

Volume 14, Issue 1

15 May 2010



# Rustic News



**www.rustic.org**



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**WOULD YOU PREFER YOUR RUSTIC NEWSLETTER IN LIVING COLOR?** If you would like to receive future Rustic newsletters via Email (in living color), please contact **Claude Newland** with your request at: rustic19@cox.net. We will honor this request, however, all future Reunion Registration newsletters will continue to be sent out via snail mail.

**TREASURER/SECRETARY REPORT (Don Ellis)** Here's the Assn's 2009 End of Year Report:

Cambodian Charities	\$1,601.68
Cambodian Reunion Support	230.00
Lifetime Dues	10,975.00
Memorial Fund	415.00
Orphanage	1,085.00
Flower Fund	458.12
General	8,772.69

**Balance: 23,537.49**

**2010 Membership:** Life: 54 Regular: 25

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**ROSTER/PERSONNEL UPDATES:** It seems the one thing that is always constant... is *change*. Please note the following database changes since our last newsletter:

Bob Andrews	<a href="mailto:andrewsinid@msn.com">andrewsinid@msn.com</a>
Woody Baker	P. O. Box 370512, Key Largo, FL 33037 305-451-0795 (FL) 828-452-2594 (NC)
Zot Barazzotto	7111 Brandt Vista Ave, Dayton, Ohio 45424-3327
Bob Burgoyne	903-769-1845
Tom Canter	<a href="mailto:tcanter@sccoast.net">tcanter@sccoast.net</a>
Tom Capps	cappstom@gmail.com
Bob Clifford	robcliff@me.com
Bob Crothers	<a href="mailto:Robert_a_crothers@verizon.net">Robert_a_crothers@verizon.net</a> 317-877-1133 7175 Oakbay Dr, Noblesville, IN 46062

Jerry Dufresne	<a href="mailto:jerandrose@q.com">jerandrose@q.com</a>
Normand Falcon	320-309-8626
Walt Friedhofen	<a href="mailto:waltcomncents@yahoo.com">waltcomncents@yahoo.com</a>
Steve Joy	<a href="mailto:Stevenjo@aol.com">Stevenjo@aol.com</a> 254-778-6845 Wife: Jo
Shad Kimbell	<a href="mailto:rustic10@suddenlink.net">rustic10@suddenlink.net</a>
Bill Leydorf	(H) (865) 458-2588 (cell) (865) 207-0830
David Parsons	<a href="mailto:dparsonsm@gmail.com">dparsonsm@gmail.com</a> 803-487-9434
Bill Rember	P.O. Box 389 Firnwood, ID 83830
	Ubon Rustic Intel tour dates: Oct 1971- Aug 1972
Stan Ritchie	304-367-1112 Wife: Susan
Jon Safley	<a href="mailto:rdleader@cox.net">rdleader@cox.net</a>
Vaughan C. Smith	<a href="mailto:Ridgewalker@hughes.net">Ridgewalker@hughes.net</a>
Frank Sovich	<a href="mailto:fmsovich@gmail.com">fmsovich@gmail.com</a>

If you have any changes to the Rustic Database, please contact **Don Ellis** at: [donellis@sc.rr.com](mailto:donellis@sc.rr.com)

**Lost Rustics.** We have lost contact with the following Rustics (their last known address is below.). If you know how to get in touch with them, please contact **Don Ellis** at: [donellis@sc.rr.com](mailto:donellis@sc.rr.com)

Robert S. Atwater	21086 Ann Margaret Dr., Bend, OR 97701-9772
Joseph W. Baker	64 Mutiny PL, Key Largo, FL 33037
Douglas J Mitchell	P.O. Box 328, Angel Fire, NM 87110
Ralph E. Wenck	2050 Dunlap Ave E 228, Phoenix, AZ 85021

From Doug Robertson. In March I finally tracked down Bill Mesa (another Rustic Radio Operator from Bien Hoa to Ubon) and found out that, unfortunately, he died in a motorcycle accident about 2 years ago.

**WINGMAN SUPPORT (Thomas):** Here's a medical update (2/23/10) on **Roy Eklund**, Rustic Interpreter, from his son, Roy Jr. "Dad is still at West Florida Rehab. He is expected to come home within the next couple of weeks. He is making good progress but will still be in a wheelchair when he gets home. He is making some progress in speech also (a long way to go), but he is in good spirits. Numerous Rustics have sent him a letter to which we read to him. He was very touched by them. Thanks," Roy Jr. (*Can be reached at: gtek-lund@mchsi.com*)

**NEWS FLASH - CH 1 - NEXT RUSTIC REUNION TO BE IN FT WALTON BEACH, FL IN 2011.** After receiving confirmation from **Claude Newland and Lendy Edwards** that they would be willing to host a Rustic reunion in Ft Walton Beach, FL in Oct 2011, the Rustic Board voted to approve this change of date and venue. The details and exact dates are yet to be announced, but will most likely be in late October 2011.

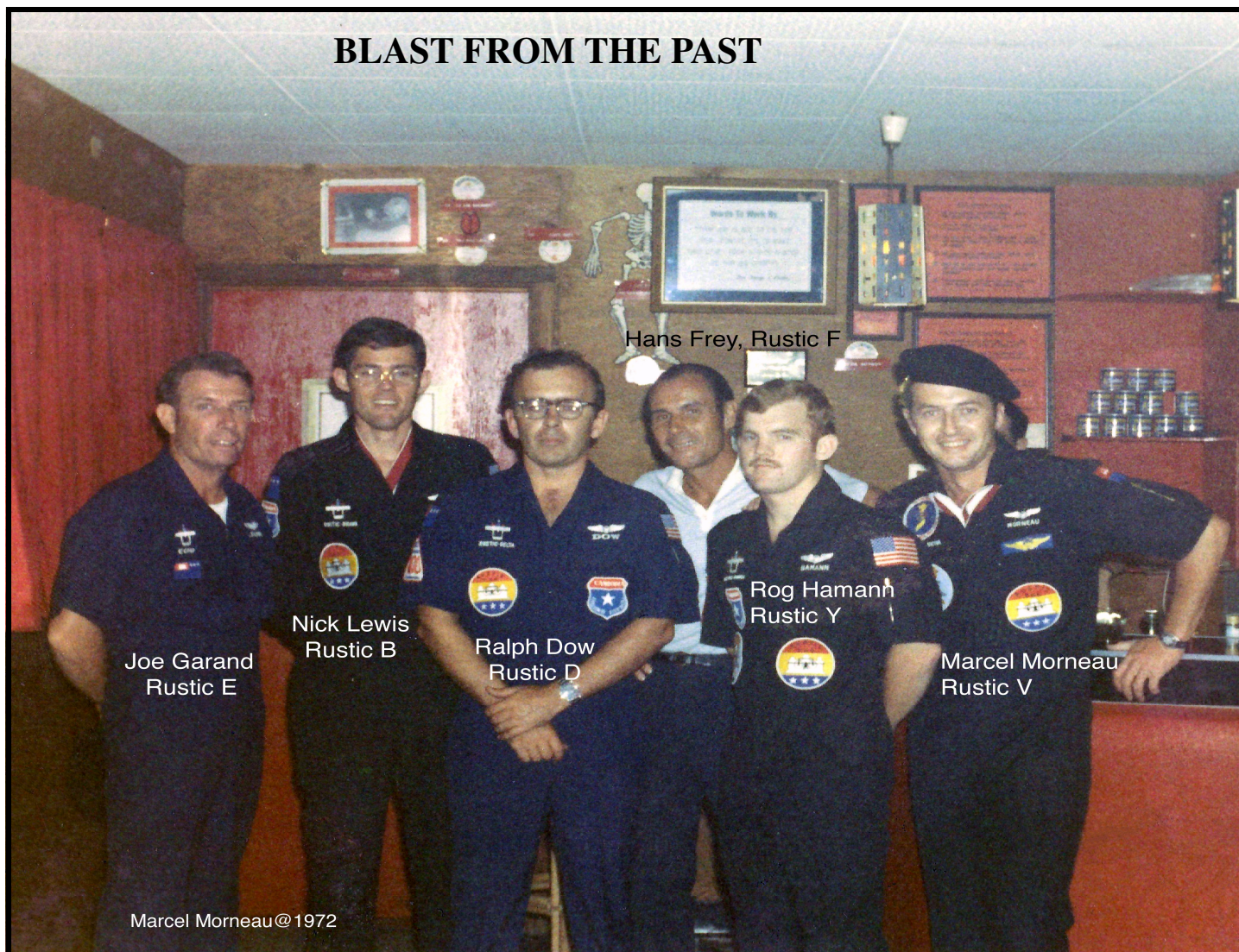
Why the change of location and year? You may recall that at the 2009 reunion, no one volunteered to host the next Rustic reunion, so by default, it was decided to hold the next reunion in conjunction with the All FAC reunion in 2012. Although the All FAC reunion was a viable alternative, the Board concluded that, now that someone has volunteered to host a "Rustic" reunion in FWB, they (and most Rustics) would much prefer our own reunion in Ft Walton Beach rather than hitchhike off someone else's reunion. (*Note: this does not preclude anyone from attending the All FAC reunion in 2012 if they so desire.*) More to come.

**RUSTIC SEA PHOTO ALBUM DVD PROJECT (Helm):** The photo project is ongoing, so send me your photos if you have some. To date, there are 5200+ photos in our DVD Album. Awesome! Many of these pics will find their way into our revised Black Book. There are some real classics. Let me hear from you if you have pictures to add to our project. Contact me at: (800) 356-4953, (931) 752-8102, or at: [ned@wingset.com](mailto:ned@wingset.com). Please include name(s), date, and places/subject for each photo.

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## BLAST FROM THE PAST



**KOMPONG CHAM CHARITIES AND ORPHANAGE (Edwards):** Currently, the Rustics have the following funds earmarked for Cambodian charities:

\$ 1,085.00 designated for the "Kompong Cham orphanage."

\$ 1,601.68 designated for "Cambodian Charity."

The Rustic Board has approved sending these funds to our local contacts in Kompong Cham who are affiliated with Sunrise Ministries. This is the same organization we have used in the past, although it was known to us as the "House of Hope" in 2000. Darany Hang, coordinator of Sunrise Ministries in Kompong Cham, will see that the orphanage funds are used to purchase specific items that have already been identified as "needed" by the children (clothes, shoes, supplies and bicycles.) They will deliver the items to the orphanage and provide a full report of the orphanage expenditures, as well as a report on how the "Cambodian Charity" funds were utilized by Sunrise Ministries.

*Thanks to all for your generous contributions. Remember, your contributions are tax deductible.*

**Tom Capps** and his grandson were in Cambodia in January and made a visit to Kompong Cham. Here's his report:

My grandson and I visited Darany Hang at Sunrise Ministry in Kompong Cham unexpectedly today. We had a



good visit catching up on what has transpired since I was there in November 2007. She says that she is getting adequate funding for the HIV/AIDS hospice they operate, but that she is aware of funding needs at the orphanage.

We stopped by the orphanage before going to Sunrise because the ministry has moved, and the phone numbers I had in my address book did not work. We found out that there is a new headmaster at the orphanage. He was the deputy until about two years ago. The new headmaster is much younger than the previous one, and he seemed to be well equipped to do his job.

The orphanage looked very good. They currently have 91 children and 15 house-mothers.



**Darany (4th from the right) and family at home on their balcony.**

Darany told us that there are thirteen of the 91 children in the orphanage who attend private school. In order to continue with their education, they need \$115 each for the current year. That's a total of \$1,500. Beyond that, she said that the orphanage needs fifteen used bicycles @ \$35 (\$525 total). The last item she mentioned was money for clothes and shoes. She estimated that \$1,000 would buy clothes for all 91 children and shoes for those who need them.

Samantha Baker-Evens has replaced Danny Colombara in Phnom Penh. Her husband, Chris, works with CSI in Phnom Penh, and he is an acquaintance of my Cambodian friend who I work with. I will call Samantha and tell her about my visit today. Her phone number is 011-855-1774-7384, and her email address is [samantha.bakerevens@gmail.com](mailto:samantha.bakerevens@gmail.com). My Cambodian friend knows Darany from Phnom Penh in the early 1980s. He was a young boy, and she was a young wife and mother. She has six children ages 13 to 28.

BTW, we drove down Highway 7 from Kompong Thom to Kompong Cham. My Cambodian friend did not know it had been paved recently. The last time I saw it in 1971, it was full of alternating cuts to control traffic. Also, all the old rubber trees in the country have been cut down and are being replaced with new ones. The trees we saw today were only twenty feet high. **Thomas E. (Tom) Capps**

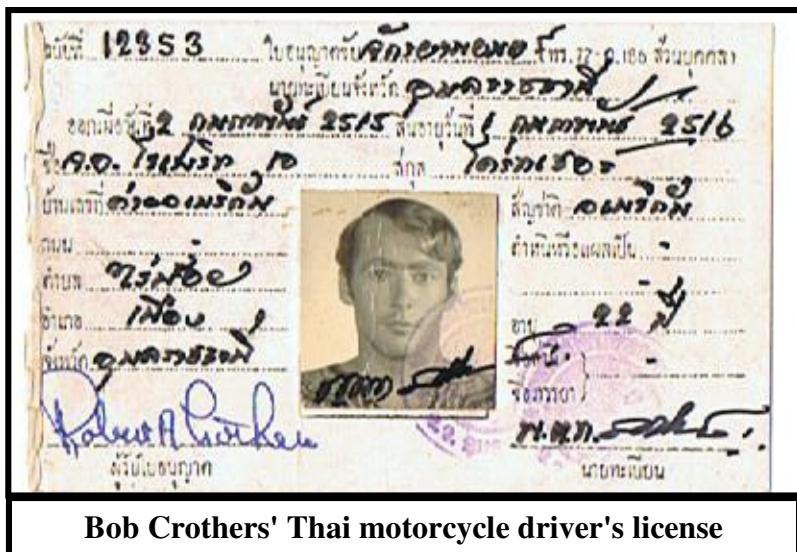
**5/2/10 Tom Adds:** BTW, **Darany** and **Sareth Duong**, the young man I know who works with the Cambodian military, have known each other for about thirty years. She was a young wife who lived near Sareth in Phnom Penh after he was freed from a Khmer Rouge labor camp. Sareth will be visiting the US in late June and early July. I will be taking him to rice farms in Texas, Louisiana and possibly Arkansas to see how these farms are operated and to learn about their best business practices. Cambodians don't do a very good job of preparing their fields for rice paddies. Claude and I agreed that I should provide an email report to all Rustics at various points as we progress with the rice business development. I will likely return to Cambodia in October [2010] to help oversee the start-up of the business and then will return every six to twelve months. If anyone would like to join me, please contact me at: [cappstom@gmail.com](mailto:cappstom@gmail.com) or 919-846-5411



**BLACK BOOK REVISION PROJECT UPDATE (Newland):** All of the chapter texts have been revised and are currently being proofed and edited. A completely new chapter has been added entitled, "Birth of the Rustics" – which covers just the first week of Rustic operations. This is mostly all new information thanks to **Roger Dodd, Dave Van Dyke, Mac McGarvey and Dick Rinehart**. A lot of new Rustic history has been added to the other chapters that was not in the original book. 67 new stories have been added, plus a lot of new photos. This book is going to water your eyes. It is now estimated to be close to 525 pages. Completion date is still unknown, but we hope to have it ready by the end of the year. Hardbound and paperback copies will be available.

**NEW FOUND RUSTIC--BOB CROTHERS (Roger Hamann):** Thanks to the AFTWS site, **Bob Crothers** has been found. He was one of the guys who strapped us in at both Bien Hoa and Ubon. Bob's been told about the Rustic site and I plan further updates with him about everything Rustic. From his response, looks like we might have just found quite a few more Rustic support guys. Bob writes: I was stationed at Bien Hoa first, and worked both Rustic and Rash control aircraft. Myself, George Harris, Bill Ready, Billy Frederick (Billy passed in 2005 from Alzheimer's), Jimmy Crain, and many others were on our second tour, as most of us were working C-130's out of the Philippines into Cam Rahn Bay (great duty) for our first assignment from tech school.

1971-1972 was one of my best tour of duty in the Air Force. So much so I am in the process of writing a book about my time with pictures from the 23rd and 19th. However, the book is mostly of a girl I left behind for this tour, but I still talk about the parties we had at Bien Hoa, and Ubon.



**Bob Crothers' Thai motorcycle driver's license**

When I saw the picture of Doug Norman, I recalled the face and not the name. He was one of the backseaters that had a great personality and always joked with me as I strapped him in on the right side. I also can remember the party suits you guys had. If memory is right, you had black jump suits. I was one of the crew chief that some of you guys would ask me to make an ammo belt for out of the bullets from the gun pods. I would take the left over ammo from your return, remove the bullet and primer and empty out the powder and place the bullet back in and clip them together to the size you needed. We even had some of them chrome plated, except the bullet. I sent one home, and how it got home I have no idea. I did the same from the empty cases from the gunships and had the Thai's make wood bullet heads for them. They actually looked great in a clip all chrome.

In December of 1971 we all had great seats for the Bob Hope show in Ubon, which was one of the first shows done at night for him, and he joked about the FACs in his stage act that evening. I have the Bob Hope shows on video.

Norm took lots of pictures from the back seat and I was one of the lucky ones to get copies. Of course, I have those of Ubon as well. It amazes me how much they mean to me and how it brings back my memory of what I was doing when the picture was taken.

Roger [Hamann], your name does not ring a bell in my head, but I too am from New England (Mass). I know that most of us from the region were not close but knew of each other. And I may have even strapped you in, I was on all the early morning launches in Ubon.

During one of my trips to Saigon, to take a General up for a view of the war, I was in the backseat to Saigon, and we were crossing the gate and I heard on the radio someone speaking French and I told the pilot what they

were saying. He asked me how I knew that and I told him I studied French from the 4th grade through the 12th. It was required of us. Most of the kids that were Catholic studied Latin, I was not Catholic, so I learn French in school. Latin was too difficult. When we got back he told the commander and I was called into his office and asked if I would wanted to be an observer, to which I said no. I loved working on the planes, and my tour was almost over. The next month I contacted Hepatitis and was in the hospital for 30 days, then sent home on my normal rotation in May of 1972.

I suppose I have rambled on enough. Thanks for dropping in. It was great to hook up with another Rustic member. I hope to run into a few more. Drop by anytime. **Bob Crothers**

**HISTORIAN REPORT (Gabel):** The following items were added to the Rustic Archives after our September 2009 Reunion:

**From Jim Seibold:**

12' X 8' Republic of Cambodia Flag

9.8' X 6.5' silk SVN Flag

28' X 18' Cambodia Flag

Jul/Aug 1970 North American Rockwell Service News - OV-10A "Bronco"

Columbus Division of North American Rockwell Corporation 82-page OV-10 Brochure

1 SOWg OV-10A Phase Manual September 1969

Low Altitude Instrument Approach Procedures Pacific and Southeast Asia 11 February 1971

Low Altitude Europe North Africa and Middle East 14 Jan 1988

Fly The Friendly Skies of Cambodia With The Rustic Facs. T-shirt

Christmas 1970 card from Hotel 302

T.O. 1L-10A-34-1-1CL-1, PILOTS' Nonnuclear Munitions Delivery Checklist OV-10A 15 Jan 1970

Cuff Links and Tie Clip set from Bayon Temple from Hotel 302

Charts: 1:500,000 - Two TPC; Six PC 1:1,000,000 - Four ONC

**From Mark Berent:**

Group of papers circa 1975 concerning possible reunion with "Sam the FAC"

**AF OUTSTANDING UNIT AWARD (AFOUA).** **Roger Hamann, Rustic Yankee**, discovered that the posting of **Joe Gambino's** profile page on the AFTWS website indicates Joe's "unit" received the AFOUA with "V" during his service period (26 Aug 1971 - 28 Jan 1973.) Roger checked his revised DD 214, which was updated after he was awarded a DFC, and he didn't see any record of the AFOUA w/ "V" device listed. Roger asks, "Does anyone else have info on this?"

In reply, **Bill Ernst**, Rustic 04, initiated a formal inquiry to see if the "V" devise was ever awarded. Here's what he found out after contacting the 15th Wing - Awards & Decorations office at Hickam AFB. The 23 TASS was awarded a Presidential Unit Citation for the period "01 April 72 to 22 Feb. 73" on Special Order GB 046 in 1977. Those who served in the unit during that period have either been awarded the PUC or you may ask that your Personal Record be corrected.

You can obtain a copy of your Personnel Record by submitting an "Application for Correction of Military Records" DD Form 149, Sept. 2007. This is sent to the "Air Force Board for Correction of Military Records (AFBCMR).

- (a) Attach a copy of your DD Form 214.
- (b) You can request a corrected DD Form 214.

The Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with the "V" for Valor was not in the records for the 23 TASS. We looked for the 505th Tactical Control Group and could not find out which units belonged to the organiza-

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tion. The Special Order GB 0046 was listed and dated in 1977 but it could not be found. The 23 TASS would have to have been in this Group during the specified time in order to be eligible for the ("V") award. This will take more research to determine the answer.

Bill says he will contact someone familiar with the 505th Tactical Control Group and determine what units were in the Group. The Lineage states that it was activated on 2 Nov. 1965 and inactivated on 15 March 1973. Standby for news!

**NEXT ALL FAC REUNION** Fort Worth, TX. Wed. 27 October - Sun., 31 October 2010. The timing was made to coincide with the Fort Worth Alliance Air Show which 30 & 31 October and includes the Blue Angels. The Reunion Committee includes a bunch of FACs in the Ft Worth area to include **Jack Thompson**, Rustic 11. Reunion information can be obtained by going to the FAC Assn website: [www.fac-assoc.com](http://www.fac-assoc.com).

Many of you know that the FAC Museum and Veterans Memorial Air Park are owned and operated by the OV-10 Bronco Association. They are all located at Meacham Field. I know the Fort Worth folks are putting together a great reunion, so mark your calendars now and put those \$\$ aside and plan for a wonderful time.

### SHORT BURSTS:

**1) Rustic Website has a new host server.** **Lendy Edwards** recently found a great deal for our website. We now have a new three year contract with Network Solutions that costs only \$10 more than the previous annual fee for our old server. Well done Lendy!

**2) Telling the Rustic Story.** **Jerry Dufresne** is putting together a presentation on the Rustics from the backseaters' viewpoint (with photos) similar to what he gave to a museum in TX. He also hopes to publish a short magazine article about the backseaters from the 19th TASS.

**3) FAC Museum Update.** **Jim Hogdson**, OBA, announced that the two Certificates of Occupancy needed to open the FAC museum at Meacham Field, Ft Worth, TX have now been attained. This is a big step forward. Many of you have been involved in this process on many levels so please accept an Atta-Boy on behalf of all of us.

**4) Vietnam Memorial Virtual Wall.** Here is an awesome website (<http://www.virtualwall.org/iStates.htm>) which is a virtual wall of all those lost during the Vietnam War with names, bio's and other information on our lost comrades. First click on a name (or state and then the name.) When it opens, it should show you a picture or information of the person or at least his bio and medals. *(The Rustics are working to provide pictures to this website for each of our three KIA brethren. So far, we have family approval for Joe Gambino.)*

**5) Rustic Reunion Fund.** **Lendy Edwards** reports our "Reunion Fund" has a carryover balance of \$394.83 from the 2009 reunion. These funds will be maintained and reserved for our next Rustic reunion.

**6) Unofficial Rustic Patch.** **Jack Otis** ran across this patch on ebay and wondered if anyone else has seen it. Apparently, it is from an enterprising retired NCO who has a cottage industry in developing and selling patches.

**7) Do you want to know what happened to your O-2/OV-10?** **John Charlton** stumbled across this great website which lists ALL USAF aircraft Serial Numbers--1908 to Present and their current status. This may cause some to you to dig out your old form 5's or flight records. [http://www.joebaugher.com/usaf\\_serials/usafserials.html](http://www.joebaugher.com/usaf_serials/usafserials.html)

**8) Rustics on Youtube.** Thanks to **Doug Aitken** part of our Rustic history is now on Youtube.com for all the world to see. It is a audio taped airstrike mission controlled by **Aitken** and **Doug Norman**, Rustic Mike, that is superimposed over some actual Rustic home movie combat footage. Google the following to get to the Youtube site: [YouTube - Rustic FACs Cambodia 1972](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)



**RUSTICS ATTEND PHOENIX FAC LUNCHEON.** Several Rustics gathered at a recent Phoenix AZ mini-FAC luncheon. As you may know, the Arizona FACs are going to sponsor the 2012 All FAC reunion. The exact location has not yet been announced, but it will definitely be in either Phoenix or Tucson. **Jerry Dufresne**, Rustic India, has this report of their "Meeting:"

**Wayne St John, Jim Nuber** and I drove down to Phoenix together. Upon our arrival, I first needed a pit stop and who should I meet accidentally? I hit Mike Wilson with a bathroom door, and when I started to apologize, we made eye contact and started to laugh. This is what I call running into an old friend.

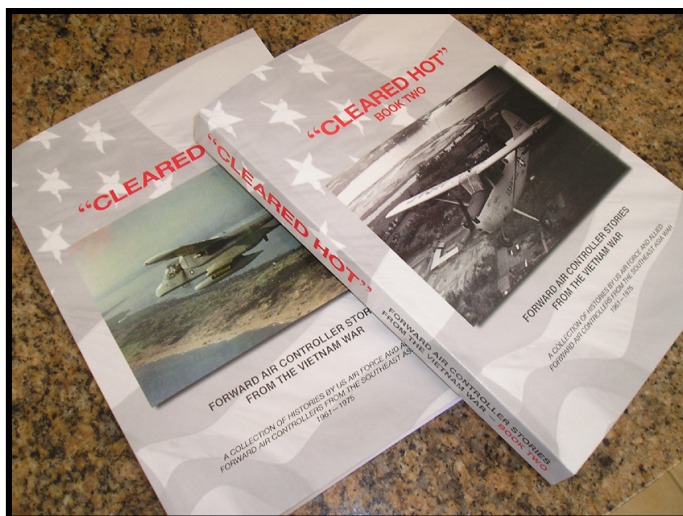
We all promised we would get together more often and enjoy the western mini-FAC Assn. group and their luncheons. We all keep busy with our families. **Jim Nuber** and I are planning a target shooting day soon and **Jim Seibold** and wife will spend a day

or two with Roselyn and I when he gets back from his cruise. Wayne lives in Cottonwood not far from us and we will also get together for dinner. In Nov. I think I will sponsor a local Rustic area get-together in Prescott (AZ.) Take Care, **Jerry**



**L to R: Rustics Jim Seibold, Mike Wilson, Jerry Dufresne, Jim Nuber, Wayne St. John and Nail FAC Tom McGrain**

**FAC HISTORY BOOK, VOL II NOW AVAILABLE** (Dennis Crouch, Pres FAC Assoc.) This is to let you know that the Table Top "Cleared Hot" Book Two is now completed and is on sale for a "dirt cheap" price of \$25.00 through the FAC Association website ([www.fac-assoc.org](http://www.fac-assoc.org)) and its link to [www.lulu.com](http://www.lulu.com). Just go to the FAC Association website and click on the link next to the FAC aircraft picture denoted as "**Books**" or at the bottom of the page denoted as "**FAC Book Project.**" You can also just click on the following link: <http://www.fac-assoc-org/book/book01.html>. As most of you are aware, Book Two is the follow-on to the original Table Top "Cleared Hot" book which has been on sale since 2008. These two volumes contain each and every story that was in the original "FAC History Book CD" and new ones as well. There is a total of 488 stories in these two volumes with 256 in Book Two and 232 in the original volume. If you bought the original "Cleared Hot" you know that it is perfectly suited for the Table Tops and make great gifts. They are both a superb addition to the FAC History Book CD and I hope you enjoy them. They are absolutely great.





I want to give a big thanks to **Peter Condon** for his leadership in putting “Cleared Hot” Book Two together, a repeat of his superb efforts on the original Cleared Hot book. To have all the stories from the original CD is a wonderful achievement and an important one. His leadership and hard work in this effort is enormously appreciated. I also want to thank the Section Leaders that spent many hours on both projects. This included **Charlie Pocock, Jim Roper, Mike Morea, Tim Eby, Ned Helm, Jim Gable, Bob Gorman, Chuck Johnson, Claude Newland** and **Al Matheson**. On behalf of Peter, a special thanks to **Jim Gabel** for the meticulous comprehensive effort and assistance he provided to Peter on the project. And finally, a BIG thanks to every one of you, the authors of each and every story. Without you there would be no books at all. Again, please go to the FAC Association website and link to lulu where you can buy “Cleared Hot” Book Two or “Cleared Hot” book one. You can also purchase additional FAC History Book CDs.

**DD FORM 214 -- SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFIT.** If you were on active duty between January 1957 - December 31, 2001, this could be important to you if you are planning for retirement. In a nutshell it boils down to this: Veterans qualify for a higher social security payment because of their Military service for active duty from 1957 through 2001 (the program was done away with 1 January 2002). Up to \$1200 per year of earnings credit credited at time of application - which can make a substantial difference in social security monthly payments upon your retirement. You must bring your DD-214 to the Social Security Office and you must ask for this benefit to receive it. This benefit is not automatic, you must ask for it! Soc Sec web-site: <http://www.ssa.gov/retire2/military.htm>

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

- 1) **2010 All FAC Reunion.** Ft Worth, Texas; 27-31 Oct 2010
- 2) **2011 Rustic Reunion.** Ft Walton Beach, FL, Date TBA. (most likely late Oct.)
- 3) **2012 All FAC Reunion.** Tucson/Phoenix, AZ; Date TBD

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

##### **From Gary Ball, Rustic 13**

Hi Claude, I just received the Dec 2009 issue of the Rustic News. It made me so happy. I'm now living in Trier, Germany with Waltraud “Wally.” I retired from Atlas in Dec 2006 at 60. All Rustics are welcome at our home. Come for a few days or longer. We'll give you a key. We're 30 minutes from Luxembourg, an hour from Metz, 2 hours to Frankfurt, and 6 hours to Munich. The beer and wein keller is always full. Please make the necessary changes to the Rustic database, then come see us! Gary Hettnerstrasse 9, 54295 Trier, Germany, Hm: +49-651-976-3933, Email: [gballtx@gmail.com](mailto:gballtx@gmail.com)

*Dick Wood recently received the following message from Mike Vrablick's younger sister, Tiffany:*

##### **From: Tif Rock**

My name is Tif Rock and my older brother 1st Lt **Michael Vrablick** [O-2 pilot] served in Cambodia in 1970, one of the two [Rustic] pilots that were killed near Kampong Cham on October 1st. His time there was extremely short (only 46 days in country); having been assigned no nickname, and flown only as support before his death. I knew no details of his death, including where he died for years, and when I chanced upon your book accidentally in 2004 it was an amazing journey to read so much of the individuals that shared the final weeks of his life.

I have lived with never ending internal turmoil that he was far from home, alone and had no idea what his final moments or hours were like. To learn in your book that he was treated with respect and compassion in death was an amazing comfort and has quieted some of that turmoil. Having this information finally gave me the

courage to visit The Wall and face the reality of his name engraved there, to grieve, to laugh, to remember and to finally begin to heal.

I also accepted and cherished the medals that I had denied, which unfortunately were all stolen when my house was burglarized. Once again I was aware of the amazing kindness and compassion of strangers as Sheriff Deputies and neighbors spent personal hours contacting pawnshops and searching online auctions for any trace of these treasured items. None of the awarded medals, his Eagle Scout award or other items that attached him to my life have ever been found.

I am now considering a trip to Cambodia, to see the country and to pay my personal respects to a land and a people that transitioned his soul so lovingly. I am in the process of researching and building my courage for the journey. I am not sure if you ever met Michael or were in Cambodia at the same time he was there, but if not I am hoping that you can direct me to someone who might have been. I would like to locate the place where his plane went down, where he was honored and be where my big brother and best friend departed from my life. Hoping you can help.

Whatever your response to this request, know that I am eternally grateful to you for the time and effort you took to chronicle the events of my brother's unit in Cambodia. You will never know the internal peace that you brought into my life. I am sorry that Michael did not serve longer with the Rustics, had they gotten to know him, I know he would have been liked and I will always wonder what nickname he would have been given. Thank you!

*Editor's note: **Tom Capps** and **Don Mercer** have been in touch with Tif and have shared some information about their return visits to Cambodia. Don also provided Tif information about his visit to her brother's O-2 crash site. Tiffany can be reached at: [muttirock@gmail.com](mailto:muttirock@gmail.com).*

#### **From Don Echelberger, Rustic 10**

Hi, Claude..We're in California at our daughter's. Her hubby (Chris) finished up the Navy Postgrad School in Dec and left for F-22 check out at Tyndall in early January. The Navy was good enough to let Irene + kids stay in the base house for the 4 months until he completes and they all go to Holloman (NM). They adopted a new born little girl last summer, and now have 3 (very busy) kids, so we drove over a month ago to help out and we're still here.

Hope all is well with the FWB/Destin Rustics, I miss getting together with you guys, and seem to always be in Iceland at reunion time. This week I'm having fun being a 'volunteer' at the AT&T Pro-Am Golf Tournament out at Pebble Beach. It's really a golf lover's paradise, but the weather hasn't been great. Regards, **Don**

*(Note: Since this message, Don has made a quick trip to Panama City, FL and stopped in for a brief visit and dinner with Claude and Tona Newland in Destin. Don is now back at home in Las Vegas, but he and Katrin are preparing to depart for Iceland for the summer.)*

**From Arthur Gooch** [art200216@yahoo.com] (*Initial Message was sent to **Dave Dekoker***): My name is Arthur and I have come across some transcripts from my father-in-law, **Ret. MSgt Emile H. Brunelle**, about the Rustic Program. My wife and I are very interested in what he did and his mission. I am sure he was invaluable, but he spoke little of what he did. If someone could correspond with us so that I could get to know him better, even though he has passed, he still lives with us and I feel he watched over me and my unit while I was in Iraq. So I am very pleased to know more about him. Sincerely,

PV2 **Arthur Gooch**, 101st ABN 506th infantry Curahee, Intelligence Analyst, [art200216@yahoo.com](mailto:art200216@yahoo.com)

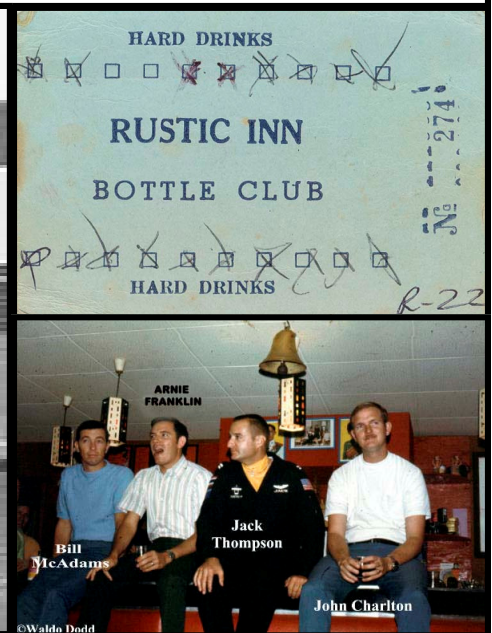
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*Editor's Note: **Dick Roberds** and **Claude Newland** have responded to Arthur and given him general information about the Rustics and Emile's interpreter role. Those of you who knew Emile, may want to contact Arthur yourself. I'm sure the family will be most appreciative.*

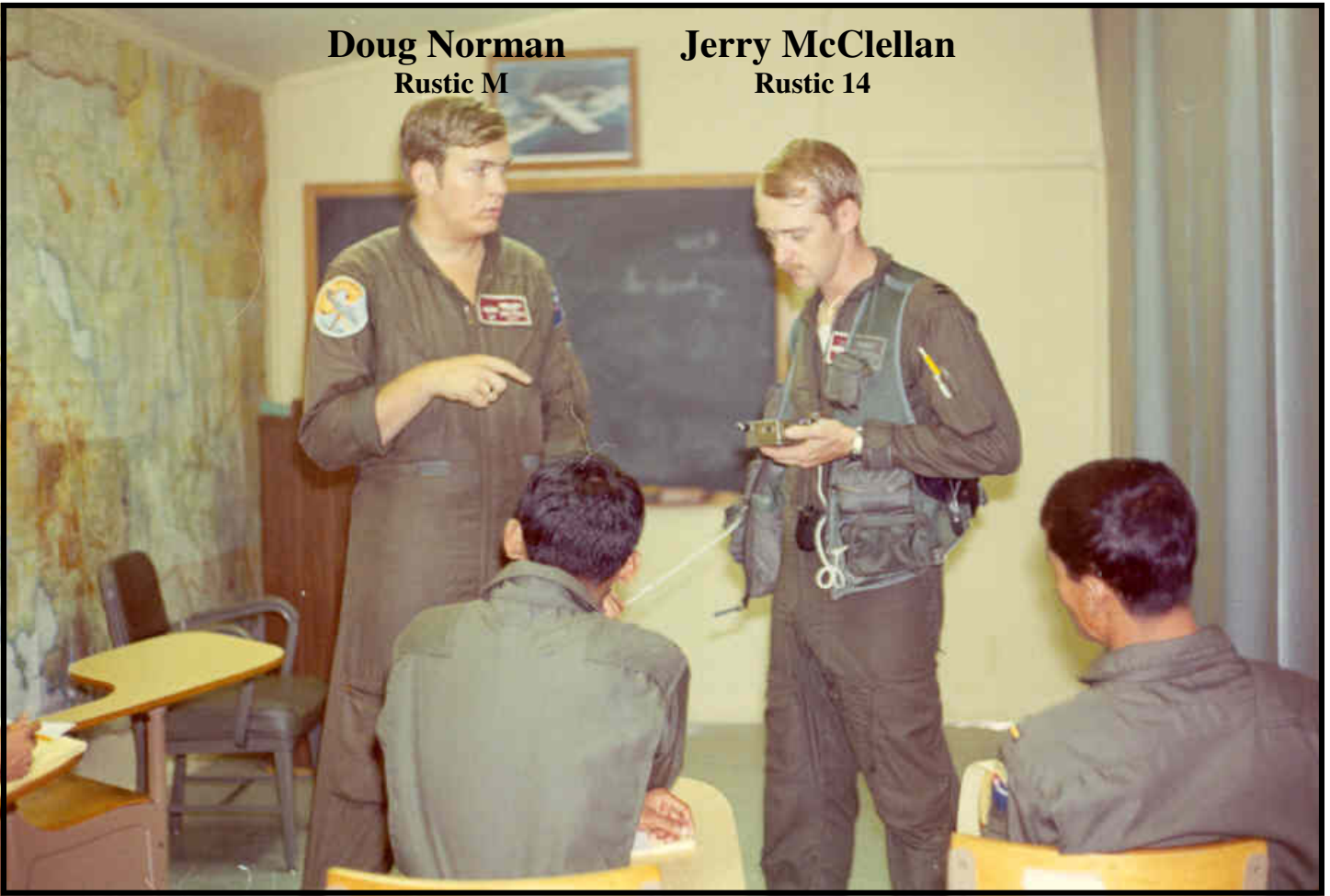
**From Barbara Dahlberg**, (Sent to **Doug Aitken** after Doug sent her a copy of the YouTube posting of the mission flown by her brother, **Doug Norman**, Rustic Mike.)

WOW! This was so awesome to listen to, again. The tears are still welling up in my eyes. Doug (Rustic Mike) brought home this hero tape and I remember listening to all 4 hours of it. "Sam" telling Rustic Mike about the Japanese [suicide] ritual was so sad. And at the other end of this emotional tape (for me) was at the beginning when my brother talked about "shooting the bird." So typical. **Doug Aitken**, you did a great job with this. I have forwarded the link to Rustic Mike's two kids. I know they will be so impressed with their dad's contribution. Thanks so much for posting this very important piece of history. I'm so proud to know you all - thank you. Love, **Barb [Dahlberg]** sister of **Doug Norman**, Rustic M.



**Doug Norman**  
Rustic M

**Jerry McClellan**  
Rustic 14



Rustic FAC Association  
4033 Indian Trail Drive  
Destin, FL 32541

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Volume 14, Issue 2

15 November 2010



# Rustic News



**www.rustic.org**



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**Rustic SEA Photo CD:** Ned Helms, ned@wingset.com

**Reunion Photo CD:** Jim Seibold, seiboldjim@aol.com

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

**ANNUAL RUSTIC NEWS.** This is the annual newsletter to all Rustics--to include those who are not Association members. However, if you are not a member, we hope you will consider joining so you can stay abreast of what is happening to your Rustic buds and the FAC community at large. A current Rustic Roster has been enclosed for each association member.

**2011 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE.** It's that time again. For those who are annual dues members, please use the enclosed Membership Renewal Form to renew your 2011 membership. Remember, it's your dues which sustain our operations and make our organization viable. The years are passing quickly and as we each extend our "Time-on-Station," on Tierra Firma, staying in touch with one another becomes a priceless gem so get your membership in today! Your membership expiration date is on your address label.

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**NEXT RUSTIC REUNION. 13-16 Oct 2011, Ft Walton Beach, FL., Ramada Plaza Beach Resort.** Start making plans now to attend the 2011 Rustic Reunion which will be the weekend after Columbus Day weekend. All Rustics, family and friends are invited. Reunion events will include sun, fun, golf, sunset sailing, seafood, camaraderie, a tour of Hurlburt Field, update briefings on worldwide Special Operations, a visit to see the new Osprey aircraft, and a tour of the FAC aircraft and FAC Memorial in the Hurlburt Air Park. The weekend will conclude with a awesome Rustic banquet. See you there!

**TREASURER'S REPORT (Don Ellis):** Our Association is doing well financially, but we are now "windchester" Cambodian Charity funds (see KPC Charity Report in this newsletter.) Please consider making a contribution to either the Rustic's Cambodian Charity fund or the Rustic's Kompong Cham Orphanage fund. Both contributions are tax deductible. Please use the enclosed 2011 Membership Renewal Form when submitting your contribution. Your dollars go a lot farther and accomplish a lot more when they are spent in Cambodia! Our association currently has 53 Life members and 28 annual members.

## ROSTER/PERSONNEL UPDATES:

**Richard "Zot" Barazzotto** 7111 Brandvista Ave, Dayton, OH 45424-3327

**Tom Calvinelli**

[tomcalvanelli@comcast.net](mailto:tomcalvanelli@comcast.net)

**Bob Crothers**

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**George Larson**

[rusticuniform2@yahoo.com](mailto:rusticuniform2@yahoo.com)

## **RUSTIC HEALTH REPORT (Thomas):**

1) **Ron Koeppel** made his final Flight West in September.

2) **Bob Harris** had surgery on June 14, 2010 for a malignant mass on his small intestine just past his stomach. Fortunately all of the cancer was found and removed plus his appendix. A few days later he was opened up again because his gall bladder needed removal. All in all, it took forty five days to get out of the hospital. It was a rocky road, but he is now doing fine.

3) **Roy Ecklund Update. 8 Oct report from Roy Jr.** ([gteklund@mchsi.com](mailto:gteklund@mchsi.com)) **to Ron Dandeneau.** Dad is doing ok. He is at home but the stroke has severely affected his quality of life. He is unable to walk, talk and drive. The stroke left his right side completely inop. He is mentally ok. He knows what's going on and can understand during conversation. He has caregivers 7 days a week. He did suffer from depression for a while but seems to be doing better now. Thanks for asking, Roy Ecklund, Jr

4) **Doug Aitken** had prostate surgery in mid Oct.

5) **Jim Seibold** had a total knee replacement in July.

6) **Nady Tan. Doug Aitken** reports he talked to Nady and his wife, Sara, in PP on 25 August. Nady is not well, though he sounded fine. He has had a stroke and has lost some memory but he remembered me. He is in and out of it according to Sarady, his son. Sara sounded fine. I have asked Sarady for mailing address for them as they don't have e mail and they want some pictures. Nady Tan's son, Col Sarady Tan, is still on active duty as a USAF Flight Surgeon. He is the deputy Chief, Aerospace Medicine Div. HQ AMC/SGP2 at Scott AFB, IL and is currently deployed to Southwest Asia.

**RUSTICS ATTEND ALL FAC REUNION. Another** All FAC reunion has held in Ft Worth, TX on 27-31 Oct. Eight Rustics were in attendance, plus some of their wives. **Dick and Liz Greene** came all the way from Australia to join in the festivities. **Gloria Auth** and her son, **Ed**, were also in attendance. Gloria's husband, **Jerry Auth**, flew the very *first* Rustic mission and this was the first FAC reunion she has been able to attend.

Highlights of the weekend included a city tour of Forth Worth, visits to museums and to the historic stockyard district for luncheon on Thursday. A membership meeting was held in the afternoon and **Phil Litts** was elected as the Association's new president. That evening everyone had dinner at the famed Joe T. Garcia Mexican restaurant in the Northside district. The big event on Friday was visiting the new FAC Museum at Meachem Field. Approximately 55 members were able to tour the Lockheed-Martin assembly plant where they are producing F-35s.

265 FACs and their guest attended the FAC banquet on Friday evening. **Howie Pierson**, Nail 01, was presented a painting of himself in honor of his service to the Nails and to the FAC community. **Dennis Crouch** was also recognized for his service as the president of the FAC Association for the past 6 years.

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Saturday was the spectacular and huge Alliance Air show which culminated with a flawless performance by the Navy's Blue Angels. The Bell Helicopter company graciously hosted the FACs at their Chalet tent and treated everyone to lunch and a ring-side seat for the many aerial displays. That evening, a number of the Rustics gathered at the Cattlemen's Restaurant at the Stockyards to have dinner together.

The final event of the reunion was a superb "Remembrance" service on Sunday morning which was MC'd by **Charlie Yates**. **Charlie Yates** was in the final 4 ship flyby at Ubon on 15 August 1973 when the Rustics and Nails closed out the SEA War. The service included a three ship flyby, Memorial Reflections by **Charlie Yates** and **Howie Pierson**, a roll call of the names of the 222 KIA FACs in SEA, and a bagpipes rendition of Amazing Grace. The nation's only traveling, working Liberty Bell was also in attendance and chimed as the roll call was made.



L-R Standing: Doc Thomas, Dick Greene, Tim Eby, John Charlton, Ned Helm  
L-R Sitting: Don Brooks, Claude Newland, Gloria Auth, Bill Carruthers, Randy Hetherington



Gloria Auth and son Ed

The next All FAC reunion will be in Tucson, AZ, in Oct 2012 and a number of Rustics are helping organize it.

#### **SHORT BURSTS:**

**1) Rustic Movies.** **Doug Aitken** recently received 30 rolls of 8 mm Rustic movies from **Clint Murphy's** estate and will be reviewing them for possible inclusion in the "Rustic Story" video.

**2) Rustic's SEA Photo DVD Still In Progress.** **Ned Helm** is continuing to collect photos for this project which has been the source of many of the new photos being added to our Revised Rustic-book. Contact Ned at: [ned@wingset.com](mailto:ned@wingset.com)



**3) Electronic Newsletter.** If you'd prefer to receive your Rustic News in color as an email attachment, contact **Claude Newland** at rustic19@cox.net or indicate same on the enclosed Membership Renewal Form.

**4) Rustic Archives.** **Doug Norman's sister, Barbara**, recently donated several of Doug's items to the Rustics Archives: two flight suits, two sets of short sleeved jungle fatigues, one small duffle bag and 29 35mm slides. Our Rustic Historian, **Jim Gabel**, will ensure Doug's pictures are added to our Rustic SEA Photo Album Project

**5) France.** **Jack Otis** and his family made a five week trip to France to visit friends and family in September. They returned on 7 Oct.

**6) Germany Travels.** **Lendy and Sue Edwards** attended the 2010 Passion Play in Oberammergau, Germany in June and visited Berlin and the former East Germany.

**7) Verizon Discount.** **Jim Seibold** says he faxed his DD Form 214 to Verizon, along with a cover sheet requesting that he be given their military veterans discount, and within a short period of time he received a 15% discount. *Any other discounts out there that anybody knows about?*

**8) Wedding Bells.** **Bill Carruthers** reports **Bill Lemke** got married Labor Day weekend.

**9) Walking the Beach.** **Bob and Dorte Clifford** returned from Denmark to their condo in Destin, FL for the month of November for their annual Fall visit to the United States. **Dick and Liz Greene** are now shopping for a condo in the same area so they can reside in the U.S. part time from Australia.

**AF OUTSTANDING UNIT AWARD (AFOUA) WITH "V" DEVICE.** Some months ago, one of our members noted that the website that listed SEA KIAs showed that Rustic **Joe Gambino** had received the AFOUA with "V ", and the Presidential Unit Citation. Our member was wondering if all Ubon Rustics had similarly received these awards? Ubon Rustic **Bill Ernst** took up the search with the National Personnel Records Center and here's his report:

I have not found any reference to an award of the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award (AFOUA) (with or without the "V" for valor) for the 23 TASS. I suspect that the mention of an AFOUA with the "V" device in the news release concerning **Capt. Joseph Gambino's** death was done in error. That award was given to the 505 Tactical Control Group. I have not found any evidence that the 23 TASS was assigned to that group.

It might be helpful if you could request information from those Rustics who served in the 23 TASS in the late 1960s. They may have knowledge about any AFOUA that might have been awarded to a Group or Wing that the 23 TASS was assigned to. Usually the Squadrons are included when a higher unit like a Group or Wing receives the AFOUA or the Presidential Unit Citation. Can you place a request for data in the newsletter?

*If anyone has information that might help clarify or resolve this issue, please contact **Bill Ernst** at: bternst@hawaii.rr.com or call 808-625-2545(Hawaii)*

**23 TASS PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION.** **Bill Ernst.** The PUC was awarded in 1977 to those who served in the 23 TASS during the period 01 April 1972 to 22 Feb 1973. The Special Order number is GB-046/77.

**1)To receive a copy of your AF records,** go to [www.archives.gov/research/order/standard-form-180.pdf](http://www.archives.gov/research/order/standard-form-180.pdf) and complete the form "Request Pertaining To Military Records." You can do that with a form 180. Block 14 shows where to send the request. It can be done electronically at: [www.archives.gov/veterans](http://www.archives.gov/veterans). In about 30 days I received a reply from the "National Personnel Records Center" which consisted of about 30 pages.

**2) DD Form 149.** Go to [www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/infomgt/forms/eforms/dd0149.pdf](http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/infomgt/forms/eforms/dd0149.pdf) (or Google "DD form 149") to receive a copy of the "Application for Correction of Military Record." Mail this form requesting the Presidential Unit Citation for your service in the 23 TASS.

**RUSTIC TOM CAPPS RETURNS TO CAMBODIA AND VIETNAM.** **Tom Capps** departed Raleigh, NC on 5 November for Bangkok and will return from Saigon on 26 November. His trip will include visits to Bangkok, Cambodia and Vietnam. He will spend two weeks in Cambodia setting up the first phase of a for-profit

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rice business using the Business As Mission (BAM) concept. The objective with BAM is to make to outreach to the Cambodian military self-supporting. Here's Tom's report on what this trip hopes to accomplish:

The first phase will involve the purchase of raw rice which we will have milled before bagging it for retail sale. It is likely that the point of sale will occur in Sisophon which is on Highway 5 about 47 miles east of Poipet which located on the western border of Cambodia. According to my host, Sareth, there are no retail sales outlets for rice in this city of approximately 30,000. The first phase of the business will also involve growing improved rice seed that we will obtain from the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) in Manila, Philippines. According to a scientist Sareth and I met at the Louisiana State University Rice Research Station, providing improved rice seed to farmers is the best way to improve their rice production. From the small amount of seed we receive from the IRRI, we will grow multiple crops of rice each year for a couple of years in order to generate enough seed to distribute to farmers. At that point, we will begin phase two of the business which will involve distribution of improved rice seed and fertilizer to farmers in order to help them improve crop production. Throughout the process, we will be training the farmers how to manage all aspects of their business. Sareth's father who has nearly forty years experience as a farmer and with the Department of Agriculture will be managing the business for us. Profits from the business will be used to train chaplains to work with the Cambodian military, subsidizing feeding of needy military families and subsidizing the education of children from needy military families. Sareth recently built a school for 500 children in his community where no school existed.

Following my visit to Cambodia, I will take the bus from Phnom Penh to Saigon where I will meet with Ngoc Huynh Man. Man works with Campus Crusade for Christ and is heavily involved with university students in the southern half of Vietnam. He has been able to rent three homes where 35 university students live inexpensively and safely. The large university in Saigon has 80,000 students but dorm space for only 5,000. I will be working with Man to plan construction of a 100-student dormitory that will be operated as Business As Mission. This concept involves a for-profit venture that will be used to support outreach to university students so that Man will not have to depend on contributions for his ministry.

*Tom Capps is hand carrying a copy of the Rustic Book to present to the Sunrise Ministry Staff at Kompong Cha on behalf of the Rustics. An Inscription has been placed inside the front cover thanking the staff for the work they are doing on behalf of the Cambodian people and for their assistance to the Rustics.*

**KOMPONG CHAM CHARITES AND ORPHANAGE (Edwards):** After careful consideration, the Rustic Board authorized all remaining Rustic Cambodian charity funds be sent to Sunrise Ministries in Kompong Cham in May 2010 to be used as follows:

*\$ 1,085 - for the Kompong Cham orphanage.*

*\$ 1,601.68 for Sunrise Ministries in Kompong Cham.*

Here's the latest report (3 Jun 2010) from **Samantha Baker Evens** on the work being accomplished by Sunrise Ministries with our Cambodian charity funds:

Hi Claude and Lendy-

I spoke to **Darany** [KPC Sunrise Ministry Director] today about the tutoring [at the orphanage] and their plan is to have the 18 youth who need the tutoring to finish high school come to Sunrise to get the money for the tutor and then bring back a receipt- so the orphanage itself won't be involved directly. Then periodically, our administrator, a young man named Chyy, will go to observe the students at the tutoring and will ask questions of them and the tutor to make sure they are attending regularly. **Darany** feels this will be sufficient accountability and I agree. She also reiterated the importance of the tutoring as this is tutoring that most parents would provide for their children to make sure they passed the exam but that these kids don't have access to because they are in the orphanage. She also assured me that the younger children in the orphanage are attending school and have the uniforms and materials needed. I believe a portion of the Rustics money has already been used for the school materials for them.

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The money for Sunrise will go to children affected by HIV/AIDS. We'll report more on both projects as they unfold.

Again, thank you so much for your generosity and your ongoing commitment to Southeast Asia. Sincerely, **Samantha Baker Evens**, InnerCHANGE Cambodia

**RUSTIC BLACK BOOK UPDATE.** The completely revised book, "The Rustics-A Top Secret Air War In Cambodia" is written and is being formatted for publication. It will have approx 600-650 pages (the original book had 265 pages) so you can see that this version will be a quantum leap ahead of the old book in content. It will be the most complete Rustic Story ever told! Approximately 75 new stories have been added, plus a lot of new photos and additional information in each chapter. The new book should be available before our Oct 2011 reunion.

**ZOT'S MOST EXCELLENT ADVENTURES.** **Zot Barrazoto** reports he spent several weeks in May and June this past summer with his friend, Dave, chasing tornados. He survived the ordeal, but his car needed a new windshield and required extensive hail damage repair. He traveled with a team of storm chasers who began their adventures in Tornado Alley near Manhattan, Kansas and then criss-crossed the country to OK, back to Kansas, back to OK, criss-crossed all over west Texas, into New Mex., back to west Texas, back to NM, back to Texas panhandle, up through Oklahoma, Kansas, Colorado, Nebraska and Wyoming, back to Kansas, into CO, then back to Kansas. And this covered only their journey from 10 May - 25 May! Some of their travels were spent tagging along behind Dr. Greg Forbes from The Weather Channel and Mike Bettes, a TWC reporter who was embedded with the Vortex 2 (V2) team.

Who says we can't have new adventures? ...talk about flying low and fast in the face of danger!



Zot, our wounded ride & Dave



The Tornado



The "First" Tornado



Zot's Poor Winshield



**REQUEST FOR ALL RUSTIC BACKSEATERS. From Rustic I, Jerry Dufresne:** I am preparing an article and up-coming book and request that any backseater who does not want to have their name mentioned in them to please let me know ASAP--before Jan 2011. I am also trying to consolidate a list of each backseater's # of missions and awards. I am planning to give the local VFW., FAC and AF Assn chapters a briefing on the 19th TASS Backseater Program during the war. If you have any information for me, or do not want to be mentioned by name, please contact me at: [jerandrose@q.com](mailto:jerandrose@q.com) Thanks, **Jerry D**

**CLEARED HOT—BOOK TWO. Peter Condon.** The FAC Association's 571 page table top "Cleared Hot" Book Two is now completed and on sale for a "dirt cheap" price of \$25.00 through the FAC Association website ([www.fac-assoc.org](http://www.fac-assoc.org)) and its link to [www.lulu.com](http://www.lulu.com). Just go to the FAC Association website and click on the link next to the FAC aircraft picture denoted as "Books" or at the bottom of the page denoted as "FAC Book Project." You can also just click on the following link: <http://www.fac-assoc-org/book/book01.html>.

As most of you are aware, Book Two is the follow-on to the original table top "Cleared Hot" book which has been on sale since 2008. These two volumes contain each and every story that was in the original "FAC History Book CD" and new ones as well. There is a total of 488 stories in these two volumes with 256 in Book Two and 232 in the original volume. If you bought the original "Cleared Hot" you know that it is perfectly suited for the table tops and make great gifts. They are both a superb addition to the FAC History Book CD and I hope you enjoy them. They are absolutely great.

*Both Vol I and Vol II contain the summary of the Rustic Story as written by Dick Wood and Book Two has approximately 80 pages of Rustic history and stories.*

**NIGHT RUSTICS CRUISE TO ALASKA. Don Mercer.** The 2010 Night Rustic Reunion to Alaska and Canada on board Holland America's ms Zaandam was a resounding success. The service on board, as well as an abundance of excursions ashore, enthralled everyone in attendance. A complete report of the trip can be found on the Night Rustic web site: [www.nightrustic.org](http://www.nightrustic.org)

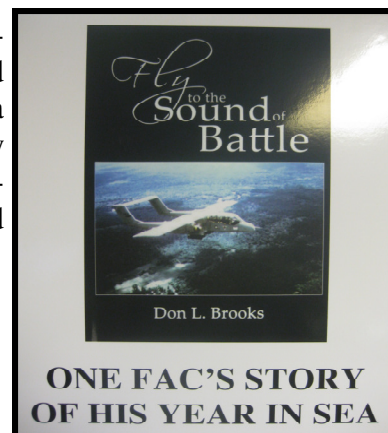
A Bon Voyage Party was hosted by **Drake and Suzie Greene** at their home in Tacoma on Thursday, July 22, the evening before setting sail. **Jeff and Michelle Boston** drove across the state of Washington from Richland, where they live, to join us. All in all, the party and cruise were a grand time together with great friends!



L -R going up the stairs by row are: First Row - **Margaret Shields, Vicky Litton, Linda Hull, June Hetherington**; Second Row - **Merle Shields, John Litton, Dave Hull, Jim Hetherington**; Third Row - **Lynn Davenport, Judy Strickland, Sue Dekoker, Noreen Mercer**; Fourth Row - **Mike Davenport, Jack Strickland, Dave Dekoker, Don Mercer**.



**ANOTHER PUBLISHED RUSTIC AUTHOR.** Don Brooks, Rustic 02, recently had his 265 page hardbound book "Fly to The Sound of Battle" published by [www.lulu.com](http://www.lulu.com) and it cost \$35. The book primarily covers Don's tour as a Rash and Rustic FAC in Southeast Asia but also recounts some of Don's early growing up years and duty in some interesting assignments in the Air Force before Vietnam. It's an interesting and entertaining read which you will want to add to your personal library. Well done, Don!



**FT WORTH MUSEUM DESIGNATED A BLUE STAR MUSEUM.** Jim Hogdson. The Veterans Memorial Air Park has been designated as a Blue Star Museum. This designation is a partnership among Blue Star Families, the National Endowment for the Arts, and more than 750 museums in all 50 states to offer free admission to military personnel and their families from Memorial Day, May 31, 2010, through Labor Day, September 6, 2010.

The Veterans Memorial Air Park recently renovated their new location at 3300 Ross Avenue on the south end of Meacham International Airport and was recently opened to the public. The air park is also the home of the



**"Kudy Jay" O-2A #418**



**FAC Museum**

Forward Air Controller's Museum and the B-36 Peacemaker Museum. The air park plans to be open twenty hours per week starting July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010.

*The Fort Worth Veterans Memorial Air Park and the Forward Air Controller's Museum is owned and operated by the OV-10 Bronco Association, a non-profit 501(c)3 organization dedicated to the preservation of historic combat aircraft and other aspects of military aviation. In addition, these groups strive to inspire youth to careers in aviation and provide various educational opportunities to the general public. Donations may be made directly to any of these organizations at PO Box 161966, Fort Worth, TX 76161.*

[www.cwr10.com](http://www.cwr10.com)

[www.facmuseum.org](http://www.facmuseum.org)

[www.ov-10bronco.net](http://www.ov-10bronco.net)

## **VETERANS MEMORIAL AIR PARK MAKING PROGRESS**

FORT WORTH, TX – September 16, 2010. The Veterans Memorial Air Park of Fort Worth with its growing collection of warbirds (currently 18) and many aviation artifacts is expected to opened on a 50-acre site at Alliance Airport in North Fort Worth.

W.B. "Zim" Zimmerman, Fort Worth city councilman (District 3) and president of the Fort

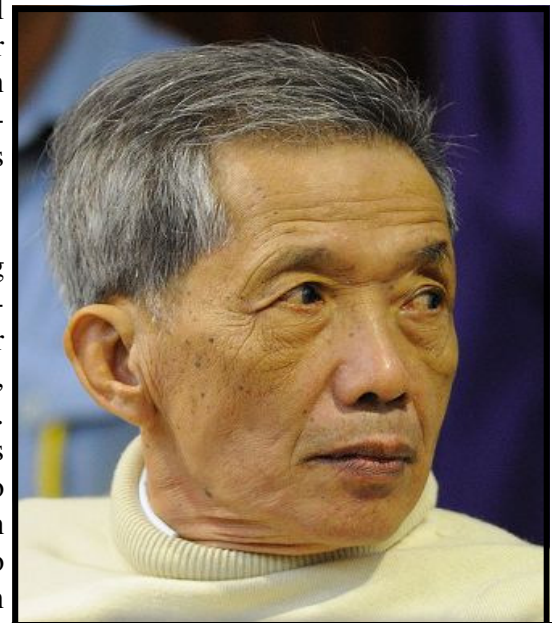
Worth Air and Space Museum, said the City of Fort Worth has budgeted \$115 million for the development of a world-class aviation museum. The museum is expected to open in 2015. Zimmerman was on hand at the Veterans Memorial Air Park (VMAP) on Sunday, September 12, when the city's newest museum opened its doors. Back in the 1960s Zimmerman took the right seat alongside the legendary test pilot Neil Anderson, during test trials of the fighter/bomber the F-111. And a few years later he flew back seat during trials of the then-new F-16, with its revolutionary fly-by-wire controls. Zimmerman retired as Vice President of Product Support at Lockheed Martin Tactical Aircraft Systems of Fort Worth in 1999.

"...just to make sure the instruments were all up and running," Zimmerman explained to this newsletter writer.

Congresswoman Kay Granger helped secure two of the OV-10s -- one had seen duty with the California Department of Forestry and the other in Alaska and worked its final days with the Fairbanks Bureau of Land Management.. Both of these aircraft had seen action during the Vietnam War.

**KHMER ROUGE BROUGHT TO JUSTICE?** In July a special UN-Cambodian criminal court sentenced the infamous Khmer Rouge Kaing Guek Eav, better known as Duch, to a 35-year prison term, with 19 years left to serve. Duch oversaw the torture and execution of at least 12,273 prisoners during the Pol Pot regime and was accused of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

But after spending much of the 77 days of court hearings expressing remorse, Duch is now appealing the sentence and asking to be released, claiming that he was neither one of the regime's leaders nor among those "most responsible" for the Khmer Rouge's atrocities, the only people the special court in Phnom Penh is entitled to try. This request reflects a dramatic last-minute shift in the defense's strategy, from cooperating with the court to disputing its authority to judge Duch. That Duch could undermine the trial and its outcome in this way highlights its central flaw: all along, he was allowed to dominate the telling, and so influence the judging, of his own crimes.



**Kaing Guek Eav "Duch"**

## LETTERS TO THE RUSTICS

**From Mike Gagne.** *Mike was in the US from mid July to 12. September -- dropping off his youngest son Jesse who will be spending a year in Augusta, Maine, in high school to improve his English.*

Hi Claude, Jesse is 16 and will be spending at least a school year at Cony High School in Augusta. He will be staying with some very good friends, Gerard Labbe and Holly Maffei, they live at 122 Sewall Street in Augusta. Holly is a Bursar at the University of Augusta and Gerard works part time at Barnes & Nobles, they are a great couple and have known Jesse since he was born, they spontaneously came forward insisting that Jesse come live with them. This is a bold and wonderful opportunity. It will certainly help Jesse improve his English and especially it will show him a different perspective of life, totally different from what he knows here [in France]. It will certainly be hard on us in the beginning, Jesse takes up a lot of room here but it will be good for him to see how "my other half lived." Thanks for your concern Claude and I greatly appreciate your support! Only the best, **Mike**

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**From Hank Keese:**

**Jim and Lynn Nuber** came over in September [to Belgium] as part of a trip they are making to trace Lynn's family. As for me coming back to the states, I usually make at least one trip back to the states each year. I was in San Antonio this spring to talk to my banker and tax folks. Speaking of trips back, I'm happy it was decided to have our own reunion next year. I know it is a big decision for you and Lendy since you guys end up doing all the work. I have done a few GLCM reunions over here in Belgium and I know what a hassle it can be. It will be good to make the trip back to FWB. Since my son lives in Atlanta I get to spend time with his family and see my two granddaughters on the way back. Take care, **Hank Keese**



**FAC Museum OV-10**



**FAC Museum**

## 2011 Membership Renewal Form

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

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

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

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I'd like to receive future Rustic Newsletters via email (versus snail mail (Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

### Amount Enclosed:

2011 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

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Total Amount Enclosed:

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

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