



Rustic News

www.rustic.org

Board of Directors:

President: Claude Newland, Rustic19@cox.net **Director:** Doug Aitken, daitken@nc.rr.com
Vice President: Jack Thompson, jackov10@sbcglobal.net **Director:** Ron Dandeneau, RusticFoxtrot@aol.com
Treasurer/Database: Don Ellis, donellis@sc.rr.com **Director:** Mike Wilson, sher85745@mac.com
Secretary: Roger Hamann, RusticYankee72@aol.com **Historian:** Jim Gabel, jagabel@aol.com

Project Coordinators:

Website: Lendy Edwards, lendy@cox.net **Rustic SEA Photo CD:** Ned Helms, ned@wingset.com
Commercial Book: Dick Wood, woodrh@ix.netcom.com **Rustic Reunion Photo CD:** Jim Seibold, seiboldjim@aol.com
Air Park Liaison: Ned Helm, ned@wingset.com **OBA Liaison:** Jack Thompson, Jackov10@sbcglobal.net
FACM Committee: Jim Gabel, jagabel@aol.com **Search Committee:** Rog Hamann, RusticYankee72@aol.com
Health & Wellness: Doc Thomas, shialary@msn.com

2007 Reunion Registration Issue

The ten year anniversary Rustic “Rendezvous” Reunion is fast approaching! Oct 18-21, Ramada Plaza Beach Resort, Fort Walton Beach, FL. ‘Hope to see you there!

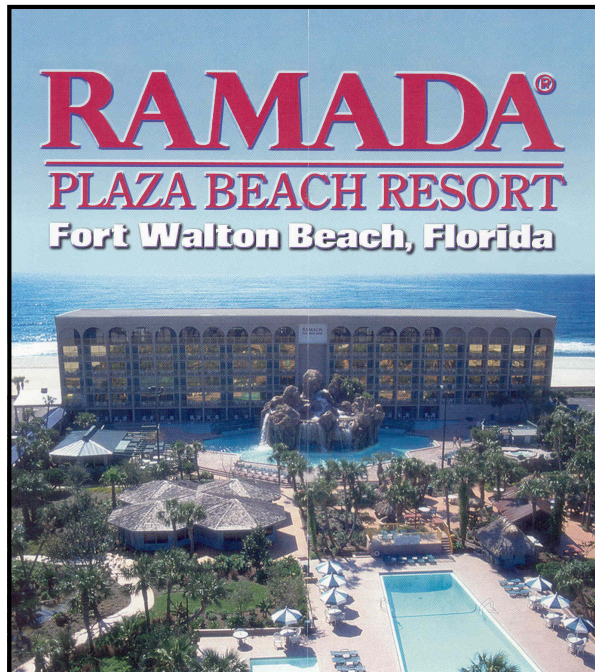
First Rustic reunion was held Sep 1997. Can you believe it, we are 10 years older!! Time is flying by; don’t miss this one.

Inside this issue:	
Next Reunion Announced	1
Reunion Schedule of Events	2-3
Membership Updates	3
Roster Updates	4
Bill Sleigh Takes Final Flight	4
Bill Sleigh’s Memoirs	5
Short Bursts	5
Historian’s Report	6
Cambodian Charities	6
Announcements/Calendar	7
Letters to the Rustics	7-10
Reunion Registration Form	11

TIME TO REGISTER: Enclosed is the reunion Schedule of Events and the 2007 Reunion Registration Form. Please mail in your registration NLT 1 Sep 2007. This will ensure the reunion hats and shirts are ordered and received in time for the reunion. This year’s hats and shirts will be the same as in 2005; costs also remain the same.

You don’t want to miss this gala gathering of Rustics and friends! Wives and guests are cordially invited. Highlights of the reunion will include great camaraderie, seafood, work on various Rustic History projects, a charter bus trip to the world famous Pensacola Naval Air Museum, golf, fishing, optional trip to Hurlburt Field’s Air Park to view FAC aircraft (Rustic OV-10 #626 will be there) and the new FAC Memorial, and a Rustic Business Meeting (to include elections.). **Roger Dodd** and the “Flyers” will again entertain us at the Saturday night banquet. A Farewell Breakfast is scheduled for Sunday AM.

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION: The Ramada Plaza Beach Resort on Okaloosa Island (www.ramadafwb.com) will again be the site of our reunion. What a great place! A



block of rooms with discounted rates have been reserved. Each person is to contact the Ramada and make their own reservation. Please identify yourself as part of the "Rustic FAC Reunion." Four types of rooms are available. Most rooms have two queen size beds, unless you specify a king. The rates have gone up about \$10/night per room since the 2005 reunion, but the location is to die for.

To make reservations, call toll free: 1-800-874-8962 Address: 1500 Miracle Strip Parkway, SE, Ft Walton Beach, FL 32548
 The Hotel's local phone number: 1-850-243-9161 Rustic Hootch phone: 1-850-243-9161, ext 7558

<u>Type Room:</u>	<u>Location:</u>	<u>Rate:</u>
Standard	(Rooms face away from courtyard)	\$99
Courtyard	(Rooms face in toward courtyard)	\$110
Poolside	(Towers Bldg-facing in to pool)	\$125
Gulf View	(Towers Bldg-facing gulf front)	\$140

Add 10% tax to the above rates. Rate is for 2 persons/room. Extra person is \$10/night.

OTHER LODGING OPTIONS: Please make your own reservations.

1) **Destin Army Recreation Area**--On the bay, Destin, FL Reservations can be made 4 months prior. Military ID required.
 Call: 800-642-0466 This is a beautiful facility with cabins, motel rooms, RV area, marina, boat rentals, and pool.
 www.benningmwr.com

2) **Emerald Coast Suites**--Across street and one block west of Ramada; on Okaloosa Island. Rate: \$79 for 2 people. Extra person is \$6/night. Call: 800-408-2200 2 double beds per room or king. 1214 U.S. Highway 98 East.

WHO'S COMING? We are happy to report **Col Oum, Hotel 303**, will again be in attendance as our guest. **Lt Col Kohn Om** has not made a commitment yet, but we hope he will be in attendance as well. As our guests, the Rustics will cover their reunion expenses to include air fare. If you'd like to help with these expenses, please send in a contribution with your reunion registration.

The Sep newsletter will include a list of everyone who has registered and periodic updates will be posted on the Rustic Net.

*BTW: If you'd like to join the Rustic Net, contact **Ned Helm** at: ned@wingset.com. This is a great way to fill in the communication gaps with your Buds between newsletters... and it doesn't cost a penny.*

RUSTIC SOUTHEAST ASIA PHOTO ALBUM TO BE UNVEILED AT 2007 REUNION. **Ned Helm** is working to complete the Rustic's one-of-a-kind, comprehensive, all-in-one, Southeast Asia Rustic Photo Album DVD. What a great keepsake this will be! Come to the reunion to get your copy.

REUNION SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, 17 OCT 2007

1800-Till	PRE-PARTY—All Invited	At the Newland's, 4033 Indian Trail, Destin 850-654-2955
-----------	-----------------------	---

THURSDAY, 18 OCT 2007

1200-2200	REGISTRATION OPEN --Reunion Sign-in --Drinks and refreshments --Display Memorabilia	Rustic Hootch (Poolside), Ramada
1630	EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING	Meet at Rustic Hootch
1800-2100	WELCOME PARTY --Flight Suits/Party Shirts, or whatever	Rustic Hootch
1830	DINNER (Registration Fee covers cost)	Rustic Hootch
2030	REUNION WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS	Rustic Hootch
2130	MASTER OF CEREMONIES MEETING	TBA

FRIDAY, 19 OCT 2007

0700	BREAKFAST (at your leisure)	
0730	RUSTIC HOOTCH OPEN	
0800	MEET AT NORTH ENTRANCE OF RAMADA FOR PENSACOLA NAVAL AIR MUSEUM TRIP	
0810	DEPART FOR PENSACOLA VIA CHARTER BUS	
0945	ARRIVE PENSACOLA NAVAL AIR MUSEUM	
1000	GROUP GUIDED TOUR OF MUSEUM (Group Picture)	
1200	LUNCH	West Pac Room & Cubi Bar Cafe
1300	IMAX THEATER SHOW	IMax Theater
1500-1630	TOUR AT YOUR LEISURE	
1645	LOAD BUS FOR RETURN TRIP.	
1700	CHARTER BUS DEPARTS PENSACOLA NAS	
1830	ARRIVE RAMADA HOTEL	
1900	MEET AT RUSTIC HOOTCH TO WALK TO CRAB TRAP RESTAURANT FOR DINNER.	
	--Located at the "Boardwalk" just West of the Ramada; on the beach.	
	--Optional activity. Group reservations made. Open Seating. Order off menu. No program.	
2100-Till	RUSTIC HOOTCH OPEN. EVENING AT LEISURE.	
	--Moonlight walks on the beach	

SATURDAY, 20 OCT 2007

0630-1300	6 hour FISHING TRIP (optional) --0630 Depart for Destin. --0700 Boat leaves dock.	Meet at Rustic Hootch to carpool
0700-1330	RUSTIC GOLF (optional) --Carpool to Eglin AFB --0800 first tee time.	0700 - Meet at Rustic Hootch
0800	BREAKFAST AT LEISURE	Ramada Garden Café
0800-1400	MORNING FREE FOR OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES: --Sight Seeing to Seaside Village and Beaches --Shopping at Silver Sands Factory Outlets --Eglin Armament Museum and Static Displays --Hurlburt Field Air Park and FAC Memorial	15 miles east of Destin on Hwy 30A 4 miles east of Destin on Hwy 98 Eglin AFB; POV (Meet at Hootch @ 0900; carpool)
0900	RUSTIC BUSINESS MEETING/ELECTIONS	Rustic Hootch
1445-1600	BANQUET SET-UP	Forum Room – Top Floor of Towers Bldg
1600	BANQUET HAPPY HOUR—CASH BAR	Forum Room
1800-1900	--Individual and Couple photos by Jim Seibold --Coat and tie or whatever	
1830-1900	RUSTIC GROUP PHOTOS	Forum Room
1900-2200	DINNER BANQUET/DANCING	Forum Room
2200-TILL	RUSTIC HOOTCH OPEN	

SUNDAY, 21 OCT 2007

0800-0930	FAREWELL BREAKFAST (Breakfast Buffet)	Ramada Garden Cafe
0930	RUSTIC HOOTCH OPEN --Remove memorabilia from Hootch --Farewells	
1000	EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETNG	Meet at Rustic Hootch
1100	HOTEL ROOM CHECKOUT TIME	
1200	RUSTIC HOOTCH CLOSES	

2007 MEMBERSHIP UPDATE: Don Ellis reports the association currently has 48 lifetime members and 44 annual members. Some of you may not have sent in your 2007 dues yet so a copy of the dues renewal form is included with this newsletter. Remember, it's your dues that keep us going! BTW: Our dues have not changed in ten years.

DON ELLIS NOW RUSTIC DATABASE KEEPER: Don Ellis, Rustic Treasurer, is now the new Rustic Database Keeper. Don volunteered to take on this responsibility, since, as treasurer, he is the one who deals primarily with membership and needs to keep up with address and personnel changes, etc.

If you anticipate any changes to your address, phone number or E mail address, please pass this info directly to Don at: donellis@sc.rr.com or call (803) 435-4755.

Our thanks go to **Lendy Edwards** who has served in this position for the past 10 years!

CAN YOU HELP US AUDIT OUR RUSTIC BOOKS? We need someone who has [preferably] an accounting or business background to step forward and volunteer to do an informal audit of our Rustic financial accounts at the 2007 Reunion. We conduct an independent audit because we think it's a good business practice for the association. (**Bill Sleigh** has done the audit in the past, so we need a replacement.) The audit only takes an hour or so to accomplish.

Treasurer, **Don Ellis**, will provide all reports, etc. If you can help with this matter, please contact **Claude Newland** at rustic19@cox.net or call 850-654-2955. The audit will be conducted at the reunion.

Our thanks go to **Don Ellis** who has done a great job of keeping our accounts up-to-date!

ROSTER/PERSONNEL UPDATES: Rustics on the move:

Don Echelberger	4113 Cackling Goose Dr., No. Las Vegas, NV 89084
Ned Helm	515 Trailhead lane, Jamestown, TN 38556 931-752-8102 and of course 800-356-4953
Lannie Trapp	8400 Penali Parkway, Austin TX, 78726 (H) 512-350-2230; Cell phone: 512-799-2068

BAD E MAIL ADDRESS; UPDATES REQUESTED. The E mail addresses for the following Rustics are no longer working for us. If you would, please send **Don Ellis** your new E mail address at: donellis@sc.rr.com. (We probably also need new mailing addresses on these guys. Do any of you know where these guys are these days? If so, please contact Don with the current info.

Ed Boggess	Norman Cimon	Norm Falcon	Michael Gilchrist
Damon Gonzalez	Charles D. Greene	Emery Kiraly	Roger Lanoue
Don Osborn	Milton Ross	Otto Walinski	

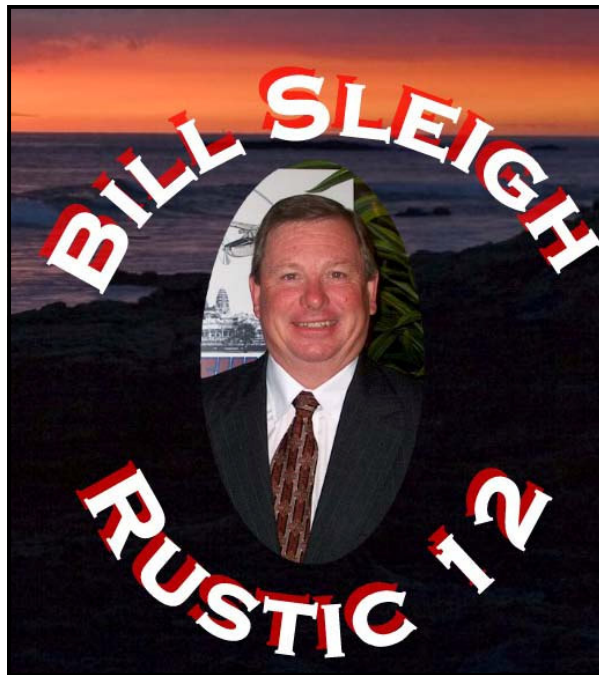
BILL SLEIGH, RUSTIC 12, TAKES FINAL FLIGHT WEST. It's with deep regret that we inform you that **Bill Sleigh** passed away on 5 April 2007 after losing his battle with leukemia. A memorial service was held Tuesday, 10 April at the 1st Methodist church in Niceville, FL. Many friends and family were in attendance to include many local area FACs who served with Bill at Hurlburt Field when Bill was an OV-10 Instructor Pilot. Rustics **Doug Aitken**, **Don Echelberger**, and **Jim Reese** flew in to attend the service and were joined by local Rustics **Lendy Edwards** and **Claude Newland**. **Doug Aitken** and **Claude Newland** were honored to be able to participate in the service and give eulogies for Bill.

Bill was a Rustic OV-10 pilot at Bien Hoa Air Base from March - July 1971. Following his tour in SEA he went to medical school and then became a physician, practicing in Tampa and, later, Fort Walton Beach, FL. His family now resides in Niceville, FL

Part of Bill's legacy will be the lasting impact he made on our present day FAC community and the Rustic FAC Association, in particular. He was instrumental in helping get the Rustic FAC Association formed in 1997, served as its charter vice president for 5 years, and helped ensure the success of 4 Rustic FAC reunions.

In 2000, he served on both the Ft Walton Beach, FL "Mother of All FAC Reunion" and FAC Memorial Committees. He worked tirelessly to make the 2000 FAC reunion a great success by providing the hats and shirts for the reunion, serving as a host and sponsor for the Medal of Honor family attendees, and by participating in the FAC Memorial dedication ceremony and assisting in the reading the names of our 219 departed brethren. As a result of Bill's efforts, and many like him, the foundation was laid for what we now enjoy as a vibrant and active FAC Association. Bill, we salute you—you have made the world a better place in many ways!

Nancy Sleigh can be reached at: 1243 Shipley Dr., Niceville, FL 32578, sleigh59@cox.net or 850-897-1045.



Bill, we bid you fair skies and a gentle tailwind. 'Rest assured, you will not be forgotten by your Rustic brethren.

RUSTICS SEEK TO HONOR BILL SLEIGH BY PUBLISHING HIS MEMOIRS; ‘HELP NEEDED. One of **Bill Sleigh’s** best kept secrets was the fact that he had taken extensive notes of his Southeast Asia tour and had been writing his memoirs over the past few years. His manuscript was all but complete when he passed away. Unfortunately, Bill didn’t have time to complete the manuscript’s final edit and get his memoirs published due to the effects of his prolonged battle with leukemia.

Don Mercer has seen the draft manuscript and has volunteered to act as the Rustic OPR to coordinate an effort to get Bill’s memoirs published as a tribute and memorial to Bill and his family. The initial manuscript should produce a book of approx.150-175 pages. **Doug Aitken** has volunteered to write the Forward and work on photo layouts, and **Jim Gabel** has been assisting with editing. They are putting a full court press on this project.

The Goal is to have the Memoirs published in time for our 2007 Reunion so we can present them to **Nancy Sleigh**. As you can see, we are on a short timeline.

The total cost is expected to be approx. \$1,000 - \$1,200. This will include a turn key contract to copyright, do photos layouts, and publish a hard bound book.

If you’d like to make a memorial contribution to help publish Bill Sleigh’s memoirs, please send your memorial check to: Don Ellis, Rustic Treasurer, 26 E. Boyce St., Manning SC, 29102. Make check payable to “Rustics” and put “Sleigh Memoirs” in the check by-line.

Editor’s note: "\$500 has already been pledged by individual members of the Rustic Board. We are almost half way to our goal of raising approx. \$1,200. . Will you help? This will be a great gift for Bill’s family. Once the memoirs have been published, if there are any excess funds, they will be donated to a charity named by the family in memory of Bill .I’ve read the memoirs. Bill has a very readable style and his stories bring back many memories!

SHORT BURSTS:

1) Medical Update. Claude Newland had laparoscopic robotic prostate surgery on Wed, 2 May in Atlanta at the Northside Hospital. The surgery seemed to go well and he is now at home resting. If any of you have had prostate cancer and served “boot on the ground” in Vietnam, contact Claude at rustic19@cox.net or call 850-654-2955. He has some important information about VA services and benefits if you have had prostate cancer.

2) State Department OV-10D Crashes. “Igor”, Keeper of the OV-10 Bronco Records, reported on the OV-10 Net that State Department OV-10D SLEP, #155410, PNC 3041, crashed during a maintenance test flight on the 28th of April, at San Jose del Guaviare, Colombia. The pilot ejected safely and sustained some minor injuries associated with the ejection, but nothing more.

3) Awards and Decs. Don Mercer is continuing his never-ending battle to redress previous omissions and oversights with respect to proper awards recognition for the Rustics. Currently, he is resubmitting an award of the Silver Star (previously downgraded) for **Dick Roberds** for a mission flown on December 15, 1970.

4) OV-10 # 675 Update. Randy Roberts, Nail FAC, Mar 21. HOORAY!! SARCO INC. out of northern N.J. was nice enough to supply us with 4 M-60 barrels w/ gas tube assemblies and flash suppressors at a substantial discount and kindly paid the shipping. Believe it or not, with the market on all things "machine guns" going price wise out of sight this has been a real worry where, or even if, we could get the damn things. Now that the P-47 is "up on base" the priorities shift towards 675. Wanted to "dedicate" the old girl on Memorial Day, but that ain't gonna happen.....more as things develop.

5) Return Trip to Cambodia. Rustic **Tom Capps** is part of a ministerial team going to Cambodia in Nov 2007. **Ron Gamache**, Rustic V, is going to be part of the team. At this year’s reunion, Tom will give us an overview of his planned trip. We hope to get a thorough debrief once the trip is concluded.

6) Rustics to attend All FAC reunion hosted by the Aussies in Canberra, Australia, 23-28 April, 2008. If you’d like more information on this reunion, the planned itinerary and who will be attending, please contact **Claude Newland** at: rustic19@cox.net or call 850-654-2955. A 21 day tour of New Zealand and Australia will proceed the reunion.

2007 ELECTION BALLOTS TO BE MAILED IN SEP NEWSLETTER.. Members will receive the 2007 election ballots in the September Rustic newsletter. We are in need of more members to step up and run for office. Contact any one of the following members of the Nominating Committee to discuss how you might become involved in the Association:

Lendy Edwards	lendy@cox.net	850-651-6766 (Chairman)
Roger Hamann	RusticYankee72@aol.com	207-375-4883
Doc Thomas	shialary@msn.com	314-457-8816

Bill Carruthers billc@carolina.rr.com 704-366-8890

HISTORIAN REPORT- LAST CALL FOR INPUTS IF YOU FLEW OV-10 # 639 OR # 675(Gabel.) Rustics, here's your chance to be part of recorded history. Don't miss this opportunity!

Rustic OV-10 # 639 is to be dedicated in April 2008 at the Australian War Memorial Museum. The Aussies have requested information on OV-10 67-14639 from **Darrel Whitcomb**, FAC Association Historian. Darrel put a request on the FACNET. On 21 May, I submitted the data from Rustics that I had collected. Included was information from 15 individuals, which covered 82 flights. Many of these missions were flown by individuals before they became Rustics. I know there is additional information out there in Rustic land, because 20 of those flights were reported by interpreters and there are no corresponding reports from pilots. It would be appropriate to include an additional request, with a note of urgency, in the next newsletter.

Rustic OV-10 # 675 to be dedicated at the Hill AFB Museum. Date TBD. **Randy Roberts**, Nail 38, is participating in the restoration of 675. He has requested the same type of historical mission inputs from the pilots who flew this bird. The objective is to create a complete history of # 675 for inclusion in the museum.

If you flew either of these birds, please submit your account/story (as much as possible), to include details, dates, names, rank, and TASS squadron assigned to Jim Gabel NLT 31 Aug 2007 at: jagabel@aol.com or mail to: 2556 Lindsey Dr., Rapid City, SD 57702. Include pictures if you have them. Last Call!

Inputs for OV-10 # 639 have been received from the following: Aitken, Brunnelle, Dufresne, Edwards, Engleman, Ernst, Hamann, Harshaw, Keese, Larson, McClellan, Newland, Spencer, Van Dyke and Wilson. (Thanks guys!) Who else?

*Bill Ernst, Rustic 04, reports he flew 675 several times as a Rustic in April 1973, so we suspect there must be others who flew this ol' war horse. OK, guys, check you logs one more time and get with it! Submit your inputs ASAP to **Jim Gabel**.*

RUSTIC WEBSITE (Edwards): Gents, I recently updated the Rustic website to include the Memorial section, the locator, and uploaded the latest InnerChange Newsletter. Please take note and enjoy. If you should see an error, please let me know.

CAMBODIAN CHARITIES (Edwards): I received the following report from Sunrise Innerchange Ministries, the parent organization that oversees the Cambodian Charities we have been supporting in Kompong Cham. As many of you will recall, **Diane Moss**, our most recent contact person in Kompong Cham, has departed Cambodian so we had to establish contacts with her replacement. Here is the report from **Danny Colombara, Advisor to IC Kompong Cham City.**

Dear Lendy (and Rustics),

Thank you for forwarding your questions so quickly and for passing along your web address to help me understand more about the Rustics.

I understand your concerns regarding wanting a contact "on the ground" here in Kampong Cham. In response let me simply say, part of the reason that I moved to Kampong Cham was to serve supporters such as yourself and Rustics. When you have questions or concerns, please let me know and I will respond as quickly and accurately as possible.

Sunrise is committed to continuing support of the Kampong Cham Orphanage. Our volunteers continue to visit the orphanage on a weekly basis. In addition, at the start of every school year, Sunrise has purchased books, uniforms, and school supplies for the orphans. We have no plans to discontinue either of these services. Your gift to the orphanage was used to purchase these school related items. If the Rustics were to make future gifts to the orphanage, they would be used in the same way.

In addition, I know that the Rustics had also given \$500 to be used as discretionary fund to care for local emergencies. I plan, at the end of the fiscal year, to give an accounting of how these funds were utilized.

InnerCHANGE has no plans to cut or reduce our ministry in Kampong Cham City because **Diane Moss** has moved to Romania. Rather, as I mentioned in the mid-year report, we are renewing our agreement with the government and expect to work here for years to come.

Please let me know if I haven't addressed your concerns or if you questions regarding anything I wrote. Kind regards,
Danny Colombara, Advisor to IC KCC danny.colombara@crmladers.org

FAC MUSEUM UPDATE (Gabel): As of 9 May 2007, about \$18K has been spent on the Museum build out, with about \$5K of that in donated material. The Trail Bar is complete except for the plumbing. The latest O-2 has now been received and partially assembled. It will be configured as a "Black Bird," with the windows painted so that the interior will not need as much work as the other O-2. The prevailing view is that the OV-10 Bronco Association will eventually be merged with the FACM, with the FACM becoming the overarching organization for a number of affinity groups. You can already see this approach in the OBA/FACM newsletter.

0-2 AIRCRAFT – WHERE ARE THEY NOW? "Oxlade", Mar 21, 2007. Rustics, I have just joined the FACNET. I live in Australia. I'm an aviation historian and for the past few years have been tracing every 0-2, (not their entire history, but just their fate.) I have them all, except 48 a/c, and still working on them. If anybody is looking for a particular tail #, give me a try and I will do my best to advise you of my findings. Contact me at: noelast323@hotmail.com

Any 0-2 Rustic willing to contact "Oxlade" and find out what happened to our Rustic 0-2's? This would be a great addition to our

*Rustic History. Please advise **Jim Gabel**, Rustic Historian, at: jagabel@aol.com if you can help.*

HAVE ANY RUSTICS EVER RECEIVE A DFC WITH “V” DEVICE FOR VALOR? **George Larson**, Rustic “U”, would like to know if any Rustic ever received a ‘V’ device for valor with their DFC? The “V” device is an “add-on” to the DFC if the DFC’s specific write-up documents a mission executed with “valor.” If you received the “V” device or would like to know more about its ramifications, please contact **George “Lunchbox” Larson** at: gorln45@aol.com or 407-277-8502.

George says these awards seem to be non-existent among the Rustics because our individual mission DFC write-ups were sanitized so that the final “submissions” were pretty generic due to the classified nature of our mission. Were you the exception? If so, come up voice.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/CALENDAR:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1) 2007 A-37 Reunion | 6-9 Sep 2007, Hilton Washington Dulles Hotel, Wash, DC |
| 2) 2007 OBA FACtober Fest | 26-28 Oct 2007, Ft Worth, TX. |
| 3) 2008 Aussie FAC Reunion | 23-28 April 08, Canberra, Australia. All U.S. FACs invited to participate |
| 4) 2008 All FAC Reunion | 1-5 Oct 2008, Colorado Springs, CO. AF/Navy Football game 4 Oct. |

OV-10 # 639 ARRIVES IN AUSTRALIA. (Aussie FAC **Graham Neil**, Mar 25, 2007.) OV-10 #639 has been landed in Sydney, courtesy of HMAS Tobruk, and has been cleared by Customs and the Australian Quarantine & Inspection Service. It will now be shipped by road to Canberra to be housed at the Australian War Memorial's (AWM) Treloar Annex for restoration. That will mark the end of our quest which has been running for 8 years thus far.

The AWM really made this fourth recovery attempt count and nothing was left to chance, their own engineer went to Manila in mid February to supervise the packing and to ensure that the Customs and AQIS concerns were addressed, so as to ensure there would be no glitches on arrival. The AWM has sent letters of appreciation to the Philippine Air Force, our Embassy in Manila and others are being drafted to Chief of Navy etc. The PAF disassembled the aircraft for us and were extremely helpful in providing assistance with the container loading and they even threw in a few spare instruments for the cockpit as well as a drop tank. The Defense Attachés office in Manila also provided top class support throughout. The US Technical Support Office provided a CD containing details of the complete list of components of a serviceable OV-10 to ensure that restoration will be as complete as possible (subject to budget and availability.) The aircraft log books which were believed lost, following their hand-over to Air Chief Marshal Angus Houston and retention by our DA in Manila in Feb 05, miraculously turned up on the desk of the Captain of HMAS Tobruk. So another piece of the history jigsaw has been found.

We really appreciate the intellectual, moral and physical support that the OV-10 Bronco Association and FAC Association have provided over the last eight years.

My thanks to all who have provided unstinting effort towards this project. Best Regards, **Graham Neil**

INDONESIANS TO RETIRE THE OV-10. **Eugene Rossel**" eugene.rossel@verizon.net, 4/11/2007 INDONESIA - AGING AIRCRAFT TO BE GROUNDED (APR 11/XIN) XINHUA -- The Indonesian air force will ground the obsolete aircraft in its inventory, reports Xinhua, China's state news agency. This will affect the service's six Hawk Mk 53s and eight OV-10 Broncos, both of which have airworthiness expiration dates of 2010, air force Chief Air Marshal **Herman Prayitno** said. Indonesia has contacted aircraft manufacturers to replace the two aircraft types.

LETTERS TO THE RUSTICS:

From Jerry Dufresne to Chuck Bopp, ceebe3216@verizon.net

Chuck, I just checked my flight records and I was your backseater on that flight. It was tail # 683 and was a 5.20 hour flight. I do remember it being a hairy mission with a lot of fireworks and debris in the air. I am Rustic India, I was the first backseater and flew 120 missions with the Rustics. I will try to find a photo of us together by an OV-10. I remember you because it was my 100th combat hour in the Bronco. Glad to have you on board. Take care and I will always be your Backseater. Your Friend and Fellow Rustic, **Jerry Dufresne**

From Chuck Bopp:

I just received the enclosed message and called **Jerry [Dufresne.]** It is amazing that we can make such contacts after so many years. Anyway, Jerry & I had a neat conversation and I want to thank you for putting us in contact. **Chuck**

From Terry Tabor, Nail 83, FAC Museum (Editor's Note: The Rustic Board has again approved \$500 for the Rustics to continue as a "Corporate Sponsorship" of the FACM for 2007.)

Claude, Thanks to you and the Rustics for your continued support of FACM! **Tom Kemp** will be mailing out the invoices to corporate sponsors in the near future, but it is nice to know that the Rustics are on board ahead of time.

Jim Gabel has done a great job of representing the Rustics and keeping up with the Steering Committee happenings, as well as serving as our membership chairman. I can understand his feelings that someone in the DFW area would be able to attend the monthly meetings, but quite often our meeting schedule changes because even the few of us who are regulars aren't available. If there is a Rustic who would like to participate, we'd be delighted with whomever you select. The only one who comes to mind is **Jack Thompson**, a member of the OBA Board of Directors, and even Jack has a tough time attending OBA meetings because his consulting work is frequently out of town. By the way, he has been a GREAT help in the last month or so as we prepared for **General Carlson's** visit. With the FACM, it seems that those who want to help somehow find the time at the critical points and the job gets done.

Speaking of which, the FACM build out is essentially complete. We have a few adjustments here and there with the final touchup work, but we are ready to start putting up displays. The next step for the FACM Steering Committee is to decide on the overall plan for displays to tell the story of Forward Air Control from the beginning to the present. Several ideas have already been proposed and all sound wonderful, so we just need to draw out the plan so everyone is on the same page. **Jerry Stephan** (Nails) and **James Eaton** (OBA/modeler) are already building models to be used in the diorama which will visually explain the history of FACING. As you can imagine, this is the exciting part of the FACM development. Thanks again to all the Rustics, **Terry**

From **Dave Van Dyke**,

One of my buddies happens to be the local NBC channel helicopter pilot and yesterday just happened to be the end of the fiscal year and he needed to put about 5 hours on the bird...so old Dave volunteered to help him out. The last time I did this was in 1970 when **Dave Parsons** and I were awarded our honorary "Woppity One Stripe" for working closely with the helicopter hunter killer teams at the Big Red 1. So to my surprise, I was still able to make this beauty go, although it will take a little time to get smooth on the cyclic. But the landings were firm and solid (read safe), the hover was erratic but not catastrophic, and the flying was down right fun.

Mike Wilson should know that he's not the only Rustic that can fly using both hands and both feet at the same time. **Dave Van Dyke-Rustic 4**



From "**Ned Helm**"

Hey, Claude....Great to hear you're back!! Rustic 15 et Ux are now in TN with a new addy of 515 Trailhead lane, Jamestown, TN 38556. Phone 931-752-8102 and of course 800-356-4953.

They bulldozed our drive yesterday and cleared the house site. Foundation goes in this weekend. Should be in and warm (cool?) in Aug!!

Small 1200 sq foot house with full basement and then a cabarn (cabin barn) for guests and horses. We sit on the Trailhead for the great South Fork of the Cumberland river National Recreation area...a huge park that spans a lot of eastern TN and KY. Cheers.... Really miss the heat, sand, snakes and Hurricanes!! (now I'll get hit by a runaway horse.....)

The final bag drag was a motor home towing a u-haul and the Durango towing a two horse trailer with its occupants.....it was not without traumaas the Camper first lost an inside rear tire in Soddy Daisy (yes, Virginia there is a Soddy Daisy in TN) at 9 PM. Then after the attendant delay (about an hour) while FMCA changed the spare out..... we arrived in Jamestown and headed down the 14 miles of very dark twisty road to the manse. Then at the only downhill 90 degree turn on the road....the serpentine belt STB and I lost just about everything....no power steering, no power brakes, and no water pump.

It was in the RV equivalent of fresh out of airspeed and ideas...except...I had too much airspeed and no ideas. The camper made the corner and ended up in a really crabby guys front yard (actually I was just on the right of way).He threatened to get his shotgun...I laid my 9mm Browning Hi-power in my lap and thought...he gets the first shot...I get the next 13!! He went to bed...good move AH!

The FMCA (family motor coach assn) was dispatched....and I was towed to the chocks at 4AM. BTW the FMCA will tow anything including your vehicle and whatever it is towing and has unlimited roadside assistance including trip retrieval and completion. Lose AAA they have a 4 call limit per year.....and FMCA is cheaper!! **Crash**

Crash, we hope you don't have to move often...you seem to have more than your share of travel "adventures!" Glad you to hear you survived another mission.

From Gil Bellefeuille, Rustic T

Afternoon Claude, The news just gets better and better. Ruth's [my spouse's] CO called this AM. She was selected for promotion to Major with an expected DOR of 12/01/07. Needless to say was happy news all around.

Kimberly [daughter] graduates from Navy boot camp on 4/13/07 and I will fly up for her graduation. Still do not know where she will go for A school. Talk to U later, **Gil Bellefeuille** 386-589-5404, bellef105@aol.com

Gil, please pass on our congratulations to Ruth on here pending promotion, and to Kimberly on her graduation..

From Doug Aitken, Subject: Pending Visit to 74 FS "Rustics"

'Just to let you know that I am escorting **N.C. Senator Harris Blake** to the 74 FS next Friday, Mar 25th. Sen Blake got very involved in the return of the remains of one Lt Upchurch, a Flying Tiger, who crashed and was killed in China during WW II. The Chinese buried him and faithfully maintained his grave until last year, when the remains were identified thru DNA, and he was buried here in Moore County at the family plot. The 74th did the flyby, with Batt being #3.

In early April, Sen Blake is leading a delegation to the village in China that maintained the grave. I was talking to him about our impending annexation, which we are fighting, and the subject came up and he indicated a desire to take something from the Flying Tigers to present to the Chinese. Hence the visit.

'Should be fun, and I will try to represent the Rustics in a positive fashion--should be easy cause we are going in the morning, thus no happy hour. Cheers, **Doug**

From Doug Aitken, Subject: After Action Report on Visit to 74 FS

Claude, The 74th was mostly deployed to Iraq at the time of our visit. Guys who remained were the OPS officer and folks in differing stages of planning. "**Batt**" **Platt** for example, left a couple of days before we got there to go to IP school.

Nevertheless, we had a great time. **Senator Harris Blake** was really, really impressed. We were greeted by the FG/CC **Col Henry Santicola**, the Ops officer, and two escort officers. We had press coverage from our local paper, and I will forward you the story when it comes out. Started in PE, then to the briefing room for standard brief, and they presented him with a great picture, framed, to be taken to China and presented to the Chinese.

Don't recall if I told you the entire story of the Flying Tigers connection with Senator Blake. In 1944, Lt Upchurch crashed in his P-40 in China, and some local folks from the village of Guidong (I think that is spelled right) found his body, buried it, and maintained that grave for over 60 years. Last year, after the folks at Hickham had identified who he was from DNA, the family approached Senator Blake, who is our local state rep, in help in getting everything squared away for burial in the family plot in Moore County, North Carolina. The 74th FS did the flyby and Batt was the "missing man."

I met Senator Blake on the issue of our community being involuntarily annexed by the Village of Pinehurst. NC is one of only four states that allow an involuntary annexation without some sort of a referendum, and I am the President of the Fair Annexation Coalition, a gathering of individual groups from throughout the state who are fighting similar battles. The work on the Rustic video has not yet begun. Too busy visiting members of the NC General Assembly and fighting the good fight.

Anyway, I met Senator Blake on that issue, and he told us of his upcoming trip to China to thank those villagers, and he said he wished that he could have some Flying Tiger momentos to give to them--they are building a memorial to Lt. Upchurch. Senator Blake leaves tomorrow and is leading a delegation of 15 from here--relatives, etc.

I told him I could take care of that for him. So he got to climb all over the A-10 and flew the sim and had a great lunch. They gave him a bunch of those "coins" they gave the Rustics two years ago, along with scarfs, and patches as well as the beautifully framed print. HE also got a bottle of local wine, with the 23FG patch as the label!

I also had written to B/G Tex Hill, whom I had met many years ago at Gen Flynn's house in San Antonio, and whom I met again two years ago at Oshkosh. He fulfilled my request with a great letter to the villagers thanking them for taking care of Lt Upchurch (Tex was the CC when Upchurch was lost), and also an autographed picture of himself in China in the cockpit of the P-40. Tex is a wonderful American--92 years young and still going strong. Double ace and just got the Distinguished Service Medal from Pres Bush.

Yesterday, while I was in the General Assembly, visiting on annexation, I dropped in on Sen Blake, and he showed me copies of the wonderful letters he wrote to the folks at Pope.

He promised to work with me when he gets back on a golf outing for those guys over here in Pinehurst. Also, **Col Santicola** wants another Rustic visit some Friday when they have the hootch open. These guys leave for Moody in the fall, so we might want to do that pretty soon. We also need to make sure that they have invites to our 10th reunion. You should handle that, I think as Pres.

That is it--ain't you glad you asked. Cheers, **Doug**

From Rog Hamann, Rustic Yankee,

Joe Garand, Rustic Echo, and I visited the Traveling Wall on Sunday (27 May) in Old Orchard Beach, York County, ME and laid a nickel down for our three Rustic brothers who's memories will NEVER BE FORGOTTEN. Thanks to Joe's son, Rock, for taking the time to take a pic of two Rustic GIBS from Ubon.

From Marcel Morneau, Rustic "V"

Hey Guys, 'Looks like the Maine Mafia is alive and well (including **Ralph Dow**). Good pic of **Roger** and **Joe**. Hope to see both of them at the reunion. 'Spent Memorial Day building a play set in the backyard, hosting family BBQ and enjoying our grand kids. See you all in October. **Denise and Marcel**
From Kent Allison, friend of Rustic **Doug Norman, Rustic M,**

Gentlemen, I am not one of you but I shared a two-bedroom apartment with **Carl "Doug" [Norman]** in Topeka, KS in '72 / '73 when we were stationed together at Forbes AFB and both assigned to the Processing Section of CBPO (Personnel) after he was cross-trained in 1972.

Those of you who knew Doug in Thailand would have been even more "proud" of him back in the CONUS. He was a "Personnel Weenie" of the first order (CBPO In-Processing Specialist) during the day and a "premium grade" bartender at a downtown Topeka lounge after duty hours. He had a "flair" for wild ladies and good cigars. Doug was a pretty big fella and you can guess the inquisitive looks and questions he fielded from the flight status personnel when they saw his ribbons. Forbes was an airlift base (313th TAW) with Herky's and an ACGS detachment. We out-processed a lot of our aircrew members to Spec Ops at Hurlburt. Forbes even had some RB-57G Canberra's.

Doug evidently knew one or two of the ACGS guys as they sometimes hung out together but I didn't make the connection at the time (being a rather naive and simple minded two-striper from Kansas). He bought a new 1972 gold Chrysler Sebring and a motorcycle. He made some high level contacts with the Topeka P.D. and KBI and was working "undercover" and "UNDER THE USAF RADAR" for those agencies in his off-duty time. He carried a concealed weapon almost all the time he wasn't in USAF attire.

More than once he warned me (and my wife when she visited on weekends) NOT to open the door to our apartment if someone knocked but to make certain it was him first. (That will make a person think.) His aspirations (as he revealed to me) were to pursue a career in the Intel / LE field, the FBI, the "Agency", etc. Considering the "curious and intriguing" story surrounding his death in 1998, he **just might** have been successful. I certainly hope so. Just my 2 cents for an old friend.....an Opus X and a Remy Martin. **Kent Allison**, Coffeyville, KS

Doug passed away several years ago. Several Rustics have tried to locate Doug's family but the clandestine nature of Doug's later career path may explain our difficulty in trying to locate them as the Air Force will not release any information to us.

From Kent Allison,

Mr. Newland, We have not met....yet. I am a guy who lived with **Doug Norman** back in '72 /'73 (off-base) while stationed at Forbes AFB, KS (when we were both "Personnel Weenies"). I ran across the Rustics website back in summer 2005 and stumbled (literally) onto another website containing a story by **Rog Hamann**. The rest is history. My wife and I hope to make it to the reunion this fall.

I have read of your prostate surgery and it sounds like things are going well. I am nearly 54 and have been a firefighter and EMT for over 26 years. I have had annual PSA tests with our department physicals for the past several years now. The PSA's are so easy that it is difficult to imagine every man over the age of 50 not having them done annually. Of course, at the same time, one should mention the necessity of having the dreaded colonoscopy. Many folks just don't want to think about having them done or "dealing with it". However, you are very much correct that technology has advanced so much farther and we can detect things so much earlier than a few years ago. The earlier we can detect and treat a problem, the better our chances of beating it the first time around.

Anyway, I am glad things are going well for you. I hope you have gotten rid of the catheter (or soon will). Kathy and I send our prayers and "Best Wishes" for a full and speedy recovery. God Bless, **Kent Allison**

Kent, we look forward to meeting you and your wife at the reunion. .It would be a privilege to have you join us!



L-R Joe Garand and Roger Hamann

2007 REUNION REGISTRATION FORM

18-21 Oct, 2007

Please print all information and return with payment **NLT 1 Sep, 2007**. (This will ensure time to order reunion shirts & hats.)

Name _____ Nickname (for name tag) _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone (____) _____ E Mail _____ FAX (____) _____

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

Rustic/Other Call Sign _____ Rustic Dates: Month _____ Yr _____ to Month _____ Yr _____

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

Approx. time of day: _____ Coming by: Car _____ Air _____ (Flight Number _____)

I'm arriving at the following airport: Okaloosa County Regional. Airport _____ Pensacola Regional Airport _____

If unaccompanied, would you be interested in sharing a room/expenses with another Rustic? Yes _____ No _____

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

I'm willing to help man the Rustic Hootch for a couple of hours. Yes _____

I/we will be attending the pre-party at the Newland's House on Wed, 17 Oct Yes _____

I will bring memorabilia for display in the FAC Hootch. Yes _____

I will not be attending the reunion, but would like the items ordered below mailed to me. _____

Please mail completed Registration Form and check (payable to: "Rustics") NLT 1 Sep 2007 to: Lendy Edwards, 11 Poplar Ave, Shalimar, FL 32579

REGISTRATION FEES

	Cost:	Number:	=	Subtotal:
Registration Fee: \$35 for each Rustic; \$25 per Guest	\$35 / \$25	x _____	=	\$ _____

(Not required if only attending just the Sat. night Reunion Banquet.)

Includes "Welcome Dinner", Thurs, 18 Oct, at FAC Hootch.

Charter Bus Trip to Pensacola Naval Air Museum, Fri, 19 Oct, \$40.00	x _____	=	\$ _____
---	---------	---	----------

Includes Bus, Lunch, and I Max Theater. (Delete \$8.00 if no I Max Show desired)

Please select your choice of I Max Theater shows:

_____ Hurricane On The Bayou (Experience the power of Hurricane Katrina)

_____ Magic of Flight (fly with the Blue Angels)

_____ Fighter Pilot (Experience "Red Flag" flying at Nellis AFB)

Please select your choice of sandwich or salad lunch entrée: (lunch includes entrée, chips, pickle spear, drink, and tip)

Sandwich entrees:

Aviator's Choice: ___ Roast Beef ___ Turkey or ___ Ham /w lettuce and tomato on freshly baked wheat bread.

___ **Mach I:** Shredded pulled pork, seasoned w/ a mild barbeque sauce loaded on a Kaiser roll.

___ **Buster:** Marinated steak smothered in roasted red & green bell peppers, onions w/ Swiss cheese grilled the panini way. Bistro sauce to dip.

Pita Pilot: ___ Seasoned chicken breast or ___ Marinated steak w/ lettuce, diced tomato, chopped green onion, shredded cheddar & our special ranch sauce; wrapped in warm pita bread.

Salad entrees:

___ **Cajun Chicken Breast.** Cajun seasoned chicken, tomato wedges, bell pepper rings, cherry pepper, celery & carrot sticks served over a bed of our fresh garden salad w/ honey mustard dressing.

___ **Chef Salad.** Strips of ham, smoked turkey, carrot sticks, eggs slices & tomato wedges over a fresh garden salad.

___ **Pacific Salad.** Teriyaki chicken, pineapple & Mandarin oranges on a bed of mixed greens, w/ Asian Sesame dressing.

Please select your choice of drink: ___ Tea ___ Water ___ Diet Coke ___ Coke ___ Sprite ___ Coffee

6 hour Fishing Tri p. Sat, 20 Oct. Bottom Fishing (optional)	\$65	x _____	=	\$ _____
---	------	---------	---	----------

Golf Tournament: Sat. am, 20 Oct. (Green Fee, Cart and Prizes)	\$35	x _____	=	\$ _____
---	------	---------	---	----------

"Reserve" me the following clubs: Standard (\$7.50) ___ Ping (\$25) ___ (Pay when you play)

Reunion Banquet, Sat. pm, 20 Oct:	\$48.00	x _____	=	\$ _____
--	---------	---------	---	----------

Farewell Breakfast, Ramada: Sun am, 21 Oct (optional)	\$13.00	x _____	=	\$ _____
--	---------	---------	---	----------

Contribution to Cambodian Reunion Guest Fund (Tax deductible):	\$ _____			
---	----------	--	--	--

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.)

White Polo Shirt: Men's Large ___ Men's X Large ___ \$ 27.00 ea	x _____	=	\$ _____
--	---------	---	----------

Ladies Med. ___ Ladies Large ___ Ladies X Large ___ \$ 27.00 ea	x _____	=	\$ _____
---	---------	---	----------

Men's XX Large ___ Men's XXX Large ___ \$ 29.00 ea	x _____	=	\$ _____
--	---------	---	----------

Ladies XX Large ___ Ladies XXX Large ___ \$ 29.00 ea	x _____	=	\$ _____
--	---------	---	----------

(Same Shirt as 2005 Reunion; Shirt front will have Reunion Logo over heart)

Baseball Caps: Maroon with "RUSTIC" and 'Reconnaissance Arme'e', Crossed flags on the side.

\$ 10.00	x _____	=	\$ _____
----------	---------	---	----------

Shipping costs if not attending reunion: Hat: \$2.50 Shirt: \$3.00 Hat & Shirt: \$3.50	x _____	=	\$ _____
--	---------	---	----------

2007 Membership Renewal Form

Please renew my Rustic FAC Association membership. 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. Enclosed are my 2007 dues.

Name: _____ Spouses name: _____
Street Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____ Telephone () _____ - _____
E Mail Address: _____ Rustic Call Sign: _____

Amount Enclosed:

2007 Annual Dues of \$20.00

\$ _____

Lifetime Membership 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: _____

\$ _____

2007 Tax Deductible Contribution to Cambodian Charities

\$ _____

2007 Tax Deductible Contribution to Kompong Cham Orphanage

\$ _____

Total Amount Enclosed:

\$ _____

Please make check payable to 'Rustics' and mail to: Lendy Edwards, 11 Poplar Ave, Shalimar, FL 32579

Rustic FAC Association
4033 Indian Trail Drive
Destin, FL 32541

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED