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April 4 Program: *Slicks, Snoopys and Hueys*

Estrella Warbird Museum member Rod Dykhouse flew the UH-1 "Huey" helicopter in the Vietnam War assigned to the 61st Assault Helicopter Company located at Lane Army Airfield next to An Son, South Vietnam, part of II Corp. An Son is located 7 kilometers west of Qui Nhon, a fairly large seaport and can be located on most maps of Vietnam.

Rod flew combat from 1 May 1970 until 1 May 1971. He flew "slicks," which were the workhorses of the Army fleet of aircraft. His type of missions varied from combat assaults, re-supply, medical evacuations, night flare, command and control flights, snoop missions, (on snoop missions he loaded a "people-sniffer" on the aircraft and flew at tree top level at dawn to detect humans where they knew there were no friendlies), and special operations with Army Rangers. Rod personally enjoyed the snoop missions and special ops with the Rangers and volunteered for them frequently. He flew many special ops missions at low level into Cambodia to put Rangers in position along the Ho Chi Minh trail.

If you saw the movie "We were Soldiers" starring Mel Gibson, you will know at least part of the area where Rod flew. If you have not seen that movie go rent it, it will give you a very good idea of what it was like to fly combat assaults in a helicopter.

A typical day for Rod started at 05:00 hours and he got back to base at around

17:00 to 18:00 hours, very long days in the hot and humid jungle environment. He flew V.F.R. (visual flight conditions) most of the time due to the nature of his low level missions, but occasionally would have to operate in I.M.C (instrument measured conditions). He will tell a couple of interesting stories about flying night I.M.C. without charts!

Awards: Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star, Air Medal with "V" device, and the Vietnam Service and Campaign ribbons.

APRIL 4 DINNER MENU

- BAKED HAM
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- GREEN BEANS
- GREEN SALAD
- DINNER ROLLS
- DESERT
- COFFEE/TEA

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Upon his return from Vietnam, Rod Dykhouse joined the Long Beach Fire Department. Rod was crash/fire and rescue qualified to work on the airport crews and is listed in the California State Fire Marshall's office as an instructor in this discipline. For many years he had the Long Beach Cities' foam rig at his station and worked on six oil refinery fires. At retirement Rod was Captain of fireboat *Challenger*, a ninety-foot vessel

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that is one of only two ocean-going fireboats on the west coast of the United States.

On the morning of 9/11 Rod had just taken off from Paso Robles airport at 5:50 am flying to Long Beach for a special class. A local pilot heard him takeoff and called him on the radio to ask if he had heard about the airliner that had just hit a building in New York City. Rod and the other pilot talked about it for a little while and speculated how a pilot could make such a huge navigational error with all of the modern equipment onboard airliners. The other pilot then informed Rod that a second plane had just hit a building in New York. Rod immediately said that something had to be wrong. It was inconceivable to him that one airline Captain could make an error of such magnitude and certainly not two. Rod turned on his F.M. radio and tuned in a news station so he could listen to the events that were unfolding.

After approximately twenty-five minutes in the air and southwest of Bakersfield, the news announcer stated that all aircraft in the U.S.A. were being ordered to land at the closest airport. Rod called FAA Flight Service and inquired if it were true and if so did it also apply to general aviation aircraft. Flight Service informed him that

wish to congratulate everyone involved for their dedication and professionalism.

only did we complete the new museum building, "Freedom Hall", on time and on budget, we recently hosted a series of 5 events in 13 days! These events included a dinner- movie premiere in conjunction with the Navy League(that was 110 people for the dinner movie), two major functions to dedicate the opening of Freedom Hall, a bus

they had no idea but to monitor the frequency and they would get back to him. In about five minutes Flight Service called back and indicated the order applied to airlines AND general aviation. Obviously this was a major event for all aircraft to be ordered out of the sky and Rod did not want a get stuck away from home so he told Flight Service he was doing a 180-degree turn and returning to Paso Robles. Flight Service said that was fine with them. Rod will explain his thoughts about this national disaster.

Rod has been a pilot for 38 years, with 7,785 flight hours including over 1,000 combat hours. He holds an Airline Transport Pilot certificate with multi-engine land and Citation Jet ratings. He is also a Certified Flight Instructor (CFI) in single engine land aircraft, multi-engine land aircraft and instrument qualification.

Since retiring, Rod has taken up a new sport. He is now a race official with SCCA (Sports Car Club of America) and drives a racecar in road race events at courses like Laguna Seca, California Speedway, and Sears Point.

George Marrett, Program Chair

Prez sez....

"How did we do that?"

tour to Castle Air Museum and our Wednesday night membership/dinner meeting.

Four of the five events involved food and bar service. I wish to thank **John Himes** and crew along with **Rosemary Netto** and **Cathy Neitz** for making this all happen. It was the hard work of our members, directors and staff that made these events successful.



Many hours of preparation and setup work go into making each event possible. Thank you to **Don & Charmine Peckinpaugh** for all your support setting up Thomson Hall along with **Rosemary Netto**, and **Judy Corippo**. Thank you to **Arnold & Linda Hermansen** for keeping our facility looking sharp. It takes many dedicated members to keep our organization running smoothly, many of these members work behind the scenes and contribute their time and talent on a regular basis. Thank You.

Just when I thought we were going to have a breather between events **Betty Miller** presented the Board with a calendar of upcoming activity that includes many major events. I encourage our members that wish to get involved with events to contact me and I can direct them to the event chairman.

The Museum continues to grow and the visitor count is increasing as well. The comments we are hearing from our visitors reflects the hard work of everyone who has participated in the construction of Freedom Hall as well as the great displays that curators **Betty Miller** and **Carol Weiss** are putting together. Our Museum Gift Shop, under the able direction of **Jackie Brooks** is getting kudos as well. We should all be very proud of our organization, its' accomplishments and the positive support we have received from the community.

Please join us April 4th for our monthly dinner meeting. John Himes and crew would appreciate your call to help them know how many to prepare dinner for. Please call 466-1212 to make your reservation.

Thank You

George Taylor

President Estrella Warbird Museum

"Honoring the Past, Inspiring the Future"

High Flier

Charmaine Peckinpaugh, Librarian

I have been very fortunate to have a wonderful group of volunteers, who have been joining Don and I every Monday morning, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon in the Library. A BIG THANK YOU to: Bob Kelly and Mary McKenzie - Pam Morrison - Marcia Rice - and of course, with an extra big hug, Don.

We are very busy cataloging, which means at this time, we are hand printing each card for every book. And we will do all of the library collection by hand, until we are able to purchase the necessary equipment and programs, that will allow us to put all of the collected information into the, (to be purchased), computer.

It is an exciting time to watch the loft, slowly but surely, change from a dumping ground for whatever, to a fully operational, library.

We still need to have the window installed, plus have a working heating system operational -----soon?????

Don finished painting the typing table that was found in an antique shop. It looks so much better than that mottled green shade. While he had a paint brush in his hand, he also finished painting the walls white, where there once was a bright yellow wall. Much easier on the eyes.

I continue separating, collecting, and joining in the cataloging for our library.

I am looking forward to the day when the word will go out to all members, "Come and see and check out all of the great books, tomes, manuals, journals, magazines and other articles, that are to be experienced, in our new Estrella Warbird Research Museum Library"!!!! Keep'em flying,

Charmaine

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Museum Musings By Betty Miller
Spring is in the air and brings the promise of new life and vitality to all of us. With warmer weather just around the corner we are ready for a busy tourist season at the Museum.

We have expanded our days of operation to accommodate the increasing number of visitors.

New Hours are:

Friday 12 noon to 4 pm

Saturday 10 am to 4 pm

Sunday 12 noon to 3 pm

Monday 12 noon to 4 pm

Museum members **Forrest Martin** and **Rosemary Netto** are taking Fridays for the Museum Docent and Gift Shop respectively. **Betty and Chuck Miller** are doing Friday backup for the time being.

Saturdays and Sundays are covered as usual on the regular Docent Schedule.

Mondays are being handled by Docent **Gary Corippo**, and the Gift Shop has several folks who will be alternating for the Monday slot.

We have already made some changes to our exhibits to improve your museum experience. Be sure to check out the WW I display cases - thanks to **Gary Corippo** we have some great items that belonged to a soldier from the 111th Engineers who served in France and Germany in 1917-18. Some of the mementos are really interesting-look for the red garter that this WW I soldier got on a trip into Paris. (If this garter could talk!!!)

We will be setting up the "Rotating Display" soon, right after we get the cabinet repainted, so be sure to stop by and check for changes!

Carol and I are working on getting the M.A.S.H. unit finished. We are adding more photos, and information on the medics and helicopter pilots that brought in the patients. A display case is in the process of being put together that will feature some great items. It takes time to assemble all the items for an exhibit and then get the

labeling done so that folks know what they are looking at. We chafe at not having it all done instantly, but our efforts are starting to bear fruit. We have already had two large groups of adults come through, and had 140 kindergartners from Templeton the last week of March.

Several more school groups are scheduled for April through June and then there are adult groups scheduled as well. A busy time for the Group Tour Docents!

The comments from local, out-of-area, and international visitors are really positive and they feel we are really a great place to visit, with lots of interesting things to see. Thank you to all our wonderful Docents and Gift Shop staff that make our visitors feel special and welcome.

As your Curators, Carol and I have decided to have scheduled regular "Office Hours". We are still working out whether to work Tuesday and Wednesday when the Museum is not open to visitors (unless it is a pre-arranged group of 12 or more) or Monday and Tuesday. We will have our days posted soon! (It is harder to work on projects when visitors are in and out)

As you know we are charging admission to the Museum for visitors. (Members in good standing are free) We have decided to honor our men and women in the service, both active duty and retired, by offering them free admission. They only need to show their military Photo ID to the Gift Shop staff to be able to gain entrance. The Gift Shop staff are checked out on what the Photo ID's look like, so there should be no problem.

Come Visit Your Museum Soon!

Betty Miller - 466-1212 and

Carol Weiss - 239-2637

Freedom Hall Curators



Happenings---At Freedom Hall Gift Shop

--- Hello To All ---

What's new at the Gift Shop??

We have NEW items for sale--assorted

Aircraft T'shirts \$15.00--

Limited sizes and styles. First come --First Serve Sales!!

We also have Aircraft "Spotter Mugs" \$5.00 ea.

As of Saturday March 10 the Gift Shop is collecting Museum Admission charges.

As of Saturday March 17, we have an Electronic Cash Register.

Both of these changes will prove to be assets to the productivity and well being of Freedom Hall.

Welcome to our new Staff Members:

Shirley Blomquist, Cheryl Christner, Ginger Cromwell, Rosie Hebron, Marjorie Singleton, Betsy Thomson, Joan Walz.

OUR New Gift Shop Invites you -- and your friends to join our Staff.

We have opportunity shifts From 12 noon to 4 pm Monday and Friday.

10am to 4pm Saturday and 12 noon to 4pm on Sunday.

Volunteer hours are flexible. Contact Jackie: 703-0028

Please stop by and say hello. Bye for now!!

Gift Shop Manager, Jackie Brooks-- cell ph703-0028

NEW sustaining member:

Jean Brukiewicz

Templeton, Ca. 93465

(She is a volunteer gift shop worker)

GOLFERS - Shootout set 10/8/07

We have a date for the second Estrella Warbird Museum Golf Shootout. We will tee off at Hunter Ranch Golf Course on MONDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2007 with a 0930 shotgun start. This is Columbus Day,

so spend part of your day with us and help a worthy cause. Tournament format will be 4-person teams at full handicap, counting the two best scores each hole. The ENTRY FEE is \$125 per person. This buys 18 holes of golf with a shared cart, use of the warm-up facilities, continental breakfast (in a box), a tee prize, an Award Luncheon at Thomson Hall and the knowledge that you have helped a worthwhile endeavor.

Museum members please pass the word to friends who play golf and encourage their participation. We will have door prizes as well as prizes for scores, so even if your score stinks, you could still leave with a nice prize.

To highlight this year's event, both Pete Johnston Chevrolet & Cadillac and Paso Robles Ford are offering vehicles for a hole-in-one on a designated par three hole. One lucky swing is all it could take! We will pay a least four team places (more if the number of entries permit), the longest drive and closest-to-the-pin.

Entries will be published in the EWM Newsletter until the tournament. Entry forms will also be available at the gift shop, Thomson Hall as well as various locations in the community.

We are seeking sponsors from local businesses and other interested parties.

Sponsorships can be in the form of tee sponsors in the amount of \$150 for Section Leader and \$250 for Flight Leader, and/or Door Prizes. All tee sponsors will receive a sign on an appropriate tee with your company's name and information, a letter of appreciation, memorabilia and recognition in the museum's newsletter. Additionally, Flight Leaders will receive a plaque. Door Prizes will be presented at the Award Luncheon in the sponsor's name.

Volunteers to work the tournament are needed. The par three holes with car prizes each must have two non-player witnesses, so plan on spending a few hours in a nice setting and help out. We also need help in the morning checking players in at the golf course. Check-in help would take two hours of your time (0730-0930).

Contact: Wayne Rice PH: 805-467-9710
or email: riceatpaso@msn.com

ENTRY FORM

ESTRELLA WARBIRD MUSEUM GOLF SHOOTOUT
MONDAY, October 8, 2007 - 9:30 AM SHOTGUN AT
HUNTER'S RANCH GOLF COURSE, PASO ROBLES

ENTRY FEE \$125.00 PER PERSON:

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	HANDICAP	NCGA or SCGA #	PHONE NBR. or EMAIL

Entries are welcome for any number of players. The Committee will pair entrants who do not specify partners. **Please note that entries must be in the hands of the committee no later than Wednesday, October 3, 2007. Entries received later will be retained on a standby basis.**

Tee Sponsorships are available for the Tournament from \$150.00 to \$250.00
Call Tournament Chair Wayne Rice at 805-467-9710 for details

Mail your check and this form to:

Rosemary Netto, Treasurer
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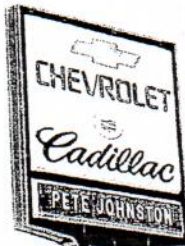
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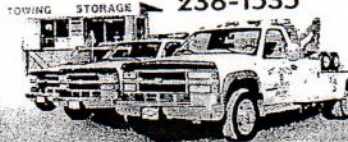
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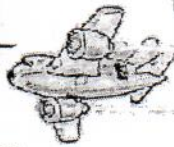
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