

Firebird Flyer



Volume 15

1

The Firebird Association

January 29, 2012

The Firebirds to Gather in Galveston

On April 22, 2012, The Firebirds will once again gather in Galveston, Texas. During the Firebird Reunion planning meeting in April 2011, several possible reunion sites were discussed by the board of governors. Galveston, Texas, Biloxi, Mississippi, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio and Nashville, TN were all discussed.

Galveston was chosen due to location, tourist attractions, and the co-operation of the hotel in providing a hospitality room and allowing us to bring in our own refreshments. A special vote of thanks to Bruce and Betty Huff for all of their hard work in making the arrangements for the reunion and also for locating so many of our comrades in arms.

J.C. Arrington

From the President

In just over three months our group will again gather to rekindle old friendships and tell some war stories. Now is the time for each of us to get out that list of people that Ms. Betty Huff worked on so hard for us, and hit the telephone trail or any other means of communication and contact as many association members as you can find. I am sure hoping all the hard work this group has done will result in a FULL hotel for the reunion.

We are looking forward to our reunion in Galveston, there is nothing like *a large family get together*.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you in April.

Jay Walker

In This Issue

Presidents Letter1
Honored Guest2
Firebird Association3
Taps4
Welcome5
Reunion Schedule6
Hotel Accommodations7
Banquet Menu8&9
Reunion Activities10-13
Travel Information13-15
Registration Form16-17
Membership application 18

Firebird Association

Welcome to our Honored Guest

Officers

President: Jay Walker

Vice-President: Dick Dodge

Treasurer: Bob Mattingly

Secretary: Warren Miller

Historian: Nolan Bailey

Newsletter Editor: J. C. Arrington

Board Members

Tom Noel Sid Marcus John Parker Gene Ramsay Ray Reaves Will Salazar

Past Presidents — 3

Alan Anderson

Bruce Huff Jerry Livingston Lt. Col. Theodore Wolfram III, veteran of three wars and a former C-130 pilot, has accepted an invitation to attend the Firebird Association's reunion in Galveston, Texas in April 2012. Barbara Wolfram will accompany her husband.

As an honored guest and WWII veteran, Col Wolfram will be presented a Life Membership in the Firebird Association.

Col. Wolfram, who turned 90 years old in late 2011, was given a ride in a vintage T-6 Texan as a birthday gift from his three children. He flew a Stearman military trainer aircraft for his 80th and went sky diving for his 85th.

Now a resident of La Grange, Texas, Wolfram enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps on December 31, 1941, just days after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. He received his wings in July,1943, and became a cadet trainer before serving in the Air Transport Command and flew the C-46 Commando over the "Hump". He was recalled to active duty during the Korean War and spent his last military days flying the C-130 "Herks" in Viet Nam. Serving in France, Wolfram was piloting the C-119 when he transitioned to the C-130 and served at Pope AFB where he and Barbara were neighbors to Jerry Livingston.

Perhaps Col. Wolfram's children will consider a flight in a "Herky Bird" for his 95th birthday?

To have a gentleman of Col. Wolfram's status in our fellowship is indeed a great delight. It is a rare pleasure to honor those who have served our great country so valiantly.

Thank you, Col. Ted Wolfram.

The Firebird Association

In 1982, former members of the 17th TCS and 17th TAS officially organized the Firebird Association.

The stated purpose of the Association is to commemorate the aviation history of the 17th Troop Carrier Squadron and the 17th **Tactical** Airlift Squadron of the United Air Force. States predecessor and missionsuccessor organizations, and of all military units who have flown skiequipped versions of the C-130 aircraft within any of the Armed Forces of United States America. And, provide social and recreational activities for, and to maintain fraternal contacts between, its members.

Eligibility for membership is open to any and all persons who served on active duty in the United States Air Force with the 17th Troop Carrier Squadron and/or the 17th Tactical Airlift Squadron; any and all persons who served with any of the predecessor or mission-successor organizations of the 17th Troop Carrier Squadron and/or the 17th Tactical Airlift Squadron, includ-

ing but not limited to the 61st Troop Carrier Squadron, the 109th Tactical Airlift Group/Wing, or the 517th Airlift Squadron; any and all persons who served with United States Navy Antarctic Development Squadron Six (VXE-6); Any and all persons who, while on active or active-reserve duty with the United States Air Force or the United States Navy, have ever flown as a crew member on a skiequipped model of the C-130 aircraft; Any and all persons who have supported the mission(s) of the ski-equipped C-130 aircraft flown by any active duty, reserve or National Guard unit of the Armed Forces of the United States, such as but not limited to, operational control, aircraft maintenance, aerial port, combat control team and industry technical representative; spouses, widows. The widowers and children of any of the above; and Upon nomination membership by any active Firebird and acceptance by a majority vote of the Board of Directors, any other person, not otherwise qualified, who has an

interest in this association and supports the purposes for which it is organized.





These Firebirds have passed on since the 2010 Firebird reunion.

TAPS

Charles H. "Charlie" Brown Donald Gould George Johnson Joyce Marcus Dell Parker William "Bill" Reynolds Harold "Hal" Scrugham Arthur "Art' Steinhauer, Jr.

David Thomas Maurice Kaiser Russell Dunkle Jeffery Hill

Ora Chester "O.C." Littleton

Gregory Palin

Robert "Bob" Pinard Virgil "Scotty" Scott*

Paul Smith

Charles "Chuck" Teed

Col. Wilbert Turk

^{*}Editor's Note: Scotty Scott passed away before 2010.







WELCOME TO GALVESTON

This is a special invitation to all Firebird Association members to attend the 2012 reunion. I included these pictures to "shake loose" a few memories. It does not matter if you are in the 517th, the 109th, or were in the 61st, 17th or VXE-6. We are all comrades. We share the same background. Officer or enlisted, Flight crew, or support, we are comrades.

Please come to Galveston, Texas in April 2012, and let us make the Firebird reunion the best one ever held.

J.C. Arrington





Photo by Richard Wright





FIREBIRD ASSOCIATION REUNION XI

The Holiday Inn Express Galveston, Texas

April 22-25 2012

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- Revised 01/29/2012

Sunday, April 22nd – Travel Day	12:00-23:00 12:00-23:00 18:00-23:00	Registration in Firebird Command Post – (Holiday Inn Lobby) Hospitality Suite opens (Holiday Inn Lobby) Deli trays in afternoon and early evening for the "Early Birds"
Monday, April 23rd Reunion Day	06:30-10:00 07:00-13:00 06:30-13:00 09:00-16:00 10:00-14:00	Free Breakfast—Holiday Inn Lobby Golf Tournament Fishing Trip Tour JSC Registration continues in hospitality Suite Hospitality Suite open Free Shrimp and Sandwich Supper & Beverages
Tuesday, April 24th Reunion Day	06:30-10:00 07:00-17:00 10:00-12:00 10:00-12:00 13:00-16:00 13:00-16:00 18:00-22:00 19:00-22:00 21:00-22:00	Free breakfast Holiday Inn Lobby Hospitality Suite Open** Ladies surprise party- Motel breakfast room. Firebird Association business meeting—Hospitality Suite Lunch Break (on your own) Moody Gardens tour. Cash Bar open @ Garden Restaurant, Moody Gardens Banquet: Presentation of awards and new officers Music for your dancing and listening pleasure- Mr.Dana Smith. Hospitality Suite open**
Wednesday, 25th - Travel Day	06:30-10:00 07:00-12:00	Free breakfast for hotel guests Holiday Inn Lobby Hospitality Suite open for visitation purposes

^{*} Schedule subject to revision. Check in at Firebird Command Post (Board Room) upon arrival for latest changes.

^{**} Hours of Hospitality Suite dependant upon the number of volunteers available to provide supervision.

^{***} Tuesday night buffet is informal (coat and tie optional). **Due to limited seating in the banquet room,** the buffet tickets will be offered on a first come, first served, basis.

Galveston Hotel Accommodations

All hotel reservations will be handled directly by the Holiday Inn Express, 8628 Seawall Boulevard, Galveston, TX 77554. Phone 409-740-7900 to make room reservations.

Normal room rates are over \$120 per night during April, but General Manager Willis Gandhi of the Holiday Inn Express is setting up a special price of \$82.00 + tax per night (double or single occupancy). For reservations made before March 1. After March 1, the rate will go up to \$120.00 per night. If you plan to arrive early or stay over, the same rates will apply but advance reservation is required. If your plans change, you can always cancel your reservation or call a board member and he will cancel for you.

Be sure when calling to make your reservation that you mention that you get the Firebird Reunion rate. The number to call is (409 -740-7900. Have your credit card handy and be sure to get a confirmation number!

All rooms have been reserved for the Firebirds at this price; first come, first served. Additional nights are subject to availability-just ask when registering.

According to the hotel, the special group rates apply before and after the reunion dates. Therefore, please make reservations at your earliest opportunity. Note that three different Firebird Association members, and their wives, have traveled to Galveston to check this property and have recommended it for our reunion.

A consideration in choosing this property was the hospitality room, and hotel approval for the Association to serve its own beverages and snacks.

The Holiday Inn Express is located just three miles from the center of the island city of Galveston. The hotel has a sparkling outdoor Swimming Pool and a relaxing Hot Tub, plus a Fitness Center for use at one's leisure. Every morning, guests may enjoy a tasty complimentary Breakfast served up by the courteous staff in the eating area off of the hotel lobby.

Please make an effort to attend. The hotel manager

has promised to give the Association all available space in the hotel for hospitality purposes if most of the rooms are reserved by Firebird Association members.

RV PARKS

Bayou Shores RV Park 888-744-2837 www.bayoushoresrvresort .com

Galveston Island State Park 409-737-1222 www.tpwd.state.tx

Jamaica Beach RV Park 866-725-5511

Tiki Tom's RV Park 409-935-5599

Dellanera RV Park 10901 San Luis Pass Road Galveston, TX 77554





The *Garden* Restaurant FIREBIRD DINNER BUFFET April 24, 2012

Scafood Gumbo
Porcini Mushroom with Roma Tomato

<u>Salads</u>

Green Tossed Salad with grape tomatoes
Caesar Salad with garlic croutons
Ambrosia Salad with Cashew Jewels
Cucumber with Raspberry Chipotle
Tortellini with Fresh Basil & pepperoni
Seasonal Fruit Salad

Entrees

Seafood Jasmine
Roast Beef with Rosemary 'Jus
Stuffed Chicken Breast Florentine
Crusted Tilapia Galveston over White Wine
Sauce

Accompaniments
Potatoes Au'gratin
Broccoli Hollandaise
Buttered Squash and Zucchini
Fresh Green Beans with Shallots & Peppers
Pasta Primavera

Chef's Assorted Rolls and Desserts leed Tea and Coffee Service

REUNION ACTIVITIES

Galveston Bay FISHING TRIP

The \$85.00 Fishing Fee reserves a spot on a 6 person boat, all tackle and bait for a 6 hour fishing adventure in the bay and around the jetties. Bring your own snacks and beverages, hat, sun screen and a jacket. Texas has recently adjusted it fishing license requirements so be sure to check the requirements before you attempt to purchase your license. Four places have already been filled, so get your reservations made. A second boat can be reserved if we have a need.

Fishing licenses are available at Wal-Mart, which is just down the Seawall Boulevard from the hotel

License fees: Texas resident \$10.00

Non resident \$15.00

Contact Bruce Huff <b.huff@att.net>

Johnson Space Center Tour (NASA)

Since the space program as we know it will be ended before reunion time, this may be your last opportunity to visit Space-Center-This Generation. \$30.00 covers transportation to and from and admission to the center. Lunch and souvenirs are one's individual responsibility.

Travel time is about one hour each way, so allow 7 hours total time. This is not a guided tour and will require some walking, but not long distances. There are many rest areas and many of the venues have seating. The Center has a large snack bar with seating for lunch. A tram-tour is an option that should be planned as soon as possible after arriving because it requires about 90 minutes. This covers the campus and training facilities and has a guide on board. You will be given a map of Venues and the approximate time each requires. Use this guide to plan your tour. Each person will also receive a 10% off any item at the Zero-G Diner (Snack bar).

The tour will leave Holiday Inn Express at 09:00 on Monday on an air-conditioned 56 passenger motor coach (like a Grey Hound Bus) with a rest room facility and will return about 16:00. A person will be on board to help with belongings and head count.

REUNION ACTIVITIES (Cont.)

Johnson Space Center Tour (NASA)(Cont.)

Johnson Space Center occupies more than 1,600 acres and employs more than 14,000 people when in full operation. It is home to the Mission Control Center where space shuttle missions were monitored and directed from launch to landing. This is where astronauts are still being trained and the space program is being managed.

The center houses more than 800 pounds of lunar rocks. Engineers continue to develop technologies that will allow humans to return to the moon and on to Mars with project Constellation.

Golf:

For all of you who love the links, Alan Anderson has arranged a morning at Moody Garden's 18-hole, Par 72 golf course which is located about 5 minutes away from the Holiday Inn Express. www.moodygardensgolf.com. A "preferred ball scramble" mini golf tournament will be held on Monday. The scramble format makes for an outing that is fun for all skill levels from beginner to the single digit handicap golfer. Each foursome is a single team and everyone in the group is able to contribute no matter what their skill level. Groups will be setup with an attempt to have varying skill levels in each group. We will however honor special requests of players wishing to be in the same group if this will not give the group an unfair advantage over everyone else. We strongly encourage the ladies to play and will set up groups with husbands and wives playing together, ladies scattered within different groups for ladies only. There will be prizes. This is an excellent, fun to play course. A couple of guys go early just to play this course.

When registering for golf, be sure to include what you believe to be your average 18 hole score. Rental clubs are available at the course. The \$60.00 Golf fee includes your greens fee and money for prizes. For additional information contact Alan Anderson at e-mail aca3@geneseo.net or phone, toll free (888) 441 6060. We need a minimum of 12 participants.

Tours:

Johnson Space Center Tour: \$30.00 8.0 Hours

Galveston Bay Fishing Tour: \$85.00 7.0 Hours

Moody Gardens Tour: \$5.00 per Venue

The Lonestar Flight Museum \$8.00 Adults & \$5.00 Seniors

REUNION ACTIVITIES (Cont.)

AWARDS BANQUET:

The 2012 Firebird Reunion will end with the traditional Awards Banquet. Once again the Garden Restaurant at Moody Gardens was selected. The association sent a committee of board members over to the facility to address the long walkway to access the restaurant. After meeting with the sales manager, they were promised wheelchairs for persons unable to make the long trek. We will provide the pushers. Moody will also send a mini bus to transport passengers to and from the Gardens with a pledge to be on-time this year. A one man music program will be present for the entire evening. This young man is an accomplished international music teacher on the key board and is a champion fiddle player in the State of Texas. This reunion is fortunate to have his presence. Chef Andres has provided the menu. His selection and quality of food continues to be exceptional.

Other Items of Interest:

This list contains other items of interest with e-mail addresses for your convenience.

Moody Gardens: Moody Garden's newly restored rain forest. Completely destroyed by Hurricane Ike, Moody has spent an undisclosed amount to rebuild the forest habitats, water sources and inhabitants. Nothing has been spared to make this a world class exhibit with a sky-walk through the canopy.

The Tall Ship of Texas-Elisa: Her main sail was ripped of by Ike and later a new one was hand crafted by a master sail-maker. He spent several weeks in Galveston to complete his task. www.galvestonhistory.org

Lone Star Flight Museum and Texas Aviation Hall of Fame: Museum and War Bird flights (B-17, B-25, Stearman and T-6 Texan) www.Isfm.org

Moody Mansion

www.moodymansion.org/tour.html

The Bishop's Palace

www.galveston.com/bishopspalace/

Ashton Villa

www.galvestonhistory.org

Sea wolf Park WWII Museum www.cavalla244.org



REUNION ACTIVITIES (Cont.)

Other Items of Interest:

The Great Storm Documentary

Shows every hour at Pier 21 Theater

Ocean Star Museum (off shore drilling)

Information Phone (409) 766-7827

Battleship Texas & San Jacinto Battleground and Historic Sites

San Jacinto Monument

All on one web page address www.tpwd.statetx/spdest/finadest/parks/battleshiptexas/visitor.phtml

Galveston has 4 cruise lines. For prices and schedules e-mail:

www.galvestoncruises.com

Royal Caribbean's Mariner of the Sea replaced their Voyager of the sea about three months ago.

Carnival Magic 3,690 passenger capacity.

Carnival Triumph 3,758 passenger capacity.

Disney Magic and Crown Princess are slate to begin sailing from Galveston in late 2012.

TRAVEL INFORMATION

After crossing the Causeway Bridge onto Galveston Island on I-45 take exit 1-A, 61st Street, turn right or south on 61st to Seawall Blvd (that's as far as you can go without getting wet) turn right on Seawall. You are at 61st street, you have to go to 86th Street. Holiday Inn Express is easy to miss, it is difficult to turn around.

Keep some cell phone numbers handy: Bruce Huff's cell (713)304-9111. J.C. Arrington's cell (615)439-0344.

AIR LINES: No commercial air lines fly into Galveston. Arrivals must fly into Houston, either Bush International or Hobby International. If you plan to rent a car and you are arriving at Bush International, then you will have to drive through downtown Houston. Check the Houston Travel section. Hobby is about thirty miles closer to Galveston and is much easier to travel from.

TRAVEL INFORMATION (cont)

Limo Info: Galveston Limousine Service

Bush IAH airport, regular rate \$100.00 per person, round trip.

Senior Citizens rate \$70.00 per person round trip.

Hobby IAH airport Regular rate \$80.00 per person round trip.

Senior Citizens rate \$60.00 per person round trip.

All of the above would be a SCHEDULED SHARED shuttle.

For reservations call: 1-800-640-4826 or Local 409-744-5466

DRESS: Bring warm cloths. Galveston is open to the Gulf of Mexico and even with her mild temperatures, the almost constant sea-breeze can leave you with a chill.

HOUSTON TRAVEL HINTS:

Houston has two major complete loops, the inner loop is 610, the outer loop is Beltway 8.

NOTE—Beltway 8 and Sam Houston Parkway run concurrently. Parts of the Sam Houston Parkway are toll areas, some are not. Eventually the total parkway will be tolls, but for now it is still a work-in-progress. If you stay on the ground level of Beltway 8 there are no tolls, but you have traffic lights and cross streets. Tolls run between 25 cents to \$1.25, and you can get change by going thru a booth in a lane with a blue overhead sign.

If you are driving thru Houston from the west on I-10 you will be driving on a great highway newly finished and 27 lanes wide in places. Pay attention to the overhead signs.

If you prefer to travel I-10 thru downtown then read carefully. After you have crossed under Beltway 8/ Sam Houston Pkwy, stay in one of the two left lanes. After you cross under Loop 610 remain in one of the two left lanes. Stay in the 2nd from the left as much as possible because eventually that lane feeds into I-45 south. Once you've made the feed, you will be on I-45 South. Move into the 2nd from the right lane ASAP. Go about 1 1/2 miles and you will see a large overhead sign that says "GALVESTON". This is over the right lane, don't panic, both lanes feed into the I-45 South elevated thru downtown. Important—STAY IN THE MIDDLE....both the right and left lanes exit and without much warning. Once you leave the elevated portion, you are on I-45 South. From here it is a nice multilane freeway all the way to Galveston, about 45 minutes.

TRAVEL INFORMATION (cont)

IMPORTANT: I-45 has a street name, "The Gulf Freeway". They are the same.

If you are driving from the east on I-10, the best way is I-10 to Beltway 8/ Sam Houston Pkwy, go south on Beltway 8 to I-45, then go south on I-45 to Galveston. It's about 30 minutes travel time.

If you are traveling from the east and you would like to meander thru the country-side, take state hwy 124 south at Winnie TX. 124 goes south to the beach road state hwy 87. Go west on hwy 87 to the Bolivar Ferry. The ferry is a free ride across to Galveston Island. "Draw Back"....these are not large boats and the wait can be as long as an hour, but usually is only about 15 min.. When exiting the ferry, stay on Hwy 87 until you reach Seawall Blvd. (only about a mile). Go west or right on Seawall for about 5 or 6 miles to the hotel.

Traveling from the N/E on Hwy 59, stay on Hwy 59 around to the south side of the downtown area and intersect with I-45, go south on I-45, about 45 minutes from Galveston.

Coming from the north on I-45, when you are going around downtown, stay in the next to the right lane and you will be OK.

Coming in from the N/W on Hwy 290 take Loop 610 to the east or left all the way around to the south side of Houston and go south on I-45. You are about 40 minutes away.

AIRPORT ARRIVALS-RENTING CARS:

Bush International Airport or HIA, Exit the airport on JFK Blvd to Beltway 8, go west or right on Beltway 8 to I-45 and follow the instructions already given for "Coming from the North on I-45".

Hobby Airport...... Exit the airport on Airport road, go south or right to I-45, go south or right on I-45. You are about 40 minutes from Galveston.

EVERYBODY:

GALVESTON ARRIVAL AND TRAVEL:

Cross the Galveston Causeway, turn right at 61st Street (there is a traffic light). Go to Seawall Blvd and turn right. The hotel is about 2 miles on the right. The bay is on the left.

Firebird Association Reunion XI Galveston, Texas April 22-25, 2012 Registration Form

Registrant Information: (Please Print)

Name:						
Address:						
City:	State:_		_ Zip:		_ +4_	
Telephone(s):						
Spouse/Guest(s) Name(s):						
E-mail Address:						
Military Unit(s) Dates Assigned to Unit:						
Registration Fees:						
		N	<u>ımber</u>	Amount		<u>Total</u>
[] Firebird Association Dues*	See footnote	_	@	\$20.00	\$_	
[] Reunion Registration Fee**			@	\$40.00	\$_	
[] Buffet Tickets**	Tuesday night dinner at Mood Gardens	dy —	@	\$30.00	\$_	
		Numbe	er A	moun <u>t</u>		Total
[] Golf Tournament - TBA	Monday: 07:00 to 13:00			0.00 ea.	\$	
[] Deep Sea Fishing *** TBA	-		-	5.00 ea.		
[] Tour 1 – Space Center	Monday: 09:00-16:00	(<u>0</u> \$3	0.00 ea.		
Golfers: List average 18 hole score(s) here:		Amo	ount E	nclosed: \$	S	

Mail form and check to: Firebird Association, 1255 Circlewood Drive, Melbourne, FL 32935-5536 See additional important information below.

Hotel reservations are NOT included on this form. To reserve a room, call the Holiday Inn Express at **409-740-7900**. Use the code word "**Firebird Reunion**" to receive the reduced room rate. (If you are calling between 8am and 5 pm central standard time weekdays, ask for Yvonne)

NOTICE: 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 Galveston with an association check.

The Association is offering a special invitation to surviving spouses or family of deceased members, and World War II members, who may wish to attend the reunion. These persons may participate by paying for their room and the individual activities, meals, and tours that they elect to attend. They will not be required to pay the membership or registration fee.

^{*}Firebird Association Membership: To register for this reunion, your Firebird Association membership must be up-to-date. If Association dues for the Years 2011-2012 have not been paid prior to registration, a membership fee of \$20.00 must be included.

^{**} Reunion Registration - The registration fee <u>does not</u> include a ticket to the Tuesday night buffet this year. Due to limited seating in the banquet room, banquet/buffet tickets will be offered on a first come, first served, basis. Only ONE registration fee is to be paid per Firebird, or a Firebird's entire family.

^{***} For more information on fishing, tours, or golf, please visit the Tours and Golf menu. Tour times as listed are approximate.

Firebird Association Membership Application						
Name:	☐ Initial Membership					
Address:	□ Renewal					
	++					
Phone: () FAX: ()						
E-mail:						
Unit(s):						
Please mail completed form and payment to:	Please check one block:					
Bob Mattingly	☐ Biennial Dues \$20.00					
Firebird Association 1255 Circlewood Drive	☐ Life Membership \$100					
Melbourne, FL 32935-5536						



Place Stamp Here

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