

THUNDERBIRD

Lake Tahoe

20
X 1919
SUMMER



Elia Pascal Whittell
(1892 - 1977)

d'Orz
PARIS



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23rd Annual Chase Lake Tahoe Luxury Estates Tour

Join Chase International for an exclusive one day tour of our 2019 collection of prestigious Lake Tahoe properties for sale. Experience a rare glimpse into the luxury Tahoe lifestyle.

Thursday, June 20, 2019

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TWIN PINES LAKE HOUSE | CLEAR CREEK TAHOE

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CHASE INTERNATIONAL AND THUNDERBIRD LAKE TAHOE
Partners in Preservation

A frame captured from one of the many films in the Thunderbird Lake Tahoe Archives. With Capt. George Whittell Jr. at the helm, Cal-Neva showgirls aboard Thunderbird yacht speed by Thunderbird Lodge on a beautiful summer day in 1941.



PRESERVATION PARTNERS

Our Preservation Partners are our lifeline. These valued supporters help make Thunderbird Lake Tahoe thrive with their gifts of time, art and artifacts, and premium-level memberships. Preservation Partners enjoy distinctive access, programs, and members-only privileges.

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Dearest Members, Volunteers, Supporters, and Friends

It's with utter disbelief that I realize I'm turning 60 this year.

I'm not a big fan of birthday celebrations and prefer to spend time alone reflecting but, as I look back on the past 15 years at Thunderbird, it seems like it went by so (all too) quickly.

My first visit to Thunderbird Lodge was to watch the Super Bowl and stay the night. Jack Dreyfus owned the place and I was honored to receive the invitation from his attorney, Bryce Rhodes, whom I knew from my work in the casino industry. Little did I know I would be the only guest. (And I mean ONLY, as no one else was here except a caretaker who departed soon after I arrived!) I began to panic and looked to make sure I had the date right. Redskins vs. Broncos. January 31st, 1988. (Redskins won.) I wasn't losing my mind... back then anyway.

After I sold my gaming technology company, I took on a few projects just for fun. It was shortly after that I was asked by then Nevada Governor Kenny Guinn to help out at Thunderbird Lodge, which was destitute and well on its way to abandonment and demolition. I committed to 90 days but, on that first day, I was irreversibly "bitten by the bug."

I have always been passionate about history...specifically Nevada history. When I fell in love with Thunderbird, my mission was to preserve buildings and assets that hold so many amazing stories from the past. Since then, it has been my personal goal to raise enough money to make sure like-minded people and first-time visitors alike sustain this gem that in large-part shaped Lake Tahoe's modern history.

Yes, I certainly get teased about always fundraising: jokes about people diving behind sofas to hide when I enter a room, and those dear to me wanting to melt into the floor when I begin to auction at a wine dinner. Many still tell me what I might have done had I only put this tenacity, energy, and passion into another for-profit business. The fact is this endeavor has been incredibly and profoundly fulfilling for me. Together, we are saving the Tahoe region's history, which is disappearing much too quickly.

My birthday wish and goal is to complete a \$20-million permanent preservation endowment. The interest from that investment alone will ensure the operational costs to keep the Thunderbird doors open to members, families, school children, tourists, and all who appreciate the beauty of this uniquely mystical place. Please be sure to ask how you can help.

This year, we are all very excited to have Susan Lowe take over the Board of Directors Chairmanship from our dear friend and supporter, Pete Sturtevant. Pete will remain on the board, but after many years of serving at the helm, we thought he deserved a break!

I consider myself incredibly fortunate to have been a part of saving and developing the programs we now have at Thunderbird. I hope you will visit and share in our history very soon.

Bill Watson

Bill Watson
Chief Executive & Curator

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Tony Addario – Vice Chairman
Steve Russell – Treasurer
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Anne Brockinton Lee
David Olson
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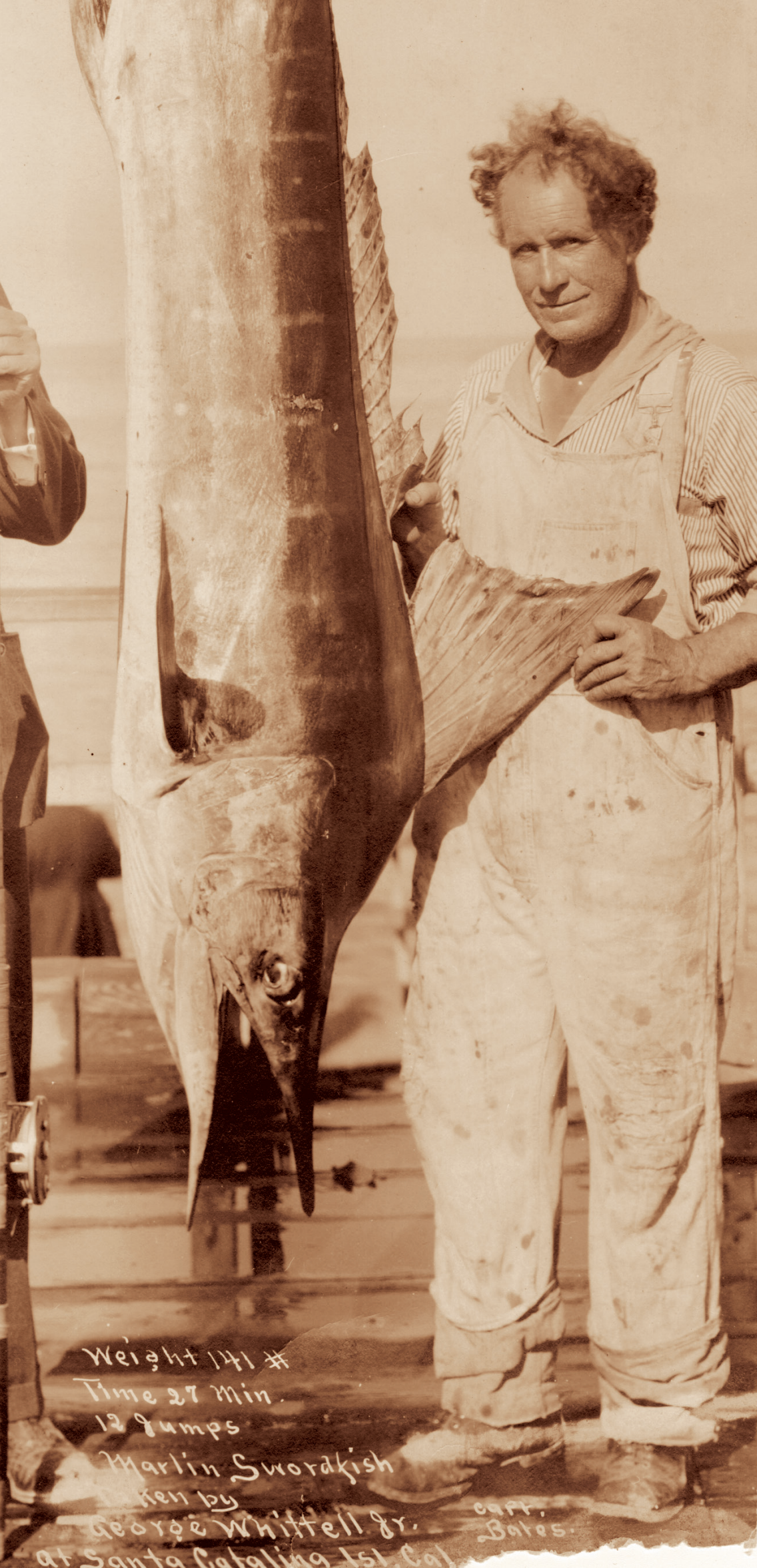
CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND CURATOR

Bill Watson

THUNDERBIRD LAKE TAHOE MAGAZINE

Steven Andersen – Graphics Designer
Shireen Piramoon – Editor & Creative Director

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Weight 141 #
Time 27 min.
12 jumps
Marlin Suorakish
Taken by
George Whittell Jr.
at Santa Catalina Isl. Cal.
Capt. Bates.

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THUNDERBIRD LODGE

Thunderbird Lodge at Lake Tahoe was built in 1936 by San Francisco bon vivant Capt. George Whittell Jr. after he had acquired over 40,000 acres of land on the Nevada side of the lake, including more than 20 miles of shoreline. Though he originally planned several developments, including casinos at Sand Harbor and Zephyr Cove, his priority was to build a secluded lakeside retreat.

Designed by Nevada's first and only State Architect, Frederic DeLongchamps, the eclectic Thunderbird Lodge is "French chateau meets rustic arts-and-crafts" in design. At this crown jewel nestled within a vast pine forest, Captain Whittell (as he preferred to be known) spent idyllic summers boating, fishing, swimming, and playing poker. By the time Whittell finished the stone buildings in



1937- LODGE CONSTRUCTION (WITH MINGO)

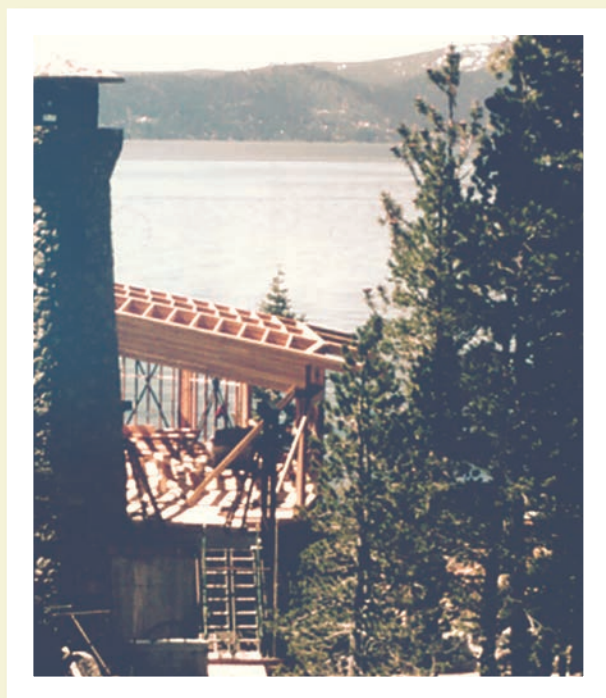
1941, the estate included the Main Lodge, a Card House, Caretaker's Cottage, Cook and Butler's House, elephant barn, Admiral's House, and Gatehouse. To accommodate his *Thunderbird* yacht, a steel boathouse blasted out of solid granite was built and connected to the Lodge by an adjoining 600' underground tunnel.

In addition to lodging the Captain, his guests, and his beloved animals (which included canine companions, a very special lion, elephant, and numerous other species he claimed to prefer over the company of most others), the Lodge is a tribute to

the soirees, exotic motorcars, boats, aircraft, and innovative technology of one who lived life at full-throttle.

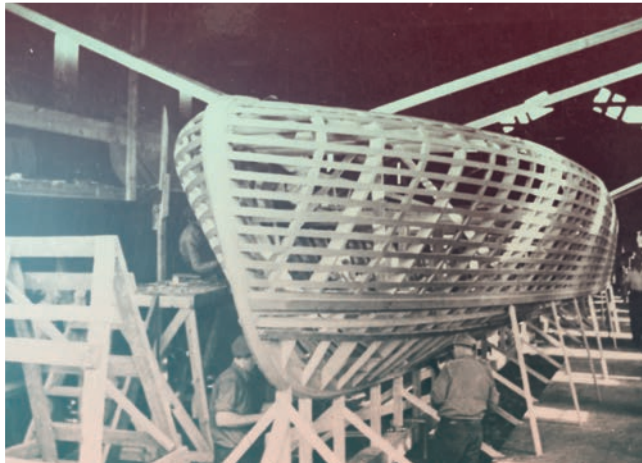
Capt. George Whittell Jr. passed away in 1969 at age 87. His private ownership of nearly one-third of Lake Tahoe's shoreline kept development at bay and preserved the landscape for the enjoyment of both wildlife and humankind alike.

Following Whittell's death, New York financier Jack Dreyfus acquired a portion of the Estate and built a contemporary addition onto Thunderbird Lodge which now houses administrative offices, an event venue, conference facility, and a Museum Store for the Thunderbird Lodge Preservation Society, a non-profit organization with a mission to preserve Lake Tahoe's art and history treasures including Thunderbird Lodge and Yacht.



1985- CONSTRUCTION OF LIGHTHOUSE ADDITION (DREYFUS)

THUNDERBIRD YACHT



CONSTRUCTION - BASIC FRAMING

Commissioned by Whittell specifically for Lake Tahoe while he was building his fabulous estate, the *Thunderbird* was designed by famed naval architect John L. Hacker and built by Huskins Boat Works in Bay City, Michigan. Enamored of the lines of his DC-2 aircraft, the eccentric millionaire requested that the hull and cockpit of his new speedboat resemble the fuselage of his airplane. Fashioned of double-planked mahogany and brushed stainless steel, the new acquisition would enable Whittell to get about Lake Tahoe with unmatched speed



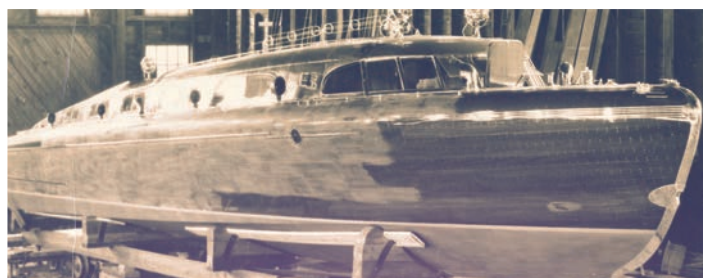
SEA TRIALS

and style. Outfitted originally with twin V-12, 550 horsepower Kermath engines, the vessel was capable of 60 knots.

Completed at a cost of \$87,000 (over \$1.4 million in today's dollars), Whittell took delivery of *Thunderbird* in 1940, and it first crossed the mountain lake's sparkling blue waters on July 14th of that year. The aging playboy used it fairly

extensively that summer and the next, but following the entry of the U.S. into World War II, Whittell rarely took it out again.

The yacht was rescued from obscurity by casino magnate William F. Harrah, who purchased it from Whittell in 1962. Harrah had it reverentially refurbished, adding a matching flying bridge of brushed stainless steel and replacing the original Kermath engines with two V-12 Allison aircraft engines, each developing 1100 horsepower. Harrah used it for the entertainment of his casino high-rollers and showroom headliners, such as Tony Bennett, Sammy Davis, Jr., and Frank Sinatra to name a few.



FINAL FITTING

After a succession of owners, the yacht was recently transferred to the Thunderbird Lodge Preservation Society. Contingent on paying off the \$1.1-million note for its purchase, the yacht will now remain berthed in its original boathouse at Thunderbird Lodge and can be viewed during tours of the estate or, with a donation, taken for a private cruise. The *Thunderbird* cruises exclusively for the benefit of raising funds to sustain the historic lodge and yacht.



YACHT ARRIVES IN TAHOE CITY

PRESERVATION OF THUNDERBIRD Lake Tahoe



George Whittell Estate National Historic District

More than 10,000 visitors experience the George Whittell Estate each year, Nevada's only National Historic District at Lake Tahoe. Sitting at the crossroads of history, the estate's public tours and education programs offer a window into the region's past: Native American, westward expansion, Anglo settlement, lumbering, mining, railroading, maritime transit, rustication, tourism, casino gaming, conservation, real estate development, environmental activism, and recreation all intersect here. Once encompassing nearly 45,000 acres, Whittell secured the expansive estate from development and, thus, Nevada's shoreline remains pristine and open as compared to the Lake's built-up California side.

Thunderbird Lodge

The historic Thunderbird Lodge is the focal point of Captain George Whittell Jr.'s Estate. Situated on the shores of Lake Tahoe, the Lodge and adjacent buildings were the only structures in the area for many years since George Whittell was fiercely private and owned over 25 miles of shoreline. Designed by Frederic J. DeLongchamps and constructed in 1936, the Tudor-style mansion served as the summer residence for the Captain, Elia, his guests, and the many exotic animals. Innovative technology was incorporated into the Lodge, which is what you would expect from the Captain who demonstrated his passion for living life to the fullest with his yachts, airplanes, poker games with celebrities, and hidden passages. After the Captain died in 1969, Jack Dreyfus acquired Thunderbird Lodge and added the more contemporary rooms where many events and activities occur today. Today the Lodge and Estate are the epicenter of the non-profit Thunderbird Lodge Preservation Society's charitable and education programs.

Thunderbird Yacht

Built in 1939 in Bay City, Michigan, *Thunderbird* yacht originally operated with two Kermath marine engines, the same engines that were used in WWII landing craft. In 1962 Whittell sold the yacht to Bill Harrah, who installed two 1100 horsepower Allison aircraft engines. After several owners the yacht was acquired by Thunderbird Lake Tahoe in 2011. *Thunderbird* serves as a floating classroom where children of all ages learn about Lake Tahoe's maritime heritage, cultural significance, and ecology.

Thunderbird Art and History Archives and Collections

Extensive collections and archives pertaining to the greater Lake Tahoe-area makes Thunderbird the de facto repository for the region's art, films, photographs, furnishings, government and corporate records, maps, artifacts salvaged from the Lake, family heirlooms, land held in trust, and hotel, casino, and recreation memorabilia. Once the largest private landowner in Nevada, Capt. George Whittell Jr. cherished all that is Lake Tahoe. We uphold his passion for the region by preserving, expanding and sharing these valuable collections.

Programs

Thunderbird's prime directive is the preservation of Lake Tahoe cultural resources for public appreciation. Professional and volunteer craftsmen continuously work on archival, maintenance, and repair projects year-round. Each task presents an opportunity for learning and estate visitors frequently experience "preservation in progress."

Public education is woven into the fabric of Thunderbird's cloth. Through interpretive tours, speakers' bureau, school field trips, fireside chats, and digital programs, Thunderbird projects Lake Tahoe's art and history to the public at-large. In partnership with public television, we are presently producing a documentary film on the history of Lake Tahoe's east shore.

Outcomes

Thunderbird may seem like just another beautiful estate on a stunning lake, but our vision—and our future—is much greater. In the past 10 years, we have managed to preserve the late George Whittell's grand Lake Tahoe estate and his prized *Thunderbird* yacht. Through public tours, charitable contributions in all amounts, educational programs, exclusive corporate and social events, and our coveted membership program, Thunderbird Lake Tahoe has become a global model for historic preservation.

Drawing from more than 25,000 objects, Thunderbird will soon launch one of the nation's first digital museums: showcasing Lake Tahoe's cultural and environmental history to researchers and audiences worldwide. The outcome of our hard work has resulted in Thunderbird having truly become *the* museum of Lake Tahoe art and history.



CAPTAIN GEORGE WHITTELL
JR. IS THE CATALYST FOR
ALL THAT THUNDERBIRD LAKE
TAHOE DOES TODAY.

OUR WORK IS TO ENSURE THAT WE
PAY WHITTELL'S LEGACY FORWARD.

EXPLORE THUNDERBIRD'S MANY PROGRAMS



HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Thunderbird spends more than 80% of its revenue, expertise, energy, and human capital on preservation projects, operating and maintaining Thunderbird Lodge and Yacht, and caring for its Lake Tahoe Art and History Collection. The public observes preservation-in-progress including architecture, stone masonry, shipwrighting, archiving and more. Thunderbird is always seeking skilled volunteers to help with preservation and restoration projects.



PUBLIC EDUCATION TOURS

Guided public tours of the George Whittell Estate and Thunderbird Lodge are offered Tuesday – Saturday from May through October. Private and group tours, including visits with wine tasting and hors d'oeuvres, are available year-round.



SPEAKERS' BUREAU

Staff and volunteers are available to groups, schools, clubs, and service organizations to speak about a wide range of Lake Tahoe art, history, and science topics.



THUNDERKIDS

A framework for teachers to develop and implement unique curriculums in a historic setting. In peak years, more than 2,000 students engage in Thunderbird's K-12 educational programs.

INSPIRING CURIOSITY,
APPRECIATION,
UNDERSTANDING,
AND STEWARDSHIP.

ART, HISTORY, AND LIFESTYLE COLLECTIONS

Thunderbird safeguards more than 25,000 items in its extensive collection of Lake Tahoe maps, paintings, photography, drawings, artwork, documents, films, and 3D artifacts. Presently campaigning for funds to become one of America's first digital museums, Thunderbird is developing the facilities and systems necessary to make its entire collection available online to researchers and the public at-large.



ARTISTS-AT-THE-CASTLE

Grants give local artisans unprecedented access to create and sell art at Thunderbird Lodge, Nevada's only cultural heritage center at Lake Tahoe.



FACILITY GRANTS

During off-peak times, qualified public charities and government agencies utilize the Whittell Estate for board and staff retreats, public meetings, and program activities. Past beneficiaries include the Nevada Commission for Cultural Centers and Historic Preservation, Boys and Girls Club of North Lake Tahoe, Parasol Tahoe Community Foundation, U.C. Davis Tahoe Environmental Research Center, Nevada Museum of Art, Make-a-Wish Foundation, Tahoe Maritime Museum, and many more.



To make reservations or for more information about any of these programs or activities, please visit:
www.ThunderbirdTahoe.org or call
775.832.8750.

TOURS

BY LAND

All land tours include shuttle bus transportation departing from the Incline Village and Crystal Bay Visitor's Center located at 969 Tahoe Blvd, Incline Village. 1 800 GOTAHOE (1.800.468.2463)

Please check in 30 minutes before your tour.

\$45 adults, \$19 children ages 6-12.

Duration: 90-minute tour of the Lodge, boathouse, and grounds.

May 21 – June 22

Tuesday, Friday, Saturday only

10:00 a.m. / 11:30 a.m. / 1:00 p.m. / 2:30 p.m.

June 25 – September 21

Tuesday through Saturday

10:00 a.m. / 11:30 a.m. / 1:00 p.m. / 2:30 p.m.

September 24 – October 19

Tuesday, Friday, Saturday only

10:00 a.m. / 11:30 a.m. / 1:00 p.m. / 2:30 p.m.

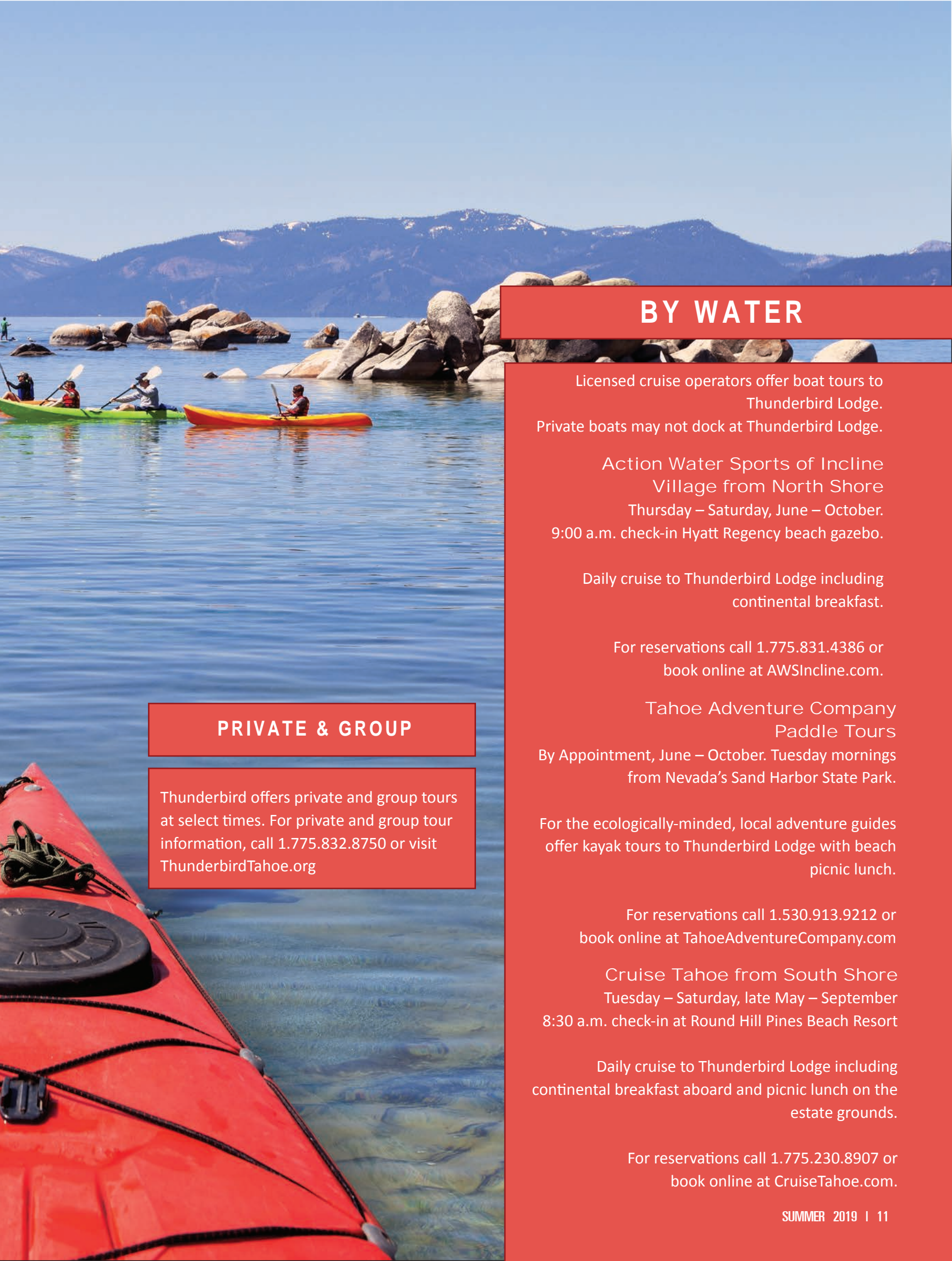
Wine and Cheese Tour

Exclusive Tuesday and Friday afternoon wine tours afford a wine reception with the Curator or Lead Docent and features a beautiful charcuterie plate to be enjoyed with custom labeled wines by award winning Darcie Kent Vineyards.

This extended 2-hour tour allows extra time on the grounds for taking photographs, asking questions of the docents or just plain enjoying the beautiful scenery.

Tuesdays & Fridays only - July 9 – October 18

2:30 p.m. Price is \$100 per person. Adults only, please no minors.



BY WATER

Licensed cruise operators offer boat tours to
Thunderbird Lodge.
Private boats may not dock at Thunderbird Lodge.

Action Water Sports of Incline
Village from North Shore
Thursday – Saturday, June – October.
9:00 a.m. check-in Hyatt Regency beach gazebo.

Daily cruise to Thunderbird Lodge including
continental breakfast.

For reservations call 1.775.831.4386 or
book online at AWSIncline.com.

Tahoe Adventure Company
Paddle Tours
By Appointment, June – October. Tuesday mornings
from Nevada's Sand Harbor State Park.

For the ecologically-minded, local adventure guides
offer kayak tours to Thunderbird Lodge with beach
picnic lunch.

For reservations call 1.530.913.9212 or
book online at TahoeAdventureCompany.com

Cruise Tahoe from South Shore
Tuesday – Saturday, late May – September
8:30 a.m. check-in at Round Hill Pines Beach Resort

Daily cruise to Thunderbird Lodge including
continental breakfast aboard and picnic lunch on the
estate grounds.

For reservations call 1.775.230.8907 or
book online at CruiseTahoe.com.

PRIVATE & GROUP

Thunderbird offers private and group tours
at select times. For private and group tour
information, call 1.775.832.8750 or visit
ThunderbirdTahoe.org



Magical Weddings

Thunderbird Lodge is idyllic for a distinctive Lake Tahoe wedding. Intimate and dramatic, no matter the season, the stunning indoor and outdoor spaces make planning simple and the outcome unforgettable. As such, we are discerning, hosting only 4-6 gala weddings and a limited number of champagne ceremonies each year in order to preserve this special place. The Whittell Estate is also available for military ceremonies, rehearsal dinners, retirement dinners, and more.

For information 1.775.832.8750
or visit ThunderbirdTahoe.org



CORPORATE and FAMILY EVENTS

EXECUTIVE MEETINGS & TEAM GETAWAYS

Plan, review, collaborate and celebrate shared success in the finest secure and private setting that is sure to inspire. 180-degree panoramic views of the Lake Tahoe basin are the backdrop for your business retreat or event. A variety of corporate sponsorships may be tailored to suit your needs.

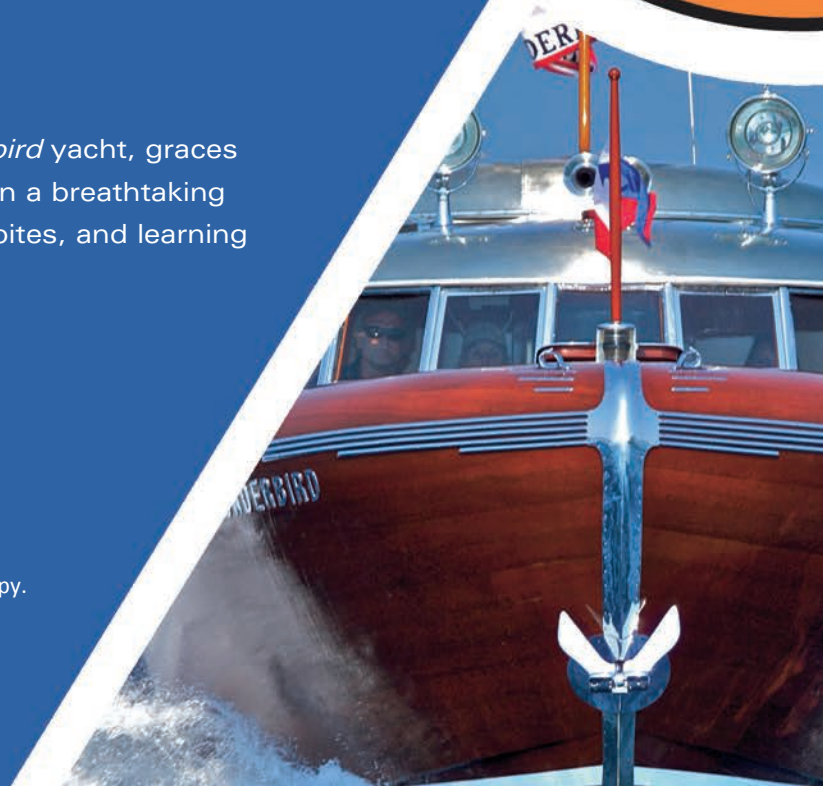
CASTLE DINNERS


Up to 24 guests may enjoy an intimate lakeside luncheon or dinner at the Whittell Estate. Following hors d'oeuvres and a private tour, our Thunderbird chef will present a tailored four-course gourmet menu for you from an array of local purveyors.

THUNDERBIRD YACHT CRUISES

To enhance your occasion, the "Lady of the Lake", *Thunderbird* yacht, graces the pristine blue Tahoe waters. Up to 20 passengers may join a breathtaking cruise, all the while sipping on fine wines, tasting delicious bites, and learning about Lake Tahoe's history as the shoreline passes by.

The charitable, educational, and preservation programs of the non-profit Thunderbird Lake Tahoe are supported entirely by philanthropy.





The historic Whittell estate was the most exclusive spot on the Lake in its iconic heyday ... and it still is today. Just as the buildings and grounds have been preserved at great expense, so has the Captain's spirit of celebration.

ENCHANTED GATHERINGS

A grand reason for every season!


Family gatherings, a special anniversary, a long-awaited reunion, birthdays, proposals, and more.

Our regional network of professional event partners will assist you in expertly crafting each detail from start to finish.



OVERNIGHT LODGING

Cap your evening with an overnight stay in our fairytale stone cottage—rusticate in luxury at Thunderbird Lodge. Occupancy is limited to two guests in one cottage per night.



Thunderbird has hosted heads of state, Hollywood stars, famed authors, poets, history's brightest minds, and celebrated heroes. Now you too may share in the magic and help save the place fondly known as the Castle-in-the-Sky.

As the stewards of Lake Tahoe's art and history, we make Thunderbird Lodge and Yacht available a select few times each year to major supporters of Thunderbird's programs. To protect Lake Tahoe and its treasures, sponsor a special occasion or memorable event today.

For information 1.775.832.8750
or visit ThunderbirdTahoe.org

Elia Pascal Whittell (1892 - 1977)

Before the era of #MeToo, shattered glass ceilings, and the inexorable march toward gender equality, a Renaissance Woman matched her male counterparts in nearly every respect. Never compromising innate grace and elegance, Elia Pascal Whittell scaled the highest peaks, out-skied every man on the slopes, traveled to the darkest recesses of African jungles, forged the swiftest rivers, skippered vessels on the roughest seas, accepted and countered her husband's dalliances with a few of her own, independently earned and managed her own wealth, all-the-while steadfast in a 50-year union with Captain George Whittell Jr., arguably a most complex man. Together, each in their own way, this power couple truly lived life at full throttle.



[Elia with her mother]

Born September, 1892 in Languedoc-Roussillon, France, Elia's early life remains a mystery. Shepherding a family nest egg into a comfortable living for herself, Elia trained as a nurse, and her well-appointed apartment homes were epicenters of Paris's vibrant art scene.



He was the captain of an American ambulance unit, she served the Red Cross. Newspapers report Elia Pascal met San Francisco's Capt. George Whittell Jr. during 1917 war service in Italy. Courtship ensued. Fortunately, Whittell was fluent in French as his fiancée spoke little English at that time. Emigrating to America, San Francisco society gushed with excitement as Elia awaited her nuptials from the comfort of Nob Hill's Fairmont Hotel.

Following a quiet, family wedding at St. Paul's Church in San Francisco, the Whittells raised eyebrows with their unorthodox honeymoon adventure—glamping through the Golden State. Road trip photos from the Thunderbird Archives highlight camping in Yosemite, big game fishing off Catalina Island, roasting marshmallows over a campfire, touring Death Valley, and skinny-dipping in the Merced River.



[Wedding cake toppers]



[Soap from Elia's yacht]



There were no indulgences the Whittell family fortune could not afford the young couple, including George's purchase of a 136-foot motor yacht (the largest built to-date on the Pacific Coast), aptly renamed ELIA. Touring Central and South America, and the Pacific Northwest, ELIA served as home on the High Seas.



Purchased for Elia's frequent travels, the Whittell's personal Douglas DC-2 did not have sufficient range to cross the Atlantic without refueling. The Whittells subsequently sold the luxury airship and ordered a 307 Stratoliner from Boeing.



Escaping California income taxes in Nevada, Elia involved herself extensively in the design and construction of Lake Tahoe's Thunderbird Lodge, including preparing workers' meals and washing dishes in the Cove. However, once the Lodge was complete, Elia preferred to summer each year in France, leaving the Captain to his own devices at the mountain lake.



In each of her 85 years, the ever-competitive Elia led the pack in nearly every athletic endeavor: water skiing on Lake Como (Italy), alpine skiing at St. Moritz-Corviglia (Switzerland), mountain climbing in Nepal, safari in Kenya, fishing the Amazon, swimming in San Francisco Bay, and even snow sledding the driveway at Thunderbird Lodge, Lake Tahoe.

Although lovingly remodeled to suit his taste, Capt. George Whittell Jr. never visited Elia's cherished French country home, Chateau des Bordes (in the Loire Valley). Left during the Second World War in the care of her sister, Marie Rose, unlike other French manor homes, Elia's estate remained untouched by Nazi German occupiers with its art and antiques mostly intact. The historic buildings were demolished in the early 2000s to make way for a golf resort.



Mrs. G. Whittell Sails For Europe
Mrs. George Whittell sailed Thursday night for Europe after having spent the summer on the Peninsula. Each summer Mrs. Whittell visits here from Paris. Six years ago she was ranked as a Chevalier in the Legion of Honor. In recognition of her war work, a rank that had previously been awarded her husband for his war work.

[The Times-San Mateo Sept. 21, 1936]



Never dowdy, Elia's sense of style was unmatched. In these photos, Elia is seen modeling the latest fashion of the Jazz Age.



Upon George's 1969 death, Elia returned home to spend her final years in the French countryside. Following her 1977 passing in a Paris hospital, Elia was interred in the Whittell family crypt alongside her husband at Cypress Lawn Cemetery in Colma, California. Having no heirs, she left her own vast fortune to veterans' support organizations in France and the U.S.A.

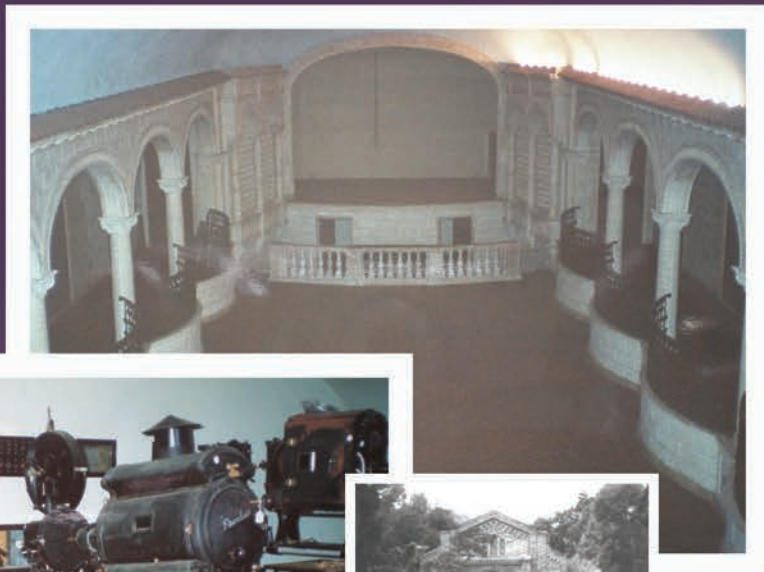


Sharing her husband's love of the wild kingdom, Elia is reported to have regularly walked the Boardwalk in Nice, France having two cheetahs on leashes.

Treasures of Tahoe

LATEST RELEASES

Capt. George Whittell Jr. was fascinated by the science of films and filmmaking. He equipped his Woodside, California theater with state-of-the-art projectors and, yes, a secret tunnel to the motor court so comings and goings could not be observed.



CHANGING LANDSCAPE

What did it look like? Thunderbird is the beneficiary of family photo collections depicting the surrounding area including these images taken in or near Jack's Valley, Nevada. Today, the Schneider (formerly Fulstone) Ranch has been incorporated into the Clear Creek Tahoe development with a large part set aside as open space. The principals of Clear Creek and Thunderbird have collaborated for years on how best to save the area's heritage and many Clear Creek members are fostering preservation through their membership in Thunderbird Lake Tahoe.



CROSSROADS OF THE WEST

Emigrant trails, stage routes, the Pony Express, the first transcontinental railroad, and roads of every type have crisscrossed the counties surrounding Lake Tahoe. Thunderbird's extensive collection of cartography includes railroad, highway, boundary, and other maps from the period since Anglo settlement. Today, access to and through the Lake Tahoe region's landscape is one of Thunderbird's primary areas of study.

[Photo Thunderbird Archives]





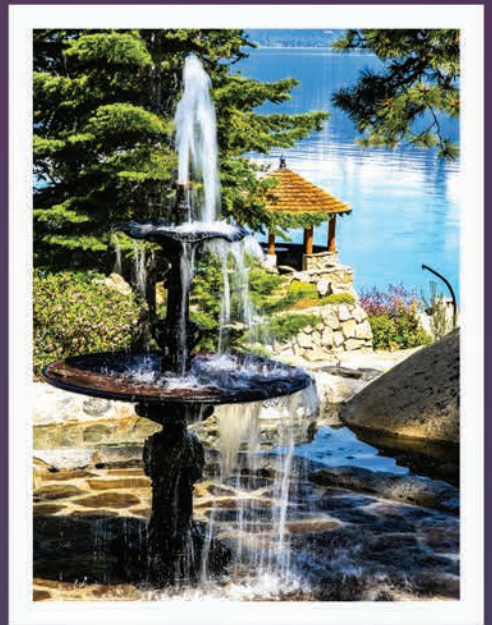
HOME SEEN BY MILLIONS

The Cartwright Ranch House from the legendary Ponderosa Ranch of *BONANZA* television fame is one of the largest (and most recognizable) artifacts in Thunderbird's museum collection. Presently in storage, Thunderbird is evaluating how and where best to reconstruct, interpret, secure, and display this significant relic from the golden age of American television. The interior contents from the sound stage sets are intact and complete including furnishings, décor, firearms, artwork, costumes, and props.

[Photo Thunderbird Archives]

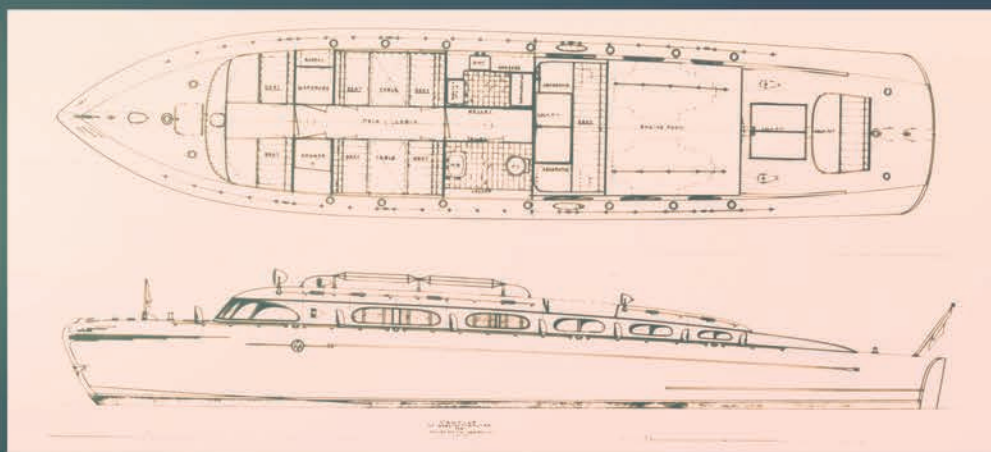
LAKE TAHOE ART

Thunderbird's climate-controlled archives hold a considerable collection of Lake Tahoe art in all mediums. The provenance of original artwork from throughout the region will be documented, the pieces interpreted, and later exhibited to the public in Thunderbird's new Discovery Center planned to open at Incline Village in the coming years.



MYSTERY FOUNTAIN

When he owned Thunderbird Lodge, financier Jack Dreyfus added this fountain in Whittell's historic waterfalls. (The sole landscaping feature contributed by Mr. Dreyfus.) We are told the water feature is of European origin, it appears to be vintage, but we know nothing more of its history or why it was placed here. Thunderbird has hundreds of artifacts with fascinating stories but for many the provenance is unknown. Thunderbird's curating team has spent thousands of hours researching the origins, history, and legends of the art and artifacts in their care.



LEADING-EDGE TECHNOLOGY

A 1940 yachting magazine introduces *THUNDERBIRD* yacht, launched that summer on Lake Tahoe. Whittell's self-described torpedo-shaped speedboat featured a shower, wardrobes, and an autopilot, all since removed from the vessel.

MEMBER HAPPENINGS

Become a **FLAGSHIP** or **CASTLE MEMBER** of **THUNDERBIRD LAKE TAHOE** and experience the **MAGIC** of **THUNDERBIRD LODGE** and **YACHT** at our members-only events.

2019

THUNDER THURSDAY RECEPTIONS

Savor the stunning summer alpenglow from the gazebo, Old Lodge terrace, or any of the beautiful grounds at Thunderbird Lodge. Our chef will surely impress with a dazzling array of hors d'oeuvres and selection of fine wines. 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 the George Whittell Estate to your friends or to see and be seen before dining on Lake Tahoe's North Shore.

THURSDAYS
JULY 11 - AUGUST 29
5-7 PM

CASTLE AND FLAGSHIP MEMBERS & INVITED GUESTS ONLY

FULL MOON CRUISES

Experience the grace and beauty of Lake Tahoe in a whole new way – under the light of the full moon while cruising aboard the incredible *Thunderbird* yacht. And, to make the evening even more special, an array of delicious hors d'oeuvres, champagne and an assortment of fine wines will be served. It will be a night to remember!

TUESDAY
JULY 16*
& **THURSDAY**
AUGUST 15*

CASTLE, FLAGSHIP ADMIRAL, & FLAGSHIP COMMODORE MEMBERS ONLY

*Cruises will occur throughout the summer on or around the Full Moon. Thunderbird Lake Tahoe's Commodore, Admiral, and Castle members will receive notices for spontaneous Full Moon Cruises. First come, first served. No advance reservations accepted.



FOR RESERVATIONS 1.775.832.8750
OR EMAIL:
RESERVATIONS@THUNDERBIRDTAHOE.ORG

CHAIRMAN'S RECEPTION

Thunderbird Governing Board Chair, Susan Lowe, hosts an intimate evening at Thunderbird Lodge to thank you for your support. There will be a brief program accompanied by a selection of fine wine, beer, and appetizers.

THURSDAY
SEPTEMBER 12
5–8 PM

CASTLE, FLAGSHIP, AND LAKESIDE MEMBERS & INVITED GUESTS ONLY

HOLIDAY PARTY

Celebrate the end of another great year and help us ring in the holiday season. The Lodge will be decorated beautifully, fires will be roaring, wine will be flowing and our chef will make sure the delicacies from the kitchen prove to be crowd pleasing! It's our way of thanking our amazing members and guests.

THURSDAY
DECEMBER 19
4–7 PM

CASTLE AND FLAGSHIP MEMBERS & INVITED GUESTS ONLY

Winemaker's Dinner Series

The highlight of Lake Tahoe's summer season, these elegant affairs pair renowned chefs and vintners to create the most memorable events. These popular fundraisers offer a unique composition of wine, cuisine, castle tours, glorious grounds, panoramic sunsets, and unparalleled auction and raffle items. Each event sells out so please make your reservations early!



JULY 14

Come spend an evening enjoying an amazing dinner prepared by celebrated chefs, Mark Estee and Geoffrey Calliger from Reno's Liberty Food & Wine Exchange. KR Rombauer will entertain and educate you with stories of the fine wines he will be presenting from the always-popular Rombauer Vineyards.

Tickets are \$495 per person (\$345 charitable).



SEPTEMBER 8

Famed Tahoe City chef Douglas Dale of Woldale's Cuisine Unique returns to Thunderbird Lodge to prepare a fantastic feast for our Summer fundraising event. Adding to the festivities of the evening, Fritz Hatton from Arietta will present his fabulous wines. If we are lucky, maybe he will play the piano and sing for us!

Tickets are \$495 per person (\$345 charitable).



OCTOBER 6

Thunderbird's Chef Darren Weston will serve a multi-course Autumn Harvest inspired meal featuring wine from Darcie Kent Vineyards. This will be a seated event served in the Lighthouse Room with spectacular views of the lake.

Tickets are \$295 per person (\$200 charitable).

Shuttle transportation departs Incline Village at 4:30 p.m. and 4:45 p.m. Limited on-site parking is reserved exclusively for Castle and Flagship Members and VIP Cruise guests.

For Reservations 1.775.832.8750
or email:
Reservations@ThunderbirdTahoe.org



THUNDERFAIRE: FOOD AND WINE FAIR AUG. 11

Beautiful grounds and an unparalleled sunset are the backdrop for an evening of delicious food and wine. Celebrated chefs and purveyors of fine wines, craft brews, and distilled spirits come together to delight the senses. Stroll about the grottoes and secret spaces of the Whittell Estate grounds while taking in the sights and entertainment featured throughout the expansive property.

Thunderfaire tickets are priced \$245 per person per event (\$175 charitable). Shuttle buses begin departing Incline Village at 3:30 p.m. and run continuously until 8 p.m. No on-site parking is available.

Space is limited

VIP CRUISE

Upgrade any winemaker's dinner event to include a pre-dinner VIP cruise aboard *Thunderbird* yacht with a celebrity winemaker sharing rare reserve and library wines from the winery's estate cellar.

VIP Cruise tickets are \$1,000 per person per event (\$750 charitable). All-inclusive VIP cruises admit one to the cruise, dinner, and on-site parking. Cruise arrival time is 4 p.m.

MEMBERSHIP

Your charitable gifts
truly make you a partner in
preservation

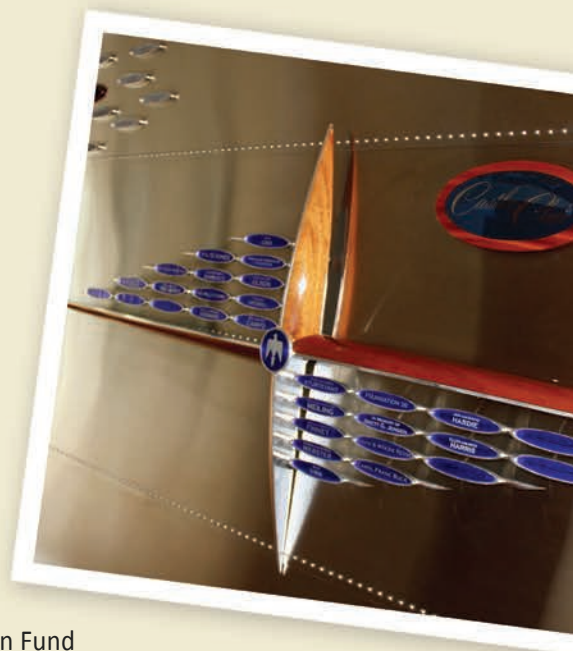
CASTLE \$100,000+ Lifetime Gift

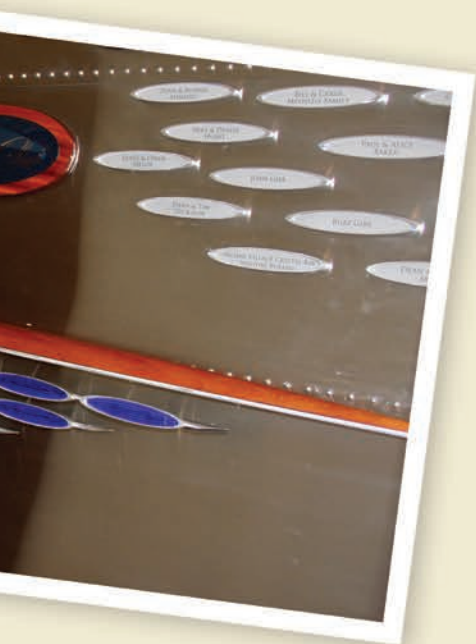
A premier program for legacy gifts of \$100,000 or more to the permanent Preservation Fund endowment. Contributors at this level gain unprecedented access to the programs of Thunderbird Lodge and Yacht. Additionally, Castle contributors enjoy the privileges of members-only events and activities, including all the offerings of the Flagship membership program.

There are many ways to structure your Castle contribution including multi-year gift commitments, transferring highly appreciated stocks or securities, directing mandatory IRA distributions, or gifting from family foundations or donor-advised funds.

Our highest level of membership has special privileges. To name a few:

- Special docking priorities
- Drive-on and parking access
- Private member/guest tours with wine and chef made delicacies
- Members' only events and occasions including priority *Thunderbird* yacht functions





FLAGSHIP \$5,000 • \$10,000 • \$25,000 Annual Gift

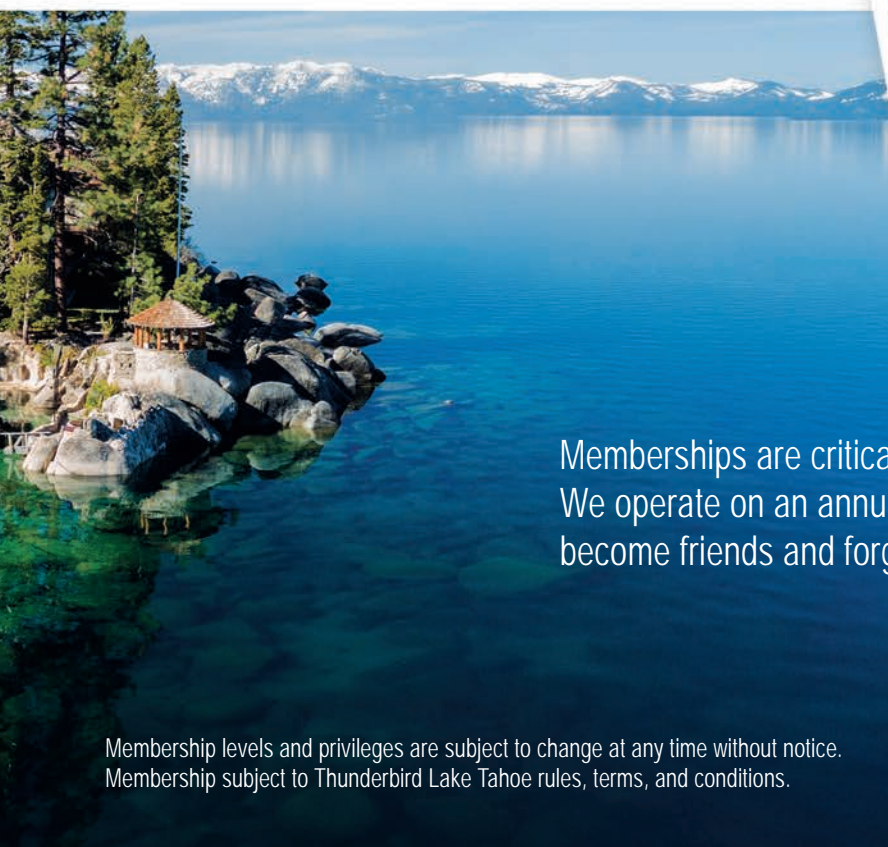
Elite Flagship members are sustaining Thunderbird's operating costs with annual gifts at the Captain, Commodore, and Admiral levels. Thunderbird receives a substantial matching gift when it achieves 50-families or businesses gifting \$10,000 in each of 5 consecutive years.

Flagship members share in unparalleled friend-raising and networking events including Thunderbird's famous Thunder Thursday receptions all summer long, and invitations to exclusive members-only events, and private guided tours. Additionally, Flagship members at the Commodore and Admiral levels enjoy boat docking privileges at Thunderbird events and may partake in cruises aboard *Thunderbird* yacht reserved exclusively for members at these levels.

FRIENDS \$100 – \$2,500 Annual Gift

Friends are the bedrock of Thunderbird's preservation goals and provide critical support for programs.

Friends receive a variety of benefits tailored to the giving level including complimentary tour passes, invitations to attend specific events, and discounts on merchandise at the Thunderbird Museum Store.



Memberships are critical to the preservation of this precious estate. We operate on an annual budget of \$1.5M per year. Our members become friends and forge a community with like-minded contributors.

Membership levels and privileges are subject to change at any time without notice.
Membership subject to Thunderbird Lake Tahoe rules, terms, and conditions.

LEGACY GIFTS

The Preservation Fund represents a portfolio of major gifts received from individual donors, businesses, family foundations, private foundations, and donor-advised funds at community foundations. The Fund's corpus—or principal balance—is never touched and only the investment income the Fund earns is used for regular maintenance of Thunderbird Lodge and Yacht.

To sustain preservation and ensure public access for generations to come, the Preservation Fund must grow to \$20-million by 2020. We remain extremely grateful to the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation and all our individual donors who started us on this journey. The Thunderbird team is proud of its success in growing the Preservation Fund to within halfway of its target goal!

CASTLE CONTRIBUTIONS

Despite numerous economic challenges over the past years, Thunderbird Lake Tahoe is occasionally blessed with gifts of \$100,000 or more to its Preservation Fund. Major contributors at this level gain unparalleled access to programs and members only events.

Matching gift opportunities are presently available. Passionate donors eager to grow the Preservation Fund have pledged to match \$100,000 and higher contributions dollar for dollar.

There are many ways to structure your Castle contribution including multi-year gift commitments, transferring highly appreciated stocks or securities, gifting an I.R.A. distribution, donor advised funds, or make a bequest from your estate.

MAKING A BEQUEST

Bequests let you 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 of your estate, or a specific dollar value. Your bequest may be designated for general purposes, the permanent Preservation Fund, or for a specific Thunderbird program or preservation project.

Although you are not obligated to disclose any intended gift, doing so will allow Thunderbird to appropriately thank you for your generosity and update you about charitable works and progress toward achieving the Preservation Fund goals.

GIFTS OF ALL KINDS

Over the years, Thunderbird has benefited from gifts of all kinds including real property, highly valued boats and cars, appreciated securities, bonds, and art and historic artifacts consistent with the Thunderbird mission. If you wish to support Thunderbird and our long-term preservation efforts, please do not hesitate to have a conversation with us.

Like many non-profit organizations, the future of Thunderbird Lake Tahoe rests with building a permanent Preservation Fund, or endowment.



we NEED YOU!

You contribute, you participate, and you care. As a supporter of Thunderbird Lake Tahoe, YOU make a profound difference in maintaining this beautiful estate, yacht and the untouched land around us. We are grateful for your continued support. Guests and donors regularly ask about ways to help with maintenance and preservation programs. As income for Thunderbird is at its lowest in the winter, we'd like to communicate the many different ways you can help us both complete and continue these projects.

END-OF-YEAR GIFT

A contribution beyond your membership goes a long way toward completing critical preservation projects. Gifts of appreciated stock, mandatory I.R.A. distributions, and contributions of any kind will push Thunderbird over the finish line on many programs and projects.

RENEW OR UPGRADE YOUR MEMBERSHIP

In order to receive a considerable matching gift, Thunderbird must maintain 50 families gifting \$10,000 each year. If you haven't yet renewed your 2019 gift or upgraded to a higher level, please consider doing so to take advantage of this year's charitable deduction and continue to enjoy all of the privileges of membership.

CONTRIBUTIONS OF ANY KIND

Thunderbird has benefited from gifts of all kinds: including real property, highly valued boats and cars, appreciated securities, bonds and historic artifacts consistent with the Thunderbird mission. If you wish to support Thunderbird and our long term preservation efforts, please do not hesitate to have a conversation with us.

HOST AN EVENT OR PARTY

Celebrate your holiday party, event, or special occasion at Lake Tahoe's historic Thunderbird Lodge. Sponsorships for small office parties, corporate affairs, and gala weddings remain available for 2019 dates.

Your contributions make a difference:

- Cash
- Stocks
- Appreciated Securities
- Charitable Remainder Trusts
- Annuities
- IRA Distributions
- Real Property
- Art and Artifacts

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.

CORPORATE SPONSORSHIPS

Many of the most innovative and distinguished business leaders come to Lake Tahoe to enjoy both summer and winter sports, the beautiful lake, and its increasingly rich tapestry of art, food, and culture.

Although many of our supporters have participated in saving the George Whittell Estate, Thunderbird Lodge, *Thunderbird* yacht, and our amazing Lake Tahoe art and history collection of artifacts, we are just now rolling out a membership for select corporations.

Thunderbird Lodge has always been Lake Tahoe's storybook estate. Now, we are becoming the Lake's most comprehensive cultural institution. Attracting more than 10,000 worldwide visitors each season, Thunderbird Lake Tahoe offers its partners prominent exposure and brand affiliation to everyone who appreciates art, history, beauty, and lore.

Thunderbird corporate partnerships meet a wide range of marketing, promotional, and client engagement objectives. We consider each corporate member a true partner in preservation and are committed to working collaboratively with you to create a customized and comprehensive benefits package, ensuring strong brand recognition, unique hospitality opportunities, and broad visibility.

Opportunities exist for corporate partners to underwrite exhibits, foster a broad-range of education programs or, through a charter Corporate Membership, your company and stakeholders may leverage Thunderbird's iconic location, engaged audience, extensive collections, and unique installations and exhibitions.





CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP LEVELS & BENEFITS

Be part of Thunderbird Lake Tahoe's work to preserve, educate, and conserve Lake Tahoe's art and history for audiences of all ages. To learn more about corporate partnerships, please contact us at: 1.775.832.8750

JOIN US

Your membership will facilitate your private access to the Whittell Estate for meetings, VIP functions, and special events.

Corporate support provides essential funds for our core programs that support and inspire curiosity, appreciation, and stewardship of Lake Tahoe's art and history. Our target is to complete a \$20 million endowment to ensure the future preservation of our historic treasures including Thunderbird Lodge and Yacht. Simultaneously, Thunderbird looks to achieve its ongoing education, preservation, and conservation goals including:

- Expanding collections, exhibits, programs, and events
- Capital repairs of the historic district
- Archeological field works at adjacent sites

Our objective is to partner with our corporate members to construct a world model for education and preservation while furthering our mission to expand our collections, exhibitions, programs, and events. Ultimately, we're working to build the foundation for the vital preservation of historic structures, artifacts, and collections.



OUR VOLUNTEERS...

...are made up of donors, long-time Tahoe Basin residents, and dedicated friends who give their time to maintain the world of Thunderbird. The lasting friendships they form and results of the work they do for preservation is rewarding enough, but add to that the fireside chats, potluck dinners, and other special occasions that make for a fun and satisfying summer at the castle.



PASSIONATE

Volunteers give their time to maintain the beautiful grounds, assist with events, and help with restoration projects such as archiving, painting, stonework, yacht maintenance, and anything else that may come up around the Estate. The list is never ending!



SKILLED

Trained volunteers become highly skilled tour guides, educating and entertaining our guests about the historic estate and legacy of bon vivant, Capt. George Whittell Jr.



HOSTS & HOSTESSES

Nearly 100 volunteers come together each year to help preserve Thunderbird Lodge and Yacht and welcome over 10,000 visitors from around the world.



TO OUR EXISTING VOLUNTEERS


A HEARTFELT THANK YOU
for all that you do!



If you wish to join the
Thunderbird family,

please phone us at
1.775.832.8750
or
visit ThunderbirdTahoe.org

10 THINGS TO ENJOY at Thunderbird Lake Tahoe



01.

Take a yoga class with our very own Hank Echter. He is a great instructor and, with the backdrop of Lake Tahoe, classes at Thunderbird Lodge are NOT to be missed.

02.

Tour the grounds and stroll the beautiful gardens during a public tour of Thunderbird Lodge Tuesday – Saturday each week all summer long. Volunteers led by expert horticulturalists maintain gardens and grounds that will take your breath away.

03.

Sip award-winning Darcie Kent wine, nosh on fine cheeses and delicacies, and enjoy stunning panoramas of Lake Tahoe from the gazebo during Thunderbird's wine and cheese tours each Tuesday and Friday afternoon. The East Shore is unbuilt and beautiful. Appreciating the view from Thunderbird Lodge is icing on the cake.

04.

Immerse yourself in the history of the Old West. Visit the history gallery at the Incline Village-Crystal Bay Visitor's Center featuring memorabilia from Lake Tahoe's bygone days including the famed Ponderosa Ranch of television's BONANZA series.

05.

Sweep across Lake Tahoe in style on the famed 55' Mahogany speedboat like Madonna she only needs one name Thunderbird!

06.

Explore the East Shore aboard the historic Tahoe cruise boat. Sip mimosas and enjoy extra time plus lunch on the grounds after your tour of the Whittell Estate and Thunderbird Lodge.

07.

If you're an adventurous morning person, there is no better day than to paddle from Sand Harbor State Park to Thunderbird Lodge for an early tour. The glassy waters will seduce you.

08.

Pretend to be Captain George Whittell Jr. for a day ... invite your family, friends, or team to enjoy the privacy and privilege of having the Captain's estate to yourselves. Thunderbird offers a finite number of weddings, family, and corporate events each year. Private tours and dinners for small groups are available year round.

09.

The region's finest winemakers and most talented chefs join us each summer for sell-out fundraising events: Thunderfaire and the Thunderbird Winemaker's Dinner Series.

10.

.... and of course, there are the ghosts. Thunderbird Lodge will spirit you to a bygone era of Lake Tahoe's Gilded Age. Are you up for the adventure?

Pat Hanson-Thomson:

Celebrating a Friend's Life

In February as I was driving to see her, the sad news arrived that our dear friend Pat Hanson-Thomson had passed away at her San Francisco home from complications from cancer. Not only was Pat (or Patti as some of us knew her) a long-time volunteer and financial supporter, she was particularly close to me and a devoted evangelist for all things Thunderbird. Her dedication to historic preservation and the arts included a tenure as a Director on Thunderbird's Governing Board. Pat now joins her beloved Clay (also a Thunderbird volunteer), who passed in January 2009.

In talking with the Thunderbird team about Pat, they remember how she was always upbeat and positive. She loved the Thunderbird Lodge with its fascinating history, but most of all enjoyed the company of the staff and many dedicated volunteers. Pat was a pleasure to be around and never let her personal struggles with cancer impact her interaction with her friends and the Thunderbird family. Her commitment to helping others was demonstrated throughout her career as a nurse.

I stayed with Pat at her San Francisco home on Camino del Mar many times, often to attend charity events, especially Pat's favorite: Bouquets for the Arts. I recall her keeping watch (somewhat nervously) as Calliegh, our Thunder Dog whose musings generally occupy this space, frolicked tenderly with treasured cats, Cato and Circe. She loved all creatures, small and large.

We will miss her joyous spirit and the energy Pat not only injected into her favorite causes, but into life, as well. Pat will be missed and never forgotten. She embodied all that our volunteers represent: compassion, charity, and love.

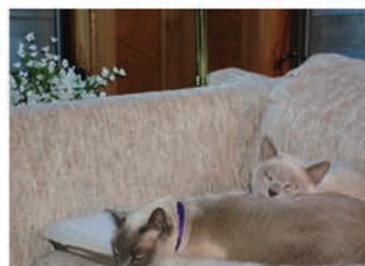
Bill Watson



Patricia Margaret Hanson-Thomson
March 1, 1942 — February 13, 2019



Carol Bandy and Pat: Childhood friends from Canada and summer docents at Thunderbird Lodge.



Circe and Cato. Cato passed away a couple of years ago and Circe, who never left Pat's side in her final days, is being loved and cared for by Pat's close friends.



Photo of Pat graduating from nursing school.

A PROUD SPONSOR OF THUNDERBIRD LAKE TAHOE



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THUNDERBIRD LAKE TAHOE

PO Box 6812
Incline Village, NV 89450

The mission of Thunderbird Lake Tahoe is to inspire curiosity, appreciation, understanding and stewardship of Lake Tahoe's art, history and environment through preservation, education and conservation.



Thunderbird Lodge Preservation Society (d.b.a. Thunderbird Lake Tahoe) is a Nevada non-profit corporation having tax-exempt status as a public charity under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Charitable gifts are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by Law. Tax ID 88-0434866.