

# THUNDER ROLLS



2012  
Volume 19 No. 2



*June 22 marks the 30th anniversary of then-Maj. Larry Stellmon's (Slot/Commander/Leader 1982-86) delivery of aircraft number 81-0663, the first F-16 to be received by the Thunderbirds in 1982 when the team transitioned from T-38s to F-16s. The Thunderbirds flew this aircraft until 1992 when they converted to F-16Cs. The National Museum of the U.S. Air Force placed it on display in October 1996. (U.S. Air Force Photo)*

## Nevada Honors Past, Present Teams

The Nevada Aerospace Hall of Fame will recognize nearly six decades of excellence on the ground and in the air by enshrining the Air Force Thunderbirds into the Nevada Aerospace Hall of Fame Nov. 10. The team has called Nevada and specifically Nellis Air Force Base home since June 1, 1956.

“Ask any Nevadan, and they will claim that the men and women in blue came to the Battle Born State to represent them and the state of Nevada,” said T. D. Barnes, director of the Nevada Aerospace Hall of Fame. “It is with great pride that the Nevada Aerospace Hall of Fame recognizes the Thunderbird organization for its service to our country and to the state of Nevada.”

While calling Nevada home for many years, the team’s origins actually began in nearby Arizona. The job of forming the team fell to Maj. “Smokey” Catledge, the unit’s first commander/leader. His immediate task was to find six officers and 22 enlisted to form the first team and get them ready for their first demonstration at Luke Air Force Base, Ariz., three weeks later.

The U.S. Air Force’s official air demonstration team, designated the 3600th USAF Air Demonstration Unit/Flight, was activated on May 25, 1953. The unit adopted the name “Thunderbirds,” influenced in part by the strong Native American culture and folklore from the southwestern

*Continued pg. 4*

## From the Chairman

Communicating with the membership is very important, and your 2012-13 Board of Directors is working hard to bring us into the 21st century in this effort.

Our goal is to produce three issues of *ThunderRolls* each year. We are actually on track to produce four issues in 2012 – look for additional issues in September and December. We've heard from a number of members who asked to receive an electronic version and be taken off the mailing list. Anyone who would like to receive the electronic version only can send an email to our *ThunderRolls* editor, Al Eakle, at: [al.eakle@gmail.com](mailto:al.eakle@gmail.com). This saves TBAA money both in printing and postage.

Our redesigned website became operational April 25, thanks to the efforts of our volunteer webmaster, Tom Smith (Art Director 1996-2001). The redesigned site now has separate areas for the public and for Members Only. You must be an active alumni member to access the member's section. Several additions include the ability to either join or renew dues with a credit card through PayPal. Fees are slightly higher for using this service to cover transaction costs charged by PayPal. Tom is hard at work building a database so we can move the alumni directory online behind a firewall and password protect it. Read more about this elsewhere in this issue of *ThunderRolls*.

Our Facebook group continues to grow, as we're now at more than 650 members. And we've started a LinkedIn group to help alumni seeking employment.

The Nevada Aerospace Hall of Fame salutes past and current Thunderbirds by enshrining the organization into the hall of fame later this year. Ceremonies, open to all alumni, will be held Saturday, Nov. 10, at Henderson Executive Airport, Las Vegas, Nev. Look for more details in the next issue of *ThunderRolls*.

Your Board of Directors voted and has offered to fund the restoration of the F-105 model, stand and memorial plaque that used to stand near the front gate at Nellis AFB, Nev. Our offer is currently in coordination with Nellis leadership and approval.

We're pleased to welcome a number of new annual and lifetime members. If you're in touch with alumni who are not members of TBAA, please encourage them to join.

Lastly, it's not too early to mark the dates for next year's 60th anniversary reunion. For planning purposes, TBAA has secured the South Point Hotel in Las Vegas, Nev., for the 60th Anniversary Reunion – the dates are Nov. 21–23, 2013. We're expecting a large turnout and hope you are among the attendees.



Mike "Slam" Byrne (Advance Pilot/Narrator 1999-2000)  
Chairman



## From the Boss



Hello again, Thunderbirds! We are in the early stages of the show season and are having a great time representing our Air Force and Airmen. What a great opportunity we have as Thunderbirds to showcase what the United States Air Force does on a daily basis.

More than 700,000 strong, the Air Force is made up of dedicated Active Duty, National Guard and Reserve members accomplishing outstanding work all over

the world. It is indeed a humbling experience and an honor to be a member of such a fine air and space force.

The 2012 season has been extremely successful, and we are excited about the rest of the season. So far we have represented our Air Force

in Arizona twice, in Florida three times and also in Louisiana. We have made trips to Shaw AFB, S.C., Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., and March ARB in Calif., during May.

This squadron is a great outlet for representing our Air Force to the American public. I want to assure you that our squadron is dedicated to representing the pride, precision and professionalism every day.

We are looking forward to the rest of the 2012 show season. We are looking forward to continuing the great legacy of the United States Thunderbirds! ABOVE ALL!



Lt. Col. Greg Moseley  
USAFADS Commander/Leader (2012-13)



# Thunderbirds

## ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Home | History | About TBAA | Calendar | Join TBAA | Members | Dues | News | Gallery | Forum



## Redesigned Site Up and Running

I'm happy to report our redesigned Thunderbirds Alumni Association website became operational several weeks ago. Our URL (address) remains the same, [www.thunderbirdsalumni.org](http://www.thunderbirdsalumni.org); however, the appearance has changed and the site offers several new features.

The website now has separate sections for the public and for Members Only.

The public section includes a history of the Thunderbirds, the TBAA mission statement, our current board of directors and a calendar. A new feature allows individuals to join or renew annual memberships either online or by downloading the form and mailing it in.

Those who choose to join or renew dues online can now do so through PayPal. Paying online includes an additional fee charged by PayPal for using their service.

Individuals have the option of using this service or simply mailing in a check with their form.

Tom Smith (Art Director 1996-2001) is our volunteer webmaster. He has been hard at work building the redesigned site and, over the coming weeks, you will notice additions and more changes. He will move previous issues of *ThunderRolls*, VIP books, the annual *These Names Are Mine*, photos and videos into the Members Only section. There will also be a forum where you can talk about a variety of topics.

Tom has started building the database to move our alumni directory from print to online. You will need to be a member of TBAA to access the database from the Members Only area.

If you haven't already done so, please send an email to Tom at: [tom@imagerich.com](mailto:tom@imagerich.com).

Include your name, position on the team and dates you were on the team. Also include your desired username. He first verifies eligibility and membership status, then will set up your account and email you a temporary password.

When you have access, you can build your own profile and are able to include a biography. This is also where contact information will be kept, which can be updated online.

This is a major undertaking and requires many hours of work. I know the TBAA board of directors and membership appreciate Tom's willingness to take this on.

Al Eakle (Airshow Coordinator 1989-91)  
Communications Chairman

## Consider Serving on the TBAA Board

Shortly after the beginning of the new year, we will be soliciting volunteers for the Thunderbirds Alumni Association Board of Directors as five directors end their terms at the end of 2013. It is not too early to start thinking about how you, or someone you know, could serve and continue to help make the Board and the TBAA ever-stronger as we support the team and the alumni.

TBAA is always looking for nominees who are ready to bring their enthusiasm and leadership to the alumni association in support of the wide ranging activities needed to be successful.

We are particularly interested in nominees willing to help with the immense efforts required to stage a great reunion or folks who may

have expertise in accounting and finance, fundraising, QuickBooks, Web design, social media, marketing and research to find out-of-touch alumni.

If you are ready to step up and contribute your time and talents to the TBAA, please contact me at [shawn.pederson@us.af.mil](mailto:shawn.pederson@us.af.mil), and I will attempt to answer any questions you have.

Shawn "Norm" Pederson (Solo 2001-02)  
Nominating Committee Chairman



*Staff Sgt. Eduardo Sibaja, last year's Thunderbird 6 assistant dedicated crew chief, applies a new flag panel to include the Finnish flag before the start of an air show at Turku, Finland. The addition of the Finnish flag is the 63rd country the Thunderbirds have performed in the team's 59-year history. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Larry E. Reid Jr.)*

## **Nevada Honors Continued from pg 1**

United States where Luke Air Force Base is located. Three months later, the name Thunderbirds was added to its unit designation. From these humble beginnings and this group of men, the Air Force Thunderbird legend was born.

The Air Force wanted to demonstrate the capabilities of a frontline fighter that was the workhorse in Korea. The straight-wing configuration of the F-84G was considered well-suited for aerobatic and demonstration maneuvers, though the aircraft could not exceed the speed of sound.

During its 59-year history, the F-84G Thunderjet was the first of eight different aircraft the Thunderbirds would fly in demonstrations around the world. Since then, the team has flown and maintained the swept-wing F-84F Thunderstreak, supersonic F-100C Super Sabre, the F-105B Thunderchief, F-100D, T-38A Talon, and F-16A and C Fighting Falcons.

The Thunderbirds saw a record year in 1965. The team flew three overseas tours: one tour in four Caribbean countries; another in 10 European countries; and visits to seven Central American countries and Mexico. Their show season concluded in December, having flown a record 121 airshows.

The team flew their 1,000th show in 1967 at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. In May 1976, the team flew their 2,000th show at Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho. The Thunderbirds flew their 3,000th airshow at Naval Air Station Norfolk, Va., on April 22, 1990, and their 4,000th airshow May 13, 2006, at Robins Air Force Base, Ga.

Sgt. Sarah Johnson made Thunderbirds history when she became the first woman to join the team in 1974. Capt. Geri Lentine became the first woman officer to join the team, serving as the executive officer during the 1988, 1989 and 1990 seasons. Maj. Nicole Malachowski made Thunderbird

history when she became the first woman pilot on the Thunderbird, flying the right wing during the 2006-07 seasons.

During its nearly six-decade history, the Thunderbirds have lived up to their name as Ambassadors in Blue, having performed in more than 60 countries. In 1977, they performed in China for the first time. In 1991, the Thunderbirds added flags from Poland and Hungary to the flag panel, the first team to fly over former Warsaw Pact countries.

During the 50th Anniversary of the Air Force celebrations in 1997, the team was memorialized with their delta formation pictured on the Air Force 50th Anniversary U.S. Postal stamp.

Since the Thunderbird's inception, slightly more than 2,000 people have worn the distinguished emblem of "America's Ambassadors in Blue." They have represented hundreds of thousands of airmen who have served or are serving at home and abroad in the U.S. Air Force. Thunderbirds past and present have channeled their efforts into making the Thunderbirds what they are today. "Once a Thunderbird, Always a Thunderbird."

The 2012 Nevada Aerospace Hall of Fame induction dinner and ceremony will be held at the Henderson Executive Terminal, Landings Restaurant, on November 10, 2012. Specific details were being finalized at press time.



# Benchstock

Maj. Gen. **Darryl L. Roberson** (Left Wing 1994-95), currently director, strategic planning, deputy chief of staff for strategic plans and programs, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Pentagon, Washington, D.C., will become vice director, J-3, Joint Staff, Pentagon, Washington, D.C.

Congratulations to Lt. Col. **Samantha "Combo" Weeks** (Solo 2007-08), who assumed command of the 8th Operations Support Squadron at Kunsan Air Base, Korea.

Lt. Col. **Tadd Clark** (Advance Pilot/Narrator 2006-07) is the commander of the 451st Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron, flying F-16CJ Block 50s at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan.

Welcome lifetime members **Eric Albers** (Crew Chief #4, #8 2006-10), **Rafael Alvarez** (Corrosion Control, Assistant Crew Chief #8 1985-88), **William Ellsworth** (Aircraft Maintenance 1984-87), **Jason Haag** (Public Affairs 1998-2002), **Lloyd Muranaka** (Crew Chief #1, #8 1988-91), **Wilbur H. Thrash** (Line Chief 1953-55), **W. Thomas West** (Honorary Thunderbird 1990) and **Michael Witt** (Aircraft Maintenance 1981-83).

Welcome annual members **Jack Broughton** (Commander/Leader 1954-57), **Brian Baker** (Honorary Crew Chief 1998), **Alan Breslow** (Electrical/Environmental Systems 1990-92), **Ann M. Butterfield** (Illustrator 1984-88), **William Haydon Cameron** (Skyblazers ACC 1951-52), **Nevin "Chris" Christensen** (Skyblazers Slot 1957-59), **Jimmy Dresher** (Crew Chief 1980-82), **Gordon Eells** (Skyblazers Solo/Right Wing 1956-60), **Gerald Larson** (Solo 1960-62), **William Gregory Myers** (AGE Technician, ACC #1 1979-81), **Russell Newman** (NCOIC Life Support 1989-91), **Vicki Patterakis** (widow of Chris Patterakis, Left Wing 1966-67 and Commander/Leader 1975-76), **Tony Pettaway** (Avionics, ACC #8 1992-95) and **John Vallone Jr.** (Honorary Crew Chief 2003).



For planning purposes, the Thunderbirds Alumni Association has secured the South Point Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada, for the 60th Anniversary Reunion – the dates are Nov. 21–23, 2013. Look for more reunion details in future issues of *ThunderRolls*.

The Nevada Legislature's Commission on Special License Plates approved the manufacture and sale of a special Thunderbirds license plate during a meeting last month. This is one of 30 special plates available to Nevada residents. The project started in 2007 through the efforts of alumni **Josh Clendenen** (Public Affairs 2004-07) and **Tom Serres** (Public Affairs 1966-1968). Anyone registering a car or truck in Nevada can purchase the special license plate. A portion of the money generated through the sales of these plates will go to the Nevada State Veterans Home. Check the Nevada DMV website at: [www.dmvnv.com](http://www.dmvnv.com) on availability of the new plates.

A Las Vegas-area group of Thunderbirds alumni invite all present and former brothers and sisters to join them for lunch the first Wednesday of each month at Boulder Station. The meeting starts at 11:30 a.m. For more details, email **Jerry Jones** (Ground Radio Communications Technician 1965-69) at: [tbird13@cox.net](mailto:tbird13@cox.net).

Planning is in full swing for the ThunderFun 2012 mini-reunion in Fort Walton Beach, Florida, Sept 6–9. The planning committee has chosen the Four Points by Sheraton (Destin-Fort Walton Beach) to host the event. Room rates start at \$115 per night. Leave your suits and fancy dress behind as this is a very informal event. Activities will kick off Thursday night with a no-host gathering at the hotel's Kiwi's



*Retired Gen. Fig Newton (Narrator/Slot/Right Wing 1975-78) and Sue Rainone (Training Manager 1999-2003) had an opportunity to visit at the African-American Heritage Luncheon at F. E. Warren AFB, Wyoming. General Newton was the guest speaker. (Photo by Ann Jason M. Wiese)*

Beachside Bar and Grill overlooking one of the two swimming pools, in addition to the white sandy beaches on the Gulf of Mexico. The group will return there Friday night for karaoke and plenty of time to socialize. They have also planned a number of optional things to do. These include scuba, snorkeling, jet skiing, kite skiing, parasailing, a trip to Crab Island, pontoon boats, deep sea fishing and golf. Golf has been set up at the Indian Bayou Course late Friday morning (Sept. 7). Tentative tee times start at 11 a.m. with \$35 green fees. Tee times can be booked online at: <http://indianbayougolf.com>. Activities will conclude Saturday night with dinner at the hotel. We're working with the staff to arrange a luau. Room reservations can be made online at: <https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/StarGroupsWeb/booking/reservation?id=I202083609&key=713FE>.

**Donna (Garland) Dassen** (Maintenance 1991-94) reports the Veterans History Project of the American Folklife Center collects, preserves and makes accessible the personal accounts of American war veterans so that future generations may hear directly from veterans and better understand the realities of war. The project collects first-hand accounts of U.S. veterans from the following wars: World War II (1939-46), Korean War (1950-55), Vietnam War (1961-75), Persian Gulf War (1990-95) and the Afghanistan and Iraq conflicts (2001-present). Anyone interested in participating can check out the website at: <http://www.loc.gov/vets/>.

The March issue of *Air Force Magazine* featured a story on **Jack Broughton** (Commander/Leader 1954-57). The article is available for reading at: <http://www.airforce-magazine.com/MagazineArchive/Pages/2012/March%202012/0312thud.aspx>.

A custom Thunderbirds ring is a lasting symbol of dedication to duty. The Thunderbirds Alumni Association, in conjunction with Josten's, is offering the ring in men's and women's sizes. The ring is only available

*Continued pg. 6*

## Benchstock continued

to those who have been certified by their commander/leader as alumni. In honor of the Thunderbirds' 60th anniversary next year, TBAA and Josten's are now offering a 60th anniversary Thunderbirds ring for a limited time in addition to the traditional ring. The traditional ring has the Thunderbirds emblem on one side and the Air Force coat of arms on the other, and across the top "USAF Thunderbirds." For a \$15 additional fee, the Thunderbirds patch can be encrusted in the stone (only available on men's smooth stone rings – women's rings are too small for this feature). Similar to the current ring, the special ring has the 60th logo in place of the Air Force coat of arms. Prices for either ring remain the same. A portion of sales benefits TBAA. For an order form, email **Al Eakle** at: [al.eakle@gmail.com](mailto:al.eakle@gmail.com).

Save the date! April 5, 2014. **Jeff Mielke** (Public Affairs Officer 1988-90) and his company, Living the Dream Cruises, are organizing a Thunderbirds alumni mini-reunion cruise in 2014. Indulge in a seven-day Western Caribbean cruise onboard the *Caribbean Princess*, sailing from Galveston, Texas. Look for more details at: <http://www.ltdcruises.com/thunderbirdalum.html>.

Apple has a special program for federal, state and local government and military employees and retirees. It offers special prices to those who want to purchase Apple products for personal use. For more information, go to: [www.apple.com/r/store/government/](http://www.apple.com/r/store/government/).



## Thunderbirds Announce 2013 Officer Selections

Gen. Mike Hostage, commander of Air Combat Command, has officially selected the officers who will be joining the Thunderbirds for their 2013 and 2014 demonstration seasons.

The team retains 12 officer positions, with each serving a two-year tour of duty. By design, the position openings are staggered, so the squadron maintains continuity of experience and leadership. In odd-numbered years, Thunderbird No. 2, 4, 7, 10, 11 and 12 are replaced. Thunderbird No. 6, the opposing solo, is replaced every year.

Capt. Joshua Boudreaux, currently assigned to Aviano Air Base, Italy, will become Thunderbird No. 2, the squadron's left wing pilot. He will replace Capt. Ryan Riley.

Maj. Curtis Dougherty, currently assigned to Seymour-Johnson AFB, N.C., will become Thunderbird No. 4, slot pilot. He will replace Capt. Nicholas Holmes.

Capt. Jason Curtis, currently stationed at Luke AFB, Ariz., will become Thunderbird No. 6, the team's opposing solo pilot. Capt. Blaine Jones, the current opposing solo pilot, will transition to the lead solo position in 2013, replacing Maj. J. R. Williams.

Maj. Tyler Ellison, currently stationed at Langley AFB, Va., will become Thunderbird No. 7, the team's operations officer. His duties will include airspace coordination, ground communication with the pilots in the air and safety observation. He will replace Lt. Col. Jason Koltes.

Capt. Lucas Buckley, currently stationed at Nellis AFB, will become Thunderbird No. 11, the squadron's maintenance officer. He will replace Maj. Jason Moore.

Maj. Darrick Lee, currently stationed at Misawa AB, Japan, will become Thunderbird No. 12, the squadron's public affairs officer. He will replace Maj. Kristin Haley.

"After interacting with all of the applicants for these jobs, what came to mind is that today's Air Force has an excellent crop of leaders in the commissioned officer corps," said Lt. Col. Greg Moseley, Thunderbirds commander/leader. "It's difficult choosing between people who are more than capable of excelling in these positions. That said, I couldn't be happier with the individuals we chose to join us in this incredible and unique mission."

For the position of Thunderbird No. 10, executive officer, the hiring process is delayed, pending the interview with a finalist currently deployed. Selection for that position is expected later this summer.

## Thunderbirds 2012 Schedule

July 1 Battle Creek, Mich.

July 7-8 Gary, Ind.

July 21-22 JB Lewis-McChord, Wash.

July 25 Cheyenne, Wyo.

July 28-29 JB Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska

Aug. 4-5 Hillsboro, Ore.

Aug. 11-12 Abbotsford, Ontario

Aug. 17 Atlantic City, N.J.

Aug. 25-26 Brunswick, Maine

Sept. 1-2 Davenport, Iowa

Sept. 8-9 Sacramento, Calif.

Sept. 15-16 Scott AFB, Ill.

Sept. 22-23 Salinas, Calif.

Sept. 29-30 McConnell AFB, Kan.

Oct. 6-7 Fort Worth, Texas

Oct. 13-14 Daytona Beach, Fla.

Oct. 20-21 El Paso, Texas

Oct. 27-28 Moody AFB, Ga.

Nov. 3-4 Homestead ARB, Fla.

Nov. 10-11 Nellis AFB, Nev.

NOTE TO ALUMNI: If interested in Thunderbirds airshow tickets, either call Maureen Walker, the commander/leader's secretary, at 702-652-2277, or email her at: [Maureen.walker@nellis.af.mil](mailto:Maureen.walker@nellis.af.mil).

# Gone But Not Forgotten



Retired Lt. Col. **Aubrey D. Brown Jr.** (Solo 1953-54), 80, of Mesa, Ariz., passed away April 6, 2012. He was a decorated Air Force fighter pilot and one of the founding members of the Thunderbirds. He joined the military and flew combat missions during the Korean War. After retiring from the Air Force in 1970, he worked for Northrop. He is survived by two sons, Gary and James; daughter, Lori; and two granddaughters, Brittany and Jennifer. Memorial services were held at Mariposa Gardens Memorial Park in Mesa.

Retired Col. **Ronald M. Clements** (Honorary Thunderbird 1978) died May 5, 2012. He is survived by his wife, Ruby Hayes Clements; daughters, Karen and Kathi; sons, Mike and Greg; seven grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren. Interment was at Evergreen Memorial Park in Evergreen, Colo.

Retired Maj. **Robert G. "Bobby" Gardiner** (Narrator 1961-62) died Feb. 20, 2012. He is survived by his wife Roelie. No further information was available.



**James A. "Jim" Hill** (Aircraft Maintenance 1953-54), 80, of Wilson, N.C., died Feb. 28, 2012. He served in the Air Force as crew chief for the Thunderbirds from inception until being discharged in January 1955. He is survived by his wife, Evelyn Pate Hill; daughter, Ginger Lassiter; son, Reid; and grandchildren, Trey and Vance Lassiter and Christopher and Elizabeth Hill. Interment was at Maplewood Cemetery.

Retired Col. **Robert S. "Mac" McCormick** (Slot 1953-54) died May 7, 2012. In May 1953, he was selected to become a member of the first Thunderbirds team, flying the slot. He retired from active duty in 1979 as a colonel with 33 years of service. He then went to work for Northrop in the Aircraft Division's Studies and Analysis Branch. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Joyce; and four children, Bob McCormick, Perri Hormuth, Pam Hartman and Paula Fries; five grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Retired Senior Master Sgt. **Jerry T. Jones** (Line Chief 1969-72), 79, of Palm Harbor, Fla., died April 10. Survivors include his wife, Betty; daughters, Yana and Twyla; four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Retired Col. **Robert C. Tomlinson** (Skyblazers Commander/Leader 1952-53), 85, of Hannibal, Mo., died March 19, 2010. He served in World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. He is survived by his wife, Helen; his sons, Chris and Brian; stepchildren, Cathy Smith, Colleen Pittman, and Charles and Randy Harrill; three grandchildren; and four step-grandchildren. Services, with full military honors, were at the Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Boulder City, Nev.

*EDITOR'S NOTE: There may be some time between an individual's death and when we print an obituary in ThunderRolls. They are printed in the next edition after they are received. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family members and friends of these cherished members of the Thunderbirds family.*



*Alumni take advantage of opportunities to catch the Thunderbirds at an airshow and meet up with those who have served on the team in the past. Several alumni got together when the team performed at Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz., earlier this year. They included (standing) James Sunderland (Avionics QA Inspector 2003-06), Tim Miles (Structural Maintenance/Assistant Crew Chief #7), Tom Smith (Art Director 1996-2001), (sitting) Sarah Johnson-Robles (Administrative Technician 1974-76), Mike Bilcik (Crew Chief 1968-71) and John Kidd (Aircraft Maintenance/Utility Crew Chief 1969-72).*

# ThunderRolls

*ThunderRolls* will be printed in September and December 2012 for members of the Thunderbirds Alumni Association. The deadlines for submissions are: Aug. 1, 2012, for the September issue and Nov. 1, 2012, for the December issue. Submissions (including high-resolution photos in .jpg format) may be emailed to: [al.eakle@gmail.com](mailto:al.eakle@gmail.com). Submission does not guarantee publication, and the editorial staff may edit for style and content.

Submit any change of address to: Doe Wilson, TBAA Administrative Secretary, 7661 Angel Crest Circle, Las Vegas, NV 89117. Phone: 702-871-7197. Email: [DoeWilson@aol.com](mailto:DoeWilson@aol.com).

## Thunderbirds Alumni Association Board of Directors

- Mike "Slam" Byrne (1999-2000), Chairman
- Kevin "Joker" Mastin (2000-01), Vice Chairman
- Sarah Johnson-Robles (1974-76), Secretary
- R. D. Evans (1979-81), Treasurer
- Joe Barron (1995-98), Director
- Al Eakle (1989-91), Communications Chairman/*ThunderRolls* Editor
- Shawn "Norm" Pederson (2001-02), Nominations Chairman
- Eric "Flak" Schnaible (1992-94), Director
- Corey "CB" Shoff (1994-97), Membership Chairman
- Bruce Voigt (1997-2000), 2013 Reunion Chairman
- Doe Wilson, Administrative Secretary
- Carol Knotts, Historian

The Thunderbirds Alumni Association thanks Lockheed Martin for its continued support of *ThunderRolls* and the TBAA.

## Graphic Design

Kevin Gray, Lockheed Martin, Fort Worth, Texas

## LOOK FOR...

### Official TBAA website

[www.thunderbirdsalumni.org](http://www.thunderbirdsalumni.org)

### eNewsletter

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### Facebook Page

Thunderbird Alumni (TBAA emblem on the opening page)

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Las Vegas, NV 89117-3220



# THUNDERBIRDS

THE USAF THUNDERBIRDS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

## Input Needed for Updated *We Rode the Thunder*

The Thunderbirds Alumni Association needs the help of team members from 2004 to 2012 in updating the book that is the definitive book on Thunderbirds' history.

*We Rode the Thunder* is written by men and women who have worn the Thunderbirds patch and is filled with stories highlighting their drive, dedication and professionalism.

"*We Rode the Thunder* is so popular and different than other books," Voigt said, "because there are hundreds of stories from Thunderbird Os, Es and Thunderbrides. This is the story of the Thunderbirds from those of us who were there – and that's what makes it real and so special."

The last team featured in the book was the 2003 team.

"We're asking all of you who served from 2004 to 2012 to provide or solicit interesting stories or anecdotes about your teams," said Voigt. "They don't have to be ready to publish – we will take care of those details. Just provide

bullets or a paragraph or two. We would also like to have copies of any pictures you want to share. Please help us continue this important work to document our Thunderbirds' legacy."

Email your stories, anecdotes, bullets, pictures, etc. to: [werodethunder2@gmail.com](mailto:werodethunder2@gmail.com) or mail them to: Dee Pfeiffer, 13895 E Placita Pezuna, Vail, AZ 85641-1400. We need all of your materials by March 31, 2013, so we can meet publisher deadlines to have the book ready by September 2013.

