nickel on the Grass" to honor Sy, so she placed two nickels in Sy's casket; one dated 1970, the year Sy served in SEA and one dated 2006, the year of his passing.

The family has established a **Simon P. Gaskill, III, Scholarship Fund** for their son who is a junior at North Carolina A & T State University, Sy's alma mater. If you would like to honor Sy' memory in this fashion, it will be greatly appreciated. Please send your contribution to: Ree's address: 1359 Coral Place, Hampton, VA 23669

If any of you have any personal stories about Sy that you would like to share with the family, they would appreciate hearing from you.

*Editor's note:* Sy apparently never purchased a copy of the Rustic's original book, "The Rustics-A top Secret Air War in Cambodia, so **Claude Newland** purchased a copy for the family and overnighted it to them.

## WINGMAN SUPPORT:

1) **Bill Sleight**, Rustic 12, has been diagnosed with acute leukemia. Bill was admitted to the Moffett Cancer Center in Tampa, FL on Thursday, 18 Aug. Prior to his treatment, Bill had lost a lot of weight, slept a lot, and was pretty weak. Having completed his first week of chemo, he was doing better. Following the chemo, he underwent bone marrow tests.

Great news—on 6 Sep, Bill reported "the bone marrow responded so they are looking to discharge me home in 1-2 weeks. Lots of close monitoring and follow up chemo perhaps in the future but could not ask for better news than this for now. So much support, calls, thoughtful cards and prayers that I cannot begin to express my thanks. Will keep in touch." Bill



Bill has a lap top with him at the hospital. He can be reached at: Moffitt Cancer Center, 12902 Magnolia Tampa, FL 33612 (room 410). Room phone (813) 745-2410. E-mail: [plumber59@hotmail.com](mailto:plumber59@hotmail.com)

*Bill, we'll continue to pray for your full and speedy recovery!*

2) Our condolences go to **Walt Friedhofen** whose mother passed away on Wed, 28 Jun.

**HISTORY OF RUSTIC OV-10 # 639 BEING WRITTEN – INPUTS NEEDED.** Did you fly OV-10 # 639? She was assigned to the 19 TASS and many Rustics flew her. The Aussies have obtained 639. She is being restored and will be placed in the Australian War Museum, Treloar Annex. They hope to have her ready by 2008 when the Aussies will host another Down Under ALL FAC reunion. The Aussies are also researching and trying to compile the history of this bird.

Since the Rustics flew her, we would like to contribute our portion to the history. If you've flown missions in 639, please send your inputs (mission dates and story(s), type mission, crew, and any particulars you recall) to **Jim Gabel**, Rustic Historian, at: 2556 Lindsey Drive, Rapid City, SD 57702 or [jagabel@aol.com](mailto:jagabel@aol.com).

**BAD EMAIL ADDRESSES?** Our Database Keeper, **Lendy Edwards** reports the following bad email addresses.. We ask the following Rustics, or anyone who has a good address on them, to please contact Lendy and give him the correct address at: [lendy@cox.net](mailto:lendy@cox.net).

Phillip Morneault [sabramorneault@wmconnect.com](mailto:sabramorneault@wmconnect.com) mailbox not found

Mark Krupinski [citabria@pci.net](mailto:citabria@pci.net) Reason: Over quota

Norm Falcon [normfalcon@aol.com](mailto:normfalcon@aol.com)

Tom Jamrosy [tjamrosy291890MI@comcast.net](mailto:tjamrosy291890MI@comcast.net).

Ed Boggess [ed.boggess@tcb.state.tx.us](mailto:ed.boggess@tcb.state.tx.us)

Arnie Franklin [afranklin1@mindspring.com](mailto:afranklin1@mindspring.com)

Tom Virnig [tomvirnig1@msn.com](mailto:tomvirnig1@msn.com)

Mike Thrower [hitmysmoke@attg.net](mailto:hitmysmoke@attg.net) Reason: not our customer

Tom Canter [tcanter@warwick.net](mailto:tcanter@warwick.net) User unknown

Bill Healey [billhealey@sprintmail.com](mailto:billhealey@sprintmail.com) User unknown

Bill Voss [voss\\_bill@msmail.asd.k12.ak.us](mailto:voss_bill@msmail.asd.k12.ak.us)

Norm Cimon [ncimon@oregontrail.com](mailto:ncimon@oregontrail.com)

**ARE YOU A "SHAR" HEAD?** **Roger Hamann** would like to encourage our "SHAR" heads (Still Haven't Attended a Reunion) to come join us in 2007. In particular, he'd like to see all of his fellow Ubon GIBs who served with him during the Nov 71-Aug 72 timeframe to get themselves down to Florida for our 2007 reunion. As someone stated earlier, this will mark the 10th anniversary of the first Rustic reunion, and even though some of us are still relatively young, none of us are getting any YOUNGER. Personally, there are a few guys I haven't seen since we left Ubon in '72....and they now live right there in Florida! Soooooo.....Claude, you might just have to go the "Commanders Call" route to get some of these "SHAR heads" to show up.

Also....side note.....does anyone have any idea what ever happened to Ting, that cute little barmaid at the Rustic hooch?



**Ting**

**HISTORIAN REPORT: Jim Gabel.** I've forwarded the first installment of **Clint Murphy's** memorabilia (that I received from **Emile Brunelle**) to **Doug Aitken** for inclusion in Doug's Rustic SEA Home Movie project. After Doug is done with these items, he will send them on to **"Crash" Helm** who will glean what he can for his Rustic SEA Photo History CD project. Items included: 517 slides and thirty nine 50-foot reels of home movies. Included in the slides are 13 of OV-10 83-825 of which the FACM will be interested in getting copies.

*Does anyone else have pictures of OV-10 825? If so, please notify **Jim Gabel**. This gallant war bird is being restored and we'd like copies of your pictures. If able, please provide any information on type of mission, date(s), crew, etc.*

**NED HELM CONTINUES WORK ON RUSTIC SEA PHOTO ALBUM CD PROJECT:** Your Rustic photos, slides and photo albums are a treasure trove of history that the association wants to preserve. If you haven't sent your Rustic slides, photos or albums to Ned to be scanned, we ask that you do TODAY. Only one year remains to complete this extensive project which will be unveiled at our 2007 reunion. If you have items to contribute, please contact Ned at [ned@wingset.com](mailto:ned@wingset.com) or call 850-585-6594.

Ned recently finished copying **Zot Barazzotto's** slides and is now working on **Ron Dandeneau's** photo album. Ned promises to be careful with your crusty old photo albums and handle them with care. He'll coordinate with you if there are any problems scanning your pictures. **The final product is going to be a CD which will contain the most comprehensive photographic history of the Rustics--in the whole world!** If you've been draggin' your feet on this, it's time to get on-board! Don't be left out.

**HOUSE OF HOPE AND KOMPONG CHAM ORPHANAGE:** **Lendy Edwards** recently notified the House of Hope director, **Diane Moss**, that a Rustic check for \$1,469 was "in the mail" The money was earmarked as follows:

\$469 – Orphanage: writing books and supplies and school uniforms

\$500 – House of Hope

\$500 – General Help Fund for unforeseen local emergencies.

**Diane's response:**

"Hi, WOW!!!! Yeah Rustics and God too! This is really wonderful. We just received permission to start teaching about peace building at prison, orphanage and in elementary schools as well...the emergency fund will go a long way and I will let you know how and when it is used. Most likely it will be for poor folks who have spouses injured or killed in road accidents and need immediate treatment or help with living for a month or so to get back on feet. This will be such a blessing! Can't wait to share with you as it is used. Gratefully! **diane**

**FAC MUSEUM:** **Jim Gabel** reports the FACM was very pleased to get our \$500 sponsorship renewal, as the bills were adding up from the FACM build-out in preparation for the Cowtown Warbird Roundup which was held on 12 Aug. 2006. I am sure we will hear how that effort turned out before our meeting adjourns - as soon as the Fort Worth locals have time to decompress.

**DAYTON FAC MEMORIAL BEING READIED.** **Zot Barazzotto.** The pad is poured & progress on everything else continues. Everything will be ready for the big dedication ceremony in Oct. So far, over 250 FACs are registered for the Dayton Reunion, 4-8 Oct 2006. It's going to be historic gathering, so come join us!



The photo to your left was submitted by Zot Barazzotto. The individuals are as follows:

**L to R - Col Chuck Poore (AF), KC Hill (Army), Zot, Jim Schumaker (Tum 406, AF Ret, works at the NMUSAF) and Mark Kaharski (Army, Pres of the local chapter of the VVA, Pres of the Vietnam Park Board and the guy who made it happen because he is an ace construction guy and very hard worker.)** Crew included **Fred Pumroy** and **Ed Cope** who weren't available for the picture.

**RUSTIC BIRD OV-10 # 825 REASSEMBLED.** Jim "Boomer" Bloomberg, Director of Aviation Operations of the OV-10 Bronco Association (OBA) reports that OV-10 #825 was completely reassembled on June 25, 2006 by 12:30 pm local. We completed the reassembly of USAF OV-10A 825 at OBA Headquarters. The work day began at 0700 and despite high temperatures, tedious work, and lots of pounding, twisting, and turning. By noon we had 825 completely reassembled, back on her gears, and parked next to USMC OV-10A 426.

This banner day is of significant to the OBA and the FAC community in that both our USAF and USMC aircraft had very long combat lineages beginning in SEA, through the Cold War, and continued to serve our nation with the U.S. Forestry Service and the California Department of Forestry.

The team that reassembled this combat veteran was directed by Bill "Spider" Spidle. Others included **Johnnie Eller, Keith "AO" Dunn, James "Wilbur" Eaton, Dale Ross Stith, Buck Allbright, Carl Hinshaw, Glenn Hill, and Jim "Boomer" Bloomberg.**

This day could not have been possible without the support and faith of our OBA and FAC Community Veterans. This is YOUR day. In the very near future we'll post pictures on our website.



**UPDATE FROM THE 74 FIGHTER SQUADRON, RUSTIC A-10s.** Capt John Platt, 74 FS/DOA, sent the following message to **Doug Aitken** on 5 Jul.

Doug, we are all doing fine. The squadron's PCS to Georgia starts in the spring of next year. It will be a lengthy process taking up the remainder of FY07.

As for the Ohio trip (All FAC Reunion in Oct), I am coordinating with Zot [Barazzotto] trying to get at least a 2 ship up there to fly, hoping for 4 and there is talk by the new CC that he wants as many of us as possible to go (maybe Sqn Funded?) and make a show with you guys.

**Lt Col Cowan**, our former CC, is now the chief of officer assignments at AFPC and **Lt Col Plamp**, our former Ops, is now a predator squadron commander out at Creech. The new guys are just as enthusiastic about our ties to the Rustics.

Any interest in another visit from the original Rustics? I am sure we could set it up.



## SHORT BURSTS:

- 1) **Nomination Letter.** The Association's letter nominating **Jerry Dufresne** to have his name inscribed on the rear canopy rail of OV-10 825 has been sent to the OV-10 Bronco Association and FAC Museum Steering committee.
- 2) **Bob and Dorte Clifford** will make their annual visit to Destin from Denmark. They will be in Destin from 11 Sept - 11 Oct. 'Time to get the local Rustics together for a roof stomping.
- 3) **Rustic Family Gets Bigger:** Congratulations go to following who have become grandparents (again):  
**Claude and Tona Newland** – Grandson **Ryan**  
**Jim And Marcia Reese** – Granddaughter **Sawyer**  
**Walt and Sharon Friedhofen** - Grandson
- 4) **Jim and Lynne Nuber** are planning to move in the Fall from Huntington Beach, CA to Prescott, AZ, where they are building a retirement home.
- 5) An Associated Press article, "**Walking Cambodia's genocide trail**" where dark tourism may bring cash to a poor nation, can be found at: <http://www.azstarnet.com/dailystar/dailystar/141873.php>
- 6) **Khmer Rouge "Butcher" Ta Mok** died this past month of natural caused in Phnom Penh. He was in his 80s and in poor health with respiratory problems. **Ta Mok** was expected to be one of the first people tried for genocide and crimes against humanity at UN-backed hearings due to start next year. He was one of only two surviving Khmer Rouge commanders in detention, and with most of the remaining figures from the regime in poor health, some analysts question whether the trials have been left too late to see justice served. As **Doug Aitken** said, "He died too easy."
- 7) **9/11 five years later.** Did you know that **Doc Thomas's** niece was one of the flight attendants on the first United plane hijacked by the terrorists?
- 8) **Websites of interest** sent in by **Doug Aitken:** Check 'em out:
  - a) <http://www.squawk-flash.org/links.htm> - Lists links to other Vietnam and/or Aviation sites including Rustics.
  - b) [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FAC\\_TASS/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FAC_TASS/) - TASS Group website you can subscribe to.

**MIKE KIRALY, RUSTIC 22, WITNESSES POWS RETURN TO THE PHILIPPINES.** FACNET. I too flew on one of the first C-141s to go into Hanoi to pick up POWs. I don't have the dates handy, but it was around Feb 73. I completed winter survival at Fairchild, and went down to Travis to ship out to SEA. My fellow OV-10 Hurlburt class mates who went through Fairchild with me all received cancellation orders to SEA and assignments stateside. However, there was no change of orders for me, so I pressed on to Travis to meet my port call, still a week or so away. I inquired at Travis about a change of orders, but there where none. I asked about getting out early and was told I would have to await my official port call. I checked into the Q's (late afternoon), fell exhausted on the bed, and the phone rang. They had a C-141 leaving in a couple of hours for Clark AB (I was going to Jungle survival) and they needed a courier to escort a pallet, did I want to go? I jumped at it, and as the sun set we headed west. Enroute, I got to talking to the pilot, and he said he was stopping at Clark to reconfigure and then was headed into Hanoi to pick up POWs. I don't know if he was the first, however, a couple of days later I went down to the Flight line at Clark to witness the arrival of the first POWs. It was all kind of surreal, since I was still bound for NKP (and eventually Ubon) to go to war, and here were the POWs being released.

### VIETNAM VETERAN'S TRAVELING WALL.

FACNET. On Aug 13, 2006, **Rog Hamann**, Rustic Yankee, sent in the following message. "I paid my respects at the Vietnam Veterans Traveling Wall last night. I thought the setting somewhat fitting as one of our Maine light houses cast it's ever watchful eye over our fallen brothers and sisters. A slow hand salute was rendered to **Richard Elzinga** (my POW/MIA bracelet vet), **Bill Sanders** (a fellow Maineiac and OV-10 guy), and my fellow Rustic brothers, **Mike Vrablick**, **Garrett Eddy** and **Joe Gambino**. Also left a nickel at the base of each panel for these guys.

As the sun set and darkness fell over the wall and its onlookers, the only lights visible were from those illuminating the wall and the flashing beacon from the light house. Surely, a time to reflect."



**Doc Thomas** experienced the traveling wall some years ago. "I spent a couple of hours on vigil one night in Anchorage 20 yrs ago. Guys came throughout the night. It's interesting to be there at night when those who want solitude come to it. When I was explaining how to use it, I accidentally pointed to the name of a Marine who had sat next to me for a couple of years in grammar school.

**ALL FAC ASSOC. DATABASE KEEPER NEEDS OUR HELP:** Please check your old orders for enlisted TASS members and forward them to **Jon Alexaitis**, the one person FAC Assn. Search Committee and Database Manager. If I don't know who they are, I can't find them. Any and all help on locating SEA TASS members is appreciated. I'll be glad to give tips and training on how to locate people, and then call them to confirm who they are. Lots of time they lead me to other people. Thanks and all the best. **Jon**, Nail 68 704 Sandlin Dr., Bedford, TX 76021, 817-581-8381

**DARREL WHITCOMB WRITING HISTORY OF PAVE NAIL OV-10s.** FACNET. Starting in mid 71, fifteen 23 TASS OV-10s were modified with the PAVE SPOT system. It was a LASER designator tied in to a LORAN. The pod had some magnification and was originally designed for use on the Ho Chi Minh Trail. Three aircraft were lost: March 72, over the Trail – Crew rescued.

April 72 in the Bat 21 rescue - one rescued, one POW

Sept 72, on a ferry mission to Da Nang - two rescued, but Nav had a broken back

The system was considered a failure and taken out of operation in late 73 - 74. It was not that effective for interdiction. But its real value was in SAR work. I believe that one of the pods is in the Weapons Museum at Eglin.

**OV-10 UPDATES:** FACNET: **Jim Hodgson** - txavi8or@comcast.net. The Colombian OV's are all part of the Foreign Military Sales program and they have been putting millions into them the last few years. Recently the Philippines have been doing the same upgrades to their airplanes. The PAF has been trying to acquire more OV's since the Thai AF stood them down. I would imagine they will all go to the PI "If and When" they retire them, but our sources tell us that won't be any time soon.

The Colombians don't have spray OV-10s, only DOS does. The Colombians fly theirs strictly as attack aircraft. The Philippines on the other hand have been dropping MK82s off of their OV-10s for years.

**AUSSIES PLANNING A 2008 FAC REUNION IN CANBERRA (Aussie's 'Washington DC').** Everyone is welcome. This should be a ripper of a FAC gathering! Here are some of the tentative plans.

24 Apr 08 - Attendees arrive in Canberra.

25 Apr 08 - Dawn Service followed by ANZAC Day March and National Commemoration at the Australian War Memorial. (Yes, we all march together in the Day March.)

26 Apr 08 - One day bus trip to Temora (FAC theme day) Temora is about 100 kms north of Canberra.

27 Apr 08 - Wine tour of the Canberra area - might even get Marty Susans (Retired RAAF Knuck) involved. Free time?

28 Apr 08 - Tour the Australian War Museum (AWM) with emphasis on the post WWII exhibition.

Possible trip to the Treloar Annex of the AWM and fit in some other casual social activities. Might also invite personnel from the FACU at WLM to participate in our activities. What ever transpires will depend on how much support (numbers) we will receive from the Kiwis and Americans.

The War Memorial is in the process of arranging the transfer of OV-10 No.639 from the Philippines to Canberra for refurbishment and eventual display at the Memorial. It should be in the AWM Treloar Annex by April 2008.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

**From Ree Gaskill, 8/21/06**

Claude, thanks to you and all the other Rustics for their words of kindness and support. I have the two nickels and they will be place in Simon's casket. God Bless you all and please keep us in your prayers. In His Name, Loretha (Ree) Gaskill (757) 224-8330 Home

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**From Ree Gaskill** 8/29/06

Claude, Thank you so much for the pictures and the book. I will read the FAC story and talk about it with much pride. Also, thank you for your generous gift to my son. It will help to pay for his books this semester. God Bless the FAC organization and especially you - for all you do.



**Sy Gaskill, George "Lunchbox" Larson and Mucha**

**From Charles Bopp** (ceebe@comcast.net)

I was the ALO/FAC with the 1st Brigade/1st Air Cav at Tan Son Nhut when the Rustic mission started. I as well as the rest of the Rash FACs flew several missions in Cambodia at the beginning of the Rustic campaign. I rotated in December 1970 and Major **Bob Stamm** from Indiana was my replacement. I flew as Rash 11 and Rustic 15 during my tour. I have provided the names of the FACs I flew with to **Jon Alexiatis** [FAC assoc Database Keeper].

I have not yet gotten into my log book to get that information [Rustic missions flown.] I will do it though. Alan **Metcalf** was one of the FACs in my unit and was transferred to the Rustics Unit. **Don Brooks** was with the 2nd Brigade of the 1st Air Cav. I was still there when he bailed out over Cambodia. When I get around to finding my log book I will send you more info. Thanks for keeping in touch, **Chuck**  
Col Chuck Bopp USAF (Ret), 3216 Stonehenge Ln., Carrollton, TX 75006

**From Gil Bellefeuille** (Tango):

Morning Claude, 'Just got the June newsletter. Lot of info. Thanks.

I will be finally touring the Air Force Museum at Wright Pat. Will be in Dayton from 7/5 to 7/21 training a new investigator. Weekends R free so will enjoy myself at the museum.

More great news about my bride. Ruth is all done with her ground training and is officially a USAF Reserves Flight Nurse, wings and all, and a senior Captain. She is now flying C-130s whenever possible to build up as much time as she can so she can become fully qualified. Once that happens we're still not sure what she will do. Best bet is to volunteer for a 120 day assignment somewhere. That way she will be down at the bottom of the list for an involuntary call up to some place she may not want to go to.

Our daughter starts at the Univ. of North Fl. (Jacksonville) on 6/22. I go under the laser on 6/15. Snoring is getting out of control. That's about it. Tks again for the newsletter. Gil

**From Doug Hellwig**, Jul 06

Claude, good to hear from you and that all is well in your neck of the woods. I still have my house in Salt Lake City and condo in Las Vegas, but I have just bought a small (160 ac) cattle/hay farm/ranch in Torrington, Wy. (90 mi No. of CYS).

I plan on farming it and feeding cattle. My plans are to make money trucking the cattle. I feel I'll do well to break even on farming the property, so I need to be creative to make it profitable.

I closed on the property May 1 and have been VERY busy just getting it shaped up for my plans. The previous owner had very little "pride of ownership." I have searched for the right property for years, so this was not an impulse endeavor.

My daughter in SLC will be 16 years old Jul 29 and driving--that'll give me much more time to be at the ranch. I plan to eventually make Wyoming my legal residence.

I have 2 full-time part-time men working now. I couldn't do it alone, sometimes it just takes 4 or 6 hands. My guys are learning to envisage what I need done and are taking the initiative. It sure makes a difference when I don't need to be there every minute and "baby sit" workers.

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Yes, my move coincided w/ the deterioration of Delta Air Lines. My plan is to make back the money I feel we'll lose in retirement. In fact, I rushed ahead w/ the deal while I could still qualify for the loan.

I am putting a lot of time and money into the property (\$10m) just to get it operational. In the worst case scenario, I feel I could sell it in a year and make back my investment plus a little profit. But, my goal is to make my plan successful.

Well, what can I say- just another pilot w/12 balls in the air and 3 escape routes! My best to Tona and the girls,  
Doug

From **Dave Van Dyke**:

Claude, It's the start of a new football season. These are some pics of the first tailgate. This is our new bus, all decked out in Chiefs decals and a new awning. This is a replacement bus for our old one that was wrecked after the Denver game last year. Four other guys & I are partners in this thing and it really enhances the game experience. Note the call sign under the cockpit sill. Just can't get enough of that Rustic 4. Thought it might be a human interest for the newsletter. If you want more info, just holler. Later roomie, 4 out



#### **CALENDAR:**

- 1) All FAC Reunion: 4-8 Oct 2006, Dayton, OH. A new FAC Memorial will be dedicated.
  - 2) Air Force Memorial Dedication, Arlington, VA, 14-15 Oct 06.
  - 3) Rustic Reunion: 18-21 Oct 2007: Ft Walton Beach, FL.
  - 4) Aussie sponsored FAC reunion, Apr 2008, Canberra, Australia
-

Complete this page and mail to Don Ellis, Treasurer, as indicated below.

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## 2007 Membership Renewal Form and Survey

I'd like to maintain my Rustic FAC Association membership in good standing, stay in touch with my Rustic buddies, continue receiving the Rustic newsletter, and help support efforts to promote Rustic FAC camaraderie, future reunions, and history projects. Enclosed are my dues for 2007.

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've got Rustic photos (or slides) that need to be included in the Rustic SEA Photo History Book project. Yes \_\_\_\_\_

I plan to come to the 2007 Rustic reunion      Definitely \_\_\_\_\_ Maybe \_\_\_\_\_ Can't make it \_\_\_\_\_

2007 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 2007 Reunion      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

2006 Tax Deductible Contribution to House of Hope      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

2006 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**

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Volume 10, Issue 4

15 December 2006



# Rustic News

**www.rustic.org**

## Board of Directors:

**President:** Claude Newland, Rustic19@cox.net  
**Vice President:** Jack Thompson, jackov10@sbcglobal.net  
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**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

**NEXT RUSTIC REUNION, 18-21 Oct 2007, Ramada Plaza Beach Resort, Ft Walton Beach, FL.** One of the highlights of the 2007 reunion will be a visit to the Naval Air Museum at Pensacola, FL. It's a class act that rivals the Air Force's Dayton Museum in quality. Come join us for sun, sand, seafood and Rustic camaraderie!

## **NEW F-14 FLYING SIMULATORS NOW AVAILABLE AT THE WORLD FAMOUS NAVAL AVIATION MUSEUM.**

Ready to light your hair on fire, fly the F-14 "Tomcat" at warp speed and then land on a carrier deck? You can do all of these during our next reunion in one of the four new flight simulators recently installed at the Naval Aviation museum.

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"Pensacola Mayor **John Fogg**, a former Blue Angels pilot, and retired Navy Vice Adm. **Gerald Hoewing**, president and chief executive officer of the museum's fundraising arm, cut the ribbon on the museum's four simulators in Sept.

"They each then jumped into an authentic F-14 cockpit for simulated flights over the deserts of California.

For 20 minutes, the two former pilots jetted across the landscape --displayed on video screens -- before landing their jets aboard a simulated Navy aircraft carrier.

"Afterward, a smiling Fogg said the simulators are about as authentic as it gets without strapping into the real thing. "That stuff makes you sweat," Fogg said. "Man, it was a lot of fun."

"For \$20, patrons get a 10-minute briefing in an authentic-looking "Ready Room," followed by a 20-minute flight programmed to customers' desires. The simulator controllers at the museum can custom design a flight scenario, offering customers a choice of 28 different airplanes to fly -- although all programs are run through the F-14 cockpit -- and about 15 different flight locations, including California, the Las Vegas Strip and Iraq.

"Once in the cockpit, customers, er, "pilots" can practice landings at various runways -- or aboard aircraft carriers -- or practice midair refuelings or even engage in bombing runs and white-knuck51 le dogfights.

"Among the simulations available are aircraft from World War II, Korea, Vietnam and many modern aircraft. If a pilot crashes, no harm done. Controllers hit the reset button and the flight continues or starts over from a different location.

"No experience necessary," said retired Marine Corps Col. Denis "Deej" Kiely, a museum spokesman. "Prior to flight, you get a 10-minute briefing, enough to negotiate basic flight maneuvers. We don't expect anyone to come in here and be a Blue Angel."



**MEMBERSHIP UPDATE/TIME TO RENEW YOUR 2007 MEMBERSHIP.** “Welcome” to two new Life members: **Phil Frischmuth** and **Jack Thompson!** We now have 44 life members and 25 2007 annual members.

A number of 2006 members have not yet renewed their membership. You know who you are... we hope you'll make the time to complete the enclosed 2007 Membership Renewal Form and get it in the mail. Your dues and active support are what make this association possible. Cleared Hot!!

**TWO MORE RUSTICS FOUND.** **Vaughan “Smitty” Smith** was located this past month: Smitty served in the Rustic Ubon Life Support section. He actually “found us” after hearing about our web site from another Rustic. This again shows how important our website is becoming in helping us locate those yet hard-to-find Rustics. Smitty now lives in Winchester, TN. Following his tour at Ubon, he had a tour with the 549<sup>th</sup> OV-10 Training Squadron at Hurlburt Field till '76. His Air Force career also included duty at Upper Hayford, Griffiss AFB, Taegu and Osan (Korea), Dyess AFB, German Rhein Mein, and a tour with the OA-10's at McChord AFB. On his initial contact, **Smitty** reports “Hi, this is **Vaughan (Smitty) Smith**, I was the Life Support guy Jan '72 til Dec '72. ‘Just wanted to let people know I'm still around. I've attached a picture of me at Ubon.”



**Harvey Cooper**, Rustic Intel at Bien Hoa also found us through the web page. He passed this to us: “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. BTW I am sitting about 4 feet from my Rustic FACS service plaque.” See Roster/Personnel Updates below for specifics on both of these guys. *Welcome aboard Smitty and Harvey.*

#### ROSTER/PERSONNEL UPDATES:

<b>Tom Adams</b>	<a href="mailto:minkmak@cox.net">minkmak@cox.net</a>
<b>Wayne "Stump" Baker</b>	26551 Hwy 84, Chromo, CO 81128, 970-264-9996 <a href="mailto:noelwayne@earthlink.net">noelwayne@earthlink.net</a>
<b>Chip Bahr</b>	602 S. Florida #936, Alamogordo, NM 88310. <a href="mailto:cmdrpost7686@hotmail.com">cmdrpost7686@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Tom Canter</b>	<a href="mailto:canter1@sc.rr.com">canter1@sc.rr.com</a> , He's a South Carolina resident now (from Don Ellis).
<b>Harvey Cooper</b>	16125 Burt Street, Omaha, NE 68118 402-498-2912 <a href="mailto:harvey.cooper@cox.net">harvey.cooper@cox.net</a>
<b>Don Echelberger</b>	312 Willow Way, Lynn Haven, FL 32444, 850-265-4042
<b>Wm. Larry Edmondson</b>	93 Hampton Dr, Eddyville, KY 42038 (270) 388-1972, <a href="mailto:ledmonson866@bellsouth.net">ledmonson866@bellsouth.net</a> , Wife: <b>Linda</b>
<b>Robert H. "Jess" Jessup</b>	281 Mount Olive Road, #LN1D, McDonough, GA 30253 (H) 770-853-7207 (W) 404-613-0851 <a href="mailto:gorln45@aol.com">gorln45@aol.com</a> .
<b>George Larson</b>	
<b>Bill Lemke</b>	670 Stoney Mountain Road, Hendersonville, NC 28791-1345 828-693-8866
<b>Bill McAdams</b>	296 King Ranch Ct, Fort Worth, TX 76108 (H) 817-448-8089...cell 817-360-8282
<b>Jim Nuber</b>	1439 Evening Shade, Prescott, AZ 86305 <a href="mailto:jnubes@cablone.net">jnubes@cablone.net</a> Cell is 714-858-7146; no home phone yet.
<b>Paul Rhiel</b>	(cell) (504) 715-7723 Condo: (504) 304-4484
<b>Vaughan “Smitty” Smith</b>	220 Vaughan Lane, Winchester, TN 37398 (931) 967-7800 <a href="mailto:ridgewalker1950@hotmail.com">ridgewalker1950@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Mike Thrower</b>	1108 Frenchtown Lane, Franklin, TN 37067 <a href="mailto:rusticfac@yahoo.com">rusticfac@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Tom Virnig</b>	<a href="mailto:tertommy@comcast.net">tertommy@comcast.net</a>

**“LOST” RUSTICS?** (Sep 06 newsletters were returned; may now be “missing.”) Last know addresses:

<b>Norm Falcon</b>	PO Box 3240, 132 Rainbow Dr., Livingston, TX 77399-1032
<b>Roger Lanoue</b>	308 Harrisgrove Lane, Yorktown, VA 23692
<b>Godfrey W. “Wendell” Pells</b>	760 San Aleso Ave, Sunnyvale, CA 94086 3326 Mountaire Dr., Antioch, CA 94509, Ph: 925-778-656, no email

*If you know of the whereabouts of the above Rustics or live in their areas, perhaps you can do a local search to help us find them. Contact **Rog Hamann**, Rustic Search Chairman, if you can help.*

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**WINGMAN SUPPORT.** **Bill Sleigh** recently completed a third round of chemotherapy treatment; here's his latest update:

"Gents, Nancy and I spent Thanksgiving week and then some down in Tampa for the third round of chemotherapy. We were able to spend Thanksgiving day with my sister and her family so the holiday was salvaged. Once back home I had to go into the hospital overnight for platelet infusion and continue infusions every other day as an outpatient. Now my white count is rock bottom so to avoid exposure to infection I'm sticking very close to home. Probably another 2 weeks before back to some resemblance of normal. This was the last planned chemo. They tell me that chemo alone in my situation will not be enough to prevent recurrence so Nancy and I met with the bone marrow transplant team while in Tampa. Will begin testing for that once the white cells etc. are back to normal.

"Everyone tells me I need to gain weight--117 lbs --presently so I am eating everything and anything which isn't a bad thing. Unless plans change, our next visit to Tampa is Jan 3 but just for a check up. That's us. I trust you all are getting ready for Christmas. I also trust the golfers are hard at work lowering their handicaps. Other than the low temps must admit the weather has been gorgeous. I sincerely pray that this finds everyone well and happy. God Bless. **Bill**

*Bill, enjoy the holidays and all that great food. You and Nancy will be in our prayers.*

**MICHAEL STERNS TAKES FINAL FLIGHT WEST.** **Winnie Stearns** contacted us on 25 November to notify us that her husband, Rustic Ubon pilot **Michael Stearns**, passed away on Nov 11, 2006. "Michael was a graduate of the United State Air Force Academy and served in SEA as both a Rustic and Raven FAC. He was shot down 2x's by enemy fire, and received 2 purple hearts.(some 30+ medals in all). He went on to be one of approximately 200 to achieve the status of Board Certified in Tax Law in the State of Texas, with degrees in Law, accounting and engineering." For Michael's full obituary and eulogy go to [Houstonchronicle.com](http://Houstonchronicle.com) and click on "Deaths" and type in "Stearns" in the search window.

Unfortunately for us, Michael was not active in our Association and did not attend any of our reunions; however, many of you knew him and may want to contact his family. Condolences may be sent to his wife **Winnie Stearns** at 2304 Country Club Drive, Pearland, Tx 77581. 281-485-7204



**LAST CALL FOR 2005 REUNION PHOTOS.** **REUNION PHOTO ALBUM CD NEARS COMPLETION.** **Jim Seibold** has completed his move to his new home and says is now back on task to complete a CD photo album of our 2005 Rustic reunion. This is 'LAST CALL' for your photo inputs. If ya got 'em, get 'em to Jim at: [DianeSeibold@aol.com](mailto:DianeSeibold@aol.com).

**ANOTHER RUSTIC CD POSSIBILLITY? (SEA-ERA SONGS.)** About 2 years ago **Jim Seibold** gave **Don Mercer** his reel-to-reels of songs from Viet Nam, like Save a fighter pilots ass, Downtown, Danang, etc etc. Don got them converted to a CD and gave Jim a copy at our last reunion. Here's Jim's assessment, "There are 33 songs total on 1 CD. Really brings back OLD MEMORIES. Naturally a lot of them have foul language but that was the time and the place where we were at. I can make copies for cost and maybe give them away to our guys or sell them for @ \$10 and after I deduct costs, @ \$1, or more if I have to mail them out, that would give us @ \$9 each to give to our 2 charities in Cambodia. What do you think?

*The Rustic Board just received this proposal, and would like to pursue it. 'We need to see if there are any copyright issues. More on this in future newsletters. What's your reaction? If you like the idea, let us hear from you.*

**ASSOCIATION ELECTIONS LOOMING.** If you'd consider serving as an association officer or director for the Oct 2007- Oct 2009 term, please contact one of the Directors. Nominations are being accepted. Elections will be held at the 20 Oct 2007 reunion business meeting.

**URGENT REQUEST FOR CAMBODIAN WINGS.** Does anyone have a set of Cambodian aviation wings? The association needs to replace a set that we borrowed, but now can't locate. **Doug Aitken** is serving as our point man. If you can help, contact Doug at [daitken@nc.rr.com](mailto:daitken@nc.rr.com) or call 910-295-5801.

**DAYTON FAC REUNION REPORT.** Over 350 FACs and friends attended the Oct 2006 Dayton FAC Reunion. What a great reunion it was! Rustic **Zot Barazzotto**, Reunion and FAC Memorial Chairman, and the Dayton crew put on a great show. Highlights of the reunion included a FAC symposium, dedication of a new FAC memorial, visits to the Air Force Museum, 0-1 and 0-2 rides, city tours, and two great banquets—one at the Air Force Museum and the finale at the Dayton Officers Club.

Two different "Rustic" groups were in attendance. SEA-era Rustics included: **Zot and Carol Barazzotto** (Reunion Chairman), **Claude and Tona Newland**, **Lendy and Sue Edwards** **Roger Dodd and Guest, Doug and Carol Aitken, Bill Ernst, Bill Carruthers and Family, Ron and Jeanette Van Kirk, Milt Ross, Dick Goddard, Tom Yarbrough and Larry Underwood.**

**Roger** provided keyboard and singing entertainment at the Fac Hootch on Thurs evening..."Waltzing Matilda", was one of the big favoites, especially with the Aussies. During the Sat. night banquet he wowed the audience by leading them in a moving rendition (and history) of the Star Spangled Banner.





New FAC Memorial



Roger Dodd at the keyboard in the Hootch



L-R: Standing: Milt Ross, Zot Barazzotto, Tom Yarborough, Bill Ernst, Dick Goddard, Bill Carruthers, Tim Eby Kneeling: Claude Newland, Ron Van Kirk, Doug Aitken, Larry Underwood, Lendy Edwards. Missing: Roger



FAC Memorabilia display at the museum

The 74FS Flying Tiger “Rustics” were the second group of “Rustics” in attendance. They did the Air Force proud with a beautiful Missing Man 4 ship flyover at the FAC Memorial Dedication on Thursday. Earlier in the day, **Capt ‘Varmit’ Thomas** provided an excellent detailed briefing at the FAC Symposium on the 74FS’s work during their latest deployment to Afghanistan. They also attended the Friday and Sat night banquets and provided a two ship A-10 static display at the flight line on Saturday morning. It was great spending time with these guys over a beer and a good meal. The next generation of combat aviators are a dedicated and hard working crew!





One of the *unplanned* activities of the reunion was not one, **but two**, fire drills that occurred during the Saturday night banquet. Everyone evacuated the O Club once during the guest speakers remarks and once during the entertainment portion of the program. While waiting in the parking lot for the 'All Clear Signal,' **Roger Dodd** quipped, "When was the last time you walked out on a general's speech?"

Rustic **Ned Helm** was reelected as one of the FAC Assoc's Directors and the Nail FACs finally decided to get organized and now have their own Nail Net.

The next All FAC reunion will be in Colorado Springs, in Fall 2008 in conjunction with the Air Force-Navy Football game. Details TBA.

**AUSSIE FACs TO SPONSOR A FAC REUNION IN 2008.** The Aussies (6 were in attendance at the Dayton reunion) have invited everyone "Down Under" for a FAC reunion in April 2008. The reunion's agenda will include marching in the annual AN-ZAC Day parade, country and city tours, dedication and acceptance of OV-10 #639 (a Rustic bird) into their Military Historical Museum and much more. If you've ever wanted to see Australia, this would be the time to do it. Anybody interested? If so, contact **Claude Newland** at 850-654-2955 or [rustic19@cox.net](mailto:rustic19@cox.net). *Over 75 FACs at Dayton expressed an interest in going to this reunion.' Should be a hum dinger!!*

**RUSTICS LOSE A FRIEND.** Butterfly FAC **Charlie Jones**, age 74, passed away 23 Nov 06 after an unsuccessful battle with cancer. His memorial service was held 27 Nov. in Ft Walton Beach, FL. Rustics **Lendy Edwards** and **Claude Newland** attended the service.

Some of you will recall Charlie came to our first Rustic reunion in 1997 and helped us with our initial efforts to form an association. At that time he was president of the Air Commando Assoc. Charlie also gave the dedication remarks at the dedication of the new FAC memorial in the Hurlburt Air Park at the 2000 All FAC Reunion. He was a man of great passion who had an abiding love of life, his God and country. He was a true gentleman, scholar and brother to all and will be greatly missed! Hand salute, Charlie.

**HISTORY OF RUSTIC OV-10 #639 STILL UNDER CONSTRUCTION; INPUTS NEEDED. (Jim Gabel):** I have received only three inputs for flights in OV-10 639. If you flew missions in 639 I need to hear from you so we can do this 'ol war bird proud. She will be inducted the Australian War Memorial Museum in Apr 2008 and we want to be sure here history reflects her support of the Rustic mission.

**George Larson** had six flights between 1-17-71 and 5-18-71.

**Jerry Dufresne** had two flights, 11-25-70 and 1-15-71. Their info only included mission duration and, in three cases, the pilots. Dufresne's two flights were with **Don Ellis** and **Mike Wilson**. Larson's first flight was also with **Mike Wilson**.

**Doug Aitken** flew **639** twice."And when I did, I kept a tape recorded diary. At one time I had started to transcribe these tapes, and got through about four of them and quit. But I transcribed, in a cryptic fashion, as far as these flights. **Don Mercer** was kind enough to have these tapes put on cd's for me and I will listen to them today to see if there are any more details to be gleaned, but here is what I have from my flight records and from my transcribed notes:

"639 on 15 Jun for 4.7 "self expend" from the flight log". My transcribed notes say, "Duck" again. (aside, I was still in my combat ready check out--"Duck" was the IP---**Putt Richards**.) Vring and checking out grids. T.I.C. Shot rockets. Duck called grnd fire. Not .51 cal. Hi alt so no sweat. 2800' min alt. Straffed --forgot to change mill setting. Rest ok. RTB due to fuel. Rustic 15 took my place."

"639 on 16 Jun for 4.7 "Hawk 05" from the flight log". My transcribed notes do not say much about the flight, but do have a bit on Otto's nose gear hit. "In Rustic Ops, and Rustic 15 calls. Had taken a hit. Unsafe nose gear. **Otto Walinski**. 1Lt. Beautiful job. Feathered props. (Tape explains Code 1,2, and 3 call ins for Mx report) Otto calls up and says, "This is a code 3 airplane." Crazy Otto. Scheduler. Outstanding dart player. One day he speared a cockroach with a dart, and fed it to a preying mantis called "Papa Mike." He had more advice than he knew what to do with on landing. The BASE COMMANDER decided two strips of foam instead of one. We took off, and guy we relieved had put strikes on four ea .51 cal sites. Rustic 18 putting Shadow in on secure voice (end of tape.)

The original RUSTIC STORY video tape has my movie of Otto's landing at Bien Hoa. Book has pic of the plane.

I will try and remember to listen to the audio and see if there is any more stuff on the second mission in 639. I am kicking my butt for ever stopping that daily log. As I recall, this was during the Chenla II op and I had moved to Phan Rang, and was like, TDY for a month up to UBON. Supposed to be giving check rides, but ended up flying the line. My boss calls and asks me if I am ever coming home. Tape recorder was at Phan Rang. Too bad, because it did provide an excellent record of what we were doing, up to that point.

*OK, guys, another chance to make history. We need to make 639's history as complete as possible; dig out your log books or whatever records you have and get your info to **Jim Gabel** at [jagabel@aol.com](mailto:jagabel@aol.com)*

**SEA PHOTO CD PROJECT NOW BECOMING A DVD PROJECT.** Ned "Crash" Helm is starting to put the final touches on the Rustic's Sea Photo CD (now DVD) project which should be completed in time for our Oct 2007 reunion. Here's Ned's latest report:

"My computer...being...relatively speaking...as poor as a church mouse...how about youze guys awarding me the Oak leaf Cluster to my Scanner with Palms... with attached DVD drive.... so I can try to get all this "Stuff" on one disk rather than 14. (plain english ...cross my palm with @100 bucks so I can upgrade my antique 'puter with a DVD player/recorder)

"The pictures are wonderful... NONE should be excluded due to space considerations as we are talking about history not Hollywood.

"We are still missing many Rustic's pix. Perhaps we should NOT allow them (non contributors) to attend any further reunions unless they contribute? And Like Santa Claus...I know who has been naughty or nice!! **Crash**

**RUSTIC COMMERCIAL BOOK ROYALTIES RECEIVED (Dick Wood)** I heard from Smithsonian on our FY2006 royalties. They sent me a check for \$11.43. Based on our agreement, I owe the Rustics \$8.57. Whoopee!

They included a statement of how that number was determined. Apparently they sold 73 copies but had 17 returned. Since I don't know what the selling price of the book is (was), I have no idea whether we are being treated fairly or not. We probably are. I just can't prove it.

The problem is still a total lack of marketing on anyone's part. There are still 2,000 plus copies in a HarperCollins warehouse somewhere and no one seems to care.

Please forward this exciting news **Don Ellis**. Next week I'll send him a check for \$8.57 and I'll mail copies of the correspondence to both of you. Counting postage, I'm making about two bucks on this deal.

*When the Smithsonian decides to de-list our book, the Board plans to bulk purchase as many remaining books as possible at the a reduced rate. We figure our best market will be within the FAC community as these types of books sell like hot cakes at the All FAC reunions.*

**KOMPONG CHAM ORPHANAGE.** **Lendy Edwards** received the following communications from **Diane Moss** in Kompong Cham, Cambodia.

Dear Mr. Lendy, attached you will find a few pictures from our outing today at the Orphanage. All of the children were very happy with their new clothes and writing books and supplies. The Orphanage director remembers Rustics well, as when I told him the gifts were from your organization, he lit up and said, Ohhh they have helped us many times, even with bicycles many years ago and he remembered **Tom Capp's** visit last year too.

Hope you enjoy the pictures, as much as the children will enjoy the clothing. Daranee will be sending you updates every now and then as to how the money is being spent to help people in the community as well. blessings! **diane**

*We have just learned that **Diane Moss** will soon be leaving Cambodia for a new assignment to Romania. We are coordinating to find out who will be her replacement. She has been a great help to us and we'll miss her!*



**Happy Faces at the KPC Orphanage. Well Done Rustics.**

**MISSIONS TRIP TO CAMBODIA.** **Tom Capps** (Rustic 12, 1971) is planning to lead a short-term missions team of military veterans from his church in Raleigh NC to Cambodia in October 2007. The purpose is to assist in teaching an American English Language Training (AELT) camp to Cambodian military personnel. Tom visited Phnom Penh in March 2005 where he visited with **Sareth Duong** who heads up this on-going outreach to his country's military and police. Tom thinks it might be nice to include one or two Rustics on the team, if anyone is interested and available. The trip will last about two weeks, and will cost approximately \$3,000 per person. The team will conduct fund-raising events and will encourage team members to raise support for their participation. Additionally, the team will conduct team building on a weekly basis for several months to get acquainted and to prepare for the

trip. Rustic participants would not be required to attend the weekly training but would be encouraged to attend a weekend retreat shortly before the trip. The team might transit Bangkok where it would visit with the military Christian fellowship (MCF) there followed by a tour of the area. After a week of AELT work, the team would visit parts of Cambodia prior to departing Phnom Penh for home. Hopefully, this trip will be completed prior to the Rustic reunion, 18-21 October 2007. If you have any questions or are interested in participating as a team member, call or email Tom. Team participants will be interviewed and screened prior to selection.

**Thomas E. (Tom) Capps**, Covenant Concepts, Inc., 1609 Bowdoin Drive, Raleigh NC 27615  
Phone 919-846-5411, Cell 919-812-4848, Fax 919-846-9965, Email [tomcapps@nc.rr.com](mailto:tomcapps@nc.rr.com), Book Website [www.prayandplan.com](http://www.prayandplan.com)

#### SHORT BURSTS:

- 1) **2007 OBA FACtober Fest** 26-28 Oct 2007, Ft Worth, TX.
- 2) **2008 All FAC Reunion** Oct 2008, Colorado Springs, CO. Dates TBA
- 3) **Echelbergers were back in Iceland in Sep and Oct.** Good news, Don says, "Our garage is finished! Only took 4 years (and a lot of gray hairs)". They are now spending the Christmas holidays in Las Vegas.
- 4) **For info on O-2 research aircraft website:** Texas A&M Dept of Aerospace Engineering - Flight Research Lab.  
<http://flight.tamu.edu/flight/cessna.html>
- 5) **Going to Branson or need a bed in Springfield, Mo? Walt and Sharon Friedhofen** announced they have a "one time good deal" for all Rustics. If visiting or passing through their area, the welcome mat is always out. He and Sharon have kept Walt's mother's house in meticulous condition and it's available for Rustic guests at no charge. They would be delighted to have you come visit. Contact Walt at: 417-863-1935
- 6) **Nail FAC Darrel Whitcomb has a new book** recently published by Air University Press, "Combat Search and Rescue in Desert Storm (328 pages). It can be acquired through the AU Press at: <http://www.maxwell.af.mil/au/aul/aupress/default.htm>
- 7) **O-2 Night Rustic website:** <http://www.nightrustics.org/>

**0-2 RUSTICS TAKE ANOTHER CRUISE.** From Don Mercer, Oct 30, 06. "Just got back from an overnight to Fort Lauderdale where I bid nine couples bon voyage on the second Night Rustic cruise, this one a 7-day voyage through the Caribbean with 3 stops. Two others, **Bob Harris** and **Wayne Baker**, also flew in to attend the send off party as none of three of us could make the cruise this time around. We partied at an Irish pub Saturday night and knew we must be doing something right as we were asked to quiet down a couple times. Of course, we all thought that "noise" and rowdiness were behavior to be respected in an Irish pub. **Don Mercer.**

**Dick Roberds** adds: "We sailed out of Ft. Lauderdale, after a fun reunion evening at a restaurant and bar about a mile from our port. The evening reunion was also attended by **Don Mercer, Bob Harris, and Wayne and Leslie Baker**, but their schedules did not permit their cruising with the group.

Our lead organizer of the cruise was **Dave DeKoker**, and, following the reunion evening, we went on a 7-day cruise on Holland America Lines. We sailed to the British West Indies. We had port calls at Turks and Caicos, Tortola, St Martin, and Half-Moon Bay. It was really a very nice cruise and great fun seeing old combat buddies.

One incident of note was that **Mercer, Harris, and Baker** arrived pretty early in the afternoon at the restaurant and imbibed nicely on beer until we all arrived. **Wayne Baker's** boisterous behavior nearly got us all thrown out of the restaurant by the time the party was over around 9:00 pm. "All in all it was a great time."



**L –R: Tom and Evelyn Jones, Larry and Pat Driscoll, Dick and Marcy Roberds, Mick and Mary Gibbar, Maggie and Frank Sovich, Jim and June Hetherington, Jack and Judy Strickland, Margaret and Merle Shields, and Sue and David DeKoker.**



## LETTERS TO THE RUSTICS:

### From Chip Bahr:

My correct address is: 602 S. Florida #936, Alamogordo, NM 88310. I now have an application & will send my Life Member dues.

Thanks for getting back with me Lendy. I was working for both day & night Rustics in 1971 & early 1972 at Bien Hoa & Ton Son Nhut (after the move) I PCS'd & then heard you all moved to Thailand. I was assigned to 19th/21st TASS. I attended the dedication of our OV-10 at Memorial Park @ Hurlburt; a moving ceremony. I sure miss those old days. As you probably know, I wore many hats during the 60's and 70's. I was in the Army in Vietnam from 65 till 67 as a Forward Observer/Radio operator until a **Col Aderholt** talked me into the Air Force & report to Hurlburt Field. I then was trained on many things. CCT, radio, FAC, and due to my artillery background, we began testing some programs involving C-130's (you know what that started). I was also trained on the T-28, O-1, O-2 & eventually all FAC birds & most of my work was at Forwarding Operating Locations (FOL's) throughout Southeast Asia.

**My wife's name is Mary**, married 34 yrs, 6 children (4 in military) & 12 grandchildren. We will not be attending the *[All FAC]* reunion this year. October is a very busy month for us. I am the VFW Post Commander here in Alamogordo & my wife is the Sr. Vice President of the Ladies Auxiliary, so we are run ragged.

I am looking forward to attending future reunions. It is good to see all our aging faces & beer bellies & tell all those old war stories. Hard to believe how daring (dumb), suave (young) & full of vim & vigor (cum) we all were back then, isn't it? Will catch you later. Please change my mailing address & it'll all be a go. **Chip Bahr**

*As a result of all the rain and recent flooding in the Northwest, **Lendy Edwards** decided to check up on our very own **Dick Wood** who lives in Washington state. Here's Dick's reply:*

**Lendy**, I'm OK. I live on high ground here in Bellingham and there wasn't much flooding up here anyway. This annual flooding drill is the overflowing of local rivers south of here in the Snohomish area. I used to live there, but I was above it all. No big deal. Please pass this news to Jim Hodgson and tell him I appreciate his concern.

By the way. Bellingham International Airport (which is about a ten minute drive from here) is growing like a weed. We have about 8 flights a day to Seattle (which is better than driving) and Delta has moved in with daily flights to Salt Lake City. That's a hub and you can get anywhere from there. A month ago I whizzed down to Cancun, Mexico on a really nice flight through SLC. I was down there to present a paper to the International Society of Air Safety Investigators and accept their annual award. You can't get that award until all the people who know you aren't that smart are dead! Two other airlines are looking seriously at Bellingham. We are very close to Canada and the Canadians have discovered that they can get a better deal down here than they can at Vancouver Airport.

This is a really nice corner of the country and Chateau Wood welcomes visitors. **Dick**

### From Bill Lemke, 11/20/06

**Claude, George [Larson]** got through to my wife but I was out. He said he will call again tonight. My mailing address now is 670 Stoney Mountain Road. Rest remains the same. Still at the same place but they changed numbers for 911 purposes. Phone number is 828-693-8866. Western NC is growing so fast they had to split the area codes.

I am hitting the lake tomorrow to fish with expected dawn temps in the mid 20s. I won't catch anything but it will still be a good day on the water.

I hope things are going well down on the [FL] panhandle. Cheers, **Bill**

*From **Don Echelberger** in response to **Bill Sleigh's** medical update Report:*

Good to hear from you, Bill.....

If you find (an effortless) way to 'bulk up', plz let me know.....been trying for years. But good to know that you've graduated from the chemo.... We'll keep our fingers crossed when it's time for the final exam.

Right now I'm emailing from our daughter's (Irene) in sunny No. Las Vegas. Got here a week ago and settled in to a nice furnished 3 br house in (are you ready?) .....Sun City! It's got everything us old folks need for the month of Dec and only 5 min. away from the grand kids. There's 2000 'cookie cutter' houses spread out across the desert all neatly arranged around a pretty nice looking golf course. Haven't played yet, been too busy spoiling the kids and putting up Christmas decorations. We'll (gladly) baby sit while the youngsters hit the holiday parties and receptions.

That's about it from the wild west. We'll be thinking about you guys .....but won't let you know if we win any big jackpots.....(yuk!) Warm holiday greetings to all, **Don & Katrin**

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**OV-10 FIRE SPOTTER PLANE CRASH CLAIMS TWO LIVES.** An OV-10 plane (N419DF) used by the California Department of Forestry (CDF) crashed in the Tulare County foothills on Wed, 6 Sep 2006, killing the pilot, DynCorp pilot **George ‘Sandy’ Willett** and passenger, CDF Battalion Chief **Robert Paul Stone**.

CDF contracted the OV-10 aircraft from Porterville Air Attack for use as a fire spotter.

Multiple agencies were investigating what is believed to be the first air-related accident in CDF history. The crew aboard the fixed-winged OV-10 aircraft was checking on an early morning fire, when the plane went down at about 10:45 a.m. on a ridge between the Frazier Mill campground and Hedrick Pond (170 miles no. of LA). There was no contact with the two men before the crash.

The explosion sparked a blaze along the ridge. The fire, called the Brown Fire, was the fourth blaze in the area over the Labor Day weekend. CDF investigators confirmed the first two fires - the Jaguar and Camp fires - were man-made.

CDF crews from the Mountain Home Conservation Camp responded to eyewitness reports of the plane crash and the fire at about 11 a.m. By 11:30 a.m. more than three dozen inmates and firefighters were staged on Bear Creek Road one mile north of the Balch Park campground. In total, more than 75 firefighters responded to the fire and crash.

The plane: CDF officials said they are perplexed as to the cause of the accident, as the aircraft - which is based at the Porterville Municipal Airport - showed no signs of problems prior to takeoff. Investigators from the National Transportation Safety Board, the Federal Aviation Administration and CDF Accident Investigation will try to determine the cause in the coming days.

There are 14 OV-10 aircraft used throughout the state. The fleet has an outstanding safety record, CDF Battalion Chief Rick Moore said. In his 32 years in CDF, he said he can't recall a plane crash involving a spotter plane. "They have been a very reliable instrument for the department," Moore said. "I feel very comfortable flying them, and I think others will say the same about them." CDF has owned the Vietnam-era, twin-engine "Bronco" fleet for more than 25 years, Moore said.

Because of the nature of the usage, maintenance on the planes is constantly ongoing, Moore said. "I know for a fact that when you land, a mechanic is sitting there, asking you how the flight was, if you had any problems," Moore said. "Maintenance is happening constantly, every hour the mechanics are looking at something."

**ANOTHER OV-10 MISHAP (OBA Mike Whaley.)** An OV-10 of the Philippine Air Force suffered a main gear collapse and ran off the runway at Clark Air Base this morning (Oct. 24) after returning from a mission during a joint Filipino/US exercise. The crew only had some bumps and bruises, but the damage to the plane is unknown to me at this point but possibly serious. The PAF has apparently grounded its OV-10 fleet in response to this incident. All the details I have been able to collect have been posted on [www.OV-10Bronco.net](http://www.OV-10Bronco.net) under "Today's Headlines" (as well as what may be the first editorial cartoon ever to feature an OV-10...) If anyone finds photos of this crash, please let me know and we'll post a link to them. -Mike merlin@ov-10bronco.net

**EVER SEEN AN OV-10B WITH A PLEXIGLASS TAIL CONE? (Markus, German Wing of OVA.)** Yep, The German Luftwaffe had some OV-10B's with a plexiglass tail cone! If anyone is interested in the B version, just have a look at [www.germanwing.de](http://www.germanwing.de).

The Bronco "tug" (Yanks'd call it "tow") aircraft were used for ground-to-air shootings. The winch was installed below the wing in the fuselage and the winch operator was sitting face backwards at the end of the fuselage. He dropped the target out of a small hole in the rear door. Once outside, the target was too big to get it back into the aircraft and so it was dropped at a special drop zone and sent back to the airfield.

Over the years, there have been different other targets but not with the same success of the "bag." All shown on our website [www.germanwing.de](http://www.germanwing.de). From time to time the aircraft have also been in use for calibration work; without the WO and target.

Several aircrafts were modified with the jet engine on top of the wing. The performance was great but the fuel consumption enormous resulting also in a very short time available over the target area. Later they were reconfigured to normal OV10B standard and the faster target to wing was carried out by Westwind aircrafts. Happy landings, Markus



# Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

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

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## 2007 Membership Renewal Form and Survey

I'd like to maintain my Rustic FAC Association membership in good standing, stay in touch with my Rustic buddies, continue receiving the Rustic newsletter, and help support efforts to promote Rustic FAC camaraderie, future reunions, and history projects. Enclosed are my dues for 2007.

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've got Rustic photos (or slides) that need to be included in the Rustic SEA Photo History Book project. Yes \_\_\_\_\_

I plan to attend the 2007 Rustic Reunion: Definitely \_\_\_\_\_ Maybe \_\_\_\_\_ Can't make it \_\_\_\_\_

2007 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 2007 Reunion \$ \_\_\_\_\_

2006 Tax Deductible Contribution to House of Hope \$ \_\_\_\_\_

2006 Tax Deductible Contribution to Kompong Cham Orphanage \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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