

WINTER 2012

THUNDERBIRD

Preservation

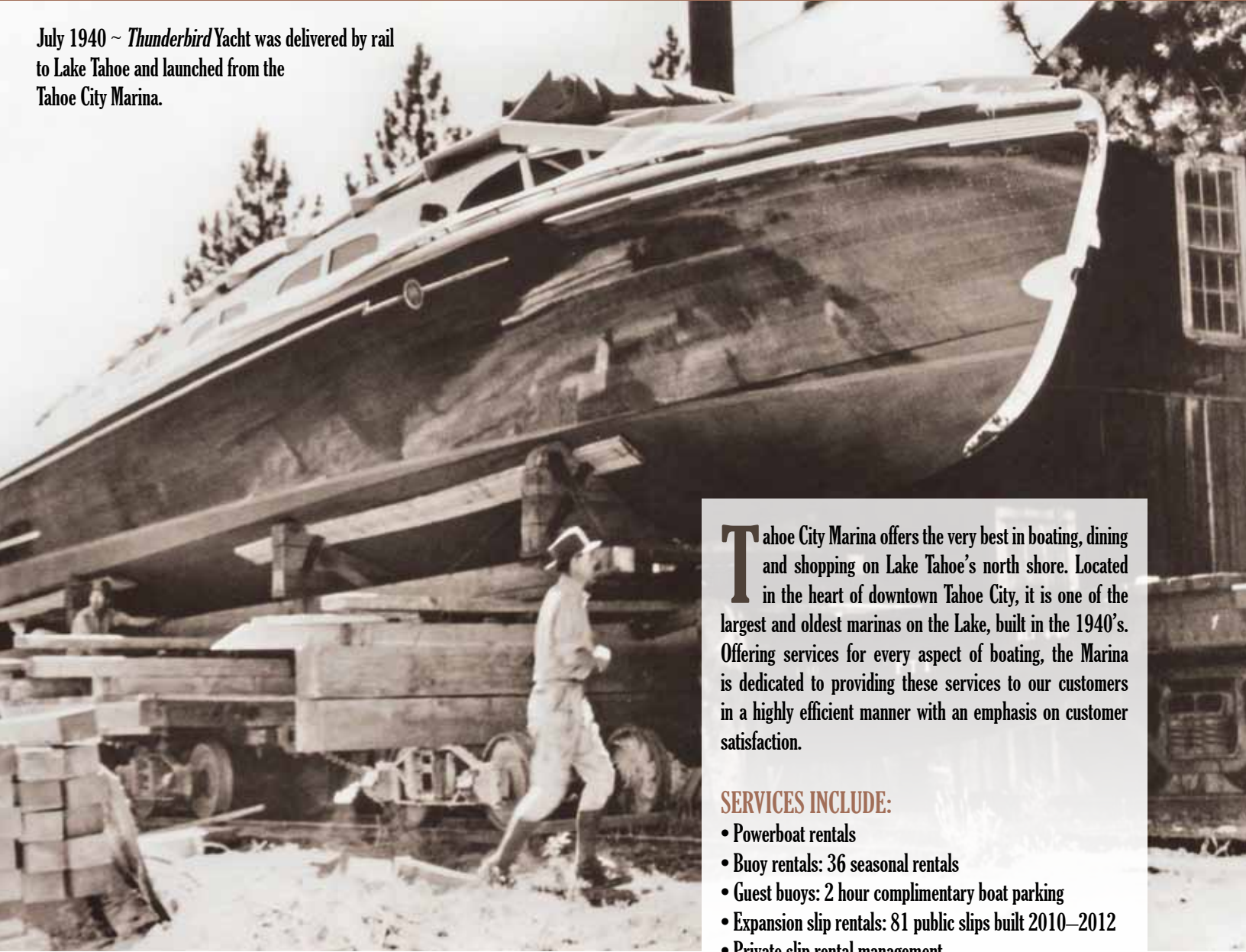


Celebrating 10 Years of Public Tours

THUNDERBIRD LODGE | THUNDERBIRD YACHT | TOURS | WINEMAKER'S DINNERS | CRUISES | WEDDINGS | CORPORATE FUNCTIONS

Tahoe City Marina is a proud supporter of Thunderbird Lake Tahoe ~ West shore home port of the historic *Thunderbird* Yacht

July 1940 ~ *Thunderbird* Yacht was delivered by rail
to Lake Tahoe and launched from the
Tahoe City Marina.



Tahoe City Marina offers the very best in boating, dining and shopping on Lake Tahoe's north shore. Located in the heart of downtown Tahoe City, it is one of the largest and oldest marinas on the Lake, built in the 1940's. Offering services for every aspect of boating, the Marina is dedicated to providing these services to our customers in a highly efficient manner with an emphasis on customer satisfaction.

SERVICES INCLUDE:

- Powerboat rentals
- Buoy rentals: 36 seasonal rentals
- Guest buoys: 2 hour complimentary boat parking
- Expansion slip rentals: 81 public slips built 2010–2012
- Private slip rental management
- Gasoline & diesel fuel sales
- Forklift & travelift launching
- Indoor winter storage
- Boat and engine service and detailing
- Parasailing and sailing charters

In addition to boat services, Tahoe City Marina hosts a handful of other businesses on property that further compliment and enhance your experience while at Lake Tahoe and visiting Tahoe City Marina.



530-583-1039

700 N. Lake Blvd; PO Box 6510

Tahoe City, CA

tahoe-city-marina.com

Fax: 530-581-5249 | Channel: 78

7 days a week: 8 am–5 pm

Rental office: 8 am–4 pm

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JARVIS PHOTOGRAPHY



BRET COLE PHOTOGRAPHY



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FRONT COVER PHOTO: CIPRIAN PHOTOGRAPHY

A NOTE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Thunderbird Lake Tahoe completed another wonderful season of popular private and fundraising events, and well-attended tours and cruises. In whatever capacity you participated, thank you for helping us achieve our success!

The gardens flourished and never looked better thanks to our amazing volunteer gardeners. Bill Watson and

his staff did a superb job refurbishing the kitchen area and Dreyfus addition, which includes new display cases featuring many of our donated artifacts. Chef Anne Wiles' gourmet recipes were a delightful addition offering tasty and health-conscious treats at our Thunder Thursdays and cooking classes.

The Whittell Waterfall Restoration project will begin next spring. If the weather cooperates, we hope to celebrate the completion in July, 2013.

We've also enhanced our membership program with a new "Flagship" level which invites 50 families, businesses, or foundations to donate \$10,000 a year for 5 years. These 50 new members along with our Preservation Society's Castle Club members enjoy unprecedented access and special event invitations to Thunderbird Lake Tahoe throughout the year. As of October, I'm happy to report that we have received commitments from 20 families. Contact us to become a Flagship Member to participate in our special Lake Tahoe events planned for 2013.

In the spirit of the holiday season and New Year, and on behalf of the Preservation Society's Governing Board of Directors, our staff, and volunteers, I thank you for your very generous support, and wish you all a very healthy and wonderful 2013.

Joan Gibb

CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF DIRECTORS



While raising funds to preserve Thunderbird Lodge and Yacht consumes most of my time, researching the life of Thunderbird's George Whittell, Jr., is what I enjoy most about this job. I'm amazed at how people I've met remember our dear captain in such different ways. One might describe him as an irascible curmudgeon while another fondly recalls jocularly and a paternal twinkle in his eye.

A while back, I set out to author a comprehensive biography of Whittell. It's a difficult book to write because I often can't separate fact from fiction. Whittell's penchant for privacy only served to exacerbate the legends printed about him in the press, and he relished nearly every opportunity to amplify these tales.

Helping to connect the dots are your gifts of Whittell and Lake Tahoe artifacts, documents, films, photographs, and memorabilia. Please keep them coming. So many of you have conveyed items which lend insight to our story. Our volunteers are enthralled when I've shown the Captain's home movies on the original projector and screen in his Tahoe lodge. (We'll show these films to our Flagship members soon for an evening of popcorn, beer, and theater.)

One day, with the help of our donors, I hope to make these films into a documentary. Doing so will create a new window into the fascinating and enigmatic life of Captain George Whittell, Jr.

Meanwhile, research your own family history. You might be surprised at the treasures you will find.

Wishing you happy holidays and a safe, prosperous, and healthy 2013!

Bill Watson

CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND CURATOR

A LETTER FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

JARVIS PHOTOGRAPHY

Winter HISTORY



THUNDERBIRD TRIVIA

In 1940, the *Thunderbird* Yacht had an autopilot that would steer her home to Thunderbird Lodge at the push of a button.

Winter's first snow blankets the ground at Thunderbird Lake Tahoe and the geese are heading south. A noticeable calm has settled over the historic stone buildings, and what Thunderbird Lodge Preservation Society does to prepare for winter is much like the chores of earlier times. In part, we follow a checklist from October, 1941, printed in the hand of Captain George Whittell, Jr., esteemed patriarch of the Thunderbird Estate.

TO DO BEFORE RETURNING TO WOODSIDE

1. CHINK THE STONES. Before the first frost, a stone mason inspects the stonework and fills any cracks that might permit wind and water to encroach on the interiors. Masonry repairs are an ongoing and expensive chunk of the Preservation Society's budget.

2. PACK AWAY FOOD. Chef Anne Wiles is making preserves, freeze drying spices from the gardens, and using up the perishables. Having sufficient supplies for our holiday parties, Anne will stow the remainder for a 2013 season filled with Castle dinners, Thunder Thursday receptions, cooking classes, and fresh cookies for the museum store. We enjoy crafting unique experiences for you and your family. Think of Thunderbird Lake Tahoe as you plan your winter holiday party, special event, or corporate function.

3. SERVICE THE CAR. Although a Duesenberg no longer rests in the garage, the *Thunderbird* Yacht shall winter in the boathouse. Coolant mixtures and levels are checked, fuel tanks topped off to prevent condensation, holding tanks pumped out, water intakes drained, the bilge cleaned, and more. On the final cruise this season, the captain rounds *Thunderbird* about, enters the boathouse stern-first, and positions her reinforced chine over corresponding lift points on the cradle. Then *Thunderbird* is carefully lifted from the water for maintenance. We anticipate no major work this season so, when bluebird days appear, your charitable contribution can buy you the solitude of a winter's cruise on Lake Tahoe with snow-capped peaks all around. Think about it ...

Ideally, our winter won't be as eventful as the one that followed Whittell in 1941.

Peace on Earth.

WINEMAKER'S DINNERS

Mark Your Calendars...2013 Winemaker's Dinners

SUNDAY, JULY 14

SUNDAY, AUGUST 11

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13

Reservations and details available January 2013 at www.ThunderbirdTahoe.org

FIELDING PHOTOGRAPHY



CIPRIAN PHOTOGRAPHY



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Clockwise, top left:

- September's First Course—Smoked Sierra Gold Crayfish with Bell Pepper and Basil Tagliatelle prepared by Chef Rick Koplau
- A glass of sparkling wine greets you at an Old Lodge reception
- Shimmering Lake Tahoe waters surround our guests at September's Winemaker's Dinner
- Sipping champagne at our September's VIP Reception and *Thunderbird* Yacht Cruise, our VIP's met Petra and Greg Martin, Proprietors, Martin Estate Winery
- The perfect Lighthouse Room wine dinner setting
- Festive red, white, and blue bunting decorates the Old Lodge terrace for the July Winemaker's Dinner



CIPRIAN PHOTOGRAPHY

2013 Flagship Member Events

THURSDAY, MAY 2

THURSDAY, JULY 4

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12

THURSDAYS, JULY-SEPTEMBER

THUNDER DE MAYO

INDEPENDENCE DAY BBQ

CHAIRMAN'S RECEPTION

HOLIDAY GATHERING

THUNDER THURSDAY RECEPTIONS

Flagship and Castle Club Members kicked off the 2012 Thunderbird season with a Thunder de Mayo celebration, soaked up summer at our Thunder Thursdays, and ended with a holiday gathering in the Old Lodge.



HEIDI HUBER PHOTOGRAPHY



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BRET COLE PHOTOGRAPHY



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HEIDI HUBER PHOTOGRAPHY

Flagship Members Bob Preger and Robert Lee celebrate an old-fashioned Independence Day with Curator, Bill Watson.

Flagship

MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

Thunderbird's Flagship Membership Program was introduced in 2012 as a way to share access to the historic site and yacht, and raise the revenue needed to maintain and preserve these gems each year.

To cover our annual costs, the Society seeks 50 families to pledge membership for five years at either the Admiral (\$10,000) or Commodore (\$5,000) level. As "Flagship" donors, these families receive unprecedented access to Thunderbird programs and events. Additionally, Admiral level donors enjoy yacht cruises and docking privileges at the Thunderbird Cove during events.

We welcome our initial Flagship donors, and invite you to join us for the next five years on our quest to develop a permanent Preservation Fund. Your charitable gift will truly make you one of our partners in preservation. Call Chief Executive and Curator Bill Watson today to discuss how you can become a Flagship Member! 775-832-8752. Together, we will share good times for a higher cause.



THUNDERBIRD TRIVIA

President Ronald Reagan and wife Nancy vacationed at Thunderbird Lodge after leaving the White House in 1988.

FLAGSHIP MEMBERS

CASTLE CLUB*

Tony and Bonnie Addario
Ric and Mo Campo
John and Jeanette Finney
Clyde (Buzz) R. Gibb
Joan Gibb
John and Debra Iannucci
Dean and Madylon Meiling
Steven Merrill
Dave and Lynn Olson
Pete and Darra Sturtevant
Ranson and Norma Webster
The Wills Family
Foundation 36
Pulte Homes
D.W. Reynolds Foundation

*In addition to regular gifts for operating funds, Castle Club contributors have each contributed \$100,000 or more to a long-term Preservation Fund Endowment to preserve Thunderbird Lake Tahoe for future generations.

Woody and Denise Shackleton
Pete and Darra Sturtevant

COMMODORE MEMBERS

Hal and Sue Bernheisel
Andy and Ellen Dauscher
Doug Graham
Shai and Elyse Gut
Bob and Anne Lee
Bion and Barb Murphy
Stephen Page
Kirk Pumphrey
Craig Rauchle and Julie Weintraub
Jim Thornton and Dana Mordini
Terry Underwood and
Shirley Degenkolb
Lonna Wais

WELCOME!



Thunderbird Preservation Society welcomes John and Debra Iannucci to our Castle Club family! Introduced to the Thunderbird Lodge by volunteers and key supporters, Bion and Barb Murphy, the Iannuccis have been residents of Lake Tahoe for 30 years. Their support is greatly appreciated and brings us one step closer to the \$20M Preservation Fund Endowment.

ADMIRAL MEMBERS

Tony and Bonnie Addario
Gil and Jenny Amoroso
Paul and Alice Baker
Nancy Binz
Wally and Julie Brown
Carol Buck
Terry and Carol Clapham
Joan Gibb
Stuart and Pattie Haldan
Art and Joanne Hall
Steven and Sandy Hardie
Bob and LaRue Maddox
Bill and Carol Meehleis
Bob and Eleanor Preger

Our heartfelt thanks to all who share our passion and vision in support of Lake Tahoe's historic Thunderbird Lodge and Yacht. Your contributions are greatly appreciated!

CAPTAIN

Paul and Carolyn Burkett
John and Anne Isaacson
Bruce and Nora James
Allen and Carla Law
Dave Miner
David and Charlotte Moore
Rick and Gina Stephenson
Douglas Tuttle and Lynn Brantley
Brad and Barbie Witmer

FRIENDS & SUPPORTERS

Eric and Aletha Aichwalder
Michel and Patricia Aiello
Ken and Jo Allen
Rod and Rita Alston
Gilbert and Jenny Amoroso
Paul Anderson
Kale and Ranko Anderson
Rick and Lisa Andriano
Nazir and Mary Ansari
Martin Arrazi
Maureen Bacon
Mark and Deb Baldwin
Robert and Alice Balfrey
Carol Bandy
Benjamin and Robyn Barnes
Neil and Jill Barnes
Clyde and Kay Beffa
Diana Beggs
Mark and Jody Beguelin
Rich and Dyan Beito
Bruce and Charleen Belshaw
Ron and Kathy Bender
Gerald Berger
Michael and Sharron Binfeld
Robert and Pamela Black
Aaron Blackham
John and Jennifer Bocchi
David and Erin Bogart
Frank and Gayle Boitano
Nicholas and Colleen Bolick
Jim and Lani Bonar
Dave Bortner
Joe and Sandy Bourdeau
Norman and Nancy Bouton
David and Natalina Bowers
Eric and Natalie Boyd
Kelly Boyd
Harlan and Kay Braaten
AJ Braden
Lynette Branagh
Meredith Brandsma
Tom and Polly Bredt
Robert Breinholt
Bruce Brereton
Daniel and Mara Bresnick
Bill and Fritzi Briner
Donna Buchholz
Todd Burchett
Larry and Sandra Burchfield
Earl and Sue Burton
John and Cathy Butera
Randy and Della Bynum
Stephen Calandrella
Tracy Caraway
Sharon Cary
Mimi Case-Leibold
Ron and Mary Anne Casella
Paul and Debra Castillo
Harry Chapman and Janet Faulkner
William and Kathy Cherry
Roger and Sarah Chrisman
Loretta Cleveland
Margaret Collins
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Brian and Joanne Davidson
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Joe and Joan DuPuis
Heinz and Gisela duVigneau
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Dick and Pat Engels
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Nick Fabian
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Lynn Fetter
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Teresa Floyd
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Hank and Betty Harriman
Andrew Harris
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Mollie Hedges
Larry and Daphne Heifetz
Ryan Heslop
T.J. and Una Higgins
Douglas and Debra Highsmith
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Nathan and Evalene Horvath
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Mark and Carrie Jensen
Gary Jesch
R. Scott Johnson
Terrell and Ginny Jones
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Kris Keesling
William and Olga Keever
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Diana Kincade
Peter and Lesley King
Craig and Carla Kirk
James and Kris Knudsen
Jim and Becky Kovac
Peter and Marilee Kovacs

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Susan Krimeel
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Bryan Kruger
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Leigh and Margot Leidig
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Reed and Nerissa Mather
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George and Sherry McConnell
Dick and Charlotte McConnell
Joanne McGrail
Rick and Tanya McNamee
Bruce and Marian McNulty
John Paul and Wendy Mendenhall
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Dave Miner
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Derik and Barbi Mooberry
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Marc and Jane Rogers
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Ronald Seipel
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Curt and Shena Winslow
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John and Christine Worthington
Shariq Yosufzai
Jerry and Donna Young
Marvin Zwerin

GRANTS & INSTITUTIONS

Antique and Classic Boat Society
Nor Cal/Tahoe Chapter
Donald W. Reynolds Foundation
Dorfman Pacific
E.L. Cord Foundation
Kiewit Infrastructure West Co.
Lake of the Sky Garden Club
Lake Tahoe Incline Village
Crystal Bay Visitor's Bureau
Land of Silver Properties
Lowe's Companies
Nevada Commission on Tourism
Parasol Tahoe Community Foundation
Tahoe Yacht Club Foundation
The Charles H. Stout Foundation
United States Forest Service

Wells Fargo Bank

GIFTS-IN-KIND

Action Water Sports, Gary Scott
Art-in-Bloom, Hattie Reed
Hal and Sue Bernheisel
Bruce Brereton
Earl and Sue Burton
Tim Callicrate, Pianist
Chris Carnevale
Ciprian Cojoc Photography
Cliff Lede Vineyards
Bret Cole Photography
Phil DeLone, Auctioneer
Destination Tahoe
Lester Dewall
Bill Dohrmann
Elyse Winery
Ray Coursen, Owner
Encore Beverages, Mark Baldwin
Fielding Photography
Sheri Friedrich
Doug Graham
Susan Grove
Hyatt Regency, Lake Tahoe
Bill Hub, Forever Rox
Heidi Huber
Incline Big Tree Cleaners
Jarvis Photography
Gary Jesch
David and Sherry Kaiser
Lake Tahoe Snowmobile Tours
McAvoy Layne as
the Ghost of Mark Twain
Dave and Tammi Lyon
Dennis and Ginger Maloney
Dave Marion
Mike Markkula
Bruce Martens
Martin Estate Winery,
Petra and Greg Martin, Proprietors
Mark and Pat Miller, Diamond Vault
Miner Family Winery
Dave Miner, Founder and Owner
Moana Nursery
Elliot Morshead
Jeremiah Nelson
Nevada Lake Tahoe State Park
North Shore Construction & Roofing
Northstar at Tahoe Transportation
Northstar California Resort
Dave Olson, Olson Steel
John and Myrna Pesce
Reno Gazette Journal
Beryl Love, Executive Editor
Ritz~Carlton, Lake Tahoe
Brian Rocca
Julie Savage
Jen Schmidt, Photographer
Ross and Charlene Spinner
Sierra Strings
Steve Silveira
Rod Souza
Ross and Charlene Spinner
Rick and Gina Stephenson
Angela Sullivan
Tahoe City Marina
The Berger Family
The Soule Domain at Lake Tahoe
Charlie Soule, Chef and Owner
Doug Theobalds
Triano Marine Design
Steve and Christi Thomas
Vintage Carburetors, Inc.
Robert Webber
Brian Wertheim
Brad and Barbie Witmer
Wolfdale's Cuisine Unique
Douglas Dale, Owner

We make every effort to maintain accurate membership files. If your name has been misspelled or omitted, please accept our apology and contact us so that we can make the correction and properly acknowledge your support in the next issue of the *Thunderbird Preservation* magazine.



Thunderbird Lodge Preservation Society was formed in 1999 to preserve Thunderbird Lodge. The Preservation Society was once affiliated with the University of Nevada, Reno, but the University withdrew in 2002.

Happenings

FACILITY RENTAL

Breathtaking and memorable, the Thunderbird Lodge provides the perfect setting for your Lake Tahoe event. Support preservation of this historic site by renting Thunderbird for weddings, rehearsal dinners, holiday parties, family reunions, or business outings. The estate accommodates indoor dining for parties up to 90 people, lecture seating for 120, and outdoor events for up to 150. Prices vary by event size and day.

THUNDER THURSDAYS

You, your guests, and clients indulge in warm summer evenings strolling the grounds and buildings of the Thunderbird Lodge Estate. A dazzling array of hot and cold hors d'oeuvres are served with refreshing beverages, beer, and wine. Make this delightful experience a prelude to your night out at Tahoe's North Shore. Thursday evenings 5–7 pm July through September. Available at no charge to our Captain, Flagship, and Castle Club level donors and invited guests.

WINEMAKER'S DINNER SERIES

Sip California's best wines while you dine lakeside in Thunderbird-style at our Winemaker's Dinners. Now in its tenth year, the ever-popular series remains the highlight of Tahoe's summer social season.

Your memorable evening starts in the Old Lodge with select wines and appetizers. Tour the historic site, stroll the magnificent lawn and gardens, or soak in the sun while experiencing lakeside views from the spectacular stone terrace. Then enjoy a sunset dinner in our Lighthouse Room overlooking Lake Tahoe, participate in a lively auction of exclusive Thunderbird items and events, and take the opportunity to purchase some of the wines served during the evening.

Tahoe's celebrity chefs work closely with the winemakers to create a sell-out event. Mark your calendar to join our 2013 Winemaker's Dinners scheduled July 14th, August 11th, September 8th, and October 13th. Our 2013 wineries and chef pairings will be posted on our website in January.





CIPRIAN PHOTOGRAPHY



WEBSITE: WWW.THUNDERBIRDTAHOE.ORG
 E-MAIL: ASKUS@THUNDERBIRDTAHOE.ORG
 THUNDERBIRD LAKE TAHOE: 775 832 8750
 THUNDERBIRD VOLUNTEERS: 775 832 8753
 THUNDERBIRD EVENT RESERVATIONS: 775 832 8752

DINNER-AT-THE-CASTLE

For a nominal donation, up to 16 people can enjoy elegant, private dining at Thunderbird Lodge. These dinners are a popular way to celebrate a birthday, entertain clients, romance your partner, or commemorate a memorable occasion. Imagine a sunset in the gazebo with your friends as waterfalls cascade into the lagoon beside you, or feel the hearth warm you on a chilly winter's eve as you partake in an intimate fireside dinner for two in the romantic Old Lodge.

Our private chef will prepare your pre-ordered four course extravaganza from an array of menu options. This is a prix fixe dining package with your donation covering the cost of entry, docent-guided tour, parking, non-alcoholic beverages, commemorative program, dinner, service charges, and gratuity. Bring your preferred alcoholic beverages and we'll gladly serve them to you at no extra charge. Increase seating to 24 for an additional per guest rate.

SCHOOL TOURS

For a unique field trip, look no further than Thunderbird Lodge! The Donald W. Reynolds Lake Tahoe History and Culture Program at Thunderbird offers a Hands on History Tour. Tailored to 4th & 5th graders, these tours are interactive, educational, and an excellent source of local history.

This program recently added a hands-on Thunderbird Activity Packet that students complete during the tour. The packet includes cross-disciplinary activities such as "Using Maps," which strengthens comprehension of map reading, and fun artifact activities such as "Main Lodge Scavenger Hunt."

For additional information or to schedule a tour, please contact us at 775-832-8752.

PUBLIC & PRIVATE GROUP TOURS

Thunderbird Lodge is open for public guided tours from June through October. Tours by land depart via shuttle from Incline Village Visitor's Center. Water tours are available from various points on the Lake by Woodwind Cruises, Tahoe Adventure Company, and Action Water Sports. Tours start at \$39, with children's rates available. For land tours—1-800-GO-TAHOE (1-800-468-2463) or www.gotahoe.com.

Private, docent-guided tours for groups of 15 or more are available year-round. Seniors and church groups, car clubs, and conference attendees all enjoy touring Nevada's only house museum estate National Register Historic District. For group tour and event bookings call 775-832-8752.



HEIDI HUBER PHOTOGRAPHY



ZINSERPHOTO.COM



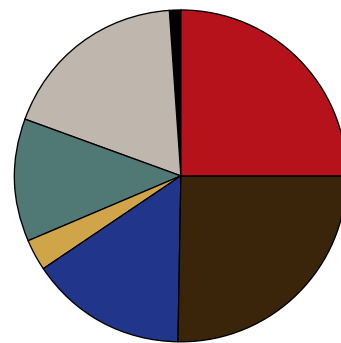
2012 FINANCIAL REPORT

This year, we embarked on the second part of a 3-step plan to ensure financial solvency for Thunderbird Lodge and *Thunderbird Yacht*. For the first step, the Preservation Society had to obtain clear title to the historic structures. With help from Pulte Homes, the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation, and so many other friends, the Society received its unencumbered deed in 2009. In 2010, we momentarily diverted our focus to acquire the *Thunderbird Yacht* from Foundation 36 with a \$1.1-million note secured by mortgages on our employees' homes. (We would like to pay off this note as quickly as we can.)

Our second step is to buy time until we can permanently sustain the Lodge and Yacht. Key are 50 families, foundations, or businesses who will each pledge \$10,000 per year for 5 years. Combined with tour revenue, museum store sales, renting the facility for special events, and yacht cruises, these donors will keep Thunderbird Lake Tahoe afloat for the near term. Approximately 20 Flagship families have signed up as Admiral members with a 5-year pledge and enjoy unprecedented access and programs at Thunderbird Lake Tahoe. We need only 30 more families or businesses to join. Might you be our next Flagship contributor?

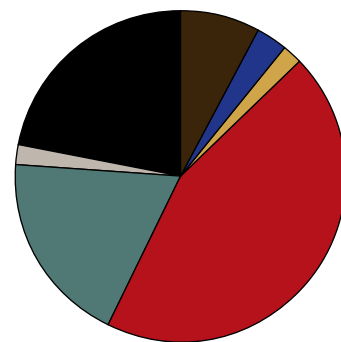
As the final step, we must build a permanent Preservation Fund endowment to care for these historic treasures in perpetuity. Today, the Society's Preservation Fund balance is nearly \$6.5-million. We anticipate that, in normal economic times, a \$20-million fund returning 5% on investments will underwrite the nearly \$1-million needed each year to operate and maintain the Thunderbird Lodge and Yacht. We are building this fund through your cash gifts, transfers of appreciated stock, IRA distributions, and end-of-life gifts through bequests and charitable remainder trusts. This Preservation Fund endowment is the future of Thunderbird Lake Tahoe.

For all of our successes, this year didn't pass without some challenges. The Yacht tender sank unexpectedly and we successfully solicited emergency funds to acquire a replacement. While the buildings are presently sound, we hope to start restoration of the famous Whittell Waterfall next year, depending on the amounts pledged during our year-end campaign by generous donors like you. Together, we look forward to increasing our Flagship families and Preservation Fund in 2013.



INCOME

Contributions	25%
Fundraising	25%
Membership	15%
Museum Store	3%
Rentals	12%
Tours	18%
Other	2%



EXPENSES

Yacht Expenses	8%
Tours & Rentals	3%
Marketing & PR	2%
Preservation/Maintenance	45%
Fundraising	19%
Museum Store	1%
General Operations	22%



Bill and Carol Meehleis have been supportive members since the beginning. In addition, their company, Meehleis Modular Buildings, custom-designed and gifted the modern handrails, balcony railing, and fire exit stairs that were needed for Thunderbird Lodge to open for public tours. Today, Bill and Carol are crafting a new Soletti-style entry gate to replace Whittell's original gate which disappeared in the 1970's. Bill and Carol - we thank you for your lifetime of support and caring for our historic home and boat.



DREYFUS ADDITION REFURBISHMENTS

While people often dismiss Jack Dreyfus' modifications as incompatible with the historic look and feel of Thunderbird, these "non-conforming" additions provide critical space for the Preservation Society. Therefore, like the historic elements of the building, the Dreyfus addition must be maintained. This summer, we completed a two year refurbishment including new paint, plumbing and heating repairs, floors, and energy saving insulation and window coverings. Most of this work was completed in-house with our volunteers directed by Building and Grounds Manager, Dennis Maloney.



THUNDERBIRD TRIVIA

Financier Jack Dreyfus acquired Thunderbird Lodge and approximately 25,000 acres of land after George Whittell, Jr. died in 1969. Former Secretary of State William Rogers was a friend of Jack Dreyfus and his partner in Thunderbird Lodge.

HISTORY CAPTURED

Members and volunteers since 2006, Sue and Earl Burton have given countless hours to our preservation efforts. In his spare time, Earl spent nearly five years building two models of the *Thunderbird* Yacht. One depicts *Thunderbird* as she was originally constructed, and the other is how she appears today.

Earl's amazing craftsmanship is displayed in the refurbished Dreyfus Room along with historic pieces from George Whittell, Jr., Thunderbird Lodge, and Whittell's Woodside Estate.



« EARL AND SUE BURTON

BRAD AND
BARBIE WITMER »



And the Winners Are...

Thank you to all our members and donors who responded to our Spring 2012 *Preservation Magazine* cruise drawing.

The winners and their guests will be invited aboard the *Thunderbird Yacht* for an East Shore Cocktail Cruise or a Full Moon Cruise in 2013.

Congratulations to Brad and Barbie Witmer, and Craig Rauchle and Julie Weintraub. Captain members and donors since 2011, Brad and Barbie live part-time in Truckee and have enjoyed our Thunder Thursdays and member-only events. Needless to say, they are looking forward to the roar of the Allison engines and a *Thunderbird* cruise!

Flagship members since 2010, Craig and Julie support *Thunderbird* preservation efforts by attending Winemaker's Dinners, buying auction items, and pledging donations to the Whittell waterfall project. Avid Lake Tahoe boaters, Craig and Julie love to share the *Thunderbird* legacy with others. We can always count on them for a fun time, and can't wait to take them and their guests out for a cruise aboard the *Thunderbird Yacht*.



CRAIG RAUCHLE
AND
« JULIE WEINTRAUB



Volunteers

DAVE KAISER AND
KEN FORRER »



Thunderbird volunteers are the backbone of our Preservation Society, and we couldn't open the doors to the Castle without them. Our 65 active volunteers serve as guides, gardeners, maintenance assistants, and chef's assistants. Volunteers Ken Forrer and Dave Kaiser help maintain all the lights on the property, and if we need an emergency docent or sweep, each has a change of clothes and is ready to conduct a tour. Not bad for two who travel an hour each way to get to the lodge each week. Volunteers racked up over 5,000 hours this season, so hats off to a great team effort. If you are interested in joining this volunteer team, go to our website or e-mail sue@thunderbirdtahoe.org.

\$25,000 SAPPHIRE RING RAFFLE DRAWING

The restoration of Whittell's fabulous waterfalls has been a Thunderbird Preservation Society goal for the past several years. We are getting close to the more than \$300,000 needed to start the project in the spring of 2013.

One of our long-time members and supporters of Thunderbird Lake Tahoe has gifted a rare, vintage star sapphire ring to the Preservation Society. The appraisal describes in detail the platinum setting, breathtaking translucent violet star sapphire, and the high quality of the 16 round, brilliant cut diamond setting. The ring is a size 6, and can be easily sized up or down. The donor of this exceptional and uncommon piece of jewelry has asked that we use this ring as a way to raise donations, and apply the proceeds to our Waterfall Restoration Fund.

Buy a raffle ticket for \$100 and put your name in to win this gorgeous ring. We will sell a maximum of 125 tickets, and all proceeds go toward the waterfall restoration. **A minimum of 100 tickets must be sold** in order to host the drawing.

With a replacement value of over \$25,000, and an estimated wholesale value of \$10,000 to \$12,000, this is truly an opportunity to own a unique piece of jewelry. As described by Mark Miller, owner of Diamond Vault Reno, "the picture truly doesn't show just how beautiful this ring is!"



Drawing held:

Friday, February 1, 2013–1 pm PST
One-of-a-kind Star Sapphire Vintage Platinum and Diamond Ring

Appraised Replacement Value:

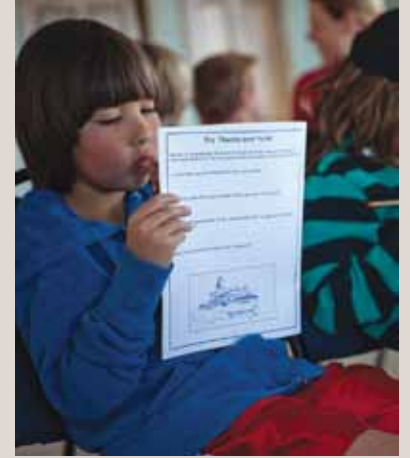
\$25,000 USD
19.62 carat Natural Star Sapphire
2.25 combined weight VVS2 grade diamonds



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ONLINE AT
WWW.THUNDERBIRDTAHOE.ORG
OR CALL 775-832-8752

HISTORY

HANDS ON



ALL IMAGES BY HEIDI HUBER PHOTOGRAPHY

For over five years, Thunderbird Lake Tahoe has been offering Hands on History school tours made possible by the Donald W. Reynolds Lake Tahoe History and Culture Program. The tours provide Lake Tahoe students and educators with a local historic resource, and a magical field trip experience.

In the spring of 2012, the program expanded to include a new hands-on *Thunderbird Activity Packet* for students to complete during the tour. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. Students enjoy working on the interactive packet customized for their age group. Teachers and chaperones are pleased with the structure as students are engaged during the tour, and the packets improve the overall tour experience and history educational component.

Feedback from a happy teacher:

"It was such a memorable trip for all the students and they learned a lot from your wonderful docents. Thank you again for everything and for being our partner in Tahoe History education!"

—BRITTAINY LEHMANN, THIRD GRADE TEACHER, LAKE TAHOE ENVIRONMENTAL MAGNET SCHOOL

The 2012 season saw a total of 490 students, an increase of more than 100 participants compared to previous seasons. The Hands on History Program hopes to expand even further during the 2013 tour season, offering new activities tailored to older students. Funding is needed for the Activity Packets and a Hands on History Coordinator. We need your help with a donation or grant to make this program possible in 2013.

For donations or tour availability information, please contact us at 775-832-8752.



*Perfect Lake Tahoe weather
welcomes guests at an Independence Day
Dinner-at-the-Castle.*



CIPRIAN PHOTOGRAPHY

BOB AND
LARUE MADDOX »



When Iowan Bob Maddox first took a college summer job at the Summit Restaurant in Harrah's Lake Tahoe Casino, he was enraptured by Lake Tahoe. Years later, Bob and LaRue Maddox began vacationing here, bought a home, and now make Tahoe their permanent retirement home. Loving good food, wine, and history, Bob and LaRue have supported Thunderbird Lake Tahoe's programs through fundraisers, becoming Flagship members at the Admiral level, and by planned gifts. Bob and LaRue – it's friends like you who keep us going. Thank you for all that you do.



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THUNDERBIRD



LAKE TAHOE

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EXPERIENCE THUNDERBIRD *Lake Tahoe*

In 1936, when George Whittell, Jr. built his "Castle-in-the-Sky," he invited his privileged guests to experience the magic of Lake Tahoe by enjoying his picturesque stone mansion, drinking fine wines, and cruising aboard his *Thunderbird Yacht*.

Today, you can enjoy these elite experiences through public tours, private and group events, fundraisers, Castle dinners, and *Thunderbird* cruises.

For private events, cruises, and dinners, call 775-832-8752 or visit www.ThunderbirdTahoe.org.

Public tours are Tuesday through Saturday, June to October. Call 800-GO-TAHOE (800-468-2463) for public tour information.

All tours and events support the historic preservation of the Thunderbird estate and yacht.