



# Firebird Flyer



Volume 13 #2

The Firebird Association

November 10, 2010

## Planning has started for the 2012 Firebird reunion In Galveston.

### From the President

I wish to thank the Firebirds for having the confidence in me to elect me your president. I will do my best to represent the Firebirds with honor and pride. I also would like to pause a minute to mention two of our comrade that have departed since we were last together. Col. Turk and Paul Smith, they will be missed by all.

I am very excited about the outcome of our visit to Galveston and meeting with the hotel manager and Sheri with the Galveston visitors convention center. They were both extremely happy that we again picked Galveston for our 2012 reunion. We will all be in the Holiday

Inn Express where the Firebird command post will again be set up. The free breakfast in the mornings is wonderful. We had scrambled eggs, ham, biscuits and gravy the morning that we left. They also had the normal rolls, dry cereal, milk coffee OJ and such. I hope that all of you and many more will be there for this wonderful event.

Jay Walker.

After proper notice, a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Firebird Association was held by conference call on September 18, 2010 at 7:30 P. M. Central Daylight Time for the purpose of setting a location for the 2012 reunion and a date for the 2011 planning meeting. The President called the meeting to order at 7:38 PM with the following board members, constituting a quorum of the Board, in attendance: Jay Walker, President; Dick Dodge, Vice President; Bob Mattingly, Treasurer; Warren Miller, Secretary; J. C. Arrington, Newsletter; Past Presidents Alan Anderson, Bruce Huff, Jerry Livingston, and members at large; Will Salazar, and Gene Ramsay .

### Planning for 2012

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Visit the Firebird website at: [www.firebirds.org](http://www.firebirds.org)

## Association Officers

### President:

Jay Walker

### Vice-President:

Dick Dodge

### Treasurer:

Bob Mattingly

### 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

Alan Anderson

Bruce Huff

Jerry Livingston



## Planning Meeting (Cont.)

Discussion concerned where to have the next reunion. Alan reported that the Quality Inn in Biloxi was very nice and had a nice meeting room available and they would allow us to have our own drinks there. It would cost approximately \$100 per night with taxes. Wil Salazar stated that he had checked with the Opry Land Hotel in Nashville, but they would not let us furnish our drinks. Dick Dodge stated that we must be able to furnish our own drinks, since this is the very heart of the reunion. Jerry Livingston agreed that this is most important and that in Galveston we can get liquor at the Coast Guard Station on the island.

After more deliberation, Warren Miller made a motion to have the next reunion in Galveston, and to consider Bi-

loxi for the 2014 Reunion.

A discussion followed about the Hospitality Room in the Holiday Inn Express and that it was most important to lock this in. It was decided to see if we can stay at the Holiday Inn Express and if we could lock the Hospitality Room in.

Alan stated that we have a motion on the floor to have our next reunion at Galveston. Dick Dodge seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous vote Galveston.

A new discussion followed as to when to have the planning meeting, after several try's, it was decided that the planning meeting will be May 8-9, 2011, at the Holiday Inn Express, 8629 Seawall Blvd., Galveston, TX. Phone 409-740-7900. Room rate is \$72.00 plus tax, or about \$90.00.



LC-130 blasts off the snow in Antarctica.

## 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, 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 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 an example of 17th TCS/TAS *esprit de corps*.

### **Unit Roster Update.**

A concerted effort is being made by the Board Members to update the Firebird roster. If you have not been contacted in the last six months by phone, e-mail, or US mail, concerning this project, please contact Bruce Huff at <b.huff@att.net>, or phone 713-827-7975. This is a voice shared fax and is answered by a machine, leave your name and phone number and your call will be returned. Another option is to respond by US mail at 9206 Willow View Lane., Houston, TX 77080-7423.

Be sure to include your name, spouse's name (if there is a spouse), current street address, phone number and e-mail (if you have an e-mail).

While this list is maintained by the Firebird Association, a membership is not required to be included. However, memberships are always welcome. The list will be posted on the website, containing only the names and can only be accessed by contacting the site or a Firebird board member. Keeping in touch with friends is its purpose. If you do not wish your name to be in-

cluded, please send a notification. Once this project is complete you will receive a current contact list of all board members.

This is a monumental task and no one has been left out on purpose. If you are not here please let us know about it! This project is nearing completion so please don't delay!

### **Firebird Jackets**

To order your Firebird jackets send your order and payment for the number of jackets and size you want. The price will be \$110 and this will include shipping to the address that you sent. The vendor no longer sews on the Firebird patches, however, I will put a patch in the pocket of each jacket and hopefully your local laundry can attach them for you. The jackets come in sizes small, medium, large, and extra-large.

To order jackets please send your order to Jay Walker 1340 Randi Street, Vidor, Texas 77662. Phone: 409-769-3599.

### **Change of Venue**

I have heard that several members would like a change of venue for our next Firebird Association reunion in 2012. However, so far we have not heard any suggestions as to what we should do. The board of governors for the Firebird Association is going to meet on May 8, 2011, to plan the 2012 reunion in Galveston Texas. If you have the means to attend this meeting please by all means do so. If you cannot attend, but would like your ideas put forward to the board of Governors for consideration please contact anyone on the board of governors and give them your ideas and I promise you they will be considered at the planning meeting. If you plan to attend the planning meeting, please notify Bruce Huff so that he can arrange for hotel reservations for you. If you cannot attend, contact any of the board members and give them your ideas. If you do not have access to a computer, call me, J.C. Arrington at 615-896-7910. My telephone is answered by a answering machine, just leave a message and a telephone number.

J.C. Arrington

### **TAPS**

Col. Wilbert Turk

June 4, 2010

Paul Smith

July 15, 2010

### 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:**

Bob Mattingly  
Firebird Association  
1255 Circlewood Drive  
Melbourne, FL 32935-5536

**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