

The Estrella Warbird Museum

The Eagle

Honoring the Past—Inspiring the Future

Volume 14, Number ¹⁰ Paso Robles, California—October 2009



Vol 14 XX-10



The lucky folk who took advantage of the Museum's trip to the Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley on September 8th gather in front of Marine One before beginning their guided tour. For the full story on the trip see page 4.

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Words to Live By from the Aviation Dictionary
 Airspeed: Speed of an airplane. Deduct 25% when listening to
 a Navy pilot.



“Thoughts From the Flight Line”

Musings by the President, Peter Visel



I love the autumn time of the year. It's my favorite season. My wife likes it too. I can no longer give an excuse that it's too hot to accomplish something! Growing up back east, I enjoyed the changing of the seasons as the green leaves would turn gold or red. I loved it. Unfortunately, at my house, it's green, light green, then green again. But, this is also the time of the year to look back and see what roots have really taken hold from the spring and summer. Our museum is no different!

It has indeed been my honor to work with your board of directors. You should be proud of them. Most pull double or triple duty, not just as a director, but also as docents, program managers, treasurer, restoration, etc. In light of all this, they still manage to make things happen behind the scenes, working together to insure the growth and future of the Estrella Warbirds Museum. Look around, and you will see many changes that have transpired or are in the workings. This past month, we opened the Woodland Building, which has turned out to be a wonderful success, drawing people into the museum that have never set foot across our threshold previously. Not only has it turned out better than expected, the original concept has been expanded to include more vehicles and displays. A grand opening is already being planned and scheduled along with WarBirds, Wings & Wheels II, coming in May 2010.

Glen Thomson and the Gooney Bird Group have finished a 26 month restoration of the C-47, "Betsy's Biscuit Bomber." The first day it flew, we had numerous new visitors to the museum who saw her fly over the city and they just had to come out to see this grand old bird! The Ryan Firebee has finished restoration and proudly sits on display with its bright new red coat while it awaits the painting of a new acquisition, the Fouga Magister.

This week, Gary Corippo will lead a team down to Mojave to retrieve portions of a new aircraft, something different, a Swedish supersonic fighter jet, which will soon call Estrella Warbirds Museum, home. Something started last February is now taking shape in the Brooks Building. Before the next dinner, you should be able to view a new and rather extensive munitions display, which will highlight many of the munitions used during World War II.

But it is not just new artifact displays or new aircraft. During October, we will be installing a state of the art security system, which, unfortunately is a necessity as the museum continues to grow and acquire priceless artifacts of times gone by. We continue to abide by the rule, nothing is installed or built unless it has been paid for. A world of thanks goes out to those whom have assisted financially with their generous donations allowing us to continue to move forward.

But that's not all! During the past month, your board of directors has worked unselfishly together, to establish written guidelines and re-enforce old ones, to insure that the 501(c)3 non-profit status of the museum stays intact as we continue to preserve the artifacts of the past for the benefit of current and future generations. You should be proud of them. I am! They do good work!

Welcome Aboard to our New Members for September

Dr. Rex Thornhill: Sponsor Gary Corippo
Blake & Paula Campbell-Taylor—Graveyard Vineyards: Sponsor Robert Miller
Patrick Yancey & Cheryl Smith, Sustaining
Oscar & Jeanne Bayer
Dennis & Roxana Taylor
Matt Masia, STAR member (5 years)
Scott & Bobbie Stelzle, Life Members

Total Membership as of September 21—498 - Bob Kelly, Membership Chair



**October 7 Program— Charles (Norm) Stevens
will talk about his experiences as a B-17
bombardier in the 8th Air Force during WWII.
By George Marrett, Program Chairman**

Charles N. (Norm) Stevens will be our guest speaker on October 7th. He is the author of *An Innocent at Polebrook*. Norm grew up in Inglewood, California. At 18 he joined the Army Air Corps, serving during World War II from April 1943 until October 1946. He flew as a bombardier on a B-17 in the 8th Air Force, 351st Bomb Group, at Polebrook, England during the summer and fall of 1944. His tour of duty consisted of 34 bombing missions over Germany and occupied France, Belgium and Holland. He is a recipient of the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal.

Following the war he graduated from UCLA with a bachelor's degree in psychology. He was a teacher in secondary schools for 32 years, primarily in Montebello, California. His subjects were science and, after earning a master's degree in English at California State College at Los Angeles, English and American Literature.

His new book, *The Innocent Cadet* about his training before going overseas into combat has recently been published.

Norm lives with his wife, Dolores Seidman, in Monterey Park, California where they have resided for 37 years. Both books, *An Innocent at Polebrook* and *The Innocent Cadet* will be available for sale and signing both before and after the meeting for \$15 each.

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Ed Morrison
Glen Thomson

Dinner Menu
Wednesday, October 7, 2009

Santa Maria Style BBQ
Baked Beans
Green Vegetable
French Bread
Chocolate Mousse
Ice Tea & Coffee
No Host Bar

\$15.00 Per Person

RESERVATIONS PLEASE

Call 467-3521

By NOON Tuesday, October 6

Thank You

Social Hour 6pm-7pm

Dinner & Program Follows

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Estrella Warbird Members Board Air Force One!



EWM members Hal Bauer and wife Margi with Air Force One. Hal was an occasional flyer on Air Force One tail number 27000 while on assignment with UPI during the Nixon Administration.

On September 8th fifty-five Estrella Warbird Members and guests toured the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library. After arriving our group enjoyed lunch catered by the Reagan Country Café with Air Force One perched high overhead.

The Presidential Library is too large to take in everything during one quick visit but we were able to hit the high points including a walk through Air Force One that served seven U.S. Presidents. The reproduction of the Oval Office which is exact in detail and size of the original was also among the highlights of our tour. Congratulations to EWM members Tracy Mayfield,

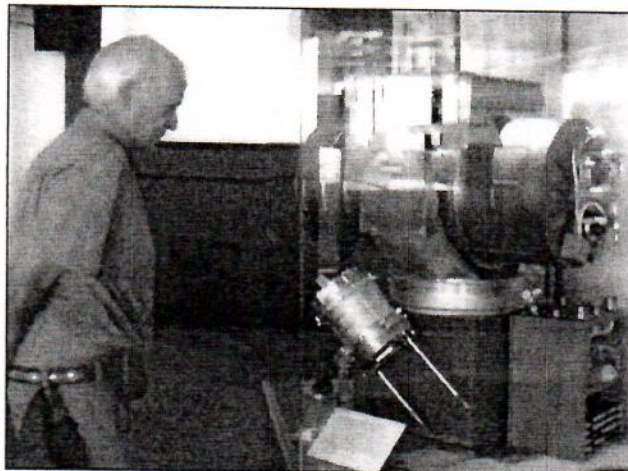
Meridith Love, and Nancy Spizer who were the winners of the door prize drawings we held en-route to the Presidential Library.

It is always a great experience traveling with EWM members. I look forward to our next adventure and will be researching a new destination for us to visit.

The Estrella Warbird Museum

*"Honoring the Past
Inspiring the Future"*

George Taylor §
Rosemary Netto



EWM member and retired CEO of Hughes Aircraft Ken Richardson takes a look at familiar space hardware from the Reagan era "Star Wars" program developed by Hughes Aircraft.

NEWS FROM THE "HIGH FLIER", YOUR MUSEUM LIBRARY

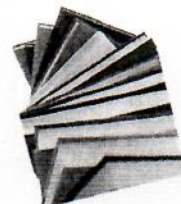


The members of The Estrella Warbird Museum are invited to come up and visit – look – pick-up – inspect and hopefully check out one or more of our over 4000 books available for a two week check-out period. The Library is opened each Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Don't forget that our Assistant Librarian, Marcia Rice, will be in the Library on the first Wednesday of each month, the scheduled monthly meeting / dinner night for your convenience, between 6:00 p.m. and 6:45 p.m.

Hope to see our members taking advantage of the excellent selections that are here ready to be taken home for your enjoyment. Don't forget that we have an excellent selection in our DVD and VCRs section, for your viewing in the Library. Plus we have 1001 magazines available for a checking-out period of two weeks. SEE YOU IN YOUR LIBRARY!!!!

Keep'm flying, Charmaine Peckinpaugh, Research Librarian





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The Official Medal of Honor Citation for Staff Sergeant Jared Monti



For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty:



Staff Sergeant Jared C. Monti distinguished himself by acts of gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty while serving as a team leader with Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 3d Squadron, 71st Cavalry Regiment, 3d Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, in connection with combat operations against an armed enemy in Nuristan Province, Afghanistan, on June 21, 2006.

On June 21, 2006, while Staff Sergeant Monti was leading a mission aimed at gathering intelligence and directing fire against the enemy, his 16-man patrol was attacked by as many as 50 enemy fighters. On the verge of being overrun, Staff Sergeant Monti quickly directed his men to set up a defensive position behind a rock formation. He then called for indirect fire support, accurately targeting the rounds upon the enemy who had closed to within 50 meters of his position. While still directing fire, Staff Sergeant Monti personally engaged the enemy with his rifle and a grenade, successfully disrupting an attempt to flank his patrol. Staff Sergeant Monti then realized that one of his Soldiers was lying wounded in the open ground between the advancing enemy and the patrol's position. With complete disregard for his own safety, Staff Sergeant Monti twice attempted to move from behind the cover of the rocks into the face of relentless enemy fire to rescue his fallen comrade. Determined not to leave his Soldier, Staff Sergeant Monti made a third attempt to cross open terrain through intense enemy fire. On this final attempt, he was mortally wounded, sacrificing his own life in an effort to save his fellow Soldier.

Staff Sergeant Monti's selfless acts of heroism inspired his patrol to fight off the larger enemy force. Staff Sergeant Monti's immeasurable courage and uncommon valor are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 3rd Squadron, 71st Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, and the United States Army.

(Editorial Note: We thought you would want to read about this brave man who was recently honored by the Nation.)

A New Way to Keep Up-To-Date On Estrella Warbird Museum News

Want to find out what's going on? Heard someone mention something about an event at the Museum but you're not sure what was said? Your webmaster has added a new page to the Estrella Warbird Museum website that can answer any question you might have about what's going on at the Museum. In fact, regular visits to the website will keep you better informed on Museum activities. Check out what's new at:

 <http://www.ewarbirds.org/currentevents.html> 



MUSEUM MUSING

By Betty Miller

The Estrella Warbird Museum continues to receive some extraordinary artifact donations. The most recent include a large collection of WW II Armed Forces Radio transcription discs and the unique 1930's professional turntable to play them on, plus a collection of photos from a CBI pilot who flew many types of aircraft during his service in WWII.

The recording were valued at \$1100 to \$1500 a few years ago and include speeches from President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Abbott and Costello in "Whose on First", as well as several bands and entertainers from 1940-1945. The discs are 24" in diameter and require a special non-metal needle, so we are researching sources to obtain some so that we can take the best of the collection and put them on CD's for preservation. **Ron Brooks** will be working on the professional turntable to get it back in shape.

Storage of artifacts is always an issue and we will be continuing to rotate items a couple of times a year to be able to display many of these unique items. Like most museums, we will never have enough space to display everything we have in our collection, but the positive side to this is the fact that we always have "new" items on display that people who visited six months ago have never seen before. Many museums have things in storage that have been there for 30+ years.

Since I will be incapacitated for a period following foot surgery September 21, I would ask all would-be Donors to complete a "Temporary Custody Receipt" and call me at home for instruction on what to do with items that they wish to have the Museum consider for acceptance.



The Museum Gift Shop Update

A Great Place to Buy Gifts for Family and Friends

The weekend of Airport Day 2009 was a great success for Gift Shop activity and Museum visitation. Many Thanks to the support of Margi Bauer, Linda & Arnold Hermansen, Jill Keezer, Sandy Stenstrom, Betsy Thomson, Dave Brooks, Ron Brooks, and Gary Woodall, as well as to everyone else who helped set up and take down our booth. It's true, "Many Hands indeed Made Quick Work!"

The Gift Shop has several new items on display including assorted aircraft T-shirts, 'pull back' helicopters and fighters, both vintage and modern, as well as a limited number of attractive collector coins. "**Reduced to Clear**" Items: youth, ladies & other adult t-shirts.

We always welcome anyone who would like to join our great group of workers. Working in the Gift Shop & Museum is a very enjoyable way to show your support. We need volunteers for shifts on Fridays or Saturdays 10am to 1pm and 1pm to 4pm, and on Sundays 12 noon to 4pm. For more information contact anyone in the Gift Shop or give the Gift Shop Manager Jackie a call at 703-0038



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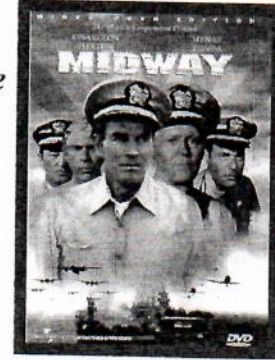
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Ian Webster can be
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October 8—Movie Night

6:00 PM—Pizza or Hot Dogs — 6:30 PM—Movie Time!



The Battle of Midway

STARRING: Charlton Heston, Hal Holbrook,
Robert Wagner, and Henry Fonda
Directed by Jack Smight

Six months after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, the U.S. Navy still has not fully recovered from the losses it suffered. The Americans send their last three aircraft carriers (one badly damaged) to defend the island of Midway. The Japanese are supremely confident of victory, but they are unaware that US Navy intelligence has cracked the Imperial Navy's codes, allowing the US to deploy aircraft carriers to maximum counteroffensive effect. One of the best war movies ever made.

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Rosemary Netto—467-3521

City Liaison

Chuck Miller—466-1212

Decorating

Judy Corippo—238-2090

Docent Coordinator

Randy Majewski—237-2637

Exhibit Hall Curators

Betty Miller—471-0472

Carol Weiss—239-2637

Facility Rental

Peter Visel—237-2661

Freedom Flight

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Bob Kelly—462-9126

Gift Shop

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Ground Equipment

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Dave Geiger—239-1598

Grounds

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Insurance

Brian Webster—237-0666

Ian Webster—237-0666

Membership

Bob Kelly—462-9128

Movie Night Directors

Margi & Harald Bauer—466-4440

Newsletter

Betty Miller—471-0472

Russ Surber—238-3150

Photographer

Wally Engle—227-0345

Public Information Officer

Sue Dollemore—dollymore@aol.com

Programs

George Marrett—466-7640

Research Librarian

Charmaine Peckinpaugh—239-9919

Site Maintenance

Ron Brooks—462-8141

Group Tours

Betty Miller—471-0472

Web Master

Peter Visel—423-6409

WEB MASTER ASSISTANT NEEDED

The Museum is in need of someone who can share responsibility for maintaining the Museum's website. The job requires considerable computer skill and experience with building and maintaining web sites. If you have these skills and have been thinking about volunteering some time to the Museum, this could be a match made in heaven. Long hours, no pay, great prestige, and everyone's thanks and appreciation.

Call Peter Visel at 423-6409 or email him at peterd@ewarbirds.org.



DOCENT DOINGS

By Betty Miller

We welcome George Taylor back on the Docent List and currently have two more folks who will be going through Docent Training in October. If you are interested in supporting *your* Museum, I would be happy to talk to you and schedule training for you! We have so many exciting things happening and I know you will never get bored! Call today at 466-1212.

We have some Group Tours scheduled during the next two months and Group Tour Docents, Charmaine Peckinpaugh, Don Peckinpaugh, Chuck Miller, Russ Surber and Gary Corippo will be covering these.

Our goal is to have two Docents on the Saturday shifts so that we can cover all the new buildings and welcome our visitors.



The photograph shows a gathering of the Museum's docents for a training session that took place several months ago. The docents make the Museum possible because without their willingness to donate their time and energy we could not be open to the public. Tell them thanks!



Estrella Warbird Museum
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**Trojans & Hoovers Fly-In
October 8-11, 2009**

It's that time of year again and, as the Museum has for the past several years, it is hosting a Fly-In for T-28s and L-39s in mid-October. The Fly-In takes a lot of work and anybody wishing to help out with ground crew or kitchen duties should contact Gary Corippo at 238-2090 as soon as possible. You'll have fun and be part of something truly special.



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