



www.flyingtigerline.org

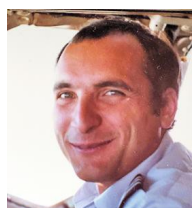
Flying Tiger Line Pilots Association

Pilots and employees of the Flying Tiger Line, dedicated to preserving the memory of a great airline and those who served in China and in World War II

SPRING 2017

Hello Everyone,

Jeanne and I hope that your 2017 is going well. We're enjoying the post holiday lull and Spring is in the air down here in Texas. Everything is falling into place and my estimate for 300 attendees at our Portland Reunion in May is still looking good.



Ralph Grella
1952 - 2017

I'm very sorry to report the late news that Capt. Ralph Grella passed away in his home in Santa Rosa on Friday, February 10th, 2017, just shortly after his 65th birthday. He is survived by his daughter Kate, son Max, mother Marian, sister, Chris, brother, Pete, and his beloved dog Roxy. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you donate to the [American Diabetes Association](http://AmericanDiabetesAssociation.org). Ralph was an original who could always put a smile

on the face of everyone in the room. He will be missed. You can leave a final comment on his obituary at Legacy.com by clicking [HERE](#).

On a happier note, our congratulations go out to the winners of the Registration Raffle. Those who sent in their forms and payments in time became eligible for the drawing held on December 31st.

Wayne and Karen Lane won two (2) free nights at the Red Lion.
Paul & Rose Stokes won two (2) free banquet meals.

While we're on the subject of Registration Forms, this is my time to start whining that only two-thirds of you who've made hotel reservations have sent in your payments. Please help me out, fill out the form, write a check, and get it to Peter as soon as you can.

The deadline for us to receive your registration this year is May 1st.

If you can't make the reunion but have made hotel reservations then please contact me before you cancel them. I've got some fellow members that might be interested in taking over your reservation with a couple easy steps on your part.

I hope to see you in May!

John

John Dickson
(208) 699-5909
president@flyingtigerline.org

In This Newsletter

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Important Reunion Links

[Who's Coming?](#)
[Portland Reunion Information](#)
[Questions and Answers](#)
[Previous Newsletters](#)
[Registration Form](#)



A sneak preview of another wonderful poster that Susan Skinner is creating for our Portland Reunion.

New FTLPA Email Address

As you know in 2011 we changed the method of distribution for newsletters from regular postal mail to internet email. Since then present and past newsletters have also been made available for viewing and downloading by visiting our website. Late last year we revamped our site to give you even more access to news and information important to our association. In keeping with this trend of upgrading we hope to roll out dedicated email addresses for sending and receiving emails. For the next couple of months you'll receive emails from both Peter (paokicich@comcast.net) and from a new address, email@flyingtigerline.org. Please add this new address to your contacts to prevent future mailings from falling into your Junk folder.

2017 Portland Reunion - Hotel Reservations



Red Lion Hotel - Jantzen Beach

909 N. Hayden Island Drive
Portland, OR 97217
503-283-4466

www.redlion.com/jantzen-beach

Our 43rd Annual FTLPA Reunion will be held in 2017 at the Red Lion Hotel-Jantzen Beach from May 17th to May 21st. The hotel is conveniently located off I-5, just 10 minutes north of downtown Portland and 15 minutes from the Portland International Airport. All rooms are identical and include balconies, small refrigerators, microwaves, internet, complimentary business center use, and free parking. Hotel shuttle service to the MAX rail station as well as other locations within a 4 mile radius will be provided free of charge.

Unfortunately the hotel has discontinued their airport shuttle service so you'll have to resort to a taxi or Uber to get to the hotel and back.

Room Reservation Options

Special rates negotiated for our group have unfortunately sold out. Attendees without lodging accommodations currently have the following options available:

1. Book a room at the Red Lion at the best rate you can obtain using your AAA, military, or senior discounts.
2. Book at the Oxford Suites (immediately next door) at the group rate of \$149 and \$169 per night. Be sure to identify yourself as a member of our group, or use the Promo Code **Tigers** to get the reduced rate if booking your reservation online. There are presently only 15 rooms available at this fantastic rate so don't delay!
3. Email John at president@flyingtigerline.org and request to be put on the cancellation list.



Oxford Suites

(next door)

12226 North Jantzen Drive
Portland, OR 97217
503-283-3030

www.oxfordsuitesportland.com

(use Promo Code - **Tigers**)

Need to Cancel?

Please Don't Cancel That Reservation Yet!

If you discover you'll be unable to attend and are holding a group rate reservation (\$149/\$164) - please DO NOT cancel your hotel just yet. You have up to 48 hours before our event to do so and you can help another attendee use the reduced rate that you hold. Email John Dickson for more information and the steps involved to help a fellow Tiger on the cancellation list.

FTLPA has always been very liberal in providing registration refunds in the event something arises that prevents you from coming. The only exception is when we are within a week and have already paid the non-refundable final deposit(s). Before then, however, please contact Peter Okicich and he will be glad to refund your registration payments, minus your membership dues.

Golf – Thursday, May 18th

Our golf tournament will be held at the **Heron Lakes Golf Club**, a public course very close to our hotel. First tee off is at 8:30am. Cost per player is \$60 which includes green fees, cart, range balls, prizes, bag handling, and club cleaning. Click [HERE](#) for more information on the Greenback Course that our group will be playing. We need more golfers! Come on people – get in the swing and come out for some great fun. Contact Larry Weeks with any questions. So far only the following 16 players have signed up.

Robert Carona	Tom Constable	Bill Reid
Tom & Lynn Cartmill	Doug Happ	John & Anek Smith
Bob Cecchi &	Fred & Sandy Peters	Bob Stickler
Winston Churchill	Paul Rebscher	Larry & Mary Weeks



Ed Henry, John Smith, and Roger Adams
Napa 2016

Evergreen Air & Space Museum – Friday, May 19th

The Evergreen Aviation & Space Museum is an aviation museum which displays a number of military and civilian aircraft and spacecraft, most notably, the Hughes H-4 Hercules "Spruce Goose".

The bus ride to and from the museum will take approximately 1 ½ hours aboard 56-passenger luxury buses with restroom facilities. Buses will depart the hotel on Friday at 2:30PM and will arrive back at approximately 11PM. Food & beverages are allowed on the buses, but are strictly forbidden from entering the museum.

We have added additional buses for a maximum capacity now of 201 passengers. As of this date we have 165 attendees that have made their payments for the event.



The Hughes H-4 Hercules



We're hoping to get everyone into the Spruce Goose cockpit for a photo opportunity.



We're also hoping that everyone gets a chance to climb into Ken Jernstedt's P40 during the night.

\$90 per person includes:

Bus Transportation to and from the Red Lion Hotel

Access to to Space Museum from 4pm to 5pm

Access to Air Museum from 5pm to 10pm

Buffet Dinner

(Click [HERE](#) for menu)

No Host Bar serving wine & beer.

NOTE

The consumption of personal alcohol is forbidden inside of the museum

Banquet & Dance – Saturday, May 20th

The Banquet and Dance will be held at 7pm in the Mt. Saint Helens Ballroom overlooking the Columbia River. Cocktails will be available at 6pm. Music will be provided by Cheri Adams, the keyboard/guitarist who entertained us during our banquet at the 2014 Seattle reunion.

The cost for the plated dinner will be \$60 per person. For a description of the meal choices available click [HERE](#). Suggested dress is *Casual Business*.



Reunion Agenda

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
Wednesday May 17th	1500 – Hospitality Suite Opens – The Hangar open until 1700 1900 – The Hangar is open until 2100	Multnomah & Clackamas Rooms
Thursday May 18th	0830 – Golf Tournament 0900 – Hospitality Suite opens each day (Bar will be open noon to midnight each day) The Hangar is open until 1100 1300 – The Hangar is open until 1700 1900 – The Hangar reopens until 2100	Heron Lakes Golf Club (Greenback Course) Multnomah & Clackamas Rooms Timberline Room
Friday May 19th	0900 – Hospitality Suite Opens The Hangar is open until 1300 1600 – Tour and Buffet Dinner at the Evergreen Air & Space Museum (busses to leave hotel at 2:30 PM and return at approximately 11PM)	Multnomah & Clackamas Rooms Timberline Room Evergreen Air & Space Museum
Saturday May 20th	0900 – Hospitality Suite Opens 1000 – Business Meeting Presentations by: Lydia Rossi <i>A Brief History of the AVG</i> Guy Van Herbruggen & Charles Kennedy <i>FTL B747 Book Project</i> 1300 – The Hangar is open until 1600 1800 – Banquet Reception 1900 – Dinner & Dance	Multnomah & Clackamas Rooms Clark Room Timberline Room St Helena Ballroom Entertainment by Cheri Adams
Sunday May 21st	0830 – The Hangar is open until 1000	Timberline Room

The Hangar

The Hangar, formerly referred to as *The Tiger Store*, is brought to you by the volunteer efforts of the flight attendant group within our association, led by their representative, Joyce Danielsen. She is being assisted by former FTL F/A Andee Wright with the purchase of new and exciting merchandise. If you're interested in helping Joyce out next year as a volunteer then please [email](#) or call her at 1 (509) 899-1731.

The store hours will be:

Wednesday - 1500-1700 & 1900-2100.
Thursday - 0900-1100 & 1300-1700 & 1900-2100
Friday - 0900-1300
Saturday – 1300-1600
Sunday - 0830-1000



Hangar Store hours have been planned so that everyone will be able to attend all events and also have some free time for social activities. Please remember that cash and checks are the acceptable tender for items.

The FTL flag, designed by Bob Stickler and Andee Wright, was a very popular item in Napa and will be available with many other new items this year.



Cabin Crew Corner

After the business meeting on Saturday morning we will have a short flight attendant meeting to discuss the 2018 reunion. The theme for the reunion will be, "Memories; Flight Attendants Flown West". (continued)



We already have 6 volunteers signed up to help but can always use more input for such an important event. I am also working on more flight attendant related items for The Hangar so come with ideas! Since the reunion will be in Palm Springs next year, we expect a large contingent of F/A's attending.

Annette Lusk has created a new Facebook Page for former FTL Flight Attendants at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/230828110273276>

Any F/A's that are interested in sharing a room should contact me at joyce_danielsen@yahoo.com and I'll try to coordinate it for you.

Squawk Ident!

Congratulations to Norah Oneill, Lary Thomas, and Houston Wray who all hit the SEND key at the same instant and were the first with the correct identity of last quarter's photo as that of Captain Bob Stickler after running away from home in 1956 and joining the Christiani Bros Circus. Does it all make a little more sense now? All three winners will receive a \$10 gift certificate for use in The Hangar during the Portland Reunion.



Who's That Tiger? – Photo Contest

The first three members to contact John Dickson and identify this FTL pilot at left will receive a \$10 gift certificate for merchandise offered at *The Hangar*. The winner will be announced in the next edition and another photo will be added for the next newsletter's contest. Email John at president@flyingtigerline.org or call him at (208) 699-5909

Got a good pic of yourself from way back when? Send it to John and he'll consider using it in the next edition.

Future Reunions



Renaissance Hotel -- Palm Springs

2018
Flight Attendant
Recognition Banquet
Renaissance Palm Springs Hotel
 888 E Tahquitz Canyon Way
 Palm Springs, CA 92262
 May 2nd to May 6th, 2018
 Friday night at the Palm Springs Air Museum

FTLPA donated \$2500 to the PSAM last year.
 To view letter of gratitude
[Click Here](#)



P40 at the Palm Springs Air Museum



Flying Tiger Line room
 in the Flight Path Museum

2019
45-Year
Anniversary Reunion
Renaissance Long Beach Hotel
 111 East Ocean Boulevard
 Long Beach, CA 90802
 May 1st to May 5th, 2019
 Visits to Flight Path Museum at LAX
 and California Science Center in L.A.



OV-105 Endeavour
 at the California Science Center

Flown West



To fly west, my friend, is a flight we all must take for a final check (Author unknown)

The following former Flying Tigers have also made their final flight since our last reunion in Napa. More information might be found in the **Flown West** section of our website or in the FTLPA **Discussion Forum**.

Ernie Rice – September 8, 2013
Hal Ewing – April 25, 2016
Greg Beckman – May 9, 2016
Gail Vikse – June 2, 2016
Thomas Mitchel – June 30, 2016
Bob Kelley – July 1, 2016
Scott Cutler – August 1, 2016

Merle Kleen – August 18, 2016
Don McComas – October 19, 2016
Karl Krout – October 20, 2016
***Brad Bowers** – November 4, 2016
Jim Carey – November 20, 2016
***# Suzie Cliekman** – Unknown Date
***Ralph Grella** – February 10, 2017
*Added since last newsletter
Former SWA F/A

Did You Know?



The image of the Tired Tiger has been used on and off during the past 43 years that FTLPA has been in existence. According to Lydia Rossi, the artwork was originally created by Bob Stevens, the cartoonist for Air Force magazine and a good friend of Dick's. As a favor, Mr. Stevens created this as the original logo for our group when it was first named the Flying Tiger *Retired Pilots Association*.

https://www.lambiek.net/artists/s/stevens_bob.htm

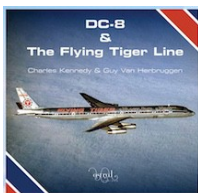
New Books

Aviation historian, Guy Van Herbruggen and journalist, Charles Kennedy, have collaborated once again to author two new books relevant to most within our group. We were introduced to them at the New Orleans Reunion shortly after their book, ***DC-8 & The Flying Tiger Line***, was released to the public. Since then Charles and Guy were our guests in Napa where they were presented with a plaque honoring our airline's founder, Robert Prescott. The brass plaque will be attached to our former DC8 simulator, now partially restored and on display at the museum in Saint-Ghislain, Belgium through their coordinated efforts.

Tiger 747 will highlight the history of the Boeing 747 with specific reference to all of the the aircraft used by the Flying Tiger Line, Seaboard World Airways, Metro Airways, and ultimately Federal Express. The pages will include the individual aircraft histories of 34 airframes, flight deck and simulator descriptions, passenger operations, charter missions, and sections devoted to memories from those that were lucky enough to fly this magnificent aircraft.

The authors began their arduous task of collecting pictures, stories, and other anecdotes from members attending the Napa reunion last year. They have relayed their appreciation, and continue to solicit your input, with a deadline of March 31st. There is still time if you have a particular picture or story you think may be of interest. You can contact Guy at gvanherbruggen@hotmail.com and Charles at charles@invisiblehands.co.uk.

Already complete, their second book, ***The Story of the MD-11***, will surely be of interest to all who made it through the merger and eventually checked out on the *MadDog*. Both of these new books will be available in Portland.



A limited number of copies of ***DC-8 & The Flying Tiger Line*** will be made available at the Portland reunion. You may also purchase your copy online using one of the links below:

[Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

[The Airline Boutique](https://www.theairlineboutique.com)

TWO NEW BOOKS FROM THE TEAM THAT BROUGHT YOU DC-8 & THE FLYING TIGER LINE

Tiger 747 tells the story of the Boeing 747 in service with the Flying Tiger Line, Seaboard World, and Federal Express, with an individual history of the thirty-four jumbos operated, and two in-depth historical essays, charting the evolution of Flying Tigers and Seaboard and the story of the Boeing 747. It also includes technical information and descriptions, pilot and crew memories, and a special history of Flying Tigers' flight attendants.

A worthwhile sequel to the DC-8 & FTL book.



The Story Of The MD-11's 288 pages include a series of epic historical essays covering the design, development, test flying, and airline service up to and beyond the end of MD-11 production; detailed individual airframe histories of every one of the 200 MD-11s built; fascinating technical drawings and descriptions. The story of a pilots' favorite up to the present day.

still available: **DC-8 & The Flying Tiger Line**,
a pioneering airline and a historically significant aircraft
that together changed the world of air commerce forever



astral
HORIZON
theairlineboutique.com

Vintage FTL Advertisement #9

SAYS
Marron Kendrick,
VICE PRESIDENT
Schlage Lock Co.
SAN FRANCISCO

WE MADE A DEAL WITH "FATHER TIME"

THIS IS A SPECIAL RUSH JOB—NEW YORK WANTS THE LOCKS FOR THE S. S. UNITED STATES

...THAT MEANS SHIPPING BY AIR, DOESN'T IT?

FATHER TIME THREW US A CURVE, CHIEF.

WE CAN MAKE IT WITH TIGER AIRFREIGHT—THAT'LL GIVE US EXTRA PRODUCTION TIME.

HERE COME THOSE SCHLAGE LOCKS, JOE.

WITH WINGS, TOO.

THE TIGERS TO THE RESCUE, EH, CAP?

HAVEN'T MISSED THE BOAT YET, PAL.

KEY
MAIN ROUTE
CONNECTING ROUTE

Write for free illustrated folder describing Flying Tigers' unique Advance Manifest System.

FLYING TIGERS... ANOTHER BUSINESS BUILT ON 'CAN DO'

Flying Tiger Line

OFFICES IN PRINCIPAL CITIES • GENERAL OFFICES: LOCKHEED AIR TERMINAL, BURBANK 8, CALIFORNIA • CABLE: FLYTIGER

News & Announcements

Track Drive at Portland International Raceway

The SCCA is sponsoring a "Track Night in America" event on May 19, 2017 from 3 pm to 9 pm at Portland International Raceway. The event is designed for anyone to bring their street legal car onto the track in a fun learning environment. Track Night in America will utilize the track layout that includes a hard chicane at the end of the front straight and involves twelve turns at a length of 1.967 miles (3.17 km). You will drive in a group according to your past track experience. You do not have to be an SCCA member to participate in Track Night. You will need a helmet as there are no loaners or rental helmets at the track. The cost will be \$150 for three sessions plus any paced sessions you choose to drive. Registration opens on March 1st

<https://www.tracknightinamerica.com/events/1987584-track-night-2017-portland-may-19>

Much more information is on that page using the "Need to Know" drop down banner. Gary Roeder is planning to drive his Porsche over for the event, contact him at 777pyrat@gmail.com with questions. If there is enough interest, the group could take a mid morning drive to Lyle, Washington. The trip would be a loop around Mount Hood, thru Odell to Lyle. After lunch, a scenic drive along the river, returning to the hotel by 2pm.

Facebook for FTL Flight Attendants

A Facebook Group has been started specifically for former FTL F/A's. It is managed and private where the galley crews can still get together and have a few "bin-sitting" talks. Go to: Flying Tiger Line Flight Attendants Group at

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/230828110273276>

Need a Roomate for Portland?

Any F/A's that are interested in sharing a room should contact Joyce at joyce_danielsen@yahoo.com and she'll try to coordinate it for you.

Got News?

Let us know and we'll include it in the next edition

Video Library

Click on the various links below for some interesting websites that pertain to our history at the Flying Tiger Line. If you come across an interesting link yourself, be sure to let us know. This collection will be posted to our newly revised website in the near future.

New to the library is some great footage of a FTL B747 returning to ANC after blowing some tires on takeoff. Capt. John Binikos was giving a line check to Capt. Ed Cardinali, F/O John Murrow, and S/O Paul Royer. Along with the crew, many of the ANC ramp personnel that we knew so well are seen near the end of the video.

Also added are Joe Crecca's presentation to attendees at the 2015 New Orleans Reunion plus other online interviews. Major Crecca spent more than 6 years of his life as a POW in Vietnam before coming to Tigers.

The Flying Tiger Line

[Flying Tigers "Can Do" Spirit](#) (35:08)
[Tribute to the Flying Tiger Line](#) (4:05)
[The True Story of the Flying Tigers](#) (43:17)
[The Flying Tigers Cargo Company](#) (9:56)
[Tribute to Bob Prescott](#) (PDF)
[Elephant Arrival in Burbank](#) (12:56)
[\(NEW\) Flying Tigers 747 Blown Tires ANC](#) (18:35)

The P40 Warhawk

[How to Fly the P40 Warhawk](#) (28:18)
[WW2: Curtiss P-40 Warhawk](#) (46:00)
[P40, Warbirds of WWII](#) (45:17)
[P-40 Warhawk Vs. Japanese Zero](#) (4:52)
[P-40 Cockpit Tour](#) (6:01)
[Pearl Harbor P40 Boys](#) (5:58)
[Amazing WWII Color Pictures](#)

American Volunteer Group

[Wings Over China –The Story of the Flying Tigers](#) (47:44)
[Flying Tigers: "The Story of the Fourteenth Air Force"](#) (39:50)
[The Flying Tigers](#) (7:11)
[The Flying Tigers – Famous Dogfights](#) (43:59)
[Dick Rossi Interview, 1999](#) (41:18)
[Flying Tigers Bite Back](#) (4:33)

[History, Books, and Art](#)
[Discussion Forum](#)

Miscellaneous

[Boeing 707 Barrel Roll](#) (4:31)
[Douglas DC-8 - The Birth of a Jet](#) (13:16)
[Lockheed Constellation Story](#) (10:39)
[Classic Airliners - "Freight Dogs" - 1973](#) (10:14)

[\(NEW\) JOE CRECCA VIDEOS](#)
[New Orleans Presentation](#) (1:17:09)
[Fox13 News Never Give Up](#) (7:24)
[Vietnam War Commemoration Oral History Project](#) (3:47)

Say Again?

We don't have a monopoly. Anyone who wants to dig a well without a Hughes bit can always use a pick and shovel!

-Howard Hughes

Contact Us

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Sandra White
Meeting Planner
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2017 REUNION-PORTLAND, OR

May 17th to May 21st, 2017

I am planning on attending **YES** ____ **NO** ____ Only 2017 Dues Enclosed ____

Name _____ **Partner** _____

Other guests attending,

list names here: _____

Enclosed, \$20 for 2017 Dues\$ _____

Enclosed, \$20 per person for Registration.....\$ _____

Enclosed, \$60.00 per person for golf at HERON LAKES GOLF COURSE..\$ _____

Enclosed, \$90.00 per person for EVERGREEN AIR & SPACE MUSEUM...\$ _____

This includes charter bus ride and buffet dinner.

The cut-off for this event is 201 people. Sign up now!

Enclosed, \$60.00 per person for Banquet Dinner & Dance

Choose your entrée **Ribeye Steak....\$** _____

Mesquite Honey Glazed Salmon.\$ _____

Chicken Parmesan...\$ _____

Vegetarian Puff Pastry.....\$ _____

Enclosed, \$6.00 each for custom name badges \$ _____

Names as you want them to appear _____

Total Enclosed.. \$ _____

Mail to: FTLPA, 14248 56TH Ave. S., Seattle, WA 98168

Deadline for Receipt is May 1st, 2017