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Rustic News



www.rustic.org



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PRESIDENT'S REMARKS. Laura and I hope your 2021 is improving over 2020. We are planning to get out and travel much more this year to include the upcoming Rustic Reunion in October.

I want to update all of you on the past Rustic year and what we are looking forward to in the next few months.

Your Rustic Association Board of Directors convened its bi-annual Board meeting in April. Several important items were discussed and decided upon.

First, the Board discussed whether or not we should invest in continuing our Rustic Web Page for the foreseeable future. The options were to basically soon abandon the Web Page or pay a host vendor to keep it up for another 10 years. The Board decision was to continue the Web for the next 10 years. The overall thought is that our Web site has been one of our main links to the public to educate them on our historic past. Additionally, the site has been the occasional tool to find long-lost Rustics and connect with other veteran organizations.

Secondly, the Board agreed that we will discontinue our online Rustic Store which in the past has sold Rustic items such as decals, pins, coins, hats, shirts, etc. The demand for such items has greatly diminished and our current store is virtually depleted of inventory. However, members and families can still order Rustic Reunion hats and T-shirts via our Reunion Registration form (whether or not you attend the reunion).

Finally, I want to again remind all Rustics and families of our upcoming reunion this October in Tucson, AZ. More reunion information follows in this newsletter. I hope families and friends of Rustics who have taken the "Final Flight West" will also consider joining us. The reunion planning committee has been busy scheduling an interesting few days. I also want to remind all that the reunion will include our very important election of Rustic Board Officers who will serve for the next two years. I encourage all to consider volunteering to run for one of the Board positions: President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer, Historian, and three Directors positions. If anyone is interested in volunteering to be considered for any of these positions and/or has questions about these positions, please contact me at Rustic04@aol.com or call 719-282-9100.

Laura and I look forward to seeing you in October! And remember to "Keep the Pointy End Forward."



*Johnny Drury and Cambodian interpreter,
Maj. Thanh, Bien Hoa AB, 1971.*

ROSTER UPDATES (Edwards):

Leon D. Cardiff, Jr. 708 Heritage Dr, Oakland, MD 21550, 301-471-1607 (C), heyblue77@gmail.com
Roger Hamann 3023 Borassus Dr., New Smyrna Beach, FL 32168, 207-576-7815
Jim Nuber jnubes05@gmail.com

RUSTICS CONTINUE TO SUPPORT CAMBODIAN CHARITY IN KOMPONG CHAM. (Nuber) The Rustics FAC Association recently made our annual \$2,000 contribution to our Sunrise Cambodian Charity in Kompong Cham. This was accompanied by a \$500

anonymous Rustic donation. We also received generous contributions totaling \$900 from some of our stateside Cambodian next-of-kin of Col Oum who want to help support our Cambodian aid efforts.

If you would like to support our ongoing efforts to aid the Cambodian people, please consider making a contribution. Send your check (payable to "The Rustics" and earmarked for "Cambodian Charity") to our treasurer, Jim Nuber, at: 1439 Evening Shade, Prescott, AZ 86305-6432. A contribution can also be included on your Reunion Registration Form. Jim will send you a charity contribution statement which will make your contribution tax deductible.

2021 RUSTIC REUNION, 21-24 OCT, TUCSON, ARIZONA.

Come join us for a great reunion in beautiful Tucson, Arizona. The reunion Registration Form is at the end of this newsletter. Please mail your registration NLT 20 September 2021. Daily temperatures: high 85 degrees and low 55 degrees.

REUNION HOTEL Make reservations NLT 30 Sep 2021 at the Desert Diamond Hotel and Casino by calling: 877-777-4212 or 520-342-3012. Reference the: "Rustic Forward Air Controller Reunion" for our group rate.

Room rate is \$115/night + 12.5% tax + \$2 occupancy tax, single or double occupancy. Rate includes a daily \$10 meal credit/per person. Meal credits cannot be bundled or used for the banquet.

Our room rate is guaranteed until 30 Sep. and 3 days prior and 3 days after the reunion. Cancellations must be made 24-hours in advance of reservation. Free parking. Hotel check-in time after 3 pm.

REUNION NOTES:

Hotel Shuttle Service To/From Airport (Monday-Sunday, 6:30am-10:30pm). 1. Pickup baggage up at baggage claim 2. Call hotel: 520.342.300 or 520.342.3100. 3. Guest will be instructed to walk out the main doors and go across BOTH streets. To the right you will see the pickup areas. The Hotel pick up areas are on the righthand side. 4. Please wait there until you see the complimentary Desert Diamond Shuttle Van.

Reunion Transportation to all reunion events will be by carpooling in POVs and a rental van, if needed.

Thursday, 21 Oct.

The Pima Air & Space Museum is one of the world's largest non-government funded aerospace museums. The museum features a display of nearly 300 aircraft spread out over 80 acres on a campus occupying 127 acres. It has also been the home to the Arizona Aviation Hall of Fame since 1991. Pay entrance fee at the museum. Cost \$12.95.

AMARC Boneyard Tour. Davis-Monthan AFB has been used to store military aircraft since World War II and is now the largest military aircraft boneyard in the world. Unfortunately, Boneyard tours from the Pima Air & Space Museum have been cancelled indefinitely at the Air Force's request due to Covid 19. If you are interested in going on a tour (if they are resumed), indicate so on your Reunion Registration Form and we will get back to you with details once we have an update. **Tours must be reserved in advance.** **Cost: \$20.00.**

Friday, 22 Oct.

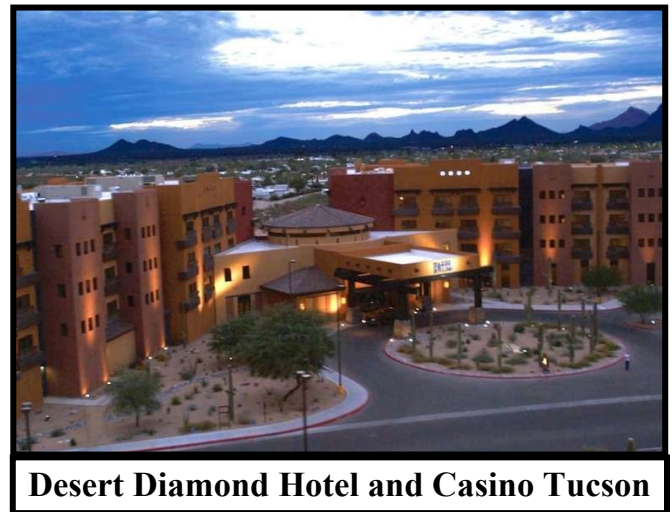
The Sonoran Desert Museum is a world class exhibition which interprets one of the most diverse deserts on earth, and the surrounding biological communities--21 acres, 230 animal species, 1,200 types of plants, 56,000 individual specimens, and a comprehensive regional mineral collection.

Unfortunately, **Old Tucson**, the Western-themed attraction that was the filming location of more than 400 feature-films and TV shows, is extending its closure indefinitely (due to Covid -19 repercussions) with its future to be determined by Pima County. If it reopens, we will visit it on Fri afternoon, 22 Oct. We are working on an alternative activity, possibly a visit to Davis-Monthan AFB or just lounge around the pool.

Saturday, 23 Oct.

Mission San Xavier del Bac is a national historical landmark and the only remaining intact mission in Arizona. It was founded in 1692 and is considered the finest example of Mexican Baroque architecture in the United States. Tour and video provided. No admission fee.

The **Titan II Missile Museum** is a former Top Secret ICBM Cold War-era missile silo with guided tours & exhibits. It's a National Historic Landmark, the last of 54 sites that were on alert across the United States from 1963 to 1987. Rustic **Doug Aitken** had a tour in one of those silos.



Desert Diamond Hotel and Casino Tucson



Mission San Xavier del Bac

RALPH DOW, RUSTIC D, TAKES FINAL FLIGHT. (Allan Dow, allandow01@gmail.com, Mar 9.2021.)

Hello, I'm **Allan Dow**, **Ralph Dow's** brother. Your email address was in Ralph's contact information, so I feel you should be informed. It is with a heavy heart that I report that Ralph passed away at his residence on Saturday, March 6 2021. He lived a good life and he will be greatly missed by his family and friends. I hope you can see this attachment of his obituary.

<https://obituaries.fiddleheadfocus.com/obituary/ralph-dow-1081761062>. Thank you, Allan Dow

Slow hand salute for a fellow warrior, patriot, and gentleman.



AMAZON AND DOUG AITKEN'S REVIEW OF NAIL FAC DARREL WHITCOMB'S NEW BOOK - "Moral Imperative: 1972 Combat Rescue, and the End of America's War in Vietnam."

Amazon's summary of book:

"In 1972, America was completing its withdrawal from the long and divisive war in Vietnam. Air power covered the departure of ground forces, and search and rescue teams from all services and Air America covered the airmen and soldiers still in the fight. Day and night these military and civilian aircrews stood alert to respond to "Mayday" calls. The rescue forces were the answer to every man's prayer, and those forces brought home airmen, sailors, marines, and soldiers downed or trapped across the breadth and depth of the entire Southeast Asia theater. *Moral Imperative* relies on a trove of declassified documents and unit histories to tell their tales.

"Focusing on 1972, Darrel Whitcomb combines stories of soldiers cut off from their units, advisors trapped with allied forces, and airmen downed deep in enemy territory, with the narratives of the US Air Force, Army, Navy, Marines, contract pilots, and special operations teams ready to conduct rescues in Laos, Cambodia, North Vietnam, and South Vietnam. All of these missions occur against the backdrop of our withdrawal from the war and our diplomatic efforts to achieve a lasting peace. In detail, Whitcomb shows how American rescue forces supported the military response to the North Vietnamese's massive three-pronged invasion of South Vietnam, America's subsequent interdiction operations against North Vietnam, and ultimately the strategic bombing of Linebacker II."

Doug Aitken's review on Amazon:

"I was a Forward Air Controller based at Ubon RTAB, Thailand during 1972, thus this title immediately attracted my attention. The degree of research performed by author Whitcomb is extensive and thorough. As I read each chapter, I referred many times to the bibliography. I found the quotations from North Vietnamese documents very interesting. The courage, initiative, and resourcefulness of the rescue units of all the services makes me proud to have served and flown there. All pilots knew that if one was shot down, the rescue experts would do their best to pick you up. This book verifies that. As an Air Force pilot, I was very familiar with USAF rescue resources, but this book enlightened me on the extensive US Navy rescue forces and the work they did in the Gulf of Tonkin. The author also highlights the many, many US Army helicopter force's rescues and their willingness to immediately head to a downed pilot for attempted rescues. Finally, the book contains a very useful Glossary and Index, to accompany the previously mentioned bibliography. For anyone interested in the Vietnam conflict, I think this book would be a must read."

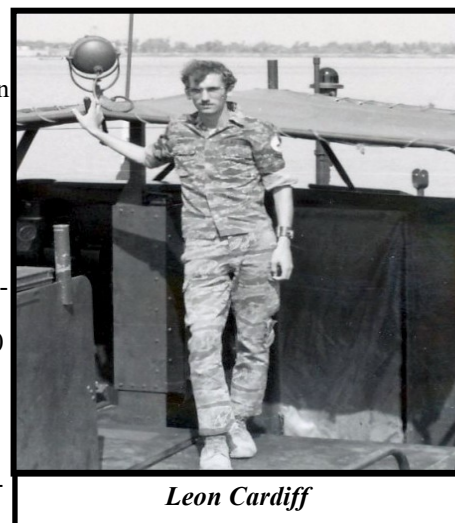
FOUND-RUSTIC ALPHA RADIO OPERATOR LEON CARDIFF, SMSgt Ret.

Leon recently discovered us via our Rustic website. He can be reached at: hey-blue77@gmail.com. [Here's his comments:](#)

Gentlemen, I was a ground radio operator that worked at Rustic Alpha on Nui Ba Dinh in 1970 being the relay to 7th TACC (Blue Chip) and filled in at the facility there at Rustic Control at Bien Hoa AB during a personnel shortage. I was assigned to the 22nd, 19th, and eventually 20 TASS (May 1970 - Dec 1971).

I also worked at III DASC (Pawnee Target) as well as being deployed on different missions. Among them was deployment to Tan Chau near the Cambodian border in IV Corps Jan of 1971 to support the river convoy resupply of Phnom Penh. I was doing some research, for my own memory and came across the declassified document on the convoy operation. If you'd like a copy of this document, please contact me. I suspect there were Tilly FAC's (at Binh Thuy - short time working IV DASC in Can Tho) as well as O-2 and OV-10 Rustics working this mission.

I feel that reading how the ROE's changed on this mission especially near the end for engaging is VERY interesting. My job at Tan Chau with a FAC (Maj Thorton) was just the ships getting together at the border before heading upriver. We provided no direct support or help once they crossed the border as our com ability at night from there was limited compared to your contact with Batcat/Ramrod (ABCCC's) or Rustic Alpha for relay. Thanks, Leon





*Rustic Alpha radio site on top of
Nui Ba Dinh mountain, Vietnam.*

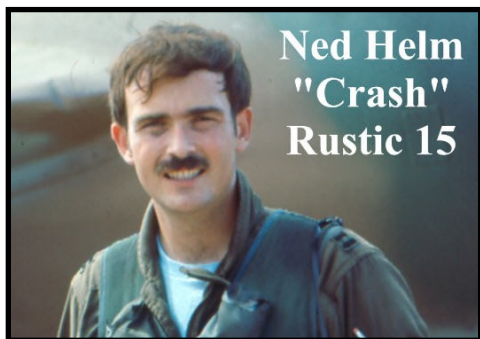


Doug Robertson's OV-10 model purchased from FACM.

O2-A AND OV-10 AIRCRAFT IN THE BONEYARD, Davis-Monthan AFB, 15 Jan 2021:

Aircraft	Serial #:	Received Date:
O2-A	00680865	5/2/94 for first six 02s listed
	00680971	
	00686889	
	00686900	
	00697608	
	00697612	
	67021360	10/30/79
OV-10	67018903	12/11/91 None are Rustic tail numbers.
	67018923	7/30/92
	68015940	12/11/91
	68015942	12/11/91
	68015955	7/30/92

RUSTIC TRIVIA. Rustic 15, Ned "Crash" Helm was Doug Aitken's T-37 student in B Flight at Columbus AFB in Class 71-02. Doug received a plow-back T-37 IP assignment when he graduated from Class 68-G at Reese AFB. He had asked for a F-100 assignment to Myrtle Beach. He said the Air Force must have figured Columbus AFB was close to Myrtle, so they sent him to Columbus AFB when it changed from SAC to ATC in 1969. Doug went to SOS in the Fall of 1970 and got orders to the OV-10 while there. He started training at Hurlburt in Jan 1971. At the time he smoked a pipe, however, he gave up the pipe while in Southeast Asia.



*Doug Aitken, Rustic16, with
pipe in hand, instructing an
unnamed student in the T-37
simulator at Columbus AFB*

LETTERS TO THE RUSTICS

From Greg Friex, Rustic 18, Dec 2020

Claude, always enjoy the newsletter.

I am hoping to make it to the next reunion..."Good Lord willing and the creek don't rise." Schedule should be more flexible now that I'll be an ORRG....old really retired guy. Have taught my last class meetings. We sent the students home for Thanksgiving Break....and some more. This is "study week"....no assignments of any kind. Next week is finals. Mine are written. Grading them is my last "official act" before a 12/31 retirement. I have volunteered (you'd think I'd learn), to come back in January to train some faculty on use of the classroom tech. (Despite my age and "old fart" status, I have been using the stuff for 12+ years and helped develop training last summer before the "weird" fall semester.) I have students in class, on Zoom synchronously, and several asynchronous...including California...piece of cake...and Hong Kong.

Has still been fun...but frustrating. Tech has worked great, but I have always enjoyed relationships with the students in the past. Has not happened this semester. In class students are masked...me too...the US burka. Tough online and impossible asynchronous. And...no office visits to discuss the course and life in general. But... have had compliments on the course, so I guess not all is lost. One student who just got hired told me he used his class learning almost verbatim in his interview. One group gave me a "retirement" chocolate cake at the last class meeting. Had their eyesight been better, it would have been weight watchers!

Best to you, Tona, and family. BTW...do the math, Claude. We came home from Vietnam 50+ years back earlier this year!! Hope you had a great Thanksgiving and even better Christmas and New Year. Greg

PS...Still a "bucket list" item is a trip to Australia to see folks and visit "my" aircraft, #639. Have just shy of 100 hours in her at Bien Hoa and Shaw...with my name on her at both locations. Shall see. Aussie Ken Semmler tells me the restoration, almost complete, went on hold with a grander refurbishment of the AWM. Got out-prioritized. Last images he sent looked really great.

From Don Echelberger, Rustic 10, Dec 2020

Hey guys, thought I'd pass on a bit of news you may have already heard about -- Mirage F-1 jets coming to Tyndall/Eglin AFB. Our son-in-law Chris Kane, who retired in June, was hired by ATAC to start up the first unit at Tyndall that will eventually transfer to Eglin.

Chris is bringing back the first one of a total of six tomorrow, and has been busy organizing support, maintenance, logistics and pilots. Wish I was 50 years younger! Some guys get all the fun.

Airborne Tactical Advantage Company (ATAC) announced it received a third contract for adversary air live training, using its fleet of Mirage F1, in a first round of six contracts awarded by the Pentagon. Before the end of October 2020, the company will begin adversary air live training with pilots of the United States Air Force.

On September 29, 2020, ATAC announced it had been awarded a contract to train with the F-22 and F-35 pilots of the United States Air Force at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida. "The award is the last of an initial round of 6 operating locations (OLs) the Air Force has selected," said ATAC, subsidiary of the U.S. consortium Textron. Best Regards, Don

From Larry Driskill. Rustic 35, Nov 2020 (Lubbock, Texas)

Life is good. I shoot and hunt quite a bit and I have a Citabria. I fly about 100 hours a year. To finance my toys, I build custom homes and do remodels. I plan on drawing the construction work way down after 2021. But I have had that plan before.

I have good fun and meet aviators camping out. I flew to Idaho in 2018 for some canyon/mountain flying instruction with Amy Hoover and then camped there at Johnson Creek. Idaho is the premier state for back country flying. The photo is from Arcadia, maybe the best public flying/camping field in Florida. Texas is short of camping fields, but New Mexico has several including 3 or 4 in the Gila Wilderness. It is neat to fly to places where you can only get there flying, walking or by horseback. Sincerely, Larry



Larry Driskill's campsite and Citabria aircraft N7574F in Florida.

From Jerry Dufresne, Rustic I



I made this patch collage from the flags off our Ben Hoa party suit, circa 1970. The enlisted crew member wings and Rustic FAC patch are from my flight suit. The III-DASC Task Force patch and my name tag is off my fatigues. If anyone wants to copy and replace the name on the bottom, they are welcome to do so. Jerry, Rustic India

CALENDER:

Rustic FAC Reunion, Oct 21-24, 2021, Tucson, AZ

BroncoFest XIII, Nov 10-14, 2021, Ft Worth, TX. Contact Angela Bennett, 214-601-8055 or aengele@ftwavaiaion.com.

NKP Reunion 2, Nov 11-13, 2021, Ft Walton Beach, FL.

Website: <http://NKPgoneButNotForgottenReunion.myevent.com>

A-37 Reunion, Spring 2022, Holiday Inn, Ft Walton Beach, FL

2021 REUNION - SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

DATE/TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION or NOTES
WEDNESDAY, 20 OCT		
1730-2200	EARLY ARRIVAL'S PRE-PARTY	Mike & Sherry Wilson's home. 1730-Meet in hotel lobby. Depart 1745
THURSDAY, 21 OCT		
0600-1030	BREAKFAST – on your own	Hotel/Casino Restaurant
0830-1500	PIMA AIR & SPACE MUSEUM Boneyard Tour at 1100 (1:45 minutes)	Meet in Hotel lobby at 0830 (Carpool) Has been indefinitely cancelled.
0900-1100	HOOCH SET-UP	Hooch (4 th floor)
1100-1800	REGISTRATION/HOOCH OPEN	Hooch
1600-1700	EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING	Hooch/Location TBA
1730-2030	DINNER, Mama Louisa's Italian Rest. Order from menu (Rustic seating area)	1730-Meet in hotel lobby; Depart 1740
2100-2120	OFFICIAL WELCOME	Hooch
2130-2200	BANQUET COORDINATION MEETING	Hooch/TBA
FRIDAY, 22 OCT		
0600-1030	BREAKFAST – on your own	Hotel/Casino Restaurant
0800-1130	SONORA DESERT MUSEUM Coffee, muffins, & snacks available at cafe 1130-Depart Museum	Meet in hotel lobby at 0800; Depart 0810
1230-1530	DAVIS-MONTHAN AFB 1230-Lunch 1330-Mission Briefing	1530-Depart Davis-Monthan AFB
1630-1800	FREE TIME	
1800-2000	DINNER (Hotel/casino Restaurant-TBA) -Order from menu (Rustic seating area)	Meet in hotel lobby at 1800
2000-TILL	HOOCH OPEN	
SATURDAY, 23 OCT		
0600-1030	BREAKFAST – on your own	Hotel/Casino/ Restaurant
0800-1000	HISTORIC MISSION SAN XAVIER del BAC 0820-Guided Tour & Video 1000-Depart Mission	Meet in hotel lobby at 0750. Depart at 0800
1020-1215	TITAN II MISSILE MUSEUM 1030-Briefing & Tour (1:15 min) 1215-Depart Museum	Green Valley, AZ
1230-1345	LUNCH-MANUEL'S MEXICAN RESTAURANT -Order from menu. Rustic seating area	Green Valley, AZ
1500-1630	RUSTIC BUSINESS MEETING/ELECTIONS	Hooch
1630-1700	BANQUET SET-UP	Hotel Banquet Rm
1800-1845	BANQUET HAPPY HOUR—CASH BAR --Individual & couple photos by Jim Seibold	Hotel Banquet Rm Dress: Business Casual, Tie Optional.
1845-1900	GROUP PHOTOS	Hotel Banquet Rm
1900-2130	DINNER BANQUET	Hotel Banquet Rm
2130-TILL	HOOCH OPEN	
SUNDAY, 24 OCT		
0600-1030	FAREWELL BREAKFAST - on your own	Hotel/Casino Restaurant
Noon	HOOCH CLOSSES	

See you in Tucson!

REGISTRATION FORM

RUSTIC REUNION, 21-24 October 2021

Please print all information and return with payment **NLT 20 Sep 2021.**

Name _____ Nickname (for name tag) _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone (____) _____ E Mail _____

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

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

Approx. time of day: _____ Coming by: Car _____ Air _____ Rental Car _____

I'm arriving at Tucson Intl Airport (TUC) Time: _____ Flight Number: _____

If unaccompanied, I am interested in sharing a room/expenses with another Rustic? Yes _____ No _____

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

I'm willing to help man the Rustic hooch for a couple of hours, if needed. Yes _____

I/we will be attending the early arrival pre-party on Wed, 20 Oct., 6 pm. Yes _____

I'm bringing memorabilia for display in the Rustic Hooch. Yes _____

I/we would like to take the Boneyard tour if they start them again in October. Yes _____

I won't be attending the reunion but would like the items ordered below mailed to me. Yes _____

REGISTRATION FEES

	<u>Cost:</u>	<u>Number:</u>	<u>Sub-total:</u>
Registration Fee:	Rustic \$30.00; Guest \$25.00	x _____	= \$ _____
Early Arrival's Pre-Party	Wed., 20 Oct., PM \$ 18.00	x _____	= \$ _____
Sonora Desert Museum	Fri., 22 Oct., AM \$ 15.00	x _____	= \$ _____
Titan II Missile Museum Tour	Sat., 23 Oct., AM \$ 12.50	x _____	= \$ _____
Banquet	Sat., 23 Oct., PM \$ 55.00	x _____	= \$ _____
Contribution to Cambodian Charity Fund (Tax deductible):			\$ _____

Reunion Memorabilia Items:

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

T-Shirts have the Rustic logo on the front and artwork on the back. Golf shirts have the Rustic logo on the front.

All shirts are available in unisex only.

Navy Blue Poly T-Shirt	Med _____ LG _____ XL _____ XXL _____	\$18.00	x _____	= \$ _____
White Poly T-Shirt	Med _____ LG _____ XL _____ XXL _____	\$18.00	x _____	= \$ _____
White Poly Golf Shirt	Med _____ LG _____ XL _____ XXL _____	\$28.00	x _____	= \$ _____
Rustic Coin		\$10.00	x _____	= \$ _____
Rustic Maroon Baseball Cap with logo: S/M _____ M/L _____ L/XL _____		\$18.00	x _____	= \$ _____

Note: Hat sizes (S/M 7 1/8-7 3/8) (M/L 7 3/8-7 5/8) (L/XL 7 5/8-7 7/8)

Shipping costs if not attending reunion: Hat(s): \$4.00; hat(s) & shirt \$7.00 x _____ = \$ _____

TOTAL TO REMIT: \$ _____

Please make a file copy for yourself of this completed form.

Mail Registration Form and check (payable to "Rustics") NLT 15 Sep 2021 to:

Lendy Edwards, 11 Poplar Avenue, Shalimar, FL 32579 (Questions? Call 850-651-6766.)