



Firebird Flyer



Volume 17 # 1

The Firebird Association

February 5, 2014

The Firebirds to gather once again in Biloxi, Mississippi.

After a hurricane, and ten years, the Firebirds will once again gather in Biloxi, Mississippi. During the Firebird Reunion business meeting in April 2012 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.

Biloxi 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

The time is drawing near for our next great reunion to be held in Biloxi, MS Sunday April 6th thru Wednesday April 9th 2014. If you have not signed up yet, do so ASAP. Also, please consider calling up your fellow squadron mates and friends and personally inviting them to attend as this will enhance your enjoyment of this event.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you there.

Dick Dodge

In This Issue

Presidents Letter.....	1
Taps.....	2
Firebird Association.....	3
Welcome.....	4
Reunion Schedule.....	5
Hotel Accommodations...	6
Early Bird Drawing.....	6
Banquet Menu.....	7&8
Reunion Activities ...	9&10
Travel Information	10
Registration Form...	11&12
Membership application	13

Visit the Firebird website at: www.firebirds.org

Firebird Association

Officers

President:
Dick Dodge

Vice-President:
Bob Mattingly

Treasurer:
J.C. Arrington

Secretary:
Warren Miller

Historian:
Nolan Bailey

Newsletter Editor:
J. C. Arrington

Board Members

Eric Wiener
Sid Marcus
John Parker
Gene Ramsay
Ray Reaves
Will Salazar

Past Presidents — 3

Jay Walker
Alan Anderson
Bruce Huff

TAPS

Maurice Kaiser	January 24, 2012
Clement Doherty	February 26, 2012
Robert Bartunek	April 15, 2012
David Strange	May 6, 2012
Beverly Hogue	June 8, 2012
Fred Brackbill	October 8, 2012
Dick Semple	February 25, 2013
Don Girven	March 5, 2013
Jeanette Sharow	June 3, 2013
Harold Lee	November 5, 2013
Franklin Van Hemert	November 7, 2013
George Nagy	December 15, 2013
Mike Ashcraft	January 3, 2014

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 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; 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.





WELCOME BACK TO BILOXI

This is a special invitation to all Firebird Association members to attend the 2014 reunion.

I do not think that I need to remind any of you Firebirds that we are all getting on in years! I just finished the “TAPS” page, and as of now we have lost 13 Firebirds since the 2012 reunion! Please come to Biloxi, Mississippi in April 2014. Call at least one close Firebird friend and “turn up the heat” to get them to attend. Let’s make this Firebird reunion the best one ever held.

J.C. Arrington



FIREBIRD ASSOCIATION REUNION XI

**The Quality Inn
2414 Beach Blvd.
Biloxi, MS 39531**

April 6-9 2014

SCHEUDLE OF EVENTS

- Revised 02/10/2014

Sunday, April 6th Travel Day	12:00-23:00 Registration in Firebird Command Post 12:00-23:00 Hospitality Suite opens 18:00-23:00 Deli trays in afternoon and early evening for the "Early Birds"
Monday, April 7th Reunion Day	06:30-10:00 Free Breakfast— Quality Inn Lobby 07:00-13:00 Golf Tournament 06:30-13:00 Fishing Trip 10:00-15:00 Biloxi Train Tour 10:00-14:00 Registration continues in hospitality Suite Hospitality Suite open --
Tuesday, April 8th Reunion Day	06:30-10:00 Free breakfast -- Quality Inn Lobby 07:00-17:00 Hospitality Suite Open** 10:00-12:00 Ladies surprise party— Motel breakfast room. 10:00-12:00 Firebird Association business meeting—Hospitality Suite 13:00-16:00 Lunch Break (on your own) 13:30-16:00 Roland Guidry's presentation: 18:00-19:00 Cocktail Hour 19:00-22:00 Banquet: Presentation of awards and new officers 22:00-Til Hospitality Suite open**
Wednesday, April 9th Travel Day	06:30-10:00 Free breakfast for hotel guests -- Quality Inn Lobby 07:00-12:00 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.	

Biloxi Hotel Accommodations

All hotel reservations will be handled directly by the Quality Inn, 2414 Beach Blvd. Biloxi, MS 39531. Call (228)388-1000 to make room reservations.

Normal room rates are over \$120 per night during April, but General Manager Pearl Trinh of the Quality Inn is setting up a special price of \$84.00 for a King size bed, \$78.40 for a single Queen size bed, two Double beds \$89.60 these prices include tax. (double or single occupancy). 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 (228)-388-1000, or (228)-388-8346. **HAVE YOUR**

C R E D I T C A R D H A N D Y A N D B E S U R E T O G E T A C O N F I R- M A T I O N N U M B E R !

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.

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

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.

A reminder: No dogs are allowed in the hotel.

Early Bird Drawing:

A drawing was held on January 1, 2014 and the following Firebirds will receive one (1) free night in the hotel during the reunion.

Joe L. Reed
Emmet F. Heidemann
Mary Kaiser



Buffet Menu

Imperial carving table

Smoked Ham

Round of beef

Pork loin

Turkey breast

Meatballs or Cocktail franks

In homemade sauce.

Sweet and Sour chicken or hot wings

Hot crab dip and shrimp butter with

Melba rounds and crackers.

Jambalaya, Seafood casserole,

Shrimp pasta salad. Baked potato salad.

Buffet Menu (cont.)

Eggrolls or quesadilla rolls with sauce.

Fresh vegetable tray and relish tray
With cool ranch dip.

Fruit & cheese display with assorted
Crackers and strawberry cream
cheese dip.

Boiled or marinated shrimp with
cocktail sauce.

Crawfish pies or spicy meat pies with
cocktail sauce.

REUNION ACTIVITIES

Galveston Bay FISHING TRIP:

The \$80.00 Fishing Fee reserves a spot on a 6 person boat, all tackle and bait for a 6 hour fishing adventure in the bay. Bring your own snacks and beverages, hat, sun screen and a jacket. Four places have already been filled, so get your reservations made. A second boat can be reserved if we have a need.

Contact : J.C. Arrington <arrington@hughes.net> Cell phone: 615-439-0344

Firebird Golf Tourney:

For all of you who love the links, Bob Mattingly has arranged a morning at The “Bay Breeze Golf course and driving range. The Bay Breeze is a 18 hole Par 71 Golf course located on Keesler AFB. You will be paired with players who have scores or handicaps alike. Prizes will be awarded to the top three players. So please have the last 3 or 4 of your scores or a handicap. Tee off time will be 08:00 hrs. Monday morning.

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.

Contact: Bob Mattingly <bobc130d6@yahoo.com>.

Biloxi Train Tour:

This open-air train has delighted visitors on a historical journey through one of the oldest settlements in America. With a 90 minute tour through Biloxi’s Historic District, you will learn Biloxi’s legacy from the early days to modern history. The train will pick us up at our hotel the morning of Monday April 7th. The cost of the tour is \$15.00 per person. We have had to use a different tour group than the original planned since the first tour group would not pick us up at the hotel. You will be reimbursed for the difference for those that paid \$25.00.

Military Aviation Lecture:

By Roland Guidry

Mr. Guidry’s lecture will cover several topics that he has personally been involved in.

1. Drone Reconnaissance, the beginnings in Southeast Asia. Including gathering intelligence for the Son Tay Raid.
2. Iran Hostage Rescue Mission... the rest of the story.
3. Glacier Pilot... Challenges of Arctic Aviation In Alaska and the Greenland Icecap.

REUNION ACTIVITIES Cont.

Awards Banquet:

The 2014 Firebird Reunion will end with the traditional Awards Banquet. This reunion the banquet will be held in the Hospitality room. The banquet will be catered by Broome's Catering. The full menu is on pages 7&8. A one man music program will be present for the entire evening. Bobby Allison is an accomplished Guitar player and singer. Bobby is an old friend of the Firebirds, he has provided the music for several of our past reunions in Biloxi. This reunion is fortunate to have his presence.

TRAVEL INFORMATION

If you are driving to Biloxi from New Orleans LA, take I-10 east into Mississippi, to exit 34A. Turn south (right) on Hwy 49 and drive to Gulfport Mississippi, turn east (left) on Hwy 90 and drive to The Quality INN Biloxi Beach. The hotel will be on your left.

If you are driving from Mobile Alabama, take I-10 west into Mississippi. Exit I-10 at exit 46B. Turn left (south) and drive to Biloxi Mississippi. Turn right (west) on Hwy 90 and drive to The Quality INN Biloxi Beach. The hotel will be on your right.

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

AIR TRAVEL:

The major airports in the area are New Orleans, LA, and Mobile, AL. The local airport is Gulfport Biloxi International Airport. This airport is located on Hwy 49 on the northern edge of Gulfport. Turn on "John Hill" Blvd. from Hwy 49 to enter the airport. If you are arriving by air in Gulfport, take "John Hill" Blvd. and turn left (south) on Hwy 49 and proceed to the hotel. (about 12 miles from the airport to the hotel)

AIRLINES	RESERVATIONS
AA- American Airlines American Eagle WWW.aa.com	1-800-433-7300
UN- United WWW.united.com	1-888-674-4680
DL- Delta Air Lines WWW.delta.com	1-800-221-1212
US- US Airways WWW.USAirways.com	1-800-426-4322

Ground Transportation:

Executive Taxi at (228)-323-0339 can pick-up at the airport and take you to the hotel for \$30 for up to six passengers.

Firebird Association Reunion
Biloxi, Mississippi
April 6-9, 2014
Registration Form

Registrant Information: (Please Print)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ +4 _____

Telephone #: _____

Spouse/Guests Names: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Military Units: _____ Dates Assigned to Unit: _____

Registration Fees:

		<u>Number</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Total</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Firebird Association Dues*	See footnote	____ @	\$ 20.00	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Reunion Registration Fee**		____ @	\$ 40.00	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Buffet Tickets**	Tuesday night dinner	____ @	\$ 25.00	\$ _____

Tours & Activities:

(Subject to Availability, Interest, and Change)

		<u>Number</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Total</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Golf Tournament - TBA	Monday: 08:00 to 13:00	____ @	\$ 60.00 ea.	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Deep Sea Fishing *** TBA	Monday: 06:00-13:00	____ @	\$ 80.00 ea.	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Biloxi Train Tour	Monday: 09:00-16:00	____ @	\$ 15.00 ea.	\$ _____

Golfers: List average 18 hole scores here: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Mail form and check to: Firebird Association, 3778 Lark Court, Murfreesboro, TN 37129-1919

Hotel reservations are NOT included on this form. To reserve a room, call the Quality Inn at **(228) 388-1000 or (228) 388-8346**. Use the code word **"Firebird Reunion"** to receive the reduced room rate.

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 Biloxi 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 2013-2014 have not been paid prior to registration, a membership fee of \$20.00 must be included.

****Reunion Registration - The registration fee does not 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
- Renewal

Address: _____

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