



Firebird Flyer



Volume 16 # 1

The Firebird Association

June 1, 2013

Planning has started for the 2014 Firebirds are returning to Biloxi.

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Fellow Firebirds,

Important! Block out the following dates on your calendars, April 6—April 9, 2014. These are the dates of our next block buster Firebird Reunion which will be held in Biloxi, MS at the Quality Inn. This hotel has been refurbished after Hurricane Katrina and will make the perfect place to meet. The owners have been very gracious in meeting all of our requirements, such as serving our own alcoholic beverages and food and providing a great hospitality room, all for a very reasonable price. The details of the reunion will be covered elsewhere in this newsletter but I want to encourage everyone to seriously begin to think about attending and getting your friends to come also. The more the better. If each one of us would encourage just one friend to attend, we would wind up with a fine turnout.

I look forward to seeing all of you next April. Dick Dodge

2014 Planning meeting, Biloxi, MS April 22 & 23, 2013.

Dick Dodge called the meeting to order at 09:32 hours, with the following board members, constituting a quorum of the board, in attendance: Dick Dodge President, Bob Mattingly Vice President, Warren Miller, Secretary, J.C. Arrington, Treasurer. Past Presidents, Jay Walker, Bruce Huff. Member at Large, Sid Marcus, Will Salazar. Reunion Committee, Bud Hall. Hotel Manager, Pearl Trinh. Also attending were several wives: Gail Dodge, Doris Miller, Carol Arrington, Judy Walker, Betty Huff, Margaret Hall, and Lois Salazar.

Treasurer Report: J.C. Arrington stated that we had \$12,665.15 in available Funds.

Hotel Manager: Pearl Trinh gave us the hotel rates for the various rooms: King size bed at \$84, Queen size bed at \$78.40, and two Double beds at \$89.60. This rate is for one or two people. We discussed the most probable needs of the association as far as the number of rooms, smoking and non-smoking as well as king versus and double beds. Pearl agreed to comp us the meeting room instead of any regular rooms and we would not have a minimum number of rooms to get the free meeting room. She also stated she would check with the availability of the Band Rhythm and Rain. She also stated that the breakfast area would be available for the ladies events.

Hospitality Room: Dick stated that we needed a host for the hospitality room. It was suggested that Jerry Livingston would be a good choice since he has been the host for a number of years. Dick should contact Jerry to see if he will be willing to take charge.

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Visit the Firebird website at: www.firebirds.org

Hospitality Room: (cont)

Bruce Huff and Jay Walker volunteered to assist. All of the members present agreed to help set up and work as necessary. Pizza, Deli trays (from Sam's Club or McAllister's) will be furnished as in the past to keep members in the Hospitality Room.

A Margarita machine has been located. We can pick it up on Saturday and return on Wednesday for the cost of \$350. Mix will cost \$26.50 per gal and is concentrated. It was decided we will purchase a couple of gallons to see how long they will last.

Memorabilia: Judy Walker volunteered as host, Jay and Carol Arrington volunteered to assist. Betty Huff stated we have plenty of Caps, Decals, Pins and Money Clips. We do need patches though. A discussion followed and Coffee Cups were desired. Dick is in an organization that is having some made and would check to see who is making them and will give the information to Betty Huff. Sal brought up the fact that Chuck Lavoie had ordered 100 hat pins of a C-130-D doing a JATO takeoff from the icecap. We voted to sell them for \$2 each and reimburse Chuck.

Golf: Bob Mattingly stated he would be in charge of the Golf Game and he would need the name of a trophy maker. Betty stated she had a name and she would give it to him. After research, Golf will cost \$60 per person.

Fishing Tournament: J.C. Arrington and Bruce Huff volunteered to be in charge of fishing. After research, the fishing boat will hold six to ten people and will cost \$80 per person.

Banquet: We discussed whether to have the banquet hosted on site on at another location. It was decided it would be better to have the banquet catered at our location. We discussed the possibility of having the banquet catered by the Back Bay

restaurant. After some research it was decided that we would have a better meal and cheaper if we used the catering service from Broom's Grocery. They are used exclusive by Keesler AFB. We decided on the Imperial Meal and we will charge \$25 per person. We need to check to see what is furnished with this as far as table cloths and eating utensils. Betty has some plastic wear which might be enough. Also, Doris Miller agreed to purchase plastic table cloths and provide table decoration if desired. Dick will get back to the committee with this information after a meeting with Broom's. It was suggested we could get plastic silverware and tablecloths at Sam's Club at a very reasonable price.

Tours: We looked over available tours as suggested by the Biloxi visitors center. Most of them we decided against. There was a local Historical tour but it was limited to 19 people at a time. They had a 10 am in the morning and another in the afternoon at 1 pm, and would pick us up at the Jeff Davis home of Beauvoir which is only a block away and would include a tour of the home. Cost would be \$25 per person. Doris Miller is checking on another possible historical tour.

Ladies Event: This event will be held during the business meeting of the association. A lady will conduct a painting event.

Increased Attendance: It was decided after a discussion to get a newsletter out ASAP as soon as J.C. Arrington has the necessary information. Also, a postcard will be sent out in the fall with a follow up newsletter sent out in early January. Probably the best way to get additional members to attend or even new

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

Members at Large-6

Ray Reaves

Sid Marcus

John Parker

Will Salazar

Gene Ramsay

Eric Wiener (109th)

Past Presidents — 3

Jay Walker

Alan Anderson

Bruce Huff

ones is to personally contact your friends and tell them you sure would love to see them again. Dick stated if he had a good e-mail list he would e-mail everybody to remind them of the reunion. J.C. will get Dick a copy of e-mails on Excel. It was also decided that to encourage early registration by a certain date (to be determined) would have a chance to win a free night in the hotel.

Increased attendance: (cont)

Three or four names will be drawn after the early registration date for a free night paid for by the association. These names will published in the January 2014 newsletter.

A discussion was had on how to get more 109th NYANG attendance. We will offer the VP position to a 109th member and also a Member at Large position to a 109th member. We feel that for this association to continue we need more young blood. We might have to have a reunion up north to get more 109th members. Also, we had a discussion on how to get the current Firebird squadron who flies the C-17's from Alaska to attend. Dick stated he had written the 517th Commander but had not gotten a response. We felt Gene Ramsey would be a good liaison with the 517th. Dick will touch base with Gene.

Nomination Committee: Dick stated we needed a Nomination Committee to select the next new Vice President and a member at large. The Planning Board decided to be the Nominating Committee and promptly selected the following persons to be approached as the new Vice President. Note they are in order of desired VP's: Eric Wiener (declined), Charlie Heifner, Ray Reaves, Ken Pribyia. Member at Large: Nick Cossu from the 109th.

Fees: It was decided on Registration Fee would be \$40 per family and Banquet Fee would be \$25 per person. Also, Golf Fee will be \$60 per person and Fishing Fee is \$40 per person. Historical Tour Fee with Beavior is \$25 per person limited to 19 in the morning and 19 in the afternoon.

Entertainment: It was decided not to have a band because some of the members stated that it was to loud and they had trouble talking above the music. Betty suggested they could bring a CD player that will hold 8 CD's and plays continuously. We could all bring our favorite CDs.

Maybe even a Sirius/XM receiver would work well if it could be amplified.

Static Display: It was suggested we contact Eric Wiener and see if a training mission could be set up to Keesler AFB during the reunion. We will comp the crew rooms.

Transportation: Sal asked how people would get from the airport to the hotel. Exclusive Taxi at 228-323-0339 can pick them up at the airport and take them to the hotel for \$30 for up to six passengers. This will be published in the January newsletter.

All Board Members: All present agreed to arrive on Friday before the reunion to help set up.

This being all the business brought before the Board, the meeting was concluded at 10:10 am on the 23rd of April, 2013.

Respectfully Submitted,

Warren Miller
Secretary.

TAPS	
Jennings Lynch	8 Jan 2012
Maurice Kaiser	24 Jan 2012
Clement Doherty	26 Feb 2012
Robert Bartunek	15 April 2012
David Strange	6 May 2012
Wanda Liskow	26 Oct 2012
Donald Girven	5 March 2013

Hotel Accommodations: All hotel accommodations will be handled directly by the Quality INN, 2414 Beach Blvd. Biloxi, MS 39531. (228) 388-1000 or (228) 388-8346. E - m a i l : gm.MS200@choicehotels.com. Pearl Trinh General Manager.

Rates: Single Queen bed \$78.40 King size bed \$84.00, Double beds \$89.60. These prices include taxes, and a minimum of two night stay, also, no pets are allowed.

Early Bird Drawing: On January 1, 2014 a drawing will be held. Three names will be drawn from the list of Firebirds that have early registered. Each winner will receive one free night at the hotel during the reunion!

Travel: Airport Arrivals: Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport. (about 12 miles from the airport to the hotel) www.FlyGPT.com

Airport Authority
Office 228-863-5951
14035-L Airport Road
Gulfport, MS

Airlines
AA- American Airlines
American Eagle 1-800-433-7300
www.aa.com

UN- United 1-888-674-4680
www.United.com

DL- Delta Air Lines 1-800-221-1212 www.delta.com

US- US Airways 1-800-428-4322
www.USAirways.com

V2- Vision Airlines 1-877-359-2538 www.VisionAirlines.com

Taxi service is available to the hotel.

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 missions 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.



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*.

FIREBIRD ASSOCIATION REUNION 2014

**The Quality Inn
Biloxi, Mississippi**

April 6-9 2014

Tentative SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- Revised 06/1/2013

Sunday, April 6th— Travel Day	12:00-23:00 Registration in Firebird Hospitality Suite. 12:00-23:00 Hospitality Suite open. 18:00-23:00 Deli trays in the afternoon and early evening for the “Early Birds”.
Monday, April 7th— Reunion Day	06:00-09:30 Free Breakfast—Hotel Lobby. 07:00-23:00 Hospitality Suite open, free food and drink. 07:00-13:00 Golf Tournament. 06:30-13:00 Fishing Trip. 09:00-16:00 Historical Tours. 10:00-14:00 Registration continues in hospitality suite.
Tuesday, April 8th - Reunion Day	06:00-09:30 Free Breakfast—Hotel Lobby. 07:00-17:00 Hospitality Suite open. 10:00-12:00 Ladies Party-Hotel Breakfast area. 10:00-12:00 Firebird Association business Meeting— Hospitality Suite. 13:00-16:00 Lunch Break (on your own). 19:00-22:00 Banquet: Presentation of awards and new officers. 22:15-Till Hospitality Suite open.
Wednesday, April 9th - Travel Day	06:00-09:30 Free Breakfast—Hotel Lobby. 07:00-12:00 Hospitality Suite open for visitation purposes.

Schedule is subject to revision. Check in at the Firebird Hospitality Suite upon arrival for the latest changes.

Firebird Association Reunion 2014
 Biloxi, MS
 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	\$ _____

		<u>Number</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Total</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Golf Tournament - TBA	Monday: 07:00 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 History Tour	Monday: 09:00-16:00	___	@ \$25.00 ea.	\$ _____

Golfers: List average 18 hole scores here: _____ **Amount Enclosed:** \$ _____

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

Hotel reservations are NOT included on this form. To reserve a room, call the Quality INN at **228-388-1000**. 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

Address: _____

Renewal

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____ + _____

Phone: (____) _____ FAX: (____) _____

E-mail: _____

Units: 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