

Blackbird Association

As June approaches we are getting closer and closer to the major event of the Blackbird Association—our 19th Reunion which will be held at the Nugget Hotel in Reno, NV June 10-12.

Considerable effort goes into this soiree and we have had the great fortune to repeatedly muster a team of “go-getters” to manage not only the logistics of set-up while at the Nuggett, but also in the extensive prep work included in approving menus, finding worthy sponsors, committing to numerous contracts ranging from our room package to golf course tee times. We must further coordinate with those interested in providing exhibits for the Memorabilia Display and also those vendors who wish to make their products easily available to the attendees.

It is both with great regret, but also with honor, that I advise you that two of our most important members of the Reunion Staff, Fred Carmody and Caren Holder, will be on the sidelines as we prepare for this year’s gathering. Both have been invaluable to our continued success, but it is time for them to let others take the load and to enjoy the Reunion from far less stressful seats.

Fred Carmody has commanded this staff since it began—and his unfaltering attention to detail in matters ranging from Reunion fees to the resolution of hotel



rooms cannot be measured. He has been a master of every detail. His expertise, desire and “corporate wisdom” will be sorely missed.

Caren Holder has been a behind the scenes and not-so behind the scenes instrument of Reunions for as far back as many can remember. Without listing the myriad duties she performed first as a Lockheed employee but working in her spare time, and then on her own time reflecting her allegiance to Fred Carmody and her love of the Blackbird Community she has been a major factor in the success of our Reunions. Our many thanks to both Fred and Caren for the foundation they have set.

Joe Kinego has been our Banquet MC for the past several Reunions but he, too, will step aside as he has run out of material and Mrs Kinego would like to keep closer tabs on him during Reunion weekend. One could not find a better replacement to continue in Joe’s footsteps than Curt Osterheld who will take the reins this year.

As you may also notice from this page, Tom Danielson has offered his time and skills to fit into Fred Carmody’s shoes and orchestrate this very difficult Reunion task and the day to day ops of the Blackbird Association. Thanks Tom!

Rich Graham
habu5@verizon.net

Tom Danielson
habutom@comcast.net



Reunion & HABU Info



Kelly Johnson Award

This trophy was awarded to Pat Halloran at the 2009 Reunion for his lifetime of contributions to the Blackbird programs. He has been deeply involved in every aspect of both the U-2 and SR-71 programs from start to finish. Under his leadership as the 9th SRW Commander, SR-71s were used during the Yom Kippur War in 1973, flying nine of the longest operational missions ever flown and the first ever from the U.S. to this theater.

Golf—2011

Wildcreek Golf Course will again host our Captain's Choice Tourney with tee-times starting at 9:00. This should allow some of our players sufficient time to get over the previous evening's social events and choruses of *Darlin'* and still be able to return in time for Saturday afternoon activities, including the auction. Rental clubs will be available for \$25. Fee for the tourney is \$63.50 which includes green fees, cart, access to the range and a brown bag lunch with sandwich, chips and drink. The course is approx. 4 miles from the Nugget. Longest Drive and Closest to the Pin (all par-3's) contests will be included. Contact Terry Newgreen — tnewgreen@tampabay.rr.com or 727-580-2101 or Tom Veltri — tveltri@federalbusinessgroup.com or 571-243-4819 with ?'s or teaming arrangements.

Reunion Staff for 2011

Dave Ebersole	Banquet & Reception
Clyde Nickinson	Registration
Ron Burton	Heritage / Raffle / Memorabilia & Hospitality
Tony Bevacqua	Beale AFB Liaison
Terry Newgreen	Golf Tournament
Tom Veltri	Golf Tournament
Jack Madison	Newsletter

If you are interested in helping in the prep work, or sitting a "shift" at the Registration Desk, please contact Tom Danielson at habutom@comcast.net as soon as you can. We'd love for you to be a member of our team! We will also need some help with the Auction...in particular, the Silent Auction. If you have items to donate contact Ron Burton aspen32@comcast.net

Guest Speaker

Lt. General (Ret) Tom Keck has graciously consented to be the Guest Speaker at this year's reunion. Tom was a former SR-71 pilot and has also flown the A-10, B-1, B-52 and U-2 aircraft. He has over 4,600 flying hours (well over 400 in the SR-71), including 886 combat hours. In 1990 he was commander of Beale's 9th Reconnaissance Wing and the 55th Wing at Offutt AFB in 1993. General Keck retired as Commander of 8th Air Force, Barksdale AFB, in 2002. Tom will talk on the contribution of airpower to the current war on terror. Be sure to ask Tom about the Soviet's tradition of throwing a new pilot up against the landing gear...I think Tom chose the Vodka instead.

TRADITION!

The Reunion offers numerous opportunities to schmooze, to rekindle friendships, to relive our pasts and to discuss the future. HABU's, and those associated with the Blackbird Family of the SR-71 and U-2, are steeped in Tradition. MANY thanks to Joe Mathews and Curt Osterheld for reminding us how to do it up right. Your first class hospitality is appreciated!!

FEELING LUCKY??

Win a free Nugget Suite or Dinner for Two in the hotel. Send a separate check to: Blackbird Association Raffle, Box 477, Shingle Springs, CA 95682-0477 **NLT 16 May**. Ticket stubs will be given to you at Registration. Winners will be selected **ONE WEEK BEFORE** the Reunion. Non-winning tickets will be entered for the Reunion raffle drawings. You do not have to be present to win. Cost for the lottery?? \$10 for 15 tickets, \$20 for 40 tickets. Buy some early and often!

Photos & Graphics

Do you have any Reunion 2009 photos or SR-71 or U-2 Graphics to share? Please send them to:
emckim@san.rr.com or
Blackbirdmail@aol.com.
 Photos will be posted on E.D. McKim's website
 (HABUS.com)



Last September the U-2 faithful gathered at the Sheraton Grand Hotel in Sacramento for a few days of camaraderie, good eats, and excellent presentations. It was our good fortune to once again have General Kevin Chilton as the keynote speaker. The 350 or so in attendance were treated to a superb video commemorating the fallen brothers. The General also presented the DragonLady Association Aerial Achievement awards to Lt Col Joe Santucci, Lt Col Kevin Henry and Lt Col Ollie Olesen. These three airman showed remarkable airmanship and saved a very valuable national asset. We closed the 2010 55th anniversary reunion with a pledge to return in 2015, God willing. Pictures are available at www.u2dla.org. Thanks to Dick Panzica for this entry.

PayPal — IMPORTANT

Starting with the 2011 reunion we are going to offer online payment with credit cards or PayPal. We encourage all those attending to log on to <http://members.habu.org/order.html> for online registration. Read over all of the instructions on the web page.

If you prefer to pay by check, you will find the registration form in this newsletter. Remember, hotel reservations must be made by you directly with the Nugget Hotel. The hotel contact information is on the registration form as well.

As a last resort, our members are always welcome to pay at the reunion registration. This will help those of you whose last minute plans allow you to join us. Be sure to bring a check along or pay online once you arrive.

TRICARE Briefing

On Saturday afternoon, June 11th, at the 2011 Blackbird Reunion, Lt. Col (ret) Renee Swanson will be presenting a one hour program on what one should know about "TRICARE for Life", as well as discussing TRICARE Prime, Extra, and Standard. She will have copies of the slides and handouts and is prepared to answer questions for all age groups and categories of TRICARE service. Renee is willing to stay after the formal presentation to answer questions and be available for as long as necessary. It is important everyone is informed about all the benefits they are eligible to receive. Renee is the wife of Lt Col (ret) Erik Swanson, KC-135Q instructor pilot and 9th AMS Commander. Renee retired in 2005 after 22 years as a hospital administrator. The last ten years she worked at different levels of TRICARE and wrote the transition plan for the current TRICARE program for all beneficiaries in the Department of Defense. She wrote this plan for TRICARE Region 9, Madigan Army Medical Center, Ft Lewis, WA, which was the first Region to begin the current TRICARE contracts. Her plan was accepted as the model for DoD. She has held numerous positions including Squadron Commander and Hospital Administrator. Lt Col Swanson was part of the team that implemented the first TRICARE contract in 1996 and the TRICARE For Life demonstration project in Colorado Springs. ALL are welcome and encouraged to attend!

Bob Gilliland

An induction ceremony and banquet were held at the Tennessee Museum of Aviation, Sevierville TN, near Knoxville, November 13, 2010 to welcome its newest member, Bob Gilliland.

Getting together for Bob's induction was a great way to celebrate this fine honor bestowed by Bob's home state of Tennessee, and this was an excellent opportunity to enjoy some time in the beautiful Great Smoky Mountains National Park area of East Tennessee. You can learn more about the Tennessee Museum of Aviation and Aviation Hall of Fame at www.tnairmuseum.com or www.tnaviationhof.org.

Bob Minter was the primary organizer of the event.

CONGRATULATIONS to our good friend and aviation pioneer, Bob Gilliland!

Evergreen Museum

On June 19 & 20 2010, the Evergreen Museum in McMinnville, Oregon hosted their third SR-71 Symposium. On Friday night Mr. Lyle Rowley, father-in-law of one of the museum's staff, graciously hosted another outstanding dinner function for all Habus and guests at the Golden Valley Brewery. In appreciation, the Habus gave Lyle a loud vocal "HABU" and presented him a 24 inch SR-71 model made by James Crossly, a U-2 friend of Tony Bevacqua. Two SR-71 panel presentations were given on both Saturday and Sunday. Those attending were Gil Bertelson, Tony Bevacqua, Blair Bozek, Dave Burns, Donn Byrnes, Don Campbell, Buz Carpenter, Denise Garcia, Jerry Glasser, Bill Gornik, Mike Hull, Joe Kinego, Kirk Kuntson, George Morgan, Al Payne, Dave Peters, Jim Shelton, Frank Stampf, Don Walbrecht and Dewain Vick. Special thanks to Jerry Glasser who brought a detailed handout with considerable information about the SR-71 for those individuals who attended the panels. On Saturday, the museum hosted a dinner for special museum supporters and the Habus. Jim Shelton served as MC. He asked the Habus to speak about their experiences with the SR-71 program. He started with the maintenance personnel, without whose efforts the crews would not have had an aircraft to fly. Jim went to the engineering individual and finally the crew members. Two years ago, the museum opened their new Space building with the SR-71, D-21 Drone and all their support equipment. Over these past two years the Space exhibits have really increased. Their new endeavor is a new building that has a Boeing 747 setting on top of it and it will be a water park, with slide coming out of the 747 down to the water.

Missing Members—We need your help to find them!

LaVONNE ABBOTT	PAUL COOK	THOMAS HALL	BRIAN LONG	KEN SASINE
DEAN ADAMS	TIM COX	BOB HALL	DON LYKINS	RON SAVAGE
JOHN ALBERTSEN	BRUCE CUCUEL	GARY HAMILTON	TIM (JUG) LYLE	RUPERT SCAMMELL
DAVID ALDOUS	BILL CURRY	ELMER HANSON	JOHN LYNCH	PAT SCHLICHER
JERRY ALECKSON	RICHARD DALY	MARK HARGRAVE	PEGGY MALCOMB	VINCE SERGI
LONDON ALLEN	MIKE DANIELLE	BILL HARWOOD	MARC E. MANIS	DONALD A. SEURER
DUDLEY ALTON	LEX DAVIS	DON 'MUFF' HECKERT	J.L. McBRIDE	SHANNON SHERROW
JOHN ARCHER	NILA DECKER	MICHAEL HELTON	LARRY McCALL	PHIL SIMPSON
TOM ARMSTRONG	TONY DEMAIO	DAVE HENSLEY	CECIL McCAMMOND	MARK SMITH
DON ARNOTE	TONY DeMARINI	STEVE HERMAN	LEROY McDANIEL	JOY STEVENS
JIM ARVIN	WILLIAM DERDOCK	CHUCK HESS	GEORGE McDONALD	NORM SWANSTROM
BLAINE BACHUS	RICHARD DESTEFANIS	EDDIE HICKMAN	VERN McDORMAN	MIKE SWICK
KEN BAIRD	JOHN DINUBILO	CHARLIE HICKS	JERRY McKEAN	JOE TANGHERLINI
'SPANKY' BARBER	ALBERT DOBYNS	LOU (HAP) HOLLAND	GEOFFREY MCKINLAY	LYNN TATRO
JASON & JANE BARLOW	MATTHEW DONOVAN	WILLIAM HOLMAN	THOMAS MELLODY	ED TAYLOR
ED (Eddie-da) BARNETTE	GREGG DOTTER	BETTY HOLMAN	BOB MEYER	TARA THIESSEN
STEVEN BARRAZA	BILL DUFFY	MICHAEL HOLMES	AL MILLER	WARREN THORNTON
WAYNE BARRITT	HARRY EBERFLUS	JOHN HOROSZEWSKI	MICHAEL MONAHAN	JAMIE TOOMBS
CORY BARTHOLOMEW	MATTHEW EDWARDS	VIC HOSTEHER	BOB MOORE	EVAN TREVINO
BILL BAUER	JOHN FEDA	KIM HOWELL	CHRIS MOYER	FRANK TROFFER
BRIAN BEALS	PETE FISCHER	PETE HOYNES	BILL NAGEL	MARK TRULIN
PAUL W. BECKER	RAYMONDO FLORES	CHARLES R. HULEN	ROGER NAGEL	JOHN TURNER
CHRIS BENNETT	JIM FLOWERS	DICK JIMMINK	ROBERT NAKA	WAYNE TURRELL
ROLAND BERRY	CURTIS FLUKE	LARRY JOHNSON	BRUCE NEGRO	STELLA TYSON
RICHARD BOSZE	BOB FORD	JACK JOHNSTON	STANLEY NOVAK	JEFFREY VAIL
STEVE BRAGG	ELMER (JESSE) FRANCE	BRAD JONES	JAN NYSTROM	KENNETH VAN ZANDT
RON BROOKS	JERRY FRAZIER	EDWIN WELDON JONES	ROY OWEN	JERRY WAGNON
LARRY BROOKS	MIKE FRENCH	HOWARD JOSS	DANIEL PATTERSON	GREG WARE
GEORGE BROWN	DOTTIE FROMME	DAN KELLY	BRENT PATTON	JOE WELLER
MIKE BURROW	ELOY FUENTES	JAMES KELLY	BRUCE PERCIFIELD	STEVE & SUE WEST
JOYCE CADY	JOHN FUQUA	KEVAN KEY	PAT PETERSON	JAMES WEYLAND
MICHELLE CALLISON	CARL GAMBLE	JIM KIPPERT	BRYAN POLLOCK	CHRIS WHEATLEY
ART CANTIN	MARK GAULIN	EDWARD J. KIRKUS	DAN PREWITT	DON WHITE
JOHN CARNOCHAN	DAVE GIST	WILLIAM KITE	BOB RADTKE	RICK WILLIAMS
CAROL (MILLER)	TERESA GLASSMYER	CHRISTIE KLEVEN	DAVID RANDALL	TOM WILSON
CAUGHEY	RICHARD GLEERUP	CRIS KOEHLER	LEE RANSOM	STEVE WILSON
JIM CHEELEY	HECTER GONZALEZ	DAVE KOEHLER	BOB RIETZKE	LYLE WILSON
LARRY CHRISTIANSON	RICK GOODYEAR	JOHN KORHELY	DON RIETZKE	LLOYD WITTLAKE
ARTHUR CLEVELAND	ELLIS GRACE	GARY KRIER	GEORGE RISSE	BILL WOOD
RANDY CLINTON, JR	KENNY GRANNUM	MIKE KROTCHIE	FRED ROBINSON	MERVIN WREN
AL COBB	HAL GREENWALD	SANDRA LEONARDELLI	EDWIN RODRIGUEZ	JOE YAROSS
MICKIE COCKRELL	BUCK GROSS	PETE LEWIS	STEVE ROOT	TOMMY YATES
JIM COLAS	LARRY GROSS	STEVEN A. LEWIS	STEPHEN ROSS	LARRY ZIMARIK
DOUG COLE	MARIA GRYBKO	WAYNE 'LIB' LIBBY	ROBERT ROTHSTEIN	
MIKE COLIGNY	PATRICE HACKOS	LEONARD LIST	JIM RUSH	
ROBERT G. CONNELL	BYRON HALL	WALTER LOFTON	PHIL SAGE	

Reunion Committee — 2009

Dave Ebersole Banquet & Reception
 Clyde Nickinson Registration
 Caren Holder Heritage / Raffle & Memorabilia
 Tommie Thompson Hospitality & Memorabilia
 Ron Burton Hospitality & Memorabilia
 Tony Bevacqua Beale AFB Liaison
 Ben Raines Golf Tournament
 Charles Steward Hospitality
 Jack Madison Newsletter

Many thanks to these volunteers. Their efforts are considerable and time-consuming....but have made for a near seamless Reunion.

Strategic Air & Space Museum

The SR-71 is one of the most popular aircraft displays at the Strategic Air & Space Museum in Omaha. To meet this interest, the museum plans to bring the history of the SR-71 out of the shadows and to visitors through a four phase plan that will inspire, excite, and inform the guests. The first phase of this project will be the development, creation, and installation of a touch screen kiosk dedicated to the SR-71. The kiosk program will provide a wide range of information from early development history to personal narratives from crew members, maintenance personal, and staff. Museum visitors will not only learn about the predecessors of the SR-71 but also have the opportunity to view historic photos and film created by Lockheed Skunk Works. A photo crew and interviewer will be at the 2011 Blackbird Reunion to get as many personal stories recorded as possible. Please plan to attend the reunion and tell your story. Thanks to Harlon Hain for this entry

Moves & Retirements

Joe Kinego — from TASC
 Dave Nolte — from Hycon/McDonnell Douglas/Boeing

Replacement Cards — \$3

Blackbird Association
 1729 N. Nelson St
 Arlington, VA 22207
NLT 1 May 2011

The 2009 Golf Tournay was held at the Wildcreek Course on Saturday with about 30 players in fabulous weather and was supervised by Ben Raines. Many gifts were offered to the players—none greater than those offered thru Lockheed Martin with the help of Gen Al Joersz. Our thanks to all who contributed.

Three prizes were given to those who had the good fortune to meet the challenge. Samra Keller won the Most Accurate Drive, while Jack Madison somehow cornered both Longest Drive and Closest to the Hole honors.

E. D. McKim—www.habus.net Leland Haynes—www.wvi.com/~lelandh/sr-71~1.htm
 John Stone—www.blackbirds.net DragonLady Association—www.u2dla.org
 David Allison—www.habu.org Paul Kucher—www.sr-71.org Bob Stoner—www.habus.org
 RoadRunners—www.roadrunnersinternationale.com Mike Troiano—miketroiano.com/beale.html
 Larry Johnson—www.friendsoftheblackbird.com LERC—www.lercstore.com

Gone But Not Forgotten

Jim Jiggins	Bob Locke	Tim O'Keefe	Tom Estes	Jerry Moncree
Dick Erdman	Dwain Allen	Willy Horton	Lloyd Jones	Gus White
Leo Geary	Hal Simpson	Hack Mixon	Lou Garvin	Jim Bremner
Rich Judson	Jim Casteel	Bill Wuest	George Wehling	Torrey Larsen
Bobby Luker	Clarence White	Bill Gent	Leland Haynes	Dodge Trader
Chuck Wiethoff	Harold Burgeson	Keith Branham	Leland Haynes	
Dave Wheeler	Gary Frizzell	Bill Burgett	Jerry Carmody	Hervey Stockman

Admin Items

As a reminder, none of your personal info contained in the database will be given to others without your approval. Thus we will not provide address or phone number information to those within the Association or those who find you via the internet. We have, on occasion, forwarded self-addressed letters to our Members in search of old friends and co-workers.

Please take the time to review your address label and help us by updating any changes or additions/deletions. It seems the most often changed item is your e-mail address. Any updates, again, are confidential. Many thanks for your help. Send changes, with the Subject line "**Update**" to: **BLACKBIRDMAIL@AOL.COM** (Note: Almost any other "subject line" will send your note to the spam folder and then the electronic neverland)

MISSING Members—We continually try to find our "missing" members (see page 4) and sadly the list continues to grow. We humbly request you muster your best detective skills (remembering this IS a recce-oriented group) and try to find these Members. Send any "finds" to: **BLACKBIRDMAIL@AOL.COM**

Reunion Silent Auction

The Association would like to thank all who contributed numerous items for the Friday and Saturday night Silent Auctions as well as the raffle which took place in the Hospitality Suite on Saturday afternoon. Items included framed pictures, rare emblems, wood and glass art pieces, aircraft clocks featuring both the U-2 and SR-71, a hand-etched mirror with a U-2 cutaway, wine cork trivets, an SR-71 cribbage board and a Mach 3 Patch featuring numerous types of wood. Again, thanks to all who contributed and congratulations to those who now own bits of history and art. If you would like to contribute for the auction and raffle please contact Ron Burton (**aspen32@comcast.net**) or one of our Association chairmen whose e-mail addresses are listed on page 1.

***Blackbird Association
c/o Jack Madison
1729 N. Nelson St
Arlington, VA 22207***