

**Estrella Warbird Museum "Eagle" --- June 6, 2007**  
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## June 6: Powder Puff Derby Pilots

June Cunningham, a resident of Atascadero, always wanted to be an airplane pilot. She could not afford flying lessons so she became a singer in nightclubs and entered amateur singing contests. Not liking some of the places her manager contracted for her, she gave up singing and became a telephone operator.

Five years after marrying Sam Cunningham, a Merchant Mariner in World War II, June started taking flying lessons in the New York area. On her fourth flight she got into a spin at low altitude and fired her instructor.

She then decided to attend ground school at the Flushing Meadows Airport and got higher exam scores than most of the men in the class. This was a time when women were not accepted in aviation.

In 1960 June and her husband moved to the Bay Area and June started flying lessons again. Later they moved to the San Luis Obispo area and June entered the 1968 Powder Puff Derby as a copilot to Wanda Strasbourg in a Cardinal 177. The race was from Van Nuys to Savanna, Georgia.

In 1970 she entered the Powder Puff Derby again and this time flew as copilot with Emily Cletsoway in a Cherokee 180 from Monterey to Bristol, Pennsylvania. In 1975 June was pilot in command for the Palms to Pines Air Race with famous race pilot Joan Steinberger her copilot. They came in 13<sup>th</sup> out of a starting field of around 60 women.

Her most wonderful flying experience was the 1977 Powder Puff Derby. For that race she purchased a new Cessna 172 Skyhawk (N733RN) and owned the plane for about eight years. Shirley Moore was her copilot on that race.

June met many illustrious women pilots during her racing days. Some like Mardo Crane who wrote "Ladies! Rev Up Your Engines!" a

novel about the girls in the Powder Puff Derby and others who knew Amelia Earhart. Plan to attend the June 6<sup>th</sup> museum dinner meeting and hear about aviation from a woman's perspective.

George Marrett, Program Chair

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### EWM GIFT SHOP NEWS

Since we receive such a good response to our DVD's, -- we accepted the offer from Roaring Glory DVD's to carry their Combination Packs of Fighter-4pk; - Bomber 2pk and Navy + Marine 3pk.. all at a great savings to our customers.

We will still carry all the original DVD titles. We now have a variety of tee-shirts with aircraft themes.

We found a supplier for a few copies of the popular book: "Yankee Doodle Gals". We also carry "W.W.II, As seen through Kids Eyes." The Local Authors were Speakers at our March 2007 dinner meeting. Here is your opportunity to purchase their autographed book through our Gift Shop.

We carry signed copies of the books written by George Marrett.

We invite you all to visit your Freedom Hall Facility.

Browse through the Museum,- Displays are being added every week. Ask about the new "Honors" Board that is in place.

Visit your Gift Shop to see what New items have arrived.

We also have information to become a Docent or Volunteer in Freedom Hall. Jackie Brooks or any Freedom Hall worker, will be happy to take your information.

Phone EWM weekends at: 238-9317 or ph: 227-0440 & leave a machine message.

You can also reach me on my cell phone:

703-0028. See you There!! Jackie Brooks

## **MEMBERSHIP-----**

### *Welcome New Members*

Richard Wallis...Regular Member...Pilot United AL

Rear Admiral....Do nald Eaton...R egular Member...US N (Ret.)

Family membership - Ron and KATHY Boyte

We are looking forward to having you new members join us in our endeavor.

New Board Member Ed Morrison has agreed to join us in working with the Membership Committee. Welcome aboard Ed.

Obbie Atkinson is hard at work making up the new Brochures. A BIG ! job with all of the changes and new additions to our Museum.

Thank you Obbie, your hard work is appreciated.

Don Peckinpaugh, Membership Chairman

## **High Flier**

### **Charmaine Peckinpaugh, Librarian**

The Library's hardworking crew is moving at a steady pace and our goal of eight more months (of hard work) is still looking good.

Don is working at installing an "invisible" screen door. We do not have a window at this time and the library needs to have a way to bring in light and fresh air into the area.

We do not want to leave the door wide

## **GOLF UPDATE**

Planning for our second golf tournament is well underway. Again we are seeking players for the date of October 8, 2007 at Hunter Ranch Golf Course. It will be a fun and productive time for all. Since it is a benefit event, you can use the term "productive" to sway sceptics who think you're just out goofing off for the day!

Many thanks to our first two business supporters, Pete Johnston and Bob Burgess who have stepped in and put up vehicles from their respective dealerships for hole-in-one prizes. Additional sponsors are needed from other businesses or individuals. Sponsorships can take one or two forms: a cash sponsorship at the \$150 or \$250 level, and/or contributions to our "door prize" pool. Either form of support is welcome.

Last year our focus was supporting construction of Freedom Hall. This year our focus is to support a long-term goal of the museum to offer scholarships for deserving high school graduates from the north county. Specifics are being worked out, but, in general terms, the scholarship will be to support students who are majoring in aviation related fields of study. Your Board of Directors envisions this to be a long-term program, however, we need funds to tee it off.

Contact Tournament Chairman, Wayne Rice for further information or offers of support.

PH: 805-467-9710 or email: [riceatpaso@msn.com](mailto:riceatpaso@msn.com).

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open without a screen door, as the wasps - bees -

birds and other flying creatures, seem to want to take a tour of the library, every time that the door is left open. The staff enjoys many members of nature, but we do not believe that wasps and bees feel the same way about the human race.

We will keep the fly swatter close by and we will keep swinging.

Keep'm flying, (maybe I should reword) that ending)

## Museum Musings.....

by Betty Miller

Watch for our Newest Exhibit!



Our new "Rotating Display" area has been painted and glass sliding doors are being installed. The first exhibit will feature the famed "Skunk Works" and is being presented by long time member and Docent, **Ray Passon**. The items that he will be putting on display are very interesting and informative. I know you will all enjoy this new display.

### Thank You's

Member **Rick Wells** has cleaned up all the planting areas around Freedom Hall and it really looks great! Rick is one of our loyal volunteers that sees something that needs doing and does it. Since we don't have the money to hire a landscape maintenance service, we all have to pitch in and do our part to make things look presentable. It is folks like **Rick, Wayne Rice, John Kendall, Ron Thompson** and **Gary Corippo** who deserve your thanks for taking care of our landscaping areas.

### Reminder

New Freedom Hall Hours are:

**Friday 12 noon to 4 pm**

**Saturday 10 am to 4 pm**

**Sunday 12 noon to 4 pm**

**Monday 12 noon to 4 pm**

Curator's Office Hours:

**Tuesday and Wednesday**

**9:30 am - 2:00 or as needed**

### Gentle Winds & Smooth Seas

To our Beloved Friend, Life Member, and Freedom Hall Donor :

**Dr. Will Irwin**

He served his country and then served the Estrella Warbird Museum. He left this earth much too soon and he will be deeply missed.

## Volunteers Needed Now!



Summer Vacation is almost upon us and we are seeing a definite increase in visitors to the museum. This means that more demands will be made on our volunteers' time and energy. We now have over 300 + members...but only 30+ folks are carrying the load! Please step up to the plate and volunteer to serve when we call upon you to help out. You don't have to be at the Museum every week, but the things you all enjoy don't get accomplished by magic! It takes real live people of all ages and abilities to keep things going.

The Following Areas Need Your Help!

**Gift Shop Staff**-call Jackie 462-8141

**Freedom Hall Docents** (remember we are cool inside now!) Call Betty 466-1212

**Group Tour Docents** call Betty 466-1212

**Freedom Hall - Cataloging** call Betty at 466-1212

**Vehicle Restoration Staff** call John Everett at 237-9523 if you can help out

**Aircraft Restoration** call Al Schade at 927-8303 and ask what you can do

**Special Events-Food** call John Himes at 226-8979

All of us are involved in our families, work, other organizations and traveling but there are things to be done that may seem small to you, but would be a big help to those of us who are getting stretched pretty thin. Please say "YES" when we call on you.

### Mark Your Calendar!

Celebrate our Nation's Birthday! On Friday, **July 6, 2007** we are hosting a **FREE** concert by the US Air Guard Band in Hangar One at 7 pm. Come join us for big band music and fun. Seating is limited and free tickets will be available at the June dinner meeting.

*Betty Miller*

## Getting to Know Your Committee Chairs

### Aircraft Acquisitions

Gary Corippo - 238-2090

### Bar

Rosemary Netto - 467-3521

Cathy Neitz - 467-2158

### City Liaison

Chuck Miller - 466-1212

### Decorating

Judy Corippo - 238-2090

Rosemary Netto - 467-3521

### Dinners

John Himes - 466-6680

### Temp Docent Coordinator

Betty Miller - 466-1212

### Exhibit Hall Curators

Betty Miller - 471-0472

Carol Weiss - 239-2637

### Facility Rental

Betty Miller - 466-1212

### Gift Shop

Jackie Brooks - 462-8141

### Ground Equipment

John Everett - 237-9523

Dave Geiger - 238-1598

### Grounds

Wayne Rice - 423-8828

### Insurance

Brian Webster - 237-0666

Ian Webster - 237-0666

### Membership

Don Peckinpaugh

239-9919

### Newsletter

Dick Reddick - 238-2316

### Photographer

Wally Engle - 227-0245

### Public Information Officer

Dick Reddick - 238-2316

### Program

George Marrett - 466-7640

### Site Maintenance

Ron Brooks - 462-8141

### Tours & Groups

Betty Miller - 471-0472

### Web Master

KO Eckland

aerofiles@comcast.net

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Prez Sez

## "One Year Later"

It's hard to believe that a year has gone by since I accepted the pretiougues position as President of the Estrella Warbird Museum. It has been a busy year filled with many exciting events. We have seen the completion of our new museum building "Freedom Hall" that was conceived under the leadership of our past president LTC. Chuck Miller. We completed three tour bus trips, and let's not forget the bus trip that ended at our front gate when the bus broke down. Our staff has completed dozens of catered events in Thomson Hall and our museum staff has welcomed thousands visitors to enjoy the museum. These activities are just a sample of what we have been doing for the past twelve months. It takes hours and sometimes days to prepare for these special functions and our success is only possible due to the selfless dedication of our members.

We recently completed our first "Youth in Action Day" that brought us several hundred youths to enjoy the museum. I wish to thank our entire crew that worked so hard to make this day a success.

Our friends of the museum Dale & Sandy Chandler and Tom & Robin Hannah from the Paso Robles Youth Arts Foundation jumped in as our BBQ team on this day and were also event sponsors.

It was only through the generous support of our members and community that we were able to host this event.

I wish to thank the sponsors of our Youth in Action Day event.

Blake's Hardware, Paso Robles Electric, Tom & Robin Hannah, Dale & Sandy Chandler, Ed & Emily Chidlaw and GET Ranch.

I also wish to thank the founders of the Paso Robles Youth Arts Foundation, Bob & Donna Berg for their donation of paint and labor to make our place look great. Bob not only painted the museum logo on the Estrella Taxiway, but furnished all the materials to seal and paint the floor in Hangar One. It sure looks great. THANK YOU!

Our entire staff worked tirelessly making this day a success. The fly in by VFA-2 from Lemoore Naval Air Station with the F/A-18 Super Hornet and the California Highway Patrol with their helicopter were certainly highlights of the event. The award winning Soledad NJROTC drill team performance was impeckable and if you were not present to hear the heart warming singing of our national anthem you really missed out. Thank you to the US Navy Sea Cadets for providing our beverage service on this day.



VFA-2 flight crew LTJG Ricky Lang, LT Michael Harvey and our future leaders. This F/A-18F is stationed at Lemoore Naval Air Station when not deployed aboard the USS Abraham Lincoln CVN72

Continued Next Page

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MORE

## "Prez Sez"

### Welcome Aboard

It is my pleasure to welcome three of our members to the board of directors. Mr. John Everett, Mr. Ed Morrison and Mrs. Charmaine Peckinpaugh. I also wish to announce that Col. Wayne Rice has been elected to continue serving as Vice President and Ed Morrison is now Second Vice President. I have accepted to serve as President for a second term. I can only function as president with the support of our board of directors. I look forward to working with our board and strongly support our new board members.

I also welcome LTC. Chuck Miller who has accepted the position as Advisory Board Member. LTC. Miller will also still serve as our liaison to the City of Paso Robles.

The Estrella Warbird Museum is the most active organization I have ever been associated with. This extreme activity level is only made possible by the continued involvement of our board and members. Being a member of our board of directors is not just an honorary position or title. Our members and board members make personal sacrifices on a continual basis to make our success possible. As I have said before we have some significant artifacts and some really cool aircraft, but the biggest asset of the Estrella Museum is our dedicated members. Thank you for your continued support.

Please join us June 6, for our monthly dinner meeting. Reacquaint yourself with some old friends and meet some new friends while catching up on museum activities.

Please call ahead so that our chef John Himes and crew will know how many to expect for dinner. Please call 466-1212 to make your reservation. Bring a friend or neighbor to enjoy the evening with us. How about asking that neighbor just down the block or around the corner. I bet they would love to have an outing with a good friend.

I have just been informed that our good friend Dr. Will Irwin has passed away. From all our members we wish him Gods speed and smooth seas. So long good friend we will miss you.

It is my honor to serve as president of the Estrella Warbird Museum.

Very Respectfully

George Taylor  
President Estrella Warbird Museum

## "Honoring the Past Inspiring the Future"

**DO NOT FORGET OUR JULY  
DINNER MEETING WILL BE  
HELD ON JULY 11, 2007 DUE TO  
THE HOLIDAY SCHEDULE.....**



The Estrella Warbird Museum welcomes aboard VFA-2 Bounty Hunter LTJG Ricky Lang from Lemoore Naval Air Station. This Boeing F/A-18F Super Hornet is capable of Mach 1.8 that is 1,188 mph and can carry its own weight in fuel and payload for a gross weight of 66,000 pounds.

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## ***Museum hours expand***

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**

## **Nelson Harris passes**

Nelson Harris, 75, a devoted and caring husband, father and grandfather, died suddenly Saturday, April 28, 2007.

He was born September 1931 in Joplin, Mo., where he spent the first 12 years of his life. In 1943 his family moved to Torrance, Calif. Nelson attended Torrance High School where he excelled in academics and athletics. He was co-captain of his football team and president of student government. It was at this time where his passion for aviation took off, soloing for the first time at sixteen years old.

Upon graduation in 1948, he attended UCLA to pursue an electrical engineering degree and to play football. At the end of his freshman year, his Air Force reserve unit was called to Korea where he calibrated the Norton Bomb Sites for the next 24 months. He returned to UCLA in 1951 to resume his studies and play football. However, a broken arm on the last day of spring practice ended his gridiron career. While in college Nelson interned for Douglas Aircraft and upon graduation received a full-time position.

During the height of the space program in the early sixties, he transferred to Space Technology Laboratories, which later became TRW, in Redondo Beach, Calif. His duties included managing the design of guidance systems for various missile and satellite projects. Perhaps his greatest achievement was overseeing the design of the guidance system used on the Apollo 11 Eagle Lunar Module, which landed on the moon in 1969.

It was around this time that his passion for aviation soared to new heights by pursuing his desire to fly sailplanes. He earned bronze, gold and diamond badges for his achievements in soaring altitude, duration and distance.

In 1973 he retired from his aerospace career to pursue an agricultural endeavor. He purchased

400 acres in Paso Robles and designed a fully irrigated system to grow alfalfa and wheat. In 1990, his business career took another direction. He sold his ranch and purchased residential lots in Wasco Calif., where he developed a tract of single-family homes.

In his later years, his passion for aviation was highlighted by building his own airplane.

He is survived by his wife of 53 years Joanne; sons Vance and Grant; daughter-in-law Michelle; granddaughters Lindsay, Lacey, Ashley, McKenna and Tawny.

A memorial service was held on Saturday, May 5, 2007, at the Estrella Warbird Museum. Arrangements by Kuehl-Nicolay Funeral Home.

Another lost member.

A lot of you did not know Nelson Harris but he has been a member since the early 90's. His wife was a Silver Bell who sang at our Christmas Dinners. Nelson bought my hangar in the Nunno complex back in 2000. He was putting together an RV-6. Everyone says that it was the most immaculate and concise airplane. He was still a pilot and flew it all the time. He was a charter member of the "Liars" club who meet every morning at the airport terminal and have for many years. His life work was as a missile tech and was a very brilliant man. He could answer math questions with a blink of the eye.

The hard part is he died on our taxi way just east of runway 1, he was a jogger and always went from the terminal to our taxi way in front of the museum and returned. He was found about 10 am Saturday morning by an airplane taxiing from 13 to the main terminal.

The memorial was held at Thompson Hall at 11 AM on Saturday May 5<sup>th</sup>. If you can, please come and pay your respect to one of our own.

**Rosemary Nunno**

## **Dr. Will Irwin passes**

A celebration of life for Dr. Will Irwin MD, who passed away Friday, May 18, 2007, will be from 4 to 6 p.m. Thursday, May 24, 2007 at Tobin James Cellars in Paso Robles. For more details call Erica at 239-2204.

[Published in the S. L. O. Tribune on 5/22/2007].

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# 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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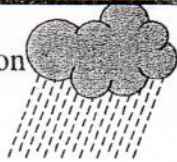
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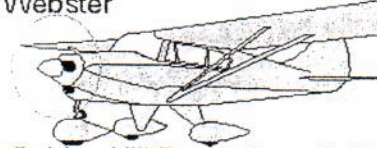
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Paso Robles, California



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