

# CONTACT

P.O. BOX 1724, STUDIO CITY, CA 91604-0724

## JULY 1998 ISSUE

### REUNION '98 NEWS

Reunion Day, 4-25-98, Take-off to Landing was a real blast. Everyone attending offered their smiles, hands, hugs and cheers – from check-in time – 11:00 am – in the Regency Room reception area – to check-out time – 4:00 pm – Empire Room.

George Batchelor (accompanied by his charming wife, Marianne), again hosted the reception and gifted us with excellent wines for the luncheon. Thank you for your wonderful generosity, George. Just continue looking as good as you did that day and flying west each year to join us at the Reunion.

Check-in was handled by our experienced team, Ed and Addie McAndrews, Jerry Senft and Dick and Joan Blatz; GOOD job guys. Thank you.

Luncheon hour found 125 seated in the Empire Room; tables highlighted by balloon bouquets, with a large, 3 foot, Hot Air Balloon center stage; its hanging basket full of flight supplies like jerky, gum, food bars, etc.

Dave Simmons, our chairman, gave a short/sweet welcome followed by a greeting from President, Terry Dickason, then the invocation. The band, The Jerry Case Quartet, was introduced and played lilting music throughout the

luncheon and for dancing. The food and wine were excellent. Everyone exclaimed over the quality and quantity; Superlative.

At the conclusion of luncheon, George Batchelor was called to front center and a gift was presented to him by Ida Hermann on behalf of our Association. The package was opened and a spectacular Indian Chiefs feather headdress, red, white and black, was placed on George's head. It was made by a member of the Cherokee Indian Nation (George has Cherokee ancestry in his lineage). George, who always knows his cue, immediately leaped into the air with war whoops of pleasure. This, of course, brought a great audience response, as we verbally and noisily thanked him again for his generosity. George is a guy who puts his money where his mouth is – an old airline challenge. We can't thank you with a billion or a million George – how about \$1.98???

Our speaker, Dick Rutan, was then introduced and he proceeded to deliver a fantastic account of his "Voyager" experience. Hal Cope, who had been unable to attend for some years, (a very busy life in Africa) assisted Rutan by operating the movie and slide projectors as Dick spoke from a darkened stage. Believe us when we say that this was one of the best speakers we have ever heard.

His voice is very dramatic and powerful – as the story unfolded – the problems of design/building/plotting the flight routes/take-off/weather/communication/fuel and so forth raised goose bumps. The flight itself was filmed by the two pilots, Dick and Jeana Yeager; we cringed from the emergencies they overcame and the critical fuel problems in the final hour – San Diego north. The room was full of very experienced pilots – and their comments could be heard as the flight progressed – "Come on, Dick, you can do it!"; "I can't believe what I am seeing!"; "This guy is doing something impossible!"; "He can't make it – even though I know he did."; and when he landed at Mojave, the room erupted yet again in standing ovation and cheers – A wonderful, exciting tale from a great aviation fellow. Thank you again Dick, for a terrific story of the mastery of Man.

The Program continued with the prize drawings – skillfully handled by Bob Jackson and Tibby Max with their usual aplomb and clever asides. Twenty items, including donations by Dick Rutan, of books, "Voyager" posters, and a video of the building of "Voyager"; many current books were well received; Lee Cameron won "The Mile High Club" authored by a former MGM Air Stewardess; his witty answer to cat calls from the audience – "Hey, I don't have to read it

- I wrote it." The Grand Prize - donated by Ed and Lyn Hogan - was round trip airfare for two, LA to Kona, plus seven nights at their Royal Kona Resorts, a \$1,600 value - a spectacular award. The Hogans have so generously given us many wonderful trips over the years. Thank you to Ed and Lyn - and thank you from Joan and Lou Rodriguez who won the prize - with obvious delight.

The reunion then broke up with more hugs and promises for next year. Sorry for those who couldn't attend. . .

The Rutans - Dick and Burt - are two of the many brothers featured in June 1998 issue of Esquire Magazine - "Brothers - A Special Issue". You will enjoy it. If you send your copy to Dick's wonderful Girl Friday - Kelly Hall, PO Box 359, Mojave, California, 93502 - with \$3.00 to \$5.00 for return Priority Mail, she will have it autographed for you by Dick and Burt. . .

The Rutan newsletter - "News & Stuff" - subscription can be yours for \$20.00. Send check to TYC, PO Box 359, Mojave, California, 93502

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APA has made a donation to the World War II Memorial to be built in Washington DC. The address is: World War II Memorial Fund, American Battle Monuments Commission, Department P, PO Box 96766, Washington, DC, 20090-6766.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

To those who were at the reunion, thank you. To those who were unable to attend, try to come next year. Dick Rutan's presentation was extra special and deserved the standing ovation he received. Each one of these reunions I attend helps keep fresh in my mind the memories of what were some of the best years of my life and I'm always happy to see so many of my old friends who shared these times and experiences with me.

I'm glad we presented Frank Sinatra with an Honorary APA Membership before his death. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to his family. We have lost a giant of our "time".

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It's time again to pay the annual membership fee. Enclosed with the newsletter is the membership application for this year. Please give us your support by sending in the \$15 annual dues and any other contribution you might care to add. These funds are spent for the newsletter, postage, printing and other administrative expenses. Blue Skies!.....

Terry Dickason

## EDITORS NOTE:

A "First of its Kind" experimental aircraft is "in-work" at Van Nuys, California, Airport. It is powered by gigantic coiled rubber bands. A recent ground test in May found Jennifer Lafayette, Test Pilot, buckled into a bicycle seat suspended below the fuselage. The plan was to catch the plane at Point X (no brakes) with designer

aeronautical engineer, George Heaven, along side in a convertible chase car. The "catch guys" didn't and couldn't, but Jennifer managed to avoid many obstacles and keep the "Rubber Bandit" more intact than less. For more info, try the Web Site at [www.rubberbandit.com](http://www.rubberbandit.com). We read that FAA has ruled out Van Nuys Airport for further experiments because of flight/population congestion. Don't you love the names involved - Heaven and 'Lafayette - We are here!' More later as it unfolds - pun intended.

## BAGATTELLE:

### **Advice from your dog:**

1. When your loved one comes home, run to greet him.
2. Eat with gusto.
3. When its hot, drink lots of water.
4. Take naps.
5. Don't bite, just growl.
6. Give unconditional love.
7. Stay close to your loved ones in times of distress.
8. When you want something badly, dig for it.

### **Be a Good Samaritan:**

Make-A-Wish Foundation is dedicated to granting the wishes of children with life-threatening illnesses. The airline frequent-flier program benefiting the foundation currently encompasses five major airlines and helps to provide tickets for children whose wishes involve travel.

If you would like to donate your miles to this worthy cause, call the airline that issued the miles, or visit the Make-A-Wish Foundation Web site at <http://www.wish.org>.

### Wisdom from the column of Ann Landers:

Here's a story I found in Curmudgeon's Corner, a local newsletter I also enjoy:

President Coolidge invited some Vermont friends to dine at the White House. They were worried about their table manners and decided to do everything President Coolidge did.

The meal passed smoothly until coffee was served.

Coolidge poured his coffee into a saucer. The guests followed suit. He added sugar and cream. The visitors did likewise. Then, Coolidge leaned over and gave his to the cat.

**Advice from Abby Van Buren** (twin sister of Ann Landers) **on their 80th birthday:** "Fear less; hope more. Eat less; chew more. Talk less; say more. Hate less; love more."

**Gem of the Day:** The body is the baggage you must carry through life. The more excess baggage, the shorter the trip.

According to a recent survey, 80% of all young adults in America say they plan to work after the age of 65. "Not only that: They say that when that time comes, they may even move out of their parents' house." (Steve Voldseth, LA Times)

### OBITUARIES:

Our sincere condolences to the families of our deceased members, friends and aviation enthusiasts...

**Frederick (Fred) Atkins** - died June 7, 1998, at Burbank, California. A long time non-sked Airline operator (Central Air Transport), Fred was a respected, well-liked business man, sadly missed by his wife, Frances, family and friends.

**Stanley Weiss** - Stan obtained a Degree in Pharmacology (Columbia University, 1938), and flew in the Air Transport Command 1942-45. After the war, Stan started Fire Ball Air Express with Jim Fischgrund, which became Standard Airlines (1948). He is survived by his wife, Geneva and 2 sons, Allan (Long Beach Attorney) and Paul (previously a 747 pilot for Flying Tigers, now a senior pilot for FedEx).

**Jim Fischgrund** - Jim received a law degree from UCLA in 1940; passed the Bar in 1941. Entered the US Navy 1942-45. He then joined Stan Weiss to found Standard Airlines in 1948.

Stan and Jim joined with Jack Lewin and Red Hart (combining 4 airlines) to found North American Airlines in 1950. Both Stan and Jim died early spring 1998. They were respected men in our industry.

**Richard Martiss** - A pilot/captain for many of the independents, died recently while on holiday in Paris.

**Charles (Chuck) Enz** - We have been advised of his death on October 17, 1996 by his wife, Sylvia.

**Barbara Lieto Barco** - Passed away after a long bout with cancer. She is dearly missed by her husband, Bob.

**John C. Day** - Elizabeth, his widow, writes that John passed away on November 18, 1997 of a stroke. Johnnie was a FAA representative to the Burbank/Los Angeles Air Carriers for many years - always a kind, supportive, helping friend.

**Kenneth E. Bahns** - Mrs. Mary Bahns writes of the sudden death of her husband in Modesto, California; "Ken was a pilot in the Army Air Corp 1940-56; flew in CBI theater, WWII. He worked in private aviation 1956-71 including a stint as Chief Pilot for George Batchelor." Mary says Ken flew until his death - "It was his life and love."

**Melrose Blackwell** - We are advised of her death by her husband, Roy (Blackie) Blackwell, operator of Seven Seas Travel in Oxnard. She passed away from a long time battle with Valley Fever.

**Art Beaume** - Sadly, Ginnie Beaume, Art's wife, advises that Art passed away on June 12, 1998.

**Charles O. Southern** - A veteran of the famed Tuskegee Airmen Program that trained black aviators in WWII, he was part of the 332nd Fighter Group as communications officer. He died on June 13, 1998.

See you next time.

The APA Board