



# Firebird Flyer



Volume 15 # 3

The Firebird Association

October 5, 2012

## Reunion Committee Working on 2014 Venue

**2014 Reunion Location and Dates:** During the 2012 reunion business meeting Jay Walker announced that there had been some complaints that members wanted to have a new location for the next reunion. Several locations were mentioned: Dayton, OH; Biloxi, MS; Tucson, AZ; and San Antonio, TX. A straw vote was held and it was split between Biloxi and Tucson. A reunion committee was recommend to decide on a location along with the board of directors. The following people volunteered to be on the committee: Dick Dodge, Bud Hall, Bob Mattingly, Ken Pribyia, John Root, Gene Ramsey, and Sal Salazar. Bruce and Betty Huff agreed to be consultants on the Committee.

J.C. Arrington



### Inside

Pg 1 Reunion committee working  
Pg 2 Reunion survey, TAPS  
Pg 3-4 2012 Meeting minutes  
Pg 5 Notes from Firebirds  
Pg 6 Firebird By laws  
Pg 7-9 Pictures from 2012 Reunion  
Pg 10 Firebird Membership application

### A letter from the President:

Fellow Firebirds, I would just like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for the confidence that you have shown in me by electing me as your president for the next two years. I have some big shoes to fill following all the time and effort spent by our past presidents and I plan on giving it my best shot. The first (and main) order of business is the selection of a venue for our next reunion which will be held in 2014. We have held the past three reunions in Galveston, Texas mainly because the accommodations fit our requirements, the Huffs were more than willing to do most of the planning and work to make it happen and the place was centrally located being reasonably easy to reach. However, we have received some comments from folks stating that they would perhaps like to try another place next time. For this reason, I would like to encourage you to fill out the survey on page 2 and send it back to me at:

R. C. Dodge  
605 Overlook Drive  
Flat Rock, NC 28731

Would you be more likely to attend the next reunion if it were held at:

Anchorage, AK	___ More Likely	___ Neutral	___ Less Likely
Biloxi, MS	___ More Likely	___ Neutral	___ Less Likely
Branson, MO	___ More Likely	___ Neutral	___ Less Likely
Dayton, OH	___ More Likely	___ Neutral	___ Less Likely
Destin, FL	___ More Likely	___ Neutral	___ Less Likely
Galveston, TX	___ More Likely	___ Neutral	___ Less Likely
New Orleans, LA	___ More Likely	___ Neutral	___ Less Likely
San Antonio, TX	___ More Likely	___ Neutral	___ Less Likely
Tucson, AZ	___ More Likely	___ Neutral	___ Less Likely

Also, please add any other locations that you think would make a great place for a reunion. And, feel free to add any other comments concerning the upcoming reunion:

---

---

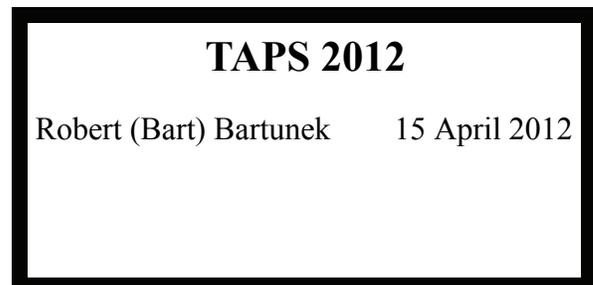
---

Thanks for taking the time to participate,

Dick Dodge

605 Overlook Drive

Flat Rock, NC 28731





# FIREBIRD ASSOCIATION



Minutes of the 2012 Reunion General Membership Meeting  
Holiday Inn Express  
Galveston, TX  
April 24, 2012

Jay Walker, president, called the meeting to order at 10:02 hours.

**Minutes:** Warren Miller read the minutes of the Galveston April 13, 2010 reunion. The minutes were approved as written.

**Treasurer Report:** The Treasurer Report was given by Bob Mattingly:

Prior to receiving Reunion Funds:	\$4,923.35
Deposit for the Reunion:	\$9,638.00
Received at reunion:	\$1,300.00
Available Funds in checking:	\$15,861.35
Paid out prior the reunion:	\$3,089.00
Paid out during the reunion:	\$6,036.00
Estimated Cost to be paid for Buffett:	\$4,000.00
After cost are paid & income added:	
Estimated Funds Available:	\$2,736.35
Also available in Savings Account & CD:	\$9,171.92
Estimated Total Available	\$11,908.27

A motion was made, seconded, and passed, to approve the Treasurers Report.

**Old Business:**

**A/C 57-493:** In the 2008 Reunion, Jerry Livingston announced that Dick Tinney reported that A/C 57-0493 has been moved to a display spot at Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ. The skis are not install as of yet, but are sitting beside the aircraft. Since we have had interest in this project before, Jerry Livingston said he would look into the situation. Jerry has been trying to get something accomplished since the 2008 Reunion. He will continue to work on this problem. Open

**New Business:**

**Election of Officers:** Jay reported that a new Vice President will be needed and it should be an enlisted member. Bob Mattingly has volunteered and will keep the Treasurer position until that position can be filled. J.C. Arrington volunteered to become the new Treasurer. A motion was made and seconded and voted on for Bob Mattingly to become the new VP with J.C. Arrington becoming the new Treasurer. The motion passed. Bob Mattingly will get the books in order and pass them to J.C. Warren Miller will continue to maintain a signature on the account.

**The 2012 - 2014 Board of directors will be as follows:**

President:	Dick Dodge
Vice-President	Bob Mattingly
Secretary	Warren Miller
Treasurer	J. C. Arrington
Historian & Web site	Nolan Bailey
Newsletter	J. C. Arrington
Three Past Presidents	Jay Walker Alan Anderson Bruce Huff
Members at Large	John Parker Sid Marcus Tom Noel (109 <sup>th</sup> AW NYANG) Gene Ramsay Ray Reaves Will Salazar

**2014 Reunion Location and Dates:** Jay announced that there had been some complaints that members wanted to have a new location for the next reunion. Several locations were mentioned: Dayton, OH; Biloxi, MS; Tucson, AZ; and San Antonio, TX. A straw vote was held and it was split between Biloxi and Tucson. A reunion committee was recommend to decide on a location along with the board of directors. The following people volunteered to be on the committee:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>E-mail</b>
Dick Dodge	(828) 696-7969	<a href="mailto:dick@rcdodge.us">dick@rcdodge.us</a>
Bud Hall	(913) 732-4042	<a href="mailto:mardhall@ardmore.net">mardhall@ardmore.net</a>
Bob Mattingly	(321) 254-7422	<a href="mailto:bobc130d6@yahoo.com">bobc130d6@yahoo.com</a>
Ken Pribyia	(703) 328-2835	<a href="mailto:kprieb@verizon.net">kprieb@verizon.net</a>
John Root	(210) 492-3153	<a href="mailto:jmroot1@me.com">jmroot1@me.com</a>
Gene Ramsay	(651) 762-5370	<a href="mailto:gllamsay@yahoo.com">gllamsay@yahoo.com</a>
Sal Salazar	(505) 362-6333	<a href="mailto:wsalazar10@comcast.net">wsalazar10@comcast.net</a>

Bruce & Betty Huff agreed to be a consultant on the Committee:

Bruce & Betty Huff	(713) 827-7975	<a href="mailto:b.huff@att.net">b.huff@att.net</a>
--------------------	----------------	--

**Special Recognition:** Bruce & Betty Huff were recognized for their outstanding service in organizing the Galveston reunions over the past three reunions as well as all the work updating the roster.

Jay Walker adjourned the meeting at 10:27 hrs.

After the meeting the wives joined us for a presentation by a local historian about the history of Galveston. After this presentation, Eric Wiener gave a presentation on the 109<sup>th</sup> LC-130's and their current Missions.

Respectful Submitted,

Warren Miller  
Secretary

## NOTES FROM FIREBIRDS

### Association Officers

**President:**

Dick Dodge

**Vice-President:**

Bob Mattingly

**Treasurer:**

J.C. Arrington

**Secretary:**

Warren Miller

**Historian:**

Nolan Bailey

**Newsletter Editor:**

J. C. Arrington

**Members at Large**

Sid Marcus

John Parker

Will Salazar

Gene Ramsay

Tom Noel

Ray Reaves

**Three Past Presidents**

Jay Walker

Alan Anderson

Bruce Huff



**Great Britain May 2012**

"We enjoyed our time in Texas. You made us feel so welcome. There is a special buzz about the Firebird Reunion, we wish that we had discovered it sooner. So much of the success is due to the detailed preparation, that was so evident.

Thank you Firebirds.

Now we look forward to our next trip "across the pond".

Sue and Jerry King.

**May 11, 2012**

Firebirds.

The biggest thank you ever for making my day. I loved it, and so did my family. We have never been treated so great. I have put the plaque on the wall with the rest of my things. Thank you again!

With love,

Ted Wolfram

**May 14, 2012**

Please convey my deepest appreciation to all of the Firebird Association for the wonderful tribute and beautiful plaque that honored my wonderful husband (Col. Wilbert Turk). He would have been so grateful. May God bless you all with many more wonderful reunions.

My Gratitude and blessings.

Mrs. Jerry R. Turk

**June 11, 2012**

First off, we want to let you know what a delightful experience it was to attend the Firebird Association Reunion. We enjoyed seeing old friends and meeting new ones. Having the common thread of all flying the C-130 in Alaska made the conversation very fun and enjoyable. Carol says she really enjoyed the warmth and camaraderie extended to her as a guest. We look forward to seeing you in the future.

Glen Allan Hardwick/Carol Schaefer

**Houston, TX September 2012**

Since Bruce was elected Firebird Association president at the 2006 Branson Reunion, it has been our goal to help plan and guide the best reunion that we could provide.

2008 was a daunting task because being a complete outsider, I didn't know the people or protocol and

Bruce didn't realize that he was responsible for organizing the reunion, I became involved and I needed help. What an experience.

I didn't even know how to spell computer and suddenly I had one. Every time I turned it on I would find from one to ten messages from someone named Nolan. He helped keep me in line. Then our newsletter editor resigned and J.C. Arrington held up his hand and kept the letter going. J.C. along with Bob Mattingly (newly elected treasurer) provided names and addresses when needed and Bernie Warren shared his records. Sam McGowan put me in touch with Sheri Teller, Galveston Visitors Bureau, without whom the reunion would never have happened. Sheri became my right arm as well as my new best friend.

When I had questions, my go to people were Bob Mattingly (who literally saved my life) and his special Darina, J.B. and Judy Walker, Dell and John Parker, Jerry and Jimmie Lou Livingston, Chuck Lavoie, and always, Ole Nol.

As I became better acquainted with the Firebirds, more names were added. Tom Noel, Alan and Carol Anderson, Wil and Lois Salazar, Ray Reaves and Debbie Hoffman, Warren and Doris Miller, the list was growing. Nick Cossu helped with errands, Eric Wiener brought a special video, John Hartsman provided an update on names, Gene Ramsey added his support. J.C. has become my "Man Friend" since boy friend didn't seem appropriate. There are others like our young people. Bruce and I have been given a lot of the credit, but these are the people who organized and made your reunion happen!

These people will still be there working and supporting Dick Dodge in 2014. The Association will forever be indebted to you for your loyalty and dedication.

Bruce and I wish to express our personal gratitude to each and everyone of you for your loyalty and dedication. LOOKING FORWARD TO 2014

Sincerely,  
Betty Huff

## 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 States Air Force, its predecessor and mission-successor organizations, and of all military units who have flown ski-equipped versions of the C-130 aircraft within any of the Armed Forces of the United States of 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,

including 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 ski-equipped 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 ac-

tive 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; The spouses, widows, widowers and children of any of the above; and upon nomination for 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.



Ray Hull, Pilot; and William Madsen, Navigator; on the Greenland Ice Cap with the abducted mascot of the 317th FIS in 1967. This is just one example of 17th TCS/TAS *esprit de corps*.

## The 2012 Firebird Reunion Galveston Texas

One striking observation that I have noticed year after year; Firebirds love to tell stories, and laugh!



Bud Hall and Sam Arnold getting it straight



The Col. John Parker Family



Bud Hall keeping Bob Mattingly and Sal going



The Col. Ted Wolfram Family



Dee Mattingly, Vera Arnold and Retla Lavoie



Ginny Koehnle and Mrs. Jerry Turk

## The Firebird Formal Dinner on Tuesday night



Posting the colors.



Col. Parker gives the invocation.



Pat Guidry, Warren Miller & Doris Miller



Chow Time!



Delores & Dan MonteMajor & Jimmye Lou & Jerry Livingston



I think Col. Parker liked it!



Col. Wolfram is now a Firebird!



Jerry & Sue King came from UK



Melissa Dement won the putter!



Carol Scheafer caught the biggest fish.



Mrs. Jerry Turk is presented a Plaque remembering her late husband Col. Wilbert Turk.



Col.'s Parker & Livingston are presented the "Red Feather" award.

### Firebird Association Membership Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Initial Membership

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Renewal

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ FAX: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Unit(s):  17th TCS  17th TAS  517th TAS  Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Please mail completed form and payment to:**

J.C. Arrington  
Firebird Association  
3778 Lark Court  
Murfreesboro, TN 37129-1919

**Please check one block:**

Biennial Dues \$20.00

Life Membership \$100



J. C. Arrington  
The Firebird Association  
3778 Lark Court  
Murfreesboro, TN 37129

Place  
Stamp  
Here

Place Address Label Here