

THUNDERROLLS



Summer 2007
Volume 15

For Your Eyes Only

A Sneak Preview of Reunion 007 Events

Co-chair Brock McMahon and I have been brainstorming this event since January 2006. As a result of that planning, some very worthy events are built into the 007 reunion weekend – as well as some breathing time for you to enjoy Las Vegas.

Die Another Day Golf Tournament

Sunrise Vista Golf Course, Nellis Air Force Base

Tee-Off: Nov. 15, noon

Our reunion weekend kicks off with a shotgun start as the ***Die Another Day Golf Tournament*** begins.

Our 007 golf chairman, Dan Cooley (#11, 1982-84), has graciously offered to run this event for us. Dan is a terrific guy and key to the success of this reunion event. Nellis has a great, highly maintained, 36-hole golf course, and you won't want to miss the chance to get a foursome together to challenge Boss Cherry and his ringers!

You Only Live Twice Hangar Reception

Thunderbirds Hangar, Nellis Air Force Base

Nov. 15, 5 p.m.

“You Only Live Twice” conveys that nostalgic feeling we all get when we are in the Thunderbirds hangar. Most of us are rather humble about our time wearing the patch, but a second time in that hangar transcends the years and connects us to those essential memories and impressions during our time spent in the red, white and blue.

You won't recognize the new Perch – it has many changes and improvements . . . largely due to your generous donations. Spend some time touring the Thunderbirds Museum and take some pictures by a Thunderbirds F-16. If you're like me, you won't be able to resist putting a hand on the jet's red, white and blue skin. You might feel a bit misty-eyed; those jets will do that to you.

Please use our bus service so you can relax and enjoy the moment rather than worry about Las Vegas traffic.



Thunderbowl Open Bowling

South Point Hotel

Bowling Lanes

Nov. 15, 9 p.m.

James Bond wouldn't think about going to bed at 9 p.m., and neither will we! We will split into teams for some fun, competitive, but friendly bowling. I've heard the F-4 group already has their own bowling shirts! We'll see which Thunderbirds era has the best pin action.

A View to a Thrill Air Show

Thunderbirds Flightline, Nellis Air Force Base

Nov. 16, 1 p.m.

Friday is air show day, and we will board the 007 buses to Nellis Air Force Base to enjoy the ***A View to a Thrill Air Show***. Commander/Leader Lt. Col. Kevin Robbins and his amazing 007 Thunderbirds team will fly their best air show to date, and you'll be front and center to hear the thunder. Our 007 reunion buses will return to the South Point Hotel immediately after the air show. You'll want to make last-minute touches to your Bond character costumes.

Shaken, Not Stirred Martini Party

South Point Hotel

Nov. 16, 7 p.m.

*Dress as your favorite Bond character!

This martini party is sure to be a wild and fun event! We'll have more James Bond look-a-likes than Vegas has Elvis impersonators! Don't forget, we'll need some Bond Girls, too.

The Man With the Golden Gavel Business Meeting

South Point Hotel

Nov. 17, 10 a.m.

Business meeting time on Saturday has been adjusted to allow recovery from the fun of the martini party the night before, but be in your chair at 10 a.m. or pay a dollar. The TBAA board will present a quick overview of the most current information and announce the newest board members. The time for this meeting will be limited to accommodate reunion guests who wish to spend the afternoon on the Las Vegas strip before the evening events.



Treat yourself to an extravagant dining indulgence at the new Michael's restaurant at the South Point Hotel.

Thunderbirds Are Forever Reunion Gala and Tops in Blue Show

South Point Hotel

Nov. 17, 6 p.m.

Guests will begin boarding "Thunderbirds Flight 007" to the evening's events at 6:30 p.m. ***Thunderbirds Are Forever*** celebrates you and your commitment



The South Point's many amenities will please even the most experienced secret agent's taste.

to the Thunderbirds legacy during your years on the team and these many years since. Your time on the team was your 8-second ride; your time with the TBAA is quite literally forever. We will honor some old traditions. We've added 20 minutes for table-hopping before the highly sought-after Air Force entertainers, ***Tops in Blue***, will perform a private show just for us!

When the curtain falls, we will all linger for a while, delaying the inevitable good-byes. For weeks afterward, you will hear yourself saying, repeatedly, "I'm so glad I was a part of the 007! It was the best reunion ever!"

Make your reunion plans early. You don't want to miss the 007 event!

– Debby Baer-Becker (1981-83)
007 Reunion Chairperson

Benchstock

Brian Bishop (Commander/Leader, 1998-99) has been nominated for appointment to the grade of brigadier general. He is currently serving as deputy director, Concept of Operations, deputy chief of staff, Air, Space and Information Operations, Plans and Requirements, Headquarters, U.S. Air Force, Pentagon, Washington, D.C.

Carl Buhler (Maintenance Officer, 1997-98) was recently promoted to colonel. He is currently assigned to the Defense Supply Center in Richmond, Va.

Chris Chambliss (Right Wing/Narrator, 1990-92) assumed command of the 432nd Unmanned Aircraft Systems Wing at Creech Air Force Base, Nev., May 1. He previously served as vice commander, 366th Fighter Wing, Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho. The first such unit in the Air Force, the 432nd wing has six operational squadrons with 60 MQ-1 Predators and six MQ-9 Reapers. The Predator is currently being used in Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

Daniel Darnell (Commander/Leader, 1992-93) has been nominated for appointment to the grade of lieutenant general with assignment as deputy chief of staff, Air, Space and Information Operations, Plans and Requirements, Headquarters, U.S. Air Force, Pentagon, Washington, D.C. He is currently serving as director, legislative liaison, Office of the Secretary of the Air Force, Pentagon, Washington, D.C.

Scott Stout (ACC #8, 1994-97) recently retired from the Air Force and is now serving as the deputy inspector general for the 56th Fighter Wing, Luke AFB, Ariz.

Promotion Selections

The following Thunderbirds alumni were recently selected for promotion:

To **Colonel: Mark Arlinghaus** (Solo, 1997-98; Right Wing, 1999); **Mike Chandler** (Commander/Leader, 2004-05); **Russ Quinn** (Solo, 1995-96); **Eric Schnaible** (Public Affairs Officer, 1992-94). To **Lieutenant Colonel: Jack Miller** (Public Affairs Officer, 1997-98). To **Chief Master Sergeant: Jim Tibbetts** (1996-2000); **Malcolm Turner** (1991-94).

From the Chairman

Summer greetings!

This *Thunder Rolls* issue is packed full with 007 reunion information. Please take the time to read it cover to cover. Familiarize yourselves with all the activities our committee has planned for you, and then plan to attend the best-ever get-together of Thunderbird alums and friends.

Our own TBAA “Bond Girl” Debby Baer-Becker and her sidekick, Brock “Dr. No” McMahon, have worked nonstop since our last reunion to find a world-class property and produce an action-packed event that James Bond himself would be proud of. I can’t thank them enough for taking on this monumental project.

The “Casino Royale” for this year’s event is the South Point Hotel – one of the newest and nicest properties in Las Vegas. Thanks to the generosity of Michael Gaughan and his staff, we have been given an \$85-per-night room rate throughout the weekend – the lowest rate we’ve seen for any reunion in years! The hotel will be our headquarters for all events outside the base, so I would ask that you take advantage of this offer and support our host property. More information is available in the Reunion 101 story.

Not only is reunion a time to catch up with past teammates, but it is also a wonderful opportunity to meet the current team and learn about their challenges and experiences from this and last year. And finally, for those of you who may have not been to Las Vegas in several years, it’s a chance to see how the city has grown in every direction.

Those of us on the board rely on your feedback for setting the direction for the TBAA and its membership. Please share your ideas and suggestions with us and let us discuss them.

I look forward to seeing each and every one of you at our November 007 reunion.

Sincerely yours,



Jim Jannette (PAO, 1979-82)
Chairman



Reunion 101

Dear Members,

Whether it’s your first reunion or your 20th, here are a few important items for all 007 reunion attendees:

1. Book your room directly with the South Point Hotel and book early!

Phone: 1-866-796-7111

Cost: \$85 per night

Group Code: Thunderbirds Alumni Association

Deadline: Oct. 24, 2007

(Note: Attendees who book after Oct. 24 are subject to regular rates and potential non-availability.)

Please book your room directly with the South Point Hotel, rather than through online travel agencies. This is the only way to qualify for the special \$85-per-night rate. To help keep 007 reunion costs down, the South Point Hotel has very generously donated all of our event space. Please help us continue to provide affordable and fun reunions by booking with our sponsor hotel.

2. Thunderbirds *You Only Live Twice* Hangar Reception. It’s so tempting to find your favorite brother birds and

hang for the duration. Please make an effort to meet the current team and spend some time with them, too. They are future TBAA members, and we want them to feel like they know us. Good first impressions will secure the future of our organization.

3. Time in the hangar. We have two reunion events that occur at the Thunderbird hangar: the *You Only Live Twice Hangar Reception* and the *A View to a Thrill Air Show*. Please be advised that the team holds a private, red carpet ceremony immediately after the air show. Our buses will be leaving for the hotel directly after the show, and the hangar will be closed for this private team function.

4. Have questions? If you are interested in finding out more on the reunion, please contact one of us or another board member.

Your reunion co-chairs,

Debby Baer-Becker, dbbecker2@yahoo.com

Brock McMahon, Brock.McMahon@travis.af.mil

007 Reunion Sponsors

The Thunderbirds Alumni Association is very grateful to these organizations and individuals who have very generously committed to sponsoring the 007 reunion and the association:

Lockheed Martin
Pratt & Whitney
Alliance Air Services
American Airlines
J. Lohr Winery
DeLuca Liquor & Wine
Coca-Cola
Breitling USA
Vanguard Industries
Doug Herbert Performance Parts
South Point Hotel & Casino
Top Gun Graphics
Las Vegas Floral Designers Intl.
South Point Hotel

American Airlines - Official Airline for the 007 Reunion

The TBAA is proud to announce American Airlines will provide discounted travel to the reunion event and a very exciting fundraising activity.

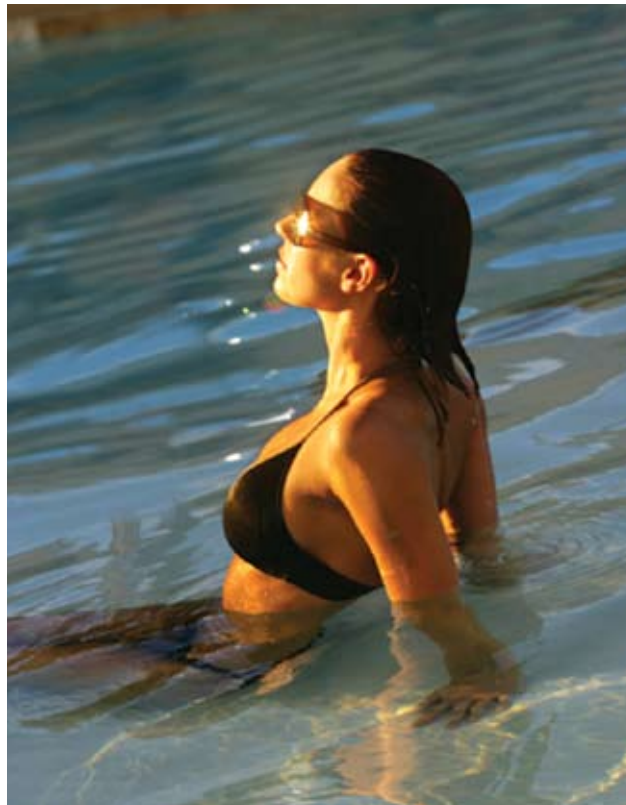
TBAA members can go to www.aa.com <<http://www.aa.com>> and use authorization number A58N7AJ for percentage discount travel to the reunion event. Round-trip travel is available between Nov. 12, 2007, and Nov. 21, 2007. You can also call American's meeting services desk at 1-800-433-1790 for assistance with reservations and tickets.

Bring your piggy bank to the reunion event because we are going to raffle or auction several American Airlines round-trip tickets to the vacations of your dreams. All proceeds will benefit the TBAA.

A Postcard From the Edge . . . of the South Point Hotel's Swimming Pool Bond Girl Provides Up-Close, Personal Look Inside the 007 Reunion's "Casino Royale"

There's nothing warmer or more golden than the desert sun, an unexpected early spring delight in Las Vegas. It's a double pleasure here at the 007 reunion's "Casino Royale," the South Point Hotel's gorgeous pool area, with its leafy palm trees and brilliant desert flowers; here is rest and relaxation at its finest.

This gaming resort is the place in Vegas for me to recharge. After all, it's not easy keeping up with Bond. Right now, he's playing a frenetic game of volleyball in the sand volleyball court, adjacent to the pool area, with a few of the directors from the Thunderbirds Alumni Association. He's beating them, of course. He joined the game after he brought me the most delicious margarita from the pool's indoor/outdoor bar. Of course, James remembered I like my margaritas slushy, not salted. There are worse things in life than being a Bond Girl.



All 007 Thunderbirds Reunion "Bond Girls" will enjoy the view from the South Point Hotel.

After James finishes his game, we'll depart for our massage appointments at the hotel's Spa Costa del Sur. They offer a full range of spa services, and I plan to take advantage of each of them while James engages a few friends and an enemy or two in a high-stakes poker game here in South Point's casino. James finds the gaming here thrilling.

That poker game will take up most of the afternoon and early evening, so after my spa treatment, I'm going shopping. Just a mile down Las Vegas Boulevard toward the strip is a huge shopping complex with hundreds of shops.

I highly recommend the South Point Hotel to all of you Thunderbirds girls (and guys, too). The hotel is comfortable, rooms are well-appointed, the staff is attentive, the spa – superb – and fast access to shopping.

Continued pg. 5

Postcard continued

James enjoys the South Point's restaurants. He finds the service impeccable. The hotel staff always makes his martini exactly the way he likes it – shaken, not stirred. He enjoys all seven restaurants, but James is eagerly anticipating the opening of Michael Gaughan's signature restaurant, "Michael's." Michael is the hotel's owner, and he and James go back a long way. James prefers Michael's idea of the ultimate in fine dining. Fortunately Mr. Gaughan's restaurant

will be open when all of you Thunderbirds arrive for the 007 reunion, Nov. 15-17.

James secretly flew with the Thunderbirds in 1983 on a secret mission (which is still classified) – he consulted with the 1983 team's commander/leader, Jim Latham. Don't believe me? Ask Jim Latham how he prefers his martinis . . .

– Debby Baer-Becker (1981-83)
007 Reunion Chairperson

Vicki Graham Puts "I" in "We" Former Air Show Coordinator Uses Heritage Thunderbird To Lend "Helping Hand"

Editor's note: The Heritage Thunderbird Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization formed during the team's 50th Anniversary in 2003 to commission, sculpt and oversee the upkeep and maintenance of Heritage Thunderbird – These Names Are Mine! A bronze statue that flies in the VIP room at the Thunderbirds Squadron, Heritage Thunderbird protects a book that holds the name of every person who has served on the team and is updated annually by the Foundation. The Heritage Thunderbird Foundation, which operates with its own officers and a separate board, has grown into the charitable focal point for the Thunderbirds Alumni Association. Bob Gore (Information Officer, 1974-76) is director and a founding trustee of the Heritage Thunderbird Foundation and gives us an update on what the organization has grown into in just four short years.

Nobody better illustrates what can be done through the Heritage Thunderbird Foundation than does Vicki Graham (Air Show Coordinator, 1976-78). When Hurricane Katrina struck in September 2006, she immediately asked how the brotherhood could help Thunderbirds who had been damaged by the storm. We told her that donors could write off contributions made through the Foundation. Vicki then went to work to identify who was hurt and to what extent . . . at her own expense. Meanwhile the Foundation established a ledger called "Helping Hand" to receive and disburse the funds and also promoted the project through *Thunder Rolls*.

When the dollars came in, Vicki was able to advise the TBAA on what percentage of the total giving should be made to whom . . . based on need. Our membership gave \$20,750 to help the Katrina victims, with every dollar going toward the cause.

Vicki didn't just have a good idea; she had the dedication to make it work by using the resources we placed in her hands.

Sometime later the team did the same thing with the Perch remodeling. We raised \$21,100 that passed through the Foundation so that those donors, too, could receive tax deductions. Again, the Foundation expended every dollar that was raised.

The Helping Hand and the Perch funds have accounted for nearly \$42,000 in program contributions. Other than legal and accounting fees for incorporation, our expenses have been a small percentage of the funds we monitor. Bookkeeping and administration are donated by two very talented ladies, Ingrid Cabrera and Rachelle Papon. You may not know them, but they know you.

The Helping Hand and the Perch projects are significant achievements given to the brotherhood by people with more than just good ideas . . . people willing to work their good ideas.

Vicki Graham showed us the way. I have always been proud to be the guy who hired her for the Thunderbirds.

Good on ya', Weasel One!

– Bob Gore (Information Officer, 1974-76)
Heritage Thunderbird Foundation Director, Founding Trustee

All donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Anyone interested in donating to the Foundation may do so by sending a check or money order to:

The Heritage Thunderbird Foundation
Thunderbirds Alumni Association
7661 Angel Crest Circle
Las Vegas, NV 89117-3220

Rock the Vote! Voting Results for the TBAA Voting Process By-Laws Change

We asked you to vote on by-laws changes and the results are in; both changes passed unanimously. The actual vote count is 90 for the changes, 13 against. You will get your first opportunity to exercise your vote-by-mail rights when you receive your ballot in July. Please be sure to vote and mail right away. We need your votes not later than Sept. 15.

This is your chance to elect board members who are willing and able to carry our organization into the future. Candidates with

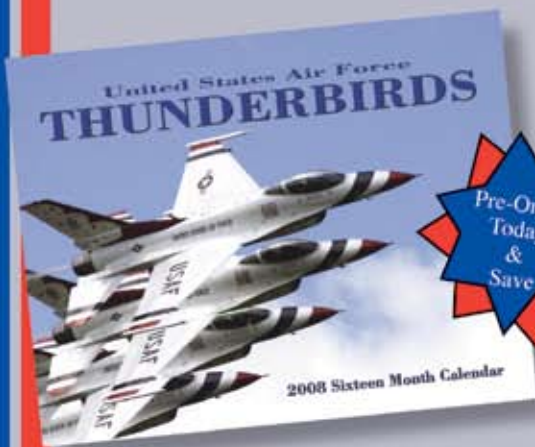
great communications and business skills are a necessity for our organization. A synopsis of each candidate will be included with the mailed ballot. Now that we have a more egalitarian voting process, please make the effort to use it and VOTE!

– Jack Brown
Membership Chairman

USAF Thunderbirds 2008 Calendar & 50th Anniversary "We Rode The Thunder" History Book

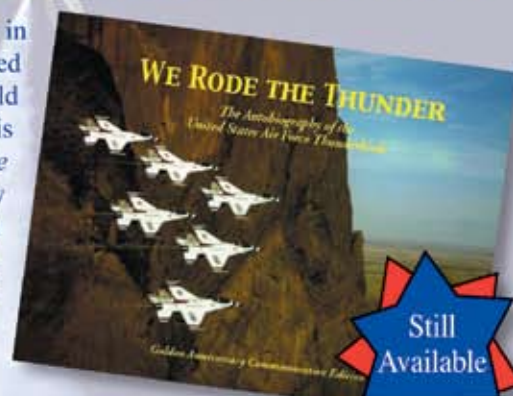
We Rode the Thunder

The Autobiography of the USAF Thunderbirds



Pre-Order
Today
&
Save

We Rode The Thunder, is now in its fourth printing. If you missed out on the first printings or would like additional copies, now is the time to order. *We Rode The Thunder* lets you get to know the Thunderbirds in their own words. The team members stories and exciting photographs (some never-before seen) will inspire and entertain you.



Still
Available

- Each month features a different photo from the USAF Thunderbirds in action
- Each month features a team story
- 11 x 14 inch large format size
- 16 month calendar
- ONLY \$10.95 (plus s/h)

06-07 Calendars \$6.95

Purchase 2006 and 2007 Thunderbird Alumni Calendars online at www.mtpublishing.com and receive at a special discounted price of \$6.95

- 200 pages
- 12 x 9 inch coffee-table size
- Hundreds of photographs
- 180 pages of full color
- Glossy, acid-free paper
- ONLY \$39.95 (plus s/h)

Sales benefit the USAF Thunderbirds Alumni Association

USAF THUNDERBIRDS	Qty	Price	Total
2008 16-Month Calendar		\$10.95	
"We Rode The Thunder" Book		\$39.95	
Shipping & Handling* Calendars: \$3.50 for first calendar, \$1.00 for each additional calendar. Book: \$6.50 for first, \$4.00 for each additional.		Handling & Shipping	
(Indiana residents add 6% sales tax on calendars, books, and shipping)			
Multiple order discounts apply to We Rode the Thunder, 06 and 07 calendars online at www.mtpublishing.com		TOTAL	

For credit card orders only – call Toll Free – 1-888-263-4702

Check Mastercard Visa

Name on Credit Card _____

Credit Card # (include 4-digit # for MC) _____ Expiration Date _____

For Office Use Only	
Ck# _____	Amount _____

USAF Thunderbirds 2008 Calendar/"We Rode The Thunder" Book

Your Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

(_____)

Telephone _____

E-mail _____

Make checks payable to M.T. Publishing Company, Inc. & send order form and payment to:

Thunderbirds 2008 Calendar/Book Offer
M.T. Publishing Company, Inc.
P.O. Box 6802
Evansville, IN 47719-6802

*Shipping a combination of books and calendars – If ordering a book(s) and a calendar(s) include the appropriate amount for shipping the books and then only an additional \$1.00 for each calendar.

Place your order by calling 1-888-263-4702 or order online at www.mtpublishing.com

Gone, But Not Forgotten

Senior Master Sergeant (Ret.) Jose I. “Joe” Ortiz (#2 Crew Chief, 1966-69) passed away April 2, 2007, following a valiant fight against cancer. Joe was a lifetime member of the TBAA. He is survived by his wife, Evangeline Ortiz, and sons, Edward and Michael Ortiz. Cards may be mailed to 1452 N. Christy Lane, Las Vegas, NV 89110. Donations may be sent in Joe’s name to the American Cancer Society or a charity of your choice.

Ben Ruston, Sr., (Aircraft Maintenance, 1956-58) passed Oct. 1, 2006, at his Texas home. Ben is survived by his wife, Paula Ruston; son, Ben Ruston, Jr.; and daughter, Barbara Ann Ruston. Cards may be sent to 300 Fox Run, Devine, TX 78106.

Master Sergeant (Ret.) Thomas J. “Tom” Smith (Material Control, 1983-85) passed on March 18, 2007, following a fight with cancer. He is survived by his wife, Carolyn; daughters, Tiffany Smith of Hampton, Va., and Kim Forrest of Goldsboro, N.C.; and son, Marlo Jarmon of Goldsboro. Cards may be sent to 36 Allison Sutton Drive, Hampton, VA 23669.

Maudene E. Kanaga, wife of Lieutenant Colonel (Ret.) Robert L. Kanaga (Slot, 1953-54), passed on Thursday, April 12, 2007. Maudene was at Bob’s side when he and six other officers and 22 enlisted men were selected for the first Thunderbirds team, and throughout their 55-year marriage. Maudene is survived by her husband, Bob; daughters, Sherry Harmon and Tracy Grace; and son, Bob Kanaga. Cards may be sent to 1645 E. Grove Ave., Mesa, AZ 85204.

Our thoughts and prayers to the family members and friends of these cherished members of the Thunderbirds family.

Thunder Rolls

Credits

The USAF Thunderbirds Alumni Association publishes *Thunder Rolls*.

Thunderbirds Alumni Association Board Members

Officers

Jim Jannette, Chairman, jim@spacefoundation.org
Bob Beckel, Vice Chairman, beckel@adelphia.net
Debby Baer-Becker, Secretary, dbbecker2@yahoo.com
Dave Branks, Treasurer, david.branks@ngc.com

Directors

Jack Brown, Jack_G_Brown@Keane.com
Matt Byrd, matt.byrd@hillwood.com
Steve Chealander, schealander@verizon.net
Jim Curry, jandvcurry1@msn.com
Mary Kochel, sleeve7@satx.rr.com
R. Brock McMahon, brock.mcmahon@travis.af.mil
Chuck Ramey, cwramey@hawaii.rr.com
Doe Wilson, Administrative Secretary, TBAA,
7661 Angel Crest Circle, Las Vegas, NV 89117
Phone: 702-871-7197; Fax: 702-871-9043
E-Mail: doewilson@aol.com

Team Representative

Capt. Amy Glisson, Executive Officer,
amy.glisson@nellis.af.mil

Thunder Rolls Team

Executive Editors

Mary Kochel (1998-2002)
Chuck Ramey (1994-98)

Contributing Editors

Debby Baer-Becker (1981-83)
Al Eakle (1989-91)
Bob Gore (1974-76)
Jim Jannette (1979-82)
Dee Pfeiffer (1976-77)

Historian

Carol Knotts, Thunderbird Lifetime Allegiant

Graphic Design

Kevin Gray, Lockheed Martin Aeronautics,
Fort Worth, Texas

Printing

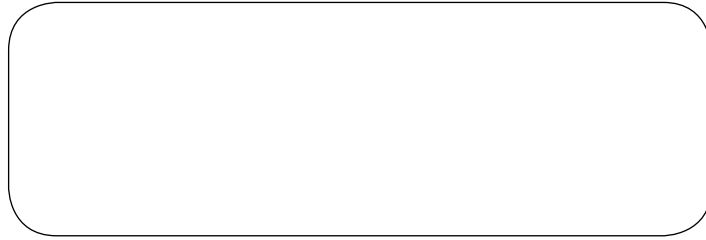
Sprint Press – Fort Worth, Texas
Official TBAA Web site: www.tbaa.org

Publication inquiries and submissions may be submitted by e-mail to: ThunderRolls@thunderbirdsalumni.org or by mail to: *Thunder Rolls*, 7661 Angel Crest Circle, Las Vegas, NV 89117

The TBAA would like to thank Lockheed Martin for its continued support of *Thunder Rolls*.

Please send our TBAA super secretary, Doe Wilson, your newest e-mail address, so she can update our alumni membership directory: doewilson@aol.com





7661 Angel Crest Circle
Las Vegas, NV 89117-3220



THUNDERBIRDS

THE USAF THUNDERBIRDS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

