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The Estrella Warbirds Museum

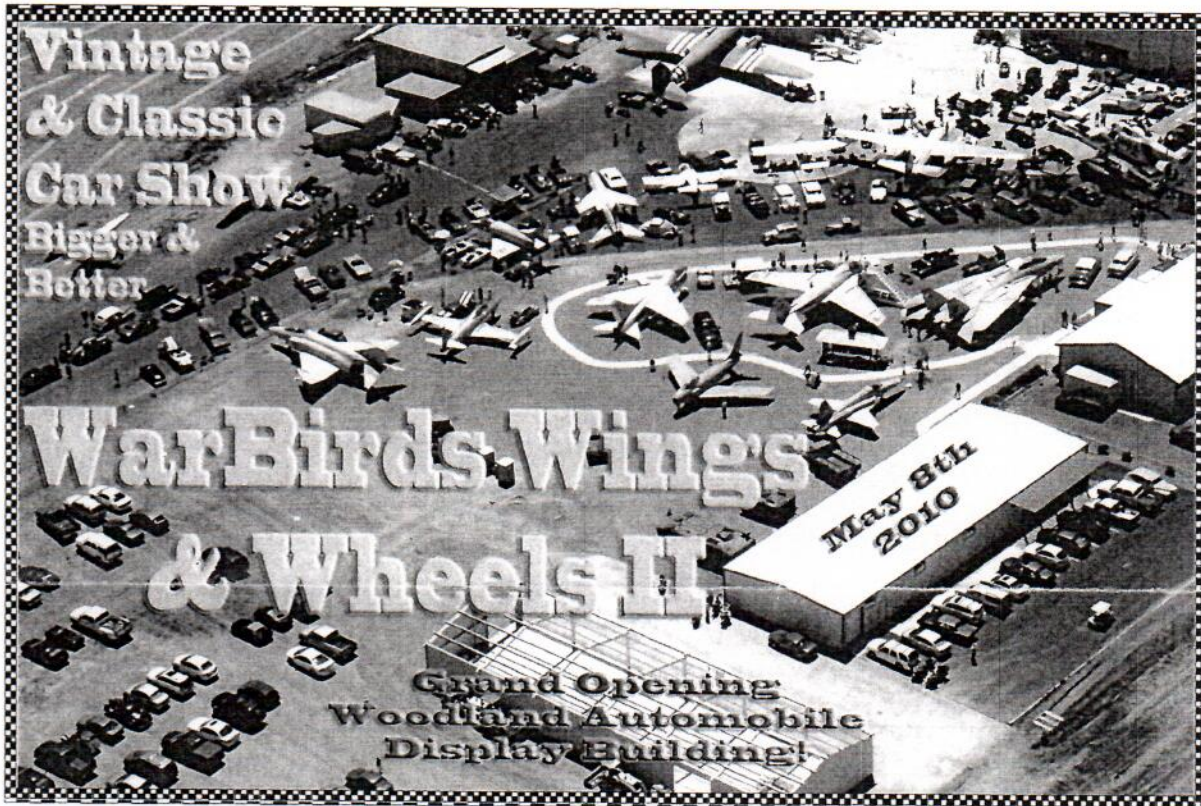
The Eagle

Honoring the Past—Inspiring the Future

Volume 15, Number 5—Paso Robles, California—May 2010



VOL: XX1-05



On May 8th the Estrella Warbirds Museum will host *Warbirds, Wings, & Wheels 2*, the follow-up to the very successful car show the Museum sponsored last year. Pictured here is last year's event. We expect this year's Show to be even bigger, with more cars and more visitors. We still need volunteers so please, if you are interested, visit the EWM website and sign-up. You won't regret it!

Features

Thoughts from the Flight Line: Musings by the President	2
Welcome to New EWM Members	2
Dinner Speaker: Al Schade: The Pacific War—Viewed from an SDB	3
The Menu: Larry Eastwood's May Menu	3
Movie of the Month: The Hunt for Red October	4
Automobile Racing Quiz	4
Warbirds, Wings, and Wheels 2 Car Show Poster & Call for Volunteers	6
Museum Musings, Docent Doings, & Gift Shop Gossip	9
Coming Evnets at the EWM	11
Answers to the Auto Racing Quiz	11

Words to Live By from the Old Curmudgeon

The strength of the turbulence is directly proportional to the temperature of your coffee.— *Gunter's Second Law of Air Travel*

①



**"Thoughts From the Flight Line"
Musings by the President, Peter Visel**

During the past month, the Estrella Warbirds Museum was notified that we would be receiving several "official" recognitions in the near future. The first is that the Museum will be recognized as an official "Purple Heart Trail" site along Highway 101. The purpose of the Purple Heart Trail is to create a symbolic and honorary system of roads, highways, bridges, and other monuments that give tribute to the men and women who have been awarded the Purple Heart medal. San Luis Obispo County is home to over 26,000 military veterans. Tim Haley, a Vietnam Veteran from Atascadero, has been leading the effort to get Purple Heart Trail signs up on the Central Coast and was successful with enlisting Assemblyman Sam Blakeslee, to sponsor legislation which designates 115 mile stretch through parts of San Ardo south to Los Olivos. Camp Roberts, Estrella Warbirds Museum and the Atascadero Veterans Memorial are three locally recognized monuments noted along the Purple Heart Trail.

At 11 a.m., May 1st, at the entrance to Freedom Hall, the California Native Sons of the Golden West, will hold a ceremony recognizing the Estrella Warbirds Museum as a site known for preserving historical traditions and memorabilia within the state of California. Long before the state of California began preserving historical sites, in 1880s, the Native Sons of the Golden West had begun campaigns to save disintegrating historical buildings and icons around the state. It is indeed an honor and a humbling experience to receive these two designations.

Not to be out-done, the United States Army this past month formally notified the undersigned that they had officially recognized and designated the Estrella Warbirds Museum as an official site to receive excess and/or historical items from the US Army. This designation has been sought after for many years and comes only after the persistence of several members working behind the scenes in support of your museum. Congratulation to Betty Miller and Gary Corippo for helping to secure this designation!

Springtime brings many new activities! April 24th and 25th will see about 16 hot air balloons launched from the museum grounds. EWM member Jeff Quaid has organized a new event for this year, the Texan and Trojan Spring Round-Up held April 29th to May 1st. This event brings over a dozen historical AT6 and T-28 planes to the skies above Paso Robles. We know you will enjoy this outstanding event!

May 8th brings us the 2d Warbirds Wings and Wheels event. This year, we will be celebrating the grand opening of the Woodland Automobile Display Building with celebrity guest Parnelli Jones. The event features over 200 pristine classic automobiles among the warbirds along with an exceptional collection of historical racing automobiles. Also joining the display will be the recent National Championship Tractor Pull vehicles from Cal Poly. These awesome super-charged tractors will be on display. Plan on finding plenty of vendors, great food, music, awards, a USO event, and all-around family fun day during this Open House!

It has been amazing to watch the museum grow over the past several years. There are always new faces, new sites to see, new displays and plenty of activities. None of this could happen without a great group of volunteers having fun and working together for a common cause! If you are not involved, maybe its time you could spare a few hours each month to get to know some new friends? We would love to welcome you!

Regards,
Peter D. Visel
President, Estrella Warbirds Museum
www.ewarbirds.org
cell 805 423-6409

Welcome to our New Members

Total Membership—479

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Fred Abitia & Amber Emerson, Atascadero ★ Mike Fricke, Moorpark ★ Ronald L. Janney, Templeton ★ Robert Lewis, Los Osos ★ Ed Patague, Los Osos ★ Ron & Cathy Sexton, San Luis Obispo ★ Walter & Doris Stacy, Cambria ★ Horst Wintermeyer, Paso Robles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Joe Botts, Templeton ★ Joseph & Wanda Gabele, Paso Robles ★ Ken Lehr, Arroyo Grande ★ Vern McCaughan, Atascadero ★ Elizabeth Root, Paso Robles ★ Nancy Spitzer, Atascadero ★ Meredith & Jan Voboril, San Miguel
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2



May 5 Program— Al Schade
The Pacific War—The View from a Douglas SBD
George Marrett, Program Chairman

We are fortunate to have as a member and former board member, one of the top master aircraft mechanics in the nation, Al Schade. Al has had several remarkable careers in aviation for more than 60-years — and that plural is intentional. For over 50 years Al has carried an A&P license, Ground Instructor and Commercial Flight Instructor licenses with instrument and multi-engine ratings in some 50 types of aircraft. He has also served our US military in combat in two wars and been an engineer in aerospace for 32-years.

Al enlisted in the Marine Corps shortly after the bombing of Pearl Harbor and served four years as an aerial gunner and plane captain on the Douglas SBD “Dauntless” aircraft aboard the USS Coral Sea. Assigned to the 1st Marine Air Wings, his first duty was to repair SBDs that had been damaged in the Battle of Midway. Al was discharged from the Marine Corps in 1946. During the years 1946 to 1948, Al flew charter for Kerrville Flying Service in Texas and taught flying. In 1948 Al became a business owner at the Orange County Airport buying surplus military aircraft and converting them for general aviation. He also continued to teach flying. When general aviation took a nosedive in 1950, the business folded and he hired on with North American Aviation. In August 1950 he was recalled into the Marine Corps and spent a year in combat as a fire-team leader in Korea.

In September 1951, Al returned to North American Aviation, Space Division, where he served for 32-years as an engineer in space research and development. During this time, Al was a project engineer on a number of space programs: Navajo, Apollo, Apollo-Soyuz, and the Space Shuttle. He was the responsible project engineer on the Challenger spacecraft, a 10-year exercise, retiring in January 1982. Al continues to fly and repair and refurbish aircraft for our museum. Al will speak about his military service in World War II.

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Dinner Menu
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Social Hour 6pm-7pm

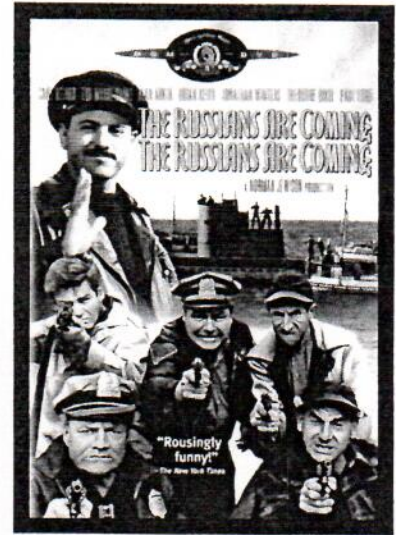
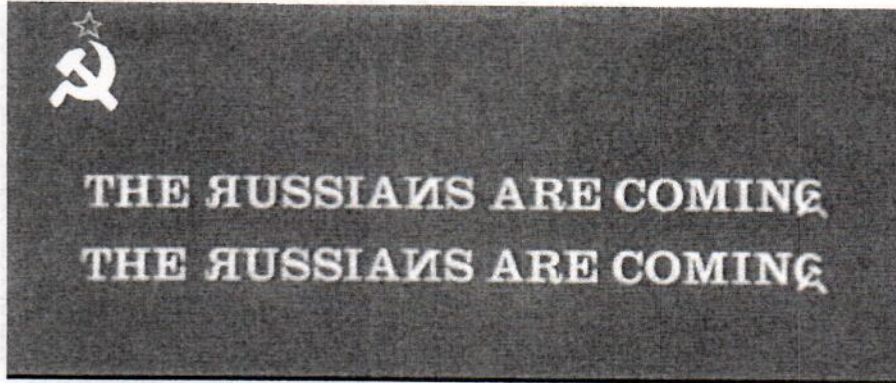


Movie Nite !

Wednesday - May 12

6:00pm - Pizza & Popcorn

6:30pm - Movie Time



STARRING: Alan Arkin, Brian Kieth,



A Russian submarine draws too close to the New England coast when its captain wants to take a good look at America and runs aground. Not to risk an embarrassing international incident, the captain sends a landing party ashore to find a motor launch to free the submarine. The Russians attempts to blend in with the New England locals makes for a funny script. Like in the old days - a fun nite at the movies!

★7 of 10★'s IMDB (1966 - 126 min.)

AUTOMOBILE RACING QUIZ

We'll take a break from our usual quiz on motion pictures for a question about automobile racing and the world's greatest race, the Indianapolis 500. Parnelli Jones, who will be the Museum's Celebrity Guest next month for the Warbirds, Wheels, and Wings 2 Auto Show, won the 1963 Indy 500 driving the Agajanian Willard Battery Special, a Watson roadster powered by a 4-cylinder Offy. What was the last year a roadster won the 500, who drove it, and what was it called?



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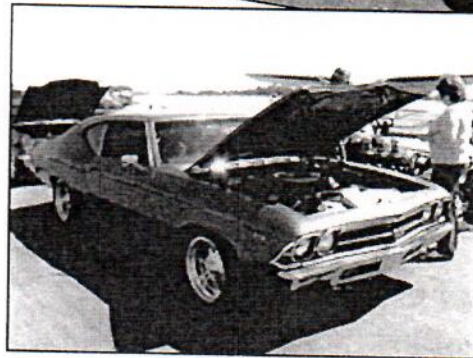
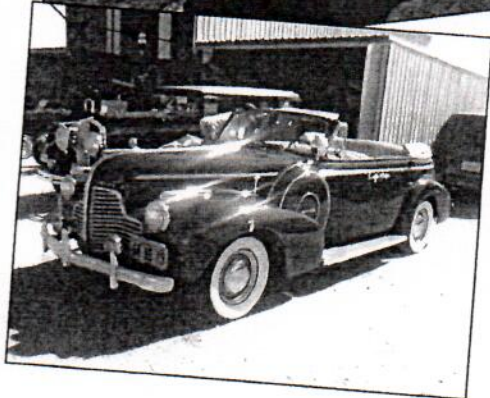
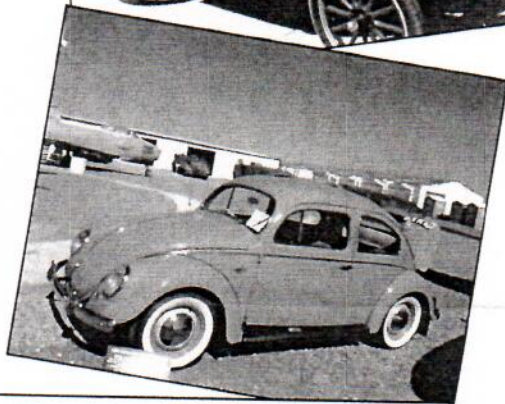
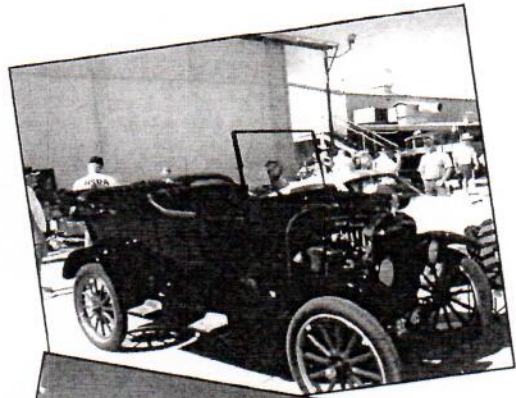
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**We still need Volunteers to help make the
War55birds, Wings, and Wheels2 Car Show**

A Success. Visit the EWM Website at

⇒ <http://www.ewarbirds.org/www2.html> ⇐

And Sign-Up to Help.



**Scenes from the 2009 Warbirds, Wings, & Wheels
Car Show. Be sure to tell your friends.**

**The Coordinators of the Warbirds, Wings, and Wheels2 Event are
actively seeking donated items for the Raffle and Silent Auction.**

**If you would like to donate an item, please contact Jim Stainbrook at
239-4047 or 610-5255.**



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MUSEUM MUSINGS & DOCENT DOINGS

By Betty Miller, Museum Curator

The Museum continues to improve and grow thanks to the hard work of many dedicated volunteers. An organization such as ours is only as good as its volunteers and we are lucky to have some of the best of the best!

Come into Freedom Hall and check out a new pictorial exhibit of Amelia Earhart. Our thanks to member **June Cunningham** for providing some unique black and white copies of photos taken during 1936-1937 of Amelia Earhart. Amelia visited Cal Poly in 1935 and 1936 to have her aircraft worked on by students and professors from the aeronautical department. Luckily pictures were taken at Cal Poly to record her visit.

We have some great additions to our WW I uniform display, including that of a French soldier. Docent **John Gramentine** has put some unique uniforms, armament and medals on loan to the Museum from his personal collection. Come visit and check this out!

Stroll over by the WW II era British phone booth and see a wonderful 1943 BSA British Army messenger's motorcycle. This is on loan from **Sammy Nemeth** and her family.

The Brooks Building has a great collection of military radios from WW II thru Vietnam that are now operational. We hope to have some of the local Radio Ham operators actually operating these at least one day a month so you can not only see but hear communications using communication artifacts over 65 years old! **Ron Brooks** is not only a talented mechanic, electrical guru, "go to guy", but a Ham Radio Operator as well and has been instrumental in putting this together.



Mike Levine works on the F-18 simulator.

The F-18 Simulator continues to be a draw for would-be pilots. We have added many new faces to our group of Sim Operators. These are dedicated folks who really help make the Estrella Warbird Museum a "must see" place to visit. Say hello to **Jim Herman, Chuck Keezer, Mike Levine, Tom Salmon, Bob Speilman** and **Peter Visel**. The F-18 simulator came to us from Lemoore NAS after many years of hard use. Chuck Keezer and Mike Levine recently took on the job of cleaning up the unit and streamlining it. Mike also made new seat covers and gave it a new paint touch-up, insignia, unit logo and it looks great.

The Woodland Auto Display continues to grow and attract folks from all over the United States and abroad. There is a colorful display of jackets from car races all over that adds to the excitement of this new addition. If you have not yet made it out to see this you have missed a wonderful experience! **Dick Woodland** and **Claudia** keep coming up with new ideas to really make this a must-see. **Robert Woodland** has been kept busy hauling in new cars and rearranging vehicles to make room for new additions.

Thanks to Aircraft Acquisitions Officer **Gary Corippo** we have new aircraft on site and more in line to come in.


Visit your Museum soon and see what has been happening during the last month!

-- GIFT SHOP GOSSIP --


Just to remind, we're open from 5:45 to 6:45 PM every month before the Dinner Meetings and we're a great place to bring your guests; and remember, you and your guests visit the Museum for free. We continue still need volunteers to work in the Gift Shop on Fridays and weekends. If you are interested in giving some time to help support your Museum please give me a call at 227-0440 and I'll get back to you as soon as I can, I promise.

Jackie Brooks, Gift Shop Mgr.

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Coming Events

April 30-May 1 — AT-6 Texans & T-28 Trojans Spring Round-up Fly-In at EWM. If you would like to lend a hand and help provide ground support contact Jeff Quaid at 805 423-8520.

May 8 — The Second Annual Warbirds, Wings, & Wheels 2 Car Show at the EWM. We need lots volunteers to help make this event the success it was last year. Contact Peter Visel if you can help out or sign-up on the EWM website at:

“<http://www.ewarbirds.org/CarShow/volunteers.html>”.

May 12 — Movie Night at the Museum. Admission is free, popcorn & pizza at reasonable prices!

May 30 — Memorial Day. Today is a great time to say “Thank You” to a veteran or to someone on Active Duty.



AUTOMOBILE RACING QUIZ THE ANSWERS

Another great name in American automobile racing drove the last roadster to victory at Indianapolis in 1964, the year after Parnelli Jones' win. For the driver, A. J. Foyt, this would be the second of ultimately four victories in the 500, and like Parnelli, he drove a Watson roadster, this time the Sheraton/Thompson Special powered by the then dominate Offenhauser engine, which ironically would never win again at the Brickyard.

The following year, 1965, one of the greatest drivers who ever lived, Scotland's Jimmy Clark, drove a rear-engined Lotus/Ford to victory and inaugurated the era of rear-engined cars that continues to dominate open-wheeled racing around the world. But, for those of us who remember those sleek Indy roadsters, they continue to be the most beautiful racing cars ever built. And for those of you who don't follow open-wheel racing, visit Don Woodland's display to see some examples of a by-gone but greatly missed era of American racing. Thanks, Don, for keeping the legend alive!



Estrella Warbird Museum
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4/2010



The Willard Battery Special, the car the EWM's Celebrity Guest for this year's Car Show, Parnelli Jones, drove to victory in the 1963 Indy 500.

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