

June 2011-May 2012
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Wayne Rice, Vice President
Carol Verstuyft, Secretary
Margi Bauer, Treasurer

(Directors)

Ron Boyte
Ron Brooks
Gary Corippo
John Couch
Dave Highland
Mike Kelley
Jerry Takier

Advisory Board
(Non-Voting Members)

Sue Dollemore
Mac Gleim
Howard Love
Betty Miller**
George Taylor**
Al Schade
Richard Woodland

Staff
Jeanne Thiebaud
(Museum Coordinator)

Peter Visel
(Webmaster)

**** Ex-Officio**

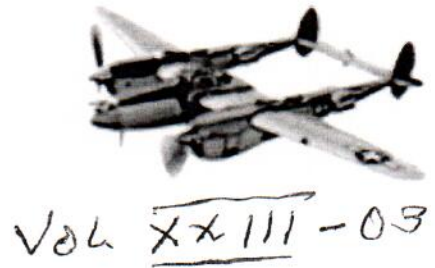
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Estrella Warbird Museum

The EAGLE

Honoring the Past—Inspiring the Future
 NEWSLETTER Vol. 17, Number 3, Paso Robles, California
 March 2012



The Prez Sez

By Estrella Warbird President

Rob Kinnear



We had three speakers at the February Dinner meeting from Fort Hunter Liggett. Major Mike Doyle, Sergeant-Major Kevin Neuman and Sandy Kennedy spoke to us about the changes happening at the fort and their efforts to establish tighter relations with the communities close to them, like Paso Robles. There are events at Fort Hunter Liggett that are open to the public and we will be working with them to establish mutual advertisements between us. Larry Eastwood's pork steak dinner was delicious. We also got to sing Happy Birthday to him.

The Hind Pavilion construction is underway and the concrete foundation and floor was poured. Unfortunately, we had half of our average January rain fall (5 inches) across the weekend starting January 20th, and although we put down protective plastic sheet around Freedom Hall and the Brooks building, the winds pushed water into both buildings. The good news is no artifacts were damaged and we have dried out the carpets in Freedom Hall. Additional steps have been taken to protect both buildings until the Hind Pavilion structure goes up.

The Board of Directors approved changes to our membership program at the February meeting. We are upgrading the quality of our membership cards and will make them plastic. We will use the heavy cardstock cards as temporary cards. We are also changing our annual renewal cycle to January through December. To do this, this year we will be sending out the renewals a little early and ask that annual members pay half of their dues, June to December, because they are paid through May. This fall we will send out annual renewals for the year of 2013. This will make member identification and handling renewals easier in the future.

In the last month we have had some changes in staff. Dave Geiger and John Everett decided to retire as managers of Ground Support Equipment and Vehicle Restoration respectively. They will both be coming out to the Museum, but have other things they want to do which will limit their time. James Messineo will be the Parade Manager, a new position spun off from the Restoration Department. Ron Boyte will be taking over as the Vehicle Restoration Manager and Kevin Hermansen is stepping into the position of Ground Support Equipment Manager.

We can always use help, and there is always something going on in the display halls and restoration shops. Come out and have some fun with us.

**Wednesday
March 7, 2012
MENU**



**Corn Beef and Cabbage
Yummy Mashed Potatoes
Corn Muffins
Green Salad
St. Patty's Dessert
Ice Tea & Coffee
\$17.00 pp
(Includes Tax & Gratuity)**

Reservations Please

By Monday March 5

**805-227-0440 press *2 when
asked & follow instructions**

or

Use Our Website Link :



www.ewarbirds.org/dinnerrsvp.html

Social Hour 6:00 PM

Dinner 7:00PM

MARCH PROGRAM

**MAJOR GENERAL JAMES T. WHITEHEAD, JR.
USAF, Ret.**

James Whitehead, Jr., the first African American Lockheed U-2 pilot, was born in Jersey City, New Jersey in 1934. From a young age he was surrounded by a strong military presence in his family including relatives who served in WWII. Coming of age, during the war, he remembered the Tuskegee Airmen who inspired his desire to fly.

He enlisted in the New Jersey Army National Guard in May 1952, serving until 1955. Later, he became the first African American graduate of the University of Illinois Air Force Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC). He graduated in June 1957 with a PE degree and commissioned a Second Lt. in the USAF.

Before leaving his home in New Jersey for officer training, he purchased a guide for blacks on travel across segregated America. He needed to know how to travel across the nation without incident. Segregation was still prevalent in parts of the United States.

He received his pilots wings in 1958 and was stationed in Louisiana. He was still subjected to the Jim Crow Laws, despite being an officer in the military.

His career progressed slowly. By 1965 he flew missions over Vietnam in support of Operation Rolling Thunder in his KC-135 Stratotanker. He became a member of the secret U-2 program and became the first African American U-2 pilot in 1966. This was short lived as another transfer to Louisiana was coming and the racial tensions in the 1960's south caused his resignation of his commission and the pursuit of flying commercial aircraft.

He took a job with TWA, but quickly rejoined the US Military in a new capacity with the Nebraska Air National Guard. He worked for TWA for 20 years, continuing to rise in rank in the Air National Guard. From 1990-93 he was the Assistant to the Director of the Air National Guard at the Pentagon. He also helped with the logistical deployment of Air National Guard units in the build up and execution of Operation Desert Storm in 1991. He created the Human Resources Quality Board to insure that people of color would have opportunities in both military and civilian aviation. Having endured his own hardships to break down barriers against people of color, he wanted to make sure he left the door open for others on his way out.

The General and his wife live in Bakersfield. He is very active in the Minter Field Air Museum at the Shafter Airport.

Gift Shop Gab

By Jackie Brooks



Come early and visit your museum Gift Shop before Dinner on Wednesday, March 7, 2012
We are open from 5:45 PM to 6:45 PM before the EWM Dinner for your shopping pleasure.

We are open Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 10am to 4 pm.

Show your MEMBERSHIP card to receive the admission discount.

Illness and Concern:

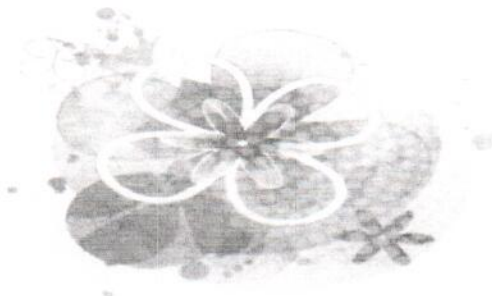
Al Schade is in the Acute Rehab Center in Arroyo Grande Hospital. If you would like to send a card, the address is: Arroyo Grande Community Hospital, 345 S. Halcyon Rd, Arroyo Grande, CA 93420. Phone #489-4261.

William Houston wants you to know that his wife, Mary, is now using a walker. You may send a card to P.O. Box 1659, Templeton, CA 93465.

Shirley Blomquist is home and in recovery. You can send her a card at: 838 St. Andrews Ct, Paso Robles, CA 93446.

Dick Griffith, long time museum member, WWII pilot, and past owner of our Stinson L-5E Sentinel, passed away in Templeton, CA on January 31st at the age of 88 years old. A Memorial service will be held at the First Presbyterian Church of Templeton on Saturday, February 25th. Call the church at (805) 434-1921 to determine exact time services will start as plans have not been finalized as of this writing.

To publish the names of members notify Judy Corippo, Health and Welfare, at 238-2090. Call her prior to the 15th of the month if you want your information shared in the newsletter. Thank you.



BLOOD DRIVE

The Estrella Warbird Museum will host its second **Obbie Atkinson Blood Drive** on Friday, May 4, 2012 from 2-6 PM in Thomson Hall.

A sign-up sheet for donors and volunteers to host the drive will be circulated starting with our February 2012 Dinner Meeting.

Check your calendars and mark the date.



Our first drive in 2011 was very successful, so let us all strive for a repeat in 2012.

Contact Wayne Rice at 805-423-8828 with questions or to sign up.

Who's WHO Contact Information

Acquisitions (Macro)

Gary Corippo 805-712-1222

Aircraft Restoration-

Al Schade 805-927-8303

Car Club Liaison

Howard Love 805-466-4483

Catering

Larry Eastwood 805-238-3988

Curators

Betty Miller 805-471-0472

John Gramentine

JohnGramentine@hotmail.com

Docent Coordinator

Jeanne Thiebaud 805-238-3897

Facilities Maintenance

Ron Brooks 805-462-8141

Facility Rental

Betty Miller 805-471-0472

Fund Generation

Gary Corippo 805-712-1222

Gift Shop Manager

Jackie Brooks 805-462-8141

Ground Support Equip.

Kevin Hermansen 805-550-6253

Grounds Maintenance

Yardvark The Weedeater

805-238-7354

Group Tours

Jeanne Thiebaud 805-235-0163

Health & Welfare

Judy Corippo 238-2090

Insurance

Bramar Associates 805-237-0666

Librarian

Charmaine Peckinpaugh

805-239-9919

Membership

Bob Kelly 805-462-9128

Museum Member Bus Tours

George Taylor 805-448-7402

Museum Vehicles

Ron Boyte 805-995-3054

Movie Night

Hal & Margi Bauer 805-466-4440

Newsletter

Penny Takier 805-239-5801

Programs

George Marrett 805-466-7640

Public Information Officer

Sue Dollemore 805-239-7675

Refreshments

Rick Brandt 226-8605

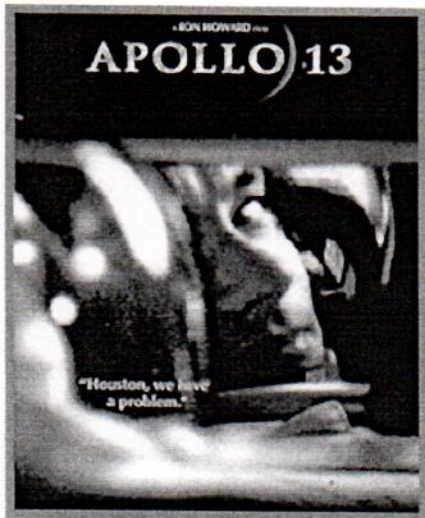
Rosalie Joyce 805-226-0376

Safety Officer

Terry Cagan

Webmaster

Peter Visel 309-831-5682



Movie Nite !

Wednesday, March 14th

6:00pm - Pizza & Popcorn

6:30pm - Movie Time

APOLLO 13

STARRING: Tom Hanks, Kevin Bacon, Ed Harris, Gary Sinise - DIRECTED BY: RON HOWARD

Based on the true story of the ill-fated 13th

Apollo mission bound for the moon.

Astronauts Lovell, Haise and Swigert are flying.

It's 1970, and America has already achieved the lunar landing goal, so there's little interest in this "routine" flight...until this, things go very wrong, & prospects of a safe return fade.



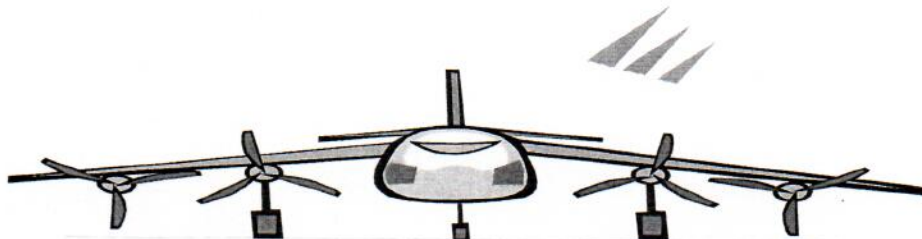
★★★★ Ebert (1995 - 135 min.)

AN ACTUAL EXCHANGE BETWEEN PILOT AND CONTROL TOWER

TOWER: "TWA 2341, for noise abatement turn right 45 Degrees."

TWA 2341: "Center, we are at 35,000 feet. How much noise can we make up here?"

TOWER: "Sir, have you ever heard the noise a 747 makes when it hits a 727?"





The family of Fred Thacker wants to thank everyone who helped with and attended the celebration of his life at the Estrella Warbirds Museum on Saturday afternoon. A large crowd gathered to support family members, and they are grateful for all the great stories that were shared that day. Special thanks go to the Warbirds for the use of their facilities and for honoring Fred with a "missing man" flyover. He is missed.

FROM A CHAPLAIN IN IRAQ

For those who are unaware, at a military theater, the National Anthem is played before every movie.

I recently attended a showing of Superman 3, here at LSA Anaconda. We have a large auditorium we use for movies, as well as memorial services and other large gatherings. As is the custom back in the States, we stood and snapped to attention when the National Anthem began before the main feature. All was going as planned until about three-quarters of the way through The National Anthem stopped.

Now, what would happen if this occurred with 1,000 18-22 year olds back in the States? I imagine there would be hoots, catcalls, laughter, a few rude comments/ and everyone would sit down and call for a movie.

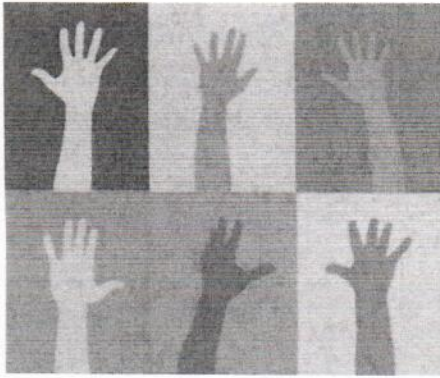
Of course, that is, if they had stood for the National Anthem in the first place. Here, the 1,000 soldiers continued to stand at attention, eyes fixed forward. The music started again. The soldiers continued to quietly stand at attention. And again, at the same point, the music stopped. What would you expect to happen?

Even here I would imagine laughter, as everyone finally sat down and expected the movie to start. But here, you could have heard a pin drop. Every soldier continued to stand at attention.

Suddenly there was a lone voice, then a dozen and quickly the room filled with the voices of 1,000 soldiers. Finishing where the recording left off. "And the rockets red glare, the bombs bursting in air, gave proof through the night that our flag was still there. Oh, say does that Star-Spangled Banner yet wave? O'er the land of the free, and the home of the brave."

It was the most inspiring moment I have had here in Iraq. I wanted you to know what kind of soldiers are serving you here.

Written by Chaplain Jim Higgins. LSA Anaconda is at the Ballad Airport in Iraq, north of Baghdad.



**NO VOTING REQUIRED
TO BE A VOLUNTEER**

EVERYONE WINS!!!!

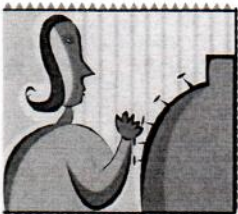
**LOOK FOR THE NAME
ON THE WHO'S WHO
LIST AND GIVE THEM A
CALL**



Be a part of history by volunteering in our museum. The visitors you will meet are fascinating....it may be a WWII pilot with a story to share, or a couple who immigrated from Belgium who want to thank you for saving their country.....or a young man who is a history buff and wants to view our collection of warbirds, tanks and armaments.....or the retired race car driver who wants to view the midget race cars one more time....or the NASCAR enthusiast who wants to see an INDY car up close and personal. If you like to talk to people, your day will never be boring! We offer short shifts, interesting conversations and lots of smiles!

This past year we had approximately 7,900 visitors from forty-eight states—Maine to Florida and Kansas to Hawaii. Our visitors from abroad represented twenty-six countries ranged from Austria to Ireland and Scotland and Zimbabwe to Singapore, even the tiny country of Luxembourg.

Jeanne Thiebaud
Docent Coordinator



HELP WANTED: IN THE GIFT SHOP OF THE MUSEUM

Retail experience not required.

We will train you.

Must be able to smile.

Must have a good attitude and enjoy meeting new people.

Have fun running up other people's credit cards (with THEIR purchases).

Contact: Jackie Brooks, Gift Shop Manager

