

Volume 18, Issue 1

30 June 2014



# Rustic News



## www.rustic.org

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**NEXT RUSTIC REUNION.** Jack Thompson and Bill McAdams and their wives are planning a great 2015 Rustic reunion in "Cowtown", Ft Worth, Texas. The dates are not firm but they are looking at 7-11 October 2015. Some of the events may include:

- Tour of Lockheed F-35 production line
- Golf
- Tour and lunch at the Fort Worth Aviation Museum and FAC Museum
- Tour of downtown & the historic stockyards

If you have any inputs for the reunion committee, contact **Jack Thompson** at: 817-571-4425 or jackov10@earthlink.net.

**REUNION CARRYOVER FUNDS.** After all the bills were paid for the 2013 Rustic reunion, the following funds remain in our reunion carryover checking account:

Carryover from previous 6 reunions	\$1,277.73
Carry over from 2013 reunion	236.15
Carryover Kohn Om Reunion Fund	<u>1,227.88</u>
	\$2,741.76

These funds are maintained in a separate "Reunion" checking account maintained by our reunion Treasurer, **Lendy Edwards**. Our intention is not "make money" off our reunions, so we will do everything possible in 2015 to put these funds to work to reduce the costs for our 2015 reunion events.

**2013 REUNION PHOTOS.** Jim Seibold requests you send him any reunion photos you may have taken at our 2013 reunion. Send them to Jim at: Seiboldjim@aol.com or mail them to him at 4680 E Blue Spruce Lane, Gilbert, AZ 85298. He will create a 2013 reunion DVD photo album for the Rustic Archives.

**ROSTER UPDATES:** Please note the following database updates received since our last newsletter:

**Normand Falcon** 12502 W Butterfield Drive, Sun City West, AZ 85375  
**Shad Kimbell** 38543 N. Dave St., San Tan Valley, AZ 85140. Phone: 417- 207-2777.  
**Robert Schwein** 599 Main Street, Athol MA 01331-1818, 978-709-1640, Robert.Athol.Mass@Gmail.com  
**Jim Frick\*** 11610 Grenelefe Ave N, White Bear Lake, MN 55110, JMIF26@aol.com, 651-492-6990. Wife: Carolyn  
\* Newfound Rustic Radio Operator

**CONGRESSMAN DUFFY AND SENATOR RUBIO RESOLUTION GIVES RECOGNITION TO KHMER FREEDOM FIGHTERS.** Washington D.C. - U.S. Congressman Sean Duffy (WI-07) and U.S. Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) introduced in their respective Houses on 22 May 2014 a resolution recognizing the service of Khmer and Hmong "Freedom Fighters who fought alongside, supported, and defended U.S. Armed Forces during the Vietnam War. Upon introduction of the resolution, Rep. Duffy offered:

"Khmer and Hmong fought shoulder to shoulder with U.S. troops during the Vietnam War. These Veterans rescued United States pilots shot down in enemy controlled territory and returned them to safety, provided intelligence, captured and destroyed supply lines, and provided food and shelter to U.S. Armed Forces.

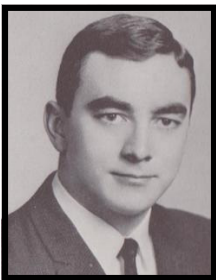
"Though many have immigrated to the United States, the Khmer and Hmong "Freedom Fighters" are still subject to intimidation, ridicule, discrimination, and death if identified in Cambodia and Laos today.

"These men deserve the grateful thanks of our nation, and this resolution awards them the recognition that they've long deserved." Wisconsin's 7th Congressional District is home to nearly 10,000 Hmong Americans.

*Editor's Note: We are standing by to see if the U.S. Congress and the U.S. Senate will approve the resolution. **Claude Newland** and **Hank Keese** wrote letters of support for the resolution on behalf of the Rustic.*

**FOUR RUSTIC FINAL FLIGHTS:** So far, 2014 has not been kind to the Rustics. You never know when a Rustic reunion may be your last. That makes each reunion all the more special. Slow hand salute to our Rustic Brothers.

1) **Bob Andrews, Rustic 07.** Gale Andrews reported **Bob "Slick" Andrews** passed away at home on Jan 2, 2014 at 8:30 p.m. "Thanks for all the prayers for him and our family." Bob was with the Rustics from Sep 1971-Sep 1972 so he flew missions from both Bien Hoa and Ubon. Gale Andrews may be reached at: 208-323-0246.



2) **Lou Currier, Rustic 09**, passed away Saturday evening, March 8, of an Aorta Aneurism. He will be interred at the Arlington National Cemetery on Wednesday, June 25, at 0900. Guest are asked to arrive at the Reception Center NLT 0830. Rustics **Jon Safley** and **Ron Dandeneau** have indicated they plan to attend. If you would like to attend the interment, please contact **Claude Newland** for details, 850-654-2955 or rustic19@cox.net. All are invited.

Lou was a former Issue FAC who was recruited as one of the seven original OV-10 Rustics at Bien Hoa. He was fluent in French so he gave practically all of the early OV-10 Rustics their "Dollar Ride" in the Rustic Area of Operations.

3) **John Cary, Rustic 01**, passed away on May 5th. A memorial service was held May 12th and he was interred in the Logan Cemetery in Ft. Collins, CO. Rustics Don and Mary Haller attended the Memorial Service. Don said, "John and I flew together many years in F-106s in the 71st FIS. He was truly one of the good guys." John served as the Rustic OV-10 commander at Bien Hoa for two months in Nov-Dec 1971.



4) **Jim Gabel, Rustic Bravo**, passed away 17 April of a cardiac arrest. Sally said he went with his "boots on" at home and that is how he wanted it. Jim will be interred at the Arlington National Cemetery on Thursday, 7 August, at 0900. Guests should arrive at the Arlington Reception Center NLT 0830. If you would like to attend the interment, please contact Sally for details, (c) 605-786-2448 or jagabel@aol.com. After the interment the family plans to go the "Lebanese Taverna" restaurant at the Westover Shopping Center on Washington Blvd in Arlington for lunch. Rustics are invited to join them.



Jim was the Rustic's Chief of Intelligence at Bien Hoa when the Rustics first organized in June 1970. He has been the Rustic FAC Assoc.'s Historian since our inception in 1997. Jim also served as one of the editors of our Rustic History books and was a major contributor. His intel expertise, great corporate memory, and critical eye for detail as an editor helped ensure we kept our facts straight in our book. Johnny Drury has volunteered to server as interim historian.

**WINGMAN SUPPORT.** From **Roger Hamann. Marcel Morneau, Rustic Victor**, took a bad fall while vacationing in Florida in April. His daughter, **Renee**, reported Marcel was in ICU on 13 April in Florida with a head bleed. He fell and hit the back of his head on the tile floor. He had a brain bleed described as worse than a bad concussion but not a bad bleed. "He is confused and very tired. After three days his condition was improving but he was still not recalling many things, but he recognizes his family and can follow commands. He'll have to go to a rehab facility until he is cleared to go home. Not sure how long that will be. Thanks for all the prayers and words of encouragement!" **Renee**

Update: After about a week of rehab treatments Marcel was cleared to return home. On 1 May Marcel's son drove Marcel and Denise from Florida back to their home in Ohio. After a month of rehab treatments Marcel says he is making good progress. Head injuries can be serious and initially he couldn't walk. He is now able to walk and is getting better each day. He hopes to be cleared to start driving again within in a couple weeks. Marcel he can be reached at 513-360-0136 or rusticv@juno.com (preferably in the afternoon as he has PT in the morning).

**RUSTIC O-2 ACCIDENT AT BIEN HOA, 1971 (David Aviles, zantax2000@yahoo.com).** I was a crew chief on OV's in Nam. On Sep 9, 1971 I was on the flight line at Bien Hoa. I saw a C-130 coming in and right behind him an O-2. The O-2 banked in right behind the 130, flipped over and crashed. I was on the flight line and jumped on a tug to reach the crew. The O-2 was on the opposite side of the runway from the revetments. When I got there the aircraft was upside down and both men were unconscious. The plane was leaking fuel and was in jeopardy of exploding, or so I believed. I pulled open the cockpit door and pulled both the pilot and observer out of the aircraft. I laid them both on the side of an incline away from the aircraft. They were still unconscious a few minutes later when the fire crew came out. I left and I resumed my duties as crew chief on my aircraft. I haven't shared this with anyone, however I was wondering if these two Rustics are still wondering to this day who pulled them out. If you tell the story, they'll know who they are. It happened in 1971 in Bien Hoa. Mystery solved!

*Editor's note: The O-2 pilot was Capt Jesse Moon. Details of this incident are chronicled on page 156 of the revised Rustic Book, "THE RUSTICS - A Top Secret Air War in Cambodia."*

**RUSTIC SEA PHOTO DVD PROJECT (Ned Helm):** I'm still soliciting SEA Rustic photos for our Rustic Photo DVD project. If you have any photos to contribute, please send them to me at: ned@wingset.com or 515 Trailhead Lane, Jamestown, TN 38556. All photos will be returned.

**KOMPONG CHAM CHARITIES AND ORPHANAGE. (Lendy Edwards):** The second quarter report from Sunrise Ministries has been posted to our website.

### SHORT BURSTS.

**1. Another Dandeneau Retires.** Congratulations go to **Ron Dandeneau, Rustic F**, who reports his son will be retiring from the USAF at Seymour Johnson AFB on 27 June. "Some of you met my son at one of the Rustic Reunions in Destin, FL a few years ago."

**Ron Dandeneau**

**2. Golf Outing, Rustics Jack Otis, Don Ellis, and Tom Cantor** found time for a round of golf together at the Whispering Pines (Myrtle Beach?) golf course on 3 April. Isn't retired life grand?!

**NADY TAN UPDATE (Doug Aitken), Editor's Note:** *Nady Tan's story is in our Rustic book. He escaped with most of his family just prior to the fall of Cambodia to the Khmer Rouge. Doug Aitken sponsored Nady and his family and helped them get started in the United States. Nady later returned to Cambodia, where he still lives, and has served at the government's chief civil servant. Doug Reports:*

On 26 Feb I received a phone call from **Nady Tan**. He was in Portland, OR. Here is a brief summary of what we talked about:

His daughter died of cancer and that is why he was in Portland. He planned on staying a month. His wife, Sara, has remained in Portland due to, I think, kidney problems (know she is a diabetic), as she visits the hospital every two days. Their son, **Sarady Tan**, COL, USAF, is the Hospital Commander at Mt. Home AFB, Idaho. He has 18 years in, and is committed to 24, and "maybe longer." He sounds just great on the phone and we agreed his story is a perfect example of American opportunity.

Nady sounded so much stronger than he did about six months ago when I talked to him. He said other two sons are doing well. He told me what they were doing, but I could not get all of it. It is obvious that he has not been using his English. We talked about the situation in Cambodia and he said the Military Police were the ones who shot the strikers. Then he said something about the Premier which I could not follow. Sarady came on the line and said Nady thought the one who was killed had done something threatening to the police.

All in all, we had a wonderful conversation. He is still going in to work in Phnom Penh. I urged him to come and remain in Portland with his family as we ain't getting any younger, but I don't think he is gonna do that.

Thought you guys might be interested in that conversation. Cheers, **Doug**

**PRIVATELY OWNED AND FLYABLE OV-10. Don Mercer** reports he has found a privately owned flyable OV-10. It is owned by **Rick Clemens**, Founder and President of The Cactus Air Force. He is also CEO and President of Specline, a company in Carson City, NV that manufactures ball bearings for numerous aircraft. Clemens' chief pilot is **Lee Griffin** who retired after 21 years as a Naval aviator having flown off a carrier on Yankee Station in F-4s, and who then flew 17 years with Federal Express.

Don began this search because a family member of one of our Rustic Backseater's expressed an interest in trying to get his former Rustic brother another flight in an OV-10. **Rick Clements** was contacted and said the flight was a "go" but subsequently the backseater advised that he would not be able to fly out to partake of the flight at this time. Rick then kindly extended an open invitation to the backseater to come whenever he can. We'll see what the future holds... *Our thanks go to Don Mercer for his efforts!*

**OV-10s IN FLORIDA (Roger Hamann).** **Roger** was vacationing in Florida in January (...a good time to escape from Maine) when he saw a black OV-10 on the ramp at the Lakeland Airport. Seems this bird had landed to refuel. It is used as a mosquito sprayer out of Ft Myers, FL. He also learned there is an OV-10G at the Valiant Air Command Warbird Museum in Titusville, FL. This Bronco was declared excess by the government, obtained through GSA, and was recently "towed" some 33 miles from Patrick AFB in 5 plus

hours. This aircraft was last used by the Department of State in an illicit crop irradiation program. This warbird served in Vietnam with the USMC in VMO 2 and the OV-10 was used by the USAF, Navy and marily as a Forward Air Control aircraft.



*OV-10 mosquito sprayer at Lakeland Airport, FL*



*OV-10G at Valiant Air Command Warbird Museum, Titusville, FL*

USMC during its service in a variety of missions; pri-

**0-2A FUND RAISER.** The Evergreen Aviation and Space Museum in Oregon is raising money to restore O-2A aircraft 67-21395. It is one of the birds that took part in the Bat-21 rescue and was kept from being tossed for that reason. The Evergreen Museum is one of the best aviation museums in the country and is the home of the Spruce Goose. Anyone who would like to help, please send your contribution to: (*I have sent an email to the museum and will give you their answer soonest*).



*O-2A at Ft Worth FAC Museum. File photo.*

**CALENDAR:**

1. **2014 All FAC Reunion.** Ft Walton Beach, FL Oct 22-26, 2014
2. **2014 Raven Reunion,** San Antonio, Oct 9-12, 2014
3. **2015 Rustic FAC Reunion,** Ft Worth, TX; (Dates TBA; possible 7-11 Oct 2015)
4. **2016 All FAC Reunion,** Williamsburg, VA (Daates TBA)

**LETTERS TO THE RUSTICS:**

**From Kohn Om (Dec 2013)**

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. It was as wonderful Rustic reunion at Colorado Springs. Thanks again for every Rustic and warrior! **Kohn Om**

**From Frank Sovich, fmsovich@gmail.com**

Hey Claude - - eat your heart out! Looks like the OV-10 is still flying. Here's pictures of my son, **Christopher**, in Meridian NAS Miss where he is an instructor in a Navy Jet- - their basic fighter/trainer/lead-in airplane- - built by the Brits (See next page). I don't remember the designation.

Apparently this OV-10'G' "relic" is going around and working with the Marines- - a Navy Project (with a LT CMDR in charge) to do the same thing as we did 35 years ago with newer equipment. Chris tells me it has even been to Afghanistan.





*OV-10G Cockpit....quite different from our SEA versions*

The Navy thinks that the F-35 will be too expensive to do the job and they are looking for alternatives -- so the story goes! I Don't quite remember the instruments looking like this though!

**From Bill Voss**, marthvoss@hotmail.com

**Jim Gabel** was the best intelligence officer and finest boss I had the privilege to work with and for during my time in the USAF. What he did in support of the Rustic operation was phenomenal. I didn't see any work in support of any other mission during my time on duty that compared with his. It was a privilege to serve with him. I got a chance to visit him and Sally at their home near Rapid City, SD, in September 2007 while traveling around the US in an RV. I'm so glad I did. **Bill Voss**, Rustic Phantom

**From Scott Walker**, Director, KhmerVeteransProject, callwalker@gmail.com

Rustics, I am pleased to announce that on Monday, April 28, the Khmer Veterans Resolution is slated to be introduced into both the United States House of Representatives by Congressman Sean Duffy and in the United States Senate by Senator Marco Rubio (*Note: The resolution was introduced on 22 May 2014*).

The Khmer Veterans have worked tirelessly since the original resolution was passed in Minnesota on April 5, 2012. They have studied the U.S. Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and have learned how law is passed in the United States. They have visited many legislators in their communities and are now passing this knowledge to their family and friends in Cambodia.

The accounts you recorded in your book "The Rustics, A Top Secret Air War in Cambodia" has influenced our representatives to introduce this historic resolution and have given our veterans the will to pursue its passage.

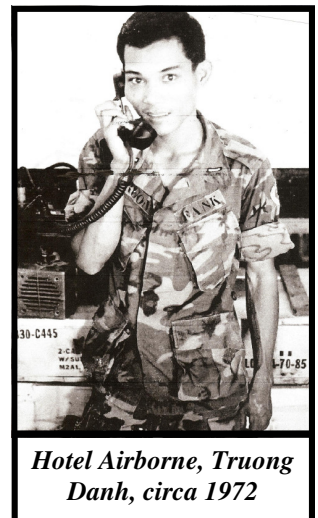
Your contribution to this effort, small as it may seem to you, has given these Veterans the courage and determination to teach others the American way of life. The resolution is far from being passed and I do not want to presume it will be. But getting to this point is an accomplishment no Khmer ever foresaw. Thank you so much for your contribution.

### **Correspondence from Claude Newland to Mark Berent, Papa Wolf, May 2014**

Mark, I just got a call from Cambodian **Truong Danh** who said he worked with the Rustics some in 1972. He said he "Hotel Airborne" based south of PP at that time and called in air strikes for Cambodian forces. He remembers you..."Papa Wolf." He was a former Mike Force soldier in Vietnam who became a combat interpreter for the 25th infantry Div. at Cu Chi AB Vietnam in 1968-69. By 1970 he was a 2 Lt in Cambodia and by 1972 he was assisting with airstrike requests in the field.

He was in the States for training at Ft Benning in 1974. He remained in the U.S. and graduated from college in Ill in 1980 in Computer Science. He now lives in Carrollton, Texas. His phone: 214-680-9353. Perhaps you remember him. **Claude**

**From new-found Rustic Jim Frick**, Rustic Control, May 71-Sep 71, JM,JF26@aol.com



*Hotel Airborne, Truong Danh, circa 1972*

Claude, Lendy, and the Rustics...

I found the Rustic website a few years ago but after attending an event honoring vets last night sponsored by 7th graders that included one of my grandsons, I just decided it might be fun to sign up.

I served with 19TASS out of Bien Hoa from late Nov 70 through Oct 71. Sometime in Spring of 1971 (can't remember the exact date) I was assigned to the Rustics. I worked as a radio operator at Rustic Control and then made the rotations up to Nui Ba Den (Rustic Alpha). I can remember some of the pilots, **Otto Walinski**, **Dave Dekoker**, and the Intel Officer **Richard Doyle**, who was a John Denver fan. I was one of the "older" first term enlisted guys as I was 24 in June 1971, engineer from Iowa State, married with a 2 1/2 year old son and a daughter who was born on August 11, 1971 while I was up on the mountain.

I made Sgt while I was in Vietnam and then made SSgt in about 3/12 years stationed at Mountain Home AFB, ID. I was in just one 4 year term.

**Claude**, we probably overlapped a bit at Bien Hoa before you left in May 1971. My memory is not what it used to be so I am not sure I would remember you if I saw you again.

I got a nice note from **Dick Doyle** and just wrote him back. I guess Memorial Day is a perfect time to reconnect. **Lendy**, I have filled out the online form for Assn. membership and will send in an donation to the Cambodian Charity fund.

Unfortunately, I do not have any contact information on Rustic radio operator **Tom Wolford**. I have got to believe that **Dave DeKoker** or **Otto Walinski** might remember him as he did 2 tours in RVN. I do know that he loved being up on Rustic Alpha and it was hard to get him off. I think he was from Tennessee or Kentucky if memory serves correct.

I have a couple of pictures somewhere. I do have one of me and an Army fellow named **Pat** sitting on a bunker on top of Nui Ba Den mountain (See photo on right). We have the first "prototype" of a kite frame that we ended up flying off the mountain top. Used dental floss for string. Also had an interpreter put some "words of wisdom" on it for our friends on the sides of the mountain. We were well into our 18th 100 yard roll of dental floss when it got shot down...that is as airborne as we got!!

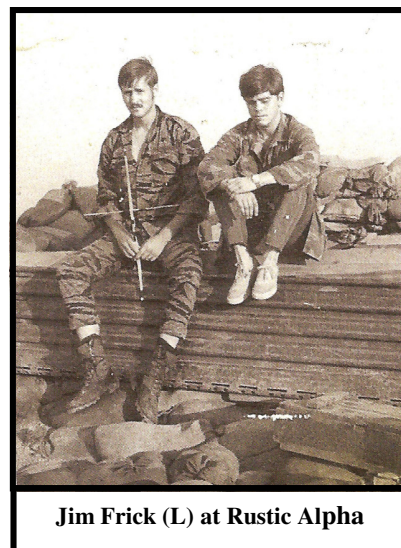
What happened to me? Well, after one last duty station in Idaho, I went back to RD at General Mill Chemicals in Minneapolis and also went back to school for 4 more years--this time in business. In 1977 I got out of RD and into food ingredient sales to large consumer goods companies working with their RD groups. Then moved into sales and marketing management and finished my last 15 years or so in senior management positions in running sales, marketing, and RD groups with a couple of food ingredient companies. I retired Feb 2012 about 4 months from being 65. Love retirement!! Changed companies a few times but never relocated out of White Bear Lake, MN.....did log way too many hours flying to meetings as a result of not relocating but that is done now.

All 4 of our children live within 8 miles of us as do all of the 8 grandkids plus one coming in October. I attend sporting events and entertainment events as all the grandkids are very active. My wife and I had our 46th anniversary yesterday.

Love golfing, hunting, and fishing--especially saltwater fishing. Claude, I finally made it to Destin, FL in January 2014 after years of hearing how great it was from many folks that worked for me over the years. My wife and I absolutely loved it and we will be back as Destin has great fishing. We ate at Dewey Destin's place on the water and had a trigger fish sandwich that was out of this world. What a great place to vacation and the people was very friendly. We do travel, especially given our Minnesota winters!!

It was an honor to be associated with such a great group of guys. I do plan to order some of the information on the Rustics. Carolyn and I want to wish you and your families all the best on this Memorial Day. **Jim**

*Jim, welcome aboard!*



**Jim Frick (L) at Rustic Alpha**

