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### Museum Info

Phone: 805-227-0440 (Voice Mail)

[www.ewarbirds.org](http://www.ewarbirds.org)

Sat & Sun Phone 238-9317

## Museum Hours

**Saturday 10 am to 4 pm**

**Sunday 12 noon to 3 pm**

Estrella Warbird Museum, Inc.

# *Estrella Warbird Museum*

## *Newsletter*

All the news that's fit to print and then some



Volume XVI Number 1 Paso Robles, California January 2005

## January Meeting

The January Dinner Meeting will be held on Wednesday January 5, 2005 at Thomson Hall with Social Hour beginning at 6:00 pm and Dinner at 7:00 pm.



Beef Stroganoff  
Seasonal Vegetable  
Green Salad  
Rolls  
Dessert  
Coffee

**\$10.00 per person**



Reservations Please  
466-1212

Our dinner will be under the capable hands of Chef John and the Museum Gourmet Group.

We have a very interesting program lined up so mark your calendar.

## Program

Maria McClure and Erika Gretter will be our speakers. Both women are in the military and will bring us up to date on how the troops in the field are doing in Iraq.

McClure returned to the United States in March of 2004 after spending 18 months of deployment in Iraq. McClure was stationed with the 649th Military Police Company at the police headquarters for the Diala Province in Baqu'bah, Iraq. She was involved in helping to train the new Iraqi police.

Many of the troops who have been deployed in Iraq feel that the media doesn't report how the majority of Iraqi people feel about the US and only gives a negative viewpoint.

This promises to be very informative and interesting. Don't miss it.

*A Note from  
the Prez.....*

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Dear Friends,

I hope that the Holiday Season was all you wanted it to be and that you were able to gather with family and friends and share in this special time of year.

For those of you who missed the arrival of our newest addition, the F-14 Tomcat fighter, on Saturday, December 11.....well, you missed a spectacular event!

From San Luis Obispo to San Miguel, everyone had a chance to see (and hear) it coming (and going!) The F-14 is a magnificent machine and a great addition to our Museum.

Many people need to be thanked for their participation in helping to make this an event that will be remembered for a long time.

**Gary Corippo** persevered through much red tape (and competition from other Museums) and finally convinced the US Navy to assign the aircraft to us when it was due to be cycled out of service. Thank you Gary! (As a side note, only 2 other Museums in the western US were able to qualify to receive an F-14)

The "Aircraft Retirement Ceremony" was attended by over 600 (the media placed it at 1000) enthusiastic folks who came to the Museum, lined up on Dry Creek Road, and even went over to the terminal to watch the arrival performance of the F-14. The aircraft came from VF-11 (Red Rippers) and was last based on the *USS George Washington*. The

pilot was **LCMDR Bill Lawrence** and the RO was **Lt. Tim Meyers**.

After a mini airshow, the F-14 landed, taxied up to our Museum taxiway where it was shut down for the last time and then was connected to our tug by **Rob Kinnear** and **George Taylor**. **Gary Corippo** carefully pulled it into position in front of the hangar for the ceremony.

Paso Robles Mayor, **Frank Mecham** (and a former member of the US Navy), **LTC Kevin Brown**, US Army, of Camp Roberts and myself met the pilots at the aircraft and then introduced them to the uniformed military representatives:

**Col. John Cromwell**, US Army, Retired; **CDR Bill Houston**, US Navy, Retired; **Col. Dave Rowe**, US Air Force, Retired; **Maj. Jim Heggarty**, US Air Force, Retired; and **Col. John Whitworth**, US Marine Corps, Retired.

The crew was then presented to the EWM Board of Directors-

**Obbie Atkinson (USAF)**  
**Jackie Brooks**  
**Ron Brooks**  
**Ed Chidlaw (USN)**  
**Paul Clark (USMC)**  
**Gary Corippo (USMC)**  
**John Cromwell (USA)**  
**Fred Hahn (USA)**  
**Dave Highland**  
**Conrad Martin (USN)**  
**Betty Miller**  
**Rosemary Netto**  
**Al Schade (USMC)**  
**Glen Thomson**  
**Tom Weiss**  
(Brian Webster was on vacation)

Past President, **Betty Miller** was the Master of Ceremonies and also sang "God Bless America" and "High Flight". **Dorothy McBain** and **Judy Harris** played on our

two spinet pianos and gave a stirring rendition of "A Patriotic Medley of George M. Cohen" for two pianos.

I would like to also thank all the wonderful volunteers who worked so hard to get everything ship shape around the area and inside the Museum Hangar the day before the F-14 Arrival. I hope I don't leave anyone out—if I do it isn't intentional—I will try to list everyone in alphabetical order:

**Dick Blomquist, Ron Brooks, Jackie Brooks, Tom Cameron, Bob Chambers, Ed Chidlaw, Gary Corippo, John Cromwell, KO Eckland, Wally Engle, Tom Gabele, Dave Gieger, Fred Hahn, Arnold Hermansen, Linda Hermansen, Dave Highland, Jim Iverson, Forrest Johnson, Bob Kelly, Rob Kinnear, Dick Kinsey, Conrad Martin, Dorothy McBain, Be Miller, Doug Miner, Jim Moody, Ron Mullisen, Rosemary Netto, Cathy Neitz, Frank Owen, Don Peckinpugh, Wayne Rice, Jane Sacks, Paul Sacks, Al Schade, Clark Scott, George Taylor, Fred Thacker, Ron Thompson, Glen Thomson, Carol Weiss, Tom Weiss, John Whitworth and Gary Woodall.**

Thank you all....we couldn't have done it without you!

I know you will notice some of the same names always seem to appear, but that's because these fine folks are always willing to lend a hand! We are more than happy to have the rest of you join us on any Saturday or when we have a special event like this. We have a lot of fun and as they say, many hands make light work.

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# F-14A Arrival

The F-14 is on loan to us from the Museum of Naval Aviation History located in Pensacola, Florida, and although "free" to us there are numerous expenses that are charged to the receiving Museum for an aircraft. The \$12,000.00 price tag for the aircraft includes the two flight crew's one way return airplane tickets to Virginia Beach, VA, as well as the per diem (food and accommodations) and roundtrip airfare for the five members of the demilitarization crew who spent a week "demilling" the F-14 for public display.

Long-time member, **Tom Gabele** has stepped forward and made a major contribution in the memory of his son, **Jim Gabele**. We all thank you Tom.

**John Whitworth** donated over 140 tee shirts that read "I Helped Save A Cat" which are to be sold to raise money towards the F-14. Thank you John!

It is through the generosity of folks like these, who offer their time, talent and/or money, that help build your Museum into such a attraction. Please join me in acknowledging their support.

I wish you all a very Happy New Year, and I hope that 2005 will be healthy, fruitful, and full of much happiness for you and your loved ones.

*Chuck*

US Navy Aircraft #162911 from VF-11, Red Ripper Squadron, arrives at the Museum. LCMDR Bill Lawrence and Lt. Tim Meyers flew the aircraft in from Virginia Beach, VA., with an overnight stop in Phoenix.



Photo courtesy Joe Benson

The F-14A has a 64' wingspan when in the uswept position seen here, but retracts to on 38' when in the swept position for parking. The first F-14's came on line in 1974. The Museum's aircraft was manufactured after 1985 and is on loan from the National Museum of Naval Aviation.

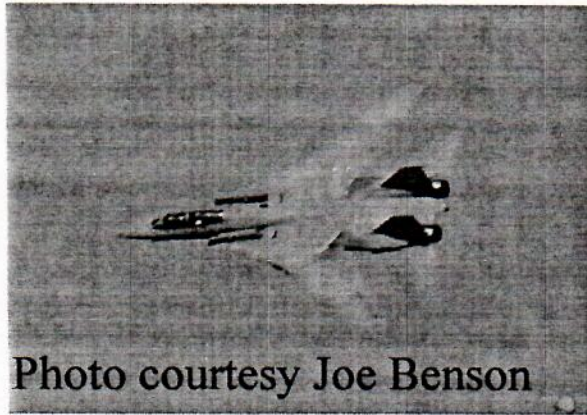


Photo courtesy Joe Benson

Gary Corippo pulling the F-14 with wing walkers, Rob Kinnear and George Taylor are met by some eager bystanders.

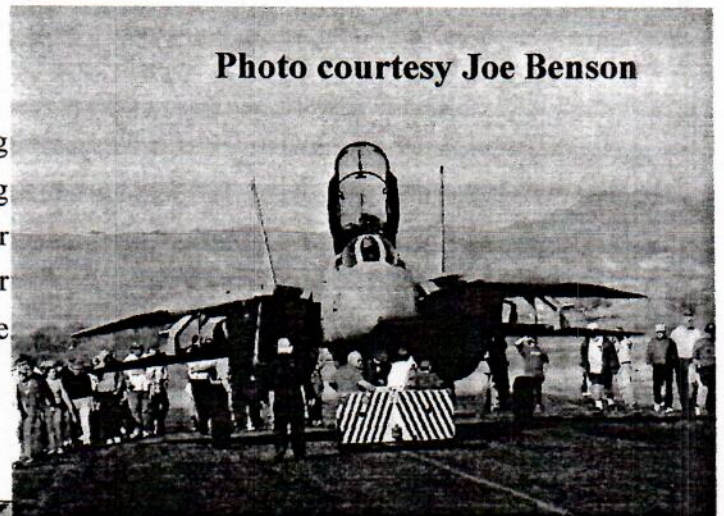


Photo courtesy Joe Benson

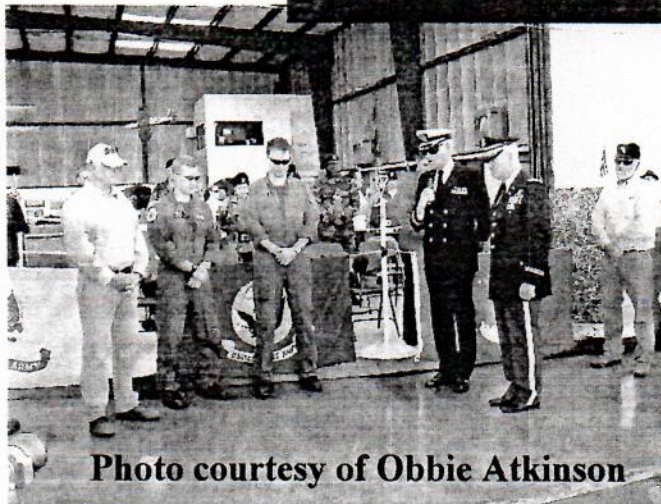


Photo courtesy of Obbie Atkinson

CMDR. Bill Houston, Chaplin,USN,Retired gives benediction for a job well done for #162911 as Mayor Frank Mecham, Lt. Tim Meyer, LCMDR Bill Lawrence and Chuck Miller look on.

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**Saturday Volunteer Worker  
Lunch Change**

Effective January, 2005 we will have a complimentary lunch for the Saturday work crew *once* a month.

This will be held on the first Saturday after our normal monthly Dinner Meeting.

We treasure our volunteers and wish to acknowledge their contribution. Originally we only offered lunch once a month. Because of the great comradery that occurs when folks sit down over a meal, the once a month grew to every Saturday.

Unfortunately even after repeated requests for volunteers, we have been unable to get folks to sign up to take a Saturday to prepare, serve a meal and then clean up afterwards. The same 3-4 people were always having to take it on. We have finally burned them out and consequently we will go back to just ONE Saturday a month.

We will still need 12 volunteers to do *one* lunch each. This is a great chance to lend a hand for you folks who don't feel up to turning a wrench, sanding an aircraft, ironing a uniform, dusting an exhibit, or tearing apart an engine! Please call Betty Miller at 466-1212 and sign up for a lunch date in 2005.



**Museum Passes Public  
Health Check**

A Public Health Officer from the County of San Luis Obispo paid a surprise visit to the Museum on Monday, December 27 to ensure our facility was meeting all standards for public food consumption. We are happy to announce that the officer was quite pleased with our facility.

As part of preparing and serving food we are required to have at least two people that have attended a state approved "Safe Serve" class which covers Commercial Food Preparation, Serving and Storage as well as legal requirements. A test is given at the completion of the class and must be passed before a certificate can be issued. Certification is good for three years, and then the individuals must be recertified. Current Certified Safe Serve staff are **Betty Miller** and **John Himes**. **Ed Chidlaw** has signed up for the next class which is to be held January 12. This will give us three certified members.

**A Better Mousetrap**

If you have noticed some triangular black plastic boxes around the Museum Hangar, Thomson Hall and in the kitchen area, please do not throw them away! These are a special bait holder to help eliminate any unwanted rodents from our facility. We have hired a pest control company who comes out on a scheduled basis and they have placed these units around. The bait is kept out of the reach of anything but the target. The

rodents do not get trapped inside the unit, they only take the bait and then leave. If you pick up a unit you will hear the bait rattle inside (it isn't a deceased rodent!)

**Museum Artifacts**

If you have something that you would like to loan or donate to the Museum for display, please contact **Carol Weiss** or **Betty Miller** first.

We have some wonderful newspapers from 1939-1942 that were rolled up and left at the front door of Thomson Hall. We have them on display, but we don't know who to thank! Some of the outer papers were damaged by wind and dampness from being left outside. It is much better if we can take them and get them stored in a proper area until we have a chance to display them.

On a similar note, we had a member who donated a wonderful patch from WW II denoting a Civilian Aircraft Observer. It has been mounted and framed and is on display, BUT we cannot find the paperwork to identify the donor! Please call Betty Miller at 466-1212 and let her know who you are!

**Support Our Advertisers**

We have been lucky enough to have several folks who pay for advertising in the newsletter. This helps us with costs to print and mail out 200+ newsletters. Please support these folks whose names appear on the next page.

## New Gift Shop Items



Gift Shop Manager, Jackie Brooks has some new merchandise for sale at the Gift Shop. Zip-up sweat shirts with the Museum P-38 logo are available for only \$40.00 each.

We have disposable cameras with a flash that are available for \$8.50 to capture a photo of your child or grandchildren next to the BD-5 or the F-14 Tomcat.

"Save A Cat" tee shirts are available for \$25.00 each, or two for \$40.00 and 100% of the proceeds go directly to F-14 costs. All Gift Shop items can be purchased using your credit card, cash or local check.

## Buy A Block



We need to pour some more cement in the display aircraft parking area. \$100.00 will buy a block with your name, or the name of a loved one. Call Rosemary Netto at 467-3521 to add yours today.

It's a  
**New Year!**  
2005

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this Newsletter Possible!

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**Estrella Wardbird Museum  
Minutes of Board Meeting**

**Wednesday -- December 15, 2004 -- 5:00 p.m.  
Thomson Hall**

Meeting opened at 5:00 pm. By President Chuck Miller.  
Other directors present included: O. Atkinson; R. & J. Brooks; E. Chidlaw;  
J. Cromwell; F. Hahn; C. Martin; B. Miller; R. Netto; A. Schade; G. Thomson; T. Weiss.  
Guest: George Taylor.

**MOTION:** Ed Chidlaw moved to approve Minutes of Special Board Meeting  
December 1, 2004. Second by: John Cromwell. CARRIED

**MOTION:** Ed Chidlaw moved to approve the minutes of regular Board Meeting for  
November 17, 2004. Second by: Tom Weiss. CARRIED

**MOTION:** Glen Thomson moved to accept the Treasurer Report. Second by: Al Schade.  
CARRIED.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Facilities Report --- Electrical Upgrade- Ed Chidlaw reported --Electrical  
Contractor Dennis Mastagni offered to do electrical work at his cost.

**MOTION:** Ed Chidlaw moved the President Chuck contact Dennis Mastagni, owner of  
Advanced Electric, get the bid for electrical cost, present the information to the  
City, and we go forward with the project. Expenses to come from the 340 fund.  
Second by: Glen Thomson. CARRIED.

Ed Chidlaw reported the Patio Cement will be poured December 22.

A committee consisting of: Ron Brooks, Ed Chidlaw and Tom Weiss was  
appointed to design and complete the overhead patio cover.

ADA Update cost \$521.00 to date. Includes 2 toilets and 2 sinks. Finishing  
touches still needed.

Chuck Miller reported EWM 80' property acquisition looks favorable. It will  
be on the City Council agenda in January.

Gift Shop --Jackie Brooks reported the sales Dec. 11 were over \$1400 which  
includes sales for F-14 T-shirts. Seven T-shirts were donated to the Pilots and  
De-mil crew - workers.

Also,- a letter has been sent thanking John Whitworth for donating the T-shirts  
and Gary Ryan for his graphic design work on the t-shirts.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**MOTION:** Glen Thomson moved all moneys received from sale of F-14 T-shirts be put into the Aircraft fund. Second by: John Cromwell. CARRIED.

Restoration --Al Schade reported the F-14 work will be limited to touch up paint. Other ideas were to assign a "captain" to be in charge of specific Aircraft.

**MOTION:** Ed Chidlaw moved we allow an EWM Credit Card to be established, with Gift Shop Manager and Treasurer on the account. Second by: Betty Miller. CARRIED.

**MOTION:** Fred Hahn Moved copies of all correspondence be given to Secretary Jackie Brooks, to be kept in a permanent record notebook. Second by Conrad Martin. CARRIED.

**MOTION:** Glen Thomson moved we give Gary Ryan /Goofy Graphics a check for \$300.00 in appreciation for all the work he has done for EWM.

**MOTION:** Betty Miller moved we donate \$50.00 to No County Women's Shelter. Second by: Tom Weiss. CARRIED. Members of the Board wishing to contribute contact the Treasurer.

Betty Miller & Ed Chidlaw were appointed to bring information to January 2005 meeting, to establish a College Student Scholarship Fund.

Treasurer reported we will begin quarterly reports to the IRS in 2005.

Glen Thomson confirmed we do have the building Gary Corippo spoke of. Glen will get building engineered and bring information for the January meeting.

**A BIG Thank You to everyone who participated in organizing and working for the F-14 ceremony.**

Meeting adjourned at 6:p.m.. Reconvene January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2005 at 5 p.m.

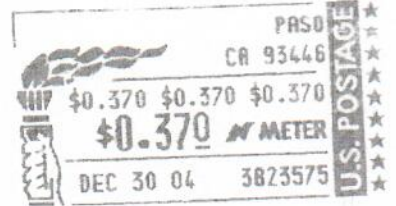
Jackie Brooks,  
Recording Secretary

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Can you identify this aircraft??? Call Betty at 466-1212 to identify

Estrella Warbird Museum, Inc.  
4251-A Dry Creek Road  
Paso Robles, CA 93446



TO: *[Handwritten address]*