

Troop Carrier/Tactical Airlift Convention 2010



October 21-24, 2010

Galveston, Texas

Place:

Hawthorne Suites by Wyndham Galveston

6300 Seawall Boulevard

Galveston, TX 77751 Phone: 409-740-3555

Rates: \$77.00 1 Bedroom, \$125.00 for 2 Bedroom (Tell them you are with the Troop Carrier Convention Group.)

The hotel offers a complimentary breakfast each day.

Pre-convention Cruise:

We are offering a pre-convention cruise on Carnival *Ecstasy* for those who are interested. We will be departing from the Galveston Cruise Terminal on Saturday afternoon, October 16 and returning Thursday morning, October 21. Visit www.carnival.com or call 1-877-885-4856 to book your cruise, or go through your travel agent. Rates start at \$299.00 per person for an interior cabin. Cruise packages are all-inclusive except for alcoholic beverages, soft drinks and shore excursions. Carnival does offer military and veterans discounts but they are based on availability. Several couples have already booked their cruise. After you have made your reservation, call the Carnival Hotline and tell them you are with the Sam McGowan/Troop Carrier group so you will be identified as part of our group. This is mainly for dining room seating. (I recommend the 8:00 seating.)

Convention Agenda:

Thursday, October 21 –

Arrival and Registration at the hotel. We're having a "Meet and Greet" reception that evening at the Lone Star Flight Museum with hors d'oeuvres. The cost of the reception includes admission to the museum. Note – even though we will be having hors d'oeuvres, there will be plenty of food so plan it as your evening meal.

Friday, October 22 –

Board Meeting at 9:00 AM, followed by the Members Meeting at 10:30. We'll have sandwich fixings available in the hospitality room for lunch.

At 1:00 PM we'll resume with our program, which will be announced. Peter Simmons of the marketing department at Lockheed-Martin has accepted our invitation to be with us. He'll be making a presentation on the C-130J.

We'll be having an event for the ladies at the hotel during the meeting.

At approximately 4:30 PM we'll depart the hotel for a memorial service at the 1st Aero Squadron site at Texas City.

At 7:00 PM we'll gather at the hotel for our banquet, which will be served either in the hospitality room or in the hotel ball room, depending on the final size of our group.
Program To Be Announced.

Saturday, October 23 –

Depart the hotel at approximately 9:00 AM for Ellington Field and the Wings Over Houston air show. Flying will start at 9:30AM and continues throughout the day until the conclusion of the Thunderbirds performance at approximately 4:00 PM. There are two options for getting to the air show. The first is to take the coach that we will be arranging for at a cost of \$10.00 per person. The second is to drive to the Metro station on Bay Area Boulevard in Clear Lake and catch the Metro bus from there. Roundtrip fare will be \$5.00. There are two seating options (that are in our price range) – “Prime View” seating at \$40.00 per person or general admission of \$15.00 (\$20.00 at the gate.) We highly recommend the Prime View seating.

Depart Ellington to return to the hotel at approximately 4:30.

Barbecue and fixings will be served in the hospitality room at 6:30.

Note – We are coordinating with the Wings Over Houston air show people and the public relations department at the 19th Airlift Wing at Little Rock to have the C-130E, 62-1787, brought down for static display. This airplane was damaged by ground fire over An Loc in April 1972 on a mission for which the AC, Captain Bill Caldwell, and loadmaster SSgt. Charley Shaub were awarded the Air Force Cross.

Sunday, October 24 –

Say goodbyes and depart.

Be advised that those with a particular interest in seeing the entire air show might want to plan their departure on Monday in the event of bad weather on Saturday.

Fishing and Golf:

We have not made any specific plans for fishing or golf due in part to time constraints. There are golf courses on Galveston Island fishing is usually good in October, both offshore and onshore. San Luis Pass, at the west end of the island, is a popular spot for wade fishing. One of our members may have access to a boat holding up to four people (counting himself) and there are several party and charter boats that are available from Galveston Harbor. If you're interested in fishing or golf, contact Sam McGowan at sammcgowan@troopcarrier.org or 281-744-0020 and I will put you in touch with others who are interested.

Transportation to Galveston:

Galveston Island is located south of downtown Houston some 40 miles. The nearest airport is Houston Hobby (KHOU), which is served by Southwest Airlines, American Airlines (American Eagle), Air Trans, Delta and Jet Blue. Bush Intercontinental (KIAH) is on the north side of Houston and is served by Continental and most other major airlines. Both airports are served by various limousine services that offer service to Galveston.

Things to Do Around the Area:

Galveston Island is a historic place. The Strand Area was once a seat of commerce, and is now the location of numerous shops and restaurants. There are a number of museums on the island, including the Texas Seaport Museum, the Ocean Star Off-Shore Drilling Rig and Museum, the Lone Star Flight Museum (where we're having our reception) and the Railroad Museum. (The Railroad Museum suffered significant damage from Hurricane Ike and has been closed, but is supposed to reopen this summer.) Moody Gardens, a theme park, is a popular attraction. The island abounds with restaurants which offer a variety of menus including seafood, Cajun seafood, Italian and Mexican – The Original Mexican Café on Market Street is considered to be one of the top Mexican restaurants in Texas! And, of course, there is the beach – which is right across the street from the hotel.

Clear Lake, a town about 25 miles north of Galveston, is the home of the world-famous Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center and the home of the US astronaut corps. Space Center Houston is the official welcome center for the complex, and offers a number of exhibits and tours of the LBJ facility. Week-day tours sometimes allow visitors to see actual astronauts in training. A must see for anyone who has never been there. Armand Bayou is a local nature park where you might even see an alligator. The Baybrook Mall is just off of I-45 at Bay Area Boulevard.

The San Jacinto Battlefield is located about 50 miles from Galveston on the Houston Ship Channel. In April 1836 the Texian Army of General Sam Houston defeated a force led by Mexican General and Dictator Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna in one of the most important and decisive battles in North American history. In return for his life, General Santa Anna signed away all claims to what was then known as Tejas, a region that extended into what is now Colorado. A large monument overlooks the battlefield and an elevator allows visitors to ride to the top for a magnificent view of the area. Across the street from the battlefield is Battleship Texas Historic Site, where the USS Texas is moored and open to the public. Just to the east of the battlefield at the Lynchburg Ferry Landing the Monument Inn offers some of the best seafood and other dining in the area.

And then there is Houston. Downtown Houston is about 50 miles north of Galveston Island on I-45. The Houston metroplex offers a variety of things to do and see. On Sunday, October 17, the Houston Texans will be playing the Kansas City Chiefs at home (October 24 is BYE week.) The Galleria Area west of downtown has one of the largest indoor shopping malls in the world.