

# Rotorwash

A Newsletter for Air Force Rotorheads

Issue 2006/4

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By ROTORHEADSRUS

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Contact: [rotorheadsrus@yahoo.com](mailto:rotorheadsrus@yahoo.com)

*It was shortly after Thanksgiving 2005 that Jerry Bucknall and Jim Moore re-connected after several years. That connection began to include other Air Force Helicopter folks that Jerry and Jim had served with. Early in 2006 it was decided that some sort of group should be established to renew old friendships and share stories and pictures of days gone by. Hence, the beginning of "Rotorheads". It didn't take long and other AF helicopter folks were signed up and today the group has grown to 41 members. The group has a Blog for sharing stories and pictures and a web site has been established where all sorts of Air Force helicopter related information is posted. Member's service time spans the period from 1951 through the present. We have one member that began his service in 1951 and other members have served through the years and today we have one active duty person in the group. The vision of the group is to have our web site become the "site of choice" when it comes to Air Force Helicopter related matters.*

**We have what is believed to be the "first" picture of a Jolly Green flight crew and downed pilot taken after the "second" combat rescue for the Jolly Greens in SEA. Check the "firsts & records" page in our website at <http://www.rotorheadsrus.us/>**

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→ ROTORHEAD LOCATOR ←  
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**TSgt Larry L. Holocker & William O. Johnson**-- Steve Mock, EDITOR of the <mailto:pedronews@libby.org> is trying to locate them. Ron Smitham is also looking for William O. Johnson. Ron may be reached at [rotorheadsrus@yahoo.com](mailto:rotorheadsrus@yahoo.com)

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**UH-1N** Looking for anyone that is either a helicopter maintenance crew chief type or flight crew member. Space command uses the UH-1N for missile site support however it is believed there are a few others still in operation. (Please contact us at [rotorheadsrus@yahoo.com](mailto:rotorheadsrus@yahoo.com))

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**Jan Gale** We were in Det. 23 CARRC together. Then In Fall of 63 I went to Okinawa and he went to Korea. Don't know where he went from there. (Please contact Chuck Severns at [rotorheadsrus@yahoo.com](mailto:rotorheadsrus@yahoo.com))

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

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

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**Donn Hassman** Contact Bob Runniger at [rotorheadsrus@yahoo.com](mailto:rotorheadsrus@yahoo.com) if you know where Donn Hassman may be.

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**William "Bill" Wilson** Last seen in 1962/63 at Stead Air Force Base. (Please contact Jim Moore at [rotorheadsrus@yahoo.com](mailto:rotorheadsrus@yahoo.com))

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

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**Les Bunning** Last seen in 1970 at Homestead AFB with H-21s supporting the TAC Sea Survival School. (Please contact Jim Moore at [rotorheadsrus@yahoo.com](mailto:rotorheadsrus@yahoo.com))

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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 together at Minot for about 2 years. He was from New York State. (Please contact Jerry Bucknall at [rotorheadsrus@yahoo.com](mailto:rotorheadsrus@yahoo.com))

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

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

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

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

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Any one knowing where the folks listed in the locator are or where to contact them please contact us. Pass this on to your contacts that are not members of our group. Widest dissemination is requested to assist in locating these "rotorheads".

The names in the locator will remain in forthcoming issues of the Newsletter. The point of contact, at their discretion may remove their search request.

If anyone knows how to contact the following individuals please pass contact information to [rotorheadsrus@yahoo.com](mailto:rotorheadsrus@yahoo.com)

<i>Dennis Bowling</i>	<i>Glenn D. Hunter</i>	<i>Alfonso M. River</i>
<i>Richard J. Thibert</i>	<i>Paul B. Carter</i>	<i>Patrick J. Cook</i>
<i>Kenneth L. Hudson</i>	<i>Ernest R. Kerns</i>	<i>Mark D. Smith</i>
<i>Steve McKone</i>	<i>John F. Reese</i>	<i>Jon E. Sorensen</i>
<i>Joseph A. Slavik</i>	<i>Christopher R. Scott</i>	<i>Paul A. Heller</i>
<i>Floyd Watson</i>		

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Fellow Rotorhead Will "**Santa Claus**" Davis continued with his annual task of playing Santa Claus for many children in the area where he lives. The following are his words on this year's activities:

*I had an extremely rewarding Christmas Holiday. I just wanted you to know that your Santa has been very busy doing all of the things a good Santa should do, by visiting around 75 families with children as Santa Claus. I have visited five elementary schools, provided the equipment and know-how to provide pictures with Santa to all the schools I visited. I also visited sick children at a major hospital here in Melbourne. I was able to fulfill a dying 8 year old's request to have a Santa visit. Did I say the right thing to her, I sure hope so, Alicia Martin died on Saturday night, December 23 at 6:15 EST in her mother's arms? I did*

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*try to give the little girl words of encouragement, without being too flowery.*

*On the lighter side I did the introductions to the Nutcracker Suite for the Galmont Ballet, I had a blast, we did a special show for a young cancer patient who previously studied ballet. This event was very touching, I discovered that I had a soft spot for special needs children.*

*On Christmas Eve I spent the day making home visits, reading stories, showing my big lump of coal and giving families with children a small lump of coal in sandwich bags to use as a motivation device. My last visit around midnight was a non-interactive visit, a reenactment of the night before Christmas. Whereas I make a great amount of noise pretending that I was unlocking their unlocked doors with a Santa Key. I go in and stuff the stockings, from marked bags, then pull the presents from my huge Santa bag, it is 4 feet by 3 feet and put them under the tree, with color coordinated wrappings.*

*I am looking forward to a few days of rest.*

*Will "Santa Claus" Davis*

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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 "Loach". If you have anything to contribute please get it to Wayne. If you don't have his email send it to [rotorheadsrus@yahoo.com](mailto:rotorheadsrus@yahoo.com). Wayne has a book in progress on the Loach and would appreciate your assistance.

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Thanks to Vince Depersio, Bill Junkins, and Pedro folks Steve Mock and Paul Metzner, we now have a link to our website on the Pedro News,

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Pave Low and The "Unofficial USAF H-43 Pedro" sites. By linking our site to theirs our group has been able to broaden our visibility. A Google or Yahoo search is also bringing up our site. We anticipate this increased visibility will generate interest in our group and lead to an increase in our membership.

October was a good month as far as new members joining our group. Nine members signed on during the month. Some of this is a result of our receiving visibility from a link on the Pave Low and Pedro websites. We thank both of them for linking us to their site.

During the month of October Mike Wade, Rick Estep, Jim Duffy, Vince DePersio, Roger Veillon, Tom Green, Pete Riley, Dave Livelsberger and Joe Ballinger joined our group bringing the total membership to 36. Vince is the first to join our group that is on active duty and Joe is our first pilot. The group welcomes their association with our growing group.

During November John Kriletich, Ed Cartwright & Dale Robinson joined the group bringing the total to 39. Ed is the first HH-43B Fire Fighter to join the group.

During December our membership increased to 41 when Bill Junkins and Tuck Kemper joined our group. Bill is the webmaster for the "The Unofficial U.S. Air Force HH-43 'PEDRO' Crash Rescue - Air Rescue" web site. Tuck is the second pilot to join our group.

During October there were several new pages added to our website. We are always looking for more information from our members in order to document those things we accomplished in the service to our country. We encourage all members to share their stories, be it a rewarding mission or some humorous chopper related activities.

Everyone is encouraged to check out the Patriotism page on the web site and learn about the great things the Patriot Guard is doing in

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support of military funerals. Chuck Bramhall belongs to this great organization and they are to be applauded for their efforts.

A Scrap Book page was added to the web site in October. Numerous interesting pictures have been posted here. If you have pictures you would like to see posted send them in.

On 12 October, Michigan Rotorhead Ron Smitham announced the first snow fall of the season. He offered to send some to those in the Sun Belt however there were no takers.

During the last week of October a locator page was placed on our web site. This may be used by any rotorhead, member or not, to attempt to locate a lost friend. Contact us at [rotorheadsrus@yahoo.com](mailto:rotorheadsrus@yahoo.com)

During November numerous additions were made to the web site. There is now a link on the home page "What's New (with a as of date). This date will be the date of the latest update to the website. Clicking on the link one will be able to see what updates were made during that period.

In December pages were added to the web site where various patches are posted. Anyone having additional Air Force related patches please send an image to [rotorheadsrus@yahoo.com](mailto:rotorheadsrus@yahoo.com)

We continue to seek inputs for our Blog and website from the members, so if you have stories, pictures or whatever send them as well as any comments (positive/negative) on the Blog and/or the website to [rotorheadsrus@yahoo.com](mailto:rotorheadsrus@yahoo.com). As of 31 December 2006 there have been 67 posts and 3,196 visits to our Blog. Considering that the Blog was established in late March 2006, and along with the web site, we have documented and preserved a significant amount of Air Force helicopter history. This is only a small amount of "stuff" that is out there, we just need to get it from our members.

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In 2007 we will be looking at an email system that will allow each of you to have more control over the email you receive. There will be more information forthcoming as this system evolves.

Working together we should be able to increase our membership significantly during 2007. Contact your friends and encourage them to check out our web site, see what we are about and join up. It is all about camaraderie and documenting/preserving Air Force Helicopter history.

*Please forward a copy of 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. If you are a member contact your friends and encourage them to join.*