

VOLUME 5, Issue 2

July 2005

FAC NEWS



www.fac-assoc.org

472 Parish Blvd, Mary Esther, FL 32569

ASSOCIATION LEADERSHIP:

Officers and Committee Chairmen:

President: Dennis Crouch 937-426-6246 Beaver Creek, OH deniscrouch@earthlink.net

Vice Pres: Fred Pumroy 937-878-7357 Fairborn, OH flmapumroy@aol.com

Secretary: Skip Smothermon 405-528-5496 Oklahoma City, OK skpsmo@swbell.net

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

Director: Cal Anderson 252-437-0550 Whitakers, NC calvin-dolly@earthlink.net

Director: Ned Helm Woodstock, VT ned@wingset.com

Director: Kenneth E. Blutt 719-559-0557 Monument, CO kblutt@adelphia.net

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

Newsletter: Tim Eby 254-796-4850 Hico, TX teby@htcomp.net

FAC Search: Jon Alexaitis 817-581-8381 Bedford TX calexaitis@attg.net

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

Membership Database: Ken Blutt 719-559-0557 Monument, CO kblutt@adelphia.net

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

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

FAC Historian: Darrell Whitcomb 703-359-7824 Fairfax, VA nail25@aol.com

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

FAC Book Project: Al Matheson 435-586-9702 Cedar City, UT citabriair@yahoo.com

Reunion 2005: Dayton OH FACs

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

Reunion Advisory: Claude Newland 850-654-2955 Destin, FL rusic19@cox.net

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 byronsutton@earthlink.net



Dennis Crouch

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dennis Crouch, FAC Association Pres.
Nail 23 NKP 70-71 & 504th TASG 71

A warm hello to the FAC Family. Lots of things are happening since the last FAC Newsletter. I hope this issue brings you up to speed. A lot of FAC Association members are doing great things in the interest of those we left behind, making sure we preserve our history and promote

our legacy, and maintaining our FAC camaraderie. We are indeed fortunate and blessed to have such people. There is always room for your service and support. If you haven't had the opportunity to provide your service, take a look at the committees in this newsletter and see if you'd like to offer a helping hand. Call or e-mail the listed volunteers. We invite your comments. Lots of areas are being worked, and you may have identified an area that we should be working but are not. I'm very glad to report some of these good works here. Additional articles providing greater details are also in this newsletter.

>> **Archiving of Historical FAC Data:** The FAC Association Board approved a proposal by Al Matheson, Nail 213 and FAC/CD History Book project, that a centralized repository for historical information be started. Al is doing that!!! Bob Gorman, Jake 44, is going to provide his skills in support of digitization of the voluminous data. Importantly, all of the data will be available with open access to any and all FAC researchers/writers and Al is creating a catalog that can promote the use and protection of the important FAC historical data. See story on page 7.

>> **FAC Memorial at National Museum of the United States Air Force:** I mentioned in the last newsletter that we were actively developing a vision and concept for the FAC memorial that will be installed at the National Museum of the USAF at our reunion "Dayton 2006." We asked you to support the efforts to design, develop, build and install the FAC memorial in April 2005. You all responding quickly and generously and I couldn't be more pleased. Thanks to each and every one of you that have contributed to this important effort. I'm becoming increasingly confident that we will make our needed budget of \$30,000. Just a little more and we are over our hurdle. With over one million visitors to the museum annually, the memorial will be a lasting legacy to those who made the supreme sacrifice in SEA, to those that served, and to the FAC's mission. Again, thank you to those who contributed and to those who will. Thanks also to Zot Barazzotto, Judy Powell and others who are working to make this a reality.

>> **Website Improvements:** If you haven't taken a look at the FAC Association website lately, do so!! Bob Gorman has been working hard to improve the website, ensure its currency, include items of interest to all, and maintain its user friendliness....Bob is succeeding and the positive changes we see on the website are very much appreciated. Bob, thanks for all that you are doing.

>> **FAC/Fighter Songs on CD:** An initiative was proposed by Cal Anderson that FAC/Fighter songs sung by Jim Roper, Dave McKay, Irv Levine, Dick Jonas and Jonathon Myer be recorded on CD and be made available to the membership for a nominal fee. The FAC Association Board approved this proposal and \$900 seed money was authorized to begin this effort. Each and everyone of us will have the opportunity to own this CD collection. What a treasure



The Board of Directors. Front: Ned Helm, Tim Eby, Cal Anderson. Rear: Byron Sutton, Fred Pumroy, Ken Blutt, Cal Alexaitis, Skip Smothermon, ?, Darrel Whitcomb. Missing: Dennis Crouch.

it will be. Cal has an article in the newsletter so take a look. And for myself, I'll be buying it as soon as it's available.

>> **OV-10 Bronco Association (OBA) and the FAC Museum:** Jim Hodgson, OBA/FACM, and his team is continuing to work on the FAC Museum and moving it forward. See the article beginning on page 5. Note that Crash Helm is compiling a history of #825. Check your records. We want to know the entire history of this aircraft and your part in it.

>> **Operation Welcome Home :** I can tell you from personal experience at a recent Promise Keepers' meeting that a rousing Welcome Home is a meaningful event. See the article beginning on page 7. You may want to attend in Las Vegas or, perhaps you would like to be the spark plug and help your local community recognize our wonderful Vietnam veterans.

>> **Lifetime Memberships:** Another reminder that Lifetime Membership dues were approved at the San Antonio Reunion. George Ferkes, FAC Treasurer, is accepting them, but because of the hurricanes last summer, he and many other Floridians are still recovering from the damage. George is doing fine but he is still somewhat behind in his Association work in getting the checks cashed and notification back to those that submitted payment, including yours truly. George, we thank you for your work and I know that you'll be caught up in the near future. Hope you too decide to accept the Lifetime Membership. Directions to submit your Lifetime Membership are also in this newsletter. Here are the prices depending on age:

Under 55 years of age:	\$225
From 56-60 years of age:	\$200
From 61-65 years of age:	\$175
From 66 years and up:	\$150



TREASURER'S REPORT

George Ferkes
FAC Association Treasurer
Trail 26

Sorry folks. We aren't broke, but the treasurer is out of touch and the show must go on. We'll catch up next issue.



So it needs a paint job! It's a nice Birddog anyway

Again, the FAC Association is yours and your Board and committees have volunteered to serve and make the association even better. We do want to hear from you; your thoughts on issues and any ideas you think we should look at. Let us know and we'll work the issues.....

Of great importance, our military continues to courageously and bravely fight the "Global War on Terrorism". The stories of bravery and human compassion are not always on the front page, but they are there. They are fighting the good fight and are winning the battle. I know I speak for all of you when I say we stand with them all the way and we honor them. Please continue to keep them, and their families, in your thoughts and prayers.

My Best Regards to All, Denny Crouch



Please mail in your dues to Treasurer George Ferkes today. Use the form on page 9 of this issue of the FAC Newsletter.

IN MEMORIAM

Marvin Larson June 2003
Ed Woelfel 18March 2004
Larry Sanborn 1May 2004
J. K. Hall 8May 2004
Joe Granducci II 7March 2005
Charles A. Bell 25May 2005
Thomas L. Goldsmith 25JUN2005

Ed. Note: Please submit names and dates of passing to the editor. Short commentary or obituary is welcomed.

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.

From the FACNET:

Sir

I was a member of Co. C 2/12 25th, Infantry Division on 31 July 1970, working as our company commander's radio operator, when third platoon was ambushed and taking fire at Tay Ninh XT404804 and requested urgent dust off for 4 US personal. In a short time a FAC arrived above and contacted me. His call sign may have been Issue 12 (OV-10). The FAC requested the unit in contact to pop smoke again and again, maybe as many as five times. Then he said, "You tell them to get their heads down. They have people chasing them down the trail and I am going to fire them up."

He made one pass, fired a white marking round and said "OK Boys Go Get-em". Phantoms dropped napalm and cleared the trail behind the men allowing them to escape with dead and wounded. The FAC and the Phantoms saved the men of third platoon on that 31st day of July, so long ago.

Covey Notes

The Covey Association is rather quiet these days. Must be from the San Antonio reunion. A few Coveys and Ravens got together at Jim Roper's place in Fairfax, VA to help Ed Eberhart celebrate his recent retirement. For a Covey FAC, Ed did OK--a 4-star. Great food and entertainment by Jim and his wife, Liz. We then enjoyed some salty songs by Jim, Dave McKay, and Jonathan Myer. A great time was had by all. The Covey book, "**The Point of the Spear!**" is still available at www.trafford.com/robots/03-0415.html
Calvin Anderson

(continued)

I tell you this story because after so many years I would like to make contact with the OV-10 FAC but have no idea how to track him down. Can you help?

Note: this is not the only time we needed FACs but each time they arrived on station, did a job and left without a word of thanks. I want to say thank you, all of you, for the job you did.

Danny Darnell, danny53@aol.com

Another Circle Closes

Allow me an anecdote that illustrates the value of the FAC Association to lots of people, not just us FACs. Many of you have had similar experiences with inquiries from family members and friends of fallen FACs; this one occurred with your editor, so it is the one that makes the newsletter! The credit, of course, goes not to me, but to all of us who care for one another and the loved ones of our heroes.

Recently I received e-mail from a gentleman (101st Airborne, RVN October 1970 – October 1971) who discovered my association with his

(Continued on page 4)

best friend from his youth. Here are excerpts from our exchanges.

...Jim (Butler, KIA July, 1970) went to VN just before I did and I lost track of him. Then I learned he died in a plane or cop-ter crash. However, I've never known the de-tails ...We became best friends. In about '63, Jim and his family moved to Big Springs AFB and I visited once and wrote to him a few times. But once I went to college, I lost track of my old buddy ...I was just trying to find out the rest of the story. I've kept Jim in my heart all these years. And tonight I just did a google and found that site with your tribute.

Ed, ...here is what I know. The timing would be about right - two years my junior, based on his high school grad. date. I don't remember where he grew up, but he was married, no children. He was probably just short of six feet tall, thin (as we all were at that age), pretty even keeled in tempera-ment. His wife lived in Florida at the time of his death...

I will attach a story I wrote (Glimpses, 20th TASS) for a history of FACs that I helped with. Part of it is about Jim. It includes the only picture I have of him. What I remember about his crash is that he had just taken off from a Special Forces camp out on the Cambodian border (either Duc Co or Plei Djereng (sp?)., I think). He made a low pass back over the camp, rolled over and crashed. When the SF troops went out to recover the body they came under fire, so we conjectured that he took a small arms hit. The OV-10 tended to snap roll with a sudden engine failure, so it fit. I didn't remember anything to the contrary until just a couple years ago when I visited with our old ALO, or boss, who said he went out to the crash site and saw no evidence of a hit, or engine fail-ure... It was a sad day. He was a good man, and we all felt his loss deeply. Unfortunately, he was only the first in my year in the meat grinder. I hope this helps put your mind at ease. Knowing, even if it is bad news, is usually better than not know-

ing. We all left something of ourselves over there, didn't we? ...

Hello Tim -

I can't tell you how much this means to me. While still at work, I checked my home email and then printed all the information you sent to me. And that picture of Jim in the blue shirt is the Jim I knew, even from that back an-gle...In fact, I'm a bit sad right now since your story has brought back so many memories. I wish I could have called his wife... I'll drop you an email in a day or so. I just want to spend some time with the stories you sent to me... Thanks again ... thanks very much

Ed then sent me a clipping from the Pensacola, FL News announcing our friend's funeral service, sur-vivor information, and an old picture...

Funeral services for 1st Lt. James Michael Butler, age 23, killed in action July 24 in Viet-nam, will be held at 9:00 a.m. Friday in the Aviation Memorial Chapel at the Naval Air Sta-tion, Pensacola...Pallbearers will be service personnel from Eglin Air Force Base. Burial services will be in the Barrancas National Cemetery with full military honors. He was the son of Lt. Col. Barry R. Butler sta-tioned with the CNATRA staff as NAS. A na-tive of Cincinnati, Ohio, Lt. Butler was a gradu-ate of Texas A&M. He received his Air Force Wings from Laredo AFB, Texas and was a member of the Catholic Church. Other survi-vors include the widow, Patsy L. Butler and his mother, Mrs. Barry R. Butler, both of Pensa-cola Beach.

I found this old photo of Jim...This picture was taken in Laredo, Texas during July 1962. Jim would have been 16 years old.

(continued pg 5)



The point of this story: An old wound received soothing for a loved one left wondering. My own questions were answered about my departed friend's final resting place, and his family. A new friendship was forged out of the shared loss of an old one. The magic of the internet combined with the bonds of our FAC Association allows us to share comfort with many people from around the world. Any of you near Pensacola's Barrancas National Cemetery may want to leave a nickel on the grass over the grave of one of your fallen brothers. We all benefit.



DID YOU NOTICE?

The recent base closure list included a base with memories for many of us. Cannon AFB, Clovis, NM provided the first taste of things to come during our training for combat. We garnered a nook in history by flying the venerable AT-33, and got our first taste of air-to-ground gunnery. The Melrose Range and Red River Tactical Range were suitably pummeled into submission by the time we left. Cannon will soon be only a memory.

OBA/FACM FINDING SUCCESS

We can all rejoice in the good fortune resulting from much hard work within a related veteran's organization. The OV-10 Association and its FAC Museum have recently acquired several airframes and memorabilia. Congratulations to the officers and many busy worker bees who have made it happen. Here is the story in their own words, starting with some background...

... However, people are attracted to airplane displays, both flying and static. The critical mass for attracting visitors is a 20 aircraft collection. From this idea came the Veterans Memorial Air Park, to attract people to our museums, honor others and tell our stories... The air park is planned to be FAC aircraft surrounded by airplanes controlled by FACs. The collection will be 30 plus, fixed and rotary wing aircraft. We are recovering the first aircraft, an F-4, this month, January 2005. (Jim Hodgson letter, Jan. '05)

...As many of you know, last October we accepted an aircraft loan agreement with the National Museum of Naval Aviation for "Scooby" the VX-30 QF-4S. Once we agreed to the loan, we had 60 days to move "Scooby" here and 120 days to put the F-4 on display. Along with a lot of help from friends, DynCorp and Navy folks in Pt. Mugu, we got Scooby disassembled and ready for transport. Unfortunately two of the three truck loads of parts had encounters with communist bridges. Both encounters have left Scooby damaged but repairable ...I heard the comment yesterday, "There ain't any F-4 in OV-10." I know it was said in jest and we did get the OV mockup booms ready for painting yesterday as well...The Air Park will be the center of attraction for people to visit our museums ...Yesterday we signed the paperwork on our Bronco. This week a survey team will be visiting the California Department of Forestry at Mather to take an initial look at our Bronco and see what it will need to transport back to Texas... Just after we announced the acquisition of #426 a couple weeks ago, one of our members, Gordy "Hostage Bear" Evans heard that another airplane might be available... Due to some quick work by Bear, I can announce to you today that OBA will be receiving a second OV-10. ...The aircraft is a former Air Force airplane, #825.

continued pg 6

(continued from pg 5)

...A survey team will be traveling to Sacramento to look over the OV-10s at Mather and inventory parts in the salvage yard...As you may have heard the first FACM aircraft, O-2A #361 has arrived here in Fort Worth. This is significant for many reasons. First, this aircraft is a FACM asset. Second, it is the first FAC airplane for our Veteran's Memorial Air Park ...



Jerry, Boomer, Spider welcoming #361

The OBA/FACM shares the vision and goals of our FAC Ass'n and is worthy of our support. While not wishing to compete for funds for our 2006 WPAFB FAC memorial, securing and preparing these aircraft is costly, and your help is needed. To contribute, contact: <http://www.ov-10bronco.net/> or write:OV-10 Bronco Association 505 NW 38th Street, Hangar 33s, Fort Worth, TX 76106.



OV-10 Mockup

2006 REUNION REPORT

Zot Barazzotto

FAC Reunion, 4-8 Oct 2006 Dayton, Ohio

Planning for the Reunion continues and we have firmed up many details. The Memorial fund continues to approach our goal and if you haven't contributed now would be a great time to help us to the top. I expect that we will meet our goal and actually put the base in this fall. That will give the grass a chance to grow to perfection prior to the reunion. The monument continues to be refined and the latest images will be at the web site <http://www.fac-assoc.org/memorial/memorial08-dayton-pictures.html>.

A symposium to look at some FAC history that hasn't been previously told and some more recent FAC related stuff from Iraq and Afghanistan will take place before the Memorial Dedication. The Dedication will include a fly over like you haven't seen in a long time.

I'm pleased to announce that we are succeeding in our efforts to bring all the FAC family together for the Reunion. First the people who actually participated in the mission, pilots, navs, fixer-uppers, intel, radio guys, GIBS, flight surgeons, nurses, our allies, families and anyone else who was there or waited at home. Then those who just have an interest in our mission and history and finally those who continue flying our planes. So far we have the Liaison Aircraft Association (who fly O-1s,) Tom Rench and Karen will bring their O-2s and the OBA will join us (maybe with an OV-10.) If I can find them we might have T-6s and maybe a T-28. Rides will be available in the O-1s and the O-2s and the O-1s will be flying from the National Museum of the US Air Force as part of their reunion (Liaison Aircraft Ass'n) . Social events will be first class with two dinners in the AF Museum (Thursday and Friday with the LAA) and Saturday night on a Riverboat out of Cincinnati. The Society of Old Bold Aviators will provide the entertainment. For those who would quickly be bored just looking at planes and listening to war stories, we will have tours, shopping and of course a golf outing. We are looking forward to seeing you all here in Dayton.

FAC Reunion Committee

Zot Barazzotto

Covey 250 / Rustic 55



AGGIES ARM O-2 WITH LGB!!



Just kidding, but looks are deceiving. Check closely the right hard-point attachment on O-2 68-11122, above. Sure resembles an LGB, but actually it is a research data collection instrument. Note the vertical airfoil under the left wing. Texas A&M University is conducting a research project on laminar flow airfoils, utilizing an ex-AF O-2 along with a Velocity homebuilt pusher aircraft and an ex-USAFA motorglider. The O-2 is for "heavy lift"! Proves everything is relative. The civil registry is N102JD. The research is to benefit USAF. Our old Ducks keep hauling the load! Website: <http://frc.tamu.edu>. The project previously was at Arizona State University.



FAC ARCHIVES PROJECT

Al Matheson has volunteered for heroic service as our FAC records archivist. Big, big job! He will have the expert assistance of Bob Gorman in the equally big, big job of digitizing the mountain of paper records that Jim Roper and others have accumulated from USAF. After much discussion and exploration of options the Board of Directors has authorized Al to proceed with the acquisition, cataloging, digitizing, and storage of our records and data. Preservation will be at the College of Southern Utah, with provisions to be developed for access, copying, etc, for Association members doing history projects. This will benefit our Association and ensure the preservation of our history. Many, many thanks to Al and Bob for their willing service. And kudos to the Directors for their foresight and leadership.

Thirty years after war, a hearty welcome home is planned for Viet vets

Wednesday, January 05, 2005

James Hannah
Associated Press

Dayton

-- When Mike Jackson returned from the Vietnam War in 1972, he was met by war protesters like many other GIs and was given the cold shoulder by those who should have welcomed him home. Thirty years after the war ended, Jackson is helping organize one of two major events this year to welcome Vietnam veterans home.

"You've got a whole segment of the population that went through the same thing I did," said Jackson, author of a Vietnam War memoir "Naked in Da Nang."

"I just want somebody to say thank you to these guys, somebody to say welcome home. It would mean a lot."

Jackson, Executive Director Emeritus of the National Aviation Hall of Fame, is chairman of Operation Welcome Home, a four-day event to be held in Las Vegas on Veterans Day weekend in November. A similar event -- Operation Homecoming USA -- will be held in Branson, Mo., in June.

A 1985 homecoming parade in New York City drew about 25,000 Vietnam veterans, but there have been few similar events over the years for the 7.9 million living veterans from the war.

J. Michael Wenger, a Raleigh, N.C., military historian and Vietnam War author, can recall no official homecoming parades during or shortly after the war. "The military was just ready to have it done with," Wenger said. "It would have been a publicity nightmare. It would have attracted protesters like a magnet."

Jackson, 57, flew 210 combat missions in Vietnam and says his June 25, 1972 return to the United States was not a day of warmth and welcome. He said war protesters were at the airport in San Francisco to harass soldiers as they caught

flights home.

"We walked a gantlet through these guys on either side of us, putting signs in front of your face and screaming at you," Jackson recalled. "This was our welcome home."

When he returned to Tipp City, just north of Dayton, there were no parades or any official welcome-home events. Townspeople were pleasant, he said, but no one ever asked him about his Vietnam experience. "Nobody wanted to hear it," he said. "America was tired of the war and everything it symbolized. But it isn't too late to finally close the loop and let these GIs know that America recognizes their sacrifice."

Steven Herman, a clinical psychologist at the Roudebush VA Medical Center in Indianapolis, said many veterans feel that their entire tour of duty in Vietnam was made meaningless because of the way they were received when they got home. He said this year's homecoming events could be therapeutic. "At the very least, it would provide some validation," he said.

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Ed. Note: You may recognize Mike Jackson as a Covey O-2 FAC and author of *Naked In Da Nang*. To help make this a nationwide WELCOME HOME and for more information go to: **VietnamWelcomeHome.org** or call 702-208-0515. Get an information package to find out how you can participate in your own community. You might be surprised! Thanks, Mike, for your efforts!



©2005 Steven Lewis

The old and the new in trainers

Used by permission



Can You Identify This Landmark?

(Hint: Coveys have an advantage)

Successful respondents will receive honorable mention , next issue. Answer to **teby@htcomp.net**

More On OBA

The following was shamelessly lifted from the Rustics.

Help save a Bronco.

Here's the challenge for the FAC community! The acquisition of the two Broncos by the OBA/FACM has been a long process, but now another hurdle has to be crossed: dismantling, transporting, and final reassembly at the FACM in Fort Worth, TX. The OBA estimates that it will cost in excess of \$10,000 for each aircraft. They plan to do much of the work themselves and with FAC volunteers to help reduce costs...Their non-profit charter is to preserve and perpetuate the history of the OV-10 and the people who served with it. To help restore #825 please send your tax deductible check (payable to OBA) to the address on page 6.

If you flew OV-10 #825 please contact "Crash" Helm. "Guys, I'm compiling the complete history of #825. If you flew this machine, send me any information and photos of the aircraft, crew, dates, type mission, and particulars at: **ned@wingset.com** or mail me at: 221Caswell Dr., Defuniak Springs, FL 32435." It was a Rustic bird at Ubon and NKP and fought the Cold War in Germany, Spain, and possibly Korea. **HELP!**

825 at Phnom Penh May 1973
Lunch break on a Poppa Poppa double turn.

Good to see you
back,
old girl!



Music CD Announced

Heads-up all FACs and others interested!! The FAC Association Board has an initiative to produce a CD of FAC, fighter, and other songs--many from Vietnam as well as other military songs.

The songs will be reproduced from the songs by Jim Roper, Dick Jonas, Irv LeVine, Ron Barker, and Jonathon Myer during the San Antonio reunion. Gary Lee and Lydia did a professional recording of all the songs and will pick some 70 minutes of the best songs to put on the CD.

The FAC Association will use the CD as a fund raiser to help defray the cost of the Memorial planned for the next reunion or any other need seen by the Board. The CD cost will be about \$15 each.

I will collect the orders and coordinate

the shipping. So don't delay. Get in on a once-in-a-lifetime deal. Contact me by any of the following means:

email calvindolly@earthlink.net=20

Phone: 252-437-0550

Snail Mail: 2191 Speight's Chapel Road
Whitakers NC, 27891

FAX: 252-437-0394

Thanks to a great bunch of guys,

Cal Anderson
HoundDog 56/Covey 62



FAC Association Membership Application, Membership Renewal, Database Update Form 2005

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) For Lifetime rates, see President's Corner of this July 2005 FAC Newsletter.

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: _____

MEMBERSHIP - The FAC Association Are YOU a MEMBER?

By Ken Blutt

Would you believe that of the close to 1900 FACs, FANs, maintainers, crew members, and other FAC support and friends that we send this newsletter to, only a third of us are actual members?

This issue of FAC NEWS is going out to 1896 addresses, 1846 CONUS addressees and 50 non-CONUS addressees.

We have 948 members:

141 Paid for LIFE;

001 Paid for 2007;

007 Paid for 2006;

163 Paid for 2005;

246 Paid for 2004;

159 Paid for 2003;

089 Paid for 2002; and

142 Paid for 2001.

Please check your mailing label to see if you agree with your Membership status. Call or email me if you have a problem.

Ken Blutt, your Membership database guy, 719-559-0557, kblutt@adelphia.net



Zorro
Memories, anyone?

Rustic Notes: Rustics! 'Tench Hut!

Report to Okaloosa Island at 1800 hours 21Sep 2005 prepared to stay until 1200 hours 25Sep 2005 for another spectacular Rustic reunion. Uniform of the day casual. Prebriefing at www.rustic.org. Absentees will be gossiped about.

At ease. Dismissed.

**FAC Association
472 Parish Blvd
Mary Esther, FL 32569**

RETURN SERVICES REQUESTED