President’s Corner December-January Newsletter

After the end of 2020 and the beginning of 2021, I hope that this missive finds you as well as can be and looking forward to a ‘better’ year ahead.

This year the toll taken by Father Time has struck way too close to home. Our newsletter editor, Don Davie, took his final flight on December 1 and along with the help from members of the Board of Directors, Harry Pearce and I are putting together the end of year newsletter to keep all of you informed as best we can during these times.

Unfortunately, Don’s passing wasn’t the only one and you will find a listing posted elsewhere in this publication. A respectful Slow Hand Salute and a Rest in Peace for each of them and condolences to their families.

As everyone knows, we were forced to cancel our reunion for 2020 and the board made the decision to hold it in Colorado Springs in the fall of 2022. There was been some talk at the time about some kind of get together to fill in the gap (war stories and adult beverages without the other trappings of a reunion) but nothing has been put in concrete at this point. There is still so much that is unknown about travel safety and such in the coming year, that we believe that we should not rush to set up something that may put members in harm’s way. That being said, Bronco Fest 13 is on the horizon for this 2021 and there is already a discussion going on via the FACNET about attendance at that gathering in November 2021. So standby!

Speaking of the FACNET, accolades to Al Dyer for moving us from Yahoo Groups to Groups.io, to keep that avenue of communications alive and well. Al is finishing up the move of members and info onto the new site and hopefully more of you have found your way there. I see more activity regularly happening on the new site. So, if you need help, Al is the guy and can reached at aldyer@lawlab.com.

I’ll wrap it up for now and send you all best wishes for the Christmas/Holiday season and a Happy and better New Year. So, stay safe and well because we need all of you to keep our group alive.

Brad Wright,
Covey 251
TREASURER'S REPORT
January, 2021

As of the end of December 2020, our financial worth was $129,736:
Checking Balance - $2,871 (includes $832 in the reunion account and $1,265 in our historian account)
Savings Balance - $24,304
CD Balance - $67,445
Investment Balance - $36,166

In 2020, we made our annual contribution of $2,000 to the FAC Museum, as well as our previously approved donations of $1,000 to the Homes For Our Troops Foundation and $1,000 to the Fisher House Foundation.

We still have new FACA challenge coins. They are available from our historian, Al Matheson, for $5 ($10 for non-members), plus shipping of $5 regardless of the number of items purchased. He also has “Hit My Smoke” key chains and decals at two for $5.

To help the association save money, if you haven’t already done so, consider switching your newsletter delivery to email. We still have more than 250 members getting the newsletter by snail-mail, costing us more than $800 each year to print and mail the newsletter. Just let me know and I’ll make it happen.

If you do get a snail mail copy, you can also help by keeping track of your membership by noting your status on the first or second line of your address on this newsletter. The first number is the last year of your membership. Unfortunately, the printer has failed to get this in the address twice. If you get the newsletter by email notice, you can email me or Fred Pumroy to check your membership status. If your membership is due for renewal, consider becoming a life member. In either case, make your check to FACA, Inc and send to me at PO Box 222, Polson, MT 59860.

I occasionally send emails inquiring about duplicate membership payments, most commonly from someone who has forgotten their LIFE MEMBER status. Unfortunately, I get few answers back. I like to think it is because the email ended up in your junk folder. To help avoid this happening, please make sure the two addresses I use, factres@live.com and nail13zg@centurytel.net, are on your acceptable list.

Finally, a confession. I am ashamed and embarrassed to admit that I have gotten way behind the power curve in dealing with membership renewals. It was a long Montana winter (2019), then summer and now winter again. By now I have deposited all checks in the FACA account, sent all data sheets to Fred, but still need to get everything into Quicken. Wish I could blame it on COVID, but that would be a big stretch. Big Al Matheson suggested simple malfeasance.

Thanks for your patience and support.

Trey Moran,
Nail 13
In Memoriam - A tribute to those who have flown west since July 2020

Note: Although the title to this section calls attention to those who have passed since the last newsletter, we have listed some outside that window because, we have just learned of his passing. Slow hand salute to these brothers-in-arms, American patriots all.

Bernhardt      Terry O.      Covey 551/58     23 Nov 20
Davie          Donald R.     Nail 218, Sundog 101 1 Dec 20
Glenn          Donald T.     Red Marker 01 25 Jan 20
Hala           Norbert A.    Covey 582/482   6 Nov 20
Heckman        Robert A.     Covey Tango 8 Oct 20
Hoffman         Clark C.      Nail 31        7 Nov 20
Johnson        Richard       Nile 01        26 Oct 18
Ligonde         Pierre M.     Rustic Juliet, Sundog 21 6 May 20
Roberds        Richard M     Rustic 21, Sleepytime 01 11 Sep 20
Rodriguez      Luis M.       Red Marker 17 22 Oct 20
Shaevitz       Lawrence H.   Red Marker 24   9 Oct 17
Simon          Norbert       Nail 17        25 Sep 20
Vanek          Gerald L.     Rash           2 Aug 20

Expanded information and links to some obituaries are located at https://www.fac-assoc.org/flew-west/flew-west2020.html.

Help: If you know of a brother-in-arms who has passed and not yet recognized by the association, please email that information to Dale Hill <nail49@fac-assoc.org> or Trey Moran <nail13@fac-assoc.org> or Harry Pearce <helix35@fac-assoc.org>

We don’t know what we don’t know.

Bronco Fest XIII : Open to all, not just OV-10 people. This is an Invitation!

• When: Nov 10 – 14, 2021
• Where: Grapevine Texas
• Contact: Angela Bennett aengele@ftwaviation.com or phone 214-601-8055
• What you need to do, even if you are just interested and not certain you will attend:
  • Email Angela ASAP with the following information:
    o Name
    o Email address
    o Phone number
    o Mailing address
    o Planning to attend? If yes, how many in your party.
    o What Unit were you with regarding the OV-10 (Does not have to be an OV-10
The Ravens:
EDGAR ALLAN POE LITERARY SOCIETY (EAPLS)  THE RAVENS
Like most of us individually, 2020 wasn’t our best year. For the first time since 1972, we cancelled our annual reunion. It wasn’t without a lot of thought and discussion, but I think it was the only valid option. Hard to believe, but we’re right in the middle of the lethality range of the COVID envelope. That’s without even getting into the complicating preconditions.
Not wanting to lose the entire experience, Lew Hatch & I journeyed to the Auger Inn and made a video of the Memorial Ceremony (including Champaign glasses in the fireplace.) If you’d like to see it, it’s online at: www.Ravens.org -- NEWS section.

As mentioned in the video, we are down to 122 living Ravens out of 205 who meet the by-law requirements and have been vetted as Ravens (includes Butterflies.)
We’re already looking ahead to a reunion in 2021. Obviously, there are too many unknowns to suggest buying tickets now, but if we have one, it will probably be the 2nd, 3rd or 4th weekend in October.
The Scholarship Program: In 2010, we gave out 12 scholarships, valued at over $20,000. Since the first scholarship was awarded in 2006, we have given out over $171,000 to 451 students.

The reunions are our biggest source of scholarship money. Donations gladly accepted at any time.

Ed Gunter, President, Jan, 2021

The Rustics:
RUSTIC’S FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY. On 20 June Roger Hamman posted a notice on the Rustic’s Facebook page, “Did anyone realize the Rustics 50th anniversary just went by on June 19, 2020?”

June 19, 1970 was the night Jerry Auth was tapped by 7th Air Force to fly his O-2 aircraft to Kompong Thom to defend Lt Colonel Lieou Phin Oum’s beleaguered garrison from being overrun. We consider this to be the first Rustic mission flown into Cambodia. Rustic OV-10 flights operations started the very next day on 20 June. The Rustics continued to fly in support of Cambodian ground forces until Aug 15, 1973, the last day of the Southeast Asia conflict. Rustic and Nail FACs were the last FACs to depart the Cambodian theater on that fateful day. A four-ship of OV-10 aircraft returned to Ubon Air Base to for a final flyby, pitch-out, and landing. A wild party ensued that night as the war for the Rustics was finally over.

FYI FOR RUSTICS: NEXT RUSTIC REUNION. Oct 20-24, 2021. Make plans now to join us in sunny Tucson, Arizona for a great Rustic reunion. The reunion hotel is the Desert Diamond Hotel and Casino. The final Reunion plans, hotel information, and registration form will be posted in our June 2021 Newsletter and on our Rustic website, www.rustic.org. There is lots to see and do in and around Tucson. A tentative reunion Schedule of Events is posted at the end of this newsletter. If you have any suggestions or inputs, contact our reunion point man, Claude Newland, at rustic19@cox.net. See you there!

The Jakes:
To all Jakes, MAT Swine, friends, families & other supporters of the Jake FAC mission in SEA — I hope that everyone had a great (under the lockdown) holiday season (albeit dressed like the Jesse James Gang). A reminder that the plans for the next Jake/MAT reunion remain in development for the Natl Museum of the USAF near Dayton for this fall (most likely sometime between Mid-Sept and Oct, exact
dates TBA, depending on the best hotel deal and on how COVID restrictions unfold). The Reunion is open to all members and fans of the Jake FAC/MATs Mission, and is planned as a 4-day event, the highlight being the business meeting, banquet and Memorial ceremony on the final day.

As we are transitioning the JakeNET from the now-defunct yahoogroups to the new FACNET (main) groups.io, we are coming on board as a FACNET sub-group, which once we get the kinks worked out, will be a good deal, and a better system. One significant issue is the flood of FACNET political posts, but we have formed a task force to resolve this for the Jakes, and I ask for your patience for a little longer – please do not jump ship because of these irritants – we are very close to a suitable resolution. None of your leadership wants to relive the massive effort to re-create the database. If you wish to receive ONLY the JakeNET posts and not receive all the other FACNET posts, you can set that in your NET profile, or contact Chuck McCalip (mccalip@palbunyan.net) for help.

All of your posts regarding our beloved brotherhood – our memories, photos, missions, history, and especially your war stories and HUMOR are welcome – just stick with the original JakeNET R.O.E. and find another place for politics – the JakeNET is all about our brotherhood, and make sure you only post language that you would use with your grandkids and wives – some of them read the posts, too. And remember, all details of the reunions can only be found on the JakeNET. Have a safe and happy 2021, and here’s to looking forward to the demise of COVID!

Cheers, Jay Barnes, Jake 26, Tam Ky’70 (jake26tamky.70@gmail.com)

**The Website Reconfigured - How long has it been since you visited our website?**

The index or home page has been reconfigured as an index to the various subject pages. The page has been split into two columns. The left column is topped by a purpose statement of the site. Below that is the contact information for the current association president, followed by list of site subjects and a poem, “One More Roll” by Commander Gerald Coffee. Below that is a statement concerning the symbolism of the color scheme and a last revised date.

The right-hand column is topped by an animation of the airplanes we flew. The animation will start and cycle once every time the page is opened. Below that is a list of “Notams and Announcements.” Each announcement begins with the date it was posted, followed a description of the story and a link to the “rest-of-the-story.” The most recent announcement is on the top of the list. The announcements include such things as west bound flights, wanted posters, FAC news et cetera.

The site has a unique feature, a floating index bar. It will appear at the top of your screen even as you scroll down the page. It is a set of buttons that will directly open the pages noted. Bob Gorman, Jake 44, and I are proud of the site. I think you will be too. Come for a visit. We have compiled a lot of information for you. Here is the address https://www.fac-assoc.org/

Helix 35

**The Hooch - A virtual visit, the Biographies of two fellow FACs:**
Military Life after Vietnam (52 Years):

- Hickam: EC-135 ABNCP and Pilot “PACOM Commander’s Command Crew (airplane)”
  - Married the Love of my life, Audrey, in 1972 – daughter and son soon followed.
- Andrews: Special Air Missions (SAM) pilot flying VIPs worldwide. Highest was VP Ford as “AF 2”
- Maxwell: Air Command & Staff College: student then Faculty Instructor & Curriculum. Mainly “Joint Operation Planning.”
- Offutt: Senior Controller, SAC Command Center.
- Grissom: Vice Commander 305th AREW (KC-135s)
- Seymour Johnson: Wing Commander, 68th AREW (KC-10s)

Professional Life after USAF – We settled in Hawaii and I worked mostly at Camp Smith:

- First employee of Booz-Allen Hamilton Inc. in Hawaii and continued with BAH for 28 years.
  - Also worked for 2 other firms for about one year each.
  - Purpose of all this contract support work was: C4ISR Architecture development & execution, Joint Operation Planning and Major Training Exercise development and execution.

The important non-salaried part of my (mainly) Post USAF Life.
Active-Duty Travel (most Continents). Military/Aviation/American History. Sailing: class boat racing and charter sailing (Tahiti, Belize). Politics at several levels, Kaneohe Neighborhood Board # 30 (elected twice). Leadership of Veterans’ & Aviation Organizations (Quiet Birdmen & Daedalians) & Reunions (Forward Air Controllers Association & Khe Sanh Veterans Association) , Community Environmental Issues like water quality (Kailua Bay Advisory Council – member & Chairman, 12 years ), most RENO Air Races, Sacramento Dixieland Jazz Jubilee often, singing with the “Sounds of Aloha” Barbershop Chorus (10 years), photography. President, Elder, Board of Ed., St. Mark Lutheran Church & School.

Aloha, Toby Rushforth
Fellow FAC’s;

I settled in the United Kingdom when I completed my Air Force career, having been stationed lastly at RAF Upper Heyford, an F-111 base. The coronavirus is rampart over here and the mantra of the British government “Hands-Face- Space” (wash your hands, wear a mask, and socially distance) is dictated for all. It is interesting to consider whether this would be legally enforced here, but it is a moot point because the British don’t, for the most part, have a “rugged individualism” philosophy and comply virtually universally.

I was a Nail and Spike (predecessor to the Rustic’s in Cambodia) FAC from July 70 to July 71, straight out of Pilot Training at Reese and OV-10 RTU at Hurlburt. My tour was bulk standard average, flying six months on the Ho Chi Minh trail from Nakhon Phenom and six months in Cambodia out of Ubon. On the trail I was one of the first cadre to given the gun hunting role (Zsy 23’s and 57mm guns) and to FAC a set of F-4’ with laser guided bomb. At that stage you had to have one F-4 to designate and another to toss the bomb. You don’t tend to remember the bad or scary aspects. My abiding memory is of my personal “party trick”. As many of you know the border between Thailand and Cambodia is a sheer cliff of about 1,000 feet dropping down to the Cambodian jungle. When I would reach that point, I would roll inverted, let the nose drop 45 degrees naturally and then roll back upright-neatly at 1,500 feet above the Cambodia. That was a pretty calm sector, although I did work Cambodian government troops in contact near Siem Reap on one occasion. Unlike on the trail in Cambodia they armed us with the tiny pistols (M-60 machine guns) and HE rockets.

I finished my flying career as a Tweet instructor then my hearing went bad (wonder why?) and I finished as a Supply Officer. Retired in the rank of Lt Col as the Director of Supply for ESC at Kelly

Everyone have a great New Year.

Jack Goodman,
Covey 516, Nail 61, Spike 61

Circa 1945: One of these fellows is a fellow FAC. Who is it? The answer in a notam on the website soon.
Contact specific Association officers or directors by going to our website: https://www.fac-assoc.org/contacts.html

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| 55 Years and under - $225.00  56 to 60 years - $200.00 | Trey Moran  
P O Box 222  
Polson MT 59860 |
| 61 to 65 years – 175.00  66 to 70 years - $150.00 |
| 71 to 75 years – $125.00  76 plus years - $100.00 |

FAC Association Membership and Annual Dues Form

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Enclosed is my check #______________ for $_______________. Make me a member or continue my membership in the FAC Association. (Note: Your Dues Status can be found in the address block printed above.)

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