



FIREBIRD FLYER



Volume 1 - Number 2

The Firebird Association

November 1997

Biloxi Bash Beckons

Rotation... fuel flow... enrichment... ignition... oil pressure... starter out... peak TIT. We have a stable start. All we need to complete the *Biloxi Reunion Mission* is **you**. **You** could be those heroic personnel of the **17th TCS** that so gallantly completed hundreds of missions across the deserts of North

family member that was left at home, who worked to maintain the household and waited patiently for a loved one to return. All of **you** are important, and all of **you** are needed in Biloxi to make this reunion a success for all of us.

Please don't make the mistake of believing that "I have something that I need to do this time. I'll see all of my good friends at the next reunion." The simple fact is that some of us and our friends will not be at any *next* gathering. The last meeting of the Association was in Abilene fourteen years ago. Many of our most valued *family* members are no longer with us. Ken Bethe, Jim Bell, Al Benson, John Kerr, George Gregelein, Bill DeBoe, Buzz Carr, Jim Surber, Walt Ott, Francis Termin, Gene Soeder, Buddy McGowan, Milt Chorn, Bud Albert, Ralph Hamilton, Don Bray, Bob Dalton, Bob Jurasek, Ed Lafon, George Langfield, Lester Langston, Herb Strouser, Bob Morrissey, Woody Myers, Ken Lankford, Igor Prokofieff, Larry Sharrow, Roger Sweatman, F. E. Ransford, Tom Lewin, Art

Spooner, Larry Lange, Marion Hendrix, Tony Barrett, Ervin Hobbs, Tom Vining, Steve Canon, Virgil Scott, Sanford Hudgins, Allan McCollor, Jerry Morgan, Bob Roulston, Hubert Ward, Bob Fowler, Dan Harvey, Jess Hopson, Curtis Wells, Ken Stockard, and **others that we don't even know about will be dearly missed at all future reunions.** Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

For one weekend out of fourteen years, you are being encouraged to forego fame and fortune for friends—who were more like family.

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"I'm never too busy to visit a friend...."

Africa and far beyond in World War II. **You** could be a member of the **61st** and **17th TCS/TAS Squadrons**, or **109th TAW** that courageously flew the Lockheed Hercules C-130D "ski model" in the vast Arctic desert of southern Greenland during the Cold War and Vietnam eras. Or **you** could have flown as a Firebird to the remote and dangerous radar sites scattered across Alaska. And **you** could have served in a position or unit which helped make all of these missions possible. Lastly, **you** could be

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Registration Form Encl.

Firebirds Found

After hours of work and dozens of phone calls, we have located the following persons. However, we still have over 425 names with no current address. **Any person found missing on this list will not receive this newsletter because the Association does not have an address on file.** If you know where these missing individuals are, please send a copy of this flyer to them, or send an update of their address to the Firebird Association. **We need to network to get this reunion information into the hands of those who will not receive this newsletter.**

“The squadron was the tightest outfit I've been with in 30 years of service.”

- Sam Arnold

Acheson, D. K.; Akers, Reggie ; Alexander, James; **Allen, Francis "Frank"**; Amado, Anthony; **Anderson, Alan**; Andres, Ernest; **Arnold, Sam**; Ashcraft, Mike; **Aycock, Gerald**; Bagwill, Joseph; **Bailey, Nolan; Baird, Jerry**; Baker, Glenn; Barker, Ken; Barnett, Ernie; **Bartunek, Bob**; Beatty, Julian; Bent, Guy; **Berg,**

Carl; Berry, Vernon; Bethe, Mrs. Ken; Bethea, Ronald; Bjornstad, Eugene; Blackburn, Victor; **Blahak, Herman**; **Blasdel, Lloyd; Bless, William**; Blomquist, Joel; Bowers, Don; **Brackbill, Fred**; Bradley, Bruce; **Brady, Tim**; Bramble, Robert; Brammer, Frank; Brenckman, Emil; **Brooks, Daniel**; Brooks, Wiley; Brown, Lawrence; **Brunn, Herbert**; Bruu, William; Bryant, Richard; Buchanan, David "Buck"; Burkhart, Francis; Burrafato, John; Butcher, James; Buys, Earl; Cannamore, Al; **Carboneau, Ralph; Carr, Mrs. Perry G.**; Carroll, Charles; Carter, Charles; **Casey, Richard**; Chamskas, Andrew; Chenvert, Paul; Christopher, Perry; Cinotto, Jr., James; Clemenson, Richard; Coile, Leonard; Cook, Bruce; Cooper, George F. "Fred"; Crawford, Thomas P.; Crooks, William B.; **Culling, William A.**; Dalby, Ronald; Daly, Robert A.; Damewood, Samuel; **Davis, Robert E.**; Delaney, Albert D.; Dickow, Richard; Dieffenderfer, John; Diver, Charles S.; **Dodge, Richard**; Doherty, Clement J.; Donahue, Charles; Dorcy, Ronald B.; Dorman, Charles; Dove, Life; **Drasky, William**; Drennan, Jerry; Dubois, Wilfred; Dulaney, Jr., Albert D.; **Dunkin, Larry**; Dunkle, Russell; Durst, Dean D.; Dustin, Jake; Dwyer, Dennis L.; Dyke, Clarence; Eastland, Harold; Eddy, John C.; Egan, Sr.,

Wesley W.; Fabyanic, Thomas; Fagerson, Thomas D.; **Faris, Dennis**; Fellows, Jack; **Fitzer, Gregg K.**; **Flandreau, Donald**; **Flesher, Ted**; Foster, Thomas W.; Fox, Brooks B.; Frank, Jon D.; **Gabrielson, Roy**; Gagnon, Craig; **Garvin, Honi**; Gastonguay, "Stony"; Gibbons, William; Gilbertson, Steven; **Girven, Donald**; **Glenn, Donald**; **Goch, Peter**; Gould, Donald; Grant, Douglas; **Grapes, Elton**; Gregelein, Mrs. George; Gregg, Forest; **Gregory, William**; Grosland, Darrell R.; **Guidry, Roland**; Haas, Milton; Hacker, Flem M.; **Hales, Billy**; Haley, John; Hall, Dalton; Hall, Ray; Hamm, James; **Harris, Gerald**; Hartson, John; **Hatch, Ralph**; Hawk, Thomas; **Headle, Bruce**; **Heaney, Thad**; Heaphy, William; Hebert, Ronald; **Hedges, John; Heidemann, Emmet**; **Heifner, Charles**; Hendrix, Mrs. Marion; **Henry, Richard**; Herrmann, Wilson; Hiatt, William; Highfill, Mrs. Mozelle; Hilchey, Kenneth; Hitchcock, Mrs. William A.; Hoffpaur, A. J.; Hogue, Jr., Aubrey; **Holley, Edward**; Hollingsworth, Raymond; Howe, Todd; Hubbard, Phillip ; **Huddleston, Earl; Huff, Bruce**; Huizinga, William; **Hull, Raymond; Hunter, Sam**; Hyde, Sidney; Jared, Roy; Jergensen, Harley; Johnson, George; Judd, Frank; Kaiser, Maurice E.; Keida, Richard; Kelly, Howard; Kennedy, David; **Kenney, William**; King, Alan H.; Kim, Charles; Kitchen, Gerald; Knutson, Kevin; Koeniger,

Charles; **Kopelke, Lee**;
Koverman, William; Kraus,
Edwin; Kronberg, Bruce;
Langston, Lester; **Larkins,
James; Lattin, Gary; Layton,
Robert**; Leclair, James; **Lee,
Harold**; Lee, Ty; Lincoln, Gary;
**Liskow, Pat; Livingston,
Jerry**; Lonnon, Gerald; Lotakis,
Jr., Paul; **Loucks, Joseph**;
Luinstra, Sam; Luttrull, Ted;
Madsen, William; Maggard,
James; Magness, Walter;
Maguire, Felix; Mainord,
William; Maloney, Robert R.;
Marcus, Sid; Martin, Harold;
Martin, Fred; Mattingly, Robert;
Mattson, Anthony ; **McCann,
Roy**; McGowan, Clarence
"Buddy" (deceased); McIver,
Daniel; **McKenzie, James**;
McLaughlin, Lt. Gen. Burl W.;
McNamara, Tom; **Mearns,
Robert; Medley, Jr., Carl**
"Mike"; Menne, Wayne; **Miller,
Warren; Mills, Gordon**;
Minard, Robert; Moe, Deryn;
Mol; Hendrick; **Montemayor,
Dan**; Moon, Mark; Moon,
Reagan; Moran, James;
Morlock, Leroy "Bud"; Morris,
Charles "Charlie"; Morrow,
George; Mozeleski, Frank;
Mulanax, Howard; **Mullener,
William**; Munsey, Donald;
Munson, Ronald; Murray,
Harold; Myers, Mrs. Lois;
Nalbandian, Haig; **Nash, Mike**;
Nave, John; Newland, Curtis;
Nichols, C. C.; Nichols, Mearl;
Nichols, Bill; Nielsen, William;
Noel, Tom; O'Mara III, Daniel;
O'Neal, Benton; Owen, Richard;
Palmer, Dewey; Palmer, Stetson;
**Parker, John; Passmore,
Stephen**; Patterson, Jasper;
Patty, Homer; Pawlikowski,

Joseph; Pearson, Richard;
Pepper, David; Pfleiger,
Terrance; Pierson, Don R.;
Pinard, Bob; Pirie, James;
Platt, Douglas; Poplis, John
"Jack"; Popovsky, Nicolas;
Potter, Elmer; **Powell, Jr.,
Nelson**; Poythress, Charles;
Pribyla, Ken; Pritchard, Jr.,
Marion G. "Graham"; Pursley,
Donald; Rader, John; Ramsay,
Gene; Ravenel, Joseph;
Rayburn, Robert "Bob"; **Reaves,
Ray; Reed, Joseph**; Reynolds,
William T.; Richardson,
Clement; Richardson, Edwin;
Richmond, Myles; Ridgeway,
Guy; Rineheart, Benjamin;
Rinkevage, George; Robb, Ralph
"Scotty"; Robinson, Zane;
Rodke, Phillip; Ronquille, Jr.
Clenton; **Root, John; Roth,
Jack M.**; Roth, Werner;
Roulson, Calvin; Rounds,
Maurice; Sacane, Harold; Sailer,
Joseph; Salazar, Wilfred;
Sanders, David; Sanford,
Wyndel; Schabo, Earl;
Schlumbrecht, Charles; Schmidt,
Gary; Schmidt, Richard;
Schmidt, Robert; Schneider,
John; Schwank, Jock; Scrugham,
Hal M.; Seay, James; **Semple,
Richard**; Setbacken, Vance;
Sharkey, Jack; Sharrow, Mrs.
Jeanette; Sheldon, Walter;
Shellenberger, Robert; Shultz,
"Lucky"; Sipple, Billie; Skinner,
Don; Smith, Glen; Smith, Paul;
Smith, Donald L.; Snyder,
Robert; Soeder, Mrs. Jean;
Sommerville, Thomas;
Sorenson, Lee; Spratt, Victor;
Starkel, Gregory; **Statts, John
H.**; Steinhauer, Jr, Arthur;
Stenback, Paul; Strahan,
Thomas; Strand, Sherman;

Strange, David; Struth, Thomas;
Surber, Mrs. Bonnie L.;
Sutton, Thomas; Taylor,
William; Taylor, Harry E. "Ed";
Teed, Charles; **Tencza, Jr.,
Stan**; Thomas, Victor; Thomas,
David; Thompson, Ivan;
**Thompson, Donald; Tinney,
Richard**; Tinney, Robert;
Tintle, David; Tippett, John;
Tixier, Edward L.; Tony, James;
Toomey, James; Trapp, Richard;
Turk, Wilbert "Will", Unger,
Jack; Upton, Douglas; Valent,
Joseph; Vandyke, Henry;
Venters, Charles; Vycital, Mark;
**Waldman, James; Walker,
Jay; Walker, Leland**; Walsh,
Ronald; **Warren, Bernie**;
Wawrynovic, Thomas; West,
Owen; White, Frank; Whitener,
James; Whittington, Richard;
Wicke, David; **Wilburn,
William**; Wilcock, Edward;
Wilcoxon, Russ; Wilkerson,
Don; Willett, Homer; **Williams,
Jr., Ernest**; Williams, Stephen
P.; Willis, Vernon B.; Wilson,
Michael; **Wisener, Wendell**;
Wokaty, Terry; Wooderson,
William; Worcester, Leonard;
Wright, John K.; Wright,
Richard W.; **Wyatt, Emory**;
Zerson, William "Bill."

Reunion Attendees

Persons whose names
are displayed in bold type
have already made a room
reservation or verbal
commitment to attend the
reunion as of October

Reunion Review

Hotel Reservations

The 1998 Firebird Association reunion will be held at the Holiday Inn Express, 2416 Beach Boulevard, Biloxi, MS 39531. All room reservations will be handled by the Holiday Inn Express and should be placed prior to 1 Feb 98. You may contact the hotel at 800-468-2102. Ask for Sid Marcus, but if he is busy, tell the clerk that you want to make a reservation for the Firebird Weekend, Codeword **BRD**.

Driving to Biloxi

Biloxi is on the coast of Mississippi just south of I-10. If you go more than 100 yards further south of the hotel, you will be treading water in the Gulf of Mexico. If arriving from the west on I-10, consider exiting at Highway 49 South and drive until you reach Highway 90. Turn left and travel east (7.1 miles) on Beach Boulevard, Highway 90, until you reach the motel, which is very near the Mississippi Gulf Coast

Coliseum. From the east, take I-110 South to Highway 90 and then drive west (5.0 miles) to the Holiday Inn Express. Remember that I-10 was recently featured by a national television program as being notorious for drug stops of innocent individuals. **DUI tickets in Biloxi range from \$500 to**

Golf and Tours

If you are interested in tours or golf, please see the back of the reunion registration form.

Hospitality Room

The Firebird Command Post will also serve as the Hospitality room. This is a first for a "Bird" reunion. It will be stocked with beer, soft drinks, mixers, and "munchies" or light snacks. **Those preferring other flavors of refreshments are invited to BYOB.** Just let us know what you prefer as a mixer. The hours for the hospitality room depend upon our finding volunteers who are willing to oversee operations.

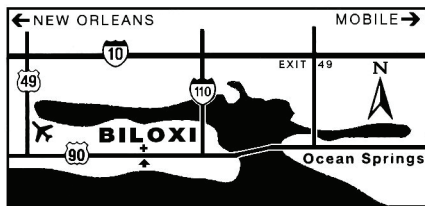
Registration Fee

A registration fee of \$45.00 is charged per family or individual to cover the expenses of the reunion. One Saturday night buffet ticket is included in this price. A family as defined by the Firebird Association is a mama bear, papa bear, and baby bears. Brothers, sisters, cousins, uncles, aunts, nieces, nephews, in-laws, and Goldie Locks do not qualify as family. Non-family members must register separately. **Prior to February 1, 1998, the registration fee is discounted to \$35.00.**

Payment of registration fees **MUST accompany the registration form. No registration can be processed without payment.** Acknowledgment of pre-registration will not be mailed to you. A receipt will be included in your reunion packet.

Surviving Spouses

The Association is offering a special invitation to surviving spouses of deceased members who may wish to attend. Spouses may participate by paying for their room and the individual activities, meals and tours that they elect to attend. They will pay no membership or registration fee.



Motel marked by the "+" symbol.

The Command Post

The object of this reunion is to reunite old and new friends. We hope to have the usual videos, tapes, slides, movies, photographs, and other such memorabilia in the Hospitality Room at the Holiday Inn Express. So please bring your offerings, artifacts, scrap books, photo albums, and mementos for the rest of us to enjoy. If you have a "war story" that you would like to share, please bring it along. Or, take a few minutes of your valuable time to jot down your favorite "lie" from the time that you served in one of our units (regarding training, combat, R&R, leave, missions, etc.) and mail it to us along with your registration form.

It would be appreciated if the article(s) could be typewritten or word-processed. Or, save the articles on a 3.5" diskette which has been formatted for an IBM or compatible computer. We would like to compile a booklet of our capers for all to enjoy. Don't tell the truth...and keep it as clean as possible under the circumstances!

Souvenirs

If there are enough early registrations, we hope to have T-shirts, caps, coozies, cloisonne' lapel pins, and Robert Bartunek especially bottled "Firebird" wine for sale in the Command Post. Designs will be courtesy of Gary Lattin, former Firebird pilot, who designed the original Firebird emblem.

Free Friday Night

The Casino Magic Biloxi casino is hosting a free buffet for the Firebirds on Friday night. In addition, there will be complimentary cocktails and a floor show. All of these are complimentary, voluntary, and **highly recommended.** Bus service will be provided and pick-up times will be posted in the Command Post. Those interested are invited to enjoy a portion of the remaining evening hours testing their luck at the various games of chance and skill. Out of fair play, we are recommending **Casino Magic** as the Firebird Association's **casino of choice** for the duration of the reunion.

Early Birds

On Thursday, March 12, the Registration Desk in the Firebird Command Post (Oak Room) will open at 1400 for those who would like to register early. The Hospitality Room will open after the Holiday Inn Express Complimentary Happy Hour concludes at 1730 hours. It is anticipated that there will be beer, soft drinks, mixers, munchies, deli trays, hors d'oeuvres, or other such light snacks available for those desiring to sit, visit, and nibble until midnight—Friday the 13th. **BYOB if your beverage of choice isn't listed above.**

Saturday Banquet

Join us at the fourth Firebird Banquet! The banquet is on

Saturday from 6:00 to 8:00 pm, with buffet dining from about 6:15 pm to 7:00 pm and is the best opportunity to dine with old and new friends. The menu will include three entrees, garden fresh tossed salad, hot vegetable or potato, hot rolls and butter, coffee or tea, and assorted desserts.

Beginning at 7:00 pm, we will feature after-dinner entertainment hosted by Sid Marcus and Bob Bartunek. Music will be provided for one's listening or dancing pleasure

Fee Adjustments

Due to circumstances beyond our control, those early registrants paying less than the final price for a meal or activity, will be asked to make up any difference at the reunion. If one has paid for a tour or activity that does not occur because of a lack of participation, or paid too much because an original price has been reduced, he or she will be given a refund at the registration table in Biloxi with an association

What to Wear

Everyone is encouraged to dress casually and relaxed. Official dress for all events is informal. Suits and ties are optional and not required! Men: slacks, sports shirt, sports jacket (if desired). Women: skirts, slacks, short sets.

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FIREBIRD ASSOCIATION REUNION

- Fourth Biennial -
Holiday Inn Express
Biloxi, Mississippi
March 12-15, 1998

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS*

THURSDAY, MARCH 12TH - TRAVEL DAY

0630 - 0930: Free Continental Breakfast in hotel lobby for hotel guests.
1400 - 1730: Registration begins in Firebird Command Post - Oak Room
1730 - 1900: Complimentary cocktails in hotel lobby
1900 - 2400: Hospitality Room opens with hors d'oeuvres, deli trays, munchies.

FRIDAY, MARCH 13TH

0630 - 0930: Free Continental breakfast in hotel lobby for hotel guests
0800 - 1300: Golf Tournament, Keesler AFB
0800 - 1400: Bellingrath Gardens Tour
0800 - 1500: US Navy National Flight Museum in Pensacola Tour
0800 - 1600: Deep Sea Fishing Trip (8 hours)
1000 - 1600: Registration continues in the Oak room - Firebird Command Post
1000 - 1630: Hospitality Room open - Oak Room
1730 - 1900: Complimentary cocktails and beer in hotel lobby
1700 - 1900: Buffet compliments of Casino Magic, 195 Beach Boulevard, Biloxi
1900 - 2100: Cocktails and floor show courtesy of Casino Magic

SATURDAY, MARCH 14TH

0630 - 0930: Free Continental breakfast in hotel lobby for hotel guests.
1000 - 1100: Firebird business meeting and election of new officers.
1100 - 1200: Programs by Heifner and Pearson (Tentative)
0930 - 1730: Hospitality room open - Oak Room
1730 - 1900: Complimentary cocktails in hotel lobby
1800 - 2400: Buffet in the Islands of the Gulf Ballroom **

SUNDAY, MARCH 15TH

0630 - 0930: Free Continental breakfast in hotel lobby for hotel guests
0900 - 1100: Firebird Farewell Brunch, Chandeleur Island room - (Optional)
0900 - 1200: Hospitality room open - Thanks for Coming! - Have a safe trip home! See you in 2000.

*Schedule of Events subject to minor revision

** Saturday Buffet is casual (men - dress slacks and sport shirt—suit and tie optional)

The Firebird Hospitality Suite will be open adjacent to the banquet room on Saturday night.

Photograph at Keesler with C-130 Ski Model...

Firebirds On The Internet

The unauthorized Firebird Association Home Page became reality in April of 1996 and to date has had over 8,000 visitors. The original site was located on the Firebird Association historian's AOL account, but around July of 1997, a former Firebird and Raven Gang navigator, Francis "Frank" Allen, tracked the site down. Francis is a network engineer,

and runs the Futura Internet Service in Little Rock. He graciously offered the Association free space on his server. With the generous financial assistance of Jay Walker and Jerry Livingston, and with help from Francis, the Firebird Association applied for and received its own unique domain name — www.firebirds.org.

At present, there are dozens of

past and present Firebirds who have e-mail addresses. These addresses are listed under the **Firebirds Online** menu on the home page.

If you live in the Little Rock area and need Internet service, be sure to contact Francis Allen at Futura. Regardless of where you live, get online and enjoy the "Bovine Scatology" being served up daily by the Firebirds.

- The URL of the Firebird Association Home Page is (<http://www.firebirds.org>) -

Biloxi (From Page 1)

The reunion committee has made a serious effort to keep costs under control so that everyone can afford to attend and feel at home. The dress will be casual or informal with suits and ties being optional. In addition, name badges will not display rank or crew position.

We anticipate a truly enjoyable reunion and encourage you to begin planning now to attend. It just

Review (From page 5)

Ski Bird in Biloxi

According to SMSgt. Garry A. Quick, of the 109th Tactical Airlift Wing, NYANG, Scotia, NY, who is POC of the project, there will be a LC-130 "ski model" on display at Keesler

AFB during the reunion. Garry is Stan/Eval loadmaster for the unit, and was checked out on the "D" model skibirds in 1974 by Ernie Barnett of the 17th TAS.

Unique Attendees

Two of the many special folks attending the reunion will be **Will Turk**, the first commander of the ski model C-130's at Sewart, and **Mike Nash**, the first RAF exchange pilot assigned to the "D" model in Alaska.

If you have comments, suggestions, or questions regarding the Reunion, please contact Nolan Bailey at (318) 352-2610, Sid Marcus at (601) 388-8486, or Bernie Warren (504) 643-7323.

Other Lodging

Most of the major motel chains are represented in Biloxi. **However, if you are a Firebird who has an airline identification card, The Broadwater Beach Resort, 2060 Beach Blvd, 800-647-3964, offers a special rate of \$45.00 per night.** The Broadwater is only four blocks from the Express.

In Appreciation

A special thanks goes to John Root, Dick Tinney, Dick Dodge, Bernie Warren, Dick Henry, Tom Sommerville, Don Wilkerson, and Guy Ridgeway. Their generous financial support has made the publication and mailing of this newsletter possible.

Please join...

The Firebird Association

In 1982, former members of the 61st and 17th Troop Carrier Squadrons and the 17th Tactical Airlift Squadron met in Abilene, Texas, to officially organize the Firebird Association.

These squadrons were unique since they flew the original twelve C-130 "ski model" aircraft. To broaden the scope of the organization, it was decided that all present and past members of the 17th TCS, or individuals assigned or attached to this unit or other C-130D units, would be invited to become members of this unique group.

At the 1983 and 1984

reunions, it was decided that all persons who flew or supported the C-130D (Ski Birds) would be eligible to join the Firebird Association as full members and that all other 17th TCS/TAS personnel would be allowed to join as associate members. The basic rule to be followed is once a Firebird always a Firebird. All Firebirds may become members regardless of aircraft type flown.

The charter dues were set at \$10.00 per year. Each Firebird Association member receives a distinctive Firebird Association membership card and all of the privileges associated therewith.

All income is used to defray

expenses associated with carrying out the association's business such as planning reunions, postage, stamps, envelopes, and in preparing association newsletters.

Please help us assure the success of this special group—The Firebird Association. Even if you can't attend the Biloxi reunion, please take a moment to fill in the top portion of the Reunion Registration Form, check the *Firebird Association Dues* box, write a check for \$10.00 payable to the Firebird Association and mail both the form and check to Bernard Warren, whose address is on the form.

Business Meeting

Even though no official agenda has been set, it is reasonable for one to expect that the following items may be addressed. These are: (1) The official name of our organization; (2) Role & scope of the Firebird Association; (3) Incorporation; (4) The 1984 Charter; (5) Lifetime memberships; (6) Membership qualifications; (7) A reunion committee; (8) Election of officers; (9) Adding a Board of Directors; (10) Adding a newsletter editor; (11) Approval of the Firebird WWW site and Domain Name, and any other items of importance both old and new. In keeping with our bylaws, attendees must be members to vote.

Preserving Our History

The most significant problem being faced by the Association historian is what to do with all of the "Firebird" slides that are being made available for reproduction. Slides are not archival and are best preserved by scanning.

The first 100 slides received were put on a Kodak PhotoCD at the historian's expense. The average cost is around \$2.00 per slide or \$200.00 per 100. The historian currently has another 100 slides from Bill Nichols which cover the very early days of the "ski birds." In addition, Don Bowers has a large number of slides from his era, Gerry Harris has already sent around 400 slides of the Vietnam

experience, Col. Will Turk has promised to loan the Association a large number of slides covering building of the DYE sites and support of Antarctica, Bruce Huff sent slides of 495, and there are many others.

In view of the large number of "valuable" slides that will become available in the future, we must consider purchasing a slide scanner such as the Polaroid 35 Plus for the Association. This equipment costs approximately \$1,700. **If you support the purchase of a scanner to preserve our "history" for future generations, please send a donation to Bernie Warren and tell him to dedicate it to the scanner fund. Every dollar counts!**