

# Rotorwash

A Newsletter for *AIR FORCE ROTORHEADS*

Issue 2007/4

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By *USAF ROTORHEADS*

Contact : [USAF ROTORHEADS](#)



## "Final Flight"

(SINCE LAST NEWSLETTER)

**William "Bill" Takacs** (October 16, 2007)

**Warren R. "Bob" Lilly** (October 12, 2007)

**Homer L. Hite** (June 9, 2007)

**Phillip Prince** (June 9, 2003)



During October Bill "Stoney" Stonecipher, Norm Spicer and Bert Berthold joined our group.

During November Jay Merz, Tom Garcia and Jim Mardock joined.

During December Jake Jakob, Donald Blossom and Stan Nelson joined.

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 [pedroheliicopter@yahoo.com](mailto:pedroheliicopter@yahoo.com).

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The USAFHPA Fiesta San Antonio **2008** will be held **May 11 - 14** in San Antonio TX. ([www.holiday-inn.com/sat-riverwalk](http://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 will be coming after the holidays.

The long awaited *USAF ROTORHEADS* patch is now available for members only. Each member will receive one complimentary patch. Additional patches will be available to members at a minimal cost yet to be determined. All current members should have received their patch, if not please advise. Note: Those members that joined within the past few weeks, you should be receiving yours shortly.

We have placed a Message Board on our web site. The purpose of this Forum is to have a on-line location where postings may be made such as questions, seeking information and other helicopter related topics. This is a great place to initiate research on an issue that you are seeking for more information. Should you be attempting to locate someone, you can post it here. We will also place it on our website locator as well as in the Newsletter. Both members and non-members may use this service.

*USAF ROTORHEADS* has received a request for assistance in determining the dimensions of the trailer that was utilized for the H-43 (soft hose) Fire Suppression Kit (FSK). There is a trailer located at the New England Air Museum (NEAM) and the requester is attempting to get the measurements with no response at the present. Check our Message Board for more details and a place to response if you have additional information.

During our FSK research several questions have surfaced. If anyone has information please let us know. We know there was a soft hose kit and later a hard hose kit, both which were mounted on a USAF MB-1

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trailer chassis. The platform for the hard hose kit was apparently different as we have seen two pictures that clearly shows a extended platform on one side and one with the platform on both sides, most likely used by the hook-up man. Our questions are:

1. Other than the NEAM does anyone know the location of a FSK trailer?
2. Did the units receive trailers with platforms installed or was the platforms installed on the MB-1 chassis locally?
3. When converting from the soft hose kit to the hard hose kit, was the mounting platform modified in any way?

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.

Our group has been in existence for two years. During this time we have connected with a significant number of our Air Force helicopter friends. With the assistance of our members we have collected a significant amount of our history and have it documented on our website and Blog. There is still a lot of historical personal experiences out there waiting to be told. In order to retrieve some of this historical data we all need to make an effort to recruit new members. In most instances all it takes is the initial contact informing them of who we are and encourage them to join and aid with our goal of documenting and preserving our rich Air Force helicopter history. With minimal effort we should easily double our 2007 membership gains in 2008. Our group gained 50 new members in 2007.

For those that may be experiencing problems with your fingers and using the computer keyboard, you may already have a solution on your computer. Depending upon the Operating System on your computer you may have a on-screen keyboard. This keyboard allows use of the mouse

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to make the various keystrokes. It isn't fast, but certainly less frustrating.

*USAF ROTORHEADS* is unique in that our group is representative of "all" who are or have been associated with Air Force helicopters regardless of mission, unit etc. Our website indicates the various membership categories which qualify. Membership information is available on the website and best of all there is no cost. Check us out at <http://rotorheadsrus.us/> and join 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.

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### **ROTORHEAD LOCATOR**



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**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](#))

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**Cris Gonzalez** and **Harry Toy** last known at Davis-Monthan and DaNang respectively. (Contact Norm Spicer at [USAF ROTORHEADS](#))  
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**20<sup>th</sup> SOS Pony Express.** Louie Alexander would like to contact anyone that served with the Ponies. (Contact Louie at [USAF ROTORHEADS](#))  
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**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](#))  
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**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](#))  
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**Sgt. Patrick Conley** stationed at Patrick AFB FLA '75-'77 and Kadena AB Okinawa 77-78. (Contact Mike Vandermaelen at [USAF ROTORHEADS](#))  
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**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](#))  
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**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](#))  
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**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](#))

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**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](#))

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**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](#))

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

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

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

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

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**Hienrich "Herbie" Herber** He was German born and the last I saw or heard from him was in September of 1965. We were stationed

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together at Minot for about 2 years. He was from New York State. (Please contact Jerry Bucknall at [USAF ROTORHEADS](#))

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**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](#))

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**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](#))

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

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**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](#))

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**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](#))

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[NOTICE~~INFORMATION BEING SOUGHT~~NOTICE](#)

One of our group Historians, Wayne Mutza, is seeking stories from anyone who may have had anything to do with the Hughes OH-6A

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"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 20<sup>th</sup> Special Operations Squadron***

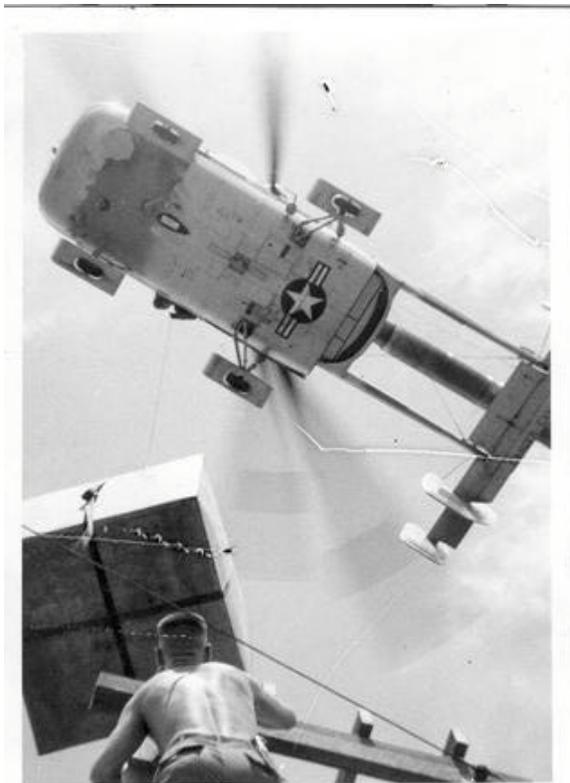
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Jim Henthorn, who is doing research for a book on AF Helicopter Special Operations, is looking for the any crewmembers or anyone with specific information from the 20th Helicopter Squadron during the A Shau Valley SF Camp rescue.

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

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HERE ARE A FEW PICTURES TO JOG YOUR MEMORY.



Within the pages of our website are these pictures. If you have seen them see if you can recall what is taking place or has occurred and the location.

**Here are some hints**

**Picture #1 is a H-43**

**Picture #2 is a H-19**

**Picture #3 is of H-53s**

**Picture #4 is a H-19**

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*Please forward this Newsletter to all your Air Force ROTORHEAD friends and encourage them to join. Note: If you are not a member check out our website at <http://www.rotorheadsrus.us/> and see what we are all about 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.*

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**HAVE A SAFE,  
HEALTHY, PROSPEROUS  
AND HAPPY NEW YEAR  
*USAF ROTORHEADS***

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