



Firebird Flyer



Volume 11 # 2

The Firebird Association

January 15, 2008

Firebirds to Gather in Galveston

By Nolan Bailey
Firebird Association Historian

It's difficult for one to believe that, at the next reunion, ten years will have passed since the Firebirds first flocked to Biloxi in 1998. Counting the first Firebird Association reunions held in Abilene during 1982, 1983, and 1984, there will have been a total of nine reunions including the upcoming 2008 gathering.

Those that attended the Branson reunion during 2006 will recall that the reunion sites proposed at the general membership meeting were Wright-Patterson, Nashville, and Abilene. So, how did Galveston become the site for the next Firebird gath-

ering? "It's elementary, my dear Watson." Well, perhaps not too elementary after all.

According to the minutes from the Branson reunion members interested in these particular sites were to research each location and send the results to the planning committee. Months passed and no information was presented.

As the decision date grew near, Firebird Chuck Lavoie traveled to the Biloxi area and visited twenty-six different hotel properties. And, he contacted several caterers and collected their menus. Only one hotel he found would meet the Firebird requirements.

A week or two later, the

reunion planning committee met in Bossier City to discuss the next reunion and to determine the suitability of Shreveport/Bossier as a reunion site. No hotel met the Association's hospitality room requirement.

Firebird President Bruce Huff and his wife, Betty,

In This Issue

Gather in Galveston....	1&2
By Laws.....	2&3
President's Letter.....	6&7
Welcome.....	5
Historian's Homily....	8&9
Taps.....	9
Reunion Schedule.....	10
Hotel Accommodations..	11
Reunion Activities...13&14	
Travel Information...14-17	
Registration Form...18&19	
Membership Application	20

Firebird Association

Officers

President:
Bruce Huff

Vice-President:
Alan Anderson

Treasurer:
Bob Mattingly

Secretary:
Warren Miller

Historian:
Nolan Bailey

Newsletter Editor:
J. C. Arrington

Board Members

Sam Arnold
Dick Dodge
Sid Marcus
John Parker
Graham Pritchard
Jay Walker
Bill Wilburn
Bernie Warren

Past Presidents — 3

Jerry Livingston
John Root
Ron Dalby

Galveston (continued)

left Bossier and drove directly to Biloxi to visit the one motel that Chuck recommended. After the visit they decided that Biloxi would not be ready for at least two years.

This left no site on the table until someone suggested Galveston. The newly formed Troop Carrier-Airlifters Association recommended the site and had held their reunions there for the last two years.

Bruce and Betty spent a few days in Galveston, were impressed, and asked John Parker and Nolan Bailey to make a visitation to Galveston, and to present a report upon their return home. Both members of the visitation team recommended the new site after staying at the suggested reunion hotel, and touring the area with Mrs. Sheri Teller, the Galveston CVB representative.

The next reunion will be held at the LaQuinta Inn and Suites, 8710 Seawall Boulevard, Galveston,

Texas 77554, Phone: (409) 740-9100 Fax: (409) 744-0782. For more information on the reunion and the reunion hotel please visit the Firebird Association Website using <http://www.firebirds.org/reunion/reunion.htm>

Bylaws Revision

As required by Association bylaws, the following proposed revisions will be considered and voted upon at the Galveston general membership meeting.

Section 1: ORGANIZATION

The Board of Directors shall consist of fifteen members. In addition to the Officers of the Firebird Association, which include the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Historian, and Newsletter Editor, the Board of Directors shall include the last three Immediate Past Presidents, and six (6) Directors at Large. All members of the Board should reflect the general make-up of the

active membership, and each shall have one vote. The Executive Board shall include, but not be limited to, the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Historian, and Newsletter Editor.

Section 4: ELECTION AND TERM.

Terms of office for Firebird Association Officers end and begin on the first (1st) day of the month following the biennial meeting: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Historian, and Newsletter Editor. Association officers shall be elected by the membership at the biennial general meeting of the Association, according to procedures determined by the Board of Directors, for a term of two years. The Vice President shall succeed the President when the President's term of office expires--a limit of two terms--unless otherwise specified by a quorum vote of the Board of Di-

rectors. The Board Members at Large shall be elected for a term of four (4) years on a rotating basis. Three (3) At Large Board Members are to be elected each election year.

Section 7: SPECIAL/ EMERGENCY MEETINGS.

Special/emergency meetings may be called by the President provided written notice is sent to each member of the Board of Directors at least seven days in advance. If necessary to secure a quorum at such meetings, absent members of the Board of Directors may fully participate by telephone conference call. **Such participation shall constitute attendance in person.**



NEW

The Lonestar Flight Museum offers prearranged Airplane rides. The rides must be prearranged so that a flight crew will be available.

Call Larry Gregory
(409) 740-7722
Fax (409)740-7612

B-17 \$425 per person
(min 5 max 7)

B-25 \$375 per person
(min 4 max 5)

Smaller airplanes \$225
per person.

WWW.lonestarflight.org

flight@lonestarflight.org

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 TO GALVESTON

This is a special invitation to all Firebird Association members to attend the 2008 reunion. I included these pictures to “shake loose” a few memories. It does not matter if you are in the 517th, the 109th, or were in the 61st, 17th or VXE-6. We are all comrades. We share the same background. Officer or enlisted, Flight crew, or support, we are comrades.

Please come to Galveston, TX in April 2008, and let us make the Firebird reunion the best one ever held.

J.C. Arrington



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Firebirds,

In October the Firebird Committee mailed three hundred post cards to all members who had paid dues from the year 2000 to the present. Of these, thirty-three were returned for various reasons. Most were because of UTF (unable to forward), and three were deceased. Since that mail out, we have lost another member. As our original group dwindles and new people are coming in, the faces and names are beginning to change but the purpose remains the same, fellowship between friends.

No one position in the Firebird society is more important than another. Each individual performed a paramount duty which when combined with all the other individual duties, becomes a finely oiled working operation. If one position failed the whole operation was in jeopardy. Failure was simply not an option. Out of the acceptance and knowledge of this responsibility, there grew a respect and camaraderie which spawned the Firebird Association.

The reunion is about rekindling this spirit of oneness that has existed for so many years and sharing it with the younger members. The mission of some of these newer generations is so advanced that many of us older fellows wouldn't fit in. It's the mixing of the old and the new that gives life to this organization and you do not want to miss a second of this forming fraternity.

Don't let this opportunity pass you by, make your reservation for April 2008 and be there. These next three months will go by in a hurry. Remember, your reunion registration does not reserve your room. You must call the hotel 409-740-9100 or 1-800-531-5900. Be sure to tell them you are a Firebird.

Mr. Willis Gandhi, Gen Manager of LaQuinta has blocked out his entire facility for the Firebird Association until March 1, 2008. The block will then be removed from the remaining rooms and they will be used for general occupancy. This could result in someone not being able to get a room simply because he drug his feet.

ATTENTION SMOKERS: La Quinta is a non-smoking facility as is most Galveston locations. Be sure that you ask for a balcony room so that you have access to the outside for a leisurely smoke.

FROM THE PRESIDENT (cont.)

A smoking area will be provided in a roped off Firebird section. Located in the downstairs, open air covered garage, it will adjoin the number 2 hospitality room. Seating may be limited so feel free to bring your own folding chairs. Be sure to label your chairs. We will furnish tables and ashtrays.

There is an area on the west side of the hotel that can easily park three or four Rvs. This is not part of the hotel but Willis has permission to use the property. There are no hook-ups. I would suggest that you inform Willis himself if you plan to use this space. Galveston has several RV parks. They are listed in another section of this news letter.

Your Reunion Committee has been working very hard to put together a reunion that has something for everybody. There are still some things in the works. Our schedules are arranged, we are just still working on details. We are attempting to stage the best reunion ever.

Ya'll Come,
Your President

Address which are not current.

When we mailed out the post cards in October, these were returned. If anyone has the correct address please e-mail them to me. J.C. Arrington (arrington@hughes.net)

Carrroll L. Bass
Charlie Carter
Gregory Fritchie
Henry C. Van Dyke
William M. Gauthier

Mrs. Jerry Harris
Kenneth N. Hilchey
William J. Heaphy
Mrs. Alexander Janis
Mrs. Carlene Nichols

John C. Sand
Mrs. Gary Schmidt
Kenneth M. Skelps
Leonard P. Worchester

Historian's Homily

In less than four months the ninth Firebird Association reunion to be held in the last twenty-six years will become a reality. At the first Biloxi reunion the Firebird Association Board of Directors voted to hold a reunion every even year. The intent is for this to become a tradition, but the continuation of any reunion depends upon the active participation of current and prospective members.

For the last several reunions the slogan has been "If you build it, they will come." In 1998, 270 members attended, and this year the *mission* is to fill all 120 rooms at the Galveston LaQuinta Inn and Suites with a Firebird Association member. Another excellent reunion is being built. Standard rooms at the LaQuinta have been reserved at a special rate of \$70.00 per night plus tax. If you've been thinking of attending, please make your room reservations soon. Around the first of March, all unreserved rooms must be returned to the hotel for rent at their regular rates, which are usually over \$100.00 per night.

If you've never attended a Firebird Association reunion, let this be your first. It promises to be "an affair to remember." If you came to the last gathering, consider visiting with old friends once again. I'm sure that there will be many new faces in attendance this year. Your "being there" will make the reunion complete for someone else. This kind of "networking" will make this reunion a success, and insure that there will be many future reunions to attend.

In one of the best baseball films ever made, a *Field of Dreams*, an Iowa farmer played by Kevin Costner, hears a voice one day that says, "If you build it he will come." Then, Costner builds a baseball field in his corn patch, so he can watch his heroes return from the grave and play. In fact, this motion picture is not just for baseball fans and soft touches. It's also for those who have experienced loss and want, just for a few minutes, to dream of regaining that which has been lost— of having the chance to say what one has always wanted to say to someone but didn't. In that respect, Firebird reunions are the same. Our reunions allow one to step back in time and regain and share with friends, just for a few hours, those special memories that formed so many years ago. At the end of the movie, Kevin Costner's character asks his father, "Is there a heaven?" and his father answers, "Oh yeah. It's the place dreams come true." All of the Firebirds should gather in Galveston and help build a little bit of "heaven."

For the most part, the long hours, and out-of-pocket dollars spent in planning a reunion are not very rewarding. Planning a reunion is hard work and, not to mention, time consuming. The payoff comes for a reunion planner on reunion day, when dozens of Firebird Association members show up in the hospitality room, and make it all worthwhile. It is more than enough “payment.” Please let Galveston planners know how successful they have been, whether or not there should be any future reunion, and how well their work is valued, by doing your very best to attend this reunion.

If one has never visited the area, Galveston is a small romantic island tucked deep within the heart of south Texas possessing all the charm of a small town. The island has 32 miles of relaxing shoreline and is surround with incredible history and unique tranquil beauty. So, come to Galveston and enjoy the sights, sound, succulent seafood, soothing sea breezes, sandy seashore, splendiferous palm trees, and seductive serenity of “Biloxi West.”

A registration form and tentative schedule of events for April 6-9, 2008, has already been posted on the Firebird Association Internet site (WWW.firebirds.org). If you plan to attend, and just haven’t committed yourself to date, please sign up soon. The planning committee can make better plans as soon as they have a good count of attendees. With warmest regards.....

Nolan Bailey, Firebird Historian

TAPS

Donald Thompson Lt. Col. USAF (Ret.)
Died, Feb.11, 2007

John K. Wright Msgt USAF (Ret.)
Died, March 31, 2007

Randal Lattin (son of Gary Lattin)
Died April 17, 2007.

Joyce Littleton (wife of Ora C. Littleton)
Died December 2007

Wanda Tinney
(Widow of Col. Robert Tinney)
Died March, 2006

Lee Walker
Died February, 2006

C.D. Medlin
Died August, 2002

Richard Schmidt
Died December, 2001

FIREBIRD ASSOCIATION REUNION

**The La Quinta Inn and Suites
Galveston, Texas**

April 6-9, 2008

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- Revised 01/14/2008 -

Sunday, April 6th – Travel Day	1200-1900: Registration in Firebird Command Post – La Quinta Inn and Suites Board Room 1200-2400: Hospitality Suite opens** -- Location(s) to Be Announced 1730-1900: Hors d'oeuvres and deli trays in afternoon and early evening for the "Early Birds"
Monday, April 7th	0630-1030 Free Continental Breakfast—Main Lobby 0700-1400: Golf Tournament 0700-1300: Fishing Trip 0900-1030: Galveston tour train 1000-1400: Registration continues in hospitality room 1700-2000: Hospitality Suite open -- Free <i>Surprise Food & Beverages</i> event
Tuesday, April 8th	0630-1030: Free Continental breakfast -- Main Lobby 0930-1730: Hospitality room available** 0930-1100 Ladies surprise party 1000-1200: Firebird Association business meeting and programs. 1300-1400: Air Museum Tour 1430-1630: Moody Gardens tour 1800-1930: Buffet at the Moody Gardens Garden Restaurant*** 1900-2100: Banquet Program - TBA 1800-2200: Music for your dancing and listening pleasure—Moody Gardens 2200-2400: Hospitality Suite open**
Wednesday, April 9th - Travel Day	0630-0930: Free Continental breakfast for hotel guests -- Main Lobby 0700-1200: Hospitality room 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.

*** Saturday 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.**

Galveston Hotel Accommodations

All hotel reservations will be handled directly by the La Quinta Inn & Suites, 8710 Seawall Blvd, Galveston, TX 77554. Phone 409-740-9100 to make room reservations. Rooms may be reserved beginning September 28, 2007.

Normal room rates are over \$100 per night during April, but General Manager Willis Gandhi of the La Quinta Inn and Suites is setting up a special price of \$70.00 per night for all "standard rooms," which are not a suite. Two-room suites will be priced at \$109 per night. This special rate does not include state and local taxes of approximately fifteen percent (15%).

Be sure to inform the reservations clerk that you want the special Firebird Association room rate-- Group Code: Firebird Reunion

All rooms have been re-

served 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. Note that three different Firebird Association members, and their wives, have traveled to Galveston to check this property and have recommended it for our reunion.

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

The La Quinta Inn & Suites is located just three miles from the center of the island city of Galveston. The hotel has a sparkling outdoor Swimming Pool and a relaxing Hot Tub, plus a Fitness Center

for use at one's leisure. Every morning, guests may enjoy a tasty complimentary Continental 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. There are 120 rooms in the hotel, so let's make it our goal to fill them all with Firebirds.

RV PARKS

Bayou Shores RV Park
888-744-2837
Www.bayoushoresrvresort.com
Dellanera RV Park
409-740-0390
Www.dellanerarvpark.com
Galveston Island RV Park
409-744-5464
Galveston Island State Park 409-737-1222
Www.tpwd.state.tx



The *Garden* Restaurant
FIREBIRD
DINNER BUFFET
April 8, 2008

Roast Chicken Vegetable Soup
Seafood Gumbo
Assorted Cheese Display
Fresh Seasonal Fruit
Garden Salad
Caesar Salad with Garlic Croutons
Greek Feta Salad with Portobello Dressing
Chilled Seafood Salad
Golden Carrot Raisin Salad
Mozzarella Basil Pasta
Baby Carrots with Japanese Cucumbers & Thai Dressing
Waldorf Salad
Roast Pork Loin with Fresh Rosemary
Broiled Tilapia with Lemon Butter
Seafood Pasta
Garden Cordon Bleu
Fresh Green Bean Almondine
Cinnamon Glazed Carrots
New Potatoes au Gratin
Broccoli with Hollandaise
Assorted Fresh Baked Rolls
Bourbon Bread Pudding with Pineapple Sauce
Chocolate Supreme Cake
Italian Strawberry Cream Cake
Honey Carrot Cake
Iced Tea
Coffee

\$21.00 per person* Inclusive
Tuesday April 8, 2008
6pm– 10pm

REUNION ACTIVITIES

TOUR:

A brief tour of the island for 70 people is scheduled for Monday April 7, 2008. Weather permitting, the Galveston Tour Train will load at the hotel at 9:AM. This is an open-air driving/talking tour that covers seventeen miles and takes about one and one half hours and delivers back at the hotel. By making this tour you will get a look at all of the island locate the places that you would like to car-pool back to in the afternoon for an individual tour. Tour fee is \$10.00 per person and will be refunded if the tour does not go. Reservations are necessary and will be taken in the order that they were received and must be paid for at the registration table prior to departure. Dress warmly. Call Bruce Huff at 718-827-7972 and leave a message or e-mail b.huff@att.net.

FISHING TRIP:

Jay Walker has confirmed a half day trip for all of you fisher peoples. You will leave around 7 AM and return around noon. The times are approximate because there is a Tide involvement. The cost is \$75.00 per person with 6 people per boat. We already have one boat scheduled and are working at filling a 2nd and maybe a 3rd. You must have a fishing license which is \$10.00 for TX residents and \$15.00 for non-residents. Most Wal-Mart stores sell fishing licenses. You will need to bring your own supply of food and drinks and a cooler and warm jacket. Everything else is supplied. Notify Jay Walker at walker130@aol.com or Bruce Huff at 713-827-7975 (this is a monitored line, please leave a message) or e-mail at b.huff@att.net.

GOLF:

Alan Anderson has finalized arrangements for the Firebird Golf Tournament. You will need to contact Alan at 1-888-441-6060 or e-mail aca3@genesco.net. Alan will be away from home for a part of this time but will monitor his calls daily. If you have a problem, call Bruce Huff at 713-827-7975 (this is a monitored number so please leave a message) or e-mail b.huff@att.net. Price is \$40.00 per player and includes lunch and prizes. Begin around 8:30AM and finish around 3:00PM. Plan to car-pool, the course is about a 25/30 minute drive. Take a warm jacket.

REUNION ACTIVITIES (Cont.)

POSSIBLE STATIC DISPLAY:

We are still trying for a static display from the 109th NYANG TCW. At this point prospects do not look good, Washington says "NO" so we are trying a different approach. Plans for Tuesday afternoon can not be finalized until the display matter is resolved. Regardless, we have tours planned for both The Lonestar Flight Museum and Moody Gardens. Should we get the display, it will be at the museum. The two facilities are located with adjoining parking lots and tram-transport between the two. This part of the plan has been agreed on we're just not certain of the exact times. Moody Gardens has 3 main areas to tour. They are worth the \$5.00 charge. That is \$5.00 for each attraction, they have an aquarium that is world class and a rain forest and a I-MAX theater. By April we will have a show program for the I-MAX.

BANQUET:

Moody Gardens will shut down entry to the public at 4:30PM but remains open until all tours have been completed, about 5:30PM. Complete touring facilities are then closed and only the restaurant facility is open for reserved parties such as ours. This facility has a beautiful open view of Offat Bayou and West Bay. There is seating at a outside veranda, weather permitting. The meal is full buffet with a pretty fabulous menu..You can pick one up at the reunion registration desk. The doors open at 6:00PM with a cash bar. Cost is \$21.00 per person we have live music from 6:00PM to 10:00PM for your listening pleasure. Attire for the evening is Dress/Casual.

TRAVEL INFORMATION

ATTENTION: There are two LaQuinta Hotels on Galveston Island. You will be going to the one on the west end, near the airport, 8710 Seawall Blvd.

AIR LINES: No commercial air lines fly into Galveston. Arrivals must fly into Houston, either Bush International or Hobby International. If you plan to rent a car and you are arriving at Bush International, then you will have to drive through downtown Houston. Check the Houston Travel section. Hobby is about thirty miles closer to Galveston and is much easier to travel from.

TRAVEL INFORMATION (cont)

Galveston Limousine Service has an hourly pick up and delivery to both airports. You must make your own arrangements for this service. The round trip cost from Bush is \$60.00, from Hobby is \$50.00. Be sure to tell the reservation clerk that you are a Fire-bird for a \$5.00 discount. Phone 409-740-5466 or 800-640-4826.

DRESS: Bring warm cloths. Galveston is open to the Gulf of Mexico and even with her mild temperatures, the almost constant sea-breeze can leave you with a chill.

HOUSTON TRAVEL HINTS:

Houston has two major complete loops, the inner loop is 610, the outer loop is Beltway 8.

NOTE—Beltway 8 and Sam Houston Parkway run concurrently. Parts of the Sam Houston Parkway are toll areas, some are not. Eventually the total parkway will be tolls, but for now it is still a work-in-progress. If you stay on the ground level of Beltway 8 there are no tolls, but you have traffic lights and cross streets. Tolls run between 25 cents to \$1.25, and you can get change by going thru a booth in a lane with a blue overhead sign.

If you are driving thru Houston from the west on I-10 and you would like to miss a lot of construction delays, (sometimes an hour or more) and also miss downtown altogether, take State Hwy 6 to the south. Check a map. It is several-many miles further and has some local traffic, some traffic lights, but it is a good road. 'Beats bumper to bumper for 15 miles. I live in this area and it almost never lets up.

If you prefer to travel I-10 thru downtown then read carefully. After you have crossed under Beltway 8/ SamHou Pkwy, stay in one of the two left lanes. After you cross under Loop 610 remain in one of the two left lanes. Stay in the 2nd from the left as much as possible because eventually that lane feeds into I-45 south. Once you've made the feed, you will be on I-45 South. Move into the 2nd from the right lane ASAP. Go about 1 1/2 miles and you will see a large overhead sign that says "GALVESTON". This is over the right lane, don't panic, both lanes feed into the I-45 South elevated thru downtown. Important— **STAY IN THE MIDDLE**...both the right and left lanes exit and without much warning. Once you leave the elevated portion, you are on I-45 South. From here it is a nice multi-lane freeway all the way to Galveston, about 45 minutes.

TRAVEL INFORMATION (cont)

IMPORTANT: I-45 has a street name, “The Gulf Freeway”. They are the same.

If you are driving from the east on I-10, the best way is I-10 to Beltway 8/ Sam Houston Pkwy, go south on Beltway 8 to I-45, then go south on I-45 to Galveston. It’s about 30 minutes travel time.

If you are traveling from the east and you would like to meander thru the country-side, take state hwy 124 south at Winnie TX. 124 goes south to the beach road state hwy 87. Go west on hwy 87 to the Bolivar Ferry. The ferry is a free ride across to Galveston Island. “Draw Back”....these are not large boats and the wait can be as long as an hour, but usually is only about 15 min.. When exiting the ferry, stay on Hwy 87 until you reach Seawall Blvd. (only about a mile). Go west or right on Seawall for about 5 or 6 miles to the hotel.

Traveling from the N/E on Hwy 59, stay on Hwy 59 around to the south side of the downtown area and intersect with I-45, go south on I-45, about 45 minutes from Galveston.

Coming from the north on I-45, when you are going around downtown, stay in the next to the right lane and you will be OK.

Coming in from the N/W on Hwy 290 take Loop 610 to the east or left all the way around to the south side of Houston and go south on I-45. You are about 40 minutes away.

AIRPORT ARRIVALS-RENTING CARS:

Bush International Airport or HIA, Exit the airport on JFK Blvd to Beltway 8, go west or right on Beltway 8 to I-45 and follow the instructions already given for “Coming from the North on I-45”.

Hobby Airport..... Exit the airport on Airport road, go south or right to I-45, go south or right on I-45. You are about 40 minutes from Galveston.

EVERYBODY

GALVESTON ARRIVAL AND TRAVEL:

Cross the Galveston Causeway, turn right at 61st Street (there is a traffic light). Go to Seawall Blvd and turn right. The hotel is about 2 miles on the right. The bay is on the left. Look for the red roof.

FIREBIRD NEWS

Harold Sacane: Hal is suffering from a degenerative spine and was hospitalized twice in November. On November 29th he had a fall which left him unable to walk. Hal has since been moved to a nursing home with a therapist in an effort to secure physical therapy. Hal has a lot of friends, maybe a card or a telephone call would help. Their address is 129 East Plaza Drive, Clovis NM 88101-3531. Telephone # (575) 762-6474.

Billy Hales: Billy has become afflicted with a mysterious, un-predictable, and so far un-diagnosed series of seizures. He has had three in the last few months which have put him in the hospital. Doctors have not been able to pin point the problem. He is taking his meds and is being monitored. Unless his prognosis changes for the better, Billy will not be able to attend the April reunion in Galveston, but he sends greetings to all of his friends. Give him a call, let him know that you care. (318) 435-4313

Vietnam Trash Haulers Texas Beach Party: Organized by Sam McGowan (good friend to many of you guys) is scheduled for April 3,4,5, 2008 in Galveston, ending as the Firebird reunion begins. The Firebird committee has not attempted to include or make any overlapping plans because we were told that the whole party had been cancelled. However, Sam says that it is definitely back on track and to contact him if you are interested. "Trash Haulers" headquarters will be just about a mile east of the LaQuinta Inn and Suites at the Victorian Hotel, 6300 Sea Wall Blvd., Ph 1-800-231-6363 or (409) 740-3555 or Sam McGowan <sam C130@aol.com>

Troop Carrier/Tactical Airlift Association: is having a business meeting at the Clear Lake Hilton in Clear Lake, TX on February 2, 2008. The meeting will be across from the Johnson Space Center. All TCTAA members and prospective members are invited to attend. This will not be a formal reunion and will only last one day, but anyone wishing to spend time with friends is more than welcome to do so.

Firebird Association Reunion IX
Galveston, Texas
April 6-9, 2008
Registration Form

Registrant Information: (Please Print)

Name: _____

Address: _____

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

Telephone(s): _____

Spouse/Guest(s) Name(s): _____

E-mail Address: _____

Military Unit(s) _____ 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**	Discount before March 1, 2008	_____ @	\$25.00	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Reunion Registration Fee**	After March 1, 2008	_____ @	\$40.00	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Buffet Tickets**	Tuesday night dinner at Moody Gardens	_____ @	\$21.00	\$ _____

Tours & Activities:

(Subject to Availability, Interest, and Change)

		<u>Number</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Total</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Golf Tournament - TBA	Monday: 0730 to 1400	_____ @	\$00.00 ea.	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Deep Sea Fishing *** TBA	Monday: 0600-1800 (Min. 6)	_____ @	\$00.00 ea.	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Tour 1 - TBA	Monday: 0830-1300 (Min. 20)	_____ @	\$00.00 ea.	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Tour 2 - TBA	Monday: 0830-1730 (Min. 20)	_____ @	\$00.00 ea.	\$ _____

Golfers: List average 18 hole score(s) here: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Mail form and check to: Firebird Association, 1255 Circlewood Drive, Melbourne, FL 32935-5536

See additional important information below.

Hotel reservations are NOT included on this form. To reserve a room, call the Galveston LaQuita Inn & Suites at **409-740-9100**. 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 Galveston 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 2008-2009 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: _____

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