

Volume 11, Issue 1

15 March 2007



Rustic News

www.rustic.org

Board of Directors:

President: Claude Newland, Rustic19@cox.net **Director:** Doug Aitken, daitken@nc.rr.com
Vice President: Jack Thompson, jackov10@sbcglobal.net **Director:** Ron Dandeneau, RusticFoxtrot@aol.com
Treasurer: Don Ellis, donellis@sc.rr.com **Director:** Mike Wilson, sher85745@mac.com
Secretary: Roger Hamann, RusticYankee72@aol.com **Historian:** Jim Gabel, jagabel@aol.com

Project Coordinators:

Website/Database: Lendy Edwards, lendy@cox.net **Rustic SEA Photo CD:** Ned Helms, ned@wingset.com
Commercial Book: Dick Wood, woodrh@ix.netcom.com **Rustic Reunion Photo CD:** Jim Seibold, seiboldjim@aol.com
Air Park Liaison: Ned Helm, ned@wingset.com **OBA Liaison:** Jack Thompson, Jackov10@sbcglobal.net
FACM Committee: Jim Gabel, jagabel@aol.com **Search Committee:** Rog Hamann, RusticYankee72@aol.com
Health & Wellness: Doc Thomas, shialary@msn.com

NEXT RUSTIC REUNION JUST AROUND THE CORNER. Only seven months till our next reunion, 18-21 Oct 2007, at the beautiful Ramada Plaza Beach Resort, Fort Walton Beach, Fl. It'll be here before you know it, so now's the time to mark your calendar and start saving those nickels. The June newsletter will contain all the reunion details to include the reunion schedule, costs and registration forms.

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The Ramada has again offered us reduced room rates. Below are the room rates we had in 2005 and the special room rates available for 2007:

	<u>2005 Rates</u>		<u>2007 Rates</u>
Standard Room	\$ 90	\$ 99	(Facing Parking lot)
Courtyard Room	100	110	(Facing Courtyard)
Poolside Room	115	125	(Towers bldg)
Beach Front	130	140	(Towers bldg)

Banquet. By popular demand, the Saturday night banquet will again be the "Destin Seafood Buffet."

Banquet Speaker. At this time, we DON'T anticipate a "guest speaker"...just entertainment and lots of fun!

Reunion Highlight: Charter bus trip to the world famous Naval Aviation Museum at Pensacola Naval Air Station.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE. The Rustic FAC Association welcomes the following new lifetime members: **Tom Calvanelli, Bob Harshaw, Ron Koeppel, Putt Richards, and Jack Thompson.** The Association's 2007 membership stands at 85 members; 48 lifetime members and 37 annual members.

PROPOSED BUDGET. The Association's 2007 budget will be approximately \$2,200. This is a bit higher than past years because it includes two items approved by the Board that are specific to this year's budget; \$400 for **Doug Aitken** to produce approximately 40 DVD copies of "The Rustic Story" and \$500 to continue as a "corporate sponsor" of the FAC Museum. The Association's projected income for 2007 is \$2,336.00 which includes interest earned from two CDs. To date, we have not tapped any Lifetime Membership funds for any purposes.

ROSTER/PERSONNEL UPDATES:

Charles Bopp*	3216 Stonehenge Lane, Carrollton, TX 75006-5222
Tom Case	(907) 360-7510
Doug Caywood	caywoods@cox.net
Johnny Drury	2930 Dynamic Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80920, (719)282-9100, Rustic04@aol.com
Tim Early	Richardson4384@aol.com
Arnold Franklin	afranklin1@insightbb.com
John W. Hatfield**	things4acft@cascadeaccess.com , 505-630-2804
Dick Roberds	536 Milano Drive, Poinciana, FL 34759 (863) 438-9647
Doug Robertson	Para4T5@comcast.net
Frank Sovich	fmsovich@earthlink.net

* *Flew early Rustic OV-10 mission*

** *New Found Rustic* Ubon weapons loader, 1972-73, Things For Aircraft Support, Inc (TFASI), <http://www.thingsforacftsupport.com>

BAD E-MAIL ADDRESSES. Please provide correct address to **Lendy Edwards**, Rustic Database Keeper at lendy@cox.net.

Ed Boggess,	Damon Gonzalez	Don Osborn	Bill Voss
Norman Cimon	Michael Gilchrist	Milton Ross	
Norm Falcon	Charles D. Greene	Lanny Trapp	
Emery Kiraly	Roger Lanoue	Otto Walinski	

WINGMAN SUPPORT:

1) **Bill Sleigh.** Recent lab work has shown a recurrence of the leukemia, so it's back to step one with an induction round of chemotherapy to try for another remission. Bill also spent a few days in the Ft Walton Beach hospital in mid Feb. recovering from a fever. He can be reached at home at sleigh59@cox.net.

2) **CINC NAIL. Howie Pierson,** a friend of many Rustic and Nail FACs, was recently diagnosed with throat cancer. They think they have caught it in the early stages. He will undergo chemo and radiation treatments immediately and then reevaluate. No surgery is planned for now. Howie can be reached at: 145 Oak Shade Lane, Novato, CA 94945 or howie.p@comcast.net.

RAE CRUMPLER TAKES FINAL FLIGHT. On 21 Feb, **Cynthia Smith** notified the Rustics thru **Lendy Edwards** that her dad, **Swanson Rae Crumpler** passed away on Feb 14, 2007 after a short illness. Rae was a Rustic aircraft maintainer from 1971-1972. Cynthia said her father was buried with his Rustics hat that he loved dearly and she requested the Rustics be notified of her father's passing. The family has an online guest book and asks that anyone who knew Rae to contact the family at: <http://www.legacy.com/dailypress/GB/GuestbookView.aspx?PersonId=86466122>. All messages posted online during the next year will be included in a book that will be printed for Cynthia's mother to keep.

A number of Rustics have already posted messages to the online guest book site mentioned above. If you knew Rae, or even if you didn't, this is a great way to send a personal message of remembrance or thanks to his family. Cynthia can be reached at varebel-lady@hotmail.com.

WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT. After twelve continuous years of serving as the unofficial leader and, later, elected president of the Rustics, I feel that now may be a good time for me to step aside after my term of office ends in Oct. This will allow me a respite while allowing some new blood to get involved in the Association's leadership. The good news is the Association is healthy and strong and with the help of a few new dedicated and enthusiastic participants, the leadership will remain strong and the transition should be seamless.

I hope some of you who have been on the side lines will now consider taking a more active role in your association and consider serving a term in office. If so, all you have to do is contact a member of the Nominating Committee to discuss the options (See Story Below.)

I can promise you that you will find your involvement with the Association to be both rewarding and satisfying.

For the past 4 years it's been my honor and privilege to serve as your President and I thank you for your trust and support. Although I will step down from office in Oct, I have advised the Board that I would be happy to continue as the Rustic newsletter editor.

If any of you are considering the office of president and are wondering what is involved, please contact me at rustic19@cox.net.

WHAT'S THE FUTURE OF THE RUSTIC FAC ASSOCIATION? ELECTIONS ARE LOOMING. New Rustic officers and Directors will be elected in conjunction with our Oct 2007 Reunion Business Meeting in Fort Walton Beach, FL. The future of the Rustic FAC Association may well be determined on whether or not a few good men step forward to help provide the leadership needed to ensure the continued success of the Rustic FAC Association. The term of office will be from Oct 2007 till the next Rustic reunion; usually 2 years.

Over the past twelve years, we have been fortunate in that a handful of enthusiastic volunteers have always stepped up to help. A few new leaders are now needed to help keep our association strong. The offices for election, and the incumbents who are willing to continue serving, if re-elected, are listed below:

President	Open	Director	-Open
Vice-President	Open (Jack Thompson)	Director	-Open
Secretary	Open	Director	-Open (Ron Dandeneau)
Treasurer	Open (Don Ellis)	Historian	-Open (Jim Gabel)

If you want to see your Association remain strong, perhaps it's time you got involved.

NOMINATION COMMITTEE AND ELECTION PROCESS. The following Rustics have been appointed by the Directors to serve on the 2007 Nomination Committee:

Lendy Edwards	lendy@cox.net	850-651-6766
Roger Hamann	RusticYankee72@aol.com	207-375-4883
Doc Thomas	shialary@msn.com	314-457-8816

The Nominating Committees role is to help facilitate a slate of nominees NLT.31 August. However, they are not responsible for 'finding' willing volunteers...this should come directly from the members themselves. Ballots will be mailed with the Sep newsletter. It goes without saying that all nominees must be volunteers (and have email capability.) You don't have to be at the reunion to run for office.

If you'd like run for office, please contact one of the members of the Nomination Committee. *They can't read your mind.*

Job descriptions are available for each position. *Yep, you can read about the job before you commit.*

SHORT BURSTS:

1) Annual Report Posted. The Rustic's 2007 Not-For-Profit Corp Annual Report was filed with the State of Florida in Jan.

2) Rustic Missionaries. Bob Burgoyne, Rustic Z, and wife, **Carrie** are currently serving as missionaries in Dominica, West Indies. He reports he will be unable to attend our 2007 reunion, but send his "regards to all & may God richly bless you and yours."

3) FACM Website. The FAC Museum now has their own website:
www.facmuseum.org

4) Dandeneau Goes South. Ron Dandeneau recently completed a trip to Zephyrhills, FL which is about 25 miles north of Tampa off of I-75. Ron says he 'Did not pick a very good week weather wise; however, still had a nice visit with my brother and his wife.'

HISTORIAN REPORT; DID YOU FLY 0V-10 # 639? (Jim Gabel): If you flew Rustic Bird # 639, I need to hear from you. Tell me about your flights, dates, mission, crew, etc. This information will be included in the history of #639 which is be-

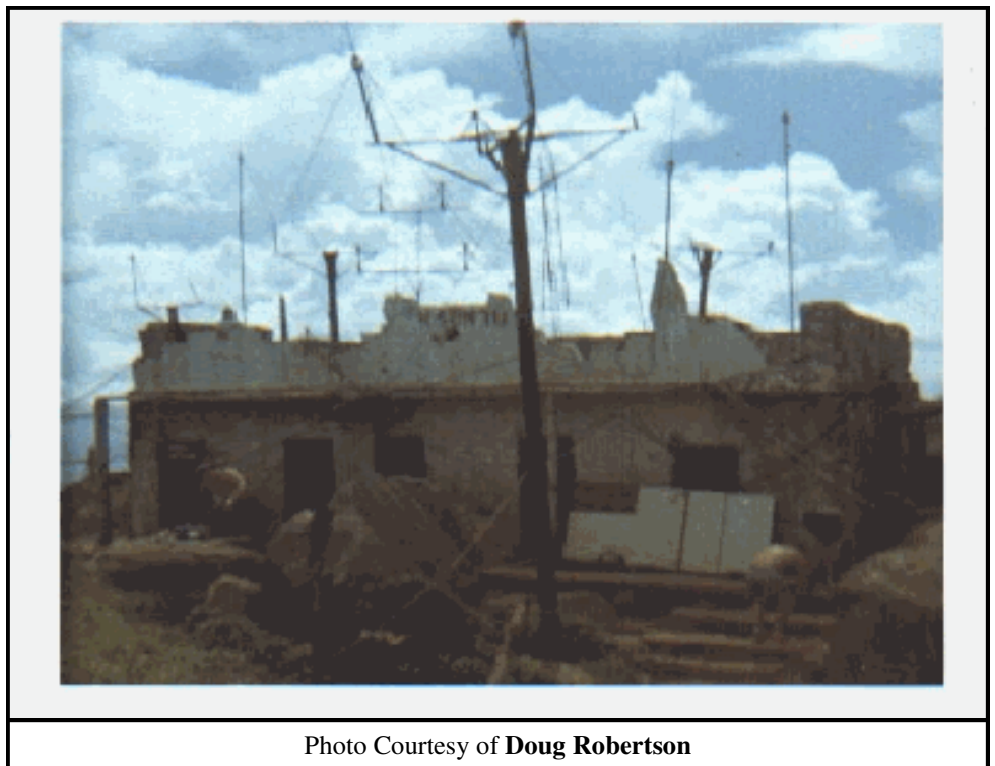


Photo Courtesy of **Doug Robertson**

ing compiled by FAC Historian **Darrell Whitcomb** for the FAC Association and the Australians. Aircraft # 639 is going to be inducted into the Australian War Memorial Museum in April 08 in conjunction with the Aussie sponsored FAC reunion in Canberra. I now have flight records for OV-10 #639 from eleven different Rustics. That information covers dates from 24 Dec 69 to 8 Dec 1972. Two future Rustics flew it as Slugger and Issue FACs before they became Rustics. The last [recorded] Issue flight in #639 was on 9 Nov 1970 and the first Rustic flight was on 23 Nov 1970. Most of the inputs are just dates and hours. A few have added some narrative descriptions.

Bill Ernst, Rustic 04/Nail 09 reports: I flew aircraft 639 on two occasions while a Rustic. The first was on Sept. 22, 1972 for 4.4 hours and the second flight was on Dec. 4, 1972 for 4.1 hours.

WEBSITE AND CAMBODIAN CHARITY UPDATES (Lendy Edwards). Guys, I recently updated our Rustic web site. With the recent passing of **Mike Stearns** (11/18/06) and **Rae Crumpler** (2/14/07), the rosters have also been updated. If you have any suggestions for the website, please pass them on to me at: lendy@cox.net.

I also removed the "House of Hope" item and replaced it with "Innerchange News". The House of Hope no longer exists as we once knew it. "Innerchange" ministries are still ongoing in Kompong Cham but they no longer have a House of Hope. It just was not as successful as all had hoped it would be. After a staff review, it was decided to discontinue the House of Hope operation and place emphasis on other local issues. Innerchange's Kompong Cham "Hands of Hope" ministry is still an ongoing operation. This is where a number of the girls from the House of Hope sew and sell their wares for profit.

Since the departure of **Diane Moss** this past year as the head of the House of Hope, we have not had a local contact in Kompong Cham to help us coordinate and channel our charitable giving. As a result, the Rustics will probably want to review this situation to determine which charities to support in the future. Clearly, we may be in a period of transition. More information will follow once the Board has had time to review all and make a recommendation to the membership.

Currently, there is \$796.87 in the Rustic's Cambodian Charity account. If you have any recommendations as to how to use these funds, please contact me or any Board member.

RUSTIC PLAQUE PROJECT (Ned Helm): Our contact in the Philippines has now returned. A proof of the plaque should soon be available and I'll provide copy to those who have already signed up. A request for personal checks will be the next order of business, then about two months to receive your order.

If you haven't placed your order yet, or would like more info, contact me at ned@wingset.com or 850-585-6594.

RUSTIC COMMERCIAL BOOK ROYALTIES (Dick Wood). I received a check from Smithsonian Business Ventures on 26 Feb for \$73.31.

There was no explanation of what that represents. It is apparently a royalty payment left over from 2006. If my math is correct, the RFA gets \$54.98 and I keep \$18.33. Just yesterday I sent in my 2006 tax return and I'm not going to screw it up for a measly \$18.33, so I've sent the entire amount to **Don Ellis**, Rustic treasurer.

Note: It's obvious not much has been happening with regard to the marketing and sales of our Rustic book. In the future we anticipate the books may become available to us at a deep discount rate. The Association plans to buy as many as possible at that time as there is a definite market for them at the All FAC reunions.

FAC MUSEUM (Jack Thompson). The FACM is moving forward. Walls are up and painted and the facility is looking good. It might make a lot of sense to move a good bit of Rustic memorabilia there for display. Seems to me that beats the devil out of keeping things in boxes that no one can see. Not to mention that the OBA now has the OV-10 mockup and two OV-10s on display. They also have an F-4, F-5 and F-14 on display.

Jim Gabel, Rustic appointee to the FACM Steering Committee. As Jack pointed out, the FACM physical structure is fast approaching completion. As of the end of January 2007, \$15,365.50 has been spent on the build-out. This includes \$5,137.62 in donated materials and \$10,227.88 in purchased materials and services. Those donated materials are mostly from FACM members in the Ft. Worth area. No accounting has been kept of the donated man hours by most of the same people. "Christine," the F-14 has now arrived. The event garnered great publicity for the FACM and OBA, including a story in the April 2007 issue of Flight Journal magazine. To be added to the growing stable of aircraft will be another O-2, this one in black Nail livery, which should be arriving this spring. The FACM now has a web site at www.facmuseum.org.

I am willing to continue as FACM representative on the Steering Committee, should we continue our sponsorship [we will]. However, if someone who lives closer to Ft. Worth and could physically participate in the monthly meetings, I think the Rustics and the FACM might be better served.

Note: If you would be willing to serve as the Rustic's representative to the FACM Steering Committee and attend the monthly meetings in Fort Worth, please contact Jim Gabel or any Board Member.

RUSTIC CALL SIGN IN DEMAND, BUT ALREADY TAKEN; COVEY CALL SIGN FLIES AGAIN. In December, the Rustics received the following email from the Marine's VMFA(AW)-121, Green Knights, Attack Squadron.

"Sir, my name is **Captain David M. Adamiec**. I am currently assigned to Marine All Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 121 flying F/A-18Ds out of MCAS Miramar, CA. We are preparing for deployment to Iraq this spring and we will be adopting a combat callsign in place of the one we use stateside. Since one of our primary missions is FAC(A) it only seemed obvious to explore some of the more historic callsigns specifically those from other FAC(A) platforms. I recently purchased the book Call-sign Rustic (which I'm sure you've read). I'm also pretty sure that you'll have a lot of stories that are not covered in the book. Anyway, as I was searching thru some of the history of the callsign I ran across your e-mail and figured that I'd let you know that the Rustic callsign is one of our options and we hope to do it proud."

After explaining that the "Rustic" and "Nail" callsigns are already being used by active duty Air Force A-10 FAC(A) squadrons which deploy to Iraq and Afghanistan, the VMFA(AW)-121 Green Knight's coordinated with the Air Force and received approval to use the "Covey" call sign as their FAC(A) squadron callsign. We then received the following announcement:

Semper Fidelis, **Capt "Aflak" Adamiec**, Training Officer, VMFA(AW)-121, Green Knight, "Have Gun Will Travel", 19 Jan 07

Subject: Covey FAC Callsign Resurrection in IRAQ

"Gents, our squadron, the "Green Knights", is heading to Iraq in about 30 days. We are a USMC F/A-18D squadron based at MCAS Miramar, San Diego, that specializes in FAC(A) work and researched resurrecting a FAC callsign that had a great history to use as our callsign in Iraq.

"We all voted among the approved callsigns (USAF owns 'em all) and picked "Covey" as the one we wanted to use. It was approved yesterday.

"Sooooo....we are having a "Drink the squadron bar out of booze before Iraq" party in our squadron bar on the afternoon/evening of 26 Jan and would like to extend an offer to any of the Vietnam era Covey's to partake. We've got plenty of booze and would love to hear any stories you've got. Our Commanding General was an enlisted army grunt prior to commissioning - and happens to be a Prairie Fire vet. I will invite him over as well.

"We will all be wearing our party suits and you're invited to do the same. I'm not sure of the exact format of the entire day - but we've got sims and aircraft available if you want a look and can hook any or all of you up with BOQ rooms for the night.

"Please email your RSVP's and any questions / suggestions on exactly what you'd like to do during the hours prior to the party. I'm the action officer for the visit.

"Apologies for the short notice - we just found out we got the callsign. I've also only invited CA and AZ Covey's. If there's anyone else you think would like to visit - please fwd it on.

"My home number is (858)672-4425 if you've got any questions this weekend. All my office details are below. Cheers,
Chub.

LtCol John Passant, Executive Officer, VMFA(AW)-121, DSN 267-9365, COM (858)577-9365

'Hope our SEA Covey brethren attended this event in numbers and did us proud! "Sounds like this was a rip roaring party; one which would be long remembered. Ah...remember those days?!!

Message from Captain Adamiec, USMC, when **Claude Newland** announced he would be in San Diego in Feb.

Sir, I think we are going to miss you [*rendezvous in San Diego*] but obviously can't tell you for sure for OpSec. I'll be sure to send along updates. We are headed out tonight to work some of our LGB and JDAM procedures for one of our new section lead work-ups. "Hit my smoke" isn't the motto so much anymore as "stand by for 10 digit grid" or "Mark Laser 1688"...but its still the same idea...first pass bombs on target on time with a timely "Cleared Hot". Semper Fi,, **Aflak**

P.S. "It's Gods job to forgive Bin Laden; its our job to arrange the meeting." ---USMC

AIR FORCE WEEK LOCATIONS ANNOUNCED FOR 2007. WASHINGTON (AFRNS) – Pentagon officials have announced the Air Force Week locations for 2007. The six locations are:

- Phoenix, March 19 to 25 (Luke Air Force Base Open House, March 24 and 25);
 - Eglin AFB Air Show April 14-15
 - Sacramento, June 4 to 10 (California Capital Air Show, June 9 and 10);
 - St. Louis, July 2 to 8 (Scott AFB Open House, July 7 and 8);
 - New England with activities focused around Boston, Aug. 18 to 26 (New Hampshire Air National Guard Air Show, Aug. 18 and 19, and Otis ANG Air Show, Aug. 25 and 26);
-

- Honolulu, Sept. 12 to 15 (Air Force Ball, Sept. 15); and
- Atlanta, Oct. 8 to 14 (Great Georgia Air Show, Oct. 13 and 14).

The inaugural Air Force Week took place in St. Louis in August 06 and the success prompted Air Force officials to partner with other communities this year. The Air Force Week program is part of the proactive approach in communicating to the public, said officials.

"There is so much to tell," said **Brig. Gen. Erwin Lessel**, Air Force director of communication. "[This] year the Air Force will celebrate its 60th anniversary, and I can't think of a better time to emphasize the Air Force's rich heritage and limitless horizons the service has to offer.

General Lessel said these weeklong events offer people an opportunity to meet Airmen who are defending America, and to thank the public for its support.

Each Air Force Week includes community visits and talks by senior Air Force officials, flight demonstration team performances, and displays providing a close look at Air Force men and women serving on the front lines.

"We are mindful of our true obligations to the nation," says **Maj. Dave Haworth**, the Pentagon's Air Force Week director. "We are a nation at war and the Air Force is engaged in combat operations everyday.

"When we can though, we want to get our people, our planes, and our amazing stories out to the public," he said. "After all, it's America's Air Force and we are grateful for their support and we are proud to serve this great nation."

ANNOUNCEMENTS/CALENDAR:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1) 2007 A-37 Reunion | 6-9 Sep 2007, Hilton Washington Dulles Hotel, Wash, DC |
| 2) 2007 Rustic Reunion: | 18-21 Oct 2007: Ft Walton Beach, FL. |
| 3) 2007 OBA FACtober Fest | 26-28 Oct 2007, Ft Worth, TX. |
| 4) 2008 Aussie FAC Reunion | 23-28 April 08, Canberra, Australia. All U.S. FACs invited to participate |
| 5) 2008 All FAC Reunion | 1-5 Oct 2008, Colorado Springs, CO. AF/Navy Football game 4 Oct. & FAC Memorial Dedication |

Joe Potter is Chairman of the 2008 All FAC Reunion. Ken Blutt will coordinate registration. Direct reunion questions or suggestions to Ken Blutt, kblutt@earthlink.net, cell: 719-351-8284, or home ph: 719-559-0557

LETTERS TO THE RUSTICS:

From John Hatfield:

I loaded willy p's and flares on the OV-10 in 1972 and 1973. I left around Oct of 1973 or Nov. I was stationed at NKP but spent most of tour TDY to Ubon. I had been an aircraft mechanic before this tour but a lot of people were retrained because of shortages of people in that field. While on my last month or so in NKP I was put TDY into maint. to debrief the crews at NKP.

If any of the crews from that time period can remember, we had a neat popcorn concession as well. It went off so well that I was sent TDY to Ubon again to set up a popcorn concession down there as well. Best Regards, **John W Hatfield**

John is a new found Rustic. You can contact him at: Things For Aircraft Support, Inc (TFASI) <http://www.thingsforacftsupport.com>, things4acft@cascadeaccess.com, Tele: +1-503-630-2804, Fax: +1-503-630-1948

From Tom Capps.

Rustics, I am leading a short-term missions team of military veterans from my church to Cambodia at the end of September 07 and would like to have a couple of Rustics join us if they would like to be involved in teaching English to the Cambodian military as a Christian outreach. Tentatively, we are planning to fly to Bangkok where we will tour the city and rent a van for the journey to Cambodia.

We will probably visit Angkor Wat prior to the English language training and will visit Phnom Penh afterwards. The total trip will last about two weeks. Our host will be a young Cambodian vegetarian who has been doing this training for several years. He was my host in Cambodia during my March 2005 visit.

Please let all the Rustics know about this opportunity that you described in the last [Dec 06] newsletter so they can contact me if interested. I've had no contacts about the trip following the newsletter article. Thanks. **Thomas E. (Tom) Capps**, Covenant Concepts, Inc.

1609 Bowdoin Drive, Raleigh NC 27615, 919-846-5411, Cell 919-812-4848, Email tomcapps@nc.rr.com

From Gil Bellefeuille, Rustic T

Claude, 'Just got the [Dec 07] newsletter. Packed with info as usual. Thank U.

My wife, **Ruth**, is now a fully qualified flight nurse (Captain) in the Reserves and gets to fly a real mission in March. She

will be TDY flying out of Andrews AFB, MD to Wiesbaden and return possibly to San Antonio where she will be MC. Will be her first C-17 ride and she is looking forward to it.

Not much to worry about deployments so far. Her unit is not scheduled for rotation until 2008. However, her unit is converting to a flying unit only. Prior, they not only staged MEDEVAC areas near the flight line but also provided airborne medical crews. Now, all they do is med evac. So no more ground duty. This will all occur sometime in 2007. No one is sure of the time frame yet.

Kimberly is leaving for Navy boot camp and tech tng on 1/15/07 and return late April or early May. She will be assigned to the Naval Reserve Center in Orlando until she completed her undergraduate degree. She will be a para-legal (or legal-man in Navy speak).

Right now, plan is for her to be commissioned as an Ensign and then off to law school after undergraduate school. She will complete her general studies at Daytona Beach Community College while her and the Navy figure out where she will get her pre-law degree.

As for me, I support my two ladies, three spoiled cats and help around the house. I am still working full time doing the background investigations and probably start slowing down when I hit 65 or so. Do not really plan on retiring until Ruth is ready.

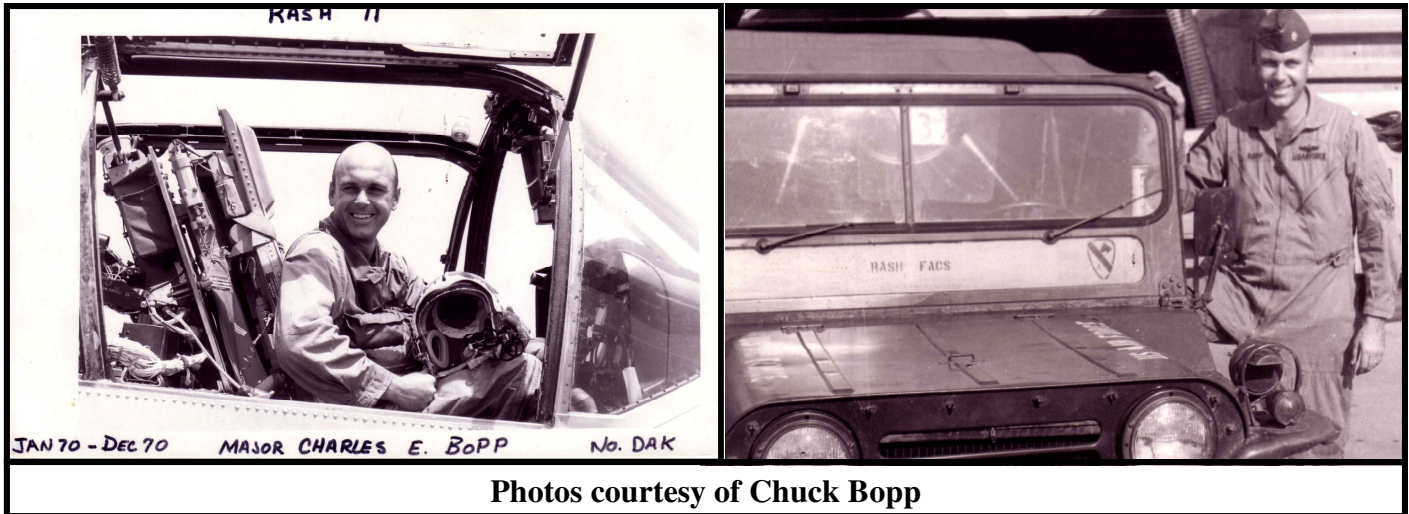
That's it for now. Take care, **Gil, Bien Hoa, 08/70 - 11/71.**

From Charles Bopp,

Claude, I lost your Email for a while, but finally found my log book. I flew a Rustic mission on August 5th, 1970. The Rustic had not yet formed their team and we were just beginning the missions. I remember that I put in an airstrike on a building and lumber was flying all over. I didn't have the backseaters name in my log. It looks like we were involved before the Rustic unit was actually formed. **Alan Metcalfe** was one of our FAC's who volunteered to move to the Rustic program. I know more of our 1st brigade, 1st Air Cavalry FAC's flew Rustic, but also believe the 2nd and 3rd brigades did. Some of them also moved to the Rustic program.

I would like to get more roster info and get in touch with some of the Rustic's. **Roger Dodd** went through OV-10 and survival school training with me. **Chuck**, ceebe3216@verizon.net

*Chuck, good to have you aboard. (A roster and **Roger Dodd's** contact info was sent to Chuck.) Do any backseaters recall flying with Chuck? Let us hear from you.*



From Don Echelberger

My news is that I've been a helluvalot busier than I like to be. After getting new tile floors installed, the 'Boss' decided we needed to spruce up the kitchen. I whacked off part of the counter that connected to the wall, and it is now an island. Then (of course) we had to put a granite top on it, and granite for all the rest of the counters. No, we didn't do new stainless appliances, 'cause I'm too cheap to toss out perfectly good stuff, but the stone makes a big difference. We'll have new lights in next week, just before we head for Las Vegas..... again! Can't keep Momma from her grand kids.

Not sure when we'll be back, if at all, before we head up to Iceland for the summer. I'll stay in the 'net loop and let you guys know if or when I start having fun....!

Bill Sleigh, thanks for keeping us up to speed on your progress. Expect to see you at the fall Rustic Reunion! Cheers,
Don & Katrin

**From Jim Hodgson, President,
OV-10 Bronco Association**

It is my privilege to announce to you that at 1550 CST today, "Christine" the F-14 returned to Fort Worth at Meacham Field to cheers and applause from 30 crew and volunteers and many onlookers. As Jim Bloomberg our aircraft acquisition specialist and team leader of this effort said tonight, "this was a team effort and we have a lot of people to thank." You all had a part in saving this F-14 and helping us bring her back here to Fort Worth. Not only was this the longest serving F-14 in the inventory, as it turned out it was also the last F-14 to fly. As you can see from the pictures, the crew was a bit larger and wore Air Force blue. There will be more to come later, but this is just a short note to let you all know, MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!



"Christine" being offloaded at Meachem Field, Ft Worth, TX

Crash Helm reports "Christine" also pulled FAC(A) duty in Iraq and the Gulf War.

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Rustic News

www.rustic.org

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Vice President: Jack Thompson, jackov10@sbcglobal.net
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Secretary: Roger Hamann, RusticYankee72@aol.com

Director: Doug Aitken, daitken@nc.rr.com
Director: Ron Dandeneau, RusticFoxtrot@aol.com
Director: Mike Wilson, sher85745@mac.com
Historian: Jim Gabel, jagabel@aol.com

Project Coordinators:

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

2007 Reunion Registration Issue

The ten year anniversary Rustic "Rendezvous" Reunion is fast approaching! Oct 18-21, Ramada Plaza Beach Resort, Fort Walton Beach, FL. 'Hope to see you there!

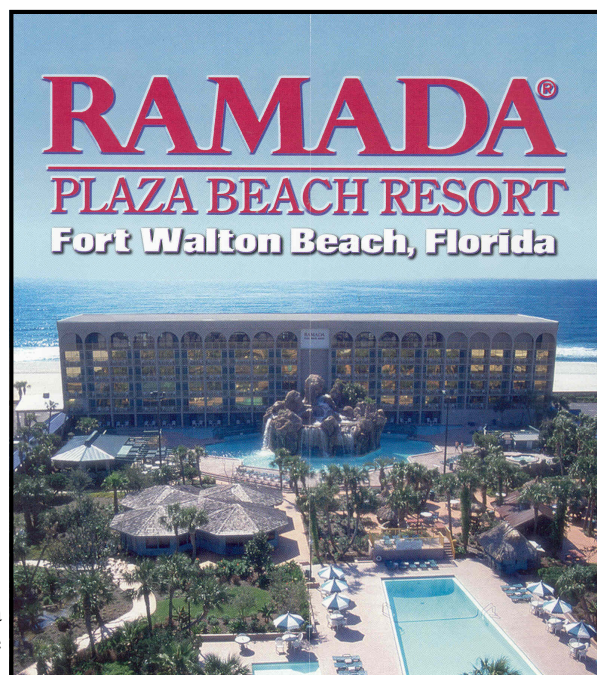
First Rustic reunion was held Sep 1997. Can you believe it, we are 10 years older!! Time is flying by; don't miss this one.

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TIME TO REGISTER: Enclosed is the reunion Schedule of Events and the 2007 Reunion Registration Form. Please mail in your registration NLT 1 Sep 2007. This will ensure the reunion hats and shirts are ordered and received in time for the reunion. This year's hats and shirts will be the same as in 2005; costs also remain the same.

You don't want to miss this gala gathering of Rustics and friends! Wives and guests are cordially invited. Highlights of the reunion will include great camaraderie, seafood, work on various Rustic History projects, a charter bus trip to the world famous Pensacola Naval Air Museum, golf, fishing, optional trip to Hurlburt Field's Air Park to view FAC aircraft (Rustic OV-10 #626 will be there) and the new FAC Memorial, and a Rustic Business Meeting (to include elections.). **Roger Dodd** and the "Flyers" will again entertain us at the Saturday night banquet. A Farewell Breakfast is scheduled for Sunday AM.

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION: The Ramada Plaza Beach Resort on Okaloosa Island (www.ramadafwb.com) will again be the site of our reunion. What a great place! A



block of rooms with discounted rates have been reserved. Each person is to contact the Ramada and make their own reservation. Please identify yourself as part of the "Rustic FAC Reunion." Four types of rooms are available. Most rooms have two queen size beds, unless you specify a king. The rates have gone up about \$10/night per room since the 2005 reunion, but the location is to die for.

To make reservations, call toll free: 1-800-874-8962
The Hotel's local phone number: 1-850-243-9161

Address: 1500 Miracle Strip Parkway, SE, Ft Walton Beach, FL 32548
Rustic Hootch phone: 1-850-243-9161, ext 7558

<u>Type Room:</u>	<u>Location:</u>	<u>Rate:</u>
Standard	(Rooms face away from courtyard)	\$99
Courtyard	(Rooms face in toward courtyard)	\$110
Poolside	(Towers Bldg-facing in to pool)	\$125
Gulf View	(Towers Bldg-facing gulf front)	\$140

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

OTHER LODGING OPTIONS: Please make your own reservations.

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

2) **Emerald Coast Suites**--Across street and one block west of Ramada; on Okaloosa Island. Rate: \$79 for 2 people. Extra person is \$6/night. Call: 800-408-2200 2 double beds per room or king. 1214 U.S. Highway 98 East.

WHO'S COMING? We are happy to report **Col Oum, Hotel 303**, will again be in attendance as our guest. **Lt Col Kohn Om** has not made a commitment yet, but we hope he will be in attendance as well. As our guests, the Rustics will cover their reunion expenses to include air fare. If you'd like to help with these expenses, please send in a contribution with your reunion registration.

The Sep newsletter will include a list of everyone who has registered and periodic updates will be posted on the Rustic Net.

*BTW: If you'd like to join the Rustic Net, contact **Ned Helm** at: ned@wingset.com. This is a great way to fill in the communication gaps with your Buds between newsletters... and it doesn't cost a penny.*

RUSTIC SOUTHEAST ASIA PHOTO ALBUM TO BE UNVEILED AT 2007 REUNION. **Ned Helm** is working to complete the Rustic's one-of-a-kind, comprehensive, all-in-one, Southeast Asia Rustic Photo Album DVD. What a great keepsake this will be! Come to the reunion to get your copy.

REUNION SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, 17 OCT 2007

1800-Till	PRE-PARTY—All Invited	At the Newland's, 4033 Indian Trail, Destin 850-654-2955
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THURSDAY, 18 OCT 2007

1200-2200	REGISTRATION OPEN --Reunion Sign-in --Drinks and refreshments --Display Memorabilia	Rustic Hootch (Poolside), Ramada
1630	EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING	Meet at Rustic Hootch
1800-2100	WELCOME PARTY --Flight Suits/Party Shirts, or whatever	Rustic Hootch
1830	DINNER (Registration Fee covers cost)	Rustic Hootch
2030	REUNION WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS	Rustic Hootch
2130	MASTER OF CEREMONIES MEETING	TBA

FRIDAY, 19 OCT 2007

0700	BREAKFAST (at your leisure)	
0730	RUSTIC HOOTCH OPEN	
0800	MEET AT NORTH ENTRANCE OF RAMADA FOR PENSACOLA NAVAL AIR MUSEUM TRIP	
0810	DEPART FOR PENSACOLA VIA CHARTER BUS	
0945	ARRIVE PENSACOLA NAVAL AIR MUSEUM	
1000	GROUP GUIDED TOUR OF MUSEUM (Group Picture)	
1200	LUNCH	West Pac Room & Cubi Bar Cafe
1300	IMAX THEATER SHOW	IMax Theater
1500-1630	TOUR AT YOUR LEISURE	
1645	LOAD BUS FOR RETURN TRIP.	
1700	CHARTER BUS DEPARTS PENSACOLA NAS	
1830	ARRIVE RAMADA HOTEL	
1900	MEET AT RUSTIC HOOTCH TO WALK TO CRAB TRAP RESTAURANT FOR DINNER.	
	--Located at the "Boardwalk" just West of the Ramada; on the beach.	
	--Optional activity. Group reservations made. Open Seating. Order off menu. No program.	
2100-Till	RUSTIC HOOTCH OPEN. EVENING AT LEISURE.	
	--Moonlight walks on the beach	

SATURDAY, 20 OCT 2007

0630-1300	6 hour FISHING TRIP (optional) --0630 Depart for Destin. --0700 Boat leaves dock.	Meet at Rustic Hootch to carpool
0700-1330	RUSTIC GOLF (optional) --Carpool to Eglin AFB --0800 first tee time.	0700 - Meet at Rustic Hootch
0800	BREAKFAST AT LEISURE	Ramada Garden Café
0800-1400	MORNING FREE FOR OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES: --Sight Seeing to Seaside Village and Beaches --Shopping at Silver Sands Factory Outlets --Eglin Armament Museum and Static Displays --Hurlburt Field Air Park and FAC Memorial	15 miles east of Destin on Hwy 30A 4 miles east of Destin on Hwy 98 Eglin AFB; POV (Meet at Hootch @ 0900; carpool)
0900	RUSTIC BUSINESS MEETING/ELECTIONS	Rustic Hootch
1445-1600	BANQUET SET-UP	Forum Room – Top Floor of Towers Bldg
1600	BANQUET HAPPY HOUR—CASH BAR	Forum Room
1800-1900	--Individual and Couple photos by Jim Seibold --Coat and tie or whatever	
1830-1900	RUSTIC GROUP PHOTOS	Forum Room
1900-2200	DINNER BANQUET/DANCING	Forum Room
2200-TILL	RUSTIC HOOTCH OPEN	

SUNDAY, 21 OCT 2007

0800-0930	FAREWELL BREAKFAST (Breakfast Buffet)	Ramada Garden Cafe
0930	RUSTIC HOOTCH OPEN --Remove memorabilia from Hootch --Farewells	
1000	EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETNG	Meet at Rustic Hootch
1100	HOTEL ROOM CHECKOUT TIME	
1200	RUSTIC HOOTCH CLOSES	

2007 MEMBERSHIP UPDATE: Don Ellis reports the association currently has 48 lifetime members and 44 annual members. Some of you may not have sent in your 2007 dues yet so a copy of the dues renewal form is included with this newsletter. Remember, it's your dues that keep us going! BTW: Our dues have not changed in ten years.

DON ELLIS NOW RUSTIC DATABASE KEEPER: Don Ellis, Rustic Treasurer, is now the new Rustic Database Keeper. Don volunteered to take on this responsibility, since, as treasurer, he is the one who deals primarily with membership and needs to keep up with address and personnel changes, etc.

If you anticipate any changes to your address, phone number or E mail address, please pass this info directly to Don at: donellis@sc.rr.com or call (803) 435-4755.

*Our thanks go to **Lendy Edwards** who has served in this position for the past 10 years!*

CAN YOU HELP US AUDIT OUR RUSTIC BOOKS? We need someone who has [preferably] an accounting or business background to step forward and volunteer to do an informal audit of our Rustic financial accounts at the 2007 Reunion. We conduct an independent audit because we think it's a good business practice for the association. (**Bill Sleigh** has done the audit in the past, so we need a replacement.) The audit only takes an hour or so to accomplish.

Treasurer, **Don Ellis**, will provide all reports, etc. If you can help with this matter, please contact **Claude Newland** at rustic19@cox.net or call 850-654-2955. The audit will be conducted at the reunion.

*Our thanks go to **Don Ellis** who has done a great job of keeping our accounts up-to-date!*

ROSTER/PERSONNEL UPDATES: Rustics on the move:

Don Echelberger	4113 Cackling Goose Dr., No. Las Vegas, NV 89084
Ned Helm	515 Trailhead lane, Jamestown, TN 38556 931-752-8102 and of course 800-356-4953
Lannie Trapp	8400 Penali Parkway, Austin TX, 78726 (H) 512-350-2230; Cell phone: 512-799-2068

BAD E MAIL ADDRESS; UPDATES REQUESTED. The E mail addresses for the following Rustics are no longer working for us. If you would, please send **Don Ellis** your new E mail address at: donellis@sc.rr.com. (We probably also need new mailing addresses on these guys. Do any of you know where these guys are these days? If so, please contact Don with the current info.

Ed Boggess
Damon Gonzalez
Don Osborn

Norman Cimon
Charles D. Greene
Milton Ross

Norm Falcon
Emery Kiraly
Otto Walinski

Michael Gilchrist
Roger Lanoue

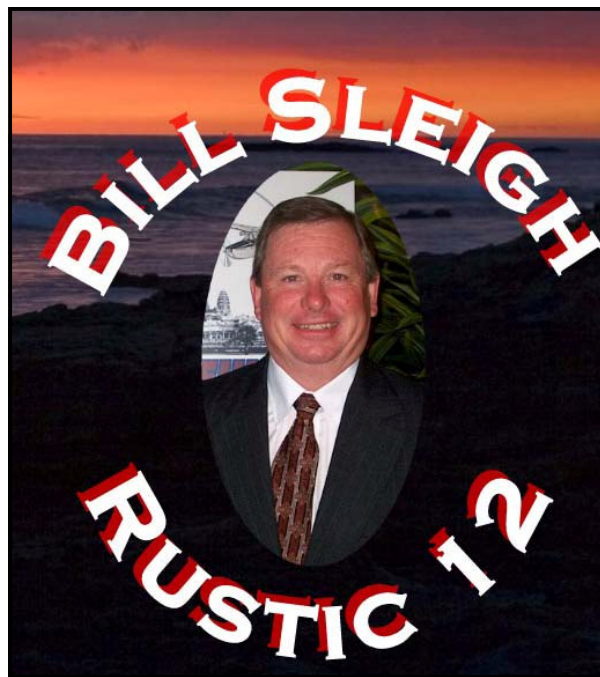
BILL SLEIGH, RUSTIC 12, TAKES FINAL FLIGHT WEST. It's with deep regret that we inform you that **Bill Sleigh** passed away on 5 April 2007 after losing his battle with leukemia. A memorial service was held Tuesday, 10 April at the 1st Methodist church in Niceville, FL. Many friends and family were in attendance to include many local area FACs who served with Bill at Hurlburt Field when Bill was an OV-10 Instructor Pilot. Rustics **Doug Aitken**, **Don Echelberger**, and **Jim Reese** flew in to attend the service and were joined by local Rustics **Lendy Edwards** and **Claude Newland**. **Doug Aitken** and **Claude Newland** were honored to be able to participate in the service and give eulogies for Bill.

Bill was a Rustic OV-10 pilot at Bien Hoa Air Base from March - July 1971. Following his tour in SEA he went to medical school and then became a physician, practicing in Tampa and, later, Fort Walton Beach, FL. His family now resides in Niceville, FL

Part of Bill's legacy will be the lasting impact he made on our present day FAC community and the Rustic FAC Association, in particular. He was instrumental in helping get the Rustic FAC Association formed in 1997, served as its charter vice president for 5 years, and helped ensure the success of 4 Rustic FAC reunions.

In 2000, he served on both the Ft Walton Beach, FL "Mother of All FAC Reunion" and FAC Memorial Committees. He worked tirelessly to make the 2000 FAC reunion a great success by providing the hats and shirts for the reunion, serving as a host and sponsor for the Medal of Honor family attendees, and by participating in the FAC Memorial dedication ceremony and assisting in the reading the names of our 219 departed brethren. As a result of Bill's efforts, and many like him, the foundation was laid for what we now enjoy as a vibrant and active FAC Association. Bill, we salute you—you have made the world a better place in many ways!

Nancy Sleigh can be reached at: 1243 Shipley Dr., Niceville, FL 32578, sleigh59@cox.net or 850-897-1045.



Bill, we bid you fair skies and a gentle tailwind. 'Rest assured, you will not be forgotten by your Rustic brethren.

RUSTICS SEEK TO HONOR BILL SLEIGH BY PUBLISHING HIS MEMOIRS; 'HELP NEEDED. One of **Bill Sleigh's** best kept secrets was the fact that he had taken extensive notes of his Southeast Asia tour and had been writing his memoirs over the past few years. His manuscript was all but complete when he passed away. Unfortunately, Bill didn't have time to complete the manuscript's final edit and get his memoirs published due to the effects of his prolonged battle with leukemia.

Don Mercer has seen the draft manuscript and has volunteered to act as the Rustic OPR to coordinate an effort to get Bill's memoirs published as a tribute and memorial to Bill and his family. The initial manuscript should produce a book of approx. 150-175 pages. **Doug Aitken** has volunteered to write the Forward and work on photo layouts, and **Jim Gabel** has been assisting with editing. They are putting a full court press on this project.

The Goal is to have the Memoirs published in time for our 2007 Reunion so we can present them to **Nancy Sleigh**. As you can see, we are on a short timeline.

The total cost is expected to be approx. \$1,000 - \$1,200. This will include a turn key contract to copyright, do photos layouts, and publish a hard bound book.

If you'd like to make a memorial contribution to help publish Bill Sleigh's memoirs, please send your memorial check to: Don Ellis, Rustic Treasurer, 26 E. Boyce St., Manning SC, 29102. Make check payable to "Rustics" and put "Sleigh Memoirs" in the check by-line.

Editor's note: "\$500 has already been pledged by individual members of the Rustic Board. We are almost half way to our goal of raising approx. \$1,200. . Will you help? This will be a great gift for Bill's family. Once the memoirs have been published, if there are any excess funds, they will be donated to a charity named by the family in memory of Bill .I've read the memoirs. Bill has a very readable style and his stories bring back many memories!

SHORT BURSTS:

1) Medical Update. **Claude Newland** had laparoscopic robotic prostate surgery on Wed, 2 May in Atlanta at the Northside Hospital. The surgery seemed to go well and he is now at home resting. If any of you have had prostate cancer and served "boot on the ground" in Vietnam, contact Claude at rustic19@cox.net or call 850-654-2955. He has some important information about VA services and benefits if you have had prostate cancer.

2) State Department OV-10D Crashes. "Igor", Keeper of the OV-10 Bronco Records, reported on the OV-10 Net that State Department OV-10D SLEP, #155410, PNC 3041, crashed during a maintenance test flight on the 28th of April, at San Jose del Guaviare, Colombia. The pilot ejected safely and sustained some minor injuries associated with the ejection, but nothing more.

3) Awards and Decs. **Don Mercer** is continuing his never-ending battle to redress previous omissions and oversights with respect to proper awards recognition for the Rustics. Currently, he is resubmitting an award of the Silver Star (previously downgraded) for **Dick Roberds** for a mission flown on December 15, 1970.

4) OV-10 # 675 Update. **Randy Roberts**, Nail FAC, Mar 21. HOORAY!! SARCO INC. out of northern N.J. was nice enough to supply us with 4 M-60 barrels w/ gas tube assemblies and flash suppressors at a substantial discount and kindly paid the shipping. Believe it or not, with the market on all things "machine guns" going price wise out of sight this has been a real worry where, or even if, we could get the damn things. Now that the P-47 is "up on base" the priorities shift towards 675. Wanted to "dedicate" the old girl on Memorial Day, but that ain't gonna happen.....more as things develop.

5) Return Trip to Cambodia. Rustic **Tom Capps** is part of a ministerial team going to Cambodia in Nov 2007. **Ron Gamache**, Rustic V, is going to be part of the team. At this year's reunion, Tom will give us an overview of his planned trip. We hope to get a thorough debrief once the trip is concluded.

6) Rustics to attend All FAC reunion hosted by the Aussies in Canberra, Australia, 23-28 April, 2008. If you'd like more information on this reunion, the planned itinerary and who will be attending, please contact **Claude Newland** at: rustic19@cox.net or call 850-654-2955. A 21 day tour of New Zealand and Australia will proceed the reunion.

2007 ELECTION BALLOTS TO BE MAILED IN SEP NEWSLETTER.. Members will receive the 2007 election ballots in the September Rustic newsletter. We are in need of more members to step up and run for office. Contact any one of the following members of the Nominating Committee to discuss how you might become involved in the Association:

Lendy Edwards	lendy@cox.net	850-651-6766 (Chairman)
Roger Hamann	RusticYankee72@aol.com	207-375-4883
Doc Thomas	shialary@msn.com	314-457-8816

Bill Carruthers billc@carolina.rr.com 704-366-8890

HISTORIAN REPORT- LAST CALL FOR INPUTS IF YOU FLEW OV-10 # 639 OR # 675(Gabel.) Rustics, here's your chance to be part of recorded history. Don't miss this opportunity!

Rustic OV-10 # 639 is to be dedicated in April 2008 at the Australian War Memorial Museum. The Aussies have requested information on OV-10 67-14639 from **Darrel Whitcomb**, FAC Association Historian. Darrel put a request on the FACNET. On 21 May, I submitted the data from Rustics that I had collected. Included was information from 15 individuals, which covered 82 flights. Many of these missions were flown by individuals before they became Rustics. I know there is additional information out there in Rustic land, because 20 of those flights were reported by interpreters and there are no corresponding reports from pilots. It would be appropriate to include an additional request, with a note of urgency, in the next newsletter.

Rustic OV-10 # 675 to be dedicated at the Hill AFB Museum. Date TBD. **Randy Roberts**, Nail 38, is participating in the restoration of 675. He has requested the same type of historical mission inputs from the pilots who flew this bird. The objective is to create a complete history of # 675 for inclusion in the museum.

If you flew either of these birds, please submit your account/story (as much as possible), to include details, dates, names, rank, and TASS squadron assigned to Jim Gabel NLT 31 Aug 2007 at: jagabel@aol.com or mail to: 2556 Lindsey Dr., Rapid City, SD 57702. Include pictures if you have them. Last Call!

Inputs for OV-10 # 639 have been received from the following: Aitken, Brunnelle, Dufresne, Edwards, Engleman, Ernst, Hamann, Harshaw, Keese, Larson, McClellan, Newland, Spencer, Van Dyke and Wilson. (Thanks guys!) Who else?

*Bill Ernst, Rustic 04, reports he flew 675 several times as a Rustic in April 1973, so we suspect there must be others who flew this ol' war horse. OK, guys, check you logs one more time and get with it! Submit your inputs ASAP to **Jim Gabel**.*

RUSTIC WEBSITE (Edwards): Gents, I recently updated the Rustic website to include the Memorial section, the locator, and uploaded the latest InnerChange Newsletter. Please take note and enjoy. If you should see an error, please let me know.

CAMBODIAN CHARITIES (Edwards): I received the following report from Sunrise Innerchange Ministries, the parent organization that oversees the Cambodian Charities we have been supporting in Kompong Cham. As many of you will recall, **Diane Moss**, our most recent contact person in Kompong Cham, has departed Cambodian so we had to establish contacts with her replacement. Here is the report from **Danny Colombara, Advisor to IC Kompong Cham City.**

Dear Lendy (and Rustics),

Thank you for forwarding your questions so quickly and for passing along your web address to help me understand more about the Rustics.

I understand your concerns regarding wanting a contact "on the ground" here in Kampong Cham. In response let me simply say, part of the reason that I moved to Kampong Cham was to serve supporters such as yourself and Rustics. When you have questions or concerns, please let me know and I will respond as quickly and accurately as possible.

Sunrise is committed to continuing support of the Kampong Cham Orphanage. Our volunteers continue to visit the orphanage on a weekly basis. In addition, at the start of every school year, Sunrise has purchased books, uniforms, and school supplies for the orphans. We have no plans to discontinue either of these services. Your gift to the orphanage was used to purchase these school related items. If the Rustics were to make future gifts to the orphanage, they would be used in the same way.

In addition, I know that the Rustics had also given \$500 to be used as discretionary fund to care for local emergencies. I plan, at the end of the fiscal year, to give an accounting of how these funds were utilized.

InnerCHANGE has no plans to cut or reduce our ministry in Kampong Cham City because **Diane Moss** has moved to Romania. Rather, as I mentioned in the mid-year report, we are renewing our agreement with the government and expect to work here for years to come.

Please let me know if I haven't addressed your concerns or if you questions regarding anything I wrote. Kind regards,
Danny Colombara, Advisor to IC KCC danny.colombara@crmladers.org

FAC MUSEUM UPDATE (Gabel): As of 9 May 2007, about \$18K has been spent on the Museum build out, with about \$5K of that in donated material. The Trail Bar is complete except for the plumbing. The latest O-2 has now been received and partially assembled. It will be configured as a "Black Bird," with the windows painted so that the interior will not need as much work as the other O-2. The prevailing view is that the OV-10 Bronco Association will eventually be merged with the FACM, with the FACM becoming the overarching organization for a number of affinity groups. You can already see this approach in the OBA/FACM newsletter.

0-2 AIRCRAFT – WHERE ARE THEY NOW? "Oxlade", Mar 21, 2007. Rustics, I have just joined the FACNET. I live in Australia. I'm an aviation historian and for the past few years have been tracing every 0-2, (not their entire history, but just their fate.) I have them all, except 48 a/c, and still working on them. If anybody is looking for a particular tail #, give me a try and I will do my best to advise you of my findings. Contact me at: noelast323@hotmail.com

Any 0-2 Rustic willing to contact "Oxlade" and find out what happened to our Rustic 0-2's? This would be a great addition to our

*Rustic History. Please advise **Jim Gabel**, Rustic Historian, at: jagabel@aol.com if you can help.*

HAVE ANY RUSTICS EVER RECEIVE A DFC WITH "V" DEVICE FOR VALOR? **George Larson**, Rustic "U", would like to know if any Rustic ever received a "V" device for valor with their DFC? The "V" device is an "add-on" to the DFC if the DFC's specific write-up documents a mission executed with "valor." If you received the "V" device or would like to know more about its ramifications, please contact **George "Lunchbox" Larson** at: gorln45@aol.com or 407-277-8502.

George says these awards seem to be non-existent among the Rustics because our individual mission DFC write-ups were sanitized so that the final "submissions" were pretty generic due to the classified nature of our mission. Were you the exception? If so, come up voice.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/CALENDAR:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1) 2007 A-37 Reunion | 6-9 Sep 2007, Hilton Washington Dulles Hotel, Wash, DC |
| 2) 2007 OBA FACtober Fest | 26-28 Oct 2007, Ft Worth, TX. |
| 3) 2008 Aussie FAC Reunion | 23-28 April 08, Canberra, Australia. All U.S. FACs invited to participate |
| 4) 2008 All FAC Reunion | 1-5 Oct 2008, Colorado Springs, CO. AF/Navy Football game 4 Oct. |

OV-10 # 639 ARRIVES IN AUSTRALIA. (Aussie FAC **Graham Neil**, Mar 25, 2007.) OV-10 #639 has been landed in Sydney, courtesy of HMAS Tobruk, and has been cleared by Customs and the Australian Quarantine & Inspection Service. It will now be shipped by road to Canberra to be housed at the Australian War Memorial's (AWM) Treloar Annex for restoration. That will mark the end of our quest which has been running for 8 years thus far.

The AWM really made this fourth recovery attempt count and nothing was left to chance, their own engineer went to Manila in mid February to supervise the packing and to ensure that the Customs and AQIS concerns were addressed, so as to ensure there would be no glitches on arrival. The AWM has sent letters of appreciation to the Philippine Air Force, our Embassy in Manila and others are being drafted to Chief of Navy etc. The PAF disassembled the aircraft for us and were extremely helpful in providing assistance with the container loading and they even threw in a few spare instruments for the cockpit as well as a drop tank. The Defense Attachés office in Manila also provided top class support throughout. The US Technical Support Office provided a CD containing details of the complete list of components of a serviceable OV-10 to ensure that restoration will be as complete as possible (subject to budget and availability.) The aircraft log books which were believed lost, following their hand-over to Air Chief Marshal Angus Houston and retention by our DA in Manila in Feb 05, miraculously turned up on the desk of the Captain of HMAS Tobruk. So another piece of the history jigsaw has been found.

We really appreciate the intellectual, moral and physical support that the OV-10 Bronco Association and FAC Association have provided over the last eight years.

My thanks to all who have provided unstinting effort towards this project. Best Regards, **Graham Neil**

INDONESIANS TO RETIRE THE OV-10. **Eugene Rossel**" eugene.rossel@verizon.net, 4/11/2007 INDONESIA - AGING AIRCRAFT TO BE GROUNDED (APR 11/XIN) XINHUA -- The Indonesian air force will ground the obsolete aircraft in its inventory, reports Xinhua, China's state news agency. This will affect the service's six Hawk Mk 53s and eight OV-10 Broncos, both of which have airworthiness expiration dates of 2010, air force Chief Air Marshal **Herman Prayitno** said. Indonesia has contacted aircraft manufacturers to replace the two aircraft types.

LETTERS TO THE RUSTICS:

From Jerry Dufresne to Chuck Bopp, ceebe3216@verizon.net

Chuck, I just checked my flight records and I was your backseater on that flight. It was tail # 683 and was a 5.20 hour flight. I do remember it being a hairy mission with a lot of fireworks and debris in the air. I am Rustic India, I was the first backseater and flew 120 missions with the Rustics. I will try to find a photo of us together by an OV-10. I remember you because it was my 100th combat hour in the Bronco. Glad to have you on board. Take care and I will always be your Backseater. Your Friend and Fellow Rustic, **Jerry Dufresne**

From Chuck Bopp:

I just received the enclosed message and called **Jerry [Dufresne.]** It is amazing that we can make such contacts after so many years. Anyway, Jerry & I had a neat conversation and I want to thank you for putting us in contact. **Chuck**

From Terry Tabor, Nail 83, FAC Museum (Editor's Note: The Rustic Board has again approved \$500 for the Rustics to continue as a "Corporate Sponsorship" of the FACM for 2007.)

Claude, Thanks to you and the Rustics for your continued support of FACM! **Tom Kemp** will be mailing out the invoices to corporate sponsors in the near future, but it is nice to know that the Rustics are on board ahead of time.

Jim Gabel has done a great job of representing the Rustics and keeping up with the Steering Committee happenings, as well as serving as our membership chairman. I can understand his feelings that someone in the DFW area would be able to attend the monthly meetings, but quite often our meeting schedule changes because even the few of us who are regulars aren't available. If there is a Rustic who would like to participate, we'd be delighted with whomever you select. The only one who comes to mind is **Jack Thompson**, a member of the OBA Board of Directors, and even Jack has a tough time attending OBA meetings because his consulting work is frequently out of town. By the way, he has been a GREAT help in the last month or so as we prepared for **General Carlson's** visit. With the FACM, it seems that those who want to help somehow find the time at the critical points and the job gets done.

Speaking of which, the FACM build out is essentially complete. We have a few adjustments here and there with the final touchup work, but we are ready to start putting up displays. The next step for the FACM Steering Committee is to decide on the overall plan for displays to tell the story of Forward Air Control from the beginning to the present. Several ideas have already been proposed and all sound wonderful, so we just need to draw out the plan so everyone is on the same page. **Jerry Stephan** (Nails) and **James Eaton** (OBA/modeler) are already building models to be used in the diorama which will visually explain the history of FACING. As you can imagine, this is the exciting part of the FACM development. Thanks again to all the Rustics, **Terry**

From **Dave Van Dyke**,

One of my buddies happens to be the local NBC channel helicopter pilot and yesterday just happened to be the end of the fiscal year and he needed to put about 5 hours on the bird...so old Dave volunteered to help him out. The last time I did this was in 1970 when **Dave Parsons** and I were awarded our honorary "Woppity One Stripe" for working closely with the helicopter hunter killer teams at the Big Red 1. So to my surprise, I was still able to make this beauty go, although it will take a little time to get smooth on the cyclic. But the landings were firm and solid (read safe), the hover was erratic but not catastrophic, and the flying was down right fun.

Mike Wilson should know that he's not the only Rustic that can fly using both hands and both feet at the same time. **Dave Van Dyke-Rustic 4**



From "**Ned Helm**"

Hey, Claude.....Great to hear you're back!! Rustic 15 et Ux are now in TN with a new addy of 515 Trailhead lane, Jamestown, TN 38556. Phone 931-752-8102 and of course 800-356-4953.

They bulldozed our drive yesterday and cleared the house site. Foundation goes in this weekend. Should be in and warm (cool?) in Aug!!

Small 1200 sq foot house with full basement and then a cabarn (cabin barn) for guests and horses. We sit on the Trailhead for the great South Fork of the Cumberland river National Recreation area...a huge park that spans a lot of eastern TN and KY. Cheers.... Really miss the heat, sand, snakes and Hurricanes!! (now I'll get hit by a runaway horse.....)

The final bag drag was a motor home towing a u-haul and the Durango towing a two horse trailer with its occupants.....it was not without traumaas the Camper first lost an inside rear tire in Soddy Daisy (yes, Virginia there is a Soddy Daisy in TN) at 9 PM. Then after the attendant delay (about an hour) while FMCA changed the spare out..... we arrived in Jamestown and headed down the 14 miles of very dark twisty road to the manse. Then at the only downhill 90 degree turn on the road....the serpentine belt STB and I lost just about everything....no power steering, no power brakes, and no water pump.

It was in the RV equivalent of fresh out of airspeed and ideas...except...I had too much airspeed and no ideas. The camper made the corner and ended up in a really crabby guys front yard (actually I was just on the right of way).He threatened to get his shotgun...I laid my 9mm Browning Hi-power in my lap and thought...he gets the first shot...I get the next 13!! He went to bed...good move AH!

The FMCA (family motor coach assn) was dispatched....and I was towed to the chocks at 4AM. BTW the FMCA will tow anything including your vehicle and whatever it is towing and has unlimited roadside assistance including trip retrieval and completion. Lose AAA they have a 4 call limit per year.....and FMCA is cheaper!! **Crash**

Crash, we hope you don't have to move often...you seem to have more than your share of travel "adventures!" 'Glad you to hear you survived another mission.

From Gil Bellefeuille, Rustic T

Afternoon Claude, The news just gets better and better. Ruth's [my spouse's] CO called this AM. She was selected for promotion to Major with an expected DOR of 12/01/07. Needless to say was happy news all around.

Kimberly [daughter] graduates from Navy boot camp on 4/13/07 and I will fly up for her graduation. Still do not know where she will go for A school. Talk to U later, **Gil Bellefeuille** 386-589-5404, bellef105@aol.com

Gil, please pass on our congratulations to Ruth on here pending promotion, and to Kimberly on her graduation..

From Doug Aitken, Subject: Pending Visit to 74 FS "Rustics"

'Just to let you know that I am escorting **N.C. Senator Harris Blake** to the 74 FS next Friday, Mar 25th. Sen Blake got very involved in the return of the remains of one Lt Upchurch, a Flying Tiger, who crashed and was killed in China during WW II. The Chinese buried him and faithfully maintained his grave until last year, when the remains were identified thru DNA, and he was buried here in Moore County at the family plot. The 74th did the flyby, with Batt being #3.

In early April, Sen Blake is leading a delegation to the village in China that maintained the grave. I was talking to him about our impending annexation, which we are fighting, and the subject came up and he indicated a desire to take something from the Flying Tigers to present to the Chinese. Hence the visit.

'Should be fun, and I will try to represent the Rustics in a positive fashion--should be easy cause we are going in the morning, thus no happy hour. Cheers, **Doug**

From Doug Aitken, Subject: After Action Report on Visit to 74 FS

Claude, The 74th was mostly deployed to Iraq at the time of our visit. Guys who remained were the OPS officer and folks in differing stages of planning. "**Batt**" **Platt** for example, left a couple of days before we got there to go to IP school.

Nevertheless, we had a great time. **Senator Harris Blake** was really, really impressed. We were greeted by the FG/CC **Col Henry Santicola**, the Ops officer, and two escort officers. We had press coverage from our local paper, and I will forward you the story when it comes out. Started in PE, then to the briefing room for standard brief, and they presented him with a great picture, framed, to be taken to China and presented to the Chinese.

Don't recall if I told you the entire story of the Flying Tigers connection with Senator Blake. In 1944, Lt Upchurch crashed in his P-40 in China, and some local folks from the village of Guidong (I think that is spelled right) found his body, buried it, and maintained that grave for over 60 years. Last year, after the folks at Hickham had identified who he was from DNA, the family approached Senator Blake, who is our local state rep, in help in getting everything squared away for burial in the family plot in Moore County, North Carolina. The 74th FS did the flyby and Batt was the "missing man."

I met Senator Blake on the issue of our community being involuntarily annexed by the Village of Pinehurst. NC is one of only four states that allow an involuntary annexation without some sort of a referendum, and I am the President of the Fair Annexation Coalition, a gathering of individual groups from throughout the state who are fighting similar battles. The work on the Rustic video has not yet begun. Too busy visiting members of the NC General Assembly and fighting the good fight.

Anyway, I met Senator Blake on that issue, and he told us of his upcoming trip to China to thank those villagers, and he said he wished that he could have some Flying Tiger momentos to give to them--they are building a memorial to Lt. Upchurch. Senator Blake leaves tomorrow and is leading a delegation of 15 from here--relatives, etc.

I told him I could take care of that for him. So he got to climb all over the A-10 and flew the sim and had a great lunch. They gave him a bunch of those "coins" they gave the Rustics two years ago, along with scarfs, and patches as well as the beautifully framed print. HE also got a bottle of local wine, with the 23FG patch as the label!

I also had written to B/G Tex Hill, whom I had met many years ago at Gen Flynn's house in San Antonio, and whom I met again two years ago at Oshkosh. He fulfilled my request with a great letter to the villagers thanking them for taking care of Lt Upchurch (Tex was the CC when Upchurch was lost), and also an autographed picture of himself in China in the cockpit of the P-40. Tex is a wonderful American--92 years young and still going strong. Double ace and just got the Distinguished Service Medal from Pres Bush.

Yesterday, while I was in the General Assembly, visiting on annexation, I dropped in on Sen Blake, and he showed me copies of the wonderful letters he wrote to the folks at Pope.

He promised to work with me when he gets back on a golf outing for those guys over here in Pinehurst. Also, **Col Santicola** wants another Rustic visit some Friday when they have the hootch open. These guys leave for Moody in the fall, so we might want to do that pretty soon. We also need to make sure that they have invites to our 10th reunion. You should handle that, I think as Pres.

That is it--ain't you glad you asked. Cheers, **Doug**

From Rog Hamann, Rustic Yankee,

Joe Garand, Rustic Echo, and I visited the Traveling Wall on Sunday (27 May) in Old Orchard Beach, York County, ME and laid a nickel down for our three Rustic brothers who's memories will NEVER BE FORGOTTEN. Thanks to Joe's son, Rock, for taking the time to take a pic of two Rustic GIBS from Ubon.

From Marcel Morneau, Rustic "V"

Hey Guys, 'Looks like the Maine Mafia is alive and well (including **Ralph Dow**). Good pic of **Roger** and **Joe**. Hope to see both of them at the reunion. 'Spent Memorial Day building a play set in the backyard, hosting family BBQ and enjoying our grand kids. See you all in October. **Denise and Marcel**

From Kent Allison, friend of Rustic **Doug Norman**, Rustic M,

Gentlemen, I am not one of you but I shared a two-bedroom apartment with **Carl "Doug" [Norman]** in Topeka, KS in '72 / '73 when we were stationed together at Forbes AFB and both assigned to the Processing Section of CBPO (Personnel) after he was cross-trained in 1972.

Those of you who knew Doug in Thailand would have been even more "proud" of him back in the CONUS. He was a "Personnel Weenie" of the first order (CBPO In-Processing Specialist) during the day and a "premium grade" bartender at a downtown Topeka lounge after duty hours. He had a "flair" for wild ladies and good cigars. Doug was a pretty big fella and you can guess the inquisitive looks and questions he fielded from the flight status personnel when they saw his ribbons. Forbes was an airlift base (313th TAW) with Herky's and an ACGS detachment. We out-processed a lot of our aircrew members to Spec Ops at Hurlburt. Forbes even had some RB-57G Canberra's.

Doug evidently knew one or two of the ACGS guys as they sometimes hung out together but I didn't make the connection at the time (being a rather naive and simple minded two-striper from Kansas). He bought a new 1972 gold Chrysler Sebring and a motorcycle. He made some high level contacts with the Topeka P.D. and KBI and was working "undercover" and "UNDER THE USAF RADAR" for those agencies in his off-duty time. He carried a concealed weapon almost all the time he wasn't in USAF attire.

More than once he warned me (and my wife when she visited on weekends) NOT to open the door to our apartment if someone knocked but to make certain it was him first. (That will make a person think.) His aspirations (as he revealed to me) were to pursue a career in the Intel / LE field, the FBI, the "Agency", etc. Considering the "curious and intriguing" story surrounding his death in 1998, he **just might** have been successful. I certainly hope so. Just my 2 cents for an old friend.....an Opus X and a Remy Martin. **Kent Allison**, Coffeyville, KS

Doug passed away several years ago. Several Rustics have tried to locate Doug's family but the clandestine nature of Doug's later career path may explain our difficulty in trying to locate them as the Air Force will not release any information to us.

From Kent Allison,

Mr. Newland, We have not met....yet. I am a guy who lived with **Doug Norman** back in '72 /'73 (off-base) while stationed at Forbes AFB, KS (when we were both "Personnel Weenies"). I ran across the Rustics website back in summer 2005 and stumbled (literally) onto another website containing a story by **Rog Hamann**. The rest is history. My wife and I hope to make it to the reunion this fall.

I have read of your prostate surgery and it sounds like things are going well. I am nearly 54 and have been a firefighter and EMT for over 26 years. I have had annual PSA tests with our department physicals for the past several years now. The PSA's are so easy that it is difficult to imagine every man over the age of 50 not having them done annually. Of course, at the same time, one should mention the necessity of having the dreaded colonoscopy. Many folks just don't want to think about having them done or "dealing with it". However, you are very much correct that technology has advanced so much farther and we can detect things so much earlier than a few years ago. The earlier we can detect and treat a problem, the better our chances of beating it the first time around.

Anyway, I am glad things are going well for you. I hope you have gotten rid of the catheter (or soon will). Kathy and I send our prayers and "Best Wishes" for a full and speedy recovery. God Bless, **Kent Allison**



L-R Joe Garand and Roger Hamann

Kent, we look forward to meeting you and your wife at the reunion. .It would be a privilege to have you join us!

2007 REUNION REGISTRATION FORM

18-21 Oct, 2007

Please print all information and return with payment **NLT 1 Sep, 2007.** (This will ensure time to order reunion shirts & hats.)

Name _____ Nickname (for name tag) _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone (____) _____ E Mail _____ FAX (____) _____

Spouse/Guest Name _____ Nickname (for name tag) _____

Rustic/Other Call Sign _____ Rustic Dates: Month _____ Yr _____ to Month _____ Yr _____

What day and time do you plan to arrive at the reunion? Wed. _____ Thurs. _____ Fri. _____ Sat. _____

Approx. time of day: _____ Coming by: Car _____ Air _____ (Flight Number _____)

I'm arriving at the following airport: Okaloosa County Regional. Airport _____ Pensacola Regional Airport _____

If unaccompanied, would you be interested in sharing a room/expenses with another Rustic? Yes _____ No _____

Do you or your guest require any special assistance while at the reunion? Please Specify: _____

I'm willing to help man the Rustic Hootch for a couple of hours. Yes _____

I/we will be attending the pre-party at the Newland's House on Wed, 17 Oct Yes _____

I will bring memorabilia for display in the FAC Hootch. Yes _____

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

Please mail completed Registration Form and check (payable to: "Rustics") **NLT 1 Sep 2007 to: Lendy Edwards, 11 Poplar Ave, Shalimar, FL 32579**

REGISTRATION FEES

	Cost:	Number:		Subtotal:
Registration Fee: \$35 for each Rustic; \$25 per Guest	\$35 / \$25	x _____	=	\$ _____

(Not required if only attending just the Sat. night Reunion Banquet.)

Includes "Welcome Dinner", Thurs, 18 Oct, at FAC Hootch.

Charter Bus Trip to Pensacola Naval Air Museum, Fri, 19 Oct, \$40.00	x _____	=	\$ _____
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Includes Bus, Lunch, and I Max Theater. (Delete \$8.00 if no I Max Show desired)

Please select your choice of I Max Theater shows:

_____ Hurricane On The Bayou (Experience the power of Hurricane Katrina)

_____ Magic of Flight (fly with the Blue Angels)

_____ Fighter Pilot (Experience "Red Flag" flying at Nellis AFB)

Please select your choice of sandwich or salad lunch entrée: (lunch includes entrée, chips, pickle spear, drink, and tip)

Sandwich entrees:

Aviator's Choice: _____ Roast Beef _____ Turkey or _____ Ham /w lettuce and tomato on freshly baked wheat bread.

_____ **Mach I:** Shredded pulled pork, seasoned w/ a mild barbeque sauce loaded on a Kaiser roll.

_____ **Buster:** Marinated steak smothered in roasted red & green bell peppers, onions w/ Swiss cheese grilled the panini way. Bistro sauce to dip.

Pita Pilot: _____ Seasoned chicken breast or _____ Marinated steak w/ lettuce, diced tomato, chopped green onion, shredded cheddar & our special ranch sauce; wrapped in warm pita bread.

Salad entrees:

_____ **Cajun Chicken Breast.** Cajun seasoned chicken, tomato wedges, bell pepper rings, cherry pepper, celery & carrot sticks served over a bed of our fresh garden salad w/ honey mustard dressing.

_____ **Chef Salad.** Strips of ham, smoked turkey, carrot sticks, eggs slices & tomato wedges over a fresh garden salad.

_____ **Pacific Salad.** Teriyaki chicken, pineapple & Mandarin oranges on a bed of mixed greens, w/ Asian Sesame dressing.

Please select your choice of drink: _____ Tea _____ Water _____ Diet Coke _____ Coke _____ Sprite _____ Coffee

6 hour Fishing Tri p. Sat, 20 Oct. Bottom Fishing (optional)	\$65	x _____	=	\$ _____
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Golf Tournament: Sat. am, 20 Oct. (Green Fee, Cart and Prizes)	\$35	x _____	=	\$ _____
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"Reserve" me the following clubs: Standard (\$7.50) _____ Ping (\$25) _____ (Pay when you play)

Reunion Banquet. Sat. pm, 20 Oct:	\$48.00	x _____	=	\$ _____
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Farewell Breakfast, Ramada: Sun am, 21 Oct (optional)	\$13.00	x _____	=	\$ _____
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Contribution to Cambodian Reunion Guest Fund (Tax deductible):				\$ _____
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Contribution to Cambodian Charity Fund (Tax deductible):				\$ _____
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Reunion Memorabilia Items:

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

White Polo Shirt: Men's Large _____ Men's X Large _____ \$ 27.00 ea	x _____	=	\$ _____
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Ladies Med. _____ Ladies Large _____ Ladies X Large _____ \$ 27.00 ea	x _____	=	\$ _____
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Men's XX Large _____ Men's XXX Large _____ \$ 29.00 ea	x _____	=	\$ _____
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Ladies XX Large _____ Ladies XXX Large _____ \$ 29.00 ea	x _____	=	\$ _____
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(Same Shirt as 2005 Reunion; Shirt front will have Reunion Logo over heart)

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

\$ 10.00	x _____	=	\$ _____
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Shipping costs if not attending reunion: Hat: \$2.50 Shirt: \$3.00 Hat & Shirt: \$3.50	x _____	=	\$ _____
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2007 Membership Renewal Form

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

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

Amount Enclosed:

2007 Annual Dues of \$20.00

\$ _____

Lifetime Membership in the Rustic FAC Association:

Age: Lifetime Membership Rates:

55 & younger \$ 250

56-60 \$ 225

61-65 \$ 200

66-or older \$ 175

My age is: _____ \$ _____

2007 Tax Deductible Contribution to Cambodian Charities \$ _____

2007 Tax Deductible Contribution to Kompong Cham Orphanage \$ _____

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Please make check payable to 'Rustics' and mail to: Lendy Edwards, 11 Poplar Ave, Shalimar, FL 32579

Rustic FAC Association
4033 Indian Trail Drive
Destin, FL 32541

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Rustic News

www.rustic.org

Board of Directors:

President: Claude Newland, Rustic19@cox.net
Vice President: Jack Thompson, jackov10@sbcglobal.net
Treasurer/Database: Don Ellis, donellis@sc.rr.com
Secretary: Roger Hamann, RusticYankee72@aol.com

Director: Doug Aitken, daitken@nc.rr.com
Director: Ron Dandeneau, RusticFoxtrot@aol.com
Director: Mike Wilson, sher85745@mac.com
Historian: Jim Gabel, jagabel@aol.com

Website: Lendy Edwards, lendy@cox.net
Commercial Book: Dick Wood, woodrh@ix.netcom.com
OBA Liaison: Jack Thompson, Jackov10@sbcglobal.net
Search Committee: Rog Hamann, RusticYankee72@aol.com

Project Coordinators:
Rustic SEA Photo CD: Ned Helms, ned@wingset.com
Rustic Reunion Photo CD: Jim Seibold, seiboldjim@aol.com
FACM Committee: Jim Gabel, jagabel@aol.com
Health & Wellness: Doc Thomas, shialary@msn.com

2008 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE UNDERWAY. It's September and time to renew your annual membership in the Rustic FAC Association. Enclosed is a 2008 Membership Renewal Form. Annual dues are only \$20...what a bargain! It's your dues that keep your association going, enable us to stay in touch, and help us "Tell our Story." Here are some of the things your dues and the Association have accomplished over the years: 5 Reunions, Photo CD's of past reunions, Published 2 books telling the Rustic's Story, CD of Book, "The Rustics, A top Secret Air War in Cambodia", Photo CD of the Rustic's return trip to SEA, Rustic SEA Photo DVD (all your SEA photos; pending), Rustic History Input to the All FAC History Book, "Rustic Story" Video and DVD (made from SEA home movies), Numerous Awards and Decorations approved and CD of Vietnam Era Songs (pending). *None of the above would have been possible without your continued support and membership. Thanks to all.*

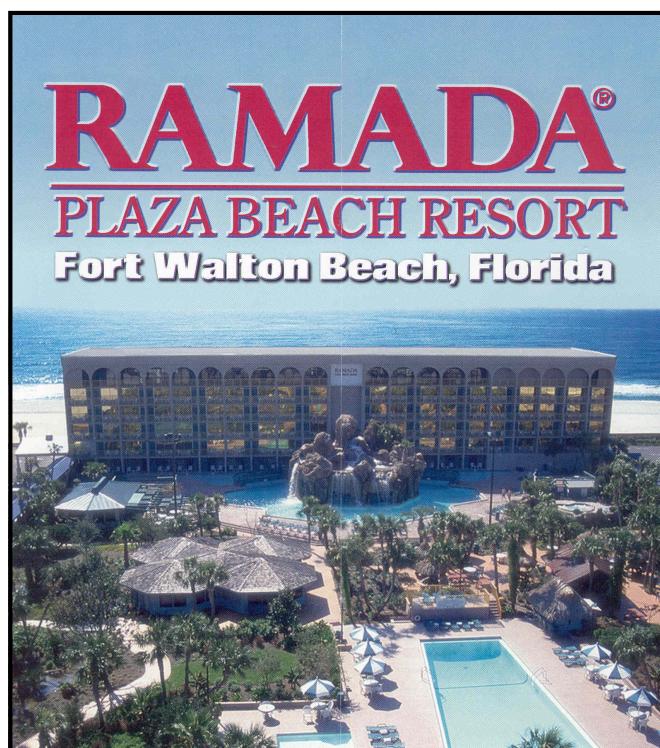
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2007 RUSTIC REUNION IS ALMOST HERE. OCT 18-21, RAMADA PLAZA BEACH RESORT, FT WALTON BEACH, FL. It's time to get your registration in if you haven't done so already. A Registration Form is enclosed. For all the reunion details, see the June 07 issue of the Rustic News or go to the Rustic Website at: www.rustic.org. If you have any questions, call **Claude Newland**, 850-654-2955.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO REGISTER. Come join us. If you don't see your buddies name on the attendee list (below) it's time to call him and set up a rendezvous. 'See you in Ft Walton Beach!'

WHO'S COMING: Registrations are still coming; The following have registered as of 1 Sep: **Aitken, Allison, Barazzotto, Capps, Clifford, Barbara**



Dahlberg +3 (sister of Doug Norman), Dandeneau, Decabooter, R. Dodd, Echelberger, Edwards, Ellis, Freix, Freidhofen, Gabel, Gamache, Garand, Gestas, Hamann, Keese, Kimbell, Koeppel, Koppin, Larson, Mercer, Morneau, Newland, Ltc Col Om, Col Oum, Roberds, Seibold, Nancy Sleigh, Thrower, Wilson, and Wood.

2007 RUSTIC ROSTER. A copy of the 2007 Rustic Roster is enclosed; please review for correctness. Corrections/additions should be sent to **Don Ellis**, Database Keeper at donellis@sc.rr.com or 803-435-4755.

CAMBODIAN GUESTS. Donations are still needed to help underwrite the expenses of bringing our Cambodian guests, **Col Oum** and **Ltc Om**, to the reunion. We will cover their reunion expenses and transportation costs. You can include your contribution on the enclosed Reunion Registration form, or mail your check directly to **Don Ellis**, Rustic Treasurer, 26 E. Boyce St, Manning, SC 29102. Make check payable to the "Rustic FAC Association" and earmarked for "**Cambodian Guests.**" *Thanks for your support.*



TRANSPORTATION HELP NEEDED. **Zot and Carole Barazzotto** are coming to the reunion. Once the reunion is over, Carole is in need of a ride back to Atlanta on Sunday, 21 Oct. If you can help, please contact Zot at: zot250@ameritech.net or call 937-257-2390.

RAMADA PLAZA BEACH RESORT. To make reservations, call toll free: 1-800-874-8962
Address: 1500 Miracle Strip Parkway, SE, Ft Walton Beach, FL 32548. The Hotel's local phone number: 1-850-243-9161
Rustic Hootch phone: 1-850-243-9161, ext 7558

<u>Type Room:</u>	<u>Location:</u>	<u>Rate:</u>
Standard	(Rooms face away from courtyard)	\$99
Courtyard	(Rooms face in toward courtyard)	\$110
Poolside	(Towers Bldg-facing in to pool)	\$125
Gulf View	(Towers Bldg-facing gulf front)	\$140

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

REUNION SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, 17 OCT 2007

1800-Till	PRE-PARTY—All Invited	At the Newland's, 4033 Indian Trail, Destin Call 850-654-2955 to coordinate a ride.
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THURSDAY, 18 OCT 2007

1200-2200	REGISTRATION OPEN --Reunion Sign-in --Drinks and refreshments --Display Memorabilia (Bring you Memorabilia!)	Rustic Hootch (Poolside), Ramada
1630	EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING	Meet at Rustic Hootch
1800-2100	WELCOME PARTY --Flight Suits/Party Shirts, or whatever	Rustic Hootch
1830	DINNER (Registration Fee covers cost)	Rustic Hootch
2030	REUNION WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS	Rustic Hootch
2130	MASTER OF CEREMONIES MEETING	TBA

FRIDAY, 19 OCT 2007

0700	BREAKFAST (at your leisure)	
0730	RUSTIC HOOTCH OPEN	
0800	MEET AT NORTH ENTRANCE OF RAMADA FOR PENSACOLA NAVAL AIR MUSEUM TRIP	
0810	DEPART FOR PENSACOLA VIA CHARTER BUS	
0945	ARRIVE PENSACOLA NAVAL AIR MUSEUM	
1000	GROUP GUIDED TOUR OF MUSEUM (Group Picture)	
1200	LUNCH	West Pac Room & Cubi Bar Cafe

1300	IMAX THEATER SHOW	IMAX Theater
1500-1630	TOUR AT YOUR LEISURE	
1645	LOAD BUS FOR RETURN TRIP.	
1700	CHARTER BUS DEPARTS PENSACOLA NAS	
1830	ARRIVE RAMADA HOTEL	
1900	MEET AT RUSTIC HOOTCH TO WALK TO CRAB TRAP RESTAURANT FOR DINNER.	
	--Located at the "Boardwalk" just West of the Ramada; on the beach.	
	--Optional activity. Group reservations made. Open Seating. Order off menu. No program.	
2100-Till	RUSTIC HOOTCH OPEN. EVENING AT LEISURE.	
	--Moonlight walks on the beach	

SATURDAY, 20 OCT 2007

0715-1400	½ DAY FISHING TRIP (optional) --0730 Depart for Destin. --0800 Boat leaves dock.	Meet at Rustic Hootch to carpool
0700-1330	RUSTIC GOLF (optional) --Carpool to Eglin AFB --0800 first tee time.	0700 - Meet at Rustic Hootch
0800	BREAKFAST AT LEISURE	Ramada Garden Café
0800-1400	MORNING FREE FOR OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES: --Sight Seeing to Seaside Village and Beaches --Shopping at Silver Sands Factory Outlets --Eglin Armament Museum and Static Displays	15 miles east of Destin on Hwy 30A 4 miles east of Destin on Hwy 98 Eglin AFB; POV
0900	--Hurlburt Field Air Park and FAC Memorial	(Meet at Hootch @ 0900; carpool)
1445-1600	RUSTIC BUSINESS MEETING/ELECTIONS	Rustic Hootch
1600	BANQUET SET-UP	Forum Room – Top Floor of Towers Bldg
1800-1900	BANQUET HAPPY HOUR—CASH BAR --Individual and Couple photos by Jim Seibold --Coat and tie or whatever	Forum Room
1830-1900	RUSTIC GROUP PHOTOS	Forum Room
1900-2200	DINNER BANQUET/DANCING	Forum Room
2200-TILL	RUSTIC HOOTCH OPEN	

SUNDAY, 21 OCT 2007

0800-0930	FAREWELL BREAKFAST (Breakfast Buffet)	Ramada Garden Cafe
0930	RUSTIC HOOTCH OPEN --Remove memorabilia from Hootch --Farewells	
1000	EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETNG	Meet at Rustic Hootch
1100	HOTEL ROOM CHECKOUT TIME	
1200	RUSTIC HOOTCH CLOSES	

2005 REUNION PHOTO ALBUM CD. Jim Seibold is producing a 2005 Reunion Photo Album CD for the Rustics. Copies will be available at the 2007 reunion and a gratis copy will be sent to each Rustic who attended the 2005 reunion.

RUSTIC ELECTIONS. Election of Association officers and Directors will take place at the reunion's business meeting. The Nominating Committee has submitted a slate of persons willing to serve in the various offices. If you are a member of the Association, an election ballot is enclosed.

SHORT BURSTS:

- 1) Rustic Store** The Rustic Store has received additional Rustic baseball caps and 20 additional copies of the "Red" book, "Call Sign Rustic" by Dick Wood. Most store items will be available at the reunion. Check out the Store at www.rustic.org.
- 2) FACM Support.** The association continues to support the FAC Museum by renewing its corporate sponsorship of the museum for the next year fiscal year (July 2007-Jun 2008).
- 3) Financial Audit.** Our thanks go to Greg Freix who will be conducting a financial audit of the Rustic financial records prior to the Oct reunion. A report will be made at the reunion business meeting.
- 4) Reunion Invitation to 74 FS.** A Letter of invitation was sent to the members of the 74 FS inviting them to join us for our 2007 reunion.

5) **Commercial Book Royalties.** **Dick Wood** reports he received a check for book royalties on 6/21/07 for \$36.62; The RFA share is \$27.47. These funds are earmarked for Cambodian Charities.

6) **Gift Book.** The Association has sent a copy of the Rustic's 'Black' Book to **Col Joe Lineberger**, Director, Air Force Review Boards Agency for presentation to **Mr. Phil Horton**, an examiner who worked on most of the Rustic Awards and Decs submissions, in appreciation for Mr. Horton's work at the agency on behalf of USAF veterans.

7) **Silver Star Approved.** The Air Force Review Boards Agency recently approved the Silver Star for **Dick Roberds** for a mission which had been originally downgraded to a DFC but, upon further review, has now been upgraded. A presentation ceremony will be held during the Rustic banquet at the 2007 reunion. **Don Mercer** will serve as MC for this portion of the program

8) **Bill Sleigh Memoirs.** The Association will purchase 30 hardback copies of Bill Sleigh's Memoirs, "Vietnam and Cambodia: It Still Hurts." This 217 page book will be made available in the Rustic Store at www.rustic.org once the final price is known.

9) **Aussie FAC Reunion, Apr 08.** The customized web page (CWP) for accommodation is now live. The address is <http://www.rydges.com/cwp/fac>. Cheers, **Mac Cottrell**, Reunion Coordinator

10) **New Life Member.** Welcome aboard **Don H. Osborn** (and wife: **Dee**), 365 Alderglen Drive, Dixon, CA 95620, (707)365-4966, donhosborn@aol.com

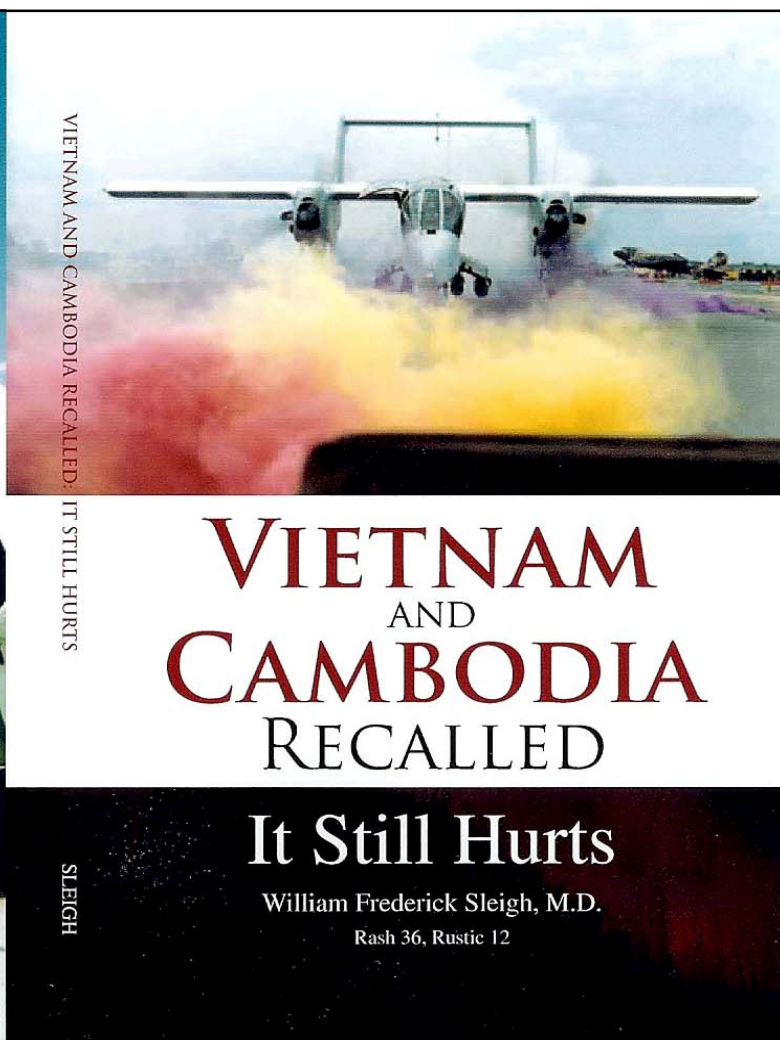
11) **Lost Rustic.** We seem to have lost touch with **Otto Walinski**. Please contact **Lendy Edwards** at lendy@cox.net or 850-651-6766 if you might be able to help us locate Otto.

12) **Missue.** What happened to Missue, the Rustic's dog mascot? To find out, read **Barbara Dahlberg's** Letter to the Editor.

13) **All FAC Newsletter.** The July '07 Fac Newsletter is available on line go at:

<http://www.fac-assoc.org/newsletter/newsletter02.html>

IN MEMORY OF BILL SLEIGH. If you'd like to help honor the memory of Rustic **Bill Sleigh**, please consider making a memorial contribution toward the publication costs of his memoirs. The book publishing contract cost \$1199. To date, approx. \$850 has been raised. Please send your donation to **Don Ellis**, Rustic Treasurer, 26 E. Boyce St, Manning, SC 29102. Make check payable to the "Rustic FAC Association" and earmarked for "**Bill Sleigh Memoir.**" We hope to have copies of the 217 page book, "Vietnam and Cambodia: It Still Hurts," by **Bill Sleigh** available at the Oct reunion.



ROSTER/PERSONNEL UPDATES:

Gloria Auth 10104 Hibiscus Cove, Austin, TX, 78739 home: 512-350-2517, cell - 512-483-1443
Mike Ballard hynotflyr@aol.com
John Charlton **Houston, Tx (Has Moved. Does anyone have a new address?)**
Harvey Cooper 16125 Burt Street, Omaha, NE 68118
Tim Eby teby540@hotmail.com
Dick Green gdick11@hotmail.com
Pierre M. Ligonde 8860 SW 123rd Court, Apt K405, Miami, FL 33186, 305-596-7017, drsoniafrancis@yahoo.com
Don Osborn donhosborn@aol.com
Paul Riehl 883 Alawai Ave, Diamondhead, MS 39525.
Richard Rinehart r.rinehart@myactv.net Wife: **Bernice**
Merle Shields 1001 Danielle Dr., Roseville, CA, (mail), P.O. Box 605, Orangeville, CA 95662,(H) 916-773-2679
 Cell: 916-705-4153, mss8@comcast.net
G. (Tony) Winkler astrofac@satx.rr.com

Next of Kin for **Barbara Dahlberg** (sister), 7201 91st St. E., Palmetto, FL 34221, 941-729-3843,
Doug Norman abacobarb53@yahoo.com and Doug's daughter, **Kristen**

New found Rustic: **Paul Lee**, Rustic Alpha, 365 Avon Rd, Montgomery, AL 36109

BAD E-MAIL ADDRESSES. Please provide correct addresses to: donellis@sc.rr.com

Phillip Morneault sabramorneault@wmconnect.com
Norm Falcon normfalcon@aol.com
 Who? jesse1717@aol.com

RUSTIC SEA PHOTO DVD PROJECT (Ned

Helm): The Rustic's Southeast Asia pix now fill a complete DVD. I hope to have copies of the DVD available at the reunion. This DVD will blow your socks off!! Great Stuff!!

RUSTIC SEARCH ENDS (Rog Hamann): **Doug Norman's** younger sister, **Barbara Dahlberg**, and daughter, **Kristen**, located the Rustics in July. Barbara and her husband now plan to attend our Oct reunion and we look forward to meeting them.

It was such a satisfying feeling to have finally found some of Doug's family. A big Rustic thank you goes out to **Kent Allison**, Doug's old roommate at Forbes AFB, for all the work he did in dealing with this search.

I have "feelers" out with a FBI bud who helped Kent and me in finding Doug's family. Hopefully he'll be able to assist in finding more missing Rustics.

***Kent Allison** will be attending this year's reunion. It will be a great gathering of family and friends who knew Doug Norman.*



Ubon Ramp Summer of 1973

FUNDS BEING RAISED FOR ANOTHER FAC MEMORIAL (Jimmie Butler, Nail 59.) On behalf of the 2008 All FAC Reunion Committee, I'd like to announce that there be a FAC memorial built in Colorado Springs, CO and dedicated in conjunction with the Oct 08 All FAC Reunion.. The memorial site address is:

<http://www.fac-assoc.org/reunion/2008%20FAC%20Memorial.pdf>

Nail 01, **Howie Pierson**, will serve as the Master of Ceremonies at the Dedication of the 2008 FAC Memorial. Howie kicked off the fund drive with a generous donation of \$1,000. Our letters for the fund drive are at the printer and will go into the mail this week, but I already know of at least \$1,250 from Nails for the 2008 Memorial. That is a fitting start since many Nail names will be on the Memorial.

The design is in progress. We expect to have a central monument with the names of more than 250 FACs/crewmen divided onto the two sides with the name of a Medal of Honor recipient heading each list. We hope to have smaller surrounding monuments and perhaps an engraved bench or two to tell more of the FAC story. We expect to link up to sidewalks in a way that will lead visitors from one parking lot right through our Memorial. The closest monument to ours is that of the Purple Heart Society—which is fitting since we will be naming so many who earned that recognition in giving their lives in service to our country. Mr. Wilhelm—who is coming up with preliminary designs and who heads up the company that has built probably about 90% or so of the monuments in Memorial Park and at the USAF Academy—thinks because of location and design, the 2008 FAC Memorial will become one of the key attractions in the Military Section of Memorial Park.

We need at least \$50,000, so there's plenty of room left for contributions, big and small. The more we raise, the better we can make this Memorial. All money donated will be spent effectively. We welcome your personal donations, and we also ask you to think of any contacts that might make a corporate donation. Also, we know that thousands of Americans survived the War in Southeast Asia partly because a FAC showed up after an ambush or because the bullets with their names on them ended up in a ditch along the Ho Chi Minh Trail. If you know of any of those guys who have always wanted to say thank you, please invite them to donate to this effort to honor the FACs who died, often while saving others.

A copy of the contents of this week's Fund Raising letter is now posted on the FAC Association website at: <http://www.fac-assoc.org/reunion/reunion01.html> and then "click on Peanuts." If that doesn't get you to the page, you can go to the home page and click on the Snoopy stamp to get to the Memorial info.

You should receive your copy in the mail in a few days, but the copy on the website includes pictures from Memorial Park in color. I've marked the future location of our 2008 FAC Memorial on three of the pictures. You'll see Pikes Peak in the background of one and the other two give an idea of how close our Memorial will be to the flag pole with the American and POW flags.

So, I ask that you all help spread the word and that you help us make this Memorial one worthy of the heroic men it will honor. Early donations are especially appreciated as we have lots of granite to buy. **Jimmie H. Butler**, Nail 59/12

INDONESIAN AIR FORCE GROUNDS OV-10 BRONCO FLEET, Wed, 25 Jul '07. Action Follows Fatal Accident. In response to a fatal accident Monday, the Indonesian Air Force has grounded its remaining six OV-10 Bronco light attack aircraft. "All the Broncos will be grounded until we know the cause of the accident," Air Force Chief Air Marshall **Herman Prayitno** told reporters.

One of the Broncos went down shortly after taking off from the Abdurahman Saleh Airport on a routine training flight Monday in the East Java town of Malang killing one of the two pilots, according to China Xinhua News. "I heard an explosion before seeing one person jump out using a parachute," said a witness who identified himself as Gimin. "The plane then exploded again twice before falling to the ground."

Local media reports engine failure as being the cause of the accident. When asked if the Broncos would be replaced, Prayitno said "yes, there is such a plan." This is the second accident involving the Indonesian Air Force's Broncos. The previous one also went down in Malang and was said to have been due to bad weather.

Only a handful of countries still use the 1960s era, US-developed turboprops as part of their active fleets.

VIETNAM ERA SONG CD IN THE WORKS. **Jim Seibold** is producing 100 CD's which will contain many of the popular in-country songs of the Vietnam era. They should be available at the 2007 reunion. They really bring back the past. Jim has suggested that any profits should go to Cambodian Charities. More details to be published as they become known.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/CALENDAR:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1) 2007 Rustic Reunion: | 18-21 Oct 2007: Ft Walton Beach, FL. |
| 2) 2007 OBA FACtober Fest | 26-28 Oct 2007, Ft Worth, TX. |
| 3) 2008 Aussie FAC Reunion | 23-28 April 08, Canberra, Australia. All U.S. FACs invited to participate |
| 4) 2008 All FAC Reunion | 1-5 Oct 2008, Colorado Springs, CO. AF/Navy Football game 4 Oct. |

CLINT MURPHY'S MOTHER PASSES. We regret to inform you that **Mrs. Gwendolyn Murphy** passed away on Friday, 17 Aug. She had been at a nursing home since last November. Her obituary was in the 8/20/07 St Louis paper. Her wake was held on Wed, 22 Aug, 4-8 pm, at the Kriegshauser West Chapel on Olive Blvd, St Louis MO. Her interment ceremony was at the Jefferson Barracks Cemetery (where son, Clint, was buried) on Thursday, 23 Aug. She was a dear lady to many.

LETTERS TO THE RUSTICS:

From Don Ellis. My summer is going well. It gets slow at work but my wife takes over the summer schedule since she teaches school. She keeps me real busy. We are heading to St. Petersburg tomorrow for vacation. Actually some of the things that I am involved in fills a lot of the summer schedule. I am chairman of the board of our local hospital. Through that I got elected as a board member of the South Carolina Hospital Association. We have bi-monthly board meetings during the year, but during the summer I go to two three-day trips because of this board. This year both of those meetings are in or around Charleston. Last year one of the meetings was in Hilton Head. It's a tough life, but someone has to do it. My wife loves these trips. She can find places to shop no

matter where we are.

I trust that your surgery went well and you are a good ways down the recovery road.

I look forward to the reunion. **Don**

From Dick Roberds. A few of us O-2A people got together on Sunday, 16 June, at the "Fantasy of Flight" museum just outside Lakeland, FL. I took a few pictures. Here is a group picture (top to bottom):

Marcy and Dick
Judy and Jack Strickland
Sue and Dave DeKoker
Jan and Don Dorr

From Ron Dandeneau. Claude et al. Rosemary and I will attending the Reunion in October. My son, **TSgt Joseph Dandeneau**, will be returning to Hurlburt AB from Ballad AB, Iraq the week before and we will be bringing him to the Banquet on Saturday night.

Ron, we look forward to seeing you and Rosemary again and meeting your son.

From Kristen Norman, daughter of **Doug Norman**

My father was a Rustic, I believe his call name was something like Rustic Mike, his real name is **Doug Norman**. As you may know, he is deceased. I don't know much about what he did, but I do know that someone working for you, but is not a Rustic in the sense that was part of that mission, I don't know his name off the top of my head, but I have a letter from him at home, is looking for myself and my mother in regards to the reunion. I would really like to get to know about what he did and who he was in those days. He didn't tell us a lot, my mother knows as much as I do, but I remember as a kid all of the Rustic memorabilia on his walls. I believe we still have all of it, some jackets, hats, medals and some other things. I'll have to dig thru my mother's garage.

Coincidentally, I work with one of the other Rustics, I did not know of it until now, and I'm sure he didn't know about my father, but **Mr. Gil Bellefeuille**, Rustic T, is a P.I. working with my company.

If you can give me more information regarding the Rustics and the reunion, that will be great. The gentleman who wrote us said they would like for my mother and I to come. I don't know if my mother will, but I would love to try. I thought you might also like to know that, in addition to myself, my father has a son, 22, **Carl A. D. Norman**, who is a corpsmen station in Iraq currently, and a stepdaughter, Jolie, 38.

Thank you so much for your time, **Kristen**

From Kristen Norman to Mr. [Lendy] Edwards,

Thank you for getting back to me. It was a surprise to me, as well, to learn about the importance and secrecy of my dad's career with the USAF, although, with the career path he took afterwards, into the CIA, it shouldn't have been. I have to write Mr. Allison and apologize for my mother not responding, I only learned of his contact with her on the 4th. I believe she may have been taken aback, a little shocked, and definitely wary. The contact was very sudden and out of the blue. It was extremely hard for my mother when my father passed, and she was probably also a little overwhelmed. None of us knew about his career in the USAF, not even my mother. She actually told me once she thinks he was a "desk jockey." How wrong she was!

Do you know anything more about my dad's position with the Rustics, besides being an interpreter? What was his rank then, and what years did he fly? Was his call sign actually Rustic Mike? He never told us, but I recall him having a hat and jacket with that name/logo emblazoned on it. This is so incredibly interesting to me. I'll have to go online and get a copy of the book soon. There is a great sense of pride knowing that my father had such an important role in such an important mission. I spoke with Gil yesterday, he said he believes he flew with my father, but he keeps



Doug Norman

confusing him with another man he flew with. He did say he is pretty sure he was an interpreter. This is very exciting, my brother, in particular, is going to be ecstatic to learn about this. He actually comes back from Iraq in September, I'm sure he would want to come to the reunion as well.

If there is anything you or Mr. Newland would like to know about my dad, after his time with the Rustics, just ask. I read your newsletter, if you would like to make an update about him in it, let me know what you need to know. There are, of course, some things I cannot tell you and a lot that I do not know about his career with the CIA, but I will tell you as much as I can. Could you provide me with an email address for Mr. Allison so that I may give him thanks and apologize? Thank you so much! Very Sincerely, **Kirsten Norman**

From Barbara Dahlberg, younger sister of **Doug Norman**,

Hi **Roger [Hamann]**, I'm Doug's "kid" sister Barbara. My niece Kirsten makes sure mom and I are kept "in the loop" on what's happening and she forwarded us all the emails, websites and 18 pages of the book about the Rustics.

As soon as I started reading everything (I stayed up way past midnight after I got the call from my mom about the email) so much of the information came flooding back into my memory. I remember when Doug told me he had to brush up on his French, now I know why. As soon as I saw the word Rustics I remembered his call name, Mike. I'm going to look in the attic to see if I kept the letters I received from Doug while he was in Nam. Of course, being a teenager at the time I wasn't really in tune with the politics of the day so a lot of what he wrote to me was way over my head, I'm sorry to say. Now I can't seem to get enough info on what my brother accomplished. He was my idol in many ways, even though our brother/sister relationship was a typical battle zone - see he was well prepared from an early age;-) Mom said my first words were, "Dala" when he walked into my room - sweet.

I've read the info on the reunion and would love to attend with my husband. We live in Palmetto FL which is halfway between St. Petersburg, Tampa, and Sarasota. Mom lives in Gulfport FL which is just outside St. Pete. She probably wouldn't make the trip with us, but I will urge her to go with. I just heard from Kirsten this morning and she said Duke may be home in Sept. from Iraq, a month earlier than anticipated. Maybe Washington is anticipating the withdrawal??? Duke is a combat medic attached to a marine unit. As I ask everyone I talk to about Duke, please pray for his safe return. Kirsten also mentioned maybe Duke would be able to attend the reunion. He celebrates his 23rd birthday on Oct. 18.

Well, I should stop rambling since you're probably reading this at work. I sent an email to Lendy also. I look forward to hearing from you. I'll follow the directions in the newsletter to make our reservations. For your records my home phone is 941-729-3843. Feel free to call anytime. Regards, **Barb**

Barbara, her husband, Kristen + Guest plan to attend the Oct reunion. We look forward to meeting them.

From Barbara Dahlberg,

Hi All, several of you have asked about **Missue**. I remember Doug talking about a dog and that he was trying to get it stateside. (Kirsten has a pic of an adorable puppy laying on one of Doug's caps.) Unfortunately he wasn't able to make it happen. The cost of the required quarantine was too expensive, if I remember right. He said he left the dog with one of your Mommasans - if I'm remembering that right. Wish this could have had a "lassie" ending:-)

I really enjoyed the pics and hope that Ned or Doug can get them from Kirsten to scan. I'd love to see them, too.

I'm so proud of Kirsten getting this whole thing rolling. Good job sweetie! And thanks to Kent and Lendy for their tenacious efforts in finding us. Mom and I have enjoyed everything that's come across our emails!



"Missue"

I'm attaching some documents that I think you will appreciate. They're condolence letters that Linda received, an award Doug received posthumously from the Dept. of Defense and the poster they put up in the entrance to the office building

where he worked. He also received a letter of gratitude from President Clinton, but I didn't have a loose copy of that. Page 9 Linda had beautiful presentation pieces made for me and my mom with the letter from Clinton and the DOD award on either side of a pic of Doug that she took when she worked at Olan Mills. The bagpiper played at the funeral and I understand is quite famous in the DC area.

Doug acquired a love for the bagpipes while tending bar in Alexandria Va., at a Restaurant/Bar called Ireland's Own. This was where Doug and Linda had their wedding reception and I enjoyed many hours there myself.

I think some, if not all, of you know Doug had a military funeral at Quantico with color guard and a 21 gun salute. He would have loved that. He also would have loved all the traffic police on duty blocking cross traffic for the procession to the cemetery and the police escorts. The military funeral was arranged thanks to the efforts of Doug's son-in-law Curtiss Weinstein, who's married to Doug's step-daughter Jolie, and his boss from the Cooperative Threat Reduction Program. I can't remember his name.

I also included a picture of Doug's son, Duke, aka **Carl Arthur Douglas**. He's currently serving in Iraq as a combat medic attached to a Marine unit. I'll let Kirsten post a pic of herself. But I will say this, she's adorable. Thanks for indulging a very proud Aunt!

It's been great corresponding with all of you and I look forward to many more emails until we meet in October. Regards,
Barb

From Paul Lee, Rustic Alpha, to Lendy Edwards

Hi. I found your Rustic page and thought I'd write. I was a radio operator assigned to the 19th Tass from 1970-71. I was initially assigned to the 25th Inf Div at Cu Chi (Issue 30 & Issue Control) and from Cu Chi I volunteered for a stint up on Nui Ba Den when we went into Cambodia in 1970. We took a jeep into Bien Hoa city to the III DASC compound and waited for a chopper to take us up. I was assigned with one other radio operator and a radio maintenance type and my call sign there was Rustic Alpha. As I remember it, it was a relay station from Bien Hoa to the FACs flying in support of the troops entering Cambodia. I was supposed to be on that mountain only a week but ended up closer to three weeks because the choppers would get ground fire when trying to come and get us. I remember the Army chow hall started to run out of essentials and all they had left was steak. ;-) We ate steak morning noon and night. Lots of memories and I have a few pics too. Later assigned to Bearcat RTAVF (Long Than) with the Rake FACs (Rake 20) until I left in Apr 71. Regards, **Paul Lee**, Montgomery, AL Paul3130@aol.com



Paul Lee Rustic Alpha 70-71

From Paul Lee.

Hi Claude! Your name is vaguely familiar but that was a long time ago. I was over at the 3rd Brigade (Issue 30) initially while at Cu Chi then spent a few months at Division with Issue Control, mostly night shift, as things started to close up. I was 20 years old then and, being 6'6", tried to keep as low of a profile as possible. ;-) After Cu Chi I moved on to the Rake FACs at Bearcat which was the only Thai army base in Vietnam. I've attached the Issue group pic which you may have seen already. Are you on this one? I remember, being so young at the time, I used to quiver in my boots when **LtCol Dorrah** (Issue 01) used to get on the radio. He always wanted his clearances yesterday. (LOL) However, I used to get even with him when we would have a gathering at the officers hutch and he wanted to arm wrestle. I need to copy all of my old 'nam pics because they're starting to fade away. I spent 22 years in the Air Force and always told people "it might sound strange but the best year I had was in Vietnam." There was so much going on in that year every day was an experience to remember, both good and bad. Were you there when the donut dolly was murdered next door to the officers hutch?

There was another radio operator with me at Rustic Alpha but I can't remember who it was but he wasn't from Cu Chi like myself and **Larry Ward** (radio maintenance type). The highlight of my mountain tour was watching an Arclight mission just over the border in Cambodia. I could see the jungle exploding in the distance and could feel the vibration and hear the distant thunder. Never did hear the planes though. Good too hear from you! **Paul Lee**

From Paul Lee:

Thanks for the email! Fort Walton's not all that far from me so it might be a good idea to attend [reunion.] I'd love to hear some stories anyway. ;-)

I was looking through my photo album and thinking I need to scan these before they fade away. I do have some of Nui Ba Den I took when I was up there and also a few from the different sites I was at. I've attached two pics just to see if you can identify what they are. I took the pictures over at Long Than airfield which was just down the road from Bearcat where I was stationed. Our Rake FACs used that runway too. I was told not to take pics of this aircraft but that just gave me some impetus to do just that. ;-)

This thing was flown by Army guys and could fly 50ft over your head and you couldn't hardly hear it. It had a wooden six blade prop. Some time after Vietnam I heard these aircraft were being used by the FBI in California to conduct stealth like missions at night. I believe they might have one at the Puma Air Museum in Tuscon, AZ but not sure. Anyway, good to hear from you. **Paul**

From Doug Robertson,

Lendy, Paul [Lee] was there about a year before myself. He left in Apr 71 and I arrived Aug 71. I was originally assigned to the 19th at Bien Hoa but it had been de-activated and was taken over by the 21st TASS when I arrived in country. I spent a couple weeks at Phan Rang before coming back to Bien Hoa at Rustic Control and Rustic Alpha which as you know was taken over by the 23rd TASS in spring of 72 when the 504th TASGp was de-activated at Tan Son Nhut. I was TDY from TSN until the change and then transfered to the 23rd in April 72 I think it was.

I'm not sure when Paul went to Radio school but I was at Keesler for Hurricane Camille in August 1969 and graduated from school in Nov 69, and spent about a year and a half in Cheyenne at FE Warren AFB after that before my SEA tour. I'd love to see Pauls pictures of NBD.

Reunion is still up in the air at this time. **Doug Robertson**, Rustic Radio 71-72, 21st & 23rd TASS

From Don Mercer, 28 Aug,

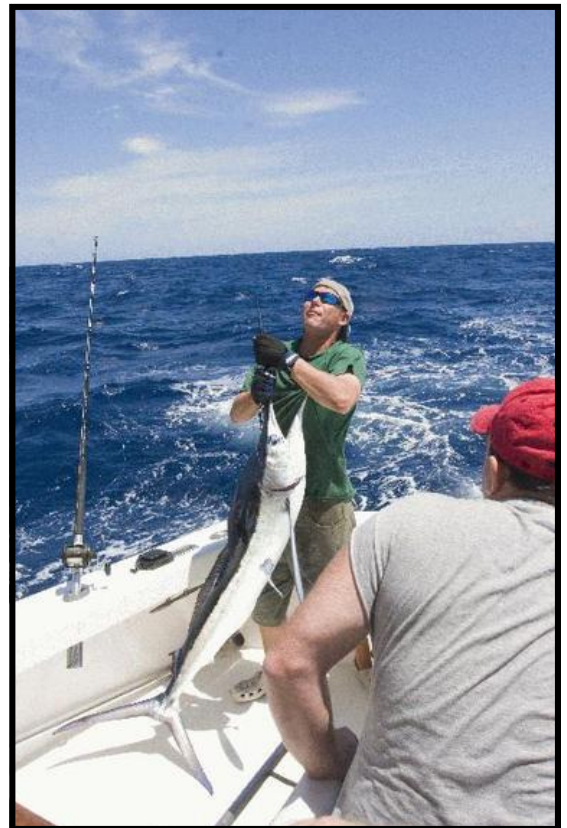
I took a much needed day off and ran down to the Outer Banks late Friday night for a 3:45 AM wake up call. We had lines in before 7 AM some 36 miles off shore.

Take a look at three of the pix we took while fishing on the 50' charter boat *Hoo Dini* this past Saturday on the Outer Banks of North Carolina. We caught two white marlin. I took the first and third pix while Cheerie [daughter] took the middle one. We had the three girls, one of their boy-friends, and my roommate from pilot training. Noreen sat this one out as she went out with us tuna fishing back in March when we each caught a 35-40 pound yellowfin tuna.

Noreen doesn't like to get out of sight of land so that trip was a real stretch for her. Of course, when she noted her concern to the captain in March while off shore some 35 miles, he said that we'd never be out of sight of land. His suggestion to her - look over the side of the boat, and 900 feet down, there's land. She was not comforted by his observation, but I sure liked his sense of humor.

It was a short trip as we had dinner and headed back that evening.

As soon as I get soft back of Bill's book, I'll review it and send it to you, **Jim [Gabel]**. **Hazel Que** said that we could place the order for hard backs as soon as I give the go ahead, as you normally have to wait till the book is available for sale. Thus, she's allowing us to place the order pending publication which should cut off a few more days in the production process. **Don Mercer**



2007 REUNION REGISTRATION FORM
18-21 Oct, 2007

Please print all information and return with payment **NLT 1 Oct, 2007.**

Name _____ Nickname (for name tag) _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Telephone (____) _____ E Mail _____ FAX (____) _____

Spouse/Guest Name _____ Nickname (for name tag) _____
Rustic/Other Call Sign _____ Rustic Dates: Month _____ Yr _____ to Month _____ Yr _____

What day and time do you plan to arrive at the reunion? Wed. _____ Thurs. _____ Fri. _____ Sat. _____

Approx. time of day: _____ Coming by: Car _____ Air _____ (Flight Number _____)

I'm arriving at the following airport: Okaloosa County Regional. Airport _____ Pensacola Regional Airport _____

If unaccompanied, would you be interested in sharing a room/expenses with another Rustic? Yes _____ No _____

Do you or your guest require any special assistance while at the reunion? Please Specify: _____

I'm willing to help man the Rustic Hootch for a couple of hours. Yes _____

I/we will be attending the pre-party at the Newland's House on Wed, 17 Oct Yes _____

I will bring memorabilia for display in the FAC Hootch. Yes _____

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

Please mail completed Registration Form and check (payable to: "Rustics") NLT 1 Sep 2007 to: Lendy Edwards, 11 Poplar Ave, Shalimar, FL 32579

REGISTRATION FEES

	Cost:	Number:	Subtotal:
Registration Fee: \$35 for each Rustic; \$25 per Guest	\$35 / \$25	x _____	= \$ _____

(Not required if only attending just the Sat. night Reunion Banquet.)

Includes "Welcome Dinner", Thurs, 18 Oct, at FAC Hootch.

Charter Bus Trip to Pensacola Naval Air Museum, Fri, 19 Oct, \$40.00	x _____	= \$ _____
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Includes Bus, Lunch, and I Max Theater. (Delete \$8.00 if no I Max Show desired)

Please select your choice of I Max Theater shows:

_____ Hurricane On The Bayou (Experience the power of Hurricane Katrina)

_____ Magic of Flight (fly with the Blue Angels)

_____ Fighter Pilot (Experience "Red Flag" flying at Nellis AFB)

Please select your choice of sandwich or salad lunch entrée: (lunch includes entrée, chips, pickle spear, drink, and tip)

Sandwich entrees:

Aviator's Choice: _____ Roast Beef _____ Turkey or _____ Ham /w lettuce and tomato on freshly baked wheat bread.

_____ **Mach I:** Shredded pulled pork, seasoned w/ a mild barbeque sauce loaded on a Kaiser roll.

_____ **Buster:** Marinated steak smothered in roasted red & green bell peppers, onions w/ Swiss cheese grilled the panini way. Bistro sauce to dip.

Pita Pilot: _____ Seasoned chicken breast or _____ Marinated steak w/ lettuce, diced tomato, chopped green onion, shredded cheddar & our special ranch sauce; wrapped in warm pita bread.

Salad entrees:

_____ **Cajun Chicken Breast.** Cajun seasoned chicken, tomato wedges, bell pepper rings, cherry pepper, celery & carrot sticks served over a bed of our fresh garden salad w/ honey mustard dressing.

_____ **Chef Salad.** Strips of ham, smoked turkey, carrot sticks, eggs slices & tomato wedges over a fresh garden salad.

_____ **Pacific Salad.** Teriyaki chicken, pineapple & Mandarin oranges on a bed of mixed greens, w/ Asian Sesame

dressing.

Please select your choice of drink: _____ Tea _____ Water _____ Diet Coke _____ Coke _____ Sprite _____ Coffee

½ Day Fishing Tri p. Sat., 20 Oct. Bottom Fishing (optional)	\$60	x _____	= \$ _____
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Golf Tournament: Sat. am, 20 Oct. (Green Fee, Cart and Prizes)	\$35	x _____	= \$ _____
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"Reserve" me the following clubs: Standard (\$7.50) _____ Ping (\$25) _____ (Pay when you play)

Reunion Banquet, Sat. pm, 20 Oct:	\$48.00	x _____	= \$ _____
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Farewell Breakfast, Ramada: Sun am, 21 Oct (optional)	\$13.00	x _____	= \$ _____
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Contribution to Cambodian Reunion Guest Fund (Tax deductible):	\$ _____
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Contribution to Cambodian Charity Fund (Tax deductible):	\$ _____
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Reunion Memorabilia Items:

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

White Polo Shirt: Men's Large _____ Men's X Large _____	\$ 27.00 ea	x _____	= \$ _____
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Ladies Med. _____ Ladies Large _____ Ladies X Large _____	\$ 27.00 ea	x _____	= \$ _____
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Men's XX Large _____ Men's XXX Large _____	\$ 29.00 ea	x _____	= \$ _____
--	-------------	---------	------------

Ladies XX Large _____ Ladies XXX Large _____	\$ 29.00 ea	x _____	= \$ _____
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(Same Shirt as 2005 Reunion; Shirt front will have Reunion Logo over heart)

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

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

2008 Membership Renewal Form

Please renew my Rustic FAC Association membership. I'd like to stay in touch with my Rustic buddies, continue receiving the Rustic newsletter, and help support efforts to promote Rustic camaraderie, future reunions, and history projects. Enclosed are my 2008 dues.

Name: _____ Spouses name: _____

Street Address: _____

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

E Mail Address: _____ Rustic Call Sign: _____

Amount Enclosed:

2008 Annual Dues of \$20.00

\$ _____

Lifetime Membership in the Rustic FAC Association:

Age: _____ Lifetime Membership Rates:

55 & younger \$ 250

56-60 \$ 225

61-65 \$ 200

66-or older \$ 175

My age is: _____ \$ _____

2007 Tax Deductible Contribution to Cambodian Charities \$ _____

2007 Tax Deductible Contribution to Kompong Cham Orphanage \$ _____

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Please make check payable to 'Rustics' and mail to: Lendy Edwards, 11 Poplar Ave, Shalimar, FL 32579





Rustic News

www.rustic.org

President: Claude Newland, Rustic19@cox.net
Vice President: Jack Thompson, jackov10@sbcglobal.net
Treasurer/Database: Don Ellis, donellis@sc.rr.com
Secretary: Roger Hamann, RusticYankee72@aol.com

Website: Lendy Edwards, lendy@cox.net
Commercial Book: Dick Wood, woodrh@ix.netcom.com
OBA Liaison: Jack Thompson, Jackov10@sbcglobal.net
Search Committee: Rog Hamann, RusticYankee72@aol.com

Director: Jim Seibold, Seiboldjim@aol.com
Director: Doc Thomas, shialary@MSN.com
Director: Dick Wood, woodrh@ix.netcom.com
Historian: Jim Gabel, jagabel@aol.com
2009 Reunion: Tom Capps, tomcapps@nc.rr.com
Rustic SEA Photo CD: Ned Helms, ned@wingset.com
Rustic Reunion Photo CD: Jim Seibold, seiboldjim@aol.com
FACM Committee: Jim Gabel, jagabel@aol.com
Health & Wellness: Doc Thomas, shialary@msn.com

NEXT RUSTIC REUNION -- 2009 IN WASHINGTON DC. At our recent reunion, the membership overwhelmingly agreed that our 2009 reunion locale should have a change of venue from our normal Florida Emerald Coast. Besides, everyone loves variety and the DC area has lots to offer. **Tom Capps** and **Doug Aitken** have agreed to spearhead the planning effort. Other committee members include: **Jon Safely, Deke Decabooter, Ron Dandeneau, Lendy Edwards, Jim Nuber, and Claude Newland.**

If you have any suggestions for the reunion committee, or live in the DC area...about a dozen Rustics do...and would like to help with this effort, please contact **Tom Capps** at: tomcapps@nc.rr.com or **Doug Aitken** at: daitken@nc.rr.com

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2008 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE CONTINUES:

2008 dues are now due. A

2008 Membership Renewal Form is at the end of this newsletter. **Don't delay**, it's your membership that sustains the association and makes it possible for us to keep in touch with one another. The Association currently has 51 Lifetime and 46 Annual members. Our newest life time member is **Lanny Trapp**.

RUSTIC HEALTH REPORTS & WINGMAN SUPPORT (Doc Thomas): **Ray Stratton** informed **Claude Newland** on 31 Oct that **Jan Stratton** had a mild heart attack about 4 months ago. She is doing OK now. They were unable to attend this year's reunion, as planned, due to Jan coming down with a rash.

Lendy Edwards had robotic prostate surgery Tues, 13 Nov, in Birmingham, AL. He is now home and doing well. The pathology report said all margins of the prostate, the removed lymph nodes and seminal vesicles were clear of cancer. The cancer seemed to be confined to the prostate capsule. Future PSA testing will determine if we have a complete cure. So far, so good!



RUSTIC LEADERSHIP SET FOR THE NEXT TWO YEARS. All of the association's officers agreed to serve another term (and were re-elected.) Three new directors were elected: **Jim Seibold**, **Doc Robert Thomas**, and **Richard Wood**. Our thanks for a "job well done" go to our outgoing Directors: **Doug Aitken**, **Ron Dandeneau**, and **Mike Wilson**.



L-R: Claude Newland-President, Dick Wood-Director, Jim Seibold-Director, Jim Gabel-Historian, Roger Hamann-Secretary, Don Ellis-Treasurer. Not pictured: Jack Thompson-Vice President and Doc Thomas- Director.

ROSTER/PERSONNEL UPDATES:

Bob Clifford	robcliff@mail.dk	Dave Dekoker	727-319-3714
Roland Deshaies	DeshaiesRoland@aol.com	Don Echelberger	702-449-9844
Jim Hetherington	ngtfire@clearwire.net	Shad Kimbell	417-725-1730
Dave Hull 269 323-2669 (new area code),	davhull@sbcglobal.net	Jess Jessup	Robert.Jessup@fultoncountyga.gov
Jack Koppin	colkops1@verizon.net	George Larson	GORLN45@aol.com
Jim Seibold	New Zip 85298	Jim Nuber	929-776-0835
Frank Sovich	660-429-1376	Ray Stratton	rstatto1@embarqmail.com
Lanny Trapp	lanny.trapp@gmail.com	Dave Van Dyke	913-897-5072
Bill Leydorf	108 Kawataska Way, Loudon, TN 37774, (865) 207-0830, bleydorf@charter.net		
John Charlton	86 Waterwood, Huntsville, TX 77320, john@outonthedeck.net		

2007 REUNION REPORT. Another great Rustic Reunion is now history. Over 80+ Rustics, family and friends were in attendance. There were many memorable events and activities, but, as usual, it was the people who made the weekend so special.

Col Lieou Oum and **Ltc Kohn Om** were again our honored guests. Both are doing well. Col Oum says he is starting to slow down just a bit but he doesn't let that stop him from traveling. He recently made a return trip to Cambodia and took an overland trip from Papa Papa to Kompong Thom. He said you would not believe the quality of roads now. There is a nice 2 lane paved road so the trip is possible in just a few hours. Asked if he might ever return to live permanently in Cambodia, he replied, "I don't think so."

We were also honored to meet **Doug Norman's** sister, **Barbara Dahlberg** and her husband **Wayne** and Doug's daughter, **Kirsten Norman**. For years we had been trying to find Doug's kinfolk with no success. Approximately six months before the reunion, Kirsten actually "found" us through the Rustic website. After a rapid exchange of emails, the family decided they HAD to meet the Rustics...and as they say...the rest is history. We had a delightful weekend with them. It turns out Doug had quite an extensive high level career with the CIA following his tour in the Air Force. But his family knew very little about his job as a Rustic interpreter, so they were eager to learn more about the Rustic mission and hear from those who knew Doug personally. During the Saturday banquet, **Roger Hamann** elegantly recounted the long search effort to find Doug's family. He and **Kent Allison**, a former AF stateside roomie of Doug's, then presented Barbara and Kristen each a copy of the Rustic's original self published book, "The Rustics - A Top Secret Air War in Cambodia." Traveling the greatest distance to the reunion were (stateside) **Dick Wood** from Bellingham, WA and (international) **Bob & Dorte Clifford** from Denmark and **Hank & Annie Keese** from Belgium.

The reunion's unofficial activities kicked off Wednesday evening, 17 Oct, with a Welcome Party at the Newland's house for the approximately 20-25 Rustics and their wives who were in town a day early.

Official activities began on Thursday when the Rustic Hootch opened at 12 noon. Then the rains came...and came...and came. Oh, yes, and did we mention that there was a "Red Tide"...which causes scratchy throats? Despite a steady deluge that lasted all afternoon and through the night, the Rustics partied till the wee hours. Old friends were greeted with bear hugs, wives were kissed, guests were introduced, and new friendships formed. Shady Grady catered the evening meal, the beer and drink tubs were overflowing, the "official welcome" and announcements made, and old and new stories were recounted as though they happened only yesterday...ah, 'twas great to be young again for a few hours. It's clearly apparent that our exuberance for the days of our youth and the excitement of our Rustic exploits have not abated.

Lunch Box Larson made a surprise plaque presentation to **Claude Newland**. George and Claude had flown a mission which included another Rustic FAC, **Doug Hellwig, Rustic 14, (w/Jerry Dufresne, Rustic "T", in RCP)**, controlling Claude for an air strike--FAC expending FAC. After Claude fired all his rockets, he proceeded to strafe till...one by one...each gun jammed. (Remember that sound? pop, pop, pop, pop, silence!) Upon returning to Bien Hoa, George, hung around and collected a shell that had been jammed in the chamber of one of the guns. After all these years, he had the 7.62 mm shell mounted on a plaque which contained the names of the aircrews involved...along with the following inscription, *"All guns jammed. This was taken from one jammed gun. Claude had a heavy trigger finger. Old memories are great."*

Doc Thomas unfortunately could not attend this year's reunion due to the pending birth of a grandchild but he was with us in spirit as he sent a box of Cuban cigars for **Hank Keese** and any others who would uphold his long standing tradition of late, late night poolside conversations with drinks and cigars on our first night together. (Doc, the consummate smuggler as ever--if it's not guns, its cigars--some guys just have the knack.) Hank, Nubes, a few others, and yes, Annie, kept the tradition alive. Initially they lit up in the hootch (hey, it was raining cats and dogs outside) but as the room began to fill with wafting cigar smoke they were gracious enough to repair outside under the rain dripping eaves of the hootch. Doc, they would have made you proud.



Marine OV-10D 155472

Sunny skies returned on Friday as we took an all day charter bus trip to the world class Pensacola Naval Air Museum. A 45 minute guided tour was followed by lunch at the museum's famous Cubi Bar Café...what a bar. The entire bar, including hundreds of naval flying unit plaques and ship cruise memorabilia, was moved in its entirety to the museum when Cubi Point, Philippines closed. The afternoon was spent at leisure touring the museum, taking in one of the several available I Max movies and flying aircraft simulators. The tour ended with a guided bus tour of the museum's nearby open ramp which houses a number of aircraft awaiting restoration., including an OV-10.

Prior to leaving the museum, it was announced that **Ltc Om** would not be returning to Ft Walton Beach with us. It turns out Om had a nephew and several other Cambodian friends from Mobile, AL who came to pick him up and take him home for the night...small world. You should have seen the grin on Om's face as he walked to the awaiting car with his friends.

Friday evening everyone gathered for a casual dinner at the Crab Trap restaurant on the Boardwalk next door to the Ramada Hotel. Due to the Red Tide, we chose to eat indoors and a special semi-private area was made available to us. **Walt Friedhofen**, who had arrived belatedly at the reunion, wasn't feeling too chipper, but he put forth a max effort to join his buds for dinner and many took the opportunity to visit with him. Wally, you've got a jewel in that Sharon! (See *Letters to the Rustics*.)



**Back Seaters L-R: Front: Hamann, Garand, and Dandeneau
Rear: Larson, LTC Om, Morneau, Col Oum, Gestas, and Friedhofen**



L-R Front: Seibold, Gable, Aitken, Barazzotto, Edwards, Newland, Freix, Keese and R. Dodd. Standing: Wood, Clifford, W. Dodd, Kimbell, Om, Koeppel, Col Oum, Capps, Lester, Ellis, Nuber, Wilson, and Van Dyke.

During the course of the dinner, several Rustics got to talking about Bill Sleight's recently published memoir book, and made a pact to begin writing their personal memoirs. The intent is not necessarily to get published but to provide a history for their families, kids and grandkids. Some plan to write about their Vietnam experiences, others plan to be more autobiographical. They agreed to share ideas and have a "draft" ready for the 2009 reunion. If you'd like to join this group, contact **Claude Newland** at: rustic19@cox.net. **Bob Clifford** let the cat out of the bag and said he has been working on his memoirs for his family for some time.

Saturday was filled with free time and optional activities. The truly hearty got up at the crack of dawn for golf which was organized by **Doug Aitken & Lendy Edwards** or go fishing from the Destin harbor. **Claude Newland** led a group, which included **Barbara Dahlberg** and **Kirsten Norman**, on a tour of the Hurlburt Air Park to view the FAC Memorial, FAC aircraft, and other memorials. The FAC site is really in great shape; the aircraft have all been newly painted and look spiffy. **Col Oum** and **Ltc Om** made a shelf check at the BX and uniform sales store to obtain several needed items.

The Reunion Business meeting was held Saturday afternoon...we still had plenty of beer, so all went smoothly. The Rustic Board was elected and **Claude Newland**, by popular demand and some arm twisting, agreed to continue as president of the Association. The association is in great financial shape. After completing our business, and determining the locale for our next reunion, we adjourned to prepare for the evening banquet. *(After the reunion, the reunion fund balance was \$453.99 (of which \$430.81 was carried over from the 2005 reunion and \$23.18 from this year's reunion. This money will be carried forward to 2009.*

Doug Aitken presided over another festive Rustic banquet as master of ceremonies...what a smoothie! Now we see why he is getting involved in North Carolina politics, of sorts...he likes to stay involved and is a man of many talents!

Roger Dodd and **The Flyers** provided entertainment for the happy hour while **Jim Seibold**, as usual, took pictures of all attendees. After group pictures, the Rustics settled in for a most delightful evening. The banquet began with the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the introduction of our many guests and former Rustic Commanders. We were especially honored to acknowledge the presence of our Cambodian guests, **Col Oum** and **Ltc Om**, **Nancy Sleight**, her family members, and the family members of **Doug Norman**, Doug's AF friend, **Kent Allison**, and **Ron Dandeneau's** son, **TSgt Joseph Dandeneau**, who had just returned to Hurlburt from a tour of duty in Balad, Iraq [*prolonged standing ovation.*]

A first for this year's banquet was the addition of a single, small, POW/MIA table set aside by itself with an empty chair. **Roger Hamann** solemnly explained the symbolism of the table and the items on it...a stirring moment as we were reminded of the sacrifice others have made and our duty to never forsake them, but to ...Remember.

As is our custom, the master of ceremonies then read the names of our Rustics Departed. KIA: **Garret Eddy, Michael Vrablick, and Joseph Gambino**; those who have taken their final flight West: **Jerry Auth, Bob Berry, Rocky Brown, Stanley Chang, Don Hagle, Malcom Life, Clint Murphy, Doug Norman, Rick Scaling, Don Shinafelt, Hans Sigrist, and Bob Virtue** and those that have taken their final flight since our last reunion: **Bill Sleigh, Chris Polk, Arnie Simms, Sy Gaskill, and Rae Crumpler**.

With all standing and water classes lifted high, **Roger Hamann** made the following toast:

“To our POWs and MIAs and all our Rustic brothers who have made their final flights to that ultimate assignment. May their spirit and pride live on with us all.”

Following the invocation by **Ron Dandeneau**, a delicious Destin Seafood buffet was served. After a short after-dinner break, the formal program began with an awards ceremony to present **Dick Roberds** with the award of the Silver Star for a combat FAC mission flown in SEA. **Jack Koppin**, Dick’s number 2 in Command of the Night Rustics, read the citation while **Jim Lester**, the Rustic’s first commander, was honored to do the pinning.

*Here again, is another example of the selfless efforts of **Don Mercer** whose efforts in researching and resubmitting this award on Dick’s behalf made this ceremony possible. Well done Don!*

Another highlight of the evening occurred when **Jim Gabel**, representing the three Rustics who helped get Bill Sleigh’s book published (**Don Mercer, Doug Aitken and Jim**) presented **Nancy Sleigh** with a copy of Bill’s book signed by the three of them. Nancy was most appreciative of their efforts and thanked them for the beautiful legacy book which they produced for Bill’s family [and the FAC community.] (*See Letters to the Rustics.*)



‘Seems books were the popular order of the day, as **Roger Hamann** and **Kent Allison** then presented a copy of the original Rustics self published book to each **Barbara Dahlberg** and **Kristen Norman**. Barbara responded with a heartfelt message of thanks and appreciation to the Rustics.

The evening program concluded with **Ned “Crash” Helm** and **Jim Seibold** being given special recognition for their work in support of the Association. After 3 years of laborious effort, Ned has produced a Rustic SEA Photo DVD which contains thousands of SEA photos from 40+ individual Rustic photo albums...a huge job! Unfortunately, Ned could not be at this year’s reunion, so a plaque of appreciation has been forwarded to him. **Jim Seibold** was also recognized for his tireless work in serving as the Association’s reunion photographer. In 2005 the Association presented him with a plaque of appreciation, but because Jim has continually refused reimbursement for his expenses, the association decided it was time to stop taking ‘no’ for an answer and mailed him a check...this way he can’t refuse.

The final order of business was the introduction of the Officers and Directors for the next 2 years and announcing that our next reunion will be in 2009 in Washington DC. ‘Start making plans now to attend. We hope to see you all there.

2007 REUNION ATTENDEES: **Doug & Carol Aitken, Kent & Kathy Allison** (friends of Doug Norman), **Zot & Carole Barazzotto, Tom Capps, Bob & Dorte Clifford, Barbara & Wayne Dahlberg** (sister of Doug Norman), **Ron & Rosemary Gil Dandeneau, Bill & Jan Decabooter, Roger & Linda Dodd, Don Echelberger, Lendy & Sue Edwards, Don & Helene Ellis, Greg & Barb Freix, Walt & Sharon Freidhofen, Jim & Sally Gabel, Ron Gamache & son Jonathan, Joe Garand, Jean Claude Gestas, Roger & Joan Hamann, Hank & Annie Keese, Shad & Carol Kimball, Ron & Shirley Koepfel, Terry Koepfel & friend Kristen Braun, Jack & Georgie Koppin, George & Muncha Larson, Jim & Barbara Lester, Marcel & Denise Morneau, Claude & Tona Newland, Kirsten Norman** (daughter of Doug Norman) & friend, **Lia Franks, Jim Nuber, Lt Col Kohn Om, Col Lieou Oum, Dick & Marcy Roberds, Jim & Diane Seibold, Nancy Sleigh & friend Marcia Seibert, Mike & “B” Thrower & guest, Hazel Wright, Dave & Susan Van Dyke, Mike & Sherry Wilson, and Dick Wood**

Non-Rustic Guests at the Banquet included: **TSgt Joe Dandeneau** (son of Ron and Rosemary), **Mike & Gail Mulligan**, **Robert Sleigh & Kristy Kopf** (relatives of Nancy Sleigh), **Rich Kopf**, and **Bill & Gloria Hartley** (members of "Flyers" Band)

SHORT BURSTS:

1) **Rocky Brown.** The Association has submitted **Rocky Brown's** name to **Randy Roberts** to be painted on OV-10 # 675, which is being restored at the Hill AFB museum, as Crew Chief in honor of Rocky's service to the 23rd TASS. Historian **Jim Gabel** is coordinating this effort. Upon receiving the Rustic's recommendation, **Randy Robert's** reply was "consider it done."

2) **Welcome Home Event Will Embrace Vietnam Veterans and All Who Serve.** 2008 marks 35 years since America's withdrawal from Vietnam. To acknowledge that bitter-sweet anniversary - and to honor America's GIs, past present and future, Three northern Indiana towns, Auburn, Angola and Fort Wayne, are joining with an Indiana Foundation and an

Ohio-based non-profit to throw a huge celebration honoring Vietnam veterans and all who serve. The third national Operation Welcome Home will be held in northern Indiana, July 2-6, 2008. The first two national Operation Welcome Home's were held in Las Vegas (2006) and California (2007.)

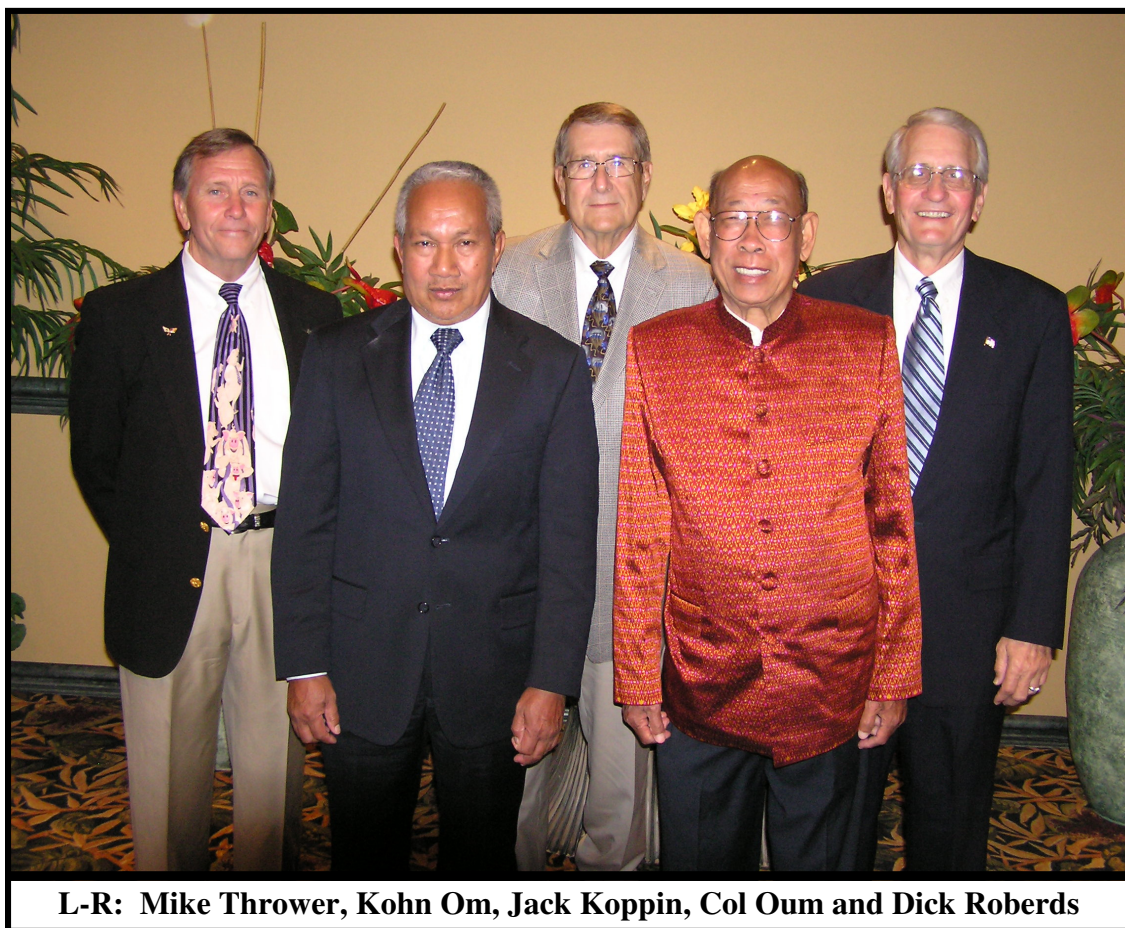
3) **OV-10 Bronco Association announces new name for Meacham Field airport complex.** 11 Nov 07. The OV-10 Bronco Association announced that it will be doing business and operating under the name **Fort Worth Veterans Memorial Air Park.** The air park will include the aircraft as well as the Forward Air Controllers Museum and the Bronco Ready Room. There is no change structural change to the Bronco Association other than operating the conglomerate of the air park, museum and ready room under the name of the Veteran's Memorial Air Park. The board believes the name change will better reflect what we, as separate organizations, are trying to accomplish in the way of education and outreach as well as have a better name recognition to the public.

4) **Fiji Anyone? Jim and Diane Seibold** slipped away for trip to Fiji in mid Nov. Boy, those airline bennies come in handy!

HISTORIAN REPORT (Gabel): I received the final shipment of **Clint Murphy's** memorabilia from **Emile [Brunnelle]** on 31 Aug. This shipment consisted of ten audio cassette tapes. From the legends, four of the 11 are apparently of missions and the other seven are of interviews with **Newland, Dufresne, Larson** and **Vaillancourt** - vintage early 1971.

1) **Rustic Archives.** At the reunion I received the following items from the RFA to be placed in the Rustic Archives:

- Book. "Vietnam and Cambodia Recalled" by **Bill Sleigh**
- Book "Call Sign Rustic" by **Dick Wood** (referred to as our 'Red' book)
- Book "The Rustics—A Top Secret Air War in Cambodia" (referred to as our 'Black' Book)
- CD "The Rustics—A Top Secret Air War in Cambodia"
- Correspondence Book -- House of Hope and KPC Orphanage (prepared by **Lendy Edwards**.)



2) Doug Norman's Photo Albums. I also accepted on loan from **Kirsten Norman** four of **Doug Norman's** photo albums. I will scan all the photos and provide them to the "Rustic SEA Photo Album" committee as soon as possible. I accepted these albums with the promise to securely mail them to Doug Norman's mother (she has the most permanent address) as soon as I am done with them.

3) OV-10 # 639 History of Flight. On 9 Sep, I provided **Darrel Whitcomb** with the final input of flights by Rustics in OV-10 # 639. We had 17 individuals with flights that covered from 12/24/1969 to 7/25/1991. Darrel has since incorporated this material into a narrative, which he provided to Claude. Claude provided comments and sent copies to me, **Doug Aitken** and **Lendy Edwards** for review. I will provide my comments to Darrel shortly.

4) OV-10 #675 History of Flight. On 18 Sep, I sent **Randy Roberts** the collected information on Rustics who flew in OV-10 #675. Only two Ubon Rustics reported flying her. [If you're a Johnny-come-lately but flew this bird, let me hear from you.]

WEBSITE UPDATES (Edwards) The following updates/additions have been made to the Rustic website:

1) Rustic Locator Map Link. A link was added to the "Locator" and "Interesting Link" pages that will take you to the "Worldwide Rustic Locator Map." The map shows where each Rustic lives; a great aid if you're planning a road trip and want to look up or free-load off your buddies along the way. If you haven't added yourself to the map, please do so. See Map page for instructions.

2) Two New Items Added to the Rustic Store--available on the Rustic website (price includes shipping and handling):

- | | |
|--|------------|
| A) "Vietnam Songs and Missions CD." by Jim Seibold . Rustic 13", | Cost: \$12 |
| B) "Vietnam and Cambodia Recalled" by Bill Sleight , Rash 36, Rustic 12, 217 pages, hardback. | Cost: \$34 |

SEA PHOTO DVD PROJECT—ENTERING PHASE TWO. Can you believe it? The SEA photos from forty (40) Rustic photo album collections are now all on one DVD. Yep, phase ONE of the Rustic SEA Photo Gallery Project is now complete....well, sort of...if you have still photos that you have not yet sent to **Ned Helm**, you can still do so. We are still accepting photos!

Ned provided a completed DVD to **Lendy Edwards** in time for the Oct 07 reunion. Each individual Rustic photo album collection is located in its own folder on the DVD. Phase TWO involves getting each person who submitted photos to identify their photos (who, what, when, where, etc.) and provide this information to a newly formed "Rustic SEA Photo Album" committee that will continue to work this project to its completion. This committee will work much like our previous book committees to determine DVD layout, chapters, etc.

Lendy Edwards and **Jim Seibold** have agreed to chair the Phase Two efforts but they could use some extra help. Contact Jim or Lendy if you'd like help with this effort to preserve our Rustic photo legacy. Most of the work will be done via computer communication so it can be done at home.

The number, breath, quality and historical value of your photos are amazing. We've gotta do this! I got mouse induced cramps just going through the DVD. Great Stuff!

KOMPONG CHAM CHARITIES AND OPHANAGE REPORT (Edwards):

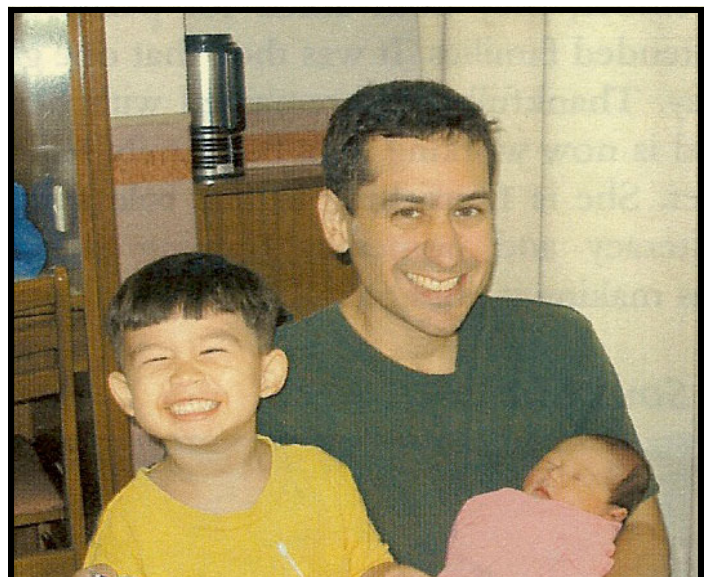
1) Funds Delivered. Thanks to all who have contributed to our Cambodian Charity Funds. As a result of your donation, the RFA sent the following Cambodian Charity Funds with **Tom Capps** to be personally delivered to **Danny Colombara** in Cambodia in Nov:

Sunrise Ministries	\$2,519
Kompong Cham Orphanage	<u>720</u>
Total of check	\$3,239

2) Sunrise Report. Here's the latest correspondence from **Danny Colombara**, our POC for Kompong Cham charities. Mon, October 29, 2007, Subject: Donation to Sunrise,

Dear **Tom [Capps]** and **Lendy [Edwards]**,

I wanted to follow up Tom's recent phone call wherein he stated Rustics' intention to donate funds to ICKCC. Tom asked me to prepare a short proposal regarding how we might spend these funds.



Danny Colombara with his children

The funds designated for the orphanage will be used as they have been in the past: to provide school uniforms, school supplies and other educational equipment for the children who live there. In the past we purchased all of these at the beginning of the school year (October) but this year we will likely also visit mid school year to replenish school supplies and give new school uniforms for those who have grown. There are four other categories for which we would like to use Rustic's gift:

- 1) To assist in the support of poor children who have lost both of their parents but who are living with extended family members such as grandparents.
- 2) To assist poor but studious students that our Education Coordinator meets when teaching in the public schools.
- 3) To help poor children in general who are in need of funds to study
- 4) To pay for medical treatment and vaccines for children in prisons as needed.

These funds will be held on the side as used on an "as needed" basis in the same way that the emergency fund for your previous was used and accounted for.

Of course we are flexible and would welcome your input if you had another way you would like us to use these funds.
Warmly, **Danny Colombara**

From Daranee Hong, Sunrise Project Director, Kompong Cham,

As you undoubtedly know, Sunrise's fiscal year ended September 30, 2007. In reviewing the ministry of the past year, I have been amazed not only by God's work here in Kompong Cham, but by his work in the hearts of supporters such as yourself and the other members of Rustics. I am humbled by the reach of our global God.

Rustic's support has been critical in allowing Sunrise to serve the poor of Kompong Cham. Thanks to your generosity, we have been able to continue providing school supplies to the orphanage (see enclosed photos) as well as assist those in crisis. On behalf of our many clients that you've impacted, thank you.

Please feel free to contact me at anytime if you have questions about our ministry.
Warmly, **Daranee Hong**, Project Director

P.S. We look forward to hosting [Rustics] **Tom Capps** and **Ron Gamache** in late October [07].

We hope to include a complete report from Tom and Ron on their recent trip to Cambodia in our Mar 08 newsletter.



DON MERCER'S BOOK UPDATE (Mercer.) My book is about 75% done and I'm in the final turn for home. **Jim Beaubien**, the only non-Rustic whom I have represented as Counsel with the AFBCMR, has been working with me for some five months on the primary editing. We fax pages back and forth several times each week. **Wayne Baker** - "Stump" - one of my buddies in the Night Rustics, and a room mate from VMI and fellow Air Force pilot, **Wayne Keesee** (C-130s), who has published an excellent novel, *Extreme Prejudice*, are also contributing to reviews of each chapter.

About 90% of the book is written with some chapters as finished manuscript and some in various stages of editing. I've also worked with a commercial graphic artist to design the cover which is just about completed...

When you get to the point of needing some info on the publishing process for memoirs, I'll be happy to accommodate in any way that I can. I think the goal and commitment by several Rustics of writing their memoirs will add immensely to our overall history. My work with Xlibris on my first book and Bill Sleight's book was about as seamless and painless as publishing can be, I think.

I suggest that anyone interested in publishing at least take a look at the Xlibris web site, www.xlibris.com. Another publishing company, Trafford, was used by a Covey friend (also a Brother Rat from VMI), **Paul Curs**, who worked with several other Coveys in publishing their book, *Point of the Spear - Covey Forward Air Controllers in Vietnam*.

I do hope that those who purchased copies of Bill's book like the finished product.

Don, we look forward to your book with anticipation. Please let us know when the Rustics can place pre-orders.

OFFER TO HELP LOCATE "MISSING" RUSTICS, Kirsten Norman, 11/14/07. Gentlemen, I have been thinking a lot lately about the effort that was put into finding my father, and sub sequentially myself, and thinking about all of your brothers that are still

unaccounted for. I know **Mr. [Kent] Allison** paid some kind of investigator to find my family, and although I don't know what he paid him, I realized that this is exactly what I do for a living, to some aspect, and could probably be of great help if you wanted to locate your lost brothers. I would have to run it by my supervisors, but I thought I would speak to you before I went to them to see what you thought.

I would be willing to do the work for free in my own time, but the cost of database research, which typically isn't all that much, would have to be reimbursed. I remember Rog saying he had the social security numbers of some (maybe all?) of the men. With that and/or the names and date of birth, I am positive I can locate most, if not all of your comrades. In my field, I am required to locate targets on a regular basis, usually with simply a city and name. I'm no braggart, but I am quite successful at this task. Confer amongst yourselves and let me know what you think...this will allow me the chance to give something back to you. Thanks for everything, **Kirsten Norman**

*Which one of your Rustic buds have we never located? . Send names and any helpful information such as SSNs, birth dates or last known addresses, to **Don Ellis** at: donellis@sc.rr.com. The Board has authorized \$200 to begin the search process in early 08. **Don Ellis Dick Roberds, Roger Hamann and Lendy Edwards** are developing a revised list of "missing" to pass along to Kirsten*

GIVE A CHRISTMAS PRESENT TO YOURSELF--SAVE A TWEET (Jim Bloomberg, jlbloomberg@aim.com) Gentlemen, we need your help. The OBA/FACM has located a T-37 Tweet [57-2261] for the airpark and needs to raise \$2000 by Feb 08 to take full ownership. \$600 has been raised so far. Time is of the essence. On your check memo line, please write "Save-A-Tweet." and mail your tax deductible contribution to: OV-10 Bronco Association, Attn: Tom Kemp, 505 NW 38th Street Suite 33S, Fort Worth, TX 76133

Rumor has it that all T-37s being sent to D-M, Arizona, are earmarked to be shredded, yes shredded, so it's critical that we act now to save this bird. We would love to get an A-37, but they are hard to come by. Since the Tweet is near and dear to most AF pilot's hearts, so she will be a most welcome addition to our growing stable of aircraft. But, we need to act fast to make this happen!

Once again, thanks for allowing me to be a part of the FACNET. I look forward to gathering your inputs for our VMAP. Cheers! **Jim Bloomberg** *(Imagine, buying a jet for only \$2,000. Let's do it!)*

ANNOUNCEMENTS/CALENDAR:

- 1) **All FAC Reunion in Australia.** 23-28 April 08, Canberra, Australia. All U.S. FACs invited to participate.
- 2) **National "Operation Welcome Home."** 2-6 July, 2008, Auburn, IN (to honor all Vietnam Veterans)
- 3) **2008 All FAC Reunion.** 1-5 Oct 2008, Colorado Springs, CO. AF/Navy Football game 4 Oct.
- 4) **2009 Rustic FAC Reunion.** Dates TBD, 2009, Washington DC,

LETTERS TO THE RUSTICS.

From **Nancy Sleigh** [Ref: **Bill Sleigh's** Memoir book],

I love the front and back covers. Also, like the size of the printing and overall layout. All in all, I am very happy with how the book came together. If it were not for you three gentlemen's hard work this book would not be in existence. Bill wanted his memoirs in print as an inheritance to his family. He was discouraged by publishers he approached about printing his book. So, this is more than he would have ever expected to have for his legacy.

Thank you again, **Jim [Gabel], Don [Mercer] and Doug [Aitken]** for all your hard work. **Nancy**

From Dick Roberds, CINC Night Rustics

Claude, Lendy and Doug,

Marcy and I arrived safely home yesterday evening, and I have been thinking all day today about you guys. You sure did a great job in organizing and leading the 2007 Rustic reunion and you are to be congratulated.

The whole affair was well organized, went very smoothly, and was a most enjoyable time. I thought for a while that the rain was going to ruin it for us, but it did not. Everything ran smoothly, and the activities were just plain enjoyable. I also enjoyed being with you three again, as well as all the other attendees. What a great group of guys.

I'm going to do my best to light some fire under the "Night Rustics" to begin attending the parent reunion, but I'm afraid I'll not have much success for the '09 reunion in Washington. But I'll try.

Best wishes to the three of you, and thanks for a great weekend. **Dick, Rustic 21**

*At the reunion business meeting we learned that the 0-2 Rustics are planning a 0-2 Night Rustic reunion in 08 in DC. In a telephone call to **Frank Sovich**, he indicated they would be happy to share information that might assist us in our planning for the 2009 RFA reunion.*

From Jim Gabel, 6 Nov /07

Gentlemen-I am currently in Wallis, TX awaiting the birth of my daughter's baby girl any day now.

The rest of the trip to FL, after the reunion, was successful. We bought my son a house in North Port, FL (closes 16 Nov). The market is good for buyers, once you weed out all the foreclosures and short sales. The house was originally listed for \$205K, but had been dropped twice to \$160K. We offered \$145K, expecting to haggle a bit. But, they accepted the offer without countering.

I expect to be back home NLT 14 Nov, and will provide my reports and inputs shortly after that. Cheers, Jim

Jim Gabel, 11/10/07. Our new granddaughter, **Morgan Rian Englebrecht** was born at 1342 CST on 9 Nov 2007. She weighed 6 lbs 15 oz and was 20 1/4 in. She has long curly blond hair and blue eyes. She and her mother, Karla, who was at the Rustic San Antonio Reunion, are now at home doing great. My mission here is now complete and I head for home on Tuesday. Cheers, Jim

From Doc Thomas, 11/7/07

Congratulations **Jim Gabel**— in advance. I just now learned the feeling also. ‘Went to R.I. to see Dillon, who is the son of my son from the first marriage. Gayle went with me and had a fine time with them – she talks to my son on the internet all the time. Dillon is doing well, happy, and easy. He’s the reason that I couldn’t make the schedule to go to the reunion.

From Walt Friedhofen,

Claude, I want my fellow Rustics to know that I was overwhelmed by the outpouring of concern and support I received concerning my state of health at the last reunion. I know the feelings were genuine because even Rustics with whom I had barely spoken over these past years sat down at my table and visited with me.

I’m cautiously happy to report that my medical issues are being addressed and I’m back to my old self, at least temporarily. But the important result about that weekend is that it confirmed something I’ve known for nearly four decades. Rustics was not just a fleeting unit that flew combat missions in SEA. Rustics were, and is, a family and always has been. Many of the close bonds that were forged in the early ‘70s endure today. Thank God for the Rustics, **Walt Friedhofen**

From Bill Leydorf,

Claude, my new address is 108 Kawatuska Way, Loudon, TN 37774

We’ve have "right"-sized to a single floor home in the same development to help with achy knees etc. ‘Arrived home this evening and I have written the check [for **Bill Sleigh Book**] and will mail it tomorrow, **Bill**

From Don Brooks,

Hi, Everyone,

We had a small, but enthusiastic and merry, band representing the FAC Association in the Colorado Veterans Day Parade. The weather was great; the crowds were large (as usual); and we were #51 out of about 100 units. ‘Took 32 minutes for us to finally get on the move after the parade kicked off at 10. We were right behind a contingent of American Legion Riders (lots of Vets from SW Asia). When they all cranked up about 10:30, it



Tom Eigel and Don Brooks, Rustic 02

had a bit of the feeling of being out on a flight line again.

Earl Sanders and **Jimmie Butler** walked out front, each carrying a sign. **Tom Eigel** and I rode in the back of the pickup, driven by Tom's son. **Charlie Pocock** had procured a large banner, and Tom had mounted it nicely above the pickup bed to be easily seen by all. We had a couple more 16x20 posters on the side of the truck. As you'll see in the pics, our signs were oriented to letting people know about the dedication of the 2008 FAC Memorial during the reunion next October. Our mission was to help get some word out about that. While waiting, we were able to give cards to some members of the Legion and others to tell them about the dedication and let them have something in their hands to establish the date.



American Legion Riders and Crowd

Attached are a few pics of the event, including 3 showing our signs/banner. The others are crowd shots that give some idea of what marching in the Colorado Springs Veterans Day Parade is like. In addition to recognizing veterans, this event is a lesson in patriotism and freedom to the young people in the area. Many of the little people sitting on the curbs and waving the small American flags are too young to understand what is happening, but they can tell from their parents' enthusiasm that it's something important. Some of the older children run out to give use little thank you cards created in various classes or scout groups, further giving them a chance to understand more of what Veterans Day is all about. The parade planners encourage many units of young people—high school bands; JROTC; cadets; others—to participate in the parade. So they come with their signs all ready to express gratitude to America's Veterans.

So all-in-all, it was a good day to be a veteran on the streets of Colorado Springs. I'd have to say that today's high point came about a quarter of the way through the parade. A man stepped away for the curb to make sure we could hear him. He yelled to us "I'm alive because of you guys"—and we know they are out there by the thousands. our trees may have lost their leaves, but it wasn't due to a hurricane!!! **Don**

Also From **Don Brooks**,

Claude, we have a very active FAC group here in the Springs [*Colorado Springs.*] Once a month we have a breakfast meeting, where we tell lies and try to convince each other that we really could have won the war, if just given a chance. on't know if you heard about it or not, but there are rumors of a group of Vietnamese that are considering a revolution against the present government. It seems they aren't happy with the way things are going, and are planning a coup. In honor of Ho Chi Min, the group calls themselves the "Hoo Chi's". They have established a base of operations near the old base at Cu Chi. So, watch the news for the latest on the Hoo Chi Cu Chi Coup.

Looking forward to seeing the Rustics here in the Springs. How was the reunion last month? **Don Brooks**

From Robert "Jess" Jessup

Dear Claude, thanks for Bill's book. Enclosed is a check for \$19.

I hope to retire next fall from my second career with Fulton County Government, so perhaps we'll have more time to travel as we plan to "shed" quite a few of our current commitments. And travel is something we plan to do—we sold our home last fall and have since been living full-time in an RV. We love the lifestyle and want to do it as long as we are physically able.

Water is a very BIG deal up here. We are running out, landscape companies have laid off thousands of workers and there are more watering restriction coming in the near future. Unless the Lord opens up the heavens—and our Governor held a prayer rally on the GA Capitol steps yesterday to implore Him to do so—we will likely face rationing early next year. It is just another resource we take for granted until we begin to run short.

Thanks for the invite and the book. Take care, Claude

Sincerely, **Robert H. "Jess" Jessup**, Rustic 13

2008 Membership Renewal Form

Please renew my Rustic FAC Association membership for 2008. I'd like to stay in touch with my Rustic buddies, continue receiving the Rustic newsletter, and help support efforts to promote Rustic camaraderie, future reunions and history projects.

Name: _____ Spouses name: _____

Street Address: _____

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

E Mail Address: _____ Rustic Call Sign: _____

	<u>Amount Enclosed:</u>
<u>2008 Annual Dues</u> of \$20.00	\$ _____

<u>Lifetime Membership. My age is" _____</u>	
Age 55 & younger --\$ 250	Age 56-60 --\$ 225
Age 61-65 --\$ 200	Age 66-or older --\$ 175

\$ _____

Tax Deductible Contribution to Cambodian Charities \$ _____

Tax Deductible Contribution to Kompong Cham Orphanage \$ _____

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Please make check payable to "Rustics" and mail to: Don Ellis, Rustic Treasurer, 26 E. Boyce St. Manning, SC 29106

Rustic FAC Association
4033 Indian Trail Drive
Destin, FL 32541

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED