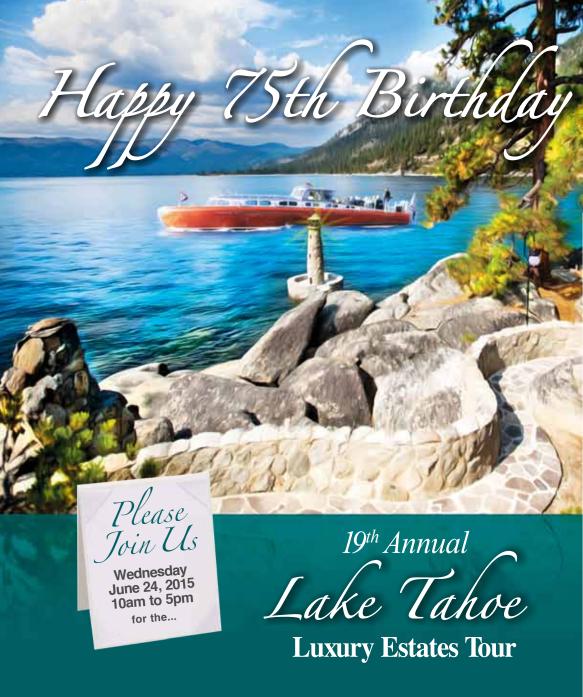
# THUNDERBIRD Preservation







Join us for a fabulous day touring some of Lake Tahoe's most prestigious properties for sale and get a rare glimpse into the luxury Tahoe lifestyle. Experience the performance of new dual motor all-wheel drive Tesla Model S at a selected home on the tour.

Would you like to have your home considered for the tour? Please contact us for more information and for a private invitation to the tour.



#### **Michael Panici** 775 588 6132

estatestour@chaseinternational.com

#### Office locations

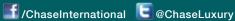
Zephyr Cove South Lake Glenbrook **Tahoe City** Incline Village Truckee International Office: London

**Squaw Valley** Carson Valley

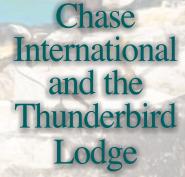












When George's lantern was lit, it symbolized a quiet connection that guests were welcome at the Thunderbird Lodge.

Chase International's connections brought about the historic sale of Lake Tahoe's most mesmerizing property in order that future generations may continue to experience this magical place.

The original connection between past and future - Chase International is the right connection for luxury Lake Tahoe properties and those who wish to own them.

CHASE

The leader in luxury real estate

chaseinternational.com



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#### A NOTE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Dear Thunderbird Friends,

2 014 was a fine year for Thunderbird Lake Tahoe. We welcomed thousands of visitors to our beautiful site, continued our cultural and preservation work, and hosted many public and private events.

Despite the effects of extended drought at Lake Tahoe—with the low lake level making it impossible to operate *Thunderbird* yacht—we still raised enough revenue to meet our operating needs and grow our permanent

endowment a bit.

Thanks to Bill, our staff, the cadre of wonderful volunteers, and to you, our contributors, for making all of this possible.

2014 was also Joan Gibb's final year on our Governing Board of Directors and as our Chairman. As many of you know, Joan has dedicated much of the past two decades to ensure that the Thunderbird Lodge, Yacht, and grounds were saved from destruction so that they may be enjoyed by future generations. Her unwavering commitment, perseverance, financial support, and leadership are the primary reasons the public can enjoy this spectacular estate today.

Darra and I vividly remember the first season of wine dinners and watching Joan make the rounds to each table, introducing herself and asking for everyones' support to save the Castle-in-the-Sky. We appreciate everything Joan has done, and are thrilled that she promises to return this summer.

For Darra and me, this will be our 11th year of attending Thunderbird events—and it's sure to be a hallmark season.

July marks the 75th birthday of the *Thunderbird* yacht. We're planning a party to celebrate America's iconic wooden boat. As I write this, it is still unclear if conditions will allow *Thunderbird* to spend her birthday cruising regally on the lake, or just resting comfortably in her boathouse. Regardless, we will celebrate in July.

And we are grateful to those families who generously gifted to rebuild *Thunderbird*'s Allison V-12 engines. The engine restoration will soon be complete and *Thunderbird* will be ready for service when the lake level rises.

We continue to fund operational expenses through an expanding Flagship members' program, the Winemakers' Dinner Series, and other fundraising activities. Plus we are raising an additional \$11.5 million for the permanent Preservation Fund endowment to ensure that Thunderbird Lodge and Yacht are preserved in perpetuity. You can help us achieve this goal by becoming a Castle Club member or making a planned gift or bequest.

Again, 2015 promises to be an exciting year. We hope you will join us for the Winemakers' Dinner Series, Friday wine and cheese tours, Thunder Thursday cocktail receptions, or for any of the other programs and events we host for our Castle Club and Flagship members.

Sincerely,

Pete Sturtevant

CHAIRMAN, GOVERNING BOARD OF DIRECTORS



#### THUNDERBIRD YACHT



Dear Thunderbird Yacht.

our form is just as stunning as when you first adorned Lake Tahoe's azure blue waters three quarters of a century ago. Unsure of yourself as you made the long rail journey from Michigan's Saginaw River to Tahoe City, no one would imagine

the presence you would soon command, or your impact on future generations. Early summer mornings, residents and visitors alike would awaken, first sensing but not quite hearing the deep rumble of your basso note before you burst upon the horizon, 55 feet of sleek mahogany propelled across the water by powerful engines.

the water by powerful engines.

As with you flitting by a lake

As with you flitting by a lakeside estate, the years quickly passed. Seventy five years and you've served your captains honorably—Whittell, then Harrah, Owens, and Gibb. Royalty, presidents, and celebrities of every ilk have graced your decks, and enjoyed the uniqueness that only you offer. Sinatra, Denver, Bennett, Liberace, Davis Jr., Cosby, and more. You were respite from adoring fans, transporting stars to solitude far from mountain shores.

I remember that first night I met you, nearly sunset, 1976 or thereabouts. As Mr. Harrah's guest, I admired you from the Skyland Villa balcony—you lolling gently in the breeze; me never imagining I would one day be your steward, your guardian, your keeper. It was always my wish to return you once again to your Thunderbird boathouse, and now you're back where you belong. I'm grateful to families Gibb, Rudisill, Stout, Triano, and legions of many more who have helped preserve your grandeur.

All together, we stand at your helm, making way toward the setting sun over Sugar Pine, and cruising toward new adventures we have yet to enjoy.

Happy Birthday Girl. You've aged gracefully, and I'll still go anywhere with you. Now and always,









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## The Innovator

## CAPTAIN GEORGE WHITTELL, JR.



Whittell's 60th birthday photo taken at Thunderbird Lodge, Lake Tahoe. [ON OR ABOUT SEPTEMBER 28, 1940]

orn into great wealth, George Whittell, Jr. exemplified the "Great Gatsby" era. His story is of a man larger than life—worldly, passionate, and enigmatic. Accounts of his fortune, mixed with colorful stories of his love for animals, automobiles, and artisan crafts, have circulated for years (along with some rather tall tales) to become the Thunderbird legacy and lore of today.

#### SAN FRANCISCO, CA-1881

George Jr. was the second child born to Anna and George Whittell. However, at the age of four, he became sole heir to the family fortune when his older brother, Nicholas, died of diphtheria. Seven years later, a foster brother, Alfred, would join the family; but it would be George who remained the center of his parents' world.

Shrewd investors during and after California's Gold Rush, Nicholas Luning and fellow financiers like Charles Crocker and William Ralston built lucrative empires and virtually ran the State of California. As he amassed his fortune, the perceptive Luning became impressed with the business acumen of his daughter Anna's husband, George Whittell, Sr., and bequeathed a controlling portion of his estate to his son-in-law. Luning's instincts were correct; Whittell Sr. increased the family fortune, mostly in real estate. Unlike Luning, however, Whittell Sr. would not find his son following in his footsteps.

#### THE GOOD TIMES

Whittell Jr. was not interested in his father's profession in real estate or finance. He much preferred the "seat of your pants" lifestyle of travel, fast cars, pretty girls...and even a rumored tour with a circus! George's love of fine things, especially automobiles, led him to purchase five Duesenbergs, considered one of the world's finest vehicles. These were unique motor cars combining speed and technology with a refined sense of luxury. From a young age, Whittell raced all over the country in the amateur leagues, never winning, but always performing well. Later, he went on to own a 175-foot sailing yacht, planes, and Lake Tahoe's famous *Thunderbird* motor yacht.

#### **COMING INTO HIS OWN**

George married three times. He met his third wife, Mademoiselle Elia Pascal, while he was living in Europe. They wed in 1919 and the wanderlust George seemed to settle down, if only just a little. After the death of Whittell Sr., the couple moved in with George's mother, Anna, at the family estate in Woodside, California. It was there that George and Elia indulged in their love of exotic animals, creating a private zoo for their lions, cheetahs, elephants, monkey, zebra, and a host of other species.

In 1931, Anna Whittell passed away, leaving the vast Whittell fortune to her natural son. A lengthy court battle ensued between George and his foster sibling, Alfred, draining away any semblance of brotherly affection. For the next six years, the two revealed family secrets in a deadlocked battle over the estate. Finally settling with Alfred, and forever severing their relationship, George was in the position to leverage the family fortune for his own indulgences.

#### DRAWN TO NEVADA

1937 marked a radical change in George Whittell's life. After settling out-of-court with Alfred and selling off Whittell Realty Co. holdings, George relocated to Nevada to insulate his new-found wealth from the tax man. It was during this time that he met Norman Biltz, a Reno financier, land speculator, and rancher. Biltz convinced Whittell to invest in a development project on the east shore

of Lake Tahoe. Their grandiose plans included a casino at Sand Harbor connected by tram

to a ski resort on Rifle Peak. Architectural renderings were drawn up and surveys done, but Whittell eventually cooled to the idea. This left Biltz without a wealthy partner to cover the project expenses. Of all the vast development plans they conjured, the only major properties completed were Thunderbird Lodge and—later—Incline Village.

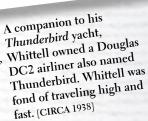
#### THUNDERBIRD LODGE

Designed by architect Frederic DeLongchamps, Whittell owned a Douglas the eclectic Thunderbird Lodge is "French chateau meets rustic, arts and crafts" in design. This crowning jewel nestled within Whittell's 40,000 acres at the Lake was his vacation home. Elia and George spent summers boating, fishing, and swimming at the Lake. Occasionally, they enjoyed winters filled with dog sledding, skiing, and snowshoeing. By the time the estate was finished four years later, it included eight buildings, a 600' long tunnel, and a steel boathouse blasted out of solid granite for the Thunderbird yacht. But as Whittell advanced in years, his trips to the Lodge became less frequent. His last visit was in 1967. Two years later, he passed away at the age of 87.

#### WHITTELL'S LEGACY

George Whittell, Jr. was a scion of his time—when grand stories and eccentricities were the fashion of the elite. But his legacy at Lake Tahoe is one of conservation and preservation. He clearly appreciated the lake's majestic beauty. Some who knew him claimed he was very concerned about rapid growth at the lake and wanted to protect the pristine east shore; others felt it was due to his reclusiveness and a wish to keep people away. No matter the reason, his ownership and stewardship provided us with an east shore relatively untouched by development, and preserved for future generations.

Today, Thunderbird Lake Tahoe carries on the tradition of George Whittell. Through preservation, education, conservation, and -yes-rowdy good times, Thunderbird protects our heritage with the grandest collection of Lake Tahoe art and historical artifacts known to exist. Thunderbird is Lake Tahoe's Center for Art and History.





George Whittell blows up a solid granite hillside to construct a concrete and steel boathouse for Thunderbird. [SPRING, 1940] PHOTO COURTESY OF MARY HOTCHKISS AND STAN WHITTY



Thunderbird awaits sea trials on the Saginaw River at Huskins Boat and Motor Works.



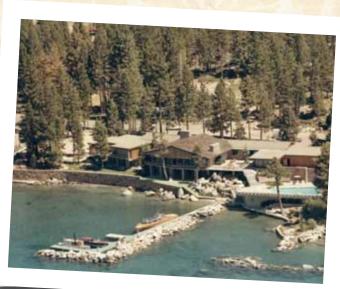
Thunderbird rocks gently in her newly constructed steel boathouse at Thunderbird Lodge. [SUMMER, 1940]

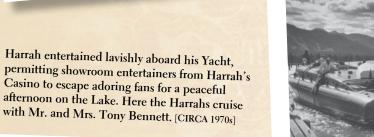
# The Entertainer

Each year, Harrah hauled Thunderbird to his famous Auto Collection in Sparks, Nevada, for a complete sanding and 15–20 coats of varnish.
[CIRCA 1960s]

### WILLIAM F. HARRAH

Thunderbird's summertime home was Harrah's villa at Skyland Estates on the east shore. [CIRCA 1970s]







The Harrah's crew makes Thunderbird ready for an afternoon cruise. [CIRCA 1960s]



Amongst many other changes, Harrah added the deck house and replaced the original Kermath marine engines with twin World War II-vintage the original Kermath marine engines salvaged from a P38 Lightning. Allison V1710 fighter aircraft engines salvaged from a P38 Lightning. Harrah affectionately referred to *Thunderbird* as his "70 mile-per-hour cocktail lounge." [SUMMER, 2008] DEWITT JONES



These were Thunderbird's golden years at Lake Tahoe, transporting celebrities about the Lake with great frequency. Long-time friends and business associates, Bill Harrah and Bill Cosby, engage in lively conversation aboard Thunderbird. [CIRCA 1970s]





P38 crew uncrating an Allison V1710 in the South Pacific during WWII. [CIRCA 1944] U.S. ARMY AIR FORCES PHOTO



In September, 1962, casino magnate Bill Harrah purchased Thunderbird and two Duesenberg automobiles from George Whittell. Here Bill Harrah, Scherry Harrah, Lloyd Dyer, and other Harrah's Here Bill Harrah, Scherry Harrah, Lloyd Dyer, and other Harrah's team members take Thunderbird for a first spin about the Lake. The Yacht hadn't been used since 1946 and required much finesse that day to stay running. [SEPTEMBER, 1962]

By 1965, Harrah's reconfiguration of *Thunderbird* was nearly complete. He replaced the interior berths and shower with a very 70's cocktail lounge; however, the galley and bar were retained. [CIRCA 1970s]





Fifth generation wine grower and acclaimed Bay Area artist Darcie Kent and her exclusive Nevada wholesaler Southern Wine & Spirits recently collaborated to introduce two award-winning wines to raise money for Thunderbird Lake Tahoe.

Darcie painted original labels depicting the historic *Thunderbird* yacht and Thunderbird Lodge for her estate-grown, single vineyard 2013 Chardonnay and 2012 Red Blend. Both wines were awarded Gold Medals by the prestigious Pacific Rim Wine Competition, and are available for sale in the Museum Store.

"For one to truly know Lake Tahoe, one must appreciate the Lake's rich history and the pivotal role played by George Whittell, Jr. I can think of no better way to explore this extraordinary estate than to stroll the grounds with a great glass of wine. And I'm glad *our* wine is helping to save this national treasure," exclaimed Darcie from her South Lake Tahoe home.



# The Philanthropists

## JOAN GIBB AND BUZZ GIBB

oan Gibb and Buzz Gibb owned *Thunderbird* longer than anyone else, 26 years altogether. From Florida, the Gibbs spoke with Thunderbird Curator, Bill Watson, about having owned the world's most famous wooden boat on this, her 75th birthday year.

#### **BUZZ RECALLS ...**

Te owned a chain of motor inns named "Thunderbird." Joan and I always thought it would be fun to have the Thunderbird yacht. Lois Owens owned Thunderbird back then, and we ran into her at a charity function. We bought the Yacht and hauled her to the Bay Area to make repairs and a few improvements. I had just developed Oakland's Waterfront Plaza Hotel at Jack London Square, and decided to charter Thunderbird out on San Francisco Bay. I fondly recall the day we took the Mein's, publishers of the Nob Hill Gazette, to deliver papers to the houseboats in Sausalito, and then on to visit Forbes Kiddo at his Forbes Island. We eventually moved Thunderbird home to Lake Tahoe as I was spending more time there and because the salt water was damaging her two WWII aircraft engines.

I sometimes say *Thunderbird* will follow me forever. I still support her for a worthy cause: the kids and preserving Lake Tahoe's art and history. Here's my toast to our next 75 years together!

In 1981, hoteliers
Joan and Buzz Gibb
take ownership of
Thunderbird yacht
from the Owens family
who acquired her after
Bill Harrah's death in
1978. Mr. Gibb took
the Yacht to Alameda
for restoration work
and, for a brief time,
operated her in
charter service on the
San Francisco Bay.
[CIRCA 1983]

The Gibbs deployed *Thunderbird* to raise more than \$2 million for Tahoe children's, education, safety, and environmental causes including Tahoe Forest Health System Foundation, League to Save Lake Tahoe, Tahoe Environmental Research Center, Boys and Girls Clubs, Make-a-Wish, Tahoe Yacht Club Foundation, and various law enforcement agencies. [CIRCA 1980s]

The Gibbs updated the interior to sport the latest in 1980's fashion. One just has to love the mauve sofa seats. [CIRCA 1980s]

Tony Bennett and so many of the stars who cruised aboard *Thunderbird* during the Harrah's years returned to become good friends of the Gibbs.





Former Nevada Governor and U.S. Senator Paul Laxalt enjoys a day with family and friends aboard Thunderbird. [CIRCA 1980s]

Jesuit Priest Father Don Mason regaled the Gibbs with tales of hijinks at Thunderbird Lodge in the early 1940s. In those early years, Mason was Whittell's butler and dutiful first mate aboard *Thunderbird*.



It isn't often one finds an 18-ton tow boat skimming Tahoe's waves in excess of 40 mph. This sure looks like fun! [SPRING, 2007]

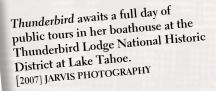


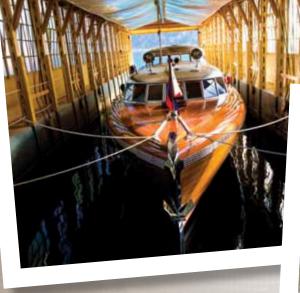
#### JOAN ADDS ...

arly on, we received a letter L from Father Don Mason, a Jesuit Priest then teaching at Japan's Sophia University. Back in the 1940s, Father Mason had been George Whittell's butler and his duties included caring for Thunderbird. He sure had some stories to tell! When Father Mason was diagnosed with a terminal illness, Jack Dreyfus, then current owner of Thunderbird Lodge, let us cruise Father Mason back there for a memory-making visit aboard Thunderbird before he passed away in 1986. Later, I served 15 years as a Director of the nonprofit Thunderbird Lodge Preservation Society after it was formed to save Thunderbird Lodge. I was then able to return Thunderbird to her original boathouse, and use her to support the Society's charitable and educational programs. Eventually, with the help of Bill Watson and his Foundation 36, we conveyed Thunderbird to the Preservation Society where she will be well cared for.

Thunderbird connected us to wonderful people. She helped us raise money for so many worthy children's, arts, and environmental causes. In many ways she, and those whom we met through her, have changed our lives forever. Happy 75th Ol' Gal! Our best years are yet to come ...

# The Keepers THUNDERBIRD LAKE TAHOE







After all these years, the celebrities keep coming aboard. Actor John O'Hurley, Thunderbird Lake Tahoe Curator Bill Watson, and former Vice President Dan Quayle (left to right). [2008]



Thunderbird noses out into Lake Tahoe for a summer cruise. [2010] BRENT VON TWISTERN

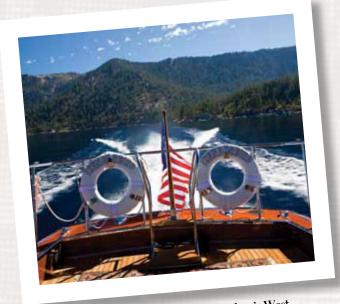
Thunderbird shows off her art deco detail.
STEVE AND CHERYL CAPLAN

Until the cradle was repaired in Thunderbird's historic boathouse, *Thunderbird* was hauled from Lake Tahoe to Weaver Aviation at Carson City each year for winter maintenance. [2004]





Thunderbird makes a pass across the bow of a photo boat. [2008] WWW.H2OMARK.COM



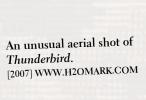
As Thunderbird speeds toward Lake Tahoe's West Shore, Thunderbird Lodge recedes into the distance astern. [2012] JARVIS PHOTOGRAPHY



Thunderbird dwarfs the pack during the photoshoot for the U.S. Postal Service wooden boat stamp series. [2007] WWW.H2OMARK.COM



A U.S. Postal Service stamp series honors *Thunderbird* and other vintage wooden boats on Lake Tahoe. [2007] U.S. POSTAL SERVICE





## HISTORY & ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGES



hunderbird Lake Tahoe has surpassed many milestones since first opening to the public in 2002. Saving the historic buildings from demolition, undertaking major restoration work, bringing *Thunderbird* yacht home to stay, and building its base of public support, to name just a few. Today, in addition to developing more art, history, and educational programs, Thunderbird is raising a \$20 million Preservation Fund endowment to ensure that the Lodge and Yacht are conserved in perpetuity. From the Hands-on-History program for 4th and 5th graders to Artists-on-the-Grounds, Thunderbird makes a variety of educational programs available to its contributors and the public-at-large. Sharing Lake Tahoe's treasures through programs and events supports Thunderbird's mission of preserving, protecting, and promoting public appreciation for the cultural, natural, and historic resources of the Lake Tahoe region. We look forward to your support of Thunderbird programs and preserving Lake Tahoe's only art and history museum.

#### **MEMBERSHIP**

Charitable gifts made by our members truly make them our partners in preservation. Providing member benefits is our way to thank them for their support of our preservation efforts. Benefits vary depending on the level, and start with our *Thunderbird Preservation* magazine, museum gift shop discounts and tour passes. Flagship contributors enjoy membersonly experiences including Thunder Thursdays receptions, Yacht cruises, and more.



#### **COLLECTIONS AND EXHIBITS**

The Thunderbird Lake Tahoe archives contain the largest collection of Lake Tahoe documents, art, photographs, films, maps, and artifacts known to exist. With additional funding, Thunderbird will make its entire collection available online and exhibit artifacts throughout the region.

#### **PUBLIC TOURS**

Thunderbird offers public education tours designed to reach a variety of interests. Peek into Lake Tahoe's past with land and water tours for public and private groups.



#### **VOLUNTEERING**

Nearly 100 unpaid volunteers serve as tour guides, gardeners, event and office assistants, carpenters, museum associates, stone masons, community speakers, mates aboard the *Thunderbird* yacht, and more. Visit ThunderbirdTahoe.org for information about becoming a Thunderbird volunteer.

## PRESERVATION & RESTORATION

Thunderbird Lodge estate offers endless opportunities to reconstruct the past. Restoration work continues on the Old Lodge, rustic cottages, steel boathouse, and grounds.



#### SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Hands-on-History interactive walking tours meet Nevada and California curriculum standards for 4th and 5th grade students. History comes alive with fun and fact-filled tours for school children.



#### MARITIME HERITAGE

All hands on deck to investigate Lake Tahoe's rich maritime heritage and history. The *Thunderbird* yacht serves as a floating classroom for science, art, and cultural programs on beautiful Lake Tahoe.

#### ARTISTS-ON-THE-GROUNDS

Working in various mediums, student artists learn their craft from renowned local artisans. No setting is more picturesque or stunning than the nooks, crannies, grottos, and landscapes of the Thunderbird Lodge gardens and grounds.



## TOURING THUNDERBIRD LODGE



Peek into the 1930s lifestyle of the rich and famous—waterfalls, winding pathways, a card house with poker stories, and secret tunnels. Escape into a world that only a privileged few have dreamed of, and be entertained by the legendary story of George Whittell's Thunderbird Lodge, known as Lake Tahoe's "Castle-in-the-Sky." This unique castle tour with panoramic Lake Tahoe views can be enjoyed through public tours by land or water, private group tours, corporate outings, or our Hands-on-History school tours.

## PUBLIC TOURS BY LAKE OR LAND

Public tours operate mid-May through October from the Incline Village Crystal Bay Visitors Center located on the north shore of the lake. Tours are offered Tuesday through Saturday departing via shuttle from the Incline Visitor's Center to the Thunderbird Lodge. Tickets are \$39 per adult and \$19 for children ages 6 to 12.

Incline Village Crystal Bay Visitor's Center is located at 969 Tahoe Boulevard, Incline Village, Nevada. For reservations by phone, call 1-800-GO-TAHOE (1-800-468-2463). Office hours are 8 a.m.–5 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 10 a.m.–4 p.m., Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays. All major credit cards are accepted. Visit Activity Tickets.com to make land tour reservations online.

FROM LAKE TAHOE'S SOUTH SHORE: The historic 40' cruiser *Tahoe* departs from Zephyr Cove Marina in South Lake Tahoe Tuesday through Saturday at 10 a.m. Call Cruise Tahoe at 775-230-8907 or visit Cruise Tahoe.com for details.

FROM LAKE TAHOE'S NORTH SHORE: Action Water Sports of Incline Village tours depart the north shore from the Hyatt Regency Lake Tahoe hotel dock at 9 a.m., Thursday through Saturday. Call Action Water Sports at 775-831-4386 or visit AWSIncline.com for details.

BY KAYAK FROM SAND HARBOR: For the more adventurous, kayak the pristine east shore waters from Sand Harbor to Thunderbird Lodge with the Tahoe Adventure Company. Offered every Tuesday and by appointment June through September. To book a tour call 530-913-9212 or visit TahoeAdventureCompany.com for tour details.

#### **NEW!** WINE & CHEESE TOURS

Make Friday afternoons a special start to your weekend with a Thunderbird Wine and Cheese Tour. Offered at 2:30 p.m. every Friday, mid-July through September, this tour is a unique opportunity to share stunning lakeside views with family and friends.

This adult-oriented tour is \$100 per person and a portion of the proceeds is a charitable contribution. All tour participants must check in at the Incline Visitor's Center prior to departure via shuttle for the Thunderbird Lodge. Call 1-800-GO-TAHOE (1-800-468-2463). Must be 21 to be served alcohol.

## TOURS FOR PRIVATE & YOUTH GROUPS

Thunderbird is available year-round for private group tours of 15 or more and youth group field trips. Call 775-832-8752 or visit ThunderbirdTahoe.org to make private tour reservations for your group.

PLEASE NOTE: Reservations are required for all tours. Self-guided tours are not available. Smoking is not permitted in the buildings, on the grounds, or aboard shuttle buses and watercraft. Children must be at least six years old. Comfortable walking shoes are required and a warm jacket is recommended. There is no public boat access to Thunderbird Lodge.



#### TOLIRS BY LAKE

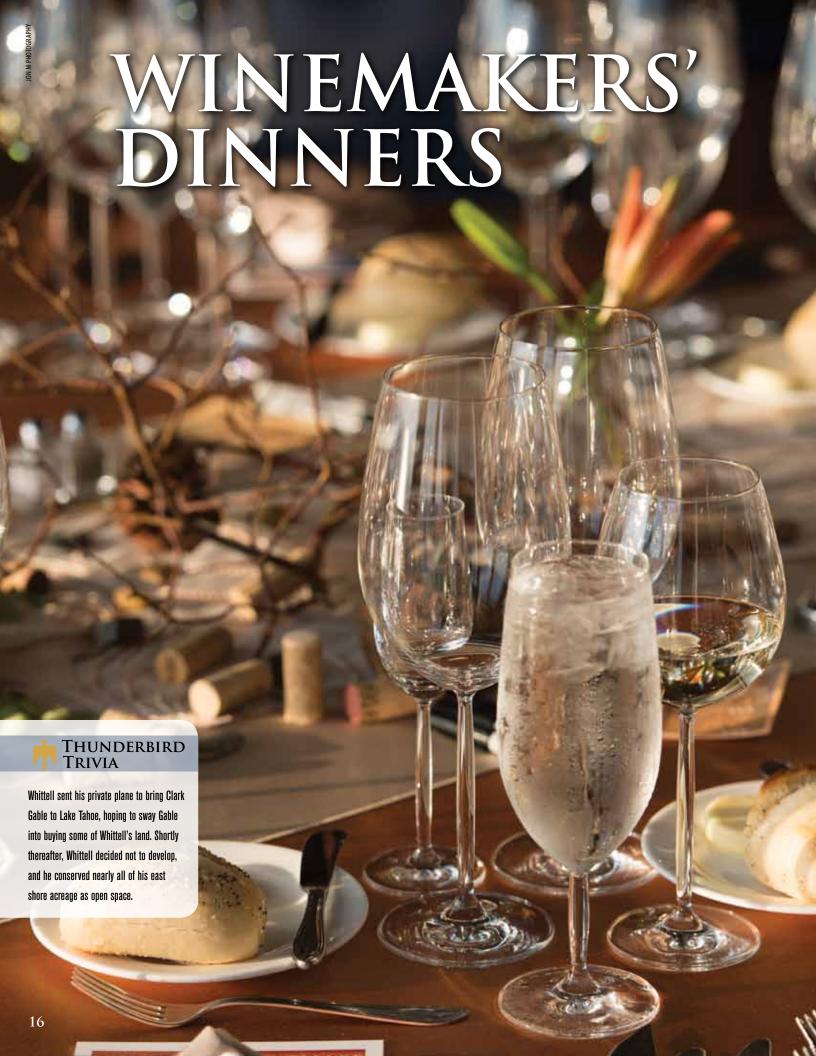
SOUTH SHORE:
CruiseTahoe.com 775-230-8907
NORTH SHORE:
AWSIncline.com 775-831-4386
KAYAK TOUR:
TahoeAdventureCompany.com 530-913-9212

FOURS BY LAND

ActivityTickets.com 1-800-GO-TAHOE

PRIVATE GROUP & YOUTH TOURS

ThunderbirdTahoe.org 775-832-8752



## 2015 WINEMAKERS' DINNER SERIES

## FLAGSHIP MEMBERS-ONLY DINNER FRIDAY, JUNE 12TH

Alpha Omega Winery, Jaime Dowell, Winemaker Hyatt Regency Lake Tahoe, Lone Eagle Grille, Chef Shane Hammett Limited seating, \$175 per person for member and companion. \$195 per person for additional guests, subject to availability.

#### SUNDAY, JULY 12TH

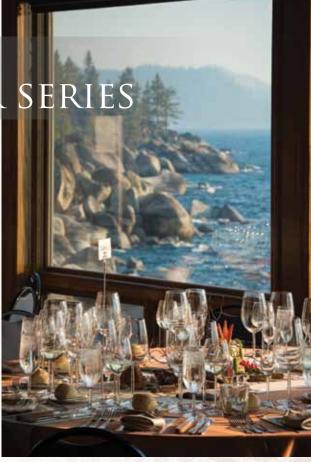
Thunderbird Yacht's 75th Birthday Celebration Wolfdale's & Wine Tasting | An array of Napa Valley Wines Wolfdale's Cuisine Unique, Chef-Owner Douglas Dale

#### SUNDAY, AUGUST 9TH

Arietta Wines, Fritz Hatton, Owner Campo Restaurant, Chef-Owner Mark Estee

#### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH

Miner Family Winery, Dave Miner, Founder & Owner Crystal Bay Steakhouse, Chef Evan Carsman



JON M PHOTOGRAPHY

Lake Tahoe tradition like no other, the Thunderbird Lake Tahoe is once again this season hosting our Winemakers' Dinner Series. These popular fundraising events offer a unique experience...breathtaking Lake Tahoe views, castle tours, glorious gardens, and terrace sunsets! Did we mention exclusive auction items and wine drawings? And, let's not forget California's finest wines paired with gourmet preparations by the region's celebrity chefs.

Thunderbird Lake Tahoe hosts a public Winemaker's Dinner on the second Sunday of each month from July through September. Each dinner provides many ways for you to be philanthropic while experiencing Thunderbird's magic. Make a donation and be entered to win a bottle of each of the evening's wines. Raise your hand to win an exclusive Thunderbird auction item, bid on silent auction items, or purchase select wine at a discount price.

The July Winemaker's dinner is *Thunderbird* yacht's 75th birthday party! Wirtz Beverage shall provide an array of fine Napa Valley wines for you to enjoy while

you stroll the grounds. A special program will be shared lakeside as you rest amidst the gardens and stone buildings. To complement the wines, Chef Douglas Dale will serve his fresh California cuisine from various food stations about the lawns.

All dinner proceeds support Thunderbird Lake Tahoe's charitable programs. This year's targeted project is preservation of the collections and artifacts. There are so many photographs, films, and documents requiring immediate attention to ensure they survive for future generations. Thunderbird seeks \$100,000 to upgrade its conservation facilities in order to undertake this delicate and painstaking work.

Unless otherwise noted, the price of each dinner is \$250 per person (\$160 of each ticket is a charitable contribution). Purchase a table of 10 for \$2,500 and invite family and friends to these memorable events.

Reservations are required, and we recommend reserving early as these dinners always sell out. For more information call 775-832-8752 or book online at ThunderbirdTahoe.org.

#### 2015 AUCTION ITEMS

UNIQUE THUNDERBIRD EXPERIENCES	PRIVATE LAKESIDE WINE LUNCHEON & TOUR	JARVIS LAKE TAHOE PHOTOS	
DIAMOND VAULT JEWELRY	MINER FAMILY VIP TOUR & WINE TASTING	PRIVATE THUNDERBIRD COOKING & WINE PAIRING CLASSES	
WOLFDALES' PRIVATE DINNER & WINE PAIRING	SIGNED MAGNUMS	CAMPO WINE DINNER	PRIVATE ARIETTA CAVE TASTING



## MEMBERS' HAPPENINGS



Experience the magic of Thunderbird Lodge and Yacht and help save these national treasures. We invite both members and non-members alike to an array of year-round programs and fundraising events. All of the funds raised are used to support Thunderbird Lake Tahoe's charitable and educational programs. For more information about the latest happenings, please visit ThunderbirdTahoe.org.

#### RESERVATIONS REQUIRED 775-832-8752

or email Reservations@ThunderbirdTahoe.org
To join our members-only events, see page 23 for membership information.
Unless otherwise indicated, attendees must be at least 21 years of age.

#### THUNDER THURSDAY RECEPTIONS

Thursdays, July through September, 2015, 5–7 p.m. Savor summer evenings at Lake Tahoe every Thursday at the historic Thunderbird Lodge. A dazzling array of gourmet hors d'oeuvres, fine wine, and beer will be served while you bask in a summer sunset from the gazebo or Old Lodge terrace. We've invited a variety of artists, entertainers, and winemakers to make each week a unique experience. Thunder Thursday is the perfect time to show off the Thunderbird estate to your friends, or to see and be seen before dining along Lake Tahoe's North Shore.

BY INVITATION TO MEMBERS ONLY: CAPTAIN, COMMODORE, ADMIRAL & CASTLE CLUB MEMBERS AND INVITED GUESTS.



#### CHAIRMAN'S RECEPTION

Thursday, September 10th, 2015, 5–7 p.m. Thunderbird Governing Board Chair, Pete Sturtevant, hosts an intimate evening at Thunderbird Lodge to thank you for supporting the charitable programs of Thunderbird Lake Tahoe. There will be a brief program accompanied by a selection of fine wine, beer, and appetizers.

BY INVITATION TO MEMBERS ONLY: EAST SHORE, LIGHTHOUSE, CAPTAIN, COMMODORE, ADMIRAL & CASTLE CLUB MEMBERS AND INVITED GUESTS.

#### THUNDER DE MAYO CELEBRATION

Thursday, May 7th, 2015, 5-7 p.m.

Fiesta at Thunderbird Lake Tahoe! Margaritas, Mariachi music, and your south-of-the-border favorites will spice up this celebration of Mexico's heritage. Kick off the summer with your compadres where the views are priceless. Tours are offered and sombreros are optional.

BY INVITATION TO MEMBERS ONLY: CAPTAIN, COMMODORE, ADMIRAL & CASTLE CLUB MEMBERS AND INVITED GUESTS.

#### A THUNDERBIRD HOLIDAY GATHERING

Thursday, December 17th, 2015, 5-7 p.m.

It's our favorite time of the year when we invite our Castle Club and Flagship members to ring in the holiday season with good cheer. A decorative end to the season is toasted with special wines from the Thunderbird cellars, paired with festive cuisine. This is our final opportunity of the year to toast our major donors and supporters.

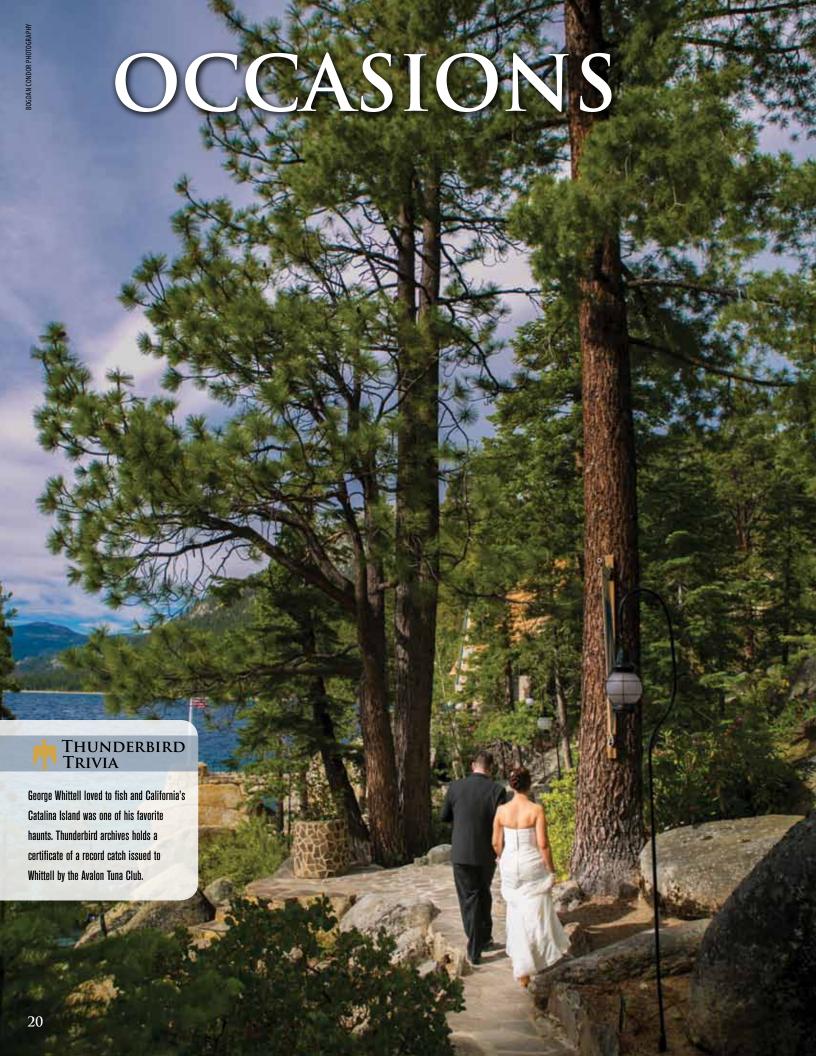
BY INVITATION TO MEMBERS ONLY: CAPTAIN, COMMODORE, ADMIRAL & CASTLE CLUB MEMBERS AND INVITED GUESTS.

#### WINEMAKERS' DINNERS

Sundays, July 12th, August 9th, and September 13th, 2015, 5 p.m.

Reserve an intimate evening at Thunderbird Lake Tahoe where you'll have the opportunity to meet the winemaker, enjoy a fine meal, tour a castle, and catch a sunset. This unique Lake Tahoe estate hosts the magical pairing of California's finest wines with Tahoe's celebrity chefs. Make your reservations early for all three dinners held the second Sunday of each month July through September. Limited to 90 guests, the price of each dinner is \$250 per person (\$160 of which is a charitable contribution).

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC & ALL THUNDERBIRD LAKE TAHOE MEMBERS. PRIORITY RESERVATIONS GIVEN TO THUNDERBIRD CAPTAIN, COMMODORE, ADMIRAL & CASTLE CLUB MEMBERS.



## "The fairest picture the whole earth affords."



istinctive and private, any event at Thunderbird is certain to be unforgettable. A beautiful wedding, milestone anniversary, special birthday, or epic offsite reserving the entire property will make for an exceptional occasion in every way. Situated on the east shore of Lake Tahoe, this historic estate built in 1936 by bon vivant George Whittell, makes for the most private and magical of venues. For more information, visit ThunderbirdTahoe.org or call 775-832-8752.

#### **ROMANTIC WEDDINGS**

A most romantic destination to celebrate with friends and family, this beautiful, secluded and exclusive venue is the perfect place to tie the knot. Intimate and dramatic, no matter the season or climate, the stunning indoor and outdoor areas make planning simple.

We host a maximum of six to eight weddings each year in order to maintain our high standards and protect the exclusivity of this rare property. A required charitable donation to Thunderbird Lake Tahoe for use of the site supports preservation efforts so that future generations may enjoy this Lake Tahoe gem forever.

#### **ENCHANTED GATHERINGS**

Collaborate, inspire, brainstorm, innovate, celebrate. Whether hosting an exclusive offsite, celebrating a momentous occasion or requiring a private estate to collaborate, Thunderbird is an experience unlike any other. Enjoy the sweeping panoramic views of majestic Lake Tahoe from a variety of spaces throughout the property.

The Lighthouse room, seating up to 90 people, makes a striking statement with floor to ceiling windows, allowing natural light throughout the day and providing a spectacular Lake Tahoe sunset into the evening.



The Dreyfus room offers panoramic views of Lake Tahoe in an intimate setting for small meetings of up to 16 people.

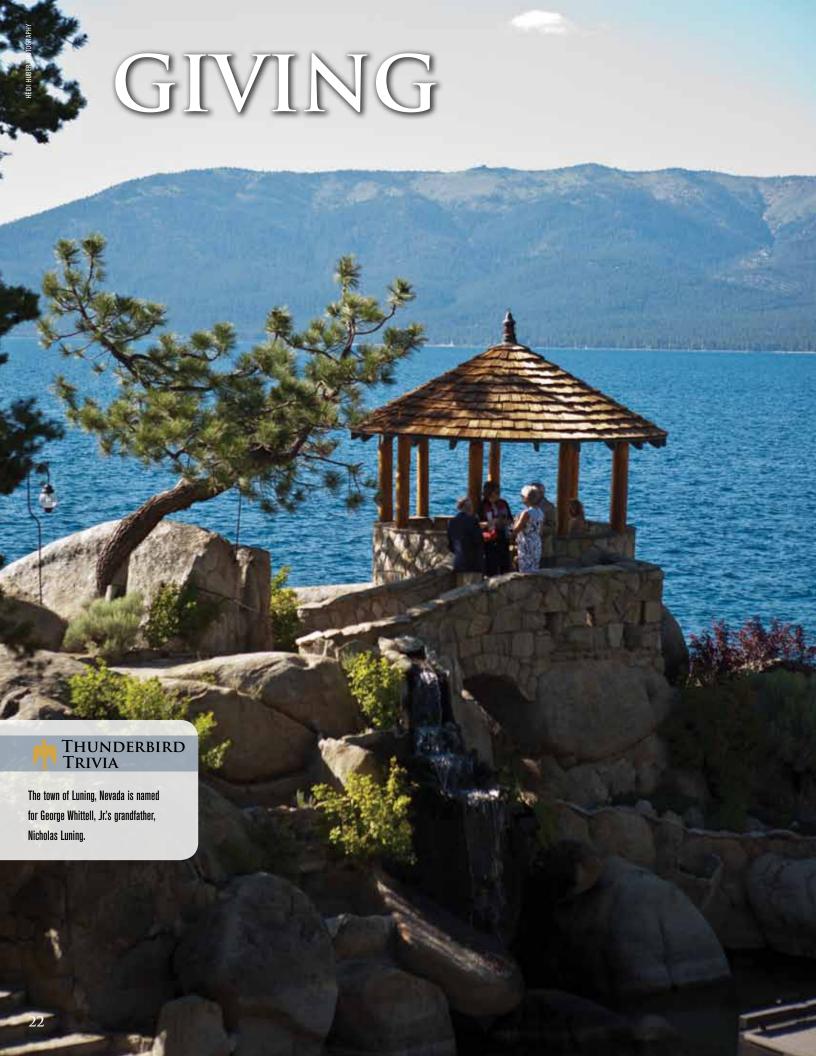
Accommodating larger events, up to 150 guests may stroll the landscaped gardens around the property and overlooking the Lake. Just steps away is the boathouse and the one-of a kind *Thunderbird* yacht. Combine your event with a cruise aboard *Thunderbird* for a memorymaking experience of a lifetime.

For a singularly distinctive experience, start planning your next meeting or event at Tahoe's best-kept secret, Thunderbird Lake Tahoe.



Pescended from a family firmly rooted in Northern California history, Carol Franc Buck is no stranger to preserving arts, culture, and historic treasures. A successful businesswoman, Carol has always made time for the causes she's passionate about including the San Francisco Symphony, UCSF Medical Center, Public Television, Nevada Opera, and too many more to list. Years ago, Thunderbird Curator, Bill Watson, was curious about the 20 acres of land her father purchased in Crystal Bay back in 1928. The conversation about Tahoe's cultural heritage began then, and continues today. Whenever Carol and Bill meet, the discussions are as diverse as Carol's multi-faceted and varied interests. A longtime underwriter of Thunderbird's charitable programs, Carol is helping Thunderbird evolve to become a world-class institute for preservation and research: Lake Tahoe's Center for Art and History. Carol, we tip our collective hats in gratitude for your continued support, and most of all, your friendship.





## MEMBERSHIP-JOIN OR RENEW

our membership in Thunderbird Lake Tahoe's giving program helps underwrite the costs of preserving and operating Thunderbird Lodge and Yacht, and continuing Thunderbird's charitable mission. With compelling benefits and memberships starting at just \$100 per year, joining or renewing your annual membership is as enticing as ever.

In addition to the benefits of each level, all Thunderbird Lake Tahoe contributors receive priority reservations to events, Museum Store discounts, the *Thunderbird Preservation* magazine, and periodic bulletins about Thunderbird programs and events. Memberships are available for all budgets at a level that is comfortable for you.

#### FRIENDS LEVELS

\$100 Gatehouse \$250 Duesenberg \$500 East Shore \$1,500 Lighthouse \$2,500 Captain

#### FLAGSHIP LEVELS

\$5,000 Commodore \$10,000 Admiral \$100,000 Castle Club

Flagship level members gain access to invitationonly programs and events. The Castle Club is open to individuals, families, and foundations making a legacy gift of \$100,000 or more to the Thunderbird Lake Tahoe's permanent Preservation Fund endowment.

Please join or renew your Thunderbird Lake Tahoe membership online at ThunderbirdTahoe.org or call 775-832-8752. Sign up today to take advantage of the members-only events this coming season!

#### CORPORATE SPONSORSHIPS

Thunderbird Lake Tahoe welcomes corporate sponsorships of cash, products, or services allowing businesses to support specific preservation efforts. In appreciation for your sponsorship, you will receive defined benefits based on the level of sponsorship, a corporate spotlight on our Wall of Fame showcasing your company logo, and key membership privileges.

Corporate sponsorship level benefits include private receptions, estate dinners, Yacht cruises, and special events. We invite your business to become a Thunderbird Lake Tahoe sponsor today. To discuss a corporate sponsorship call 775-832-8752 or visit us at ThunderbirdTahoe.org.



Thunderbird Lake Tahoe receives no government support and is funded entirely by gifts from friends like you. We welcome contributions in any amount.

Thunderbird Lodge Preservation Society does business as Thunderbird Lake Tahoe, and is a public charity under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service code. Your contributions are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.



Although home is Glenbrook, Nevada, you might find David and Weezie Reese in Scottsdale, Carmel, or even at Burning Man in the Nevada desert. Consummate travelers, philanthropists, and passionate supporters, David and Weezie have just joined the Thunderbird Castle Club. "We've never visited Thunderbird Lodge," David tells us, "but once we read about your efforts to save Lake Tahoe's art and history, we decided to help out with the effort to save it. Weezie and I are passionate about our causes." Weezie adds, "We love Lake Tahoe and feel as if the Thunderbird Lodge is an integral part of the Lake's heritage. How could we not help preserve it?" Well David and Weezie, we couldn't agree with you more. Welcome to our Castle Club family of supporters!





## LEGACY GIFTS

ike many non-profit organizations, the future of Thunderbird Lake Tahoe rests with its permanent Preservation Fund, or endowment. The Preservation Fund consists of major gifts received from individual donors, businesses, family foundations, private foundations, and donor-advised funds at community foundations. The Preservation Fund's corpus—or principal balance—is never touched; only the investment income the corpus earns is used for capital preservation projects for both the Thunderbird Lodge and *Thunderbird* yacht.

To sustain preservation of these historic treasures, the Preservation Fund must grow to \$20 million. With thanks to the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation and individual donors, Thunderbird Lake Tahoe's Preservation Fund is at 30% of the goal.

#### **CASTLE CLUB**

Despite these difficult times, Thunderbird Lake Tahoe occasionally receives major gifts of \$100,000 or more to its Preservation Fund. These major contributors to the Preservation Fund are automatically inducted into the Thunderbird Castle Club.

And matching gift opportunities are presently available. Other donors have pledged to match \$100,000 and higher contributions to the Preservation Fund dollar-for-dollar.

There are many ways to structure a Castle Club contribution including multi-year gifts, transferring unappreciated stocks or securities, gifting an I.R.A. distribution, establishing a matching gift campaign, granting funds from a family foundation or donor-advised fund, or making a bequest from your estate.



#### MAKING A BEQUEST

Bequests allow you to make a meaningful gift to Thunderbird Lake Tahoe without jeopardizing your family's security. A bequest can be cash or tangible property, or can be a percentage share of your estate or a specific dollar value. Your bequest can be designated for general purposes, the permanent Preservation Fund, or for a specific Thunderbird Lake Tahoe program or preservation project.

Although you are not obligated to notify Thunderbird Lake Tahoe of your intended gift, doing so will allow us to appropriately thank you for your gift and keep you updated about our charitable works.

For more information about making a Legacy Gift to Thunderbird Lake Tahoe, please contact Chief Executive and Curator, Bill Watson, at 775-832-8755 or email Watson@ThunderbirdTahoe.org.

Thunderbird Lodge Preservation Society does business as Thunderbird Lake Tahoe, and is a public charity under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service code. Your contributions are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.



On April 16, 2015, those of us who were lucky enough to come to know Susanne "Sue" Stout, unexpectedly lost a most generous and loyal friend. Sue made an impression on everyone she touched. A passionate supporter of Lake Tahoe and Thunderbird, she will always be remembered for her wonderful sense of humor, unfailing graciousness, tireless support, and devotion to all she loved. Her great aesthetic sense was well respected. She was known as the graphic guru, helping nonprofit groups whenever and wherever needed. Husband Rich and son Christopher, once the youngest first mate aboard *Thunderbird* yacht, will always be a part of our family. Sue, we miss you and will forever be grateful for your care and kindness.



## TREASURES

## THUNDERBIRD ARTIFACTS



This bull figurine graced a desk at George Whittell's Woodside estate.

ON LOAN FROM LIZA CASEY.

Elia loved the finer things in life and collected china from all her travels. This is one item from her eclectic tea saucer collection. TLPS COLLECTION.



George Whittell, Jr. was savvy at branding. He had these metal stamps made for his first yacht, the *Elia*. TLPS COLLECTION.



## **OUR VOLUNTEERS**

reasures come in many forms at Thunderbird Lake Tahoe. One of our most valued "treasures" is our Thunderbird volunteer corps. This group of more than 70 dedicated volunteers is passionate about preserving and sharing George Whittell's beautiful Castle-in-the-Sky for the public. Many volunteer opportunities exist at our historic estate, and we invite you to consider giving your time to support our charitable programs.

Trained volunteers become highly-skilled tour guides to educate our visitors about the historic estate, the notable Captain Whittell, and his true legacy—the pristine east shores of Lake Tahoe. They really enjoy their craft too, and exhibit such enthusiasm for sharing their knowledge during the tours. So much so that the tour response cards we receive are filled with positive comments on the Lodge, and glowing praise for our docents and sweeps.

Our charming and picturesque grounds are maintained by over 20 volunteer gardeners, with several certified as Master Gardeners. This group works tirelessly every Monday for six months, and each year the grounds get more magnificent. It is fun to see them during lunch breaks building great friendships over the years while laboring in such a beautiful setting. With the drought continuing this season, their time and dedication to the Whittell gardens will be invaluable.

Maintenance volunteers provide many hours working on restoration projects. Painting, wiring, scraping, and repairing stonework throughout the property are neverending challenges.

If retail is your interest, retail clerk volunteers manage the museum store throughout the tour season, all the while "suffering" a spectacular view of the lake. These volunteers enjoy interacting with visitors at the end of the tours. They hear firsthand all the positive comments from



our tour guests, and offer one especially positive remark in return, "No sales tax on your purchases!" Not a bad way to spend a day volunteering.

Many volunteers like to "work" events: giving tours, serving our chef's delights, and pouring wine. Although volunteers don't partake while on duty, there are often tasty leftovers to be shared.

At the Castle-in-the-Sky, there are some benefits beyond "working" in such a stunning setting. Volunteers are invited to join their Thunderbird friends for periodic Fireside Chats—a pot-luck gathering along with some educational component or tidbits of historical interest. Other benefits include the opportunity to share a tour of the lodge for friends-and-family at a reduced cost. And no season would be complete without our Volunteer Appreciation Dinner to thank the entire volunteer team, and recognize those who went above-and-beyond during the year.

If you are interested in becoming part of our treasured Thunderbird volunteer family, sign up online at ThunderbirdTahoe.org or contact the Volunteer Coordinator at 775-832-8753.

#### A FOND FAREWELL TO BILL MAYORGA



In 2005, we were fortunate to have Bill and Judy Mayorga join our Thunderbird volunteer family. Together they were our usual Friday team we could count on. And, as Bill would continually remind us, Judy was the tour guide, and he was her sweep. This distinction was most important because sweeping gave Bill a chance to enjoy the gardens, and especially the massive boulders around the lodge.

Sadly, Bill passed away in 2014. With over nine seasons as a Thunderbird volunteer, his easy-going manner touched many guests and volunteer friends. He always had a smile for all, and extra hugs given to begin and end each season. While we will surely miss the Mayorga team, we are fortunate that Judy will return this season—again as docent, and again on the usual Friday tour.

Our hats off to Bill for his many years of volunteering, and his passion for the grounds of the historic estate. His smile and hugs will be remembered with fondness.



### THE LAST BARK



i! My name is Calliegh and I look after the team here at Thunderbird Lodge. Although my position isn't formally defined, I pretty much do everything around here. From herding estate tours to licking up the lunches the school kids leave behind, I make sure I do my part.

The curators are...shall we say...vigilant about the artifacts here. I don't understand why they don't handle my tennis ball and Frisbee's with white gloves, too. Nevertheless, many volunteers help on the grounds and, occasionally, toss me a treat. And the gardeners love me as I do most of the digging for them.

For a kennel, this 28,000 square foot pad is quite nice. If spacious enough for Whittell and Dreyfus then it's good enough for me. The dog house is filled with stuff you can't paw, but it's pleasant enough. My tunnels and boathouse make me the envy of everyone on the Canine Social Register. Really now, who has her own dog beach on Lake Tahoe?

It tickles me when kids of all ages call me "Thunderdog", as in canine superhero! Most of the time, though, I just hear the Oooohs and Ahhhhs as they gaze in amazement at my magical dog park. Maybe they can help me find that ball I lost in the haunted swimming pool?

The whole history bit does play a huge role here at Thunderbird. The mystery, lore, and even my predecessor, Bill the Lion, make Thunderbird intriguing. (Even though I'm not into the whole cat thing and I doubt very much *he* was invited to herd the tours.)

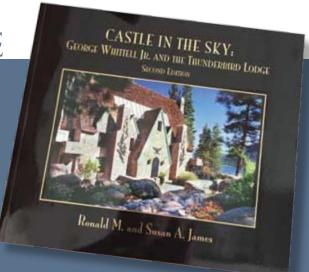
With that, I will close out this issue. My Yacht turns 75 this summer (those aren't dog years) and there will be lots of fun events for our members. Come see me soon!





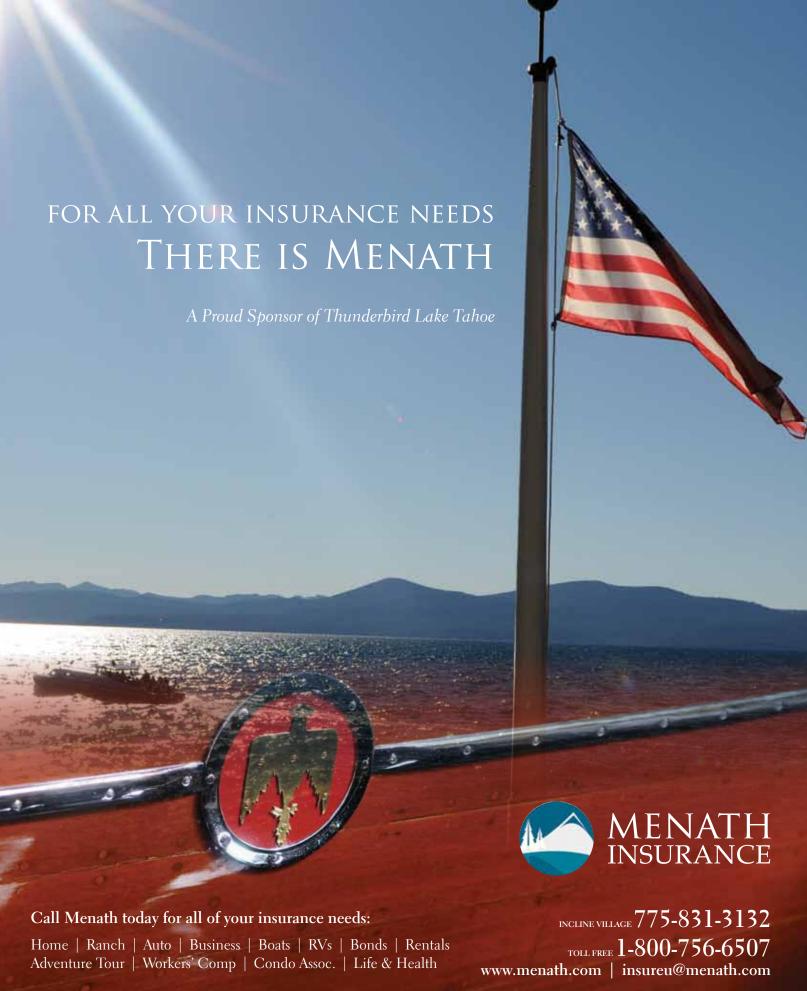
## MUSEUM STORE

hunderbird's CASTLE IN THE SKY book is on sale for \$24.95 and available online or through the Museum Gift Shop. Relive the tour, share a gift, or adorn your coffee table with Lake Tahoe's history, and George Whittell's legacy—Thunderbird Lodge and Yacht.



#### **MUSEUM STORE OPEN:**

Tuesday through Saturday. Call 775-832-8750 for store appointment or to order items, shop online at ThunderbirdTahoe.org



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