



Firebird Flyer



Volume 17 # 2

The Firebird Association

June 25, 2014

The Firebirds gathered in Biloxi

After a hurricane, and ten years the Firebirds once again gathered in Biloxi, Mississippi. During the Firebird Reunion we had about 110 comrades gathered to rekindle old friendships, and talk about old times.

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. The hotel staff went out of their way to accommodate us in everyway possible. The only thing that did not cooperate was the weather. With the wind blowing, and rain intermittently falling, we had to change plans “on the fly”. The fishing trip was canceled, but the golfers pressed on with their game.

Roland Guidry gave a very interesting Military Aviation Lecture of aviation events that he participated in during his Air Force career.

Eric Wiener also gave a visual presentation of the 109th AW present day activities with ski equipped C-130’s, both in Greenland, and Antarctica.

We are already looking forward to the 2016 Firebird reunion. We need some input from the members for the next location. The following locations were discussed at the business meeting in Biloxi: Biloxi, MS, Tucson AZ, Wright-Patterson AFB, OH, and Fredericksburg, TX.

Please contact any of the members of the planning committee, and put in your “two cents worth”.

Everyone’s ideas and opinions are welcome. A list of planning members is located on page 7.

J.C. Arrington

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Visit the Firebird website at: www.firebirds.org

Firebird Association

Officers

President:
Bob Mattingly

Vice-President:
Ken Pribyla

Treasurer:
J.C. Arrington

Secretary:
Warren Miller

Historian:
Nolan Bailey

Newsletter Editor:
J. C. Arrington

Board Members

Eric Wiener(109th)
Sid Marcus
Ron Farrell
Gene Ramsay
Ray Reaves
Sal Salazar

Past Presidents — 3

Dick Dodge
Jay Walker
Alan Anderson

Honorary Board Member

John Parker

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 Sharrow | June 3, 2013 |
| Harold Lee | November 5, 2013 |
| Franklin Van Hemert | November 7, 2013 |
| George Nagy | December 15, 2013 |
| Mike Ashcraft | January 3, 2014 |
| Howard Mulanax | February 14, 2014 |
| James McKenzie | March 16, 2014 |
| Sam Arnold | March 19, 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 Tacti-

cal 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.



Iron Mike visits Greenland

"Iron Mike," the mascot of the 317th Fighter-Interceptor Squadron, Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska, prior to its deactivation in late 1969, is a classic example of Air Force esprit de corps. He was considered "fair game" by the 17th TAS, and as such, was frequently abducted from Alaska, to reappear mysteriously at some other USAF base, ranging from Greenland to South Vietnam where, it was reported, he was taken to gain some combat experience.

Photo courtesy of Jack Cayton, former Firebird pilot.

FIREBIRD ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the 2014 Reunion General Membership Meeting (April 6, 2014) Biloxi, MS:

Dick Dodge, President, opened the meeting at 11:11 hours.

Minutes: Warren Miller read the minutes of the Galveston April 24, 2012 reunion. The minutes were approved as written.

Treasurer Report: The Treasure Report was given by J. C. Arrington:

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------|
| Total after 2012 Reunion: | \$12,467.50 |
| Received Dues & Fees: | 6,865.00 |
| Before Reunion Balance: | 18,180.50 |
| Projected Reunion Payout: | 6,000.00 |
| Projected after Reunion Balance: | \$12,180.50 |

The IRS Form 990-N was filed on Mar 4,2014 and was accepted by the IRS on Mar 4,2014. The Treasure Report was approved as given.

Old Business:

A/C 57-493: In the 2014 reunion, Jerry Livingston announced that he had been trying to get the skis put back on 493. Note: A/C 57-493 has been in the Reunion Minutes since our 2000 reunion. The A/C has been moved to a display spot but the skis have been lying next to the aircraft since before the 2006 reunion. Eric Wiener stated that the Pima Museum web site shows the skis are still lying beside the aircraft. It was recommend that the Firebird Association send a \$100 check to show that we are interested in the project. Felix Maguire stated he would check on the project. It was also recommended that we write a letter stating that we were interested in getting the skis put back on the aircraft and having the Firebird symbol put back on the aircraft. This was made into a motion and passed.

New Business:

Election of Officers: Dick Dodge stated that we need two Officers for the next board. We need an Officer to be the next VP. We also need two at large board members, one to replace John Parker who will be made an Honorary Member at Large, and a member to replace Tom Noel, the 109th Representative. Dick stated that Ken Pribyla had volunteered to be the new Vice President and that Eric Wiener had volunteered to be the 109th Representative. We still need someone to be a member at large to fill John Parkers' slot. Ron Farrell volunteered to take that slot. A motion was made and seconded to add these three persons to the board. The motion was voted on and passed.

The 2014-2016 Firebird Board of Directors are as follows:

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| President: | Bob Mattingly |
| Vice President: | Ken Pribyla |
| Secretary: | Warren Miller |
| Treasurer: | J. C. Arrington |
| Historian & Web Site: | Nolan Bailey |
| Newsletter: | J. C. Arrington |
| Three Past Presidents: | Dick Dodge Jay Walker Alan Anderson |
| Members at Large: | Sid Marcus Gene Ramsay Ray Reaves Ron Farrell |

Next Reunion:

It was mentioned that the weather was not all that great for this reunion and that maybe we should consider having the reunion at a different time such as fall. It was discussed that fall was also hurricane season. Those that were familiar with hurricane seasons, stated that this should not be a reason to not have it in the fall. Locations were discussed. Tucson was recommended, but Sal Salazar stated that the only time the rates were reasonable were in the very hot summer time. A straw vote indicated that several members would not attend one in Tucson as the distant required for travel was too great. Fredicksburg, TX was brought up again as a good place to have the reunion. The problems of the golf course being closed on Monday and Tuesday had been resolved. They were lots of things to do in the area and that the hotel had a nice room available and we could serve our own booze. Nashville was also recommended as well as the Air Force Museum at Wright Patterson, Dayton, Ohio. Alan Anderson stated that four years ago the Air Force Museum would let you have the banquet under the wing of the B-52 in the hanger. One problem would be the vast walking required to visit the museum. A hotel nearby had all that was needed for a good reunion. The Planning Committee will make a decision on when and where. Honi Garven, Bernnie Warren and Bud Hall wanted to be included on the Planning Meeting.

Other Comments:

Several members complained that the information on our web site was not current. Dick Dodge stated that there being no further business to be brought before the Board, he would entertain a motion to close the meeting. A motion was made and seconded and voted on. The meeting was closed at 11:55 hours.

Respectfully Submitted,

Warren Miller

Warren Miller

C-130D 57-0493 Update:

After the reunion, Gene Ramsey sent a letter along with a donation check in the amount of \$100 to the Pima Air Museum. Gene requested that 57-0493 be cleaned up, ski's installed, and the Firebird emblem be installed on the fuselage. Pima returned the donation, and said they do not take donations for specific aircraft, but would receive donations for entire museum. Pima also stated that their schedule was set through the end of 2016. After discussion , the board of Directors has decided to drop the matter.

List of Firebirds attending the 2014 Firebird reunion:

- | | | | |
|------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Joe Reed | Jerry D. Drennan | Elton Grapes | James Sarros |
| Dale G. Roles | Emmet Heide- | Robert Mearns | Alan Anderson |
| Polly Pate | mann | Ray Reaves | Glen Hardwick |
| Domenico Cossu | Honi Garvin | Bernard A. War- | Gene Ramsay |
| Betty Huff | Lynn Alsbury | ren | Greg Fitzer |
| Warren Miller | Bud Hall | William Drasky | John Bricker |
| J. C. Arrington | Mary Kaiser | Myles S. Rich- | Terry Derrington |
| Jon D. Frank | John L. Byrd | mond | Ron Farrel |
| Dick C Dodge | Dan Brooks | Sid M. Marcus | Jack Roth |
| Gordon Mills | Steve Passmore | Charles Carter | Charyl Smith |
| Wilfred Salazar | David Tintle | Bob Mattingly | Martha Dunphy |
| Sam Morrow | Donald R. Bailey | Ken Pribyla | Felix Maguire |
| Roland D. Guidry | Dan Montemayor | | Jerry King |

A note from Firebird's:

Betty Huff writes:

Sometimes, "Thank You" is not sufficient to express the gratitude that one feels for all the support, assistance and prayers that both my real family and my Firebird family provided to Bruce and me during the last few months. Sharing the Feather Award with him created a Kleenex moment..... so, Thank You!

That said, I would like to recognize some of the many endeavors by some pretty special people. Without their dedication above and beyond, this reunion would not have happened. I share the Feather Award with them.....

In no particular order.....

Doris and Warren Miller for arranging the Biloxi Historical Tour and for providing the banquet table decorations. Doris said that Warren graciously searched all the area stores to find enough matching table cloths. 'Been there, done that, took a lot of time and dedication.

Gail and Dick Dodge arranged the fantastic Banquet Buffet. They also provided the table ware that we used to consume one of the best (if not the best) meal in Firebird Reunion memory. Dick also arranged with Keesler AFB to have the flag ceremony. He was the glue that held the proceedings together. He also transported the Margarita machine to and from.

We thought it was going to have to ride in the seat with Gail. 'Was a close fit
Bob and Dee Mattingly for over seeing the memorabilia sales for helping to keep the hospitality room supplied with snacks and drinks. They both served as greeters at the registration table. Bob also arranged the golfer's game. When anything was needed, ask Bob.

I understand that Lois and Will Salazar and Margaret and Bud Hall had a hand in securing the Monday evening meal. Special thanks to Sal for bringing the Firebird Flashlight pens and for keeping everyone up to date on Bruce's and Retta Lavoie's health problems.

To Chuck Lavoie, a very special thanks. Chuck arranged for and purchased the C-130 hat pins. They were a beautifully crafted pin, were in high demand, and completely sold out.

Our prayers and thoughts go out to them both.

A really big thanks goes to Pat and Roland Guidry for their "extra mile" to entertain and inform their fellow comrades. Their presentations were a highlight for so many Firebirds and Firebird spouses. I was fortunate to have been present in 2004 when Roland gave a limited hostage presentation and was excited that he was willing to do this again.

To Eric Weiner for keeping us informed with his presentation at the Gentlemen's business meeting. Thank you, Eric .

How good it was to see Sid Marcus, thanks for his support and for just coming back after so many personal disasters.

And to Gene and Kathy Ramsay, your personal token of gratitude is nestled among my lifelong treasures.....another Kleenex moment when I shared it with Bruce.

Thanks to Nolan for managing to get the Firebird Mugs ordered and delivered to Bernie in the nick of time and to Bernie Warren for toting them to the reunion. 'Must have had to rent a U-Haul. Those were some big boxes ! The mugs were beautiful.

To Carol and J. C. Arrington,.....you kept me informed and concentrated.. Without your up-dates and additions, my contributions would have been an impossible chore. Even though the weather man would not cooperate, when Bruce became ill, J.C. assumed complete responsibility for the fishers. To Carol for listening to my grumbles and melt down and pretending she didn't hear.

I must say thanks to my "Gang", my daughter, Ginny for chauffeuring me, to my niece Polly for tying all those red ribbons and my baby sister, Martha for helping Ginny and Polly put the finishing touches on the place-mats. They always come through for me.

To all of you Firebirds out there, your association board members and reunion committee co-operated to host the best reunion ever.....and they did .

I speak for Bruce when I say, how fortunate we are to be a part of this group.

Again, Thank You All,

A note from Firebird's continued:

Colin Bell writes:

Bruce, congratulations on keeping the reunion tradition going. Gill and I had very much hoped to be in North America at this time and be able to join you. Unfortunately too many other commitments arose here to enable us to fit in a long enough trip to make it worthwhile. We regularly look at the 17th website and are pleased to see that there are still several names from the early 70's still noted. We spend too much of our time attending the last rites of our former colleagues here! Best wishes for a great get together and we hope to be able to join you in two years time.

Happy Landings. Colin & Gill Bell

Emmett Heidemann writes:

Hi J.C. and Mrs. Huff.

I would like to pass on another THANK YOU for such a good time at the Reunion. My wife and I enjoyed seeing friends that we have known over the years and having the opportunity to enjoy their company once again was great. Thanks for doing so much..... Emmett Heidemann.

Reunion Committee: If you have comments, suggestions, or requests regarding the reunion, please feel free to contact the following members of the committee.

| | | |
|----------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| Bob Mattingly | 321-254-7422 | bobc130d6@yahoo.com |
| Ken Pribyla | 703-328-2835 | kprib@verizon.net |
| Dick Dodge | 828-696-7969 | dick@rcdodge.us |
| J.C. Arrington | 615-896-7910 | arrington@hughes.net |
| Warren Miller | 334-270-9507 | wardoris@aol.com |
| Nolan Bailey | 21-227-3328 | nolan.bailey@verizon.net |
| Alan Anderson | 309-944-6070 | aca3@geneseo.net |
| Honi Garven | 719-481-8416 | honij@mac.com |
| Bernie Warren | 985-643-7323 | sylberniewarn@bellsouth.net |
| Bud Hall | 913-732-4042 | mardhall@ardmore.net |

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