



# Rustic News

**www.rustic.org**

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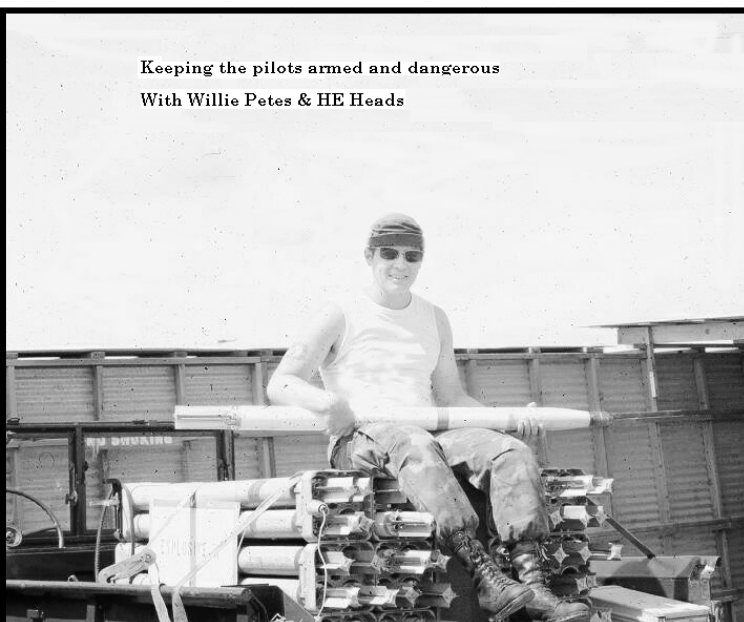
**2009 RUSTIC REUNION IN WASHINGTON DC -- DATES TBA.** Start making plans now to attend. This will undoubtedly be a special reunion because of the awesome amount of activities and events associated with our nation's capitol. We definitely plan to visit the Vietnam Memorial and hope to include a White House tour among the many reunion activities. The reunion committee has already begun their hotel search process and should have a hotel picked out and a tentative reunion agenda set later this summer. The reunion schedule will be published in our Sep 2008 newsletter. Get ready to join up at the rendezvous point!

**REUNION COMMITTEE MEMBERS.** Tom Capps, Doug Aitken, Jon Safely, Deke Decabooter, Ron Dandeneau, Lendy Edwards, Jim Nuber, and Claude Newland have volunteered to serve as members of the 2009 reunion committee. If you live in or around the DC area, would like to help, or have any suggestions for the reunion, please contact **Tom Capps** at: tomcapps@nc.rr.com or call 919-846-5411.

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**NEW LIFETIME MEMBER: Robert Wheeler**, 19 TASS 0-2 crew chief, is our newest lifetime member. Bob recently found the Rustic website and has joined our ranks as the newest member of our association. Bob contacted **Lendy Edwards**, our webmaster, and wrote:

Hi Rustic 20, My name is **Robert L Wheeler**. I was in the 19<sup>th</sup> TASS from April 26, 1970 to April 25, 1971 I was a Crew Chief on 02-As. First, for Sleepy Time Fac's then sent to the Jade Fac's, then to Issue Fac's at Cu Chi and my last 6 months were with the Tilly Fac's. I know some of the pilots on the Rustic Locator and have flown with them back to Bien Hoa. **Michael R Davenport and Steve Joy**, were Jade Fac's before going to the Night Rustics. I have some pictures of an OV-10 that had to deliver a new engine for one of the O-2's to Binh Thuy for the Tilly Fac's.



When we would go to Bien Hoa we would work for the Sleepytime FACs. I worked the night **1Lt Garrett Eddy** and **1Lt Michael Vrablick** were KIA. Do you have to be a member to have my name on the Rustic Locator. If so sign me up. Please send me an application to join. My home E-mail is [Robertwheeler1@cox.net](mailto:Robertwheeler1@cox.net) Home Phone: 401-884-4897 Cell Phone: 401-230-8092

*Bob, welcome aboard. We hope you can assist us in locating more of our 19 TASS crew chief buds.*

#### ROSTER/PERSONNEL UPDATES:

<b>Wayne Baker</b>	PO Box 119, Chromo, CO 81128
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<b>Vaughan Smith</b>	<a href="mailto:Ridgewalker@Hughes.net">Ridgewalker@Hughes.net</a>
<b>Robert L. Wheeler*</b>	0-2 Sleepytime crewchief, Apr 70-Apr 71 (Also Jade and Issue crew chief) 9 Bates Trail, West Greenwich, R.I. 02817, (H) 401-884-4897 (M) 401-230-8092 <a href="mailto:Robertwheeler1@cox.net">Robertwheeler1@cox.net</a>

\*Newly found (He found us!)

**RAY STRATTON, RUSTIC 03, UBON/CC, TAKES FINAL FLIGHT.** We regret to inform you that **Ray Stratton**, Rustic 03, Ubon/CC, passed away unexpectedly on Thursday afternoon, 28 Feb, of an apparent stroke. Ray's wife, Jan, called the Rustics with the news. A family and friend's visitation was held on 3 Mar and the funeral service was held on Tuesday, 4 Mar, at the Hurlburt Chapel – located, appropriately enough, right next to the FAC aircraft on display in the Hurlburt Air park. General Secord of Son Tay POW Raid fame and Ray's boss at the pentagon gave the eulogy. **Claude Newland** also gave a few remarks about Ray and his service and tenure with the Rustics. **Tona Newland** and **Jim and Barbara Lester** attended the service for the Rustics. Full military honors were rendered. Internment was at the Barranca's National Cemetery in Pensacola, FL.

In keeping with our Rustic tradition, a nickel was provided to Jan on behalf of the Rustics, which she placed in the breast pocket of Ray's uniform. Please keep Jan and Ray's family in your thoughts and prayers. I'm sure Jan would appreciate hearing from any of the Rustics. You can contact her at:

3 Bayshore Point, Valparaiso, FL 32580  
850-687-8628  
[rstratto1@earthlink.net](mailto:rstratto1@earthlink.net)



**NEW ITEMS POSTED ON RUSTIC STORE.** A new "Vietnam Songs and Missions" CD and **Bill Sleight's** memoir book, "Vietnam and Cambodia Recalled, It Still Hurts" are now available on our Rustic Store website at: [www.rustic.org](http://www.rustic.org)

**2005 REUNION PHOTO CDs MAILED.** Those who attended the 2005 reunion, but could not attend the 2007 reunion (BTW: we missed you) should have received, by now, a copy of the 2005 Reunion Photo CD in the mail. They were mailed on 15 Dec 07; i.e. **Dahle, Drury, Dufresne, Early, Ecklund, Goddard, Haller, Helm, Mercer, McClellan, Mittendorf, Stratton, Thomas, and Van Kirk.** If you didn't receive your copy, please contact **Don Ellis**, Treasurer, at: [donellis@sc.rr.com](mailto:donellis@sc.rr.com) or call 803-435-4755.

*All other 2005 reunion attendees received their personal copies at the 2007 reunion.*

**HISTORIAN REPORT (Jim Gabel):** **Bob Green**, the FAC Association Vice-president, is collecting photos and next-of-kin data on all the FAC losses in preparation for the FAC Memorial dedication in Colorado Springs in Oct. The photos are to be incorporated into a collage. According to Crash the best picture of **Joe Gambino** is at the FACM and will be included in a CD that they will produce. I have a picture of **Gary Eddy** on a civic action project, in the Rustic Archives. There is also one of him in the Black Book

photo section. I do not believe we've ever have a picture of **Mike Vrablick**. I am proposing that I send the picture of Gary, mentioned above, along with a sampling of the pictures of the ceremony at Pochentong AB, as the Cambodians paid there respects to Gary and Mike before they flew them to Bien Hoa. I believe that Crash has a similar set for Joe that he probably included in the photo project DVD. I will also send him the names of the next of kin from our Roster: **Bonny Vrablick Fudge, George N. Gambino** and **John Eddy, II**. If anyone has a good picture of Joe, Gary or Mike, please contact me at: 605-342-6158.  
**REQUEST FOR 2007 REUNION PICTURES.** If you have pictures taken at the 2007 reunion...especially, the Sunday farewell brunch...please send a copy (electronically, if able) to **Jim Seibold** at: [Seiboldjim@aol.com](mailto:Seiboldjim@aol.com). Jim will be doing his normal magic to create a Reunion Photo CD for us. *Thanks.*

**SEA PHOTO CD PROJECT (Ned Helm)** "I am up and running to scan more pix." If you have additional SEA pictures that I haven't already scanned, please send them to me at: [ned@wingset.com](mailto:ned@wingset.com) or mail them to me. The end result of this project is going to be awesome. Don't be left out! Your kid and their kids won't forgive you.

**COMMERCIAL BOOK ROYALTIES. (Dick Wood):** Big news! I got a royalty statement and check from Smithsonian for the period ending September, 2007. The check was for \$23.64. Whee! I'm sending **Don [Ellis]** my check for \$17.73 (75%) plus copies of the paperwork from Smithsonian. I'm going to save up the remaining six bucks and have a big splurge on something. I wish Smithsonian would get tired of this and let us make an offer for the remainder [*of the books.*].

**FAC MUSEUM (Jim Gabel):** The FACM is up and running. However, there has been a major merger of the organizations that make up the Fort Worth complex. The newest organization, which will now become the public face of the three entities, is the **Fort Worth Veteran's Memorial Air Park (FTW VMAP)** with the collocated OBA "Ready Room" and the FACM. The OV-10 Bronco Association, Inc. is the Texas registered nonprofit organization that will continue to be overall controlling entity. Bronco Association President, **Jim Hodgson**, has been named a member to the Fort Worth Mayor's Aviation Museum Task Force. The desire of this Task Force is to establish a "World Class Aviation Museum" in Fort Worth.

As you can see the focus has moved on to acquiring, restoring and displaying aircraft at Meacham Field. Individual membership are now in the FTW VMAP, at \$40 per year. This replaces separate memberships in the OBA and FACM. It is, therefore, my belief that the RFA has fulfilled our role in helping to get the FACM built and the framework established for its continued existence. Our membership on the steering committee runs through June 2008. At that time, I think we can let our sponsorship lapse. But no decision needs to be made until our next quarterly meeting.

**"AIR FORCE-TOGETHER WE SERVED" WEBSITE. (Roger Hamann).** Some of you have already registered on this new site called "Air Force-Together We Served". This is another great way for us to possibly locate missing Rustics....but one has to register (free) in order to have access to the index and everything else available to members. One can register by clicking on the link below or you can write to me and I can have an invitation sent to you directly. How about a little participation on this one? Thanks, Rog

**<http://airforce.togetherweserved.com/usaf/index.jsp>**

**YOUR ASSOCIATION'S LIBRARY CONTINUES TO GROW (Jim Gabel):** The Rustic Board recently obtained copies of the following documents to add to the Rustic library.

FAC TASS History CD # 1. Contains the complete history of all of the TASS organizations for all years.

FAC Systems CD # 2. It is mostly aircraft deployment, exercises, general information, etc.

FAC History CD # 3. FAC general.

The "Airborne Forward Air Controller" Training manual, 4410th CCTW, dated June 1968.

These items were made available "free" to the association by **Al Matheson, FAC Association**. If you would like to order a personal copy of the above documents, they are "free:" to FAC Association members. A \$5.00 shipping fee is required for each document. You can contact **Al Matheson** at: 435-586-9702 or [citabriair@yahoo.com](mailto:citabriair@yahoo.com)

*Note: The Board is also considering obtaining a copy of the "Night FAC Manual;" a "23rd TASS Night Training Manual."*

**DID YOU FLY OV-10 # 067-14623? (Jim Gabel):** It's time to look in your log books again. OV-10 # 67-14623 is being transferred to the Warner-Robins AFB Museum. The FAC Association Historian, **Darrell Whitcomb**, wants to create a history for it, as he's done with the other museum aircraft. Please send your inputs to Jim Gabel , [jagabel@aol.com](mailto:jagabel@aol.com) Or call: 605-342-6158.

623 was at IAAFA at Kelly AFB with 626 (Rustic Bird) as a maintenance trainer and was 100% flyable when it left 8 years ago. Not now.

*Claude Newland and Lendy Edwards report that they did not fly this bird at Cu Chi, Bien Hoa, or Ubon?*

**A WEBSITE FOR THOSE WHO THOUGHT THEY HAD EVERYTHING ON VIETNAM. (Doc Thomas):** Check out this informative website. [<http://www-static.cc.gatech.edu/fac/Thomas.Pilsch/Vietnam.html>](http://www-static.cc.gatech.edu/fac/Thomas.Pilsch/Vietnam.html)

The Rustic website is listed and linked on this site.

## SHORT BURSTS:

- 1) Florida Tax Exempt Certificate.** The Association applied for and was granted a State of Florida Tax Exempt Certificate which means we won't have to pay 6% sales tax on future purchases in Florida...every little bit helps.
- 2) Which FAC has a library named after him?** The McBride Library at Keesler AFB is the only library in the USAF named after a FAC, Raven FAC Edward "Hoss" McBride, who served as a T-28 driver in Vietnam and a Raven FAC in Laos.
- 3) 2008 All FAC Reunion in Colorado Springs.** Don Brooks and Don Haller are serving on the 2008 FAC Reunion Committee. If anyone has any questions or suggestions, feel free to contact them at: [bro59@msn.com](mailto:bro59@msn.com) or [DonaldHaller@msn.com](mailto:DonaldHaller@msn.com).
- 4) Awesome Screen Backgrounds. (Ned Helm.)** Hey guys go to the following link...these make awesome screen backgrounds.....  
<http://www.nationalmuseum.af.mil/photos/index.asp?galleryID=2283>.  
They have the OV-10 side panel and front and rear cockpit from the OV at Wright Pat...Neat.
- 5) Rustics to attend "Down under "Reunion.** Several Rustics and their wives are going to "Waltz Matilda:" and attend the Australian sponsored FAC reunion in Canberra, 23-28 April 2008. They are part of a 39 member FAC tour group that will depart LAX on 7 April for a tour of New Zealand and Australia. The tour will culminate at the FAC Reunion. Attendees are: **Lendy & Sue Edwards, Dick & Liz Green, Claude & Tona Newland, and Jim & Lynne Nuber.**

**6) OV-10 # 639 Update.** Unfortunately, OV-10 # 639, for which we collected flight data, will not be dedicated during the FAC Reunion in Australia in April 08 as planned. However, it will be available for viewing in its current unrestored state. The delay was caused by lack of resources to get the aircraft to the Australian War Museum in time to complete the restoration for the reunion.

**7) Rocky Brown honored by Ogden Air Museum.** At the Rustic and Nail's request, Rocky Brown's name was painted on ship # 625 which is currently being restored at the Ogden, Utah Air Museum. **Randy Roberts** sent us the following picture. For those who didn't know Rocky, he was the Ubon Rustic's chief maintainer and wrench bender extraordinaire.



**RUSTICS HELP RECOVER AN A-7 AND F-105 (Jim Hodgson.)** Rustics **Tim Eby, Jack Thompson** and several other members of the OBA left for Amarillo, TX yesterday (24 Feb) to begin recovery of two aircraft for the Veteran's Memorial Air Park. They drove to the cap rock to recover our A-7 and F-105. They will also be assisting a crew from Robbins that dropped off our T-37, enroute to their recovery of an OV-10 in Amarillo.

Although funding has not been completed on either the A-7 or the F-105, circumstances dictated that we either recover the aircraft or they would be destroyed in place. Melton Trucking out of Tulsa has graciously agreed to transport the 105 as a donation and we have accepted a loan from a group in Amarillo to bring the A-7 back. Both of these aircraft will require that we pay a transfer fee to the GSA for the aircraft as a condition of our aircraft permanent loan with GSA. Once they are here, we will have restoration costs to contend with.

So, the A-7 or at least the fuselage is due here in Fort Worth sometime Thursday the 28<sup>th</sup>. Not sure of the schedule for the 105. So, the good news is one of our "Fort Worth Four" is on its way home. We are also making arrangements to bring the F-111 home in the next few weeks and we are working with the National Museum of Naval Aviation in Pensacola to ship the RF-8 here. That leaves the TF-102 as the only aircraft still in doubt of recovery. As I mentioned, funding has been completed on all of these aircraft with the exception of the F-111 and the assistance of the B-36 Peacemaker Museum. That aircraft is funded for recovery and transfer, but not restoration. We will worry about that once it is here.

Early last week, our collection numbered none. Later this week it will be 12. Impressive work by a bunch of old men with big hearts.

Thanks Gents. Regards, **Jim Hodgson**

PS To assist with funding of any of these aircraft, contact me directly, [txavi8or@verizon.net](mailto:txavi8or@verizon.net). No amount is too small and all are appreciated.





**FAC MUSEUM PROJECT (Ned Helm):** The FACM is seriously considering a collage of Name Tags and patches for each FAC squadron....how many Rustics have Name Tags, patches etc that they would part with for display in the Hooch bar at FACM? The patches will be scanned in high resolution for the FACM and the respective squadron archives...then they will go to FACM where they will be stored by Squadron. After a reasonable amount of time has passed they will be framed by Squadron.

We also need actual Name Tags....the more the merrier. Not the leather ones but the cloth ones with Velcro backing so they can be presented on a huge framed Velcro background.

If you have any of these items you'd like to donate to the FACM...and thereby make yourself immortal...of sorts...please send them to me at: 515 Trailhead Lane, Jamestown, TN 38556 or contact me at: [ned@wingset.net](mailto:ned@wingset.net). Thanks.

### **TRIP REPORT - RUSTICS AND OTHER VETS TAKE ON SOUTHEAST ASIA, (Tom Capps, Rustic 12):**

A group of six military vets, including two Rustics (myself and **Ron Gamache**, Rustic Victor) spent seventeen days visiting SEA from 29 October to 14 November 2007. The bulk of our time was spent in Cambodia, but we also visited Bangkok and Hong Kong. Our primary goal was to work with the Cambodian military, but we also visited Kompong Thom and Sunrise Ministry in Kompong Cham as well as interacting with a new church in Phnom Penh. I continued my effort that started in 2005 to locate **Sam (Hotel 21)** and **Nady Tan**.

#### Team Composition and Preparation

For approximately four months, I met weekly with **Ron Gamache**, Rustic Victor, and four other vets in person or by conference call to get acquainted and plan the trip. The other team members were **Don Snow**, Army Retired, Corvallis OR; **Paul Neu**, Air Force Retired, Aurora CO; **Gerry Whitt**, Navy Retired, Raleigh NC; and **Jerry Stone**, prior service Army, Raleigh NC. Our ages range from 58 to 75 with an average of 67.

#### Visiting Bangkok

Ron, Gerry, Jerry and I departed on 29 October for Bangkok where we rendezvoused with Don and Paul. The team was also greeted by **Sareth Duong**, team host from Cambodia, and **Surasak Banjukaew**, team host from Thailand. While in Bangkok, we met with the Military and Police

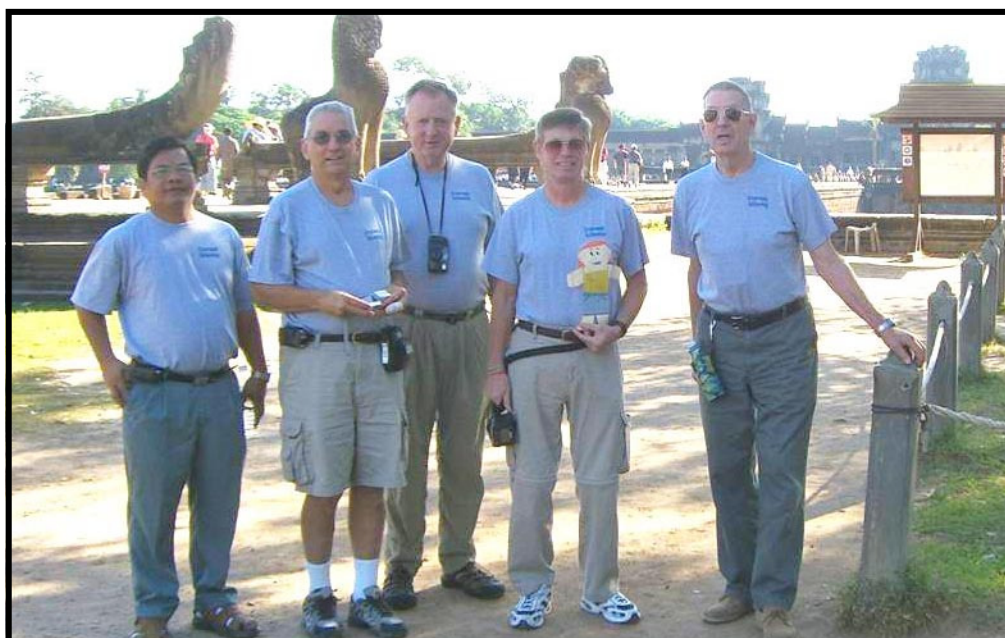
Christian Fellowship (MPCF) of Thailand. The following day, MPCF members escorted us on a riverboat ride through Bangkok which terminated at the Navy Club where everyone enjoyed an authentic Thai meal. Following lunch, the team visited the Royal Palace and temple of the Emerald Buddha. In the afternoon, Tom and Sareth visited Raja's Fashions where they met Raja, a tailor from Ubon, and his son, Bobby.

#### Journey and Visit to Cambodia

On 2 November, the team and Sareth boarded a rented van with a driver to head toward the Cambodian border crossing at Poipet. I arranged the overland journey to introduce team members to countryside they had never seen and to facilitate visits to more local sites in Cambodia. The trip to the border took 3.5 hours. While waiting two hours for Cambodian visas to be processed, the team took a lunch break that cost a total of 165 Baht or \$4.34. The transition from Thailand to Cambodia was a move from lush countryside to filthy, poverty-ridden habitats of rural western Cambodia.

Once in Cambodia, the team boarded another van with a driver to proceed along Highway 6 to Siem Reap. The 111 mile trip was one of a "billion bumps." No one on the team had ever experienced a rougher road anywhere in the world. This jaunt took 5.5 hours and exhausted everyone.

Our itinerary included visits to Ankor Wat, and needless to say, it was impressive. During our visit, the Cambodians were entertaining **Kim Jung Il** from North Korea. Afterwards, we drove around other sections of the temple complex that most Rustics had flown



**L to R: Sareth Duong, Tom Capps, Paul Neu, Ron Gamache and Jerry Stone**



over. Then, it was on to KPT where we had lunch at a wonderful roadside restaurant prior to entering town. In the city, we visited a temple as recommended by **Colonel Oum** to search for **Sok San “Sam”** (Hotel 21). It was disappointing not to find any clues of Sam’s whereabouts.

We continued our journey south on Route 6 to Skon where we headed east to KPC. There we visited **Darany Hang** at Sunrise Ministry. She was a delightful host who spoke excellent English. Following a short interaction with the HIV/AIDS hospice patients, Darany escorted us to the orphanage. On our arrival, we met the headmaster and a team of Koreans who were painting the buildings and playing with the children. Team members were captivated by the student artwork and made several purchases.

From KPC, we finished our trek to Phnom Penh where we checked into the Mittapheap Hotel where Sareth has reserved rooms for two with breakfast for \$30. Allow me to divert your attention for a bit to describe the magnitude of the trauma that Cambodians experienced from 1975 to 1979 under Khmer Rouge domination. The young life of our host, Sareth, was tragic. In 1975 at age 6, he was separated from his family in Battambang and was placed in a labor camp. His duties involved cutting rice straw into small pieces and mixing the straw with animal and human manure using his feet. He did this work until liberated by the Vietnamese in 1979. It took many years for the stains on his legs to disappear. I think that almost every Cambodian either personally experienced Khmer Rouge oppression or had a close family member who did.

#### Phnom Penh Activities

Our nine days in Phnom Penh focused on planning two for-profit businesses and teaching twelve Cambodian military members and wives to make good long-range decisions using biblical principles. A rice business will generate profits to help farmers greatly increase production by using hybrid seeds, irrigation and fertilizer. The rice business will also provide a better market for farmers and hopefully will generate better prices for them. Profits will be used to distribute rice to undernourished military families, to train Bible teachers to work with military personnel and their families, and to subsidize and encourage education of children of military families stationed in remote areas where schools are limited. The military outreach also involves teaching American English, medical support and sports training. The other business will be a pre-school operated by the new church in Phnom Penh. It will offer quality education at a reasonable cost. Profits will be used to support the church in its outreach and to provide Cambodians micro loans to help them move out of poverty.

The first morning the team was in Phnom Penh, Ron and I met with **Danny Colombara** to transfer the Rustics’ contribution of \$3,239 for Sunrise Ministry. Danny is the American administrator who oversees Sunrise operations and helps Darany manage the ministry. Danny and Darany will use the funds entirely for outreach to children at the orphanage and in KPC by subsidizing school related expenses.



**Team with Sunrise Staff**



**Ron Gamache, Tom Capps and Danny Colombara**



### Three Unexpected Turns

The team experienced three serendipitous events while in Phnom Penh. The first one involved an unplanned meeting with a Cambodian major general who is a friend of Sareth and who is the Assistant to the Deputy Secretary of Defense. We had a great time getting to know him. During dinner, I asked the general if he knew the Rustics' friend, Nady Tan. He didn't, but he agreed to help us locate him.

On Sunday, 12 November, our last full day in Cambodia, our team went to the Russian Market to buy some souvenirs. After browsing the vendors' wares for about ten minutes, I heard someone call my name and ask what I was doing there. Amazingly, it was our friend, **Om Kohn**. I was taken aback because I had no clue that Om would be visiting Cambodia. The probability of our meeting without prior planning astounded all of us. Om introduced his wife, Cree, as well as his brother and sister-in-law who operate a jewelry store in the market. I asked the wife if she had ever heard of Nady Tan, and much to my surprise she told me that he was her uncle. In short order, she called him at home, and I was able to speak with him. Nady agreed to meet our team at his office the next morning on our way to the airport.

The visit with Nady was a highlight of our trip. Even though he had experienced a sickness that he did not disclose, he seemed to be strong and in good spirits. His office is adorned with many "atta-boy photos and plaques" including a good representation from the Rustics. Nady told us the story of how he and his family fled from Battambang, Cambodia in 1975 on an Air Force helicopter. The helicopter was overloaded, and he had to leave his two teenage sons behind. Nady remained in the U. S. until 1995, when he returned to Phnom Penh. Apparently, he moved quickly into his position as Secretary General of the Cambodian government. I invited Nady to attend the 2009 Rustic reunion, but he did not commit. He indicated that all of his children still reside in the U. S., but he did not have their addresses.

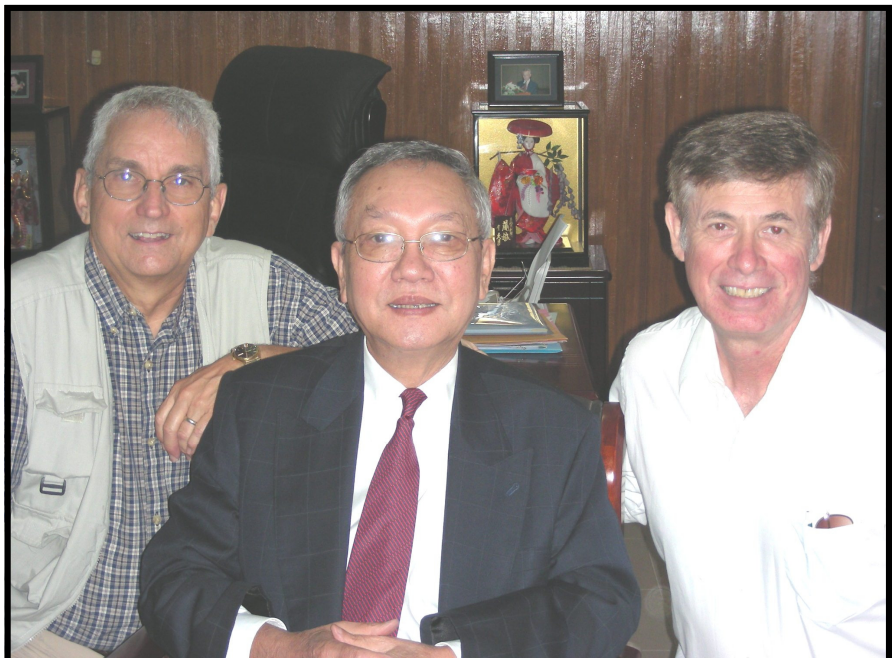
Following our visit with Nady, we headed to the airport where we said goodbye to Sareth and boarded a flight to Hong Kong, the worst flight any of us had ever experienced. So, our entry into Cambodia on Route 6 and our departure both proved to challenge our endurance. The first 111 miles of Route 6 was the worst road any of us had ever traversed. Dragon Air, a subsidiary of Cathy Pacific, had the least leg room of any airline on earth. Most of our team was over six feet, and two were six feet six. Our accommodations were not only uncomfortable, they were unsafe.

### An Unbelievable Visit to Hong Kong

We spent forty hours in Hong Kong on our way home, and were hosted by **Matthew Lau**, a seminary professor that had agreed to show us the city. He did a marvelous job as tour guide. Our first outing was dinner that included roasted pigeon for an appetizer and two entrees including roasted suckling pig and portions of a wonderful white fish that was either broiled or fried. We walked the



L to R: Gerry Whitt, Tom Capps, Cree (Om's wife), Jerry Stone, Kohn Om and Sareth Duong



Tom Capps, Nady Tan and Ron Gamache

famous Nathan Street to the harbor where we watched a wonderful laser light show. From there we crossed the harbor by ferry before returning to our hotel by train. On Tuesday, we visited the beach at Repulse Bay and Victoria Peak which overlooks all of Hong Kong. We were blessed with excellent temperatures and visibility that are not always very cooperative.

### The End

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the journey and truly believed it to be profitable for our team as well as for the Thais and Cambodians we met. Since the visit, I have been working with the Cambodians to develop business plans. I look forward to follow-up work involving teaching in Bangkok and helping to establish the two businesses in Cambodia. If any Rustics are interested in learning more about future interactions in these two countries or would like to be involved in any way, please don't hesitate to contact me.

**BOOK RECOMMENDATION (Don Mercer):** "*An Enormous Crime - The Definitive Account of American POWs Abandoned in Southeast Asia.*" This book was written by former U. S. Representative **Bill Hendon** (R-NC) and **Elizabeth A. Stewart**, whose father is an Air Force pilot who went MIA in 1966. It was published by St. Martin's Press, Thomas Dunne Books, and has as its ISBN-13: 978-0-312-37126-5.

Unless someone has totally made up their mind that there is no possibility that our government left behind POWs in captivity following Operation Homecoming in 1973, it is an excellent read. Even such a closed minded person should read it. The book provides compelling arguments that Nixon and Kissinger did just that - left some of our fighting men alive and held captive in SEA by both the North Vietnamese and Laotians. It also makes a plausible and convincing case for the cover up that has ensued within our government to date.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS/CALENDAR:

- 1) **"Downunder" FAC Reunion.** 23-28 April 08, Canberra, Australia. All U.S. FACs invited to participate.
- 2) **2008 All FAC Reunion.** 1-5 Oct 2008, Colorado Springs, CO. AF/Navy Football game 4 Oct. FAC Memorial Dedication.
- 3) **5<sup>th</sup> Annual Cowtown Warbird Roundup (CWR).** 30-31 May, 2008, Fort Worth, TX – Theme: "A Salute to Our Veterans."
- 4) **Air Expo 2008,** 16-17 Aug 08, Flying Cloud Airport, Eden Prairie, Minn. – Contact **Bob Jasperson** at: Bobj@wotn.org
- 5) **2009 Rustic FAC Assoc. Reunion.** Dates TBD, Fall 2009, Washington DC,

**OV-10 DOCUMENTARY ALMOST COMPLETE.** Jami "**Hollywood: Clayman**, [jami@majri.com](mailto:jami@majri.com), 2/15/08. I'm happy to announce the OV-10 documentary website for "One Tough Ride: The Story of the OV-10 Bronco" is updated and working. Visit the website, [www.ov10film.com](http://www.ov10film.com), and sign up for the newsletter by clicking on the "Newsletter" link. The film is close to completion! You can view clips online and learn more at: [www.ov10film.com](http://www.ov10film.com)

### **LETTERS TO THE RUSTICS:**

**From Ltc Russell Myers, 74 FS/CC:**

Merry Christmas...Thank you very much from the entire 74FS Family for all you do to keep the heritage alive. Life is extra busy for the 74FS due to the final days moving to Moody AFB GA. I'll relinquish command of the Squadron 11 Jan 08 to **LtCol Phil "Wallflower" Weilhouwer**. Time has past too quickly but has been magical. The FAC memorial fly-by and relationship with the Rustic FAC Association and its members is the cornerstone of heritage and memories I know will be with the newest Rustics for the rest of our lives. The new address for the 74FS is:

8303 Apron B. Bldg 811, Moody AFB GA 31699      Comm: 229 257-7603/7611      DSN: 460-7603/7611

This is not the permanent address but will work until construction is complete and some stability returns to the 74FS. I'll be going to ground at the 18 ASOG Pope AFB. DSN: 424-1764/Comm: (910) 394-1764. Please don't hesitate to call.

Thanks Again Rustic 19.      Cheers, "Oscar", **Lt Col Russell S. Myers**, 74FS/CC  
Bronco 52(27 TASS, George AFB)/Raven 52(21 TASS, Shaw AFB)/Misty 52(25FS Osan AB)/Rustic 52 (74FS Pope AFB)

**From Barbara Dahlberg (sister of Doug Norman), [abacobarb53@yahoo.com](mailto:abacobarb53@yahoo.com)**

Dear Rustics,

I'm sorry to hear of the passing of one of your own. I'm glad I was able to meet **Ray [Stratton]** at the reunion. He was in the hootch when Wayne and I arrived. I have a few letters from Doug when he was a Rustic and he mentioned a flight with Ray flying, "low

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and slow as he liked to do." I'm guessing Ray was welcomed by all his Rustic buddies that have gone before him. I can see my brother there with a scotch in one hand and a cigar in the other. May he rest in peace. Regards, **Barb**

**From: Bob Wheeler, [wheeler2@amgen.com](mailto:wheeler2@amgen.com) (Our newest Association member)**

I arrived in Vietnam on April 26, 1970. I was originally assigned to the 12<sup>th</sup> Special Operations (Operation Ranch Hand). I was told that the spraying operations were being shut down the end of the month. One of my friends from Hurlburt Field where we had worked on A-1E's was assigned to the 19<sup>th</sup> TASS, so I went to his 1<sup>st</sup> sergeant and asked if he needed any crew chiefs. He made some calls and I was assigned to the 19<sup>th</sup> TASS Sleepytime FACs at Bien Hoa.

I asked if I could go out to one of the FOLs and was sent to Cu Chi with the 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Issue FACs. After 3 months, I was assigned to the Jade FACs. From there I went to Binh Thuy and spent my last 6 months with the Tilly FACs supporting the Rustic Mission.

When I first arrived at Binh Thuy, we only had 5 planes and one jeep. We built this up to 20 planes. The pilots wanted more jeeps, so another crew chief and I volunteered to fly up to Bien Hoa and drive the jeep back to Binh Thuy, an 8 hour trip a jungle road through the Mekong Delta. Crossing the Mekong River at two locations on ferries with our M-16s, 500 rounds of ammo, no maps, or GPS. (Did I say GPS, what's that?) Wish I had one then.

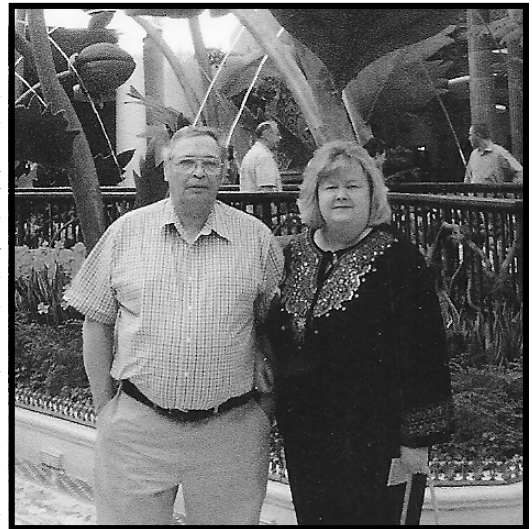
When I left Vietnam, I had 18 months of service left. My orders were to go to Peterson Field, Colorado Springs. They had received some U-10s and also had 2 U-4B aero commanders. The U-4Bs used to be President Eisenhower's planes which were being used to support the Air Force Academy's Parachute and Glider Program. They were the 2 smallest Air Force One planes and one is now in the Wright-Patterson Museum in Ohio.

My most rewarding experience of my Air Force career was working with the 19<sup>th</sup> TASS Force and supporting the Cambodian Operations for which we were assigned.

After being honorably discharged from the service December 12, 1972, I returned home to Rhode Island and got a job with General Dynamics Electric Boat Division building the first Trident nuclear submarines. I started my career as a welder, but transferred into maintenance as an overhead crane mechanic / apprentice electrician. After 13 years, I left as a Master Electrician. I now work for one of the largest Biotechnology Companies in the world, Amgen. I also run a small Electrical Contracting business from my home, wiring high-end, custom homes and support some local business on part-time basis.

I got married in 1975 to my High School sweetheart, Kathleen. We have 3 children, Claudia, Kathleen, and Robert Jr. All of my children are married and I have one granddaughter, Madison.

We live in West Greenwich, RI. In my spare time, I enjoy building my 1941 Willy's Coupe and spending time with my family. I can be contacted at [RobertWheeler1@cox.net](mailto:RobertWheeler1@cox.net). Please list me on the Rustic roster:



**Bob and Kathleen Wheeler**

**Wheeler, Robert L.(Bob)** Night Rustic/Tilly Crew Chief O-2A April 1970 - April 1971

**From "Crash" Helm, [ned@wingset.com](mailto:ned@wingset.com)**

One day when I went into Scorpion Ops **Maj Ly** asked me if I would like a KAF name tag. I said sure and went back to the war.

About a week went by and I was sitting in one of the A-1 jump seats along the wall in Scorpion ops eating "monkey balls and rice"...when in walks Maj Ly and about 5 of the KAF Tango drivers. All were giggling like school girls...it was obvious that something was up...and since I was the only FAC in ops...it looked like I was about to be the butt of a joke.

Maj Ly presented me with my KAF name tag...complete with Velcro back. It was really neat looking.....I thanked him.....then the other shoe dropped.

The giggling increased....and....he handed me the second name tag. The first read, "Capt Ned Helm." Well, the second read, "Capt Need Help." (Well it was true...I ALWAYS NEEDED HELP!). It seems that the difference in Khmer between Ned Helm and Need Help was one little squiggle or two...and they...being fun loving fighter pilots just couldn't stand it.

From that day on I wore Capt Ned Helm when I flew....and Capt Needs Help when I went for lunch. They loved it....so did I.





**From:** Bob Jaspersen, [\[mailto:mnriverrat@frontiernet.net\]](mailto:mnriverrat@frontiernet.net)  
**Subject:** Minnesota FACs

I am looking for FACs in the Twin Cities area to be VIP guests at an annual aviation show. I am a volunteer with Wings of the North at Flying Cloud Airport in Eden Prairie, Minnesota. Our show, AirExpo 2008, is scheduled for August 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> and we would like to find a few FACs to join the 35 to 40 other VIPs who will be attending. Past VIPs include veterans from WWII groups like the Doolittle Raiders, Black Sheep, Tuskegee Airmen, Enola Gay, 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force and so on. Last year we added some SAC crew-members and now we would like to honor FACs also. If you could let any Rustic FACs in the Minnesota area know about this opportunity I would greatly appreciate it. They can contact me at [bobj@wotn.org](mailto:bobj@wotn.org). Photos from AirExpo 2007 are available at [www.wotn.org](http://www.wotn.org). **Bob Jaspersen**, Director, AirExpo 2008.



**L to R: Jerry Stone, Gerry Whitt, Nady Tan, Ron Gamache and Sareth Duong, our Cambodian host**



**Team and Cambodians Planning Rice Business**



**An Engine Change for an O-2A Delivered by a Rustic OV-10 from Bien Hoa**



**Ultimate FAC Picture**

Pictures provided by Tom Capps, Bob Wheeler and Ned Helm

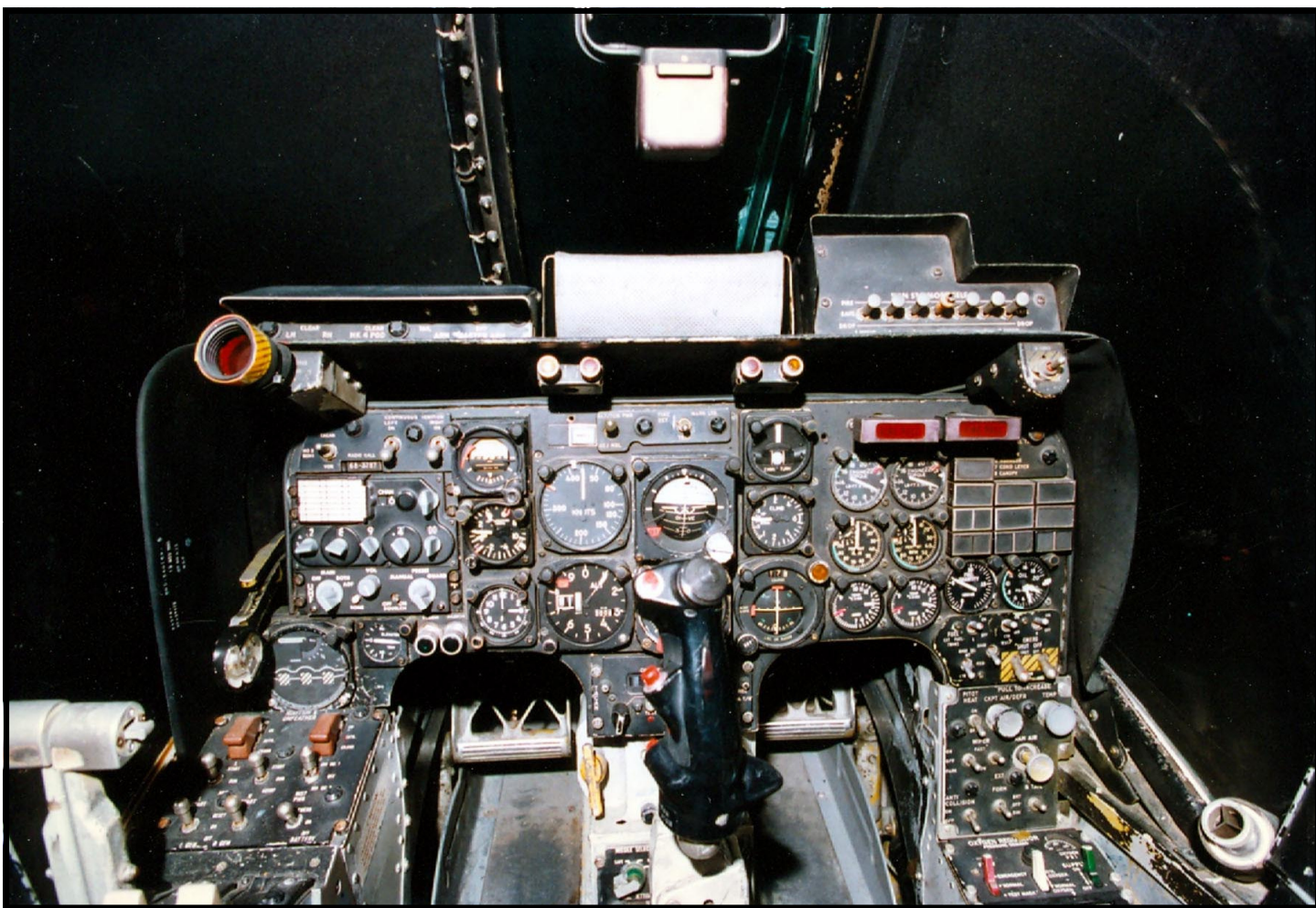


# Reunion 2007



Reunion photos provided by Lendy Edwards





## **“Precious Memories”**

Rustic FAC Association  
4033 Indian Trail Drive  
Destin, FL 32541

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED





# 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

**2009 RUSTIC REUNION TO BE HELD IN WASHINGTON DC:** Tom Capps and Doug Aitken have been busy laying the groundwork for our 2009 Rustic reunion. The reunion dates and schedule of events will be announced in the Sep 08 newsletter. Right now it looks like the dates will be some time in September 09....stand by for news. In the meantime, start making plans now to attend this great gathering. All Rustics and friends of Rustics are invited.

For those who have never been to our nation's capitol, this will be an excellent opportunity to enjoy this great city with friends and comrades. For those of us who have been there before, you already know what a great town this is...come and see the new WWII Memorial, renew old friendships, make a few new ones and make a few more memories. There will be lots to do!

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**MEMBERSHIP:** Current RFA membership: 53 Life Members, 30 Annual Members. Thanks to all for your continued support. Our newest member is Bob Blair, Rustic crew chief (See letters to Rustics).

## ROSTER/PERSONNELUPDATES:

**George Larson** rusticuniform@gmail.com  
**Wayne Baker** 20705 N. Hackamore Lane, Paulden, Arizona 86334, Phone: (928) 636-5169  
**Mike Wilson** Use the following mailing address until Oct. 1, 2008  
 Sequoia Road, PO Box 492, Hartsel, CO 80449  
 520-850-2195, 719-837-2203, [sher85745@mac.com](mailto:sher85745@mac.com), [sher85745@yahoo.com](mailto:sher85745@yahoo.com)  
[bill85745@yahoo.com](mailto:bill85745@yahoo.com)

## SHORT BURSTS:

- 1) Wingman Support.** Doc Thomas reports, 'Just talked with **Walt Friedhofen** who wasn't up to par for the last meeting [reunion]. He's doing much better since they fixed the gall stone problem.
- 2) Call Sign Rustic Books.** Twenty (20) "Call Sign Rustic" have been ordered to replace our depleted inventory. These are available at the Rustic Store at: [www.rustic.org](http://www.rustic.org).
- 3) Doug Norman's SEA Photo Albums Preserved.** Our thanks go to **Jim Gabel**, Rustic Historian, who recently scanned the photos from all four of **Doug Norman's** SEA photo albums. These photos will be edited and added to our growing Rustic SEA Photo Album DVD History project. Our thanks also go to the Norman family for allowing us to preserve Doug's photos.

**4) Rustic Archives Grow.** The Rustic Board recently approved the purchase of two documents to add to our Rustic archives; a copy of the 4410th CCTW Training Manual (“The Forward Air Controller”) and a copy of the 23rd TASS Training Manual (“Night Training.”.)

**5) Kompong Cham Charities and Orphanage:** See the Rustic website for their latest newsletter.

**ASSOCIATION FILES FIRST EVER TAX RETURN:** **Don Ellis**, Treasurer. I have filed our first not-for-profit tax return using the electronic post card. In the past, not-for-profit organizations were not required to file a tax return if their income for the year was not normally over \$25,000; however, the IRS felt like it was losing touch with some of these organizations. Overall, there is a huge effort going into the scrutiny of not-for-profit organizations by the IRS to ensure that these organizations are truly serving the public good and are abiding by the requirements for them to keep their not-for-profit status. Also the IRS probably has an abundance of small not-for-profits on their roster that are no longer in existence. Each not-for-profit organization not required to file a tax return is required to file an “e-postcard” to confirm that it is still in operation. Failure to file for three years results in the loss of the not-for-profit status. Bottom line: from now on we will need to file a tax return every year.

**RUSTICS ATTEND A RIPPER OF A “DOWNUNDER” AUSSIE FAC REUNION:** Another great FAC reunion is now in the history books as 36 US FACs, including five Rustics, (See photo L-R) **Lendy Edwards, Dick Green, Jim Nuber, Claude Newland, and Roger Dodd** accompanied by wives and friends, descended on Canberra, Australia for a memorable 5 day FAC reunion with our Aussie brethren. **Nancy Sleigh**, wife of **Bill Sleigh** also attended. The entire 22 day “Downunder” tour was a wonderful experience that included numerous stops in New Zealand and Australia but the FAC reunion was definitely the icing on the cake.

The reunion’s major events included a visit to the Australian War Museum and to the museum’s rehab facility that is restoring OV-10 623 for future display in the museum. Their efforts are going to make all of us very proud. Nail FAC and FAC Historian, **Darrell Whitcomb**, summarized the history of 623...which includes a number of missions flown by Rustics in this proud war bird.

Clearly, the most significant event of the entire reunion was the early morning ANZAC Day pre-dawn service and veteran’s parade held later that morning. These event alone were worth the whole trip; marching shoulder to shoulder with our Aussie brethren in what has to be described as one of the most patriotic venues ever for veterans worldwide. We could well learn from this great Aussie tradition of “remembering.” Thousands of Australians, young and old, attended the pre-dawn service and the parade. It was an entirely classy affair...a grateful nation showing its unabashed gratitude to its veterans for their service and sacrifice...lest they forget.

Another long overdue event at the reunion was the awarding and presentation of US Air medals to the Aussie FACs for their service in SEA. This event took place at the U.S Ambassador’s residence in Canberra. The Ambassador did us proud and definitely knew his subject matter. The fact that his US AF Attache to the Ambassador was the son of one of the US FACS in attendance may have had something to do with the ambassador’s in-depth knowledge of FACs operations and their mission.

We also attended an all day air show at a somewhat remote Tamora Airfield which featured flights by WWI and WWII vintage aircraft, several FAC Aircraft (O-1 and O-2.) and some simulated air strikes with the FAC controlling the fighter aircraft. The close-in setting for this event permitted a lot of interaction between the attendees and the air show master of ceremonies. Several FACS in our group, and veterans of each of the participating aircraft, were invited to the roster to speak of their experiences and flying exploits in the aircraft that were flying overhead. We saw firsthand the world’s only flyable B-57 Canberra bomber and only flyable Vampire fighter...priceless.

The reunion’s closing event was a very moving ceremony dedicating a bronze plaque at the Australian War Museum in memory of all Aussie, US and allied FACS who served in SEA. To our Aussie FAC brethren, we salute you for a job well done and a ripper of a reunion.

**FAC HISTORY BOOK TO BE PRINTED:** While in Australia, Aussie **Peter Condon** gave us a peek at the 1st draft of the 500+ page FAC History Book that, hopefully, will be available by the October 08 FAC reunion in Colorado Springs. The book encompasses the entire history of FACING... from our roots to the present and was condensed from the 1500+ pages of the FAC History Book CD put together by the FAC Association. This was a formidable task, but Peter has done a magnificent job.

Information on how to order a copy of the book will be in the next FAC Association newsletter and on the FAC Association’s website, [www.fac-association.com](http://www.fac-association.com). The book will have a paperback cover and can be ordered and printed “on-demand.”



**“Rustic Five” Down Under**

You'll be happy to know that the Rustics are well represented. The book contains a complete section on the Rustic mission (written by **Dick Wood**) and includes approximately 15 individual Rustic stories. I think you'll want a copy of this book for your personal library.

**HISTORIAN REPORT (Gabel):** I loaned the Rustic Archives' copies of the "19th TASS FAC Handbook, 8 Jan '71," "Welcome to Bien Hoa Air Base," AFP 216-9, "Information on Vietnam for Air Force Personnel, 10 July 1968," and 504 TASGM 55-3, "Forward Air Controller Tactics Manual, 1 March 1970," to Al Matheson so that he could scan them and include them in the FAC Association database.

**RUSTICS DROP "CORPORATE" SPONSORSHIP OF FAC MUSEUM:** The Rustic Board recently voted to discontinue our "corporate" sponsorship of the FACM for 2008-2009 and subsequent years. This was a difficult decision to make. As you recall, your association has been supporting the FACM for the past 3 or 4 years as a \$500 a year "corporate sponsor" to help this fledgling organization get airborne. The Rustics, in return, received a seat on the FACM Steering Committee which was ably filled by **Jim Gabel**.

The Rustic Board's decision is based on practical, financial considerations. Our current dues structure does not allow us to, nor was it ever intended to, fund long term activities such as the FACM. Money just isn't in the treasury to support such on-going activities unless we hold annual fund raisers or draw upon our "Lifetime" membership funds. Since we don't care to exercise either of these two options, it is prudent that we drop our corporate sponsorship.

However, the Board encourages individual Rustics to continue their support of the FACM by becoming a member and supporting this worthy effort to preserve FAC heritage and memorabilia.

**FEATURE FAC – JEFF BOSTON, O-2 RUSTIC, BIEN HOA AB.** Here's Jeff's story.

In December of 1970, after I had flown as a Cutie for six months, I was reassigned to Bien Hoa to fly as a Rustic and Sleepytime FAC. One challenge was to relearn how to map read, flying now at 5,000 feet over the flat terrain of eastern and central Cambodia rather than at "1,500" feet in the mountain valleys of the central coast. A second was to do it in the dark. As a First Lieutenant with maybe ten hours total night time, flying after dark was still an unnatural act. During the next six months, however, I became as comfortable flying at night as in the daylight, and for the rest of my flying career it caused me no apprehension.

The one thing that really upset me about the move to Bien Hoa was having to turn in my lovely flat-gray, short-barreled, collapsible stock AR-15 for a standard issue M-16.

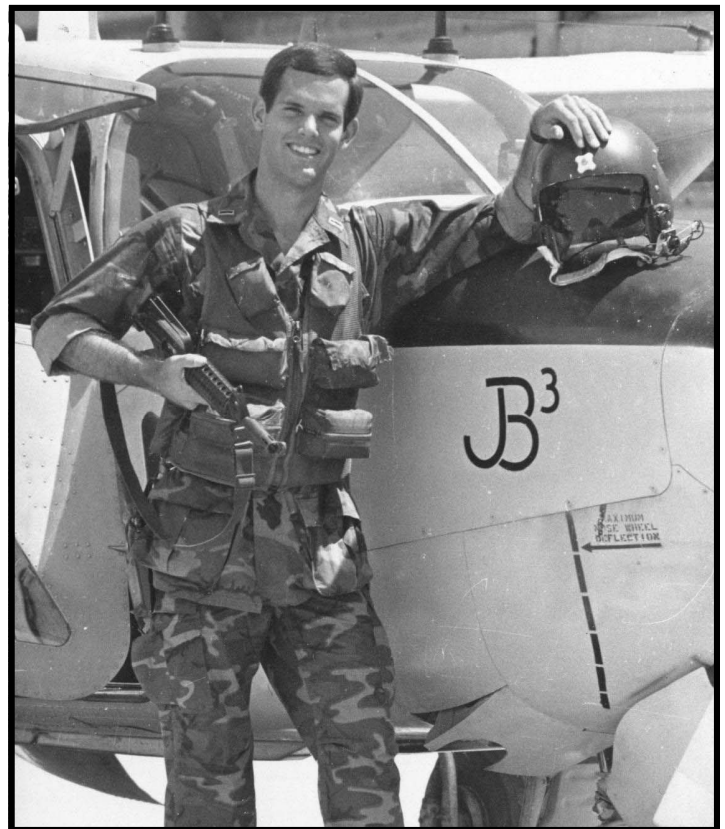
Other changes included having regular pre- and post-flight intel briefings, and working a schedule that rarely had you going to bed at the same time two days in a row. It was tough to get all the O-2 Rustics together for anything because someone was always either flying or sleeping. They had much better parties in the OV-10 hooch.

The Sleepytime mission was starting to wind down when I arrived. During my few Sleepytime flights, I saw a lot of Saigon, but no VC activity. The night I remember best was New Year's Eve. I'm glad we stayed a couple of miles to the north as the new year approached, because when the clock struck midnight the whole city erupted in skyrockets and tracers, which continued until all of Saigon was cast in a pale of smoke.

Each pilot flew four or five Rustic missions a week, alternately as pilot and copilot. My missions as pilot would usually begin, shortly after takeoff, with a two to three minute nap! After that I could fly the rest of a four-hour mission without getting drowsy.

The flight to the Rustic AO was normally quiet. Occasionally we'd get to watch a Vietnamese AC-47 at work, and if lucky we'd pass by an army firebase as every gun available was fired into the surrounding countryside during a "minute of madness."

My most satisfying mission as a Rustic, and the one for which I received a DFC, occurred just after Christmas. During a TIC near Kompong Thom, with much assistance from my experienced co-pilot, I directed several sets of fighters in attacks with slicks, napalm, and 20mm near the friendly lines. We succeeded in breaking contact, and were credited with approximately 30 KIA.





Most of the strikes I directed were by either A-37s or F-100s. I was generally happier with the A-37s. They carried just as much ordinance, were usually more accurate, and were not as cocky. During one strike, near Skoun, I was surprised to have an AC-119 call in for a briefing. He was impressive! He carried all the flares I could've hoped for, and from 5,000 feet his 20mm tracers were like lightning.

During April, being a seasoned Rustic after four months of night flying, I was asked to give a tour of the Rustic AO to one of the Army brass. We had started to get frequent springtime thunderstorms, and after the tour was completed we found the route to Bien Hoa blocked by a band of storms. I tried high and low, north and south, and determined that with the fuel remaining we either had to go through the storms or fly back to Phnom Penh. Given the choice, my observer chose probably the wiser alternative, and we headed back into Cambodia. Luckily there was a partial moon, because I couldn't raise anyone at Phnom Penh to turn on the runway lights. After overflying the airport and not seeing any obstacles on the runway, I flew a 180 degree turn to final and made a blackout landing. Turning off the runway, we were met by a Colonel of the Cambodian Army who was furious that we had not gotten permission to land. He informed us that we were almost shot down as we flew over the airport. He finally calmed down, notified Bien Hoa of our arrival, and filled my tanks from fifty-gallon drums of av-gas. At dawn, we took off and flew back to Bien Hoa without further incident.

The most distressing event during my flights over Cambodia occurred toward the end of my tour. We had been VR'ing for a couple of hours when a request came from Hotel Cham that they were under attack and needed immediate air support. I called in a request for fighters, and headed for Kampong Cham. As we approached, we could see explosions and a gun battle just northeast of the town. For an hour we circled and called for support, but the answer was always that there was none available. Twice we dove and fired rockets at enemy positions, but to no apparent effect. Meanwhile, the radio operator's calls from below turned to pleas for help accompanied by the sound of gunfire. Finally, in a sobbing voice, he cried, "Please, Rustic, bring fighters! They are killing my friends!" I could only assure him again that we were trying to get help. After that, his calls had a tone of resignation as he continued to plead, "Rustic, please help us."

Finally, with still no help to give him and the next Rustic aircraft approaching to relieve us, I set our rocket pod to ripple, dove, and fired our remaining rockets into the enemy positions. Then we flew home.

After Vietnam, I spent two and half years at Vance AFB (Enid, OK) as a T-37 IP teaching both USAF and Iranian student pilots. Although still in the "low and slow" category of the Air Force inventory, the "Tweet" was a fun airplane to fly and a good teaching platform.

I left the Air Force in Jan, 1974, and spent a year in Santa Barbara attending a photography school; but when I ran out of money (divorce will do that), I returned to my hometown (Richland, WA) and to flying. This time doing instructing and charter flying for the local FBO.

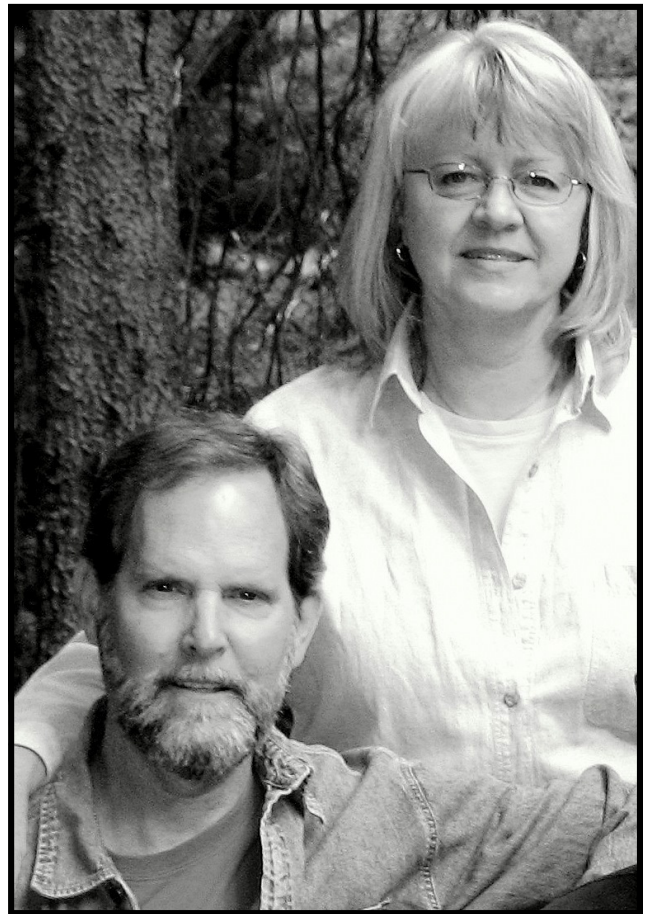
In 1979, I started again on a photography career, taking a job supporting operations at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation, first in the photo lab and then writing, shooting, and editing video productions.

Since 1986, I've had jobs with Westinghouse, Boeing, and currently Lockheed Martin doing administrative and Information Technology support at Hanford and for other Lockheed Martin contracts.

I've been married to my English rose, Michele, for 23 years, during which we've shared our home with a memorable parade of dogs and cats. My daughter, Jill, lives in Houston where she works as a QA auditor for Air Liquide.

My hobbies include photography, woodworking, and keeping a couple of early '80s motorcycles running (a Yamaha 500 single and an 850 triple).

My participation in the Rustic organization has been pretty limited (distance being a factor), but I am proud to be a member, and I'm very grateful to those who got the organization started and who keep it going and growing through their continuing efforts and enthusiasm. Thank you.



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*If you'd like to tell your Rustic story, please send it to Claude Newland at [rustic19@cox.net](mailto:rustic19@cox.net) and include a photo or two of yourself.*



**NAMING THE OV-10.** From **Dent Williams**, Public Relations, Jan 14, 1965, to Mr. G.A. Snodgrass.

Much research has been conducted and many persons have been interviewed in an attempt to arrive at a suitable name to be submitted for the Columbus Division's new OV-10A aircraft. Hundreds of names were suggested. These names were all weighted and many were then discarded, either because they were not deemed appropriate, or because they have been used for other aircraft.

According to BuWeps instruction 13000.7 concerned with the designation and naming of military aircraft, "Popular names will normally consist of one word, for the purpose of brevity and be selected to conform to the characteristic of the aircraft."

President Johnson, in his announcement of the contract award to the Columbus Division, described the counter-insurgency aircraft as the airborne equivalent of the jeep. For this reason, the jeep name was explored in a variety of combinations. However, research revealed that AIRJEEP, SKYJEEP, and JET JEEP have been used on previous aircraft.

Should the name of jeep still be desired, other possibilities include AEROJEEP and ASTROJEEP.

While there are apparently no restrictions on the use of jeep because of long and accepted use, according to **Dan Dunbar**, it also means we could not object should some civilian aircraft manufacturer decide to produce an aircraft with the same name.

Other suggested names with explanations include:

Maverick	First choice of <b>Tom Clancy</b> and project group
Safari,	Also suggested by project group
Champion	Would be appropriate since it envisions a hero astride a white charger riding to the rescue—Champion also indicates defender rather than aggressor and might be an answer to the competition's Charger.
Viking	Has a rugged explorer connotation
Jitney	A small conveyance with the connotation of being inexpensive
Auriga	The constellation of the charioteer or the wagoner.
Volans	The constellation, the flying fish
Trooper	Was suggested since the OV-10A is designed to live with the troops, but it might be pointed out that SKYTROOPER has used previously.
Bronco	Akin to North American's Mustang

Other names that warrant consideration include Spartan, Wolverine, Puma (Mountain Lion), Skyhorse and Sheriff.

None of the names mention above are listed in our latest inventory list, although some of the names may have been used since this list was compiled several years ago. If any of these names have merit, we can run a fast check through the Air Force in the pentagon, since the Air force maintains the current list of military names and all services must go through the Air Force in the selection of a name.

We have been assured that the Navy will expedite final approval the name selection.

**ADDENDUM:** 8 Nov, 1965 Internal Letter from **G.A. Snodgrass** to **Mr. W.M. Yayh**, North American Aviation, Inc

William Nurmi, the man in the Naval Air Systems Command who handles the airplane naming procedures, called to say that at the request of Captain Coleman, he was submitting to CNO a list of suggested names for the OV-10A. The list in order of preference was Bronco, Spartan, and Safari. Captain Coleman's original request included Maverick but Nurmi has eliminated that because it has been usurped and substituted Safari. Nurmi says that Captain Coleman had indicated the Company was in agreement with these names.

*...I guess we know the rest of the story.*

**OV-10 UPDATES, George Larson:** I am happy to announce that there is a flyable OV-10 at the Kissimmee, FL Airport. They plan to use the aircraft for pilot training and for aerial photo work so it will have a backseat. **Eric Huppert** is the manager of the program. He can be reached at: Stallion 51, 3951 Merlin Dr, Kissimmee, FL 34741 or call (407) 846 4400.

Additionally, here are the tail numbers of OV-10 aircraft at Patrick AFB. 155502, 395, 406, 417, 447, 470, 474 and 4551; they don't sound familiar.

## LETTERS TO THE RUSTICS:

**From Robert F. Blair, Jr.** Rustic/Tilly Crew Chief, bobbblair1948@yahoo.com

Hi, ' Just visited your website and read the newsletter. Found your new member **Bob Wheeler**, whom I served with, as a crew chief, both on the Rustic Sleepytime and Tilly maintenance crews, as well as refueling at the Menopause Manor regularly.

I don't remember ever being issued a call sign, but did fly twice with **Wayne Baker**, once with **Bill Lemke** and several times with **Don Hagle**.. Could you direct me toward possible membership and IF I was, in fact, ever issued a call sign number ????????

**Bob Blair**, 10 July, 1970 – 9 July, 1971, 20031 Barletta Lane # 2312, Estero, FL 33928..... Thanks and Hand Salute

**From: 74 FS/CC, 3/17/08**

Mr. Newland, 'Happy St. Patrick's Day! My apologies for not contacting you sooner, but time does fly I'm told, and we've been very busy standing up the 74 FS here at Moody AFB, in Valdosta, GA. Please allow me to introduce myself. I'm Lt Col Phil Wielhouwer, the newest Commander of the World Famous Flying Tigers. I assumed command on 11 Jan 08 from Oscar Myers and am humbled and pleased to be a small part of this great squadron.

Some date/timeline info:

Graduated from the USAF Academy in May 1990

Graduated pilot training from Williams AFB in Sep 1991

Flew B-1s from Nov 1991-Nov 1996 at Dyess AFB

A-10s at DMAFB from Apr 1997-Jul 1999

A-10s at Osan AB, ROK from Jul 1999-Jan 2001

A-10s at Spangdahlem AB, GE Feb 2001-Jun 2003

School in Ft Leavenworth, then the Pentagon on the Air Staff, A-10s at Pope AFB, NC from Jul 2006-Nov 2007 as the 75 FS/DO

A-10s at Moody AFB in the 74 FS from Nov 2007-present

I've been a FAC since 1997 in the 354 FS Bulldogs and look forward to keeping the Rustic traditions alive here in the WFFT. I respectfully request your latest Rustic FAC newsletter and Info, our mailing address is: 8303 Apron B. Bldg 811, Moody AFB GA 31699

My number is below, but will change to (229) 257-7401 in about a week. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact or call me directly. V/R **Wallflower**

**Lt Col Phil Wielhouwer**, 74 FS Commander, DSN 460-7644, Comm: (229) 257-7644, Cell: (703) 901-3594

**LEST WE FORGET...**

**GARRET EDDY – “THE WORLD LOST A GOOD CITIZEN”** by **Peyton Whitely**, Seattle Times, Jan. 28, 1973.

Garry Eddy had a lot to look forward to. The second-floor room in the Magnolia Bluff house where he had lived since he was 16 months old looks out over Puget Sound towards Bainbridge Island. Swinging gates, tall hedges, a winding drive and a boat in the driveway mark the entrance to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Garrett Eddy. That's where Garrett Edward Eddy lived and grew up. Later he would go to a boarding school in California, and then to the University of Puget Sound, where he graduated in physics in June, 1968.

Because of family tradition, Garry was given a kind of "coming out" party shortly after he was 21. He was introduced to his father's friends at the celebration at the Rainier Club. "We, the undersigned, wish you every success in your undertakings and know that you will emulate the example set for you by your father and forebears," said a scroll presented to him. The scroll was signed by **George Nickum, Peter Garrett, John Hauberg, Mark A. Jensen, Williard Wright, Garrett Eddy, Tate Mason, D. E. Skinner, William Boeing, Jr., Bob Arnold, Jay Green, Josh Green, Jr., and Uncle Franklin.**

The Garry went to Lubbock, Tex., where he learned to fly the T-38 jet trainer, then to Bien Hoa, South Vietnam, as a first lieutenant with the 19th Tactical Air Support Squadron. After eight months and 97 missions, he died. His twin-engine O-2A spotter plane flew into an anti-aircraft trap on Nov. 1, 1970 near the town of Tank Kauk. His was the first announced downing of an American plane in Cambodia. His body was recovered a few days later (*sic-his and Mike Vrablick's bodies were recovered the same day and returned to Bien Hoa via Phnom Penh*). His mother has the ring he was wearing, bearing the family crest, his dog tags and wallet.

Garry was born December 22, 1944. He wanted to fly and became active in the Civil Air Patrol and went into Air Force R. O. T. C. in college. He became a pilot. "He wanted to be an aircraft commander," his father said. "He didn't want to be third engineer on a B-52." Phantoms were his first choice, but only about three or four pilots out of each class got jets, so Garry became a forward air controller, flying a plane armed only with smoke-filled rockets."

---

What is the cost of the war? "The world lost a good citizen," his father replied. "We didn't learn until afterward just what a good citizen he was," Mrs. Eddy said. One way they learned was in a letter from a major in Garry's squadron, **James Reverdy Allender**.

The letter said: "I think the real mark of Garry as a man can be seen by talking to the people he helped and worked with. "They have all become pro-American, anti-V. C. and are working to improve the standards of their community. They also have a great personal respect for Lt. Eddy."

Garry was a civic-action officer for the squadron. As such he was directly responsible for building a high school in Bien Hoa, scrounging lumber, teaching pupils, working with the South Vietnamese, working through a Dollars for Scholars program. A letter from the principle, Pham Ngoc Quynh, told Mr. and Mrs. Eddy that an oil painting of Garry is to hang in the library at the Quoc Tuan School, Bien Hoa, with the legend: "in memory of our good friend named Eddy."

It would have been about a year now since Garry's Air Force service would have ended and his mother is sure he wouldn't still be in the service. He might have gone into his father's business, the Fort Blakely Mill Co. Of course, he still would be flying, but only as an avocation. "But, it is all speculation now," his father said. He doesn't like to talk about what might have been, perhaps, knowing it is pointless. "Whatever he'd do he'd do well," he said.

"We remember him all the time," Mrs. Eddy said. In the corner a cat called Sam was sleeping. Garry had put Sam in Mrs. Eddy's Christmas stocking in 1969, the last Christmas he was home. "There's something about the oldest son," Mrs. Eddy said. "It doesn't seem like it is in the past. He pervades our lives, in our conversations. Someone will be talking and say 'That's what Garry would have said.' We talk about him all the time, she said.

Garry is also survived by a sister, Barbara, and a brother, John W. Eddy, 2nd, who served on a Navy ammunition ship and now attends the University of Washington.

It was worthwhile, Garry thought, to be fighting for the freedom of the South Vietnamese, his father said. "He was doing something he thought was right. "He could have fallen down the stairs and died," his father said. It was good that he didn't, that death came another way, was the unsaid thought.

Those memories remain and people Garry's father hasn't met before say to him that, "You're Garry's father," when they are introduced. "A woman I'd never met burst into tears when she met me," he said. " 'I knew your son.' " she said. "Remember that he was pretty gung ho for helping people," his father said. "Remember him as a busy fellow, everybody liked him. We are still finding out how much."

More than \$2,000 has been contributed to the Quoc Tran school in Garry's memory since his death. For a person that could have stayed home, wasn't drafted, didn't have to go, why did he go? "His parents weren't about to tell him what to do," Mrs. Eddy said.

"He ran his own life, we kicked him out of the nest early. He was perfectly aware that he was putting his life on the line," his father said.

Garry is buried in Acacia. "It was frightening the effort made to recover the body," Mrs. Eddy said. "But I think I know why - I can't explain the feeling of knowing what happened - it fulfilled the need to know. "But at the same time, I thought, if my son was a helicopter pilot shot down trying to recover a dead body.. "But the removal of doubt meant so much. ....," she said.

There were happy memories of Garry, including one his parents hesitate to speak of publicly, when he went to churches in Tacoma while in college to get bail money needed for someone else. "Where else would you find \$150 on a Sunday morning?" his mother asked. What might have been.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS/CALENDAR:**

- 1) 2008 All FAC Reunion.** 1-5 Oct 2008, Colorado Springs, CO. AF/Navy Football game 4 Oct. FAC Memorial Dedication.
  - 2) Air Expo 2008,** 16-17 Aug 08, Flying Cloud Airport, Eden Prairie, Minn. – Contact **Bob Jaspersen** at: [Bobj@wotn.org](mailto:Bobj@wotn.org)
  - 3) 2009 Rustic FAC Assoc. Reunion.** Dates TBD, 2009, Washington DC
-



The final event of the Aussie FAC Down Under Reunion was a dedication of the above plaque to honor the Aussie FAC Vietnam Veterans. This plaque is now on display in the War Memorial in Canberra.

Rustic FAC Association  
4033 Indian Trail Drive  
Destin, FL 32541

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



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15 September 2008



# Rustic News

**www.rustic.org**

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**Vice President:** Jack Thompson, jackov10@sbcglobal.net

**Treasurer/Database:** Don Ellis, donellis@sc.rr.com

**Secretary:** Roger Hamann, RusticYankee72@aol.com

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**Website:** Lendy Edwards, lendy@cox.net

**Commercial Book:** Dick Wood, woodrh@ix.netcom.com

**OBA Liaison:** Jack Thompson, Jackov10@sbcglobal.net

**Health & Wellness:** Doc Thomas, shialary@msn.com

**NEXT RUSTIC FAC ASSOCIATION REUNION. 10-13 September, 2009 in Washington DC.** This one is going to be a humdinger. You don't want to miss it. **Tom Capps** (Rustic 12) and **Doug Aitken** (Rustic 16) are heading up the coordinating effort. The advance team will arrive on Wednesday, 9 September 2009 to set up the hootch. Some Rustics might want to arrive early or stay after the reunion to visit additional points of interest.

The Reunion Registration Package will be mailed with the Mar 09 newsletter

The Reunion hotel, Dulles Hyatt, may be the best reunion facility we have ever used. All indications are that this superior facility and its professional staff will add to everyone's enjoyment. It is located about six miles from the Dulles Interna-

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tional Airport. To see some details of the hotel visit this internet site: [www.dulles.hyatt.com](http://www.dulles.hyatt.com). Then, click on Virtual Tour to view videos of guest rooms and other areas of the hotel. Our hootch will use a portion of the Aviator Room and the Aviator Patio.

To take a virtual tour of the Dulles Hyatt, the reunion hotel, go to <http://dulles.hyatt.com/hyatt/hotels/gallery/virtual-tour.jsp?icamp=propVirtualTour>. Click on the blue camera for various areas of the hotel.

If any of you have questions, recommendations, requests, or inputs for the reunion committee, please get in touch with **Tom Capps** at: [tomcapps@nc.rr.com](mailto:tomcapps@nc.rr.com) or **Doug Aitken** at: [dnaitken@cox.net](mailto:dnaitken@cox.net)

### **Tenative 2009 Washington DC Reunion Schedule:**

#### **Wednesday, 9 September, 2009**

- . Pre-Party/Dinner -- Place and time TBA (for those who are in town a day early.) All invited.

#### **Thursday, 10 September 2009**

Rustics arrive for the reunion

Individual tours to DC to visit sites not on the reunion agenda. We plan to arrange shuttles to the nearest Metro station for your convenience.

Dinner in the hootch catered by the Hyatt or another restaurant.

#### **Friday, 11 September 2009**

Primary DC Group Tours: Vietnam Memorial, White House, Pentagon, Arlington Cemetery, Lunch at Fort Myer, Air Force Memorial, WW II Memorial

Return to Dulles Hyatt by 1500

Proceed to *Air and Space Museum Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center for group tour followed by dinner at the museum.*

Return to Dulles Hyatt at 2030.

#### **Saturday, 12 September 2009**

Variety of selected area tours

Combined tour to Mount Vernon and Air Force One Hangar with lunch at Andrews AFB.

Gettysburg Tour

Possible Naval Academy Tour.

1600-1730 Business Meeting in hootch

1830 Cocktails and Photos 1830

1930 Banquet, Speaker and Dancing

#### **Sunday, 13 September 2009**

0800 Departure Breakfast at hotel.

**ANNUAL NEWSLETTER.** This is the Rustic's annual newsletter that goes out to ALL Rustics, whether you are a member of the Association or not. For those who are not members, we hope this keeps you in the loop and may, in some cases, encourage you to join us. Life is short and the friendships and camaraderie of old buds are priceless. You cannot imagine how much you miss by not receiving the quarterly newsletters. Additionally, if a "beeper" comes up, we want to be able to get voice contact.

**RUSTIC ROSTER.** If you are an Association member, a new Rustic Roster is enclosed.. Please review your personal info to be sure it is correct.

If you're not an association member we ask that you complete the Roster Update form at the end of the newsletter and send it to us so we will be able to stay in touch with you in the future. Better yet, join us!!

---

**Gregory C. Lachon\***

*\*New; he found us!*

Rustic/Sundog Alpha -Nui Ba Den Mountain, 1970-71

977 18th St. Marysville, MI. 48040, (H) 810-989-6920, glachon@stclaircounty.org

**0-2 RUSTICS RENDEZVOUS IN WASHINGTON DC.** The 0-2 Rustics are planning a mini-0-2 reunion in Washington DC September 28 - October 4, 2008. For information, contact **Frank Sovich**, 660-429-1376 or **Dave Dekoker**, 727-319-09183

**BAD EMAIL ADDRESSES:** Do we have your correct email address? If you did not receive the recent e mails about Col Oum's passing, then we don't have your correct email address. Please send your correct e mail address to Don Ellis, Rustic database keeper, at: donellis@sc.rr.com

We know the following addresses are bad. Can you help us with the correct/update them? Contact **Don Ellis**.

[tyarborough@cox.net](mailto:tyarborough@cox.net)

[bleydorf@charter.net](mailto:bleydorf@charter.net)

[rdbrown@ocwfd.org](mailto:rdbrown@ocwfd.org)

[rolaid@bellsouth.net](mailto:rolaid@bellsouth.net)

[sabramorneault@wmconnect.com](mailto:sabramorneault@wmconnect.com)

[fylogs@crosslink.net](mailto:fylogs@crosslink.net)

[cmdrpost7686@hotmail.com](mailto:cmdrpost7686@hotmail.com)

**COL OUM PHIN LIEOU, HOTEL 303, PASSES. RUSTICS LOSE A FRIEND.** The following message was received from **Dave Sands**, on Wednesday, 13 Aug, 2008, [Sands.D@TXWinet.com](mailto:Sands.D@TXWinet.com).

In June of 1976 I received a conference call from **Col Dave Opfer** and **Col Stratton**. Opfer is a former Air Attaché at PP, Cambodia and Stratton is a former Rustic Squadron Commander. They told me that **Col Oum** had been working in Bangkok as an attaché for Cambodia and when his country was taken over by the Khmer Rouge Oum was declared persona non grata and asked to leave Thailand. He went immediately to the US Embassy in Bangkok and asked for asylum. The embassy granted his request and made him and his family refugees. Opfer and Stratton informed me that he was then at Camp Pendleton, CA sleeping on cots next to each other 4 inches apart with only what they could carry on their backs. Their family consisted of he and his wife, ten kids, a niece and a nephew. They needed some place to live.

My wife and I agreed to take them. We got busy finding a home to rent and all the stuff that goes into that house that lets them live. I got on a local radio show and we advertised in the Austin newspaper. "Stuff" came in by the bunch. One business donated anything my wife could think of as she walked down the aisles. Another appliance dealer donated a washer and a dryer and hooked them up free. Col Stratton lined up about 30 Rustics who knew Col Oum and they donated money on a monthly basis to support him. We had \$450 per month come in for a year. We even had some folks make out allotments from their retired pay. That's called support.

Col Oum arrived in Austin on July 4, 1976, a day he calls his Independence Day. They had no baggage. Only what they could carry. We had media there and everyone in the terminal was aware of who they were. When we walked in there was much applause for Col Oum and his family.

Col Oum accepted Food Stamps for two months and then he said "No more." This country had done so much for me, I cannot take more. So he made it on what the Rustics donated and what he and his wife earned on jobs that he could get.

Folks, Col Oum and his family are what this country is all about. He educated all his kids through at least four years of college on scholarships. He bought a home for him and his family here in Austin and another home in Dallas for a couple of his kids who had moved there.

Col Oum passed away this morning, August 13, 2008, 32 years after coming to this country. He and his whole family were naturalized citizens and very proud to be called Americans. He was 77 years old.

God speed my friend, you have done well. **Dave and Joan Sands**





**RUSTICS HONOR AND REMEMBER COL OUM.** Six Rustics, (L - R), **Claude Newland, Doug Aitken, Gloria Auth**, wife of **Jerry Auth** (who flew the first Rustic mission), **Walt Krueger, Ron Van Kirk, , Lendy Edwards**, and **Walt Arellano (not shown)** attended Col Oum's funeral service, internment, and family reception on Wed, 20 Aug 2008. The service was held at the Cook-Walden funeral home in Pflugerville which is a northern suburb of Austin, TX.

The funeral service and interment were wonderful tributes to a man whom we all admired and respected. Former Rustic CC, **Bill Powers**, organized a three ship "Missing Man" flyby for the interment that was greatly appreciated by the family. During the funeral service, Rustics **Doug Aitken** and **Claude Newland** offered eulogies, along with **Dave Sands** and several family members. The Rustic eulogies are posted at: [www.mem.com](http://www.mem.com).

To view or sign the family's Memorial Guest Book, post a remembrance of Col Oum, or see the Rustic eulogies, go to [www.mem.com](http://www.mem.com) and follow these steps:

Home Page,                      In Search block, type in: Last Name "Lieou"    and click "GO"  
First Nam " Oum"

Second page:                      Click on name: "Lieou, Oum"

Biography page:                      Click on "Sign Guest Book" to submit a message. Follow instructions.  
Click on: "Guest Book"                      to read guest book comments and eulogies.

This guest book will forever be available on this website. If you'd like a full report on the details of the service and interment, contact **Claude Newland**, 850-654-2955 or rustic19@cox.net.

The Rustics provided a large white flower wreath for Col Oum's funeral service and internment ceremony. Two large white ribbon banners had the following inscriptions in gold letters: "Hotel 303, Beloved Friend, The Rustics." Upon hearing of Col Oum's passing, **Hank Keese** summed it up for all the Rustics when he said, "Future reunions won't be the same without him."

**O-2A TAIL # 67-21374 – WAS THIS A RUSTIC BIRD?** If you flew this bird in Southeast Asia (as a Rustic or other FAC), please send any information (dates, mission details, etc.), to our Rustic Historian, **Jim Gabel** at: [jagabel@aol.com](mailto:jagabel@aol.com).

The Commemorative Air Force (CAF) at the Dahio Airport, Trotwood, Ohio, will fly and maintain this bird as a part of the CAF and expects to perform in future airshows. Additional information about 67-21374 and the "Wright Stuff Squadron" can be found at: [www.wrightstuffsquadron.com](http://www.wrightstuffsquadron.com)

The CAF will definitely be looking for volunteers in many areas including maintenance and they will need pilots and I'm sure they'll be needing to raise money to support their efforts. If you want an opportunity to get involved, it's available to you. It sounds like a great opportunity and a great way to spread the legacy of the FAC and the O-2A in that role.

**0-2 PAINTED AND READY FOR DISPLAY AT THE AVIATION HERITAGE MUSEUM** (Formerly OBA/FACM/) **Johnnie Eller**, [jeller3639@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jeller3639@sbcglobal.net), reports that the 0-2 aircraft being restored by the OBA in Ft Worth, TX is now painted. She's a beaut!!

The Gray (day bird) is in the VFM hanger courtesy of Nail 57. He pays the monthly rent and being under cover means it remains a pristine aircraft. He spent a lot of his own money and time getting the aircraft to its current condition.





The Black (night bird) 0-2 must sit outside in the elements and the flat black paint has started to show some effects of the sun/rain. However, we have plenty of paint to correct the situation. It also has a main gear problem that makes it sit down too far in the back. Whenever we get time it will have to be jacked up and a piece of heavy metal welded to both sides to keep the gear from sagging. That should correct the problem.



**RUSTIC SEA PHOTO CD PROJECT.** **Jim Seibold** reports the Photo CD Committee, **himself, Lendy Edwards and Ned Helm**, have 5200+ Rustic photos which they are going to consolidate and put into a Rustic Photo Album CD. If you haven't sent in your photos, contact Jim at: [seiboldjim@aol.com](mailto:seiboldjim@aol.com). This is going to be one awesome CD to complement our written Rustic history. Don't get left out.

### SHORT BURSTS:

**1) New Citizen.** The beloved NAIL Inn Keeper circa 1969-1975, **Noupaul**, whom many of you knew, proudly became a US Citizen in San Antonio 23 July 2008. A number of Nail FACs attended the ceremony and reception.

**2) A Name to Remember.** **Jerry McClellan**, Rustic 14, second son's middle name is "Thom", named after the town of Kompong Thom, the city Col Oum, Hotel 303, so able defended. Jerry said he chose this name because of the feelings he had for the Cambodian people. He shared this information with the Oum family after the passing of Col Oum.

**3) FAC Skills.** You can practice your FAC artillery adjustment techniques with a game posted on: <http://disc.discovery.com/tv/future-weapons/games/canon/canon.html>. "Good fun, but addictive," says **Tom Capps**.

**4) 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration.** Bien Hoa Rustic interpreter, **Jerry Dufresne** just helped his mother celebrated her 100th birthday in MA. Afterwards, he and Roselyn went to WA to spend some time with their daughter.

**5) New 0-2 Website.** A new web site dedicated to the history of the O-2 is active at: [www.oscar-deuce.com](http://www.oscar-deuce.com). Over time, all histories of the O-2A and B will be added to this site for the information of all interested. Check it out.

**6) Jerry Auth Memorial Brick.** **Gloria Auth** has bought a memorial brick to be placed in the Veteran's Courtyard at the Laura Bush Community Library in Austin, TX. The courtyard honors the valor of those who served in America's military forces. For information on the library and memorial bricks, go to: <http://www.westbanklibrary.com/about/support/> and <http://www.westbanklibrary.com/about/support/veterans/>.

**7) HUGE Royalty Check for Rustic Commercial Book.** (Just kidding.) **Dick Wood** reports the Rustics received a royalty check from Smithsonian for the period ending March, 2008. for the amount of \$28.30 – another big "Whoopee!" The RFA cut is 75% or \$21.23. These funds are earmarked for "Cambodian Charities."

**WINGMAN SUPPORT - BONE MARROW DONATION NEEDED.** Jack Thompson's 40 year old son, **Michael John ("Spike") Thompson** needs our help. **Mike** lives in Florida with his wife of 12 years and their 3 ½ year old daughter. At the present time he is a fulltime attorney with Orange Lake Resort and Development Co., travels on business and plays soccer on the weekends.

Spike has been diagnosed with Myelodysplastic Syndrome (MDS), probably induced by treatment given for a previous cancer.

MDS transforms to acute myelogenous leukemia, an aggressive, fatal disease. Although new drugs may prolong his life up to 18 to 24 months, a bone marrow transplant will CURE him. His 3 brothers are not a match but someone else might be. The test is a simple mouth swab! That with a completed form will put anyone between 18 and 60 years of age on the National Bone Marrow Registry. If a match is found the procedure is through a blood filtering process and all costs are paid by the recipient.

I know that most of our Rustics are over 60 but we would appreciate you asking your family members and friends who are under 60 to sign up for the National Bone Marrow Registry. Thanks **Anne & Jack Thompson**, jack-ov10@earthlink.net

**BORDER DISPUTE BETWEEN CAMBODIA AND THAILAND.** Cambodia asked the U.N. Security Council on Tuesday, 22 Jul, to intervene in its dispute with Thailand over land near an ancient temple, saying the standoff had created "an imminent state of war." Tensions are high and troops have been massed near the area. The area in dispute, Preas Vihea, has been a source of conflict for years, dating back to the Khmer Empire. The Cambodian **Preah Vihear Temple** is located atop the high terrain in this area. This temple was clearly visible to the Ubon Rustics as they transited to and from the AO from Ubon. Many of our Cambodian friends have asked that we please pray for a reconciliation of both nations.

The following link describes Preah Vihear Temple. [www.taxivantha.com/1\\_Cambodia/1502.htm](http://www.taxivantha.com/1_Cambodia/1502.htm) .

Here's a link describing the current conflict: [www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,386762,00.html](http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,386762,00.html) .

**Ned "Crash" Helm** reports, "This is the WAT (temple) where the CIA border watcher....you know the guy in the leisure suit who used to hang out at Rustic ops.....lived. Call sign Black Eagle....there are many pix on Rustic CD." The Wat in question is the one we flew over every day on the way from Ubon to Thom.

It also happens that adjacent to this WAT was the compound of the CIA border watcher who was known as Blackbird. Said individual had been seen frequently lurking around both Intel and the Rustics ops desk. Lendy knew him best, but on two occasions he passed me pieces of paper with UTMs....no comment. When I VRd the grid it was full of goodies....and lo and behold when I called for air...the grids were always pre-approved... and Air was waiting ....and usually produced secondaries....and Intel NEVER wanted to hear about it...and I NEVER talked about it...until

Lendy and I happened on the subject awhile back.....So to speak it was spooky....like a **Steve Canyon** comic book

When we flew from Ubon to PP or points south, this WAT was on the right side of the AC where the Cliffs (Kharst line) dropped into Cambodia... south about another 15 or 20 minutes were the Tear Drop Lakes...and then a modern compound...alleged to be "Bad Guy" and was the spot where a lot of us "Winchester"....on the way home.

This WAT was probably the most photographed in Cambodian by Nails and Rustic because of its location. **Rog Hamann** took great pix of the WAT and the CIA station (or whatever acronym you choose to use)...here is one of the pix that shows both.

**Lendy Edwards** recalls, "Unless the border watcher changed his call sign to







Black Eagle, I remembered it as Black Bird. I just can't remember his real name. I spent a lot of time with him and I have forgotten the name."

**Tom Capps** adds, "The temple is situated on the karst flat that forms the northern border of Cambodia with Thailand. The temple is about 100 miles south southwest of Ubon and is in the area where we would RTB from the AO to Ubon. You can see the site by going to [www.googlemaps.com](http://www.googlemaps.com) and searching for "Cambodia." Once you have the satellite map of Cambodia showing, search for "Preah Vihear Temple, Cambodia" in the Google Maps search window."

**NEW FAC ASSOCIATION HISTORY BOOK HOT OFF THE PRESS.** **Peter Condon**, editor. Gentlemen, our FAC Association history book titled, "CLEARED HOT," is now available and can be ordered on-line. The book has 572 pages with a color wrap-around cover. It contains all our FAC unit histories, more than 230 individual FAC stories taken from the FACBOOK CD, and has photos throughout. Cost is only \$25 plus shipping which is approx \$8. This is a real bargain! To purchase a copy, or to view a short sample of the book, log onto: <http://www.lulu.com/content/2813093> Books are usually shipped within five days of your order and should be delivered within a further five days.

*(Editors' note: I have an advance copy of this book. It's a "must have" for your personal library because you can now read our entire FAC history in the comfort of your easy chair. "The Rustics" chapter is 48 pages long and has some great stories and photos.*



## LETTERS TO THE RUSTICS:

**From Sonica Lieou-Jackson**  
(daughter of Col Oum, seated next to Claude)

Dear Rustics,

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your kindness, incredible air salute, thoughtful prayers, great speeches, and being there for our Dad. We are forever grateful.

With Love, the Lieou Family



**From Gregory C. "Beefy" Lachon, Rustic Alpha**

'Just ran into your Rustic website. I was on Nui Ba Den 1971 to 1972. We were Rustic Alpha when I arrived and half way through we became Sundog Alpha. I was known on the radio to the pilots as "Beefy". I'm interested to know a little more about your group. Thank you in advance. Thank You

**Gregory C. Lachon**, Senior Draftsman/Plat Examiner, St. Clair County Equalization Dept.  
200 Grande River Avenue Suite 105, Port Huron, Michigan 48060  
810-989-6920, [glachon@stclaircounty.org](mailto:glachon@stclaircounty.org)

Claude, well your E-mail has sure stirred up a lot of memories. **Doug Robertson** has already E-mailed me, he remembers me and related a story that had me really cracking up, I had to share with my wife. She really doesn't know a lot about my time in Nam. I guess I remembered his name but I can't place a face with it though.

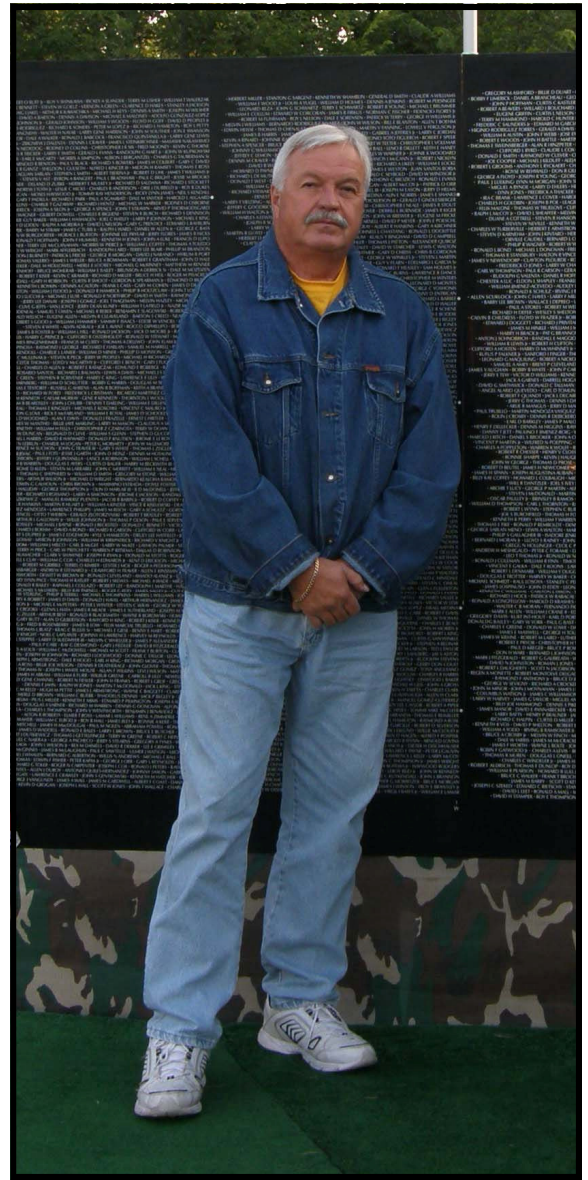
There were two of us on the mountain, we split the night. We picked up the air over Cambodia around 4:30 pm till about 7 am. The other guy that was up there with me was **Denny Lizardas**, not sure of the spelling, he was from the Chicago area.

The reason I ran into you guy's is we are having the Viet Nam memorial here in Marysville, MI. and I ran into the link for FAC call signs. I of course had to look up my old call sign. By the way, as Doug put it I was known far and wide as Beefy. So if you talk to any of the other pilots I'm sure they will remember me as Beefy. Doug said he didn't even know my real name.

As far as the move of the Squadron to Ubon we bounced around for a while, at one point I went back to meet my new NCOIC in Cam Ran Bay. then wound up with the Sundogs at Tan Son Nhut. You mentioned that you went to the mountain and to a Pagoda half way up, I didn't even know that there was one down there. We occupied the Pagoda at the top of the mountain, my radios sat on the altar. There was a tomb behind it, and there was a legend associated with it. Something about some young girl maybe a princess or some such thing, she climbed the mountain to go to the Pagoda and was killed by a Black Tiger. So they buried her back there. Now that was the story I was told, was it true, who knows. I can tell you one thing when we lost power and I had to change the pigtail on the radio set. I had to go around behind the altar and lean up against this tomb, that had rats living in it. That always got my attention, the faster you tried to work the slower it seemed to go. Somebody said they were Tazmanian Devils, I wouldn't know the difference so maybe they were. I do know they liked Ritz crackers, they would come out in the middle of the night for their treat.

You asked about pictures, I don't have anything scanned but I will and send them to you when I do. I even have a few of a OV-10 doing a crash landing at Bien Hoa. 'Looks as though he took a round in the nose of the aircraft and took out some hydraulics. You may not want to see any of me though. But what is involved in joining your group. Let me know and I'll keep in touch.

As far as what I'm up to, just waiting for retirement, only about 9 months away. Currently I'm Senior Draftsman in the Equalization Department in St. Clair County, I'm neck deep in redrafting the parcel line layer so it fits on the aerials better. It's all part of our GIS effort. Associated with that is locating survey points and getting GPS coordinates on them for accuracy. I'm also the county Plat examiner, as appointed by the County Commissioners. Yesterday I was doing a 6 hour renewal for my assessing Certification. So you can see I wear a lot of different hats.



Well it was great to hear from you guys, if you would I'd like to receive a copy of your news letter, my home address is 977-18th St. Marysville, MI. 48040. Thanks again! **Greg (Beefy)**  
 P.S. I knew a guy in Raleigh, **Bobby Rich**, who was a radio operator on Nui Ba Den. Haven't seen him in years since he and his wife divorced.

*Editor's comment: Does anyone know **Bobby Rich**? Or can locate him in Raleigh for us?*

I'm the guy in the helmet. This was taken about 4 am after a fire fight. The other guy with me is **Frank Brochetti** (spelling?) I think he was 1st Cav., from Penn.



**From Ron Van Kirk,**

I changed jobs in January, getting settled in to new position as Senior Account Manager for Interlake Material Handling - selling automation services to manufacturers. Been some cool places - the freezer section at the local HEB grocery chain was the coldest! 'Fun stuff. If you know anyone that needs any type of automation - my territory is not "limited" - Colorado, Florida - anywhere. You can see find me at [Interlake.com](http://Interlake.com) or [InterlakeASG.com](http://InterlakeASG.com). We got 23,000 sq ft facility here in San Antonio that I am trying to fill up..... Things are MUCH improved from a year ago!

**Ron**

**From Bob Burgoyne, Rustic Z, Bien Hoa**

My wife, Carrie, and I are permanent missionaries on the island nation of Dominica and will be returning to the States on leave starting in Feb of 2010 for 6 months. If you have time and are interested in our mission work, you can check our web site is [www.cpmministries.org](http://www.cpmministries.org). There, you can learn about our work over the last 20 years, read news letters, and listen to our testimonies by clicking on our photographs. We are under the auspices of Caribbean Partnership Mission.

If you would be interested in receiving future news letters, send your address and I'll see that you are placed on our mailing list. Our Internet phone is a Texas number: 903 2231-0573. Some day I hope to make it to a reunion. Keep the E mails coming. With Christian love, and with neat memories of the Rustics, (I only wish I had been a Christian during those years.) In His fields, **Bob B** Jeremiah 33:3

Have picture of fire fighting OV-10 aircraft in "My Pictures"! <http://www.redding.com/news/2008/jul/16/Skycaptains0716/>

**From Larry Edmondson, Rustic 58 (Update)**

Since '71-'72, I've flown B-52's, spent 5 years in SAC, went into the Rated Supplement, got out of the AF in 1977. I've been in the coal industry since then, finally retiring from Peabody Coal Sales in 2004. I've started my own Coal Sales business, and living/working in Eddyville, KY. My wife and I just celebrated our 40th anniversary together. Life has been good. I'm blessed. **Larry**

#### CALENDER OF EVENTS:

- 1) **2008 All FAC Reunion.** 1-5 Oct 2008, Colorado Springs, CO. AF/Navy Football game 4 Oct. FAC Memorial Dedication.
- 2) **Air Expo 2008**, 16-17 Aug 08, Flying Cloud Airport, Eden Prairie, Minn. – Contact **Bob Jaspersen** at: [Bobj@wotn.org](mailto:Bobj@wotn.org)
- 3) **2009 Rustic FAC Assoc. Reunion.**, 10-13 Sep, 2009, Washington DC
- 4) **Bronco Fest VII**, 23-26 Apr, 2009 in conjunction with the **Cowtown Warbird Roundup** (24-25 Apr 2009)

**2009 Roster Update**  
**2009 Membership Renewal Form**

\_\_\_\_\_ Enclosed are my 2009 Membership dues for the Rustic FAC Association. 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.

or

\_\_\_\_\_ I'm not a member, but below is my information so we can stay in touch.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouses name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone (       ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

E Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Rustic Call Sign: \_\_\_\_\_

**Amount Enclosed:**

2009 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: \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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



Volume 12, Issue 4

15 December 2008



# Rustic News

**www.rustic.org**

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**Secretary:** Roger Hamann, RusticYankee72@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  
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**Director:** Dick Wood, woodrh@ix.netcom.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  
**Health & Wellness:** Doc Thomas, shialary@msn.com

***MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!!***

**\_NEXT RUSTIC REUNION, 10-13 SEPTEMBER, 2009 in Washington DC.** Our next reunion is only nine months away. It'll be one you won't want to miss so start making plans now to attend. Reunion coordinators, **Tom Capps** and **Doug Aitken**, have set up a great itinerary. The Reunion Registration Forms and the Schedule of Events will be published in the March 2009 newsletter. Here's an overview of what to expect:

**Wed, 9 Sep 2009**

-Hootch set-up. Group dinner at local restaurant for early arrivals. Pay-as-you-go.

Inside this issue:	
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**Thurs, 10 Sep 2009**

-Reunion Registration, local sight seeing, Welcome Dinner at hootch

**Fri, 11 Sep 2009**

-Vietnam Memorial for service, followed by visit to AF Memorial, WW II Memorial, and visit to the White House

-Lunch at Ft Meyers O'Club, afternoon sight-seeing on your own

-Meet at the Reagan Building' for dinner and evening show on the Capitol Steps.

**Sat, 12 Sep 2009**

-Optional bus tours to Gettysburg Battlefield or Mt Vernon

-Optional bus tour of Arlington National Cemetery, visit JFK Memorial, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Iwo Jima monument, etc.

-Local sight-seeing on own

-Rustic Banquet

**Sun, 13 Sep 2009**

-Farewell Breakfast.

This past year has been another reminder that our days are all numbered. Now's the time to spend precious moments with your buds; this reunion will be priceless. There's a lot to see and do in the DC area, so plan to come early or stay late to enjoy all the opportunities which include Gettysburg, Valley Forge, Philadelphia historical sites, Pennsylvania Amish country, plus much more. The hotel's discounted rates are good if you come early or stay late.

**REUNION SURVEY.** The Reunion Committee would like to get an estimate of how many folks plan to attend the 2009 Rustic reunion so **PLEASE FILL OUT THE ENCLOSED SURVEY OR EMAIL TOM CAPPS WITH YOUR INFORMATION.** (See survey at end of newsletter.) This is important to our reunion planners!

**TIME TO RENEW YOUR ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP.** If you haven't already done so, please send your 2009 membership dues to **Don Ellis**, Rustic Treasurer. See attached 2009 Membership Renewal Form. Thanks to all for your continued membership and support of the Rustic FAC Association.

**Your newsletter address label indicates the date your current membership expires.**

#### **ROSTER/PERSONNEL UPDATES:**

<b>Bob Andrews</b>	<a href="mailto:andrewsinidaho@msn.com">andrewsinidaho@msn.com</a>
<b>Walter Arellano</b>	35 Lovegrass Lane, Sumset Valley, TX 78745
<b>John F. Cary</b>	5680 Sonnet Ridge Pt., Colorado Springs, CO 80918 719-598-4134
<b>Doug Hellwig</b>	Phone: 307-532-2195
<b>Greg Lachon</b>	Spouse: Janet Phone: 810-364-5762
<b>Bill Leydorf</b>	<a href="mailto:bleydorf@bellsouth.net">bleydorf@bellsouth.net</a>
<b>Phil Morneault</b>	<a href="mailto:morneault@alltel.net">morneault@alltel.net</a>
<b>Jack Otis, Rustic India*</b>	556 Mallard Lane, Surfside Beach, SC 29575. (843) 215-7370, <a href="mailto:jotis@sccost.net">jotis@sccost.net</a> , MSgt, Ret

\*New found Rustic and newest member of association.

#### **WINGMAN SUPPORT:**

**1) Knee Surgery.** **Bob "Redeye" Harris** reports he had surgery on his left knee on 8 Dec. He tore his kneecap quad tendon and partially tore his meniscus the previous Monday morning during a fall in the bathroom due to a wet spot on the floor. He said, "I'd taken a shower and was totally dry except for a small patch of water on the floor. Wouldn't you know that a phone call would make me take a hasty step and down I went. Never did get to the phone. I have a good surgeon and should be back home tomorrow evening. I've been told that it will take about 9 months to fully recover. I guess there won't be any golf or two-steppin' anytime soon. Not much of story so I'm telling others that I took too much viagra and was two-steppin' in the shower. Alas, totally solo but sure could have used some help getting up.

"Hope everyone has a great holiday season. Send a card if you get the chance. I'll be staying close to the fireplace this Christmas." Later, **Bob**

**2) Good News.** **Jack Thompson** reports a bone marrow match has been found for son, **Michael**. He will probably have the procedure in January. Keep Michael in your prayers.

#### **FAC HISTORY BOOK -- VOLUMN II -- TO BE PUBLISHED.**

**("Crash" Helm)** Rustics, as most of you are aware "**Cleared Hot**" was self published by the FAC Assn this summer. It was over 500 pages (565 but who's counting) of great FAC stuff....but we had to leave out over 153 stories that we had on the FAC Book CD.

As a result **Peter Condon** has stepped into the rotating prop en-core en fois. He is going to put out Volume 2 of "**Cleared Hot**" which will include all the stories omitted from the first one, plus any NEW STORIES that the editors submit.

Sooo...if you were bitching that you didn't know about the FACbook and then **Cleared Hot**....get your Sierra together and send your stories to moi and we'll get you included.

Send to either me [ned@wingset.com](mailto:ned@wingset.com) or to **Jim Gabel** at [JA-Gabel@aol.com](mailto:JA-Gabel@aol.com) ...it matters not which one as we both will edit. Get to work!!!





*Rustics, this is probably a “last, last call” to get your stories published. Submit your stories ASAP to “Crash” Helm or Jim Gabel. (Peter Condon works fast and I suspect he’ll be ready to go to print within two or three months).*

**RUSTICS ATTEND 2008 All FAC REUNION.** The Rustics were well represented at the 2008 All FAC reunion in Colorado Springs, 1-5 Oct., and what a great gathering it was. Over 400 FACs and friends were in attendance. Twelve Rustics showed up at one time or another but it was impossible to get us together at one time for a photo. Those who came included: (See Photo, Back Row L-R, Randy Hetherington, Bill Car-ruthers, Don Brooks, Ron Koeppel, Tim Eby, Mike Wilson (Front Row) Don Haller, Lendy Edwards and Claude Newland, Not in the picture, Jim Reese, Bob Ryals, Mike Thrower, and, Dick Goddard. A number of wives and family members also attended, including Nancy Sleigh, wife of Bill Sleigh. This was Bob Ryal’s first FAC reunion he’s ever attended and we hope to see more of him in the future.

**Don Brooks and Don Haller** both served on the reunion committee. **Mike and Sherry Wilson** came down from their Colorado mountain cabin to join in the festivities. **Mike Thrower** may have set a record for reunion attendances in one week. He attended the Rustic 0-2 reunion in Wash. DC earlier in the week and then flew to Colorado Springs to simultaneously attend his USAFA class reunion and the FAC reunion.

A highlight of the reunion included the dedication of a beautiful new FAC memorial in the Colorado Springs Memorial Park. Both slow FAC and Misty Fast-FACs were remembered with their names being engraved on two beautiful, separate monuments. **Col Bud Day** was the dedication guest speaker. A number of FAC KIA family members were in attendance. Full military honors, plus motorcycle escorts, an Air Force band, honor guard, and missing man flyover made this a first class event. The FAC community can be proud of the classy manner in which they have honored their commitment to never forget their fallen brothers.



**OV-10 BRONCO ASSOCIATION: (Jack Thompson)** I’m still serving as a board member of the OBA. We now have some 16 aircraft [in the OBA Petting Zoo.] We have been working hard to finish the restoration of our TF-102 which we believe was flown by **George W. Bush** when he was in the Air Guard at Ellington. We are very close to having all of the structural damage repaired.

Next on the list of restorations is our F-111E. That one will be a challenge since it was delivered to us with many structural panels missing.



The OBA is a very active member of the Fort Worth committee to establish a world-class aviation museum in Fort Worth. Obviously, such a museum would be a great solution to the long term question of where will we keep our "petting zoo" over the long term.

### SHORT BURSTS:

**1) Retirees on the Go. Jim and Diane Seibold** recently went on a cruise through the Panama Canal in early November. *Isn't retired life grand?*

**2) Rustic Book on Ebay. Jim Gabel** reports that copies of Rustic **Bill Sleight's** book, "Vietnam and Cambodia Remembered, It Still Hurts," have surfaced on Ebay. Be advised your association has copies of Bill's book. If you want a copy, contact **Don Ellis**, Rustic Treasurer, or go to the Rustic Store on our website to place an order: [www.rustic.org](http://www.rustic.org). Total cost: \$34.00 (includes shipping.)

**3) Bronco Fest VII**, will be held 23-26 Apr, 2009 in Ft Worth in conjunction with the **Cowtown Warbird Roundup**, 24-25 Apr 2009. Part of the festivities will include dedicating OV-10 # 825, a Rustic bird which many of you flew. Rustic interpreter, **Jerry Dufresne's**, name is to be inscribed on the aircraft's rear cockpit canopy rail as requested by the Rustics.

**4) 2010 All FAC Reunion.** Fort Worth, TX will be the site of the next All FAC Reunion in 2010. Dates TBD. This should be a great FAC gathering. What better time and place to see all the aircraft the OBA has amassed in their aircraft "Petting Zoo," learn about the progress in developing a Ft Worth Aviation Museum, see the fledgling FAC Museum, and share a few stories and brewskies with your buds, another chance to hand fly"!! Another chance to visit Billy Bobs, the dance hall of Urban Cowboy fame.

**5) OV-10 # 639 REFURBISHMENT.** The Australian War Museum has taken 639 out of its shipping containers and parts are spread out over the workshop floor. An evaluation is being conducted on her condition and estimates on the costs of refurbishment are being prepared. The results of the evaluation and its budget implications will not be known until the New Year. We'll keep you posted.

**KOMPONG CHAM CHARITIES. (Lendy Edwards):** Here's the latest report from **Darany** in Kompong Cham, Cambodia on what they have been able to accomplish with the money the Rustics sent them this past year. Looks like our dollars are still working magic for them. Our thanks to all of you who have generously supported these efforts.

1) \$ 500.00 donated when **Diane Moss** was here.

- We have given support to many people in need of emergency care:
- Support for a poor old man living by the road.
- Food and milk for some abandoned women who birthed the baby.
- Medicine for a man with burns and a boy from a poor family in the community who had a broken leg.
- Spent for x-ray and taking a boy to Kean Khleang Hospital for checking his broken bone.
- Support to a boy who had a testicle incision.
- Support to a woman who had a gallbladder cut.

2) \$ 2,519.00 for Sunrise Ministry in Kompong Cham:

- Medicine for poor people in the community.
  - Support patients for traveling and food during their surgery.
  - Support to a boy (he and his sister are orphans living with their grandparents) for his application.
  - Support to a widow for her daughter's school fee.
  - Support to an orphan baby for milk and baby supplies.
  - Bicycles and food supplies for poor students from the outskirt areas coming by train for primary school.
-

- 3) \$ 720.00 for Kompong Cham Orphanage. This year there are 96 children and they still continue to come in. They were all given: School bags, Cloths, Shoes and Cake

They have no other school materials (book, pens, etc.) because this year everything in Cambodia is going up and also the number of the children has increased.



**CHALLENGE FROM EL JEFE.** Gentlemen, I'd like to challenge each of you to dig down this Christmas season and find it in your heart to make a contribution to the Rustic Cambodian Charity or Orphanage Funds. Can you spare \$10 or \$20? or more? My check for \$50 is in the mail to **Don Ellis**, Rustic Treasurer. (See Tax Deductible Contribution form at end of newsletter.)

As you can see from Darnay's report, the "needs" are many. Despite prices going up in Cambodia, a dollar there goes much farther than it does here and your gift will help make a difference in countless lives. Thanks for your continued support of this worthy cause!

**Claude Newland**, Rustic 19

**RUSTIC PLAQUE PROJECT. ("Crash" Helm)** This project is not dead yet. I'm re-establishing contact with the original guys who are back in business. Seems to me the original quote for a plaque was around \$59 and they were super! I'll keep everyone posted. **Roger Hamann** has also been looking at vendors to see if a plaque can be purchased at a reasonable price.

**FLOWER FUND ESTABLISHED.** A Rustic Flower Fund was established with the proceeds that were left over from the memorial donations that came in for **Col Lieou Phin Oum's** funeral. Thanks to all of you who contributed to this effort. The balance of the flower fund will be reported in future treasurer's reports.

## LETTERS TO THE RUSTICS:

**From Bill Leydorf**, Rustic 10,

Claude, Got your request for the email update, its [bleydorf@bellsouth.net](mailto:bleydorf@bellsouth.net)

Sorry for not sending a change sooner. I'm enjoying being fully retired; playing some golf and doing some volunteer work and planning on more travel. In fact, Donna and I are going on a tour of Vietnam and Cambodia next month: I've always wanted to visit Cambodia since flying there as a Rustic FAC. We start off in Hanoi, then Hue and Saigon; over to PP and then Siem Reap and wind up in Bangkok. We don't hit Bien Hoa, in fact I couldn't even find a reference to Bien Hoa in the Guide Book I bought.

The trip is a formal tour with a company called Club ABC Tours. Here is a link to one of their itineraries <http://www.clubabc.com/TourLanding.aspx?TourId=3277> although our tour spends more time in Phnom Penh (2 nights) and 2 nights at Siem Reap. We start off in Hanoi (3 nights), Hue (1 night), Hoian (2 nights), HCM City (1 night) then PP, SR, and end with two nights in Bangkok. I don't believe I have read the Rustic book that was self published (I read Richard Wood's book, is that the one? I don't remember Nady Tan, could you provide more info?)

The tour leaves JFK the evening of October 25<sup>th</sup>, arrives Hanoi via Hong Kong the morning of Oct 27<sup>th</sup>. We arrive in PP around 1245 on November 3<sup>rd</sup> (the day after my 64<sup>th</sup> birthday) and stay two nights at the Sunway Hotel. Depart PP on Nov 5<sup>th</sup> at 8:55 and stay two nights at the Sofitel Royal Angkor in Siem Reap. We depart Siem Reap on Nov 7<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 for Bangkok. I'm not sure what time availability there is for us in PP (away from the tour), and I would hate to impose on Nady Tan's time, although I would be honored to meet him.

I really enjoyed reading **Bill Sleigh's** book. It brought back a lot of memories, some good and some bad. My boys told me they didn't realize I was such a screw-up (based on all the "walling" adventures, etc.)!

I'll try to make the reunion in Washington next year to put current faces on old friends! **Bill**

**From Ron Dandeneau**

All. It's OFFICIAL !!!!!!! I became a "Great Grandfather" today, 3 Oct 08. Grandson, Paul Pharris', wife, Briana gave birth to a bouncing baby boy this morning in Colorado Springs, CO. Tell me that doesn't make you feel old!!!!!! Whew!!!!!! **Ron**

*Do we have any other great- grandfathers out there? Is Ron the first? Let's hear from you.*

**From Doug Hellwig**

Claude, Good to hear all is well with you and family. I was shocked at Col. Oum's passing. He just never looked that old nor did he appear to be in poor health.

I finally sold my house in Utah. My daughter is a freshman at Utah. St. in Logan, Ut., so there just is no reason for me to have a house in Utah. Besides, I hate the state and I'm elated to be out of the area. However, I do return there every few months to the VA hospital in SLC.

I do have a small farm (160 ac) in Torrington, WY. So, I fly LAS-SLC-CPR then drive 170 mi to Torrington (80 mi no. of Cheyenne). I stay in Wyoming all through the irrigation season (June 10-Sept 10) and then commute every weekend to LAS to spend time w/ my lady. The bad news is that I miss the kisses, but the good news is I miss all of the hot weather in Las Vegas. She flies up to Wy. several times during the summer.

I plan to attend the next reunion and bring my lady friend assuming she'll be able to get time off from work (highly probable). She dated a lot of Marine pilots in her younger years, so don't judge her too harshly. I think she now sees ALL of the "big picture" and not just the Marine propaganda.

Keep the pointed end in the front, **Doug**

**From Jack Otis**, Rustic India/Sundog Echo. Editor's note: *Jack is the newest member of the Rustic FAC Association. He served briefly as a Bien Hoa Rustic interpreter and then pulled duty with the Sundogs.*

The attached picture was taken at the Tan Son Nhut NCO Club in late 71. I know that [Rustic interpreters] **Roger Lanoue** and **Pierre Ligonde** and I were at Bien Hoa and then went to TNS Sundogs.

Yes, **Rog**, [Hamann] I do remember **Ralph Dow**. He got there just before I did. I also remember **Gil Bellefeuille**, **Roy Eklund**, **Tim Early**, and **Marcel Morneau**. I also saw Roger, Roy and Tim in Virginia after our tours.

---



'Would love to hear from any and all. My wife, Christiane (Chris), and I were married in Paris 21 Nov 1957 and it's hard to believe she is still married to me.

To clarify the picture I sent of the Interpreters with the 3 Cambodians. From my notes and records, Red Eagle 13 was **Captain Sim Bun Chhan**, Helicopter pilot, and Chef du Bureau d'escale Militaire at Pochentong Airport. Chef du Bureau d'escale Militaire translates to Chief of the Military portion of the airport. **Hotel 13, Kaieng**, is actually the radio operator at Hotel 13. The gendarme, **Ou Vohavoth**, regularly escorted many of the visitors we had at TSN including the radio operator from Hotel Lima, Air Force **Sgt Lim Nguon Long** (not pictured).

Thanks, **Jack**



**L-R Roger Lanoue, Sim Bun Chhan(Red Eagle 13), Harold Lausier, Jack Otis, Kaieng (Hotel 13), Ou Vahavoth (Gendarme), Denis Barabeault, Pierre Ligonde**

*(Cut off Membership Renewal Form for mailing )*

## 2009 Membership Renewal Form

Enclosed are my 2009 Membership dues for the Rustic FAC Association. 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.

2009 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: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

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**

*(Cut off receipt record below and save for tax purposes.)*

---

**2008 Tax Deductible Contribution Receipt**

Rustic FAC Cambodian Charities      \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Kompong Cham Orphanage              \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Total:    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Paid to Rustic FAC Association      Date: \_\_\_\_\_      Check #: \_\_\_\_\_

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*(Cut off and mail to Tom Capps or email him at: tomcapps@nc.rr.com)*

**REUNION SURVEY:**      Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Definitely plan to attend the 2009 reunion.      Number of people: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Plan to attend, but not sure at this time.      Number of people: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Definitely can not attend.

I'm interested in the following tours.    Vietnam Memorial & White House \_\_\_\_\_  
Gettysburg Battlefield \_\_\_\_\_    Mt Vernon \_\_\_\_\_    Arlington Natl. Cemetery, JFK Memorial, etc. \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to Tom Capps, 1609 Bowdoin Dr, Raleigh, NC 27615**

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Rustic FAC Association  
4033 Indian Trail Drive  
Destin, FL 32541

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED