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THE ESTRELLA WARBIRD MUSEUM EAGLE NEWSLETTER

Published by the Estrella Warbird Museum, Inc.



Vol. XVIX-07 Paso Robles, California ~ July 2008

July 2 Speaker

*"One of the
Lucky Ones"*



Charles E. Dills, a retired professor of chemistry at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, became hooked on aviation as a five-year-old boy when Charles Lindbergh crossed the Atlantic Ocean in 1927. Two years later his uncle arranged for him to get a barnstorming flight in a Ford Trimotor at a cost of 2 cents per pound. The youngster weighed 47 pounds, what a bargain! Three weeks before the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Charles soloed in a Piper J-4 Cub as part of the Civilian Pilot Training (CPT) program.

Six months later Charles enlisted in the US Army Air Forces and flew the PT-17, BT-13, AT-6 and P-40 during military flying school graduating in Class 43E. He was then assigned to the 522nd Fighter Squadron of the 27th Fighter Group and flew 94 combat missions in Southern France and Italy in the A-36A Apache (the ground attack version of the P-51 Mustang), P-40F, P-47D and UC-78.

Charles became an orphan in the middle of the Great Depression and has few stories about his family. Determined to not have the same happen to his five-year-old grand son, Erik Arthur Dills, Charles is writing about his family history. Estrella Warbird Museum members can read his writing at: www.charlies-web.com



Happy
Birthday
America!
July 4th



DINNER MENU

Wednesday, July 2

"AN OLD FASHIONED PICNIC"

Larry's Special Chicken
Tossed Green Salad
Mom's Potato Salad
Veggie Lover's Salad
Vic's Baked Beans
Jan's Homemade Berry Pie
Rolls
Ice Tea & Coffee
No Host Bar
Dinner Catering by Larry Eastwood
\$15.00 Per Person

RESERVATIONS PLEASE

Call 467-3521

By NOON Tuesday

Thank You

Social Hour 6pm-7pm
Dinner & Program Follows

1

THE PREZ SEZ Ed Morrison

We had a couple of interesting visitors at our dinner meeting last month. One was our guest speaker Ryan Carden, who is about to enter the United States Air Force Academy and the other was the recipient of our first Estrella Warbird Museum Scholarship, Scott Parks, who plans to attend Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, in Prescott, Arizona. Both of these young men have just graduated from high school and are very interested in the field of aviation. It was evident to the members of the EWM that the future of our country is in good hands with people like these two.

Speaking of young folks, if you have not seen the work being done on the Army trailer restoration project by Brian Rapp for his Eagle Scout project, stop by and check it out Saturday. You will be impressed. We will have the trailer on display at our Dinner Meeting in Thomson Hall on July 2nd as well.

Summer is finally here and we need plenty of help on Fridays, Saturdays & Sundays to cover the Museum Docent positions (see Betty); Gift Shop Volunteers (see Jackie) and other volunteers for sundry tasks on these and other days of the week (see Gary). Please take the step to lend a much needed hand to keep your Museum strong.

Gary Corippo is doing a great job raising funds for the new Vehicle Storage building and you will see some activity soon. We are still short some funding and need more donations - there is more elsewhere in this Newsletter.

I look forward to seeing you all at the July Dinner Meeting.

Ed Morrison

President

Freedom Hall Mural

Many of you have seen the large drawing taped to the back wall in Freedom Hall showing a M.A.S.H. unit from the Korean War period. **M.A.S.H.** stands for Mobile Assault Support Hospital, which is served by military doctors and nurses, along with medics (in Army & Airforce lingo) and corpsmen (US Navy & USMC) The success of saving the wounded and injured often depends on minutes in providing immediate emergency care. Once stabilized, the wounded can then be transported to a permanent hospital for further treatment.

The scene depicts the rugged hills of Korea, in the background, with a M.A.S.H. unit in the foreground. An H-13 and an H-19 helicopter are in the process of landing so that their precious cargo of wounded can be cared for by the men and women of the medical corps.

Rather than a blank wall 40' x 20' (at the highest point), the mural will add a colorful and unique tribute to the often unsung men and women that care for the troops in the field and on the sea. It will also be the finishing touch to this wonderful building.

We have a firm bid for this project and need to raise \$2000.00 in order to be able to have the mural done. We have already had a commitment from one of our long time members for \$500.00, so only **\$1500.00** more is needed to accomplish this.

I would be happy to show you a drawing of the scene and talk to you about this project. Your generosity in contributing to the Mural Project is greatly appreciated.

Betty Miller, Curator, Phone: 805-471-0472

(5)

WW II Veteran Takes P-51C Flight!

WW II Vet , Museum Member, and Docent, **Jack McLaughlin** took to the air on May 14, 2008 in a P-51C Mustang. The P-51C is a new addition to the Collings Foundation's WW II aircraft collection, and is one of five of the early B/C models left flying. The P-51 is arguably the greatest fighter aircraft ever produced, certainly the most recognizable and legendary of the Second World War. The "C" model is easily recognizable by it's "razorback" configuration as opposed to the P-51D with its "bubble canopy that came out later in the war.



Jack after his flight.

While stationed in Europe during WW II, Jack was a gunner on a B-24, as part of the 450th Bomb Group-720th Bomb Squadron(15th Air Force). He participated in 32 sorties from August 1944 to March 1945. During a mission over the Ferrara Railroad Bridge in northern Italy (near Pescara, Italy) Jack earned the distinction of becoming a Caterpillar after his aircraft was shot down and he was forced to bailout.

The Caterpillar Club was formed in 1922 after a Lt. Harris bailed out of an airplane over Dayton, Ohio. The parachute main sail and lines were woven from the finest silk. The lowly worm spins a cocoon, crawls out and flies away from certain death, if it remains in sight of the cocoon. A better example of what a pilot or passenger should do in the case of an uncontrollable plane could not have better figurative depiction."



The P-51C over Paso Robles

Since that time, thousands of airmen, flyers and passengers have enrolled in this organization. Among the many Caterpillars who carry or carried Caterpillar Club membership cards are former President George Bush, General Doolittle, and Colonel Lindbergh, to name a few. The Club requires some documentation as to the authenticity of the jump before a card is issued such as military orders, reports and/or newspaper accounts. There are at least three of our members who have this distinction including Jack, **Karl Haeuser** and **Dave Rowe**.

Jack said he always envied the P-51 pilots that flew along with the bigger bombers for their gracefulness and agility and he always wanted to see what it would be like. He got his chance on May 14th and spent an hour with pilot Rob Collings doing rolls and other maneuvers.

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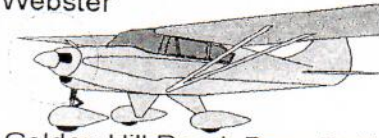
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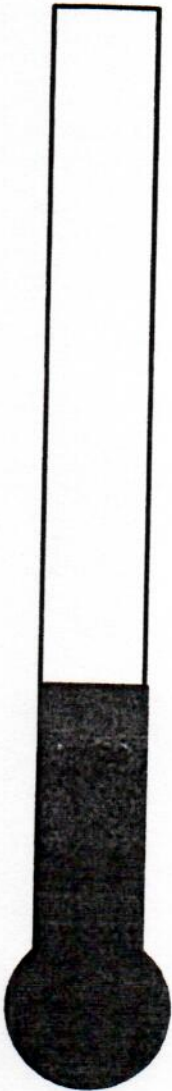
Fax: 805-238-1917

Brian Webster and Ian Webster can be reached at 805-237-0666



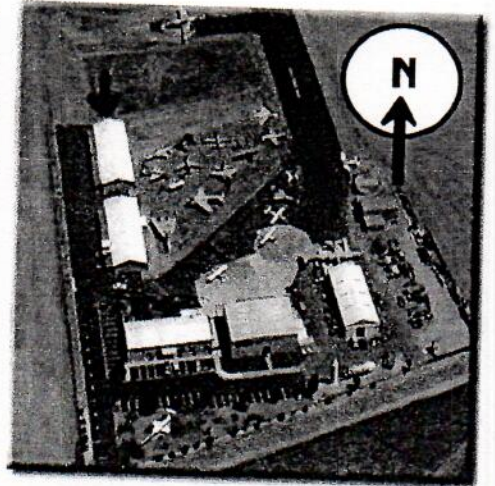
WE NEED YOUR HELP TO COMPLETE THE NEW BROOKS BUILDING

Construction
Goal Thermometer



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- 145 K
- 140 K
- 135 K
- 130 K
- 125 K
- 120 K
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- 5 K

The Board of Directors have approved plans and have already received approval from the city of Paso Robles, for construction of the "Brooks Building," a new 4,950 square foot facility for our restored historical vehicles. The new building is scheduled to be located directly behind and to the north of Freedom Hall and will be of the same basic design and architecture of the existing Freedom Hall structure.



Arrow marks location of the new Brooks Building shown above in artist's / webmaster rendering

The proposed facility is shown in the picture above in an artist's/webmaster rendition of the finished location and proposed appearance. The facility will also feature windows on the west side and several 12' plus roll-up doors on the east side of the structure which will allow placement of larger vehicles and artifacts.

An active fund raising drive has begun for the new facility which is tentatively planned to house restored military vehicles and additional museum artifacts. As of the date of this writing, over \$60,000 has already been donated and earmarked for construction of the new structure.

The Project coordinator is Gary Corippo. If you would like to make a tax deductible donation to help finish this building, please contact Gary Corippo at 712-1222 .

How well do you know your fellow museum members? Can you identify these three young men?

A



B



C



Answers: A-Arnold Hermansen B-Karl Hauser C - Paul Sacks

5

COMING SOON

Museum Movie Night



Friday, July 11
6:30 PM - Thomson Hall



THE GLENN MILLER STORY

Starring

James Stewart and June Allyson.

This is the biography of Bandleader Glenn Miller from his beginnings to his death over the English Channel in December 1944, with a lot of his arrangements, partly in an authentic cast, including **Frances Langford, Louis Armstrong, Gene Krupa** and the **Modernaires**. Lots of WW II Aircraft, good Big Band music and a good story!

Color, 115 minutes, Released 1954

Movie is FREE

Hot Dog-Chips-Chili-popcorn available
for a **\$2.50 Donation**



Welcome to New Members

Lloyd Reeves & Elita Chaffin---Family Membership

Dennis & Marilyn Nobile----Life Membership

Changes in Membership

Jim Highland-----Life Membership

Kerry Langford-----Life Membership


Dan & Ann Westgard---Star Membership,
Thunderbolt Flight

Tazio Bucciarelli---Star Membership,
Thunderbolt Flight

Please join me in congratulating these folks!
Don Peckinpugh, Membership Chairman

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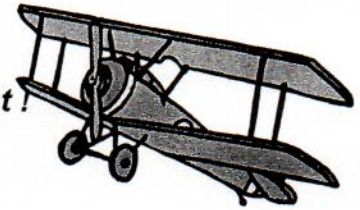


Open 6 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Breakfast & Lunch
(Served all day)



THE FLIER

Welcome to your Library, The History of Flight!



Great News! The library will be open Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., Your librarian, Charmaine Peckinpaugh and husband, Don Peckinpaugh, have pulled the early hour shift of 10:00 a.m. and the afternoons will be ably attended by Librarian Assistants: Bob Kelly, Ed Morrison, Pam Morrison, Wayne Rice and Mary McKenzie-Kelly at a later date.

I am hoping we will receive calls from our fellow members who will be eager to wear their – LIBRARIAN ASSISTANT'S BADGES, on their scheduled days. If the working numbers are two (2) hours per Saturday, approximately every sixth (6th) week, then I am sure that it will be a pleasure for all of the volunteers to make their assigned times. We now have airconditioning in the summer and heat in our cooler months. It's a great place to read a book and meet people.

I would enjoy seeing many **potential librarian assistants** at my first meeting in the **Library on Saturday, June 28, 2008, at 10:00 a.m.** Come and see what has been happening, what will be happening and why it is happening.

SEE YOU IN THE LIBRARY and KEEP'EM FLYING,

Charmaine Peckinpaugh,

Historical / Research Librarian

IMPORTANT!!

Check the **LABEL** on this newsletter. Do you have a **RED DOT** on it? If you do it means your membership must be renewed by the end of July. Contact Treasurer Rosemary Netto at 805-467-3521 ASAP to make renewal arrangements.!

If Rosemary has not heard from you this will be your **LAST** newsletter and you will no longer enjoy the benefits of membership in the Estrella Warbird Museum.



Gift Shop Update

Thank you to All the Gift Shop Volunteers -- you have been awesome over the past month,- doing Gift Shop inventory, changing prices on old stock, putting price tags on new Gift Shop items, and a special thanks to all who have done restocking. At our June 20 Gift Shop meeting the Gift Shop welcomed 4 new Volunteers to the Staff:

Bob Chambers, Sandy Stenstrom, Norene Ragland, and Virginia Umphrey.

Welcome and Thank You, One & All for being part of this wonderful group. We are always happy to accept more volunteers to work in the Gift Shop, just call Jackie.

We invite all our members and guests to come in and check out the Gift shop. There are always new things arriving.

Jackie Brooks, Phone: 703-0028
Gift Shop Manager

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Admission to Museum Increases

The sharp increase in the price of fuel has affected our Museum. Our utility bills for electricity and natural gas have gone up and the cost of gasoline for our tugs and lawn mower has gone up as well. We have a new price structure effective immediately:

ADULTS.....\$6.00

6 YEARS TO 12 YEARS....\$5.00

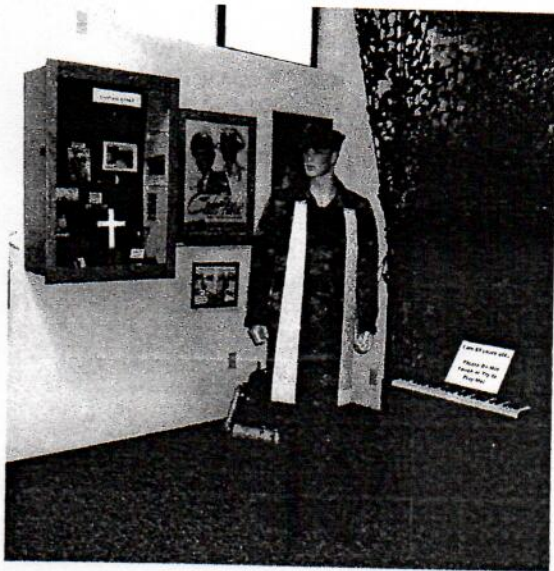
KIDS UNDER 6....FREE

EWM MEMBERS
and 1 guest FREE

ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY
with White ID Card...FREE

Museum Musings.....by Betty Miller

New Exhibit at Freedom Hall



Shown above is the new **Chaplains Exhibit** which features a Chaplains field uniform from the Vietnam-era. CMDR Bill Houston donated his Chaplain's Kit (featured in the case beside the mannequin) his field uniform and stole. Bill was in the US Navy, but was attached to a USMC unit during both tours in Vietnam. We also have some very interesting details about the Armed Services Chaplains, including the "Four Chaplains" who lost their lives when their ship, the MST Dorchester, was torpedoed in 1944 and they gave up their life jackets to save others.

New Firearm Exhibit Ready to Open. The East wall of Freedom Hall has a new exhibit of military firearms from the Civil War through WW II. This is a fine representation of arms from the US, Britain, Germany, Italy, Russia, and Japan. Many are on loan to the Museum and I am sure those of you who are gun aficionados as well as those who may not know a rifle from a shotgun will find them interesting.

Our visitor counts are up

We don't have all of June in as of this writing, but our May 2008 visitors (including group tours, and children) numbered **523**. This is up from May of 2007 and it looks like June will be even better.

DOCENT DOINGS

We have some new Docents. Please join Randy Majewski, your Docent Coordinator, and I in welcoming the following:

Harald Bauer
Bob Chambers
Bruce Hebron
Bill Pluma
Russ Surber (starts in September)

They have completed initial training and are being worked into the July & August schedules.

We would be more than happy to have *more* folks volunteer. Its fun, you meet some great folks and it really is not hard!

We will provide training and a Docent to help you out on your first shifts. Please call **Betty Miller** at 466-1212 today!

Come visit *your* Museum, remember All Members are **FREE**, Your Guests are welcome, but will be charged the normal fee. (Life and Star Members should check with Don Peckinpaugh for info on Guest benefits.)

See you at the Museum!

Betty Miller - 471-0472

MUSEUM HOURS

Friday 10 am to 4 pm
Saturday 10 am to 4 pm
Sunday 12 noon to 4 pm

Curator's Office Hours:

Tuesday and Wednesday *
9:30 am - 2:00

(* subject to appointments)

Please call **FIRST** and talk to the Curators if you wish to donate an item

Getting to Know Your

Committee Chairs

Questions? Suggestions?
Please give us a call!

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

Docent Coordinator

Randy Majewski-237-1054

Exhibit Hall Curators

Betty Miller - 471-0472
Carol Weiss - 239-2637

Facility Rental

Peter Visel - 237-2661

Freedom Flight

Obbie Atkinson - 238-9212

Gift Shop

Jackie Brooks - 462-8141

Ground Equipment

John Everett- 237-9523

Grounds

Gary Corippo - 712-1222

Insurance

Brian Webster - 237-0666
Ian Webster - 237-0666

Membership

Don Peckinpaugh
239-9919

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Margi & Harald Bauer
466-4440

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Dick Reddick - 238-2316

Photographer

Wally Engle - 227-0245

Public Information Officer

Dick Reddick - 238-2316

Programs

George Marrett - 466-7640

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Ron Brooks - 462-8141

Tours & Groups

Betty Miller - 471-0472

Web Master

Peter Visel - 423-6409

