

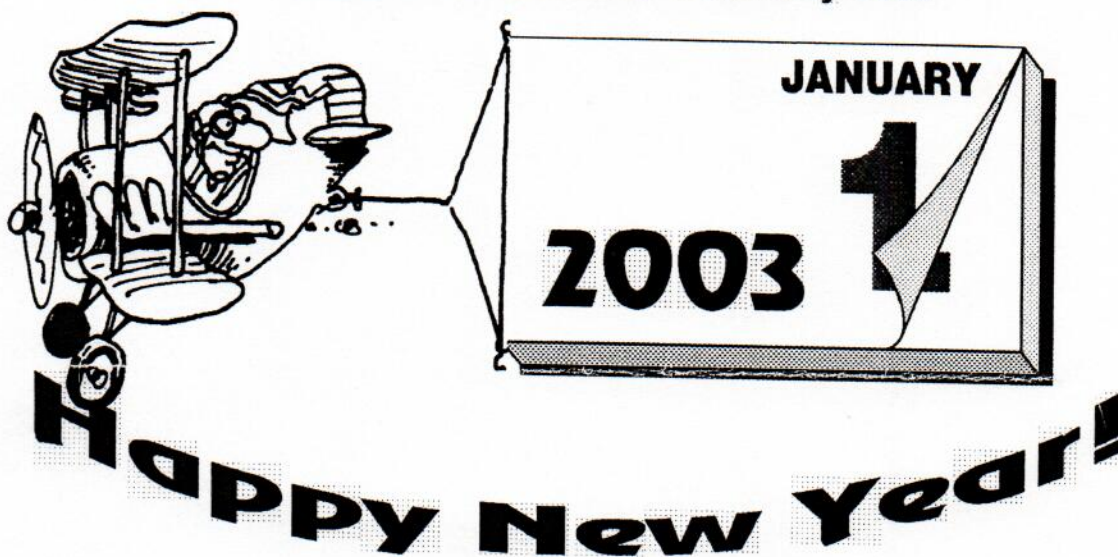


STELLAR EAGLE

ESTRELLA WARBIIRD MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2002

Volume XIV Number 1 January 2003



On behalf of your Board of Directors we hope your Holiday Season was extra special, filled with family, friends and good food and that the New Year will be the best year yet!

President Betty Miller, First Vice President Paul Clark, Second Vice President Al Schade, Secretary Cathy Paine and Treasurer Rosemary Netto. Directors Obbie Atkinson, Ron Brooks, Ed Chidlaw, Gary Corippo, John Cromwell, Wally Engle, Dave Highland, George Marrett, Glen Thomson, Brian Webster and Tom Weiss

January Dinner Meeting Speaker

Patrick Duncan, Manager of San Luis Obispo Aviation Safety Program, will be the speaker at our January 8 meeting. This should be a very informative program and one that will be interesting for aviation and non aviation folks alike.

Italian Night comes to Thomson Hall



Wear red, white and green and celebrate with us for an **Italian Dinner** on Wednesday, January 8. Chef John and his crew will be cooking up a great meal for us.

Menu

Chicken Cacciatore

Italian Pasta

Italian Vegetables

Garlic Bread

Green Salad

Desert

Coffee or Tea

\$10.00 per person



Reservations Please

Call 227 -0440

When you hear the recorded announcement start, press the "1" and leave your name, the total number in your party and your phone number. (You will not hear any greeting after you press "1".)

Vought F-8 Crusader Arrives at Estrella Warbird Museum

Our stalwart Aircraft Restoration Crew led by Restoration Chariman **AL Schade**, drove to the Hornet in the driving rain on December 17 to load up the fuselage and tail from the carrier deck. Another trip will be required to bring down the wing section.

Now Crusader restoration begins! **Gary Corippo** applies plenty of Marine-style TLC as he scrapes the newest Museum acquisition readying it for sanding and then painting. Gary was instrumental in locating this aircraft and getting the negotiations underway to acquire it from the USS Hornet Museum.

Gary is asking for some volunteers to help him scrape and sand this wonderful aircraft. If you can spare an hour or two, call him at **238-2090** for more info.



This is what our Crusader will eventually look like.

(Remember our A-4 Skyhawk came to us in boxes and buckets, and just look at it now!)

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The F-8 Crusader was first flown as the XF8U-1 prototype on March 25, 1955. It was one of the first supersonic fighters and pushed back the boundaries of naval aviation in the 50's and battled with Migs in Vietnam a decade later. Pilots thought of the Crusader as the ultimate dogfighter - light, maneuverable and packing heavy cannon armament.

The F-8 Crusader is a single seat naval fighter aircraft powered by one Pratt & Whitney J57-P-20A afterburning turbojet engine with 17,963 lbs of thrust. The maximum speed is Mach 1.7 (1,117 mph) at 40,000 feet. This aircraft has a ceiling of 59,000 feet and a range of 1,029 miles. When it was in combat the aircraft carried four 20-mm Mk. 12 cannon with 144 rounds per gun; up to four AIM-9 Sidewinders AAMs, or eight 500-lb bombs, or eight Zuni rockets, or two AGM-12A or 12B Bullpup attack missiles. The Crusader was very fast for a naval fighter and could outrun most land-based types. The very short range Mig-21's it faced in Vietnam were slightly faster, but only at high level.

The Crusader is 90 feet long, 16 feet high and has a wingspan of 35 feet. This is a great addition to our growing fleet and anyone who can scrape or sand is needed to get it back to display condition.

Phantom F-4 Update

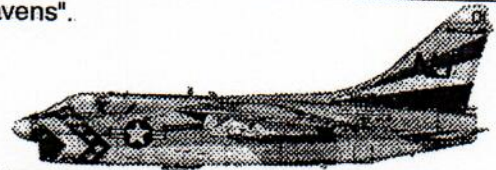
A group of workers is needed to accompany Restoration Director **Al Schade** to Yuma, Arizona to pick up the complete F-4 aircraft that the Museum has acquired. The trip is in the final stages of planning and anyone who wishes to go and help out should call Al at **927-8303**.

Work in Progress on Museum Aircraft

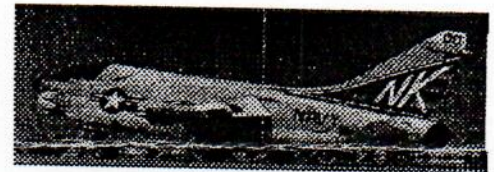
Forrest Johnson has been hard at work doing some final sanding on the Vought A-7. The A-7 Corsair is the next aircraft scheduled for repainting. Final color schemes are being considered. Here are three of the possibilities



The "Blue Blazers" were assigned to the USS Midway in the late 60's and painted the A-7 in the colors of the VA-93 "Ravens".



In the mid 70's this A-7 was given a patriotic red, white and blue paint scheme.



This Corsair A-7 was based on the USS Coral Sea

FREE LUNCH

Things are always happening at your Museum. Saturday is the day when many folks gather to work on our many projects. Remember that we have a "Free Lunch" on the first Saturday following our Dinner Meeting. The next "Free Lunch" will be Saturday, January 11 at noon. We provide a good meal for all of those folks who turn out to help on Saturday. Join your fellow members. Spouses are always welcome.

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Reminder ⁴

We are receiving many wonderful artifacts and memorabilia from WW II, Korea, Vietnam and Desert Storm. These must all be cared for and catalogued. **Carol Weiss** and **Betty Miller** are our **Artifact Coordinators** for the Museum. They not only receive these items but they also plan our exhibits. Our visitors have expressed their gratitude for the way the Museum has improved in the layout and presentation. To keep up this momentum it is imperative that any member who wishes to donate something contact either **Carol Weiss at 239-2637** or **Betty Miller at 466-1212** so that they may take the item. Please **DO NOT** attempt to insert your item into any of the display cases or hang it on the wall. On that same vein, PLEASE DON'T move any jeep, gun, jet engine, F-4 Cockpit, etc. This destroys the overall plan that they have worked out. If you are not satisfied with the arrangement or have an idea you feel would be an improvement, contact either Carol or Betty. They will make the final decision and make any changes.

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Long Time no Sea!

Charter member **Mike Wing** came out on the first sunny Saturday of 2003 to check out our progress. He has been feeling a little peaked lately and hasn't been able to join us as often as he would like. Great seeing you Mikey!

Lemoore NAS Trip

On December 27, twentyone Museum members and their guests carpooled over to Lemoore NAS for a Museum Field trip. This trip was set up and organized by **Gary Corippo** and included a personal welcome briefing by the CO of "The Flying Eagles" of VFA 122., a tour of Air Ops, lunch at the Open Mess, and a chance for all those in attendance to get behind the stick of an F-18 Super Hornet in the simulator. It was a wonderful trip and Gary hopes to schedule another one later in 2003 for those who were not able to make this one. Don't miss out on this one of a kind experience!



Research Library Update

Research Librarian **KO Eckland** needs some volunteers to help him label books in the Research Library.

We are almost ready to get it open for your use, but we desperately need folks to help man it a few days a week. As we all know a Research Library houses many one-of-a-kind, no longer in print books and materials. These may be read and studied in the Library but cannot be taken home. If you can help label or man the Library, Call KO at **466-5373** today! Thank You.

The metal steps to the Research Library are the last "step" in our process to getting the permit to be able to rent out Thomson Hall. The plans drawn up by Nick Gilman have been approved and the construction has begun. Once they are ready to be put up and our final inspection has been completed and signed off we will be able to finally rent out our great facility and generate some income.

Thank
you



In the Theater world there are folks who step forward and help out a production company financially. They are called "Angels". We have many such angels that are members of the Estrella Warbird Museum. Please give your thanks to **Ron and Jackie Brooks** and **Dorothy Renton McBain** for their generous gifts which will enable us to continue to grow.



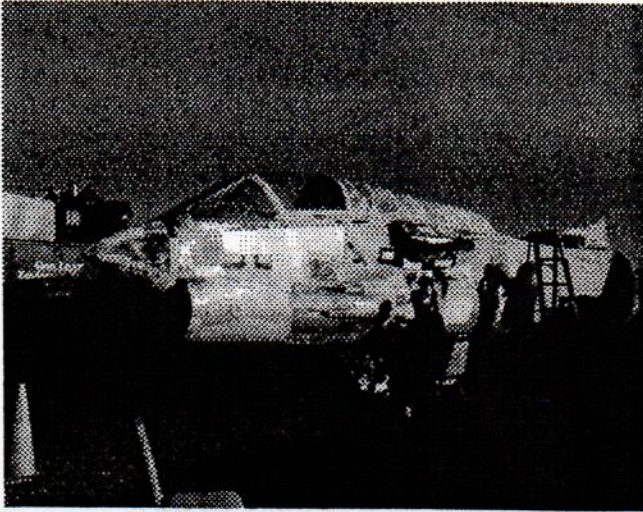
"Aileron"

As many of you remember we had a very LARGE, black hangar cat named "Aileron". Aileron is an extremely affectionate, people loving cat and was lonesome except for the one day a week when he got lots of attention. He was taken out to live with Newsletter Editor Les Fox and his wife Terrell. Les reports that Aileron is a neutered male (he had so much long hair we weren't sure if he was a "he" or a "she" - the mystery is now solved!) Aileron has completely taken over the Fox house and decided that they should make him the number 1 house cat! Aileron is not about to be outside if he can stretch out on a lap, chair or bed INSIDE. Aileron is very well mannered and definitely was a house cat in his previous life. Aileron is now a "VPC" (Very Priviledged Cat) who is trying to get Les to let him help type the Newsletter!

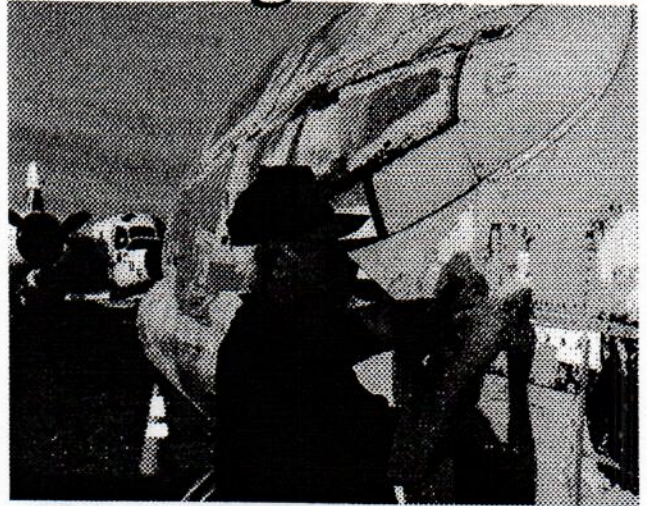


Museum Photo Page

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The new F-8 Crusader being expertly scraped by Gary Corippo & Forrest Johnson



This is how they do it in the US Marines!



Former U.S. Marine and Charter Member Mike Wing discusses the finer aspects of scraping with former Marine, Gary Corippo
It was great to see Mike "out & about"



Forrest Johnson sanding the A-7 Corsair to get it ready for a new paint job.



Ron Brooks and Fred Thacker take time to smile for the camera in the Restoration Hangar

Estrella Warbird Museum

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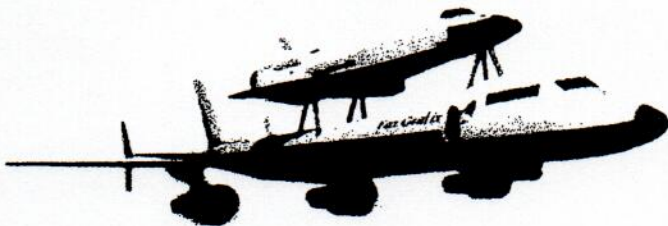
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