

Volume 19, Issue 1

30 June 2015



Rustic News



www.rustic.org



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IT'S TIME TO REGISTER FOR THE 2015 RUSTIC REUNION. Jack and Anne Thompson and Bill and Cathy McAdams have put together a great reunion in Ft Worth, Texas, **8-11 October 2015**. All reunion information, the schedule, and the registration form are included in this newsletter. Our Cambodian friend, Lt Col **Kohn Om**, has confirmed he will be in attendance as a guest of the Rustics. (We already have sufficient funds to cover his expenses.) We're 'Looking forward to seeing you in Cowtown USA in October.

RUSTIC ELECTIONS. Elections of association officers and directors will be held during the October reunion business meeting. You do not have to be in attendance to place your name in nomination. If you would consider running for office, please contact our vice-president, **Johnny Drury** at 719-282-9100 or rustic02@aol.com.

Elected Positions available include:

President
Vice-president (**Johnny Drury** is willing to continue serving in this capacity if re-elected)
Treasurer (**Jim Nuber** is willing to continue or will relinquish if another runs)
Historian
Three Directors (**Jim Reese** and **Tom Capps** are willing to continue if reelected. **Don Mercer** is stepping down.)

Non-elected Positions to be filled:

Webmaster (Let us know if you have some talent in this area)
Rustic Store keeper (This is a fairly simple job)
If you have questions concerning these two jobs, call **Lendy Edwards** at 850-651-6766.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT. Gentlemen, it has been an honor serving as the President of the Rustic FAC Association these past years. After some careful consideration I believe it is time for me to step down from this position. Therefore, I will not seek reelection in October. This has not been an easy decision. I hope some of you will consider stepping up to ensure the association continues to be a viable organization. As a minimum, the membership needs to reconfirm it's goals and long term future. Tona and I look to seeing everyone in Ft Worth in October.



Kohn Om, 1970, Bien Hoa AB

NEW LIFE MEMBERSHIPS:

Larry Landtroop 12 Equestrian Trail, Duncanville, TX 75116

Winnie Stearns (husband Michael)- 2304 Country Club Dr., Pearland, TX 77581-5112

ROSTER/PERSONNEL UPDATES: Please note the following changes to our 2014 Rustic Roster which was mailed out Nov 2014:

Gloria Auth	208 Emma Loop, Austin TX 78737
Gary Ball	Irscher Berg 22, 54296 Trier, Deutschland, Tel: +49-651-976 29 333 Email: ballgarya@gmail.com
Jeff Boston	rustic51@charter.net
Wallace J. Davis (Dave)*	3083 Spencer Trail, Lenoir, North Carolina 28645, cell 828-446-2811 ddavis@daviswoodproducts.com
Jerry Dufresne	1946 Trosper RD SW # M204, Tumwater WA 98512-8132 Home:1-360-338-0309; Cell: 1-360-890-5544
Richard Doyle	1801 W. Desert Highlands Dr., Oro Valley, AZ, 85737, rdoyle@nps.edu
Carlton Fink	4030 Martel Drive, Cumming, GA 30040
Robert Jessup	2118 Bayberry Ct, Dawsonville, GA 30534
Shirley Koepell	6229 Tenderfoot Dr., Colo. Springs, CO 80923
Bob Ryals	Wife's name is Sarah. (Address, phone number and email is correct)
Robert Wheeler	Robertwheeler70@gmail.com
Mike Wilson	No home phone now; only cell phone: 520-850-2203
Thomas Wolford	wolfordt@gmail.com .

* *New-found Bien Hoa OV-10 and O-2A Weapons Specialist, Nov 1970-Nov 1971.*

HISTORIAN REPORT. This past year our vice-president, **Johnny Drury**, has been pulling double duty as the association's historian. In May Johnny drove to Rapid City, South Dakota and met with **Sally Gabel**. While there he retrieved all the Rustic memorabilia and historical items that **Jim Gabel** had been storing for the association. One of the reunion's business meeting agenda items will be to decide what to do with these items. One option would be to send the items to the FAC museum in Ft Worth, Texas. Let us know if you have any other suggestions.

DISPOSITION OF OLD RUSTIC BOOKS. At the suggestion of several of our members, a copy of our original Rustic 265-page hardbound book "The Rustics-A Top Secret Air War in Cambodia" has been mailed to the Perrin Air Force Base Historical Museum in Denison, Texas, and to the Virginia Military Institute Preston Library in Lexington, Virginia. A copy will also be presented to the FAC Museum at Meachem Field in Fort Worth in conjunction with our 2015 reunion. This leaves us with a total of nine copies remaining. If you would like to order a copy of the original book for your archives they are available at the Rustic Store at www.rustic.org. Also, let us know if you have a suggested library that might appreciate a copy. As you know, the original book has now been superseded by our new 464 page hardbound book that is available at: www.lulu.com, under the title: "The Rustics".

YOUR CHANCE TO ADOPT AN O-2A (Trey Moran, FAC Assoc. member)

The FAC Association has donated \$1,000 towards an important project at the Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor. Working inside Hangar 79, a WWII aircraft assembly and maintenance workshop on historic Ford Island, the restorers used the wreckage of three different airplanes to complete the airframe of a Cessna O-2A Skymaster. Now we invite you to help "Adopt" this reminder of our service, and of all who served with us, with the final stages of restoration. This great warbird needs to be painted. The result will be an historic display of an important airplane that served in the Pacific region that will draw interest, communicate a story with impact, and generate emotion when displayed.



Your donation is tax deductible and you will be recognized at the dedication for this aircraft when it is ready for display. You can send a donation to the FAC Association treasurer or directly to Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor, with a note that you are supporting the restoration and exhibit of the O-2A on behalf of the FAC Association, online at www.pacificaviationmuseum.org/donate or by mail to Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor, 319 Lexington Blvd. Hangar 37, Honolulu, HI 96818.

KOMPONG CHAM CHARITIES AND ORPHANAGE (Edwards): The 2015 Sunrise Ministries Quarter 1 report is posted on the Rustic web page. The association currently has funds that have been donated for our Cambodian charity efforts. The disposition of these funds will be on the agenda of our 2015 reunion business meeting. If you would like to make a tax deductible contribution to this worthy effort, please mail your check to our treasurer, **Jim Nuber**, at 1439 Evening Shade, Prescott, AZ 86305-6432. Make check to Rustic FAC Association and indicate for "Cambodian Charities."

END OF AN OV-10 ERA IN COLUMBIA *(from the March 2015 Worth Aviation Museum Newsletter)*

Many of you are aware that the [Colombian Air Force \(FAC\)](#) has operated OV-10A's for many years with several squadrons, but most recently with their [ATKRON 1031](#). One year ago they began finding cracks in a landing gear component. Many of us here in the US attempted to find spare parts for them but they were few and expensive.

A couple of days ago their squadron commander, Lt Carlos "Vulcano" Guio, informed the OV-10 Bronco Assoc. that the government of Columbia and their Air Force have decided to cease OV-10 operations. Many of the twelve Bronco pilots have been reassigned to A-29 Tucanos and A-37 Dragonflies.

This is doubly disappointing since Lt Guio was planning to bring a FAC Bronco to BroncoFest X in October 2015 for the 50th anniversary of the Broncos First Flight. We are still hoping "Vulcano" can attend and represent the other Bronqueros in the fall

SHORT BURSTS

1) Tom Wolford on the move. Tom will be retiring in May 2015 and moving back to Navarre, Florida. He says he will be available to help **Lendy Edwards** and **Claude Newland** on any Rustic projects that come up. Look forward to seeing you again in the near future. Tom and Theresa plan to be at the Rustic Reunion this year.

2) Dick Doyle back at the Naval Postgraduate School. Dick retired at the end of 2012 but says he may resume teaching for NPS as a contractor in 2015. It would be in the asynchronous online mode, as he had been doing for years while living in Monterey. He says he misses engaging the numbers, the process, and the students... the dismal state of our politics notwithstanding.

3) Battle for Prey Totung. **Jim Frick**, Rustic Alpha, reports the 15 June 2015 issue of Vietnam Magazine has an article written by AC-130 pilot **Larry Fletcher**. It chronicles the Rustics and the Shadow gunships and their Battle for Prey Totung in the fall of 1970.

4) Mark Berent has a new website. "Papa Wolf", former American Attaché at Phnom Penh at the end of the Cambodian war, has a new webpage. Check it out at: www.vietnamwarpolitics.com/index.php.

5) Agent Orange Report. For the latest Agent Orange Newsletter go to:

<http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/publications/agent-orange/agent-orange-summer-2015/index.asp>. It features important updates for Vietnam-era Veterans and their families including:

- New research on the health of Vietnam Veterans,
- A list of Agent Orange exposure locations,
- Details on VA's Agent Orange Registry health exam,
- Information on how to reduce the impact of type 2 diabetes, and more.

REQUEST FOR OV-10 PHOTOS. My name is **Steve Belanger**. I create scale model decals and recently finished an OV-10 project that primarily covered the Navy's Black Ponies (VAL-4) in Vietnam. I really would like to do a sheet covering solely Vietnam USAF OV-10 FACs. While I have many books on Vietnam and aircraft in general, I'm still lacking a broad range of potential subjects to represent.

For my past projects (the A-6 Intruder and the USN/USMC Broncos), I've only dealt with Navy and Marine vets so I'm not familiar on how to get in touch with the USAF vets. I couldn't have done the earlier work without the help of those vets who shared their personal photos and cruise books to assist me. I'd like to ask the USAF Bronco Vietnam vets for similar help.

What I'm looking for is high resolution photos that show really any part of the Bronco - overall views, or just a small portion of one seen in the background of people for example. Anything really. I've accumulated almost 100 photos already from online, books, and some from personal help. The vast majority though I don't have a "complete" coverage (for example, I have views showing the fuselage, but I don't know the tail markings, if any, or the aircraft s/n). I realize the camo scheme used by the USAF on the OV-10's were overall the same, however in most photos there are many differences in spinners and many aircraft also have pilot and/or crew chief names applied (many illegible unfortunately). This is what I really would like to capture.

If anyone has photos they can share please let me know (they'd only be for my viewing and reference) and/or please pass my request on to your Vietnam FAC brothers. Any other suggestions on contacts would be very helpful as well. Any help would be greatly appreciated!

Thanks, **Steve Belanger**, www.AOAdecals.com

CALENDAR:

- 1) **2015 Rustic FAC Reunion**, Ft Worth ,TX, Oct 8-11, 2015
- 2) **2015 BroncoFest X**, Ft Worth, Oct 7-11, 2015
- 3) **2015 All Birddog Military Combat Unit Reunion**, Panama City, FL, Oct 10-14, 2015
- 4) **2016 All FAC Reunion**, Williamsburg, VA (Dates TBA)

LETTERS TO THE RUSTICS

From Bob Jessup, Rustic 13

Hi Claude, My wife, Sherry, and I recently moved back to GA from South TX. Our new address: 2118 Bayberry Ct, Dawsonville, GA 30534.

Although Texas remains my favorite state, and particularly the Rio Grande Valley area (usually called "the Valley" by Texans), we had to give up living full-time in our RV, put it in storage & move into an apartment in North Georgia. Sherry's mom currently lives with us so we can provide the necessary care she requires. Being a caregiver is a 24/7/365 responsibility, so we're staying in one place so Mom can see the same doctors and specialists when needed.

The second reason we moved to North Georgia is to be near & available to our son, daughter, son-in-law & granddaughter. Our 19-year old granddaughter has some very difficult & serious issues we are trying to help her with.

North Georgia is really a scenic place with lots of things to do year-round. While Texas is my favorite, North Georgia is a close second, so we're quite OK with having to live here. Now, if only Georgia would waive the ad valorem tax on vehicles....

Take care & God bless, **Bob "Jess" Jessup**

From Jerry Dufresne, Rustic I (Dec 2014)

We are selling our house and moving to Washington. We are going to put the house up for sale in Dec 2014 and see what happens! It's a permanent move up to Tumwater WA to be near our daughter. Tumwater is about 1 hour south of Seattle and about one half hour south of Joint Base Lewis /McChord, just south of Tacoma. We have been going up there for the past 15 years. I will transfer my VA records to American Lake VA near the base. I have many new friends up there and shoot and fish as well! Take Care. **Jerry Dufresne** (See Roster Updates for new address.)

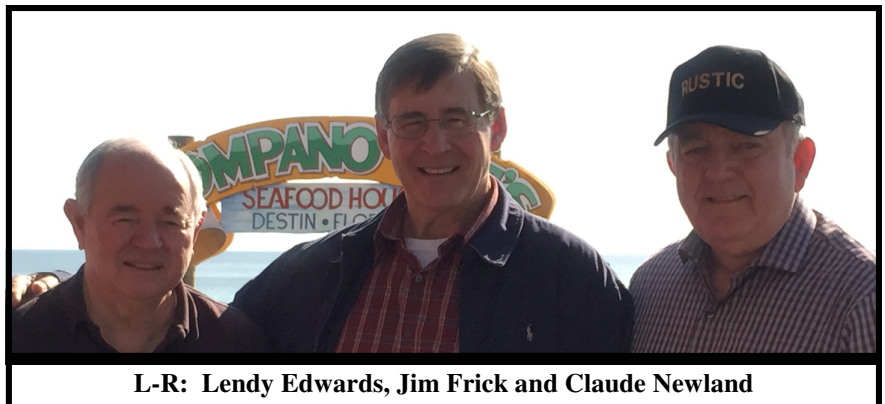
From Wallace J. Davis, Weapons Specialist

Hello, my name is **Wallace Jay Davis**. I served in Vietnam from November 1970 until November 1971 with the FAC Squadron at Bien Hoa. I was a USAF weapons specialist Staff Sergeant crew chief for the OV-10 and O2-A. I was browsing through the Internet and came across information and videos of Forward Air Controllers at Bien Hoa. I am interested in knowing when and if you are going to have another reunion or can I get more information regarding other guys who may have served there during that time. Thank you for any information you can provide. If not, thank you for your service and sacrifice. Best regards, **Wallace Jay Davis (Dave)**

(Note: Contact has been made with "Dave" Davis and a copy of this newsletter will be sent to him.)

From Jim Frick, Rustic Radio Operator, Nov 70-Oct 71

Claude and Lendy, Just a short note to say thanks again for having lunch with me in Destin earlier this month (Jan). I really enjoyed meeting you and talking with you about the old



L-R: Lendy Edwards, Jim Frick and Claude Newland

days. Carolyn and I really like Destin and are planning to come down for at least two weeks next January. Sure beats drilling through 28" of ice (yes that is what I measured last Monday up at our lake place) to try and catch 8-10 panfish. We are headed down to Sanibel two weeks from today for a couple of weeks.

Lendy, hope you are back on the golf course shortly. Our courses will open in about 15 months.....sometimes it seems like that long. We usually hit golf balls in a dome in March. Claude, thanks for all the information you and Lendy gave me. I need to do some ordering.

Hope we can get together again next January 2016. Best to you, your wives, and all your family. Warm regards, **Jim**
2015 Rustic Reunion Information

We hope to see all of you at the 2015 Rustic Reunion in Ft Worth Texas, 8-11 October 2015 . One of the added benefits of this reunion is that it is being held concurrent with BroncoFest X. The Rustics will participate in several of the BroncoFest events but we will have our own hooch , a separate banquet, and separate group seating areas for several of the events.

Ft Worth has a rich aviation heritage. It is also the home of the FAC Museum and Fort Worth Aviation Museum at Meacham Field. (Photo at right). We plan to visit both of these facilities.

LOCKHEED-MARTIN PLANT TOURS. If you want to go on one of the Thursday Lockheed-Martin plant tours you need to make a reservation **now** with Angela Engele (Broncofest Coordinator) at 214-601-8055 or aengele@ftwaviation.com. There are only 35 seats available for each of the two tours. The tour hotel departure times are 1200 and 1400.

REUNION HOTEL. The reunion hotel is the Radisson Hotel Fort Worth North-Fossil Creek located at I-35W and Meacham Blvd, (2540 Meacham Blvd). The rate is \$109 per room which includes breakfast. *Please call the hotel (817-625-9911) and make your own reservations. The reservation code is **RUSTIC 5**.* Be sure to use the code to get our special rate. Cut-off date to make a reservation at the hotel is **Monday, September 7, 2015.**

If you plan to arrive a day early on Wednesday, 7 October, come join us at **Bill Mc Adam's** home for a pre-party Wednesday evening.



2015 REUNION - SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
Ft Worth, Texas
8-11 October 2015

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
WEDNESDAY, 7 OCT 2015		
1700-2200	PRE-PARTY Gate Code will be provided	Bill McAdams' home 296 King Ranch Ct. Ft Worth, TX 76108 Phone: 817-448-8089 or 817-908-1489
THURSDAY, 8 OCT 2015		
1000-1200	HOOCH SET-UP	
1000-1700	REGISTRATION	Radisson Lobby
1000-1700	TOUR-Fort Worth & museums	Hotel shuttle bus/POV for those not going on Lockheed Martin tour
	List of attractions provided check in	
1200	HOOCH OPEN	Room TBA
1200-1430	TOUR-Lockheed Martin Plant*	Lockheed Martin (bus) tour 1 (limit 35)
1400-1630	TOUR-Lockheed Martin Plant*	Lockheed Martin (bus) tour 2 (limit 35)
1600	EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING	Hooch
1900	DINNER La Playa Maya, (order from menu)	POV/hotel shuttle leaves hotel at 1845
FRIDAY, 9 OCT 2015		
0800	GOLF TOURNEY*	Fossil Creek Golf Course POVs/Meet in hotel at 0715
1000	HOOCH OPEN	
1000-1600	TOUR-Fort Worth/museums--all day List of attractions to be provided	POV/Hotel shuttle bus
1500	BUSINESS MEETING/ELECTIONS	Hooch
1700	VISIT FT WORTH STOCKYARD	POV
1830	DINNER Cooper's BBQ	Ft. Worth Stockyards (order from menu)
2000-2200	STOCKYARD RODEO*	
SATURDAY, 10 OCT 2015		
0900-1200	Historic Aviation Tour of Fort Worth*	Bus from hotel
1000	HOOCH OPEN	
1200-1600	TOUR-Ft Worth Aviation Museum/FAC Museum* -- Buffet Lunch -- O-2 & OV-10 viewing 20 other Vietnam-era aircraft)	POV/hotel shuttle
1800-1900	RUSTIC NO HOST RECEPTION	Room TBA
1900-Till	RUSTIC BANQUET -- Speaker, Col. Glenn Hoppe, USMC (Ret) F-35 status -- Group Photo	Room TBA
SUNDAY, 11 OCT 2015		
0800	FAREWELL BREAKFAST	Radisson
Noon	HOOCH CLOSSES	

*With OV-10 Bronco Association

The Bronco Association will be at the same hotel. We will have our own hooch and banquet room. We will have our own group of seats at the rodeo but will use the group for buying power to get reduced prices for rodeo tickets.

REGISTRATION FORM 2015 RUSTIC REUNION, 8-11 October, 2015

Please print all information and return with payment NLT 1 Sep 2015. (This will ensure time to order reunion hats.)

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? Wed. _____ Thurs. _____ Fri. _____ Sat. _____
 Approx. time of day: _____ Coming by: Car _____ Air _____ (Flight #: _____)
 I'm arriving at: DFW Airport _____
 If unaccompanied, would you be interested in sharing a room/expense 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, 7 Oct. 5 pm Yes _____
 I'm bringing memorabilia for display in the Rustic Hooch. Yes _____
 I won't be attending the reunion, but would like the items ordered below mailed to me Yes _____

REGISTRATION FEES

	<u>Cost per person:</u>	<u>Number:</u>	<u>Sub-total:</u>
<u>Registration Fee:</u>	\$25	x _____	= \$ _____
<u>Thurs F-35 Lockheed-Martin Plant Tour</u>	\$15.00	1200 Departure 1400 Departure	x _____ = \$ _____ x _____ = \$ _____
<u>Fri Golf Tournament</u>	\$61.00	x _____	= \$ _____
<u>Fri Stockyard Rodeo</u>	\$12.50	x _____	= \$ _____
<u>Sat Historic Aviation Tour of Fort Worth</u>	\$15.00	x _____	= \$ _____
<u>Sat Aviation/FAC Museum Tour & Lunch</u>	\$20.00	x _____	= \$ _____
<u>Sat Reunion Banquet</u>	\$40.00	x _____	= \$ _____

Banquet Dinner choice of:

- Chicken Wellington** (boneless chicken breast with mushrooms wrapped in puff pastry) # _____
- Pecan Crusted Salmon** (baked pecan salmon filet served with lime buerre blanc) # _____
- Angus Beef Top Sirloin Steak** (angus top sirloin grilled to perfection) # _____

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.)

Rustic Coin	\$ 9.00 ea	x _____	= \$ _____
Baseball Caps:	\$ 10.00	x _____	= \$ _____
Maroon with "RUSTIC" and 'Reconnaissance Arme'e', Crossed flags on the side.			
Shipping costs if <u>not</u> attending reunion: Hat: \$2.50		x _____	= \$ _____

TOTAL TO REMIT: \$ _____

Please make a file copy of this completed form for yourself. Mail Registration Form and check (payable to "Rustics") NLT 1 Sep 2015 to: **Lendy Edwards,
11 Poplar Avenue,
Shalimar, FL 32579-1113**

FORT WORTH — HERE WE COME!



Rustic FAC Association
4033 Indian Trail Drive
Destin, FL 32541

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

