

...... And oft' the setting sun is pleased to trim the Clouds with molten sails And lace the way of passing jets with golden condensation trails

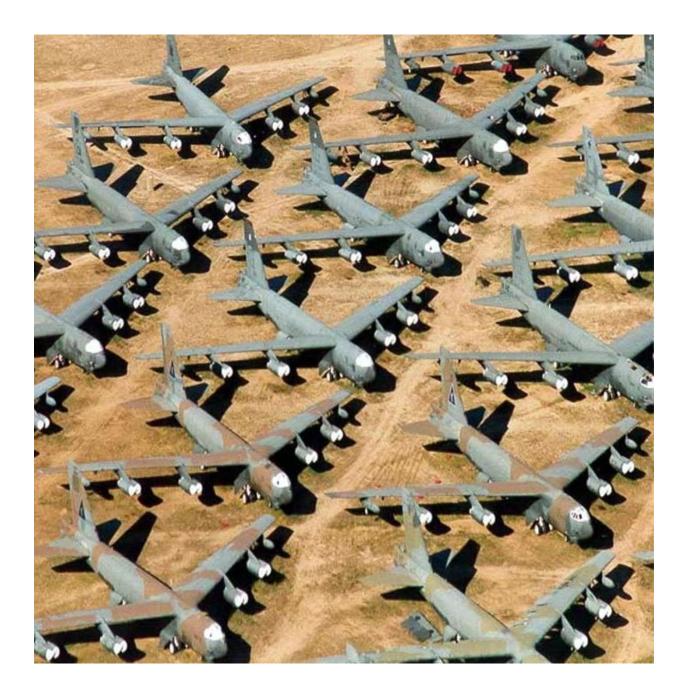




# "End of the Trail"

# On the Front Cover

A once proud Navy F-14 minus its engines sits in the dirt at the aircraft storage site in Tucson, AZ known as the "Boneyard". More pictures and facts about this facility in this issue.



B-52s awaiting destruction as part of the START Treaty

#### NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

and heartfelt apology to B.J. Bellerue, the past presi- endeavor, they could email me a picture of their dent of the Ladie's Auxiliary and one of the hardest choosing (f100plt@gmail.com) or if no computer acworkers we have had helping to produce our annual cess, mail it to me(Shaun Ryan, 6610 N. Sutherland conventions for the past several years. . Unfortu- Ridge Place, Tucson, AZ 85718). I will scan them nately, I did not publish B.J.'s final letter in the last and promise to return the photo to you. Hopefully we issue and I cannot think of any suitable excuse. I am will get enough participation to make this work. therefore publishing it in this issue along with a note from our new Ladie's Auxiliary President, Gail Grover, whom we warmly welcome. It does not make up for my mistake and certainly does not indicate any lack of appreciation for all the good work that B.J. has accomplished over the years. Thanks B.J. and I am truly sorry.

coming out, I had planned to publish several notices been doing so add to your "bucket list" and write an that I felt were most important but since this appears article for the Golden Contrails." If I can do it, you to be a work in progress, I think I will wait until the can do it. Remember, this magazine is FOR the memnext issue and maybe things will have firmed up. I do bers of the Golden Eagles and BY the members of the want to thank our Travel and Merger Liason person, Golden Eagles. Bill Chambers and our "Eagle Net" facilitator, Dave Newell for staying on top of the rapidly changing news and getting the word out to the members. Great job guys!

Linda and I going to the Big Island of Hawaii in a few weeks and will be using our first vacation passes to fly from TUS to LAX and then on to ITO. So far the listing process went very smoothly and was so similar to the old CO process that it was a breeze. The new listing details even shows how many full fare pax are eligible for a first class upgrade which helps in seeing if we will be seated there. I have to admit after all my flying to Hawaii in the DC-10 that I was surprised to see they are using a 737-800 for the trip. I will report on the trip when we get back and send it to Dave Newell to forward to the membership.

Gail Grover has been busy planning the banquet for the upcoming convention and has made a very nice

suggestion. If we could collect pictures of all those members who have gone west, we could put them into a slide show to view and pay our last respects. If the My first duty in this issue is to provide a personal families of these individuals would like to help in this

Have you noticed that the Golden Contrails feels a little lighter this issue? What do suppose is causing this? Do you think it might have something to do with the fact that no one is sending in any thing to put in it? Surely some of you must have taken a trip of a lifetime that has been on your "bucket list" or completed a project that has kept you occupied for a long time. With all the information on retirees pass travel Everyone enjoys reading about what their friends have

> Looking forward to seeing you all in Las Vegas and I am sure the "remember when" stories will be flying around the hospitality room.

## Shaun



## **The President's Corner**

On March 3rd, 2012 our beloved Continental Airlines "flew West"

I got my first real jolt of this reality when my cell phone rand and a female voice identified herself as United operations trying to reach Gail Grover, my wife who is still a working flight attendant. I wanted to ask "why are you calling for Gail? She works for Continental." But I had to face that it really did happen. We are now United Airlines and moping over the merger is a futile waste of time and energy. It is time to move on and deal with our new reality.

We have emerged with new pass travel status for retired Continental employees thanks to endless hours of time and efforts of Gary Humphries, Bill Chambers and staff. There are some details to our pass travel policy that need to be cleared up and that work is being done as I write this letter.

Keeping us "IN THE LOOP" with all the daily changes and updated information that keeps emerging, we have Dave Newell to thank over and over.....again and again. I also send my deepest appreciation to President Elect Don Gentry who keeps nagging at me with all good humor and intentions.

Our business meeting in October will have a much larger agend in order to address the changes that this merger has presented and our need to to update our by -laws in order to face new challenges.

The new Tropicana is the perfect setting for us to Refresh and Renew and I know you and your guests will have a fun, memorable time at our Las Vegas gathering.

Paul F. Grover III





SEE YOU IN LAS VEGAS

# The Reserve Captain

We had a great time at the Houston Golden Eagles Reunion in October of last year. Gary and his team did a great job; of course he had a lot of great help from Renelle and the other wives.

You are all probably aware of the many changes that have taken place during the Continental/ United merger. Changes in pass travel rules, of course, are of particular interest to we retired pilots. Bill Chambers, our tireless travel liaison officer, has done an outstanding job looking after the interests of retired pilots. We cannot thank Bill enough! And thanks also to Dave Newell, who has been communicating pass travel information from Bill and others through emails to the Golden Eagles membership. We also wish to thank Charlie Starr and Birdie Bertrand for all they have done for our organization.

A word about this year's reunion in Las Vegas: Paul and Gail Grover have worked hard getting us moved to the Tropicana.Hotel. More on that as we get the information. Ben McKenzie and I will be assisting Paul with the golf outing. We will be going back to the two-day format. The first day is October 16<sup>th</sup> around 1330; the second day is October 17<sup>th</sup> around 0800. The golf course has offered us bus transportation from the hotel. More details can be found on the golf registration form.

It has been a rough year for the Golden Eagles. A good many of our members have gone west. They will all be missed. Our prayers go out to their spouses and family members.

Remember that an organization is only as good as its members make it. We look forward to seeing all of you in Las Vegas.





Casey Cameron sent this in and said to give credit to the AAHS (American Aviation Historical Society) so we thank all concerned for this piece of Continental Airlines history.

### Don

A Short Note from Your Secretary

Wow, since being elected to the Secretary's position last October, and turning over my Treasurer's duties to Tom Doherty, it seems like I've found hours and hours of free time. Late last year, Tom visited me here in NW Florida for several days, as we made the transition - with Tom learning the computer programs for both the financial recordkeeping as well as our master database. The transition seems to have gone without a hitch and Tom, with only a very little learning, has taken over the job in admirable fashion. While on the subject dealing with Association finances, and per my usual, I'd ask that everyone look at the mail label of this magazine (right after your name) to be sure that your dues are up to date. If they're not, please mail your dues payment to: Tom Doherty, 7 McCormick Way, Salem NH 03079-2816. And don't forget to keep Tom or myself informed of any address, e-mail or phone number changes during the year.

I'll still be around, as secretary, to help with any record-keeping and to assist our editor and publisher of *Golden Contrails*, Shaun Ryan, with printing and mailing of the magazine. I'll also be assisting Tom with reservations and-such for our upcoming October annual convention/reunion. While spring may seem a little early, it's a good time to begin to make your plans to attend. This year's event should be a premier reunion – our new hotel, The Tropicana, will be going all out to assure that we are treated like royalty. Paul and Gail Grover along with Don Gentry have been working with The Tropicana to insure our every need is met. A banquet reservation and meal selection form is included in this magazine. It's never too early to make your reservations.

And finally, I want to acknowledge the hard work of two of our members and committee heads, Dave Newell and Bill Chambers. Dave has done yeoman duty in keeping our member e-mail notification up and running. Be sure to keep Dave informed of any email address changes. Bill continues to work diligently in representing us in the pass travel privileges department. I'm sure that most of you are aware of all of the changes that are in effect or are upcoming. Bill was also instrumental in seeing that Golden Eagle membership information packets are being distributed to all retiring pilots.

New password for viewing Contrails and the roster on the website: tailcone

Best Regards – see you in LAS Charlie Starr - Secretary



# A MESSAGE TO THE LADIES AUXILIARY FROM PAST PRESIDENT B.J. BELLERUE

(Editor's note - This is the letter that for some I wish you all reason did not get published in the December issue. perous new year! My apologies again to B.J.)

What a terrific convention and turnout we had in October in Houston!

So many new and wonderful people came to this meeting and it was wonderful to meet all of you.

There are many wonderful ladies that gave of their time, energy and skills to help make this convention a huge success. I would like to thank Linda Meier, Pam Meyners, Chris McKenzie, Sharon Clough, Ranelle Humphries, Gail Grover, Cynthia Starr and Francia Gentry for all the help in the hospitality room and at the check-in table. Thanks to Cynthia Starr for filling in for Linda Ryan in the Secretary position. I know Linda really appreciated it, as did I. Thanks to Penny Schuchat for contacting Alice Powers and securing the lovely Merle Norman gifts that Alice sent to us. We all miss Alice at our meetings and she is always thoughtful to send the gifts! I called Alice to thank her and she was delighted to hear everyone liked the gifts. She said she would really like to come to the convention in Las Vegas next year. Hope to see her there!

Another thanks to Francia Gentry for running down the beautiful decorations for the banquet tables. The decorations were made by Ina Domengeaux with help from Ranell Humphries for the last convention we had in Houston in 2008 – they were beautiful – thanks to all who contributed to make our tables beautiful.

Thanks to Gail Grover who assisted me with the picture taking this year, the pictures turned out great **made the conventions a total de**and were much appreciated.

. Thank you to all for your support, generosity, help Gail Grover was elected our new president of the ladies auxiliary for the next two years and she will serve along side of her husband Paul who is the President of the Golden Eagles. I know Gail is going to enjoy serving all of you as I did, and she will do a terrific job!

The past three years have been a wonderful, rewarding experience for me and a part of my life that

will remain in my heart forever and love, I couldn't have done it without you!

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous new year!

Hope to see you all in Las Vegas at the Tropicana Hotel next year for the 2012 convention.

Sincerely,

**BJ** Bellerue



**B.J.**,

Thank you so much for all your hard work over the years. You and all your volunteers have nade the conventions a total delight.

## The Colden Eagles

# Notes from your Treasurer - Tom Doherty

It's been my lifelong plan to spend the winters of my retirement escaping the cold and snow of New England for warm, sunny Florida; and I finally realized that dream this year. My wife and I have spent the last few months golfing, boating, and relaxing the days away and enjoying the 80 degree temperatures. As I write this, the weather in my hometown of Salem, New Hampshire is reporting record breaking heat for this time of year! Go figure.

Having assumed the duties of Treasurer in December 2011, I would like to report that, with Charlie Starr's good help and training, things are going well. As of this date, all dues and postage contributions have been deposited and credited to members' accounts. Thanks to everyone who sent in their dues in a timely manner. If I've made any errors or omissions, just let me know and I'll make the corrections. If you have not yet sent your 2012 dues renewal, please be reminded to do so as soon as possible. It is also important to inform me of any change of address, phone number, or e-mail address.

As you know our 2012 convention/reunion is in Las Vegas this year, at the newly renovated Tropicana Hotel; we're all looking forward to a great time. It's never too early to make your plans and reservations.

Have a great Spring

Tom Doberty

Our Newest Members – Welcome Aboard			
James Buick	James Edwards	Robert Gridley	Kathleen Harvey
Ernie Horton	Wiley Moore	John Olson	Richard Pettibone
Rod Resweber	Bob Macaluso		

Dave Anderson	Peter Bartelli	Bill Basnight	Mike Bender	Don Bishop
John Blackis	Steve Bliss	Dick Boudreau	Bill Broshears	Jim Bryant
Tom Buckley	Rich Bulger	Harold Burton	Shirley Cage	Harold Cameron
Pat Campbell	Jim Carter	Guy Casey	Darryl Christian	Ray Combest
James (Jet) Conger	H.A. (Coop)Cooper	Bruce Copp	Wesley Coss	George Cramp
Dewitt Davidson	Joseph Dentz	Tom Doherty	Spike Duncan	Ray Durden
Jim Farrow	Mark Farrow	Myrte Ferris	Dick Floreani	Gene Freeman
Stephen Grimes	Dick Hague	Mrs. L. V. Hart	Kathleen Harvey	Virgil Hemphill
Dick Hillman	Walt Honan	Jerry Hunsinger	Mitch Inman	Jim Jamison
Kenneth Lakes	Mike Lichtenfeld	Peter Linzmaier	Eric Mahnerd	Ken Masat
Max Meinen	Lee Meyners	Diane Myers	Phil Nash	Robert Pearse
Cliff Pleggenkuhle, Jr.	Frank Rhodes	Rene' Robert	Shaun Ryan	Maurice Saroni
Jane Schuring	Kathleen Smagacz-Ha	irvey	Charlie Starr	Dave Sullivan
John Sulton	Art Swanson	Bob Sykes	Robert Therrien	Allen Timms
Edward Warnock	James Waters	R.B. (Bob) Wilson	Dave Wood	



## FROM YOUR BEAN COUNTER (aka: TREASURER'S REPORT) Jam Daharty - Treas.

Checking Acct.		
Bal. (Checking) From 11/10/2011	\$ 6,683.12	
Inflows (Checking) 11/10/2011 - 3/20	/2012	
Dues Deposited	\$ 10,580.00	
Postage Contributions Deposited	465.00	
Total Inflows This Period	\$ 11,045.00	
Outflows (Checking) 11/10/2011 - 3/	20/2012	
Contrails Printing	\$ 2,305.00	
Contrails Postage	416.14	
Office Supplies	61.37	
Remembrance Donations	150.00	
Prospective Member Printing	591.70	
Jewelry for sale purchase	20.00	
Web site domain & maintenance fee	774.40	
Total Outflows This Period	\$ 4,318.60	
Balance (Checking) 3/20/2012	\$ 13,409.51	

Checking Acct.

#### Savings Acct.

Bal. Savings From 11/10/2011	\$	18,951.33
Inflows (Savings) 11/10/2011-3/2	20/2012	
Interest Earned		4.84
Total Inflows This Period	\$	4.84
Outflows (Savings) 11/10/2011 - 3	3/20/2012	2
Bank Supplies & Charges	\$	2.40
Jewelry for sale purchase		862.50
Total Outflows This Period	\$	864.90
Balance (Savings) 3/20/2012	\$	18,091.27

#### CARE Fund

Balance (CARE) From 11/10/2011	\$	41.48
Inflows (CARE) 11/10/2011 - 3/20	/2012	
Donations Received	\$	30.00
Interest Earned		00.02
Total Inflows This Period	\$	30.02
Outflows (CARE) 11/10/2011 - 3/20/2012		
Bank fee	\$	00.40
Total Outflows This Period	\$	00.40
Balance (CARE) 3/20/2012	\$	71.10

### IMPORTANT – IMPORTANT New Password

Effective with the date of this edition of GOLDEN CONTRAILS, the password to access both <u>THE MEMBERSHIP ROSTER</u> and editions of <u>THE GOLDEN CONTRAILS</u>, posted on the web-site <u>www.thegoldneagles.org</u> will be:

tailcone

You will want to write this down for future use!

Don't forget to update your personal info whenever you change addresses, telephone no. or E-mail address Send to: Tom Doherty, Treasurer; 7 McCormick Way; Salem NH 03079-2816 Email: jkated@aol.com

# Golden Eagles Golf 2012

- Where: Angel Park Golf Club 100 So. Rampart Blvd.1 Las Vegas, NV 888-4GOLFLV or 702-254-4653 website: angelpark.com
- When: Day One Tuesday Oct. 16th 2012 Start Time- 1330 Day Two - Wednesday Oct 17th 2012 Start Time- 0800



Cost: \$125 per Player for 2 Days, Including Cart

RSVP Deadline: Oct 1, 2012

## Make Check Payable to:

Ben McKenzie 103 Branding Iron Cove Georgetown, TX 78628-4885 Tel: 936-203-3104 Email: bmmcgolf@aol.com

Directions: From Tropicana Hotel to Angel Park Golf Club

North on Flamingo Rd. Take ramp onto I-15N. Take exit 42A merge onto 95N. Take exit 81A, merge onto Summerlin Parkway, left onto Rampart Blvd. You will then find the course on your left.

## MAIL FORM WITH YOUR CHECK

NAME:

HANDICAP (IFAPPLICABLE):

Anybody can play \*\*handicap or no handicap\*\*Never Played? It's ok. We just have fun!

# Heading West The following individuals have taken their final flight west. We wish them clear skies, smooth air and favorable winds.

2011	Ernie Islava
GOLDEN EAGLES MEMBERS	George Seifert
Bob Furrer	2012
K.D. Thompson	Continental Airlines
Rex Buchanan	Hershel McAllister
Ron Lemon	Hank Schnieder
Bill Childress	Ralph Musser
Bill Hill	Norm McGowan
Walt Loflin	
J.J. Morin	NON MEMBERS
Bud Battley	2011
Don Straight	John "Jack" Eppinger
Harry Parker	Hank Moen
Frank Prentiss	Larry Mahaffey
Dave Randolph	Ron Peterman

Paul Terhune Harry Morse Kent Keller Ted Snyder Dennis McCright Dhil Brawner Bob Shoemaker Gene McQuillan 2012 Jimmy Tripson Michael Jordan

List is current as of 3/26/2012

# THE BONEYARD

# TUCSON, AZ



We have all heard about it and many of us have flown but pose with a particular aircraft that I had flown and over it but getting into it used to be very difficult. document it with my Air Force logbook (form 5), she Now, you can visit the Pima Air and Space Museum included me on the team and I had several great afterin Tucson and take a bus tour through the "Boneyard" noons where just the photographer, the "Boneyard" but it is highly supervised and you will not be allowed PA lady and myself took a van and had unlimited acwould like to record some of the over 4400 aircraft we could not remove anything from the aircraft, no with our digital devices. Fortunately, a few years ago matter how small or unimportant. I got my picture I became involved with a photographer who was un- taken with several of the A-7D planes that the Tucson der contract to the Air Force to photograph retired pi- Air Guard had flown and was looking forward to my lots who had flown some of these aircraft operation- 15 minutes of fame in the Air Force travelling exhibially. The idea was to create a travelling photographic tion. Unfortunately, the powers that be felt that since exhibition of the pilots and their retired aircraft types most of my time in the A-7 was in Arizona airspace, I parked in the "Boneyard:. When she found out that I did not rate with the guys who had flown in Viet Nam.

off the bus. This is very frustrating to those of us who cess to all the aircraft. The only restriction was that could not only say that I had flown that type of aircraft So much for fame! ( I did receive a nicely framed picture of myself standing in front of an Arizona Air National Guard A-7D in mothballs - two old birds that will never fly again)

I did learn about the "Boneyard" during these explorations and it is rather fascinating. First of all, the official name of the facility is the 309th Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Center-AMARC for short. It consists of close to 4400 aircraft valued at around 27 billion dollars and occupying 2,600 acres of land next to Davis Monthan AFB. It employs approximately 600 workers and is the 3rd largest Air Force in the world! Many of the stored aircraft can be returned to operational status in a short time due to an on-going program of anti-corrosion and represervation that keeps them in stable condition.

The nickname "Boneyard" refers to the reclamation part of the facility that dismantles the aircraft for parts and materials and disposes of the spent airframes. It is claimed that this unit is the only one in the Air Force that makes money with an average of \$22 returned for every \$1 spent.

As I mentioned, the bus tour of the facility can be booked at the Pima Air and Space Museum which is located on the other side of Davis Monthan AFB, close to the I-10 freeway. This is becoming one of the premier air museums in the country with more than 300 aircraft and spacecraft on view including such notable planes as the SR-71, the North American F-107, the B-24 Liberator, the B-25 and 2 beautifully restored WWII bombers, a B-29 and a B-17. I would say that a visit to this facility would be extremely enjoyable for any aviation buff.

My favorite aircraft in the museum are the A-7D that is mounted on a pedestal and is painted in the colors of the Arizona ANG (I have many, many hours in that particular airplane), the F-100, the F-102 and the F-16A-all of which I flew in the Arizona ANG. It saw on the WWII aircraft. Check your back issue for hardly seems possible that it was 25 years ago that I flew my last flight in the F-16.

Now, on to some pictures from the "Boneyard"



C-5s with engines removed- it looks like the entire C-5 fleet is here. One of these huge aircraft by itself is impressive but when you see so many together it is mind boggling



#### B1-Bs

I didn't realize that the B-1 had canards! It is even more confusing since the one parked behind the front aircraft does not have them. There is a white circle visible where they should be so maybe they have just been removed. Does anyone have an answer to this puzzle? What was interesting was the nose art on some of these speedsters-very similar to what we April 2011 for an example.



A Lockheed T-33 better known as Lockheedus Swinus Subsonicus. Used by the Air Force for advanced pilot training. Curiously, this had Marine Corps markings.



Tucson Air Guard A-7Ds

One of the best aircraft ever built for close air support as it had a lot of electronic magic that made dropping bombs exactly where you wanted an easy task. One A-7 could carry more 500 # bombs than a WWII B-17 and do it at 600mph!



F-4s

The workhorse of the Viet Nam conflict used for everything from Air Superiority to high altitude bombing (referred to as Sky Pukes by the guys who did close air support in other fighters)



T-38 Talon supersonic trainers



T-37 trainer and Arizona ANG F-16B

These had just been delivered to the "Boneyard" and had not been prepared for storage yet. This is one of my favorite pictures as the T-37 was the first jet I flew in the

Air Force as a student pilot and the F-16 was the aircraft in which I flew my last flight for the military 25 years later. I couldn't believe I found them parked next to each other and waiting to be photographed.



A gaggle of Helos showing a lot more preservation than some of the other aircraft.

I suspect they intend to sell these if they can.



An A-10 with lots of missing parts



C-141s in the dirt

## Reservations form for Oct. 18, 2012 Reunion Banquet and Ladies Luncheon (All meals include tax and gratuity) PLEASE PRINT at Name

Last Name	, First Name	
Address		
City State	e Zip	_+
() E-mail	l	
My significant other half (spouse) or guest(s) will attend	Spouse/Guest(s) name(s)	
Ladies Luncheon Mixed Baby Greens, Marinated Mango, Peppad Harts of Palm, Plantain Chips, Sour Orange Vin Jerked Chicken, Baked Breads & Chef's Signat	lew Peppers, naigrette,	
Banquet Dinner (Luau Dinner)	alad ango Salsa, inners include:	= \$00
No. in party Prices include tax and gratuity j Please ren		al: <u>\$    .00</u>

Please send this <u>completed form</u> along with a check for both the banquet and for ladies luncheon, payable to: Golden Eagles C/O Tom Doherty, Treasurer 7 McCormick Way Salem NH, 03079-2816

Deadline for <u>meal reservations</u> is Oct. 12th Banquet or luncheon reservations after this date subject to availability Refunds or cancellations after Oct.12th subject to refunds from hotel

#### IMPORTANT - MAKE EARLY HOTEL RESERVATIONS DIRECT WITH HOTEL Deadline Sep. 18th

Hotel room reservations and payments <u>must be made directly</u> with the LAS VEGAS TROPICANA HOTEL. Be sure to ask for Golden Eagles group rate of \$95.20 per night. Especially for our golfers - rate is good for the nights of Oct. 16<sup>th</sup>, 17th, and 18th. The Tropicana's toll free number is: 1-800-634-4000. Local number in Las Vegas is:

1-702-739-2222. Tropicana's address is 3801 Las Vegas Blvd., So. , Las Vegas NV 89109 Room reservations at Golden Eagles' special rate must be made by Sept. 18th Dear Auxiliary Members and Guests,

Remember all of those colorful "mumus" we used to love to wear.....let the tummy relax.....well, go find one from storage, resale shops, the garage of attic storage, wherever!!!!! 'cause we are "GOIN TO A HUKELAU."

Our gathering in Las Vegas, Oct. 17th/18th is going to be as fresh as the island breeze. A new destination, the newly remodeled Tropicana Resort with fresh new amenities, lots of spaces to explore, and rooms you just won't want to leave. I cannot wait to hear the oo's and ahhh's.

Our gatherings in the Sahara desert have been so fun and entertaining. What BJ Bellerue, the Sheltons, the McKenzies, the Humphries were able to achieve in the desert was truly Amazing...and I am so grateful to all of you for giving me the awesome platform to build on.

These fun gatherings do not happen without a lot of input of thought, time, hands on hard work. I have my dream team: Vice-Pres. Francia Gentry, Sec. Linda Stan, Sec. nominee, Pam Myners. My hula princesses, Chris McKenzie, Sharon Clough, Renelle Humphries, BJ Bellerue, Kay Newell, Penny Schucat, Mary Hemminger, JoAnn Wintenburg and Kay Seats..... and whoever else would like to "hula" to the sounds of the "working" waves.

So spread the word...what better reason do we have to gather and share old memories of Continental. Texas Air, Peoples, NY Air, Frontier, and make new memories with our United friends.....drink fancy umbrella drinks, eat wonderful pupu's, and dance our feet off on sand and orchids.

Mahalo, Gail F. Grover Ladies Auxiliary President



Golden Contrails C/O Charlie Starr 4328 Sunset Beach Circle Niceville, FL 32578-4820



Boeing KC-135 in the Boneyard