

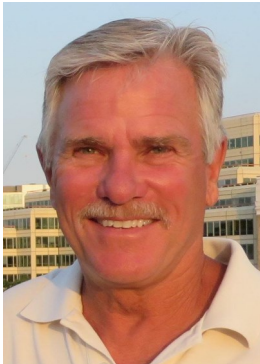


**HAPPY NEW YEAR!!**

**PREZ SEZ**

**EWM President John Couch**

I began this letter several times with well wishes for Christmas and the New Year, and while that is important, there is something that is more pressing for me to share. Yesterday the museum had the honor of hosting the memorial for Sherm Smoot. As I looked around frequently at the hundreds of family and friends present to celebrate Sherm's life, I realized that I was seeing only a fraction of the people whose lives were touched in some way by Sherm. I also was aware that people were attending because it mattered to them to come and pay their respects to Sherm and to support Laurie and the family. It prompted me to think about our purpose as a museum, that being to honor those who flew and worked on military aircraft, as well as the many other specialty jobs that veterans were tasked with. Why do we do what we do at the museum? Why do we endeavor to display artifacts that tell the stories as we honor them? Why do we promote events that bring people to the museum to experience what we have to offer? Because it matters. It's important for us to



remember the purpose of what we do as members and leaders of our museum and reflect on that purpose as a guide in all of our decisions and efforts. It's important for us to preserve the artifacts that we hold, in order to show and describe the stories and sacrifices of others.

It's important for us to participate and not simply leave that mission to others. *Because it matters.*

And now I do wish you all the best in the New Year and welcome your involvement in what we do. —John Couch

**NOW HEAR THIS:**

It is again time to consider fundraising for the purpose of operating Estrella Warbirds Museum . We had our Fund Raiser event to start the Museum's additions to the West of the present campus. The yearly effort to "keep the lights on and doors open" still continues.

This issue of EAGLE has within it your official form to fill out and submit as you see fit with your donation to the Estrella operating fund.

Your gift is TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

See the enclosed flyer. It contains the information you need. Thank You for your support!

# MONTHLY MEETING/DINNER

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4, 2023

THOMSON HALL 5:30 SOCIAL/6:30 DINNER

\$25 AT THE DOOR. RESERVATIONS...ON LINE

ewarbirds.org Drop Down To Dinner Reservations

Or Phone: 805-296-1935

## MENU

*Baked Chicken  
au Gratin Potatoes*

*Vegetables*

*Dessert*

**ABOUT TIME FOR GEORGE MARRETT. . .  
CAPTAIN MARRETT GRACES THOMSON HALL.  
HE IS “RETIRING” FROM ACTIVE DUTY.  
GET IN ON IT JANUARY 4, AFTER DINNER.**

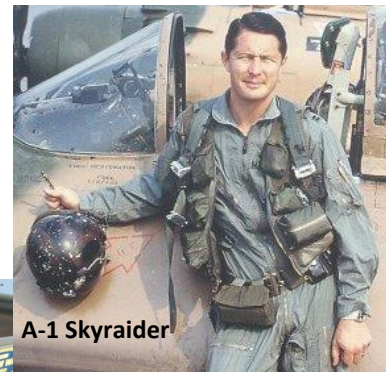
**January 4-EWM Thomson Hall**—The last few months of the year 2022 witnessed some serious bruising to the Paso Robles/EWM aviation community with the passing of Sherman Smoot, and the Reno accident claiming local WWII13 participant/vendor Aaron Hogue. It takes a “philosopher” to make some sense out of bad news. We



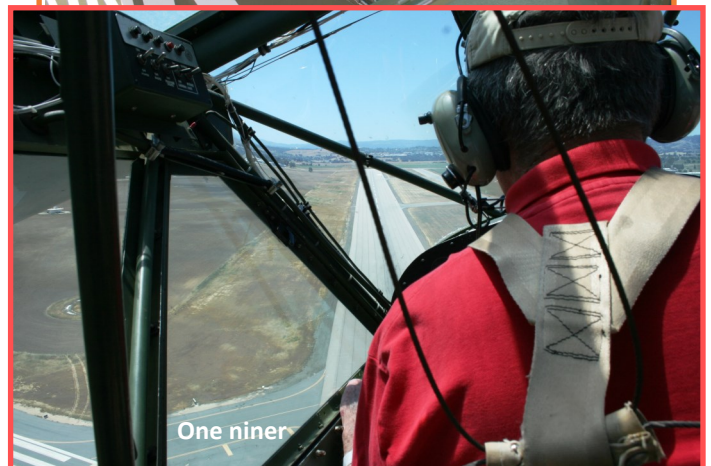
have one here at EWM in the person of George Marrett who will be “retiring” from his role as Executive Producer of Estrella’s monthly meeting’s speaker/entertainment segment. Estrella/Woodland will miss the sometimes -“inappropriate”, always hilarious introductions offered as an additional dessert to Larry Eastwoods yummy dinners on those Wednesday nights. A review of George’s contributions to EWM/WAD, our Country, the Central Coast, the city of Atascadero, veterans and civic organizations and on and on would take all day. You can get it in person on January 4, 2023 at Thomson Hall, as he reviews some highlights of his amazing career in the air and on the ground. All of it done with astounding grace, humor and kindness. Count this Editor as one of his biggest fans. It’s the Right Stuff in the flesh. Be there.



**George’s Ride  
Stinson L-5**



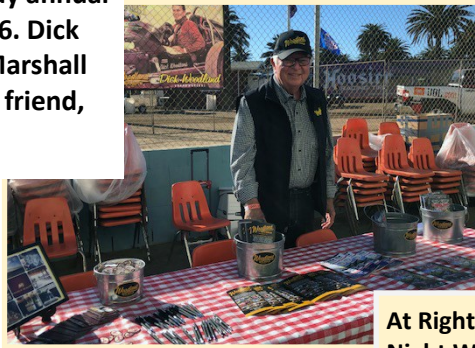
**A-1 Skyraider**



## UPDATES FROM THE DUCKPOND...

### TURKEY NIGHT CLASSIC MUSTANG

Dick Woodland pulls some booth duty at Ventura Raceway annual Turkey Night Nov. 25, 26. Dick was named Co-Grand Marshall along with his longtime friend, Wally Pankratz.



At Right is Turkey Night Winner Justin Grant bussing the Trophy coveted in the Midget class.



#### ESTRELLA WARBIRDS MUSEUM

John Couch President  
Margi Baur Vice President  
Carol Verstuyft Secretary  
Cindy Bergen Treasurer

#### DIRECTORS

Margi Bauer  
Cindy Bergin  
Ron Brooks  
Bob Burgess  
John Couch  
Mike Kelley  
Rob Kinnear  
Sherman Smoot  
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Joel Chesler Local Merchant Liaison  
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Bob Kelly Membership  
Mike Kelley Technical Advisor  
Rob Kinnear Aircraft Restoration  
Steve Lochen Newsletter  
John Madden Safety  
George Marrett Guest Speaker Coord.  
Ken Neuman Hall Rental, Coordinator  
Marcia Rice Library  
Wayne Rice Kitchen  
John Spooner Public Information  
Scott Stelzle COO, Ground Maintenance  
Dr. Jill Thayer Curator  
Carol Verstuyft Advertising  
Peter Visel Webmaster

#### ADVISORS

Joel Chesler Local Business Liaison  
Gary Corippo Ambassador Emeritus  
Betty Miller City Advisor  
Ian Webster Insurance  
Dick Woodland Woodland Auto Display

Justin Grant's dream became a reality at California's Ventura Raceway as he charged, withstood, battled, banged and tussled for 98 laps en route to victory during Saturday night's tumultuous 81st running of the ARP TNGP, featuring the USAC NOS Energy Drink Midget National Championship.

The lone, Calif. native started 13th in the 28-car field, then picked his path all the way to the front by blazing past 2015 race winner Tanner Thorson with 15 laps remaining to achieve what so many other frontrunners could not on this evening – stay out of trouble and stay put up front.

NBC SPORTS.COM DAN BEAVER



HAS TO BE SALLY'S MUSTANG?! SEE THIS SUPER-CLASSIC AT WOODLAND AUTO DISPLAY!

The Mustang was the brainchild of Lee Iacocca. While intended as a 1965 automobile, it was debuted on April 17th at the World's Fair in Flushing Meadows, New York. It was announced that it was to be the pacecar for the 1964 Indianapolis 500 on May 30, 1965. All Mustangs built between March, 1964 and August 17th, 1964 were considered "early 1965 models and became known as "1964 1/2 models."

1. In November 1944, Japan launched the first ever transpacific aerial bombing raid against North America. It was accomplished by:

- a) Long range sea planes
- b) Balloons
- c) High altitude bombers

2. The “ Fu-Go” balloons were carried across the Pacific in winter by:

- a) Low Pressure Systems
- b) The Japan Current
- c) The (unknown at that time) Jet Stream

3. These sturdy balloons were constructed of:

- a) Tissue Paper
- b) Silk
- c) Cotton

4. The balloons could carry a bomb load of approximately 300 lbs to 30,000 ft.  
True or False

5. The weapons load consisted of both anti-personnel and incendiaries.  
True or False

6. The incendiaries were intended to start raging fires in the forests of the Pacific West. Instead, only \_\_\_\_\_ fires were recorded.

- a) 10
- b) 13
- c) 2

7. The first American sighting was a balloon found floating off \_\_\_\_\_ in Nov 1944

- a) Seattle
- b) Big Sur
- c) San Pedro

8. As more strange balloons and explosions occurred on the west coast, the American public was shocked. Panic ensued.  
True or False

9. The American discoverers and local press were asked to keep silent.

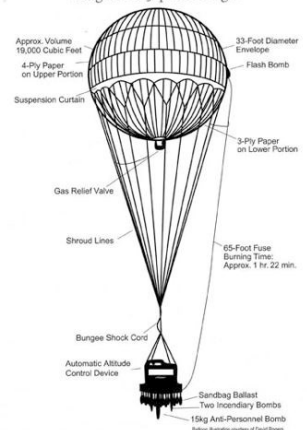
- a) By the FBI
- b) To keep the Japanese from noting any success
- c) To keep the public focused on the war
- d) All of the above

10. The balloons proved difficult to intercept, however, they could be located and intercepted in the Aleutians by:

- a) Gruman F6F Hell Cats
- b) P-38s
- c) Especially equipped PBYS



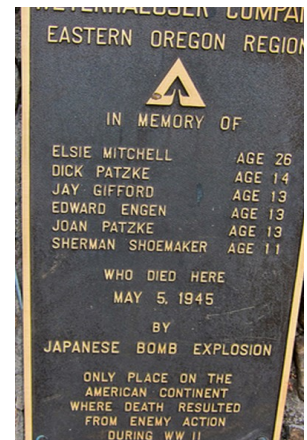
Diagram of Japanese Fugos



**HISTORY**

**In 1945, a Japanese Balloon Bomb Killed Six Americans, Five of Them Children, in Oregon**

The military kept the true story of their deaths, the only civilians to die at enemy hands on the U.S. mainland, under wraps



Answers on page 6



A SALUTE AND CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF SHERMAN SMOOT DECEMBER 3, 2022



**GARY CORIPPO PLAYS VICTIM AT CELEB ROAST.  
FOUNDING FATHER TAKES IT LIKE HE GIVES IT**

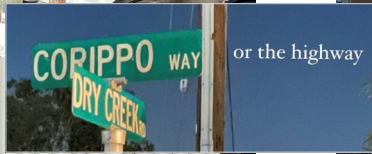
December 7, 2022



John Hammon presents official Paso Robles plaque to Gary Corippo



John Couch presents Lifetime Achievement to Gary Corippo



or the highway



I do not wear ladies pants!

Really, Mary, I DON'T!

Gary with Randy Wilbur and Scott Stelze



Seriously, boys, up close you two are. . .quite handsome.



Gary with Mary Allmon of Estrella's Youth Aviation Club

# Happy New Year!

**Estrella Warbirds Museum**  
**Woodland Auto Display**  
**4251 Dry Creek Road**  
**Paso Robles, CA 93446**  
**805-238-9317**  
**Thursday—Sunday**  
**10am till 4pm**

**Non Profit Org.**  
**PAID**  
**Permit 163**  
**Paso Robles, CA**  
**93446**

January Quiz Answers:  
1-b, 2-c, 3-a, 4 True, 5 True, 6-c, 8 False, 9-d, 10-a

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

**DOCENTS:** KEN NEUMAN 805-238-9317

**GIFT SHOP:** KEN NEUMAN SAME NUMBER  
THURSDAY THROUGH SUNDAY

**LIBRARY:** MARCIA RICE SAME NUMBER

**RESTORATION:** SIMPLY SHOW UP MONDAY, WEDNESDAY OR SATURDAY AND GET DIRTY. GOURMET LUNCH ON SATURDAYS PROVIDED BY WAYNE RICE

**KITCHEN:** WAYNE RICE CALL SAME NUMBER

**HEY IT IS FUN SEE YOU AT EWM!**

## VISITORS FROM OUTSIDE THE WIRE



November 19-Civil Air Patrol members on a tour of the Curatorial Archival Facility at Estrella Warbirds Museum holding AT4 artifacts from the collection. The 25ft cedar lined closet behind them holds over 200 uniforms that date back to WWI. From left to right: C/SSgt Adrian Castrejon, C/MSgt Praise Namuleme, C/2dLt Canyon Davis, C/Ab Matthew Mosgofian, C/Ab Enzo Yavdayev. Not shown: C/2dLt Aiden Bajema. Photo by Dr. Jill Thayer