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15 September 2008



Rustic News

www.rustic.org

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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. 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 or **Doug Aitken** at: 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

bleydorf@charter.net

rdbrown@ocwafd.org

rolaid@bellsouth.net

sabramorneault@wmconnect.com

fylogs@crosslink.net

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.

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**



The Black (night bird) O-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. 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, **Nouppaul**, 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) **100th 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 O-2 Website.** A new web site dedicated to the history of the O-2 is active at: 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 "Whoopie!" 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 1/2 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 .

Here's a link describing the current conflict: 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 waitingand usually produced secondaries....and Intel NEVER wanted to hear about it...and I NEVER talked about it...until

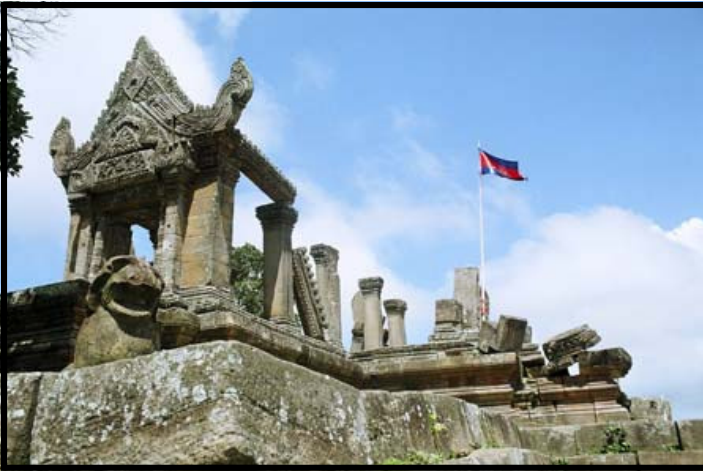
Lendy and I happened on the subject awhile back.....So to speak it was spooky....like a **Steve Canyon** comic book

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 "Winchestered"...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 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

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.

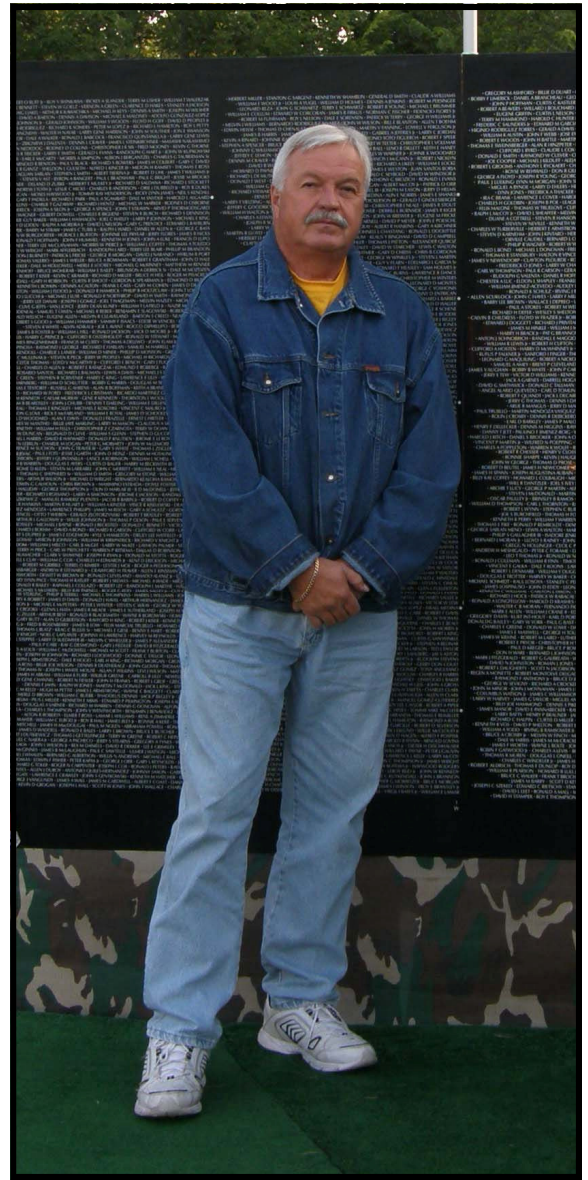
There were two of us on the mountain, we split the night. We picked up the air over Cambodia around 4:30 pm till about 7 am. The other guy that was up there with me was **Denny Lizardas**, not sure of the spelling, he was from the Chicago area.

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 or 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. 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
- 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: _____

	<u>Amount Enclosed:</u>
2009 Annual Dues of \$20.00	\$ _____
<u>Lifetime Membership</u> 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