

FAC NEWS

VOLUME 5, Issue 1 January 2004

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



It hardly seems possible, but our FAC Reunion 2004 is only 3 months away. For those of you who have been procrastinating, better get on it right away. The Reunion is going to be a super event that you won't want to miss. Cal Andersen and the fellas on the Reunion Committee have put together a very classy event. The EEM Tours part of the team has been hard at work with the details of how we each individually will fit into the schedule we want.

Of special note, the entertainment will include FAC songs and merriment from a number of our own FACs. I really like the lineup.

As you may know, your Board of Directors will be meeting on both Wednesday, the 5th and Friday, 7th of May (at the Reunion) to conduct Association business in preparation for the FAC Association Business (Voters) Meeting on Saturday, the 8th of May. Some of the issues that will be addressed at the "Voters" meeting are:

Dues: The Board is finalizing a recommendation for establishment of a dues schedule that includes a "Lifetime Membership" schedule.

Election of new Officers and Board Members: I hope to have a nomination slate for a new Board of Directors prior to the meeting. I encourage any of your who would be willing to serve in some capacity on the Board, to let me know.

Committee Memberships: Prior to the Voter's meeting we plan to have a slate of those willing to serve, or continuing to serve, on Association Committees.

The Next FAC Association Reunion: We will be open to discussion of any location for the next Reunion. However, it is my intent to have a location all lined up, with volunteers to make it happen, to present to the membership for a decision. To that end, I solicit your inputs on where it should be. I would hope, however, that when we get a suggestion for a place, it include names of volunteers who want to put on our next great get together.

Given that the last Reunion was in Hawaii and this one is in San Antonio, it would make sense if the next one was somewhere on/near the East Coast. For consideration, we had previously talked about returning periodically to the gateway for "FACdom" at Ft Walton Beach. On the other hand, I recently had a suggestion that perhaps we should make it in the Washington DC area? Ideas? Volunteers?

Publication Issues: Many of you on the FACNET know that Charlie Pocock's talented team is finalizing our FAC CD. A copy will be given to Reunion attendees. Additional copies will also be for sale. I haven't seen it yet, but it I think I know world-class when I hear it. It will be something we will all be proud to own. I'm buying 10 copies and have heard that many others are of the same mind. I can hardly wait. Think I'll bring my laptop for an early preview.

Recently, some members of the association have been entertaining the idea making a tabletop publication based upon the CD. I have encouraged them to proceed, knowing that it will be a daunting task to get the essence of what is on the CD (about 4000 pages) and some other reference material, into a right sized book. Hmmm! Maybe it will end up being a series of publications? So - we may be discussing this as well. Volunteers? Pipe up on the FACNET or let me know and I'll refer you along to those working it.

Voters Meeting Agenda Items: As you can see, we will be trying to address a significant number of important issues at the Voters Meeting on Saturday afternoon. So, we will really need to have our act together to run this agenda in a timely manner. Additionally, I am sure there will be other issues some of you will want addressed at the meeting. To that end, I encourage you to get any such issues to me as soon as possible.

The Board of Directors will address as many issues as possible prior to the Voters Meeting at the Reunion. This will include virtual meetings (voting via email), then two meetings at the Reunion itself. The Board will meet on 5 & 7 May at the Reunion to cover last minute issues and prepare for the Voters Meeting. Tac call sign group meetings are scheduled on Thursday afternoon, the 6th. The thought is that if any issues arise in these meetings, we can address them in the Board Meeting on the 7th prior to the Voters Meeting.

I'm Looking forward with great anticipation to seeing you all the [FAC Reunion 2004](#) in San Antonio.

Aloha,

Toby Rushforth

ASSOCIATION LEADERSHIP

Interim Officers and Committee Chairmen:

President: Toby Rushforth 808-235-0207 - Kaneohe, HI - rushfortht@aol.com

Vice Pres: Dennis Crouch 937-426-6246 - Beavercreek, OH - denniscrouch@earthlink.net

Secretary: VACANT

Treasurer: George Ferkes 850-581-4953 - Mary Esther, FL - beachflyr@aol.com

Director: Rowdy Hetherington 305-852-8709 - Tavernier, FL - baiglobal@bellsouth.net

Director: Gibber Gibbs 512-253-6868 - Lexington, TX - jegibbs@onr.com

Director: Hen Min Hiu 808-732-2225 - Honolulu, HI - hen.house@verizon.net

FACNET: Skip Smothermon 405- 528-5496 - Oklahoma City, OK - skipsmo@swbell.net

Website: Zot Barazzotto 973-429-2119 - Xenia, OH - zot250@ameritech.net

Newsletter: Hen Min Hiu 808-732-2225 - Honolulu, HI - hen.house@verizon.net

FAC Search: Fred Pumroy 937-878-7357 - Fairborn, OH - flmapumroy@aol.com

All-FACs Database: Glenn Bremenkamp 228-388-2817 - Biloxi, MS - gsbrem@aol.com

Membership Database: Ken Blutt 719-559-0557 Monument, CO - kblutt@csc.com

Chaplain: Charlie Jones 850-936-9688 - Navarre, FL - btrflyfac@aol.com

Mission: Jay Barnes 973-325-6208 - West Orange, NJ - barnesjay@juno.com

FAC Historian: Darrell Whitcomb - nail25@aol.com

FAC Book Project: Charlie Pocock 719-488-9056 - Monument, CO - charmarpock@aol.com

Reunion 2004: Cal Anderson 252-437-0550 - Whitakers, NC - calvindolly@earthlink.net

Reunion Advisory: Jay Barnes 973-325-6208 - West Orange, NJ - barnesjay@juno.com

FAC Memorial: Don Echelberger 850-664-5444 - Mary Esther, FL - echelberg@aol.com

Publicity: Bob Boswell 321-639-7335 - Rockledge, FL - aerix@email.msn.com

Corporate Sponsors: Byron Sutton 407-876-6209 - Windermere,FL - wtcor@gdi.net

**FAC Association Membership Application,
Membership Renewal, Database Update Form - 2004**

Yes, I would like to support the goals of the newly formed FAC Association to promote FAC Camaraderie and future FAC reunions.

_____ Enclosed is my check for \$20.00 to make me a member of the FAC Association. (Add \$10 more if you want the FAC Trivia Book)

Please make check payable to "FAC Association" & mail to: George Ferkes, 472 Parish Blvd, Mary Esther, FL 32569

Last Name: _____ **First** _____ **M.I.** _____ **Spouse's name:** _____

Mailing Address: _____ **City:** _____ **State:** _____ **ZIP:** _____

Telephone: (____) _____ **E Mail Address:** _____

FAC Call Sign(s): _____ **FAC Aircraft:** _____ **TASS:** _____

FAC Tour Dates: _____ **Locations:** _____

I'd like to work on the following FAC committee: _____

I plan to attend FAC Reunion 2004 in San Antonio: (please circle answer) Most likely YES Most likely NO

TREASURER'S REPORT

George Ferkes
FAC Association Treasurer
Trail 26

Our FAC Association continues to hold a strong financial position thanks to the continued support of our members. As we enter the new year the FAC Association account balance is \$21,511.79 and the FAC Memorial Fund balance is \$6,691.44. This will provide ample funds to cover the publication and mailing costs of this newsletter (\$1400), the up front costs of producing our FAC History CD (\$4000), the cost of mailing the out FAC trivia and history booklets (\$500), and misc. expense (\$300). This should leave the "Association" with a balance of well over \$15,000 as we head into the reunion. There are no anticipated expenses for the Memorial Fund.

DUES: Dues for the FAC Association are \$20 annually. To check your dues status look on your address label. It will show your dues status for 2002, 2003 and 2004. If you have any questions you can contact the following: (email addresses listed in Directors' box on page 1)

MEMBERSHIP

As of 1 Jan 04 we have 456 paid-up members for 2003 and 75 members who have paid 2004 dues. Annual dues as well as membership applications can be sent to George Ferkes, FAC Association Treasurer, at the address shown above. If you are not a FAC Association member or want to pay your renewal dues you can use the membership form in this newsletter or you can go to: www.fac-assoc.org and download the form.

FAC TRIVIA BOOK/DRAFT HISTORY BOOKLET

The final mailing of the FAC Trivia book and FAC draft history booklet is complete. This material was mailed out as "media mail" to reduce the cost so delivery times are very slow. If you believe you should have received a copy of either of these and do not have it about the middle of March, contact George Ferkes. We will continue to make these booklets available to our members until the supply runs out.

"CARE" PACKAGES FOR THE TROOPS

This Spring the FAC Association Board of Directors approved donating \$1000 to send "CARE" packages to our deployed troops. Through a coordinated effort between the FAC Association and the Ft. Walton Beach Sailfish Club (FWBSC) and the deployed command element of the 720th Special Tactics GP (combat controllers), "CARE" packages were sent out to the most forward deployed troops. The goal was to get these packages to the troops who were operating in the most austere conditions directing close air support for all SOF and some conventional force operations. Since starting this project shortly after the War in Iraq began we have sent over 80 "CARE" packages to these modern day FAC's. Each package costs about \$10, \$5 for the contents and \$5 for mailing. With the FAC Association providing the funds, the FWBSC members (many retired military) purchased and packed the contents and mailed the packages. Based on the responses we received back from the troops it looks like our packages made life a little easier for these young warriors who are daily putting their lives on the line for our nation in the global war on terror. In the next month or so we will conclude the project with the mailing of our final shipment. This has been a great way to say, in some small way, thanks our brave troops. Thanks to all of you and our Board of Directors for supporting this worthwhile effort.

Toby Rushforth

FACBOOK CD PROJECT

Progress Report

by Charlie Pockock, Chairman

The FACBOOK CD project is on track to have the CD available at the 2004 Reunion. Since the story and photo input cut-off date in September the format has been finalized and copies sent out for final technical edit. The final product looks great and is something that will make us all proud.

The Forward Air Controller Association Board of Directors has agreed that a free copy will be provided to all Association members who have paid their 2004 dues. Additional copies will be available at the reunion for \$10.00 each. The price will be the same after the reunion, but then you will have to pay a postage and handling fee.

The reunion committee has agreed to collect a count of the number of additional CDs people want for families and friends. (One person has said he wants ten additional copies and another person eight additional copies.) Don't send your CD money with your reunion registration it will be collected when you pick up your CDs. But be sure to let them know. It is important to have this count so that we can have the right number of CD made, we don't want to disappoint people because we're short or have too many left over.

Cal Anderson
Hounddog 56, Covey 62
calvindolly@earthlink.net
Route 1, Box 352, Whitakers, NC, 27891
252-437-0550 - (FAX) 252-437-0394

SPECIAL ADDENDUM re FACBOOK CD

4 Dec 2003

FOR ALL

A RED LETTER DAY. THE FACBOOK CD IS FINISHED AND IN FINAL FORM. ALL THAT REMAINS IS ONE LAST FINAL QC CHECK BY OUR FLIGHT EXAMINER AND SOME FINISHING TOUCHES ON THE ART WORK FOR THE BOX.

I WISH ALL OF OUR AUTHORS AND THE FACBOOK COMMITTEE MEMBERS COULD LINE UP AND TAKE A BOW, BUT HERE IS OUR COMMITTEE:

- CHAIRMAN: - Charlie Pocock**
- CD CONCEPT AND DESIGN: - Bob Gorman**
- ANCESTRY SECTION: - Charlie Pocock**
- BUTTERFLIES AND RAVENS: Jim Roper**
- 19th TASS SECTION: - Mike Morea**
- 20th TASS SECTION: - Tim Eby**
- 21st TASS SECTION: - Charlie Pocock**
- 22nd TASS SECTION: - Charlie Pocock**
- 23rd TASS SECTION: - Ned Helm**
- RUSTICS SECTION: - Ned Helm**
- GONE BROTHERS SECTION: - Ray Janes**
- PROPWASH (APPENDIX): - Chuck Johnson**
- TECH FLIGHT EXAMINER: - Chuck Hines**

Thanks to all,

Charlie Pocock

And Furthermore, an excerpt from an email between Charlie Pocock and Toby Rushforth: "Though we will hopefully get some resolution on where to (and who will) market and sell the bulk of the CDs, I'm thinking it might be a good idea to "advertise" in the Newsletter for someone willing to do that."

There is an URGENT NEED for a volunteer who can and will help in the marketing and distribution of this CD, beginning sooner than later. Please contact Charlie or Toby ASAP if you can serve in this capacity.

2004 FAC REUNION

Calling all Forward Air Controllers...

**FAC 2004 REUNION
SAN ANTONIO, TX
MAY 5-9, 2004**

**At the Hyatt Regency*
123 Losoya
San Antonio, TX 78205**

***Please make all reservations through EEM Worldwide, Inc.
FAC REUNION 2004**



The ALAMO

**EEM Worldwide Inc
4703 West Lovers Lane
Dallas, Texas 75209**

Register at [EEM Worldwide Inc - http://64.25.10.178/gateway/FAC2004/index.htm](http://64.25.10.178/gateway/FAC2004/index.htm)

Included with this newsletter, you will find a complete package of information for our FAC 2004 Reunion. Our planning committee has done its best to bring you to San Antonio for the best ever All-FAC meet in Texas.

Dr Lydia Fish, Director Vietnam Veterans Oral History and Folklore Project, is our sponsor. Lydia has been just great to work with and has really been the driver to bring a history of FAC/Air Force songs and a super gathering of singers/entertainers to our 2004 Reunion. It will be one-of-a-kind show, probably not to be repeated for a while. Lydia will be coming from Buffalo, NY. Joining Dr Fish will be Lisa Harmon, the concert manager (aka "The Lady with the Clipboard"), who will be flying in from California. Gary Lee, Border City Records, will be the recording engineer and he will be setting up the audio system which we are leasing from Swank Audio Visuals (the Hyatt Regency preferred provider.) Gary is also coming from the Buffalo area.

The performers: Jim Roper, one of our own, has indicated he will be there. Jim was both a Raven and Covey FAC. He has a reputation as a fantastic piano player and singer. Also, Jonathan Myer, again one of our own, will be there. He was an O-1 Province and Covey FAC. Jonathan plays a mean guitar and has a bevy of FAC & Flying Songs. Ron Barker should be able to join us at the reunion. Ron had a SVN tour (s) in the O-1, F-100s and F-111. I have not heard Ron's songs, but understand he can really belt them out. Dick Jonas, F-4 fighter tour, will join us as part of the entertainment. Dick has a CD out with a number of great songs. His wife, Mary, will also be with us.

Irving LeVine, along with his wife Sally, will be joining us. Irv has written a couple of FAC songs. The first one is about the O-1 and is on Dick's CD, COLD WARRIORS. The O-2 song hasn't aired yet and Irv hopes to sing it on the 8th of May for the FACs. Irv has a SVN tour in the F105. Joining the entertainment group will be Rudy Corbett, Irving's pal and Banjo/Mandolin picking Air Force Sergeant.

Gents, since a number of these singers/entertainers would not normally be attending our reunion and they are paying their transportation, we have been working to provide them rooms and transportation if our budget allows (most will come down on Friday night and depart on Sunday.) And, certainly we would want to invite them to dinner on Friday and Saturday night. We will need about 6 rooms on both nights. At this point, I still believe we can earn enough complimentary rooms to bunk our entertainment guests, assuming we have a decent attendance. And I hope we have enough money from the registration kitty (after renting transportation for base tours, name tags, stocking the hooch, etc) to feed our guests.

But, as they say, nothing is certain in life. So, I am asking the FAC Association Board of Directors to consider providing some funds should we end up a bit short. I think it would well be worth any extra cost. Further, Dr. Fish has indicated that since they would be doing a professional recording of the night's events, then Gary could produce a super CD. We would have to get the entire group's permission where the FAC Association could sell the CDs as a fund raising event. Besides, who wouldn't want a collector's record of the Saturday night wing-ding!

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FROM YOUR DATABASE MANAGER

Whether you're a paid member or not, if you change address, notify me of your new info: Ken Blutt, FAC Assn Data Mgr, 18040 Bankhurst Ct, Monument, CO 80132-2299. Email <kblutt@csc.com>. Even if you're not a member, we want to know who and where you are.

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OV-10 BRONCO ASSOCIATION SEEKS HELP IN CREATING ALL-FAC MUSEUM

Jim Hodgson, President of the OV-10 Bronco Association is making an appeal for support of an ALL-FAC museum in Texas. The OBA has been working on the restoration of an original factory mockup of an OV-10 for over a year. After over 2,000 hours of work by a dedicated group of former Lockheed employees along with OBA members Jack Thompson and Tom Kemp the project is ready for paint.

Meanwhile, OBA has reorganized its membership policy to encourage growth of the organization necessary for the founding and operation of a FAC museum. Charter memberships are being offered at \$20 per year along side of OBA memberships that have been reduced to \$30 from \$40. However, an OBA member can pay the \$40 and enjoy both memberships.

The initial response to the idea of founding a FAC Museum has been very favorable and the OBA Board of Directors has move forward. A Forward Air Controllers Museum, FACM, was intended as time, money and space permitted, likely in the next two to three years, but, the room next to the OBA Readyroom will become available in the next couple months. OBA is nowhere near ready to start a build out and frankly doesn't have the funds. They are still paying for the Readyroom to say nothing of the mockup restoration. But, if the 1,200 square feet is not retained when it becomes available, there is no telling when space will become available at the present location. OBA sees this as a target of opportunity.

The founders are offering Charter Memberships to the Forward Air Controllers Museum for \$20.00 per year. The scope of the museum starts with balloons and continue to drones, with bi-planes, L birds, O birds, Mosquitoes, Fast FACS, Prowlers and UAV. FACs of all varieties will be included, air and ground, along with the people who support them. Big scope, large canvas, but if this is to be a perpetual museum, it has to have legs and the FAC business has that, if they don't get too tied up in a specific airplane.

The OBA will take on the responsibility of administrative responsibilities for now, but not permanently. That responsibility will have to pass on to a separate FAC Museum organization sometime in the future.

The OBA presently doesn't have adequate funds available, so it will have to come from Charter Members or other sponsors. If there is sufficient support, the concept can move forward, if not the idea will pass and the OBA will once again concentrate on the OV-10 and its community. At \$20 per year, they will need about 200 +/- members to come up with 80% of the annual rent to by July 2004 to consider the FAC Museum viable, at least for the short term.

The FACM will be a place to preserve all FAC identities, either individually or as groups by seeking displays sponsored by the RUSTICS or the HEADHUNTERS or the MISTY's or PLAYBOYS and others. But for now they need to nail down the space by July 2004 or someone else will have to do a FAC Museum some other time.

Hodgson says since the staff is limited, your active personal participation is very much wanted and desired. Don't hesitate to volunteer. He will find a job for you. More info can be found at www.ov-10bronco.net.

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FACS GET TO MEET "CREW CHIEF BOB" IN PERSON

Courtesy of Bill Carruthers

The first FAC's & Friends Southeastern mini reunion was held on October 24th and 25th, 2003 in Charlotte, NC. FACs and those involved in close air support missions in S.E. Asia who attended were Cal and Dolly Anderson (Covey 62), Bill and Chris Carruthers (Rustic 34, Sundog 34 & 39, Mike 58), Don Ellis (Rustic 17), Pick and Carole Freeman (Covey 246), Rick Harris (Army O-1, Issue), Bill Lemke (Rustic 27), Marvin McCaw and Linda (Covey 518), Tom Pilsch (Trail 32) Pep and Pat McPhillips (Sundog 07), Alan Olson (Army O-1 32), Jerry "Thunderchicken" Funderburk (Nail 65), John Wiley (Rake 24), Steve Wilson and son Brian (Covey 599, Raven 27), and Brad Wright (Covey 251). Among the originators of the idea for the S. E. mini reunion was the Infamous Crew Chief Bob of FACNET fame, who came with his wife Pat. Another originator; Charlie Johnson (AF Radio Operator), was unable to attend.

Also attending were Advisors Col. Ed Benedit (62 Alpha) who was in the Siege of An Loc. Another An Loc Army Advisor, Col. Bob Corley, was unable to attend, but his wife Kit, and daughter Elizabeth came. Ron and Luan Haynes (Hawk, Rap), an A-37 pilot based at Bien Hoa in 1972, brought movies and slides he took while flying with the Sundogs on his days off. Ron Henry (F-4) and Charlie Self (EC-47) also joined us.

Saturday morning, Don Ellis and Pep McPhillips took on CC Bob and Ed Benedit on the golf course. After breakfast, others gathered at the Carolinas Historic Aviation Commission's (CHAC) Museum to set up displays

A total of 32 FAC's, their wives, and guests, attended the barbeque lunch at the museum. Cal Anderson was the Master of Ceremonies. In appreciation, Crew Chief Bob presented to the museum, a Memorial Day 2002 FAC Tribute that he and Col. Dale Hill (Nail 49) placed at the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington, D.C. Accepting the tribute for the museum, was Brad Gibbs, a director of the museum. Official photographer was Bill Carruthers sister Susan Fromkes (Donut Dollie-Korea).

A buffet dinner at the hotel "FAC Hootch" meeting room on Saturday evening included a showing of slides, videos, and a laptop presentation.

...pictures by Bill Carruthers

Tom Pilsch and CC Bob Green. Bob's explaining the crew chief's point of view to Tom.



Chris Carruthers, Pat Green, Susan Carruthers Fromkes. Front row: Carole Freeman, Dolly Anderson, Pat McPhillips, Luan Haynes.



At the FAC Hooch friday night before dinner at the Saigon Cafe. Pat McPhillips, Bill Carruthers, Cal Anderson, Ed Benedit (Army Advisor at An Loc siege of 1972), Don Ellis, Pep McPhillips, Dolly Anderson.



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NAIL FAC BACK IN THE INVESTIGATIVE SADDLE AGAIN

Courtesy of Claude Newland

Nail FAC Darrell Whitcomb, author of "The Rescue of Bat 21" and FAC Association Historian, recently took early retirement at Delta Airlines so he could take a full time job working at the Joint Personnel Recovery Agency as a CSAR expert. He says its, "Very interesting work. Pays well too. I am the "lessons learned" guy here. I look at personnel recovery/CSAR history and structure it for use in future operations. Currently, I am collecting stuff from the most recent conflict and putting it in historical context. I have already written a snap history of recovery in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Most of what I do is classified. All of my clearances have been reactivated.

"Can't really say much more than that. My work with the Bat 21 story led me to this. After it came out, I was approached by the Agency and made an "offer I couldn't refuse." I started part time and when I mentioned to my boss here that Delta retirement was an option, he built me a work package here. Seamless. I am very lucky."

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from Gene Rossel:

"In 2004 I will be working with the Chino Planes of Fame. Put on an Air Commando Day (3 April) and a Forward Air Controller Day (3 Jul). We had an Air Commando day at the Museum this year and it turned out quite nice....Wishing you the best for 2004.

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.Can you beat this (excluding universities)?

Punahou School, a K through 12 private school in Honolulu, HI, had at least four known FACs who served in Sea.

Hen Min Hiu, Class of '57; John Steelquist, Class of '57; Karl Polifka, Class of '59, and Darrell "Buck" Welch, Class of '63.

On the 45 to downwind at Nha Trang AB (1969) Photo by Hen Min Hiu





Do you have a photo of a familiar place you want to share? Email an attachment to the editor at hen.house@verizon.net (no hard copies please).
