

Rotorwash

A Newsletter for *AIR FORCE ROTORHEADS*

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Contact : [USAF ROTORHEADS](#)



"Final Flight"

(SINCE LAST NEWSLETTER)

Jackson Kilgore (March 13, 2008)

John Matthew "Slats" Slattery (March 6, 2008)

Herbert R. Zehnder (March 4, 2008) (Col. Zehnder commanded the lead helicopter on the first non-stop crossing of the Atlantic by a helicopter/He was the co-pilot of Banana One which crash landed at Son Tay, Vietnam)

Don Hale (February 7, 2008)

Robert E. "Bob" Mayo (January 29, 2008)

Joseph Rowland Edward Gagnon (January 13, 2008)

Gerald O. Young (June 6, 1990) (Medal of Honor recipient / 37th ARRS, DaNang HH-3E November 9, 1967)



AF Chief to be Awarded AF Cross. On 5 April, 40 years after the fact, Chief Master Sergeant (Ret.) Dennis M. Richardson will finally be awarded the Air Force Cross for his extraordinary heroism during a March 14, 1968, mission in Southeast Asia.

"GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN"

It is for an action that occurred on 14 Mar 1968 while Dennis was a Sgt., and serving as a Flight Engineer on HH-3Es flying with the 37th ARRS at DaNang.

During January Dennis McLaughlin and Stephan Brodsky joined our group.

In February Buck Watson, Mike Rodericks, Bob Abernathy, Bob Young, Diane Revolinski, Dave Comstock and Greg Etzel signed on.

Special note: Diane Revolinski was the first woman to join and Dave Comstock was member #100 to join. Congratulations to both.

During March Bill Kaseman, Jeff Hartman, Carlos de Mattos, Tom Heitz, Ron Loftis, Doug Stimpson, Howard Frazee and Oral Carper joined our group.

Felix (Mac) McLarney has been accepted as an Associate member. Mac has provided a wealth of information as well as pictures of the use of HH-34Js by the Air Force Reserve and of the 304th ARRS at Portland OR.

Carl Halcomb, one of our active duty members, will be moving from HQ USSOCOM, MacDill AFB to Human Space Flight Support, Patrick AFB working on the Space Shuttle and future Crew Exploration Vehicle by mid April. We wish Carl the best as he moves to his new assignment.

For all Air Force (to include AFRC and ANG) helicopter active duty, veterans or retirees. Does your mind sometimes wander off and bring back memories of old friends, humorous tales, war stories, times when the pucker factor was pegged high or just the plain "no s**t there I was" stories? Does the CRS factor tend to dull the clarity of your thoughts? What would you say should you locate a place where you could store all those rich memories of yours before CRS further erodes them and they are lost forever without your grandchildren ever

"GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN"

knowing? Do you recall the action that was taken when something was threatening the valuable machines we flew and maintained? The alarm would sound and the call went out to "hangar" the birds for safekeeping. There is such a "hangar" for storing all the above mentioned historical data of yours for safekeeping and that is the *USAF ROTORHEADS* [website](#) and [blog](#). As you browse these "hangars" you will find that numerous members have stored many of their memories where all can enjoy. We encourage our members continue to store additional items in the hangar. If you are not a member of *USAF ROTORHEADS* we invite you to join us before CRS blocks all of your Air Force helicopter experiences. We have plenty of storage space in the hangar and we will "leave the light on for you" in order for you to browse through the hangar" at your leisure.

Don't forget to mark your calendar for **April 17-19 2008**. These are the dates for the Pedro Rescue Helicopter Association (PRHA) Reunion in Montgomery AL. For more information go to the web site <http://pedroafrescue.org/> or contact Ed Cartwright at pedrohelicopter@yahoo.com.

The USAFHPA Fiesta San Antonio **2008** will be held **May 11 - 14** in San Antonio TX. (www.holiday-inn.com/sat-riverwalk)

The 20th Helicopter Squadron is planning their 3rd reunion. Tentative plans are **Oct 9-12, 2008** in Tucson, AZ. More details at the website www.20thhelicoptersquadronreunion.com

Check the "Reunions/Special Events" page on our website for additional reunion information. <http://rotorheadsrus.us/documents/537.html>

We are seeking information concerning the shipment of an ex-Air Force H-3 helicopter that went to Egypt during the Carter administration. If you have any information please contact us.

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If you have a question you would like to place on our website, go to our website Message Board, where it is a simple process to post your message.

Jim Mardock is attempting to determine the tail numbers of the 14 CH-3s that were sent from Eglin AFB to Tan Son Nhut in Dec 65 as the 20th SOS. Check our Message Board for more details and a place to respond if you have additional information.

The Navy apparently loaned at least two UH-34Js to the Air Force from the 6th of Jan 1965 to the 25th of April 1966. If you have information about the loan of these helicopters please contact us.

"H-43 Information"

For all of you H-43 fans, especially those that served in SEA on that grand old bird, Johan Ragay has received copies of all the old Kaman "Rotor Tips" from Kaman with authorization to publish the stories on his website. He has published several of them and has more to go. If you can assist him with any info such as dates on some of these stories it would be greatly appreciated. You may contact him through his web site which is <http://www.h43-huskie.info/>.

Check the "[Links](#)" page on our website for links to other sites that document and preserve Air Force helicopter history. No one site can gather all the information so with a concerted effort we are doing a great job. These other sites have a significant amount of history posted. Check them out.

During the 1st quarter of 2008 our website was awarded several website awards. This indicates the value of the information contained on our site. Keep sending information and recruiting new members and the website will continue to grow towards our vision of becoming the site of preference when it comes to Air Force helicopter matters.

.....*"GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN"*.....

ROTORHEAD LOCATOR

Russell N. Duckett He was my maintenance supervisor at Malmstrom AFB Montana in 1963. Last known address was in Missouri. (Contact Norm Spicer at [USAF ROTORHEADS](#))

Cris Gonzalez and **Harry Toy** last known at Davis-Monthan and DaNang respectively. (Contact Norm Spicer at [USAF ROTORHEADS](#))

20th SOS Pony Express. Louie Alexander would like to contact anyone that served with the Ponies. (Contact Louie at [USAF ROTORHEADS](#))

John Perry I would like to locate John who was our jet engine mechanic at Loring AFB, ME during the 1965 era. (Contact John Dorgan at [USAF ROTORHEADS](#))

Sgt. Mark McKenna stationed at Patrick AFB 1974-5 to 1976-7, stationed at 40 ARRS NKP Thailand '73-74. (Contact Mike Vandermaelen at [USAF ROTORHEADS](#))

Sgt. Patrick Conley stationed at Patrick AFB FLA '75-'77 and Kadena AB Okinawa 77-78. (Contact Mike Vandermaelen at [USAF ROTORHEADS](#))

Tom Brownlee Tom has one of my trainers when I served in Air Rescue at McConnell AFB back in 1971-72 time frame. (Please Tom Skaug at [USAF ROTORHEADS](#))

Bill Scravini Tony Markham is looking for him. The last I knew he was at Hill AFB UT in the Test Sq. In the 80's I believe his rank CMSgt. (Please contact [USAF ROTORHEADS](#))

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Terry C. (T.C.) Smith He was in the 21st SOS from Sep 67 to Nov 69. When he returned from NKP he went to Eglin and I lost track of him there. His home was Palatka FL but I haven't been able to locate him via the Internet. (Please contact Rick Estep at [USAF ROTORHEADS](#))

Fred Faust The last time I talked to him he was at Patrick AFB and a Lt. Col. flying the H-3. I also know that at some point he was flying H-3's out of NKP or Udorn but I am not sure of the time frame. (Please contact Don Larsen at [USAF ROTORHEADS](#))

Huey/Pave Hawk Looking for anyone that is either a helicopter maintenance crew chief type or flight crew member currently associated with the Hueys or Pave Hawk. (Please contact us at [USAF ROTORHEADS](#))

Jimmy W. Blackwell I last talked to him in 1967 at Udorn when he was a FE in the 20th SOS. (Please contact Don Larsen at [USAF ROTORHEADS](#))

Donn Hassman Contact Bob Runniger at [USAF ROTORHEADS](#) if you know where Donn Hassman may be.

Larry Dreyer Last seen at NKP as a FE in the 21st SOS in 1969. (Please contact Jim Burns at [USAF ROTORHEADS](#))

William "Bill" Wilson Last seen in 1962/63 at Stead Air Force Base. He was in Det 6, 38th ARRS in 1970 (Please contact Jim Moore at [USAF ROTORHEADS](#))

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Larry Collins Last seen at the 33rd ARRS at Kadena have been informed he retired out of Indian Springs. (Please contact Jim Moore at [USAF ROTORHEADS](#))

Hienrich "Herbie" Herber He was German born and the last I saw or heard from him was in September of 1965. We were stationed together at Minot for about 2 years. He was from New York State. (Please contact Jerry Bucknall at [USAF ROTORHEADS](#))

Francis Fisher I believe we were together in the 5040th in Alaska. We were also together at NKP and the 20th in 67-68. (Please contact Jim Burns at [USAF ROTORHEADS](#))

Richard "Rick" Wert He was in the 21st SOS in 73 - 74 time frame. He was an old rotor head from Hill AFB. I lost contact with him when NKP closed in 75. (Please contact Woody Freeman at [USAF ROTORHEADS](#))

William O. Johnson We were together at Det 11, 38th ARRS, Tuy Hoa Vietnam in 68/69. (Please contact Ron Smitham at [USAF ROTORHEADS](#))

Hank Theriot Information is as follows: ACFT HH-53C, tail # 68-10366, Call Sign Jolly Green 70, Unit 37th ARRS, Crash date 25 Nov 71, Survivors were: FE Hank Theriot, PJ R. L. Steed (Please contact Mike Wade at [USAF ROTORHEADS](#))

Members of the 917S/917H FTD that was at Tan Son Nhut in 1963/64 training VNAF helicopter pilots and mechanics on the H-19 (Please contact Jim Moore at [USAF ROTORHEADS](#))

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Bill Cavano would like to find Paul Krieder, Gus Dowling, Louie Bond, Bob Rector or John Hazzard. (Any information please contact Bill at [USAF ROTORHEADS](#))

One of our groups Historians, Wayne Mutza, is seeking stories from anyone who may have had anything to do with the Hughes OH-6A "Loach". If you have anything to contribute please get it to Wayne. If you don't have his email send it to [USAF ROTORHEADS](#). Wayne has a book in progress on the Loach and would appreciate your assistance.

Wayne has a new book that is available at Amazon.com. The title is ***"Green Hornets" The History of the U. S. Air Force 20th Special Operations Squadron***

Jim Henthorn, who is doing research for a book on AF Helicopter Special Operations, is looking for the any crewmembers or anyone with specific information from the 20th Helicopter Squadron during the A Shau Valley SF Camp rescue.

Jim is also looking for a member of the 20th SOS, time period Nov 68 to Jan 69. Contact Jim at [USAF ROTORHEADS](#)

Please forward this Newsletter to all your Air Force ROTORHEAD friends. If you are not a member check our website and see what we are all about at <http://www.rotorheadsrus.us/> and then contact us and sign on. We need your helicopter experiences to achieve our goal of documenting Air Force helicopter history.

Contact your friends and encourage them to join.