

Volume 16, Issue 2

1 Dec 2012



Rustic News



www.rustic.org

President: Claude Newland, Rustic19@cox.net
Vice President: Johnny Drury, Rustic04@aol.com
Secretary/Treasurer: Jim Nuber, jnubes@cableone.net
Historian: Jim Gabel, jagabel@aol.com
Website/Database: Lendy Edwards, Rustic20@cox.net
Search Committee: Rog Hamann, RusticYankee72@aol.com

Director: Jim Reese, jimboree@bellsouth.net
Director: Tom Capps, cappstom@gmail.com
Director: Don Mercer, Rustic41@earthlink.net
Rustic SEA Photo CD: Ned Helms, rusticfac15@gmail.com
Reunion Photo CD: Jim Seibold, seiboldjim@aol.com
Health & Wellness: Doc Thomas, shialary@msn.com

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER. This is the Rustics annual newsletter and is being sent to ALL Rustics whether you are a member of the association or not because we want to stay in touch with each one of you.

If you are receiving this newsletter in paper form, it is because we don't have a current email address for you. *If you have an email address, please send it to Lendy Edwards*, Rustic Database Keeper, at lendy@cox.net. This will help us reduce publishing and postage costs in the future. *Thanks.*

If you are not a current member, Lifetime Membership is now only \$100. (We no longer accept annual dues.) This is a real bargain which allows you to support the association, stay in touch with your buds (priceless), and hear more about future reunions.

To join, send \$100, payable to "Rustics", to Jim Nuber, our treasurer, to 1439 Evening Shade. Prescott, AZ 86305.

2013 RUSTIC REUNION. Our next reunion will be 12-15 September, 2013, in beautiful Colorado Springs, Colorado. Reunion Registration forms will be mailed out in June 2013. A great weekend of activities is being planned which will include a local area tour, a visit to the FAC Memorial in downtown Colo. Springs, a tour of the USAF Academy, golf, a possible USAFA football game, a banquet and much, much more.

This is the farthest west we have held a reunion so those of you on the west coast who have not yet attended a reunion should make a special effort to get to this one! These gatherings are priceless. We will be staying at the Academy Hotel, just off base from USAFA.

We may also have some special guests in attendance. **Scott Walker**, chairman of the International Khmer Assembly, has confirmed they would like to send several IKA representatives to our reunion to thank the Rustics for supporting their recent resolution before the Minnesota legislature (which was approved.)

Start making plans now to attend. If you have any suggestions or questions, please contact **Johnny Drury** at: Rustic04@aol.com or 719-282-9100.



Pikes Peak towering behind the Garden of the Gods in Colorado

COLORADO SPRINGS FIRES. Don Mercer, R-41, reports Mick Gibbar (O-2 Rustic) was fine and lost nothing, although the fires at one point got within eight blocks of his home. Tim Eby, R-40, (FAC newsletter editor) reports only one FAC lost his home - Rick Worrel, a '68 USAFA grad Pleiku Covey who lost just about everything. To our knowledge no Rustics were adversely affected. Don Haller, R-18, evacuated but his house is OK. Don Brooks, R-02, made out OK. He was well away from the fire but could sure see it from his place.

Other FACs: Jimmie Butler evacuated but his home was spared. Charlie Pock was packed and ready to sprint but never did. Ken Roper and Ken Blutt were fine. Many of them had a close call. Despite the fires, Rustic Johnny Drury says our 2013 is a GO!

FIRE FIGHTERS. The OV-10 and fire-fighting tanker aircraft (in background) are owned by the California Division of Forestry. The "fire boss" rides in the back of the OV-10 and directs the tankers. The pilot is a civilian on contract. They do a lot of standby, unless there is a big fire. Smaller fires get the water drop by Hueys.

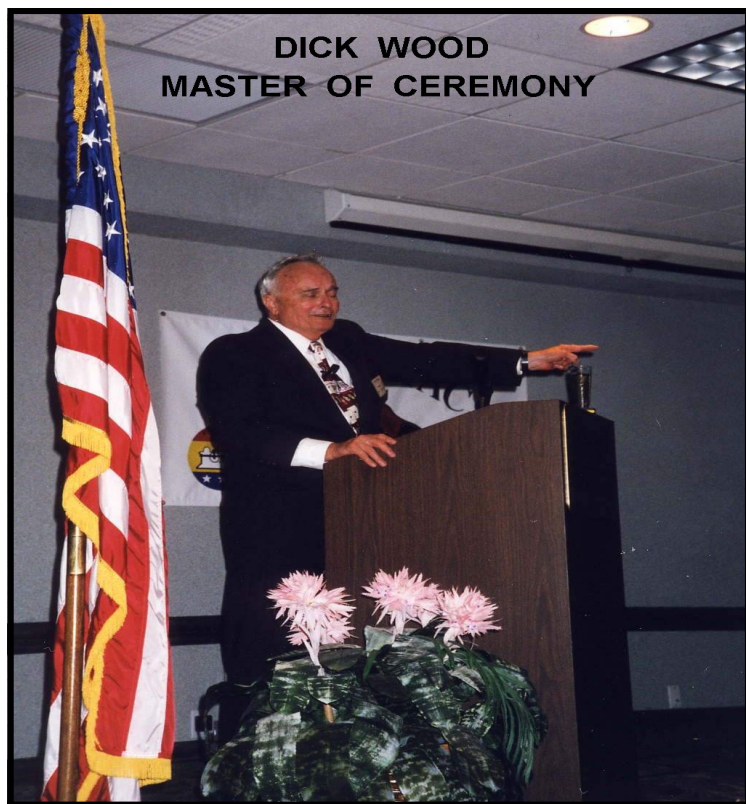


NINE NEW LIFE MEMBERS. The following have become new life members since our May newsletter. Welcome aboard guys: Tom Canter, Mike Gagne, Jim Hetherington, Steve Hopkins, Greg Lachon, Jerry McClellan, Mitt Mittendorf, Dick Roberds, Tom Wolford (Rustic Alpha.) and Steve Peffer. Wow, in the past 12 months we have had 24 new life members join the association.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT. As many of you know, Dick Wood, Rustic 11, took his final flight west on May 31, 2012. We were notified by Dick's son (see Letters to the Rustics) on June 7. This brings up an important and somewhat sensitive point. I hope all of you will make an effort to clarify in your estate planning that your next-of-kin should notify the Rustics when a final flight is taken. This is always a difficult time for the immediate family but the Rustics are part of your extended family and we'd like to be of help to the family if needed. As a minimum, we'd like to express our condolences and support. At times like these, the immediate family is overwhelmed with things to do, so a little advance planning on our part will undoubtedly be appreciated by all concerned. Do this for your family and for your Rustic buds.

WINGMAN SUPPORT:

Bill Carruthers had left shoulder rotator cuff surgery on the 16 Aug 2012. Jim and Sally Gabel both had cataract surgery in Oct. Jim reports, "For the first time since 1953 I don't have to put on my glasses as my first action when I get out of bed in the morning, i.e., my far vision has now been corrected to better than 20/20. My near vision remains. I have to use a magnifying glass to read the newspaper and for anything close."



**1999 Rustic Reunion
Ft Walton Beach, Florida.**

ROSTER/PERSONNEL UPDATES: Please note the following personnel changes:

Earl S. (Shad) Kimbell, Jr. 38543 N. Dave Street, San Tan Valley, AZ 85140
(H) 580-275-2352 Cell: 580-207-2777

Walt Friedhofen
Steve Peffer* waltrusticr7071@yahoo.com
5096 San Simeon Dr., Santa Barbara, CA 93111
(H) 805-964-3629, peffster1@gmail.com

Tom Wolford (Rustic "A") 6827 Avenida De Galvez, Navarre, FL 32566, 425-429-1097
Spouse – Theresa

* New found 0-2 Rustic mechanic. Served with Rustics at Bien Hoa Dec '70-Feb '71, then went to Tilly FACs at Bien Touy until July 1971, then served at DaNang and Phan Rang. 35 years with Hewitt-Packard. Now retired.

SHORT BURSTS:

- 1. Archived Newsletters.** **Jim Seibold** recently cleaned out his storage files and has sent all of his hardcopies of his "Rustic News" to our historian, **Jim Gabel**, for inclusion in our Rustic archives.
- 2. Rustic book on file with the Library of Congress (LOC).** **Jim Reese** has confirmed our recently revised book, "The Rustics-A Top Secret Air War In Cambodia" is now on file in the LOC catalog. The call number is DS554.8.R89 2011. You can search the catalog at <http://lcweb.loc.gov>. Search by title or LCCN (2011906974). The LOC web page says the book may be found in the Jefferson or Adams Building Reading Rooms. Two copies are available at the LOC.
- 3. Book Royalties.** Our treasurer **Jim Nuber** reports the association's royalty income from the sale of our revised Rustic book for the past year now totals \$1,235.29. Books can be ordered at www.lulu.com by searching for title: "The Rustics."
- 4. Shad Kimbell** recently relocated to a new home in the SE Valley (San Tan Valley) in Arizona and bought himself a new Victory Vision Tour motorcycle. Ain't retired life grand?!
- 5. Vietnam War Website.** If you flew or were in SEA, here's a website that answers anything you ever wanted to know about the air war in SEA but were afraid to ask... There is a wealth of information on many other phases of the conflict. <http://www.cc.gatech.edu/fac/Thomas.Pilsch/Vietnam.html#Arc>
- 6. Rog Hamann (Rustic Y)** reports he and **Joe Vaillancourt** (Rustic H) got together on 5 Nov while Roger and Joan were taking in the White Mountains of New Hampshire. Joe lives in Gorham, NH, just a mile down the road from where they were staying at the Town and Country Inn. Joe was one of the "original" backseaters, stationed at Bien Hoa.
- 7. New Arlington National Cemetery Website.** **Rob Shinafelt**, brother of deceased Rustic **Dan Shinafelt** reports that Arlington Cemetery has opened a new website to search for burials. <http://public.mapper.army.mil/ANC/ANCWeb/PublicWMV/ancWeb.html>. Just click on "search" and plug in a name (i.e. **Donald Shinafelt**) and a map, photo and info will display.
- 8. New FAC book.** **George Nolly** has just published a new book "Hamfist Over the Trail" about the 0-2 over the Trail in Vietnam. A sample chapter is available at www.genolly.com.
- 9. New FAC Book Published.** **Gary Willis** has just published a 230 page hardbound book about the Red Marker FACs in Southeast Asia, "Red Markers, Close Air Support for the Vietnamese Airborne, 1962-1975." The book is available at www.lulu.com by searching for "Red Markers."
- 10. Two OV-10s Mid-Air.** Venezuela officials report two Venezuelan military planes collided during a demonstration Thursday, 22 Nov., killing a pilot who steered his stricken turboprop plane away from populated areas. Two other aviators ejected safely from their OV-10 Bronco aircraft and were not injured in the mishap, which occurred at the Palo Negro air base in the north central state of Aragua, said Defense Minister Diego Molero.
Molero said the pilot of the other plane, Major Jose Rafael Marin, a flight instructor, directed his OV-10 Bronco to an unpopulated area in a heroic act to avert a "worse tragedy." Officials said the two planes were rehearsing for an aerial display when they collided. The cause of the crash was under investigation.

OSHKOSH 2013 ANYONE? **Tom Capps** would like to know if anyone would like to attend the 2013 Oshkosh air show as a group? The dates are Jul 29-Aug 4, 2013. The airshow is presented by the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA). Tom is willing to coordinate housing and transportation in and around the airshow but needs to know how many are still interested in attending considering we have our next reunion scheduled Sep 2013 in Colorado Springs.

Tom suggests the group plan to arrive on Wednesday of the airshow and actually attend on Thursday through Saturday and depart on Sunday. Three days is adequate to visit most aircraft and displays. Saturday night offers a night airshow and fireworks. Best estimate for cost of the airshow is \$365-\$465.

1. EAA Membership and three-day pass \$115
2. Four nights lodging per person \$250-350

An option to consider is the Aviator Tent which is an air conditioned tent on the flightline with reserved seating at airshow center. It also provides breakfast and snacks throughout the day for \$100 per day or \$300 for a three-day pass. The Aviator Tent would give us a good place to rest and refresh between visits to aircraft and the many corporate displays.

Tom suggests everyone coordinate their flight arrivals into the same airport and rent a large van to travel to the airshow and our lodging facility. Tom has several contacts to help with lodging and can find a very good place to stay at a reasonable price. He suggests everyone stay in the same place, if possible.

Here's what Tom needs:

1. Your name and contact info indicating who might be interested in attending with you.
2. Would you plan to fly or drive to the airshow?
3. Would you like to arrive on Wednesday and depart on Sunday

Contact **Tom Capps** at: 1609 Bowdoin Drive, Raleigh, NC 27615 or Email: cappstom@gmail.com, (c) 919-812-4848

AC-GUNSHIP HISTORY. The AC- Gunship Association recently held a reunion in Ft Walton Beach, FL, on 27-30 Sep. **Claude and Tona Newland** attended several events and were hosted by **Dr. Larry Fletcher** who flew AC-119s out of Tan Son Nhut AB in the 1970-1971. Fletcher's AC-119 squadron was already flying in support of Cambodian ground units before **Jerry Auth** flew the *first* Rustic mission on the night of 19 June 1970. Occasionally the AC-119s did have a Cambodian or French-speaking interpreter onboard for some of their missions. **Ron Dandeneau**, Rustic F, flew on one such mission just before he joined the Rustics.

The AC-119 Gunship Association Website is www.ac-119gunships.com. In 2009 they published a book, *AC-119 Gunships History Book 1968-1973*. Dr. Fletcher has also published two novels, *Shadows of Saigon* and its sequel, *The Shadow Spirit*, and is working on a history book about the AC-119. His website is: www.shadowgunships.com. *Shadows of Saigon* covers Cambodia operations during his tour of duty from May 1970 to May 1971.

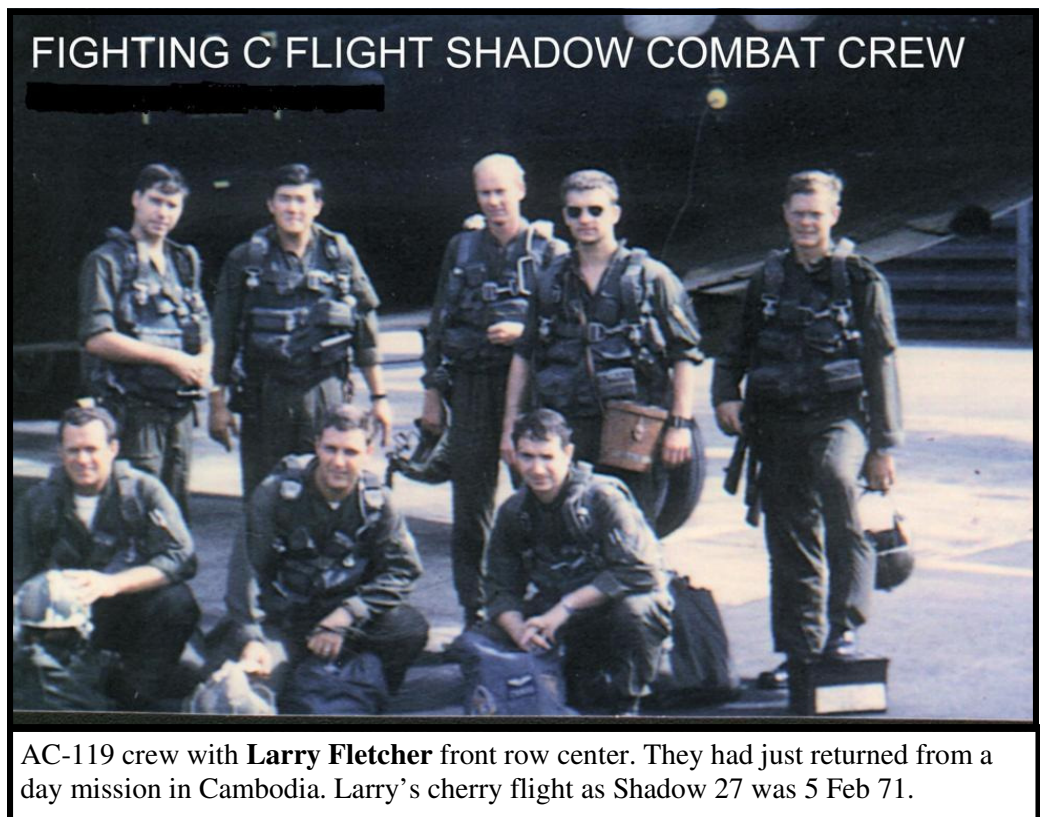
All AC-119 Shadow gunships were turned-over to the VNAF on 30 Sept 71. Dr. Fletcher reports the AC-119 gunship on display at Hurlburt Field is somewhat of an imposter. That aircraft was never used operationally as a gunship.

In closing, Larry echoes what the Shadow's radioed in Cambodia, "Thanks Rustic. Great working with you!" Guns Hot! Larry

2012 AND 2014 ALL-FAC RE-UNION REPORT. Nine Rustics and "Papa Wolf", **Mark Berent**, (USAF Attache, Phnom Penh, 1973) attended the recent All-FAC reunion in Tucson, Arizona, on Oct 17-21.

The reunion was a class act with approximately 300 in attendance. Events included a number of great tours that included visits to the Pima Air Museum, to Old Tucson (where many western movies have been filmed, including many by John Wayne) and to the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum. Other events included a FAC Service of Remembrance, a visit to the Davis-Monthan AFB for briefings, static displays, and a tour of the aircraft "Boneyard", a Mexican dinner under the stars, and an excellent banquet on Saturday night.

Not many FAC aircraft remain in the boneyard. We didn't see any OV-10s, except for a static display model, and only a few O-2s were still there.



The next All-FAC reunion will be held Ft Walton Beach, Florida, in October 2014. This is expected to be the second "Mother of all FAC reunions." Approximately 750 FACs and friends attended the last All-FAC reunion held in Ft Walton Beach in September 2000. **Claude Newland** and **Lendy Edwards** will help organize the 2014 reunion and a huge turnout is expected.

Photo to the right are Rustics at the Tucson FAC banquet. Somehow **Phil Frishmuth** didn't make the photo. **Papa Wolf" Mark Berent, Shad Kimbell, and Mike Wilson** made abbreviated appearances on Wednesday and Thursday but didn't attend the Saturday banquet.

DO YOU HAVE SOME SOUTHEAST ASIA PHOTOS WE HAVEN'T SEEN YET?

Ned Helm is still collecting photos for the Rustic's SEA Photo Project. If you have some photos of your Rustic tour and/or yourself that you have not yet sent in, please send them to **Ned Helm**, 515 Trailhead Lane, Jamestown, TN 38556 or to: rusticfac15@gmail.com.

All photos will be scanned and returned to you. Please identify names, dates, places, etc.

Your photos are a treasure for future Rustic projects so don't be left out. Ned submitted a slew of our Rustic photos to the ALL-FAC Tucson reunion committee which were used in a FAC photo slideshow that was displayed on two huge screens during the Saturday banquet.

BOARD PASSES MOTION CONCERNING POLITICAL MESSAGES. The 2012 political season is over but the Rustic Board recently passed a motion that reaffirms that "The Rustic Email Database will not be used by members to distribution en masse politically charged messages, regardless of the message and the purported support directed toward the contenders for the office of President of the United States, and for other elected officials, regardless of party." We realize everyone is entitled to their opinion but we want to limit our Rustic "group" communications to items of general Rustic interest and refrain from getting wrapped around the political axle. There are plenty of other forums available for sharing political opinions.

OV-10 CRASHES IN UK. "Dear Bronco friends, we want to inform you that there was an incident on 10 July 2012 at Kemble (Cotswold Airport, UK) concerning **Tony, DeBruin**, age 48, and the OV-10 Bronco. Tony had been at the International air Tattoo at RAF Fairford on Saturday. The OV-10 was on static display Saturday and Sunday. At approx. 15:00 in good flying conditions, Tony chose to take the opportunity to practice a standard display program at Fairford. Unfortunately, shortly into the flight there was a problem and Tony and the Bronco had a crash landing from low altitude into the grass strip in front of the control tower.

The Bronco was destroyed on impact but Tony managed to open the cockpit himself and was helped out by the fire crew. He was talking and moving all limbs and taken by helicopter to Franchay hospital in Bristol. He is presently in a stable condition with some third degree burns and back injuries. All the signs are for a positive full recovery. Thank you to everyone for their help, support and kind wishes at this time." The Bronco Demo Team

AF OFFICER CREATES DATABASE OF EVERY U.S. BOMB DROPPED SINCE WW I. Lt. Col. **Jenns Robertson**, 45, has spent the past six years working on one of the most unusual historical projects in modern times: compiling a database of every bomb dropped by U.S. forces dating back to World War I.

The project is called THOR: Theater History of Operations Reports and allows people to use their computers to literally point and click to nearly any location on the globe and receive a near-instantaneous assessment of when and where U.S. bombs were dropped over the past century.



L-R: Don Brooks, Claude Newland, Dick Goddard, Tim Eby, Zot Barazzotto, and Glen Perry.

Beyond the fascinating historical implications, Robertson's bomb project is being used by the U.S. and other countries to save lives. In places like German, Vietnam and Iraq, the database is being examined to identify locations where there may still be unexploded ordinance.

Working from Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama, Robertson has been working full-time on what started out as something of a hobby, combing through thousands upon thousands of documents. For example, he has discovered about 1,000 original World War I raid reports, all entered by hand, and has scanned a reported 10,000 handwritten and typed pages of bombing WWII records.

For the Vietnam War alone, Robertson has examined records showing that from October 1965 to May 1975 at least 456,365 cluster bombs were dropped on Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam. Since not all of the bombs actually exploded, the governments of these countries are working with the U.S. to examine the database in order to prevent civilian accidents and deaths. Robertson is still combing through more than a million records from Vietnam alone.

CALENDAR:

- 1) **Bronco Fest IX**, Ft Worth, TX, May 3-5, 2013
- 2) **2013 Rustic Reunion**. Colorado Springs, CO, Sep 12-15, 2013
- 3) **2014 All-FAC Reunion**. Ft Walton Beach, FL, 22-26 Oct 2014

LETTERS TO THE RUSTICS:

From **Ken Wood**, June 7, 2012 (ken.wood@experian.com)

I just wanted to drop you a short note to let you know that my father **Richard (Dick) Wood**, Rustic 11, passed away on May 31, 2012. I know he was very proud to be part of the Rustics. We will miss him greatly. Please pass this along to any of his friends who would like to know. We are moving his email address to woodrh11@gmail.com. Thank you, **Ken Wood**

*Editor's note: **Claude Newland** mailed a letter of condolence and a copy of the Nickel on the Grass tradition to the Wood family on behalf of the Rustics. **Lendy Edwards** has added Dick's son as next-of-kin to our Rustic database. I hope you will take the time to send a message to the Wood family to woodrh11@gmail.com if you haven't already done so.*

From **Walt Friedhofen**, Rustic "R",

I was saddened to learn yesterday of Dick [Wood's]'s passing. As a Rustic ('70-'71) I was privileged to fly in his back seat a few times during the war. I always enjoyed his 19th TASS flying safety newsletters. Many years later in '97 or '98 I mentioned to him that I still had one particularly humorous copy of those letters. It turned out to be his last one as the TASS FSO and the only one of which he did not keep a copy for his records. I was pleased to send it to him to complete his collection and it led to me reading a couple of his books. He and his sense of humor will be sorely missed by many. Sharon and I send our prayers and sympathy during this time of loss. God be with you all. **Walt Friedhofen**, Rustic Romeo

From **Pemato Kyry Ramsey Chhun**, San Diego, CA.

Editor's note: Mr. Chhun was 18 years old in 1975. He survived the Killing Fields and left Cambodia in 1979 for Thailand. He has been with the San Diego police department for 25 years and is now 56 years old. He reports 20,000 Cambodians now live in the San Diego/Long Beach, California area.

Dear Mr. CLAUDE NEWLAND and the rest of the amazing RUSTICS,

First of all, I would love to write a letter to you and your Elite RUSTIC Team. A few months ago I was told by my close friend, Mr. SEREIVUTH PRAK, vice president of the KHMER KROM Federation, about the American pilots who fought the North Vietnamese, Vietcong, and the Khmer Rouge during the Cambodia War and wrote a RUSTIC CALL SIGN book. Via my American colleague we managed to get some of your books, authored by Richard Wood, and gifted them to our friends. Also, a couple of weeks ago my classmate named SOKHAN KET sent me a copy of the Rustic News, Volume 15, Issue 3, December 2011, with the article on SOKHAN KET on page 10.

I was born to an indigenous KHMER father and KHMER born Chinese mother. On September 11, 1966, my father was widely elected as a member of the Cambodian National Parliament and then he was elected by Members of Parliaments as Committee Chairman of Administrative cleaning up corruption.

Due to the special agreements of our Red King SIHANOUK who supported the North Vietnamese and Vietcong during the Vietnam War by letting them building military

bases in our territory and using them as safe haven and sanctuary after they had been defeated and chased by American Troops in South Vietnam, plus SIHANOUK beside allowing the HO CHI MINH trail got into Cambodia illegally he built his own SIHANOUK Trail supplying all the ammunition, medical and food supplies to the Communists and on March 18, 1970, my father and his colleagues impeached SIHANOUK and publicly changed the Cambodian Monarchy to be the KHMER REPUBLIC.

In 1972 my father was appointed a Political Adviser by Marshal LON NOL, the President of the KHMER REPUBLIC. The war in Cambodia was well known to the world as a Civil War but it was NOT a Civil War. It was the aggressive invasion of the North Vietnamese and Vietcong initiatively.

I will write more and it is NOT easy emotionally every time I write about my life and family during the Communists. My mind is not clear but willing to write to you all and on behalf of the Cambodian Community in the United States of America, we would love to express our gratitude and appreciation to you ALL as American Rustic Pilots, people and American Government for fighting, protecting us, and granting political asylum as refugees to live in this great nation. We would additionally love to let you know that you ALL as the elite Rustic Pilots earned professionally so much fame and reputation with honors by flying and fighting the Communists from ABOVE inside our motherland and we are so proud for your gallantry and uncommon valor for risking and sacrificing your lives for us as the victims of the Communist.

With my best wishes, high respects and top regards to you ALL, Families and Americans.
GOD BLESS AMERICA, **PEMATO KYRY RASMEY CHHUN** (Home 619-469-6396)

21 June 2012. **Mr. Chhun** (far right) hosted a Cambodian banquet at his house for a number of Cambodian patriots and invited **Claude Newland** to attend. Claude presented a copy of the revised Rustic book to Mr. Chhun on behalf of the Rustics. **Chak Bory** (2nd from left) was Hotel 302 at Kompong Thom in 1970-71. There were two brigades at KPT. Col Oum commanded one brigade and Chak Bory commanded the other. Mr. Chhun explained that the OV-10 reminded most Cambodians of their traditional "Chan Srak" or lunch pail (held by Claude) that has a handle with two supporting braces.

From **Hank Keese**, Rustic 16, to **Gen. Chak Bory**



*Editor's note: **Chak Bory**, Hotel 302 at Kompong Thom, accompanied **Col. Oum** to Bien Hoa to visit the Rustics in late 1970. **Col. Oum** was a liaison officer of the 11th IB whereas **Chak Bory** was the Chief of Staff and liaison officer of the 10th IB with the rank of Major. Chak immigrated to the US and is now living in southern California and is writing his memoirs. He returned to Cambodia to help fight the Vietnamese and reconstitute the Cambodian government, achieving the rank of General. During his visit to Bien Hoa he flew with the Rustics.*

Dear Gen Bory,

Sir, you may have ridden with me during my tour as a Rustic in late 1970 and early 1971. During my Rustic tour Maj/Lt Com **Ma Kim Oeun** flew in my back seat several times and we became good friends. After my Rustic tour I had some time instructing in T-38 and then trained for the job of becoming the Asst Air Attaché in the US Embassy in Phnom Penh. During my training in DC for the attaché post Kim Oeun came up from Maxwell, Alabama (he was going to school there) for a visit. While I was in Phnom Penh **Kim Oeun** was promoted and became either the commander or the vice commander at KPC. I flew the embassy U-10 (Heliocourrier) to KPC a few times chasing illegal arms sales to the KC etc and was warned that my actions were dangerous to myself and my KAF friends at KPC since it was assumed they were passing me info concerning illegal sales and drug trafficking. I used to land on the road that went from town out to the airfield and "sneak" in on foot. I did manage to document the exchange on film with a telephoto lens and passed the info to our em-

bassy "cultural" attaché. No results I ever heard of. As for KPT I used to take the C-47 up there which was always an interesting trip. As you know, the "runway" was the main road north of town. I would buzz the road, the locals would lower barriers about 2,000 feet apart and chase the water buffalo off of the road. The road was wide enough to get one wheel on the surface with the other wheel on the shoulder of the road. I didn't try this when the road was wet. When dry it was exciting enough. In addition to passengers we always used to bring cases of Coca Cola and blocks of ice. Interesting times.



Cambodian interpreters who flew with the Rustics at Bien Hoa in the fall of 1970. Lt. Col. Ma Kim Oeun is second from right.

Any chance,

Gen Bory, that you knew **Kim Oeun** and what happened to him? I was told he was killed in KPC when the base/town was taken no word on his family which, as far as I know stayed in PP.

All the best to you all, **Hank Keese**, Rustic 16

From **Chak Bory**

Dear **Hank [Keese]**,

I'm very pleased to hear from another Rustics pilot. Is it truly you whom I flew with that day? All I remember is that you let me fly the plane after we finished our surveillance flight around Kompong Thom. You asked me to take the stick and to follow the Mekong River upstream to the town of Stong. When we got there, you took back the plane and started shooting some enemies with rockets. While you were doing that, I felt g-forces on my whole body so much so that when you asked me something on the way back to the base, I had say "yes" even though I did not understand what you were asking.

Afterwards, you started performing acrobatic maneuvers with loops and twist turns for about 10 minutes. I could hardly walk when we finally landed back at the base. However I did not throw-up like my colleague Col. Oum who flew as a backseater in another OV10.

That night an A-37 pilot came to ask me if I were interested in going with him on a bombing mission at Kompong Seila in the morning. I wish I had said yes, but I said no instead. I've missed that experience in my life time.

Yes, I knew **Ma Kim Oeurn**. Unfortunately, I don't know what happened to him.

I thank you so much for being one of the friendly angels who had made themselves available to assist us all the time when we called. Please keep in touch, Warmest regards, **Chak**

Editor's note: Cambodian Nicole Ung reports Lt. Col Ma Kim Oeun died at the Kompong Cham airport in 1975 when KPC fell to the communists. He was captured with his whole staff at KPC and all were slaughtered by the communists.

From Cambodian **Johnny Chrun**, 9/13/12. Eyewitness to **Lanny Trapp's** OV-10 shootdown.

Dear Mr. Newland, I was 16 years old on 26 Sep 1971 and a high school student in Kampong Cham. I witnessed the shoot down of the OV-10 mission on that day. I was born and raised on the east side of the Mekong river in a village called Peamchileang. It is about 25km from Kampong Cham city. After the March 18, 1970 revolution and the Vietcong occupied my village, I escaped to Kampong Cham and lived with my uncle. In 1973 the fighting getting worse and just few days before Vietcong and Khmer Rouge briefly took over Kampong Cham I was moved to Phnom Penh.

I lived in Phnom Penh until the last day we lost the war to Vietcong and Khmer Rouge on April 17th, 1975. On this day, as all people in the city, I was forced out from the city by Khmer Rouge. They took us to the far away countryside. We lived under the Khmer rouge regime for almost 4 years. We were treated as civilian prisoner of war also. They forced us to work in hard labor for 16 to 18 hours daily and we had little or no food. They killed people like chickens any time they wanted to. All they accused of, just said you're the CIA, you're not working hard enough, etc.

My father was killed by Khmer Rouge in late 1975 and also my three brothers (they were officers in the Khmer Republic army). I was the lucky one considering that many other millions families of Khmers were executed by Khmer Rouge.

In January, 1979 after the invasion of Vietnamese, I escaped to Khao I Dang refugee camp in Thailand. My wife and I were accepted to resettle in the USA. We arrived in the US on August 23, 1981, sponsored by USCC. We first lived in Columbus, Ohio for about 1 year then moved to Chicago, IL and live there until 1987. Due to the cold weather we decided to move to California in July, 1987. Now I'm living in Lakewood (near Long Beach), CA with my wife and I have a daughter and a son. They are in the 30s right now and doing very well. Thank you for the opportunity of being the citizen of the great country USA. That is the short story of my life.

Once again thank you to the RUSTIC's team that being sacrificed time and life tried to protect Cambodia. To Mr. **Lanny Trapp**, it is the honor to hear from you and thank you.
Respectfully, **Johnny Chrun**

***Merry Christmas &
Happy New Year to all***



L-R: **Phil Frishmuth, Tim Eby, Dick Goddard, and Claude Newland** after the FAC Remembrance ceremony in Tucson.

Rustic FAC Association
4033 Indian Trail Drive
Destin, FL 32541

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED