

Blackbird Association

The 24th Blackbird Reunion, June 23-26, at the Nugget Resort Casino in Reno, is rapidly approaching. Our Reunion in 2019 saw over 350 guests, superior weather and a banquet highlighted by numerous embellished stories! This year's gathering promises to have equally intriguing words from the podium from NASA's Paul Dye as well as refreshed friendships and shared stories and memories.

Our 4 day event starting at noon on Thursday is, not surprisingly, a huge success. The Hospitality Suite will again be open early and for as many hours as we can muster! The Thursday start spreads out our reunion, giving you a more relaxing time to enjoy re-connecting with old friends and making a few new ones. You will note prices have gone up slightly--the Gaming Commission needs its cut and extra staff is now required due to protocols.

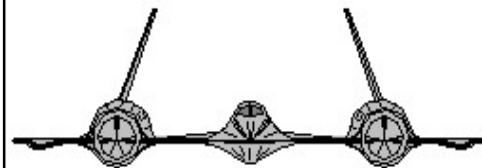
John Manzi has graciously accepted our invitation to put his rapier wit, quick smile and keen grasp of Tradition on display as our Master of Ceremonies. Prepare yourselves to be enlightened and entertained! Lance Gillam will again have his space suit collection on display.

Our intrepid golfers will play at the Red Hawk Golf Course, a new venue. We are planning yet another memorable gathering while enjoying the unique camaraderie and friendships of our Blackbird Association brothers and sisters. Where else can we share such recollections and "war stories" with our many friends who truly understand how special this group really is? Treat yourself to something magical...a chance to reconnect with your fellow Association Members. We encourage you to join us for a great time!

The Reunion Committee is looking for volunteers to sit a short shift behind the registration table, especially during our busy times. You will have the opportunity to meet all the fresh faces before they hit the hospitality suite! On Thursday morning, starting about



Tom Danielson
habutom@comcast.net
Rich Graham
habu5@verizon.net



10:00, in the Redwood 2 Room, we will need help stuffing swag bags. We are searching for volunteers to help manage the live auction (and if so-inclined, be the auctioneer) Saturday night at 9:30 after the Banquet. Let Ron Burton (aspen32@comcast.net) or Tom Danielson know if you can help.

Your generous contributions for auction items are greatly appreciated. All proceeds are used to

perpetuate our Reunions and newsletters. See more about donations for this Reunion later in the newsletter. We have also received numerous significant cash donations which are placed directly into the Association account responsible for all mailings. **THANK YOU!!**

The Blackbird Association continues to represent the finest that aviation has to offer. Amongst our membership are those who have flown the SR-71, U-2, KC-135 and those who kept us trained in the T-38. We have those who designed these fine aircraft, those who kept them running, those who provided parts, and pressure suits, and intel, and staff workers who kept it all in line and funded. Others planned missions or provided the unique reconnaissance equipment and defensive systems to make the missions successful. Who can ever forget a night engine run at Beale—beautiful and magic. There are so many who have contributed. Our thanks to this very unique community.

We need assistance in finding our "lost" Members listed on the last pages. You will note about 300 of our Association folks have slipped off of the proverbial radar. You can help, too, by updating any of your own outdated/incorrect information (changed email, cell phone #, etc). Even if there are no corrections or updates—consider an email just to let us know you are still out there?! Send any new/changed/missing information you wish to provide to:

Jack Madison
blackbirdmail@aol.com
(Subject line "Update") **OR**
Tom or Rich listed to the left.



Reunion Info



*The **Blackbird Association Trophy** is an achievement award presented to an individual who has significantly contributed to the Blackbird Program. The winner of the award will have, over many years, gone above and beyond in the performance of duties to perpetuate, foster and improve the Blackbird Program and its history.*

The 2019 recipient was Tom Danielson who is clearly recognized by the community as one of Our Greatest Supporters! Tom has flown operational missions in both the SR-71 and the U-2 flawlessly. Though “retired” now, Tom continues his selfless work to bring together such Blackbird activities as our Reunions. Tom has a complex and commendable professional history and is both a worthy and deserving winner, only the third recipient, of the **Blackbird Association Trophy**.

*The **Kelly Johnson Award** is presented to an individual or group who has distinguished themselves in the performance of duties to actively support the U-2 Program. The recipient will have demonstrated a lasting commitment to operational excellence in high-altitude manned reconnaissance and have exhibited the vision and leadership portrayed by Kelly Johnson that set him apart as a profoundly decisive figure in the establishment of the SR-71, U-2 and TR-1 Programs.*

Mr. C. L. "Kelly" Johnson graciously allowed the trophy to be named in his honor.

The 2019 recipient of the **Kelly Johnson Award** was the 5th Reconnaissance Squadron recognizing the continuous and tireless efforts the unit provided in supporting every aspect of the reconnaissance needs of our Nation.

Guest Speaker — Paul Dye

Paul Dye has over 40 years of aviation experience as an engineer, builder and pilot. His knowledge in this area spans from restoring old light aircraft to leading preparation and execution of manned spaced flights. He retired from NASA in 2013 as the longest-serving Flight Director in US history. He is the recipient of numerous aviation awards as well as author of a book reflecting on his time at Mission Control and lessons learned from his time with the Space Program.

Stan Gudmundson has coordinated the display of Lance Campbell’s incredible scale model SR-71, seen previously at the Reunion, as well as a viewing of the model in flight at the Dayton Valley Airport. In addition, he has tentatively arranged for short flights in a Stearman or T-6 aircraft at the same Airport. Details are being coordinated as to who and when a few of our lucky attendees will get this unique chance is in the works.

Tom Danielson — Co-Chairman & Budget
 Rich Graham — Co-Chairman
 Dave Ebersole — Banquet & Reception
 Clyde Nickinson — Registration
 Ron Burton — Logistics, Raffle & Auction
 Tony Bevacqua — Special Projects & ADP Liaison
 Terry Newgreen & Tom Veltri — Golf Tournament
 Jim Wilson — Guest Speaker Selection / Host
 David Allison — Signups & Nametags
 Jerry Glasser — Special Projects —
 Stan Gudmundson — Displays & Memorabilia
 Jack Madison — Newsletter / Publicity / Database

The staff listed above also reflects those who participated and served during Reunion 2019 and preparing for Reunion 2022. Our thanks for their efforts, both obvious and behind the scenes! They make it Happen — and their efforts are magnificent!

If you are interested in helping in the prep work, or sitting a “shift” at the Registration Desk, please contact Tom Danielson: habutom@comcast.net OR Clyde Nickinson: cmnick21@aol.com.

We will also need some help with the Auction. Items to donate? Contact Ron Burton at: aspen32@comcast.net or **Tom Danielson** (above) to find shipping information

Red Hawk Golf Course will host our Captain’s Choice event starting at 10:30 am allowing sufficient time to get over the previous evening’s social events and choruses of *Darlin’* and return in time for Saturday afternoon activities. The tourney fee is \$85 which includes green fees, cart, range balls and a brown bag lunch. Taylor Made rental clubs are available for \$35. The course is approx. 8 miles from the Nugget. Longest Drive and Closest to the Pin (all par-3’s) contests will be included (with LOTS of mulligans!).

Contact: Terry Newgreen: terry.newgreen@stsint.com 727-410-7692 or Tom Veltri: tveltri@federalbusinessgroup.com with questions or teaming arrangements.

The 2019 Golf Tourney featured 28 men and women in fabulous weather and was supervised by Terry Newgreen and Tom Veltri. Many gifts were offered to the players from our sponsors—United Airlines and the Lockheed Corporation. Should you have any similar items for the 2022 goodie bags for players such as balls, towels, tees, markers and divot tools please contact Tom.

The perennial Pros from Dover—Terry & Ellyn Newgreen, Tom Veltri, and Kent Traylor won the Team Competition. Many other post-play prizes were awarded.

Pay online or at the Registration Desk upon arrival with check to the Blackbird Association (nlt Friday at 12:00). We hope you will tee it up with us!

Master of Ceremonies—and Fun!

We are elated to announce that our own John Manzi will assume command of the dais as Master of Ceremonies at the Reunion Banquet. There can be no doubt that John's wit and clever intellect will make this banquet a topic of discussion and reflection for some time to come.

Our thanks to John for stepping up to the Podium to guide our history-filled Reunion with sincerity, humor and a keen insight into our Tradition.

Auction

The Association would like to thank all who contributed numerous items for the Friday and Saturday night Auctions as well as the raffle which took place in the Hospitality Suite on Saturday afternoon at Reunion 2019. Items included framed pictures, rare emblems, wood and glass art pieces, granite etchings, a belt buckle, art signed by crews and maintainers, and a whiskey bottle signed by the distiller. Thanks to all who contributed and congratulations to those who now own bits of history and art. Over \$6000 was entered into the Association account for future mailings and financial needs. If you would like to contribute your time or items for the Reunion Live Auction on Saturday Night after the Banquet please contact:

Ron Burton (aspen32@comcast.net) or
Tom Danielson (habutom@comcast.net)

Reunion Vendors

Mike and Stella Guiterrez (formerly of LERC) have graciously agreed to offer their excellent selection of clothes and memorabilia in Sierra 2.

Scrapbooks and Photo Albums

If you have photo albums or scrapbooks that you'd like to share, please consider bringing them with you to the Reunion. Tony Landis and Dave Allison will be bringing their scanners to archive your photos and put them on CD for you, free of charge. Don't miss out on this opportunity to share your part of Blackbird history.

Give & Enjoy at the same time!!

As there are numerous generous folks who intend to attend the Reunion (or feel guilty as they cannot) the Committee has allowed for a crew/company/team to pay the cost of a draft beer keg of their choosing for the Hospitality Suite (there will be plenty of beer—this is just your chance to get your name in lights)!!! The approximate cost is \$175 for a 15 gallon half keg. Contact Tom Danielson if interested.

Speaker Program (Sierra 3)

We are seeking daytime speaking presentations for our upcoming Reunion for both Friday and Saturday. This would be a great opportunity to present your technical skills or personal items that would be of interest to our audience. Presentations should be between approximately 10-30 minutes. Audiovisual support will be available as needed

If interested, please contact Jerry Glasser at habucom@comcast.net or 916-425-7712

PayPal — IMPORTANT

We offer online registration payment with credit cards or PayPal. Attendees can log on to:

<http://www.habu.org/members/order.html>
for online registration. Read all of the instructions on the web page.

If you prefer to pay by check, you will find the registration form in this newsletter.

Hotel reservations must be made by you directly with the Nugget Hotel. Hotel contact information is on the registration form as well.

Walk-in registrations are discouraged.

Blackbird Symposiums

There continues to be a keen interest in the great works of Kelly Johnson! Several SR-71 Symposiums are pending as we come out from the cloud of "the plague". Several such gatherings were cancelled during that time. Among those in the planning stage will be a gathering coordinated by Buz Carpenter at Cosmosphere scheduled for later this year

Hi Flyer Web Sites

E. D. McKim— habus.net

David Allison— habu.org & sr71.com

Paul Kucher— sr-71.org

John Stone— blackbirds.net

DragonLady Association — [in the works](http://intheworks.com)

RoadRunners— roadrunnersinternationale.com

Veterans Day 2021 and Hall of Fame

Colonel Joe Kinego, served as the 2021 Grand Marshall for the Pensacola Beach, FL, Veterans Day Parade. Many local organizations participated in the parade as well as many veterans dating back the WWII. Hundreds of flag-waving people, including many families with small children, lined the parade route to salute the Veterans. Joe, and his wife Bev, rode in the lead car waving and talking to the folks lining the route. The parade ended at the Memorial Pavilion on Pensacola Beach where Joe gave a Veterans Day speech honoring veterans to a crowd of several hundred.

His remarks focused on the fact that Veterans Day allows us the precious opportunity to reflect on what it means to be a patriot, and also to reflect on both the costs and the blessings of liberty. He stressed that our veterans have accomplished remarkable things throughout our nation's history, and that they could not have accomplished what they did without the support of their families. He closed by stressing that as we honor our veterans and remember their great deeds, we also must keep in our thoughts and prayers the fallen, the missing, and those who are currently serving in harm's way.

Joe will also be inducted into the Florida Aviation Hall of Fame in early April 2022

DragonLady Association

The next grand Reunion (ReU2nion) is tentatively scheduled for 6-9 Oct 2022 at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino near Beale. This is coming together as Huggy, and his Team, formulates the leadership of the organization, future goals and next steps.

DLA membership and information can be found by contacting Huggy at: **huggyu2dla@gmail.com**

Membership is open to those *directly associated* with the U-2 or SR-71 Programs. Contact Huggy for further information. Membership qualification will rest with the DLA leadership.

Huggy is also responsible for the effort to bring back the "Aspen" call sign (used with SR-71 training sorties) for use with the T-38 Program Companion Trainer flights!

BLACKBIRD ASSOCIATION DATABASE

As a reminder, none of your personal info contained in the database will be given to others without your approval. 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. The most often changed item is your e-mail address. Updates are confidential.

MISSING MEMBERS—We continually try to find our "missing" members (see pages 6-8) but the list continues to grow. We humbly request you muster your best detective skills (this IS a recce-oriented group!!) and try to find these members.

Send any changes to your address information or Missing Member "finds" with the Subject line "**Update**" to:

BLACKBIRDMAIL@AOL.COM

(Any other "subject line" will likely send your note to spam or the electronic neverland).

Beale AFB Command Structure

9 RW/CC — Col Heather Fox

9 RW/CV — Col Jason Eckberg

1 RS/CC — Lt Col Ben Laubscher

99 RS/CC — Lt Col Andrew Roberts

Flt Test — Konrad Trautman

Membership Cards

*Have you lost/misplaced your Association card, or just want to give them out to impress your friends? Please send your \$3 check made out to Blackbird Association **NLT 1 May** to:*

Blackbird Association

c/o Jack Madison

1729 N. Nelson St

Arlington, VA 22207

Do you have any Reunion photos or SR-71, U-2 or KC-135 Graphics to share? Send to:

E.D. McKim at: emckim@gmail.com or
Jack Madison at: Blackbirdmail@aol.com.

Photos will be posted on E.D. McKim's website: (**www.HABUS.net**)

If you can add the name(s) of those on the photo—even better!

Among the many items you may find most interesting at the Reunion will be access to two different books—both compiled by our members TD Barnes and Woody Woodrow. The first concerns the history of Area 51 while the latter concerns many aspects of the Physiological Support Divisions work with both training and support of our Flyers. The books will either be available at the Reunion, an item for sale at the Live Auction or available through publishers

The Gone But Not Forgotten list (below) contains those who we have lost since our last newsletter as well as some whose passing has just been provided to us so it may not be current

Gone But Not Forgotten

Don Aitro Alan Angel Bob Abernethy Bill Alison Bill Armstrong Stephen Avery Dennis Avila
Steve Barber Stephen Belgau Jimmy Black Ben Bowles Hezzy Brown Bobby Burns Jim Cain
Larry Chambers Chuck Cinnamon Larry Coggin Pete Collins Herve Danis George Davis
Frank Davocoto Tony DeMaio David Dempster Walter Dickhaus Eddie Dunagan Jerry Durham
Dean Engberg Jim Fagg Gary Fehlman Jack Fenimore Chuck Ferrell Gino Fessler Mark Fischer
Bill Fox Hector Freese Dave Fruehauf Myron Gantt Weldon Gard Carol Gideon Bob Gilliland
Dick Glerup Rick Grove Stan Grzebyk Bob Hall JJ Haluska Bill Harbert Gene Hastey
Jerry Hayes Chuck Hess Joe Gaug Ralph Jacobs Bob Johnson James Keck Dave Kantrud
Charlie Kern Jim Kippert Jake Kratt Lonnie Liss Gil Luloff Noboru Masuoka Don Mathers
Cecil McCammond Joe McCue Jerry McIlmoyle Jim McLean Ken McWilliams Bob Mehnert
Lou Mellott Al Michael Kenneth Mizejewski Stan Moeschl Bob Murphy Eugene Nichols
Ken Nudson Billy O'Neal Frank Ott Lisa Osterheld Jim Overton George Parsons Reginald Petty
Ross Phillippi Dave Pinsky Bob Powell Jim Prucnal Cecil Raborn Ben Raines
Jerry Rogers Eddie Roper Mike Schmitz Theodore Shadburn Lee Shelton Jerry Sinclair
Scott Smith Steve Stenson Dennis Sullivan Jim Sullivan Jerry Sussey John Spek Mick Uramkin
Kenneth Van Zandt Jack Veth Sam Walden Bill Weaver Bob Wedman Thomas Weigel
Earl Wheaton