

June 2014-May 2015  
**BOARD of DIRECTORS**  
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 Sherm Smoot, President  
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 Carol Verstuyft, Secretary  
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 Mac Gleim  
 Betty Miller\*\*  
 Wayne Rice\*\*  
 Richard Woodland

**Staff**  
 Alexandra Helms  
 Museum Coordinator  
 Jill Thayer  
 Curator  
 Peter Visel \*\*  
 (Webmaster)

\*\* Ex-Officio

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**REMEMBER:**

**Dinner reservations will only be accepted, on line or by phone, until 6:00PM Mar 30**

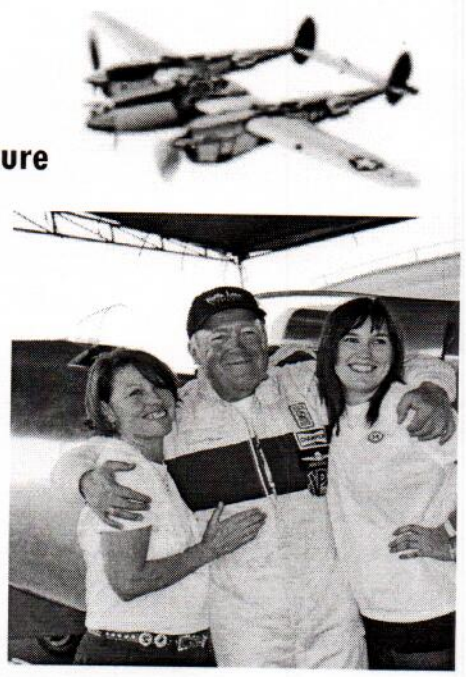
**NOTE: Phone # 805-296-1935**

**Estrella Warbirds Museum**  
**The EAGLE**  
**Honoring the Past—Inspiring the Future**  
**NEWSLETTER Vol. 20, Number 4**  
**April, 2015 Paso Robles, CA**

Vol XXVI - 04

**The Prez Sez**

By Estrella Warbirds President  
 Sherm Smoot



It's that crazy St. Patrick's Day month. Hope you didn't drink too much green beer.

We are deep into planning for our annual Warbirds, Wings, and Wheels car show, May 9, 2015. Dan and Carol Verstuyft are working their collective butts off to make this the biggest event ever. I am so proud of their efforts and I know you are too. Let them know when you see them. We need 100 more volunteers like them! They have put together a team that continues to amaze me.

We were selected as the first pit stop for the 2015 Kyle Petty Charity Ride Across America. Thank you Dick and Claudia Woodland for making that happen. More than 150 motorcycles will arrive at Estrella Warbirds Museum on May 2, 2015 at approximately 1100 (11:00 a.m. for you civilians). **We need volunteers to manage this event.** There will be a lot of race celebrities and others, so come on out and hob knob....

The Warbirds are coming on August 29, 2015 for our annual Air Show. Get ready for some noise!

All paperwork has been submitted to the city for our new 10 acres. Just awaiting their reply. The Pfauter building steel is going up. The hangar one extension will follow.

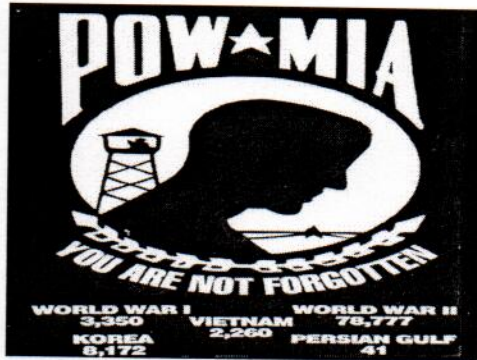
Please join us for our monthly dinner meeting on **Wednesday, April 1, 2015**. Make your reservation by calling 805.296.1935 or going to our website, click on Activities, then Event Registration, and then monthly dinner reservations. Remember, we are always on a membership drive so bring a friend. Thanks for your continued support.

My prayers to you and all in harms way,

*Sherm*



**Wednesday  
April 1, 2015  
MENU**



Ham  
Green Salad  
Veggies and Yams  
Scalloped Potatoes  
Rolls & Butter  
Dessert  
Ice Tea & Coffee

\$17.00 pp

(Includes Tip & Gratuity)

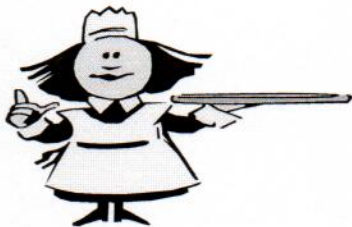
**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED**

**BY MONDAY, March 30th**

805-296-1935 You can leave a voice message or text to this number.

or

Use our Website Link:



**SOCIAL HOUR** 6:00 PM

**DINNER** 7:00 PM

**APRIL PROGRAM**

Estrella Warbirds Museum

**Come meet James E. Brown III  
Lockheed Martin  
Aeronautics Company  
"JB"**



*Jim Brown graduated "With Distinction" from the Virginia Military Institute in 1976 with a BS Degree in Civil Engineering, earned a Master of Science in Management from Troy State University and completed graduate study in Mechanical Engineering with California State University, Fresno. Following two European tours flying the F-4 and F-5 he was selected to attend the USAF Test Pilot School where he graduated with Class 86A in December of 1986 and was presented the Onazuka Propwash Award by his classmates. Following graduation he tested the A-7, F-15 Eagle and then performed flight trials on numerous prototype aircraft which remain classified. Leaving the USAF in 1992, he spent 2 years flying the 737 for United Airlines. In 1994 he was hired by the Lockheed Skunk Works as an Experimental Test Pilot in the F-117 Stealth Fighter. After flying the Stealth for eight years and serving at the Chief Test Pilot, he was selected to test the F-22 Raptor. He served as the Lead Test Pilot for the Raptor Program at Edwards Air Force Base, CA and in July 2011 took over as the F-22 Chief Test Pilot. In April 2012 he surpassed 1,000 flight hours in the Raptor. In June 2013 JB left the high performance cockpit to become the Chief of Flight Operations at Lockheed Martin's Advanced Development Projects – the "Skunk Works". He now maintains his currency (and sanity) in a vintage Cessna 195. JB is a Fellow and Past President of the Society of Experimental Test Pilots and is a Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society. He has logged over 8,800 flight hours in 134 different models of aircraft and is the world's highest time Stealth Fighter pilot.*

George Marrett, Programs



## CURATOR'S CORNER

By Jill Thayer, Ph.D.



Greetings All!

Let me start by thanking each of you for welcoming me into the fold at Estrella Warbirds Museum, especially the Executive Board, Board of Directors, and Advisors for your expertise and support. I am proud to be a part of this exceptional organization as we work together in its success. My first month on the job has been fast-paced and productive: working with Betty Miller in curatorial orientation; Ron Brooks in facilities maintenance; Tom Gorham and Mary Anne Gorham in the Library; Board Member Mike Levine, advertising and use committee; and of course, Board President Sherm Smoot, Board Treasurer Rob Kinnear, Board Secretary Carol Verstuyft; and Bookkeeper David Phillips in all things administrative. Meeting with staff and volunteers to discuss their roles and see how I may support in current and future initiatives; and working with Peter Visel in setting up email and seeing what the website offers (Check it out: [www.ewarbirds.org](http://www.ewarbirds.org)).

A big "Thank you!" to our volunteers who give of their time and knowledge in restoration, as museum docents, and in managing key areas of engagement such as the library, gift store, building displays, and other EWM operations. You capture the interest of our visitors and bring to life our treasured collection in sharing your experience that is greatly appreciated. A shout out to our expert trainers of the FA/18 Interactive Hornet Flight Simulator, part of an on-going project since the opening of Freedom Hall. It has taken countless hours and labor from many volunteers to bring this phase to fruition.

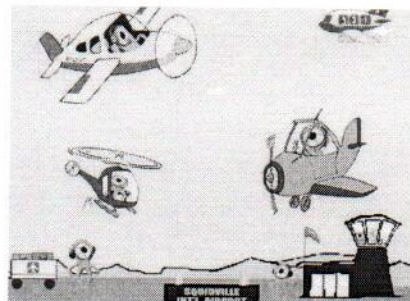
The flight simulator is available to museum visitors (Visit: [www.ewarbirds.org/flightsimulator.html](http://www.ewarbirds.org/flightsimulator.html)).



Dr. Jill takes flight. (It's not as easy as it looks!)

**SIM rides are \$20 for half an hour.  
Fun for all ages and makes a great  
Gift Certificate idea!!! Believe it or  
not children are usually better at this  
flight experience than adults.**

**Always fun for our Instructors to get  
a visitor, of any age, in the cockpit.**





In my roles as Curator, I am here to support the organization with a dual focus:

- 1) *To preserve and perpetuate the Museum collection*, which includes: assessing, documenting, accessioning, archiving, and curating our exhibition display of donated artifacts and print collateral. I am working with Alexandra Helms, Museum Coordinator and Jim Blaes, our volunteer archivist in these efforts.
- 2) *To broaden our image awareness and public relations*—helping develop marketing strategies, branding, and community outreach. I am collaborating with Carol Verstuyft, Mike Levine, and the Advertising Department to develop and support these initiatives.

Our immediate priorities are to accession and store years of backlogged items, organize Curator's office and storerooms, and make sure existing exhibition objects are properly documented and displayed (we're making great progress!). In this assessment, the Curator's office is in *great* need of updated computer hardware, software, a backup storage system, and peripherals, as a generous donor, underwriters, and/or grants are being sought. I am working with Sue Dollemore in this quest to replace a 13-year old PC with upgraded systems to effectively move the Museum forward in archival, administrative, and integrated marketing communications.

The Museum lends its success to its staff and volunteers who have worked tenaciously to this point. As we grow and expand our campus offerings, my goal is to initiate and facilitate time and cost effective solutions in curatorial management and information flow within the organization in our alignment towards accreditation. In a future writing, I will share this process and how we can achieve this distinction.

Currently, I am redesigning inner office forms for efficient policies and protocols with staff and volunteers in the Museum, library, and gift store. The following are Museum initiatives in the works...

*Upcoming arrival of The EA-6B Prowler:*

A twin-engine, long-range, all weather aircraft based on the A-6 Intruder platform from Naval Air Station Whidbey Island will be arriving in the near future. Gary Corippo is the primary contact in this initiative as plans are underway and ETA to be announced. He is also a tour de force in docent tours at the Museum.

*San Luis Obispo Tribune Pictorial History Book Project 2015:*

Working with Bob Reitz of Pediment Publishing in a no cost initiative to include Estrella Warbirds Museum as a partner organization, with other regional historical organizations and participants, to share digital photos in a hardbound, heirloom-quality pictorial history book of San Luis Obispo County (scheduled to publish around Thanksgiving 2015). Images requested range from 1870s or earlier through 1930s, pre WWII. The book will be arranged thematically (street scenes and views, public service including military, commerce, industry, schools and education, recreation, and transportation). Please contact me if you have any images that we may scan for inclusion.

*Estrella Warbirds Museum and Cass Winery Wine Club Event:*

Collaborating with Steve Cass in a Wine Club Event at EWM for November. Will follow-up on more information and work with Rick Brandt, Facility Use Coordinator regarding Hangar One; Alexandra Helms, Museum Coordinator for group tour of Museum; and Carol Verstuyft and Advertising Department on community outreach when details have been obtained.





*What's Ahead – Museum Exhibition Display*

In May, I will meet with Alexandra Helms, Jim Blaes, Tom Gorham, Mike Levine, and other interested members to invite comments in what you feel important in our exhibition displays for the public. I am researching regional, national, and international military aviation museums for ideas in future design configuration. This information gathering will inform my approach to include: an introduction to our facility, didactic/signage, object identification/labeling, chronology, timeline, and interactive displays of permanent and rotating exhibits for viewer engagement. From our collective efforts, I will propose options for consideration to the Executive Board and Board of Directors/Advisors. This initiative will roll out in phases depending on scope, plausibility, and budget, specifically, generating community interest and funding donors through grant writing with Sue.

With great things ahead, I appreciate your insight, expertise, and valuable support as we move forward with gusto. Feel free to contact me if I may assist in any way.

Stay tuned!



Jill Thayer, Ph.D.

Curator

jthayer@ewarbirds.org

### **Jill Thayer's Education and Background**

In 2011, Jill received her doctorate at Claremont Graduate University in Cultural Studies/Museum Studies in areas of exhibition theory, art history, design theory, and visual culture, which included a transdisciplinary study in global strategy and trade through Peter F. Drucker and Masatoshi Ito Graduate School of Management at St. Peter's College, Oxford University, UK. She holds a Masters degree in Interdisciplinary Studies with emphases in gallery practicum, arts management, and MBA marketing management. In Fall 2012, Jill curated "In Their Own Words: Oral Histories of CGU Art," an exhibition featuring Professors Emeritus of Claremont Graduate University School of Arts and Humanities in two campus galleries. The 16-month postdoctoral project produced audio and narrative transcripts with documentation from the exhibition included in the collection of Archives of American Art at The Smithsonian institution.

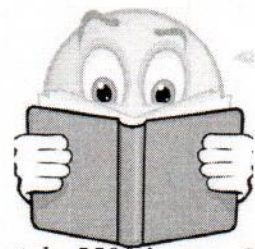
Prior to pursuing her graduate studies, Jill owned a design and marketing firm for 25 years specializing in corporate identity, branding, and marketing strategy in print and web for small business and global companies. As a gallerist of 15 years, she curated regional and international multi-cultural artists through selected exhibitions. As an educator, Dr. Thayer lectures and develops curricula for colleges locally and nationally, and is a contributing writer for publications in Los Angeles and Miami.

**WE ARE VERY FORTUNATE TO HAVE JILL JOIN OUR MEN AND WOMEN  
WHO WANT TO PRESERVE AND EDUCATE ALL  
WHO SEE THE IMPORTANCE OF PRESERVING OUR HISTORY**



## PECKINPAUGH LIBRARY BOOKNOTES

Tom Gorham, Librarian



### DID YOU SEE IT?

Check out the March 2015 Paso Robles Magazine with a feature article about our beautiful new library. As reported by Tom, our Librarian, we have approximately 5500 items. Over 3400 hardback books and 140 paperbacks, 1700 magazines from the 1940's (wouldn't that be a fun trip down memory lane?), VHS tapes and DVDs and models plus press clippings.

In a secure case, we have the entire bound collection of WWI 'Stars and Stripes' newspapers.

The Library is open during the monthly dinner meetings, the first Wednesday of every month from 5:30 to 6:30 PM, plus every Thursday and Saturday from 10 AM to 4 PM. On Friday and Sundays from 10 AM to 1 PM it is staffed by volunteers.

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO STAY OPEN FOR OUR VISITORS!

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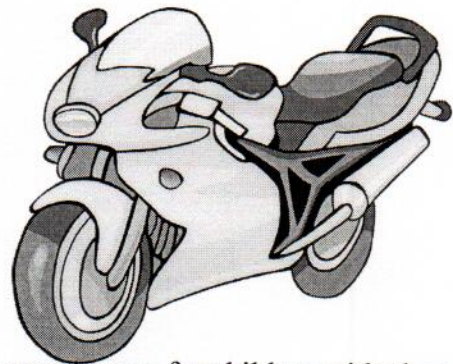
### KYLE PETTY CHARITY MOTORCYCLE RIDE

#### ACROSS AMERICA

COMING TO THE EWM/WOODLAND AUTO DISPLAY

SATURDAY, MAY 2, 2015

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!!



This event is to raise funds for the Victory Outreach which is a year round camp for children with chronic or life threatening illness and is provided at no cost to the families. This is the 21st annual event for them.

Each year, the Petty Charity Motorcycle Ride takes a different route in crossing America and raising money and awareness for Victory Outreach. This year, with the ride starting in Santa Cruz, CA and ending in Branson, MO, we are scheduled to be the first stop in the route.

Approximately, 175 riders will stop at the EWM/WAD for lunch, autograph session, photo ops, etc. They are in need of a secure area for their motorcycles which has already been selected.....BUT, we NEED VOLUNTEERS TO WATCH OVER THE AREA.

This is another FREE DAY for our Museum visitors, but it won't be successful without VOLUNTEERS. Needed to park cars of visitors, be a guide throughout the buildings, greet visitors on the grounds, help our vendors/cooks with anything they might need.....CALL Alexandra at 227-0440 OR 238-9317 during our open days/hours. Leave your name and phone number. THANKS!!!!



## PFAUTER BUILDING DREAMS COMING TRUE

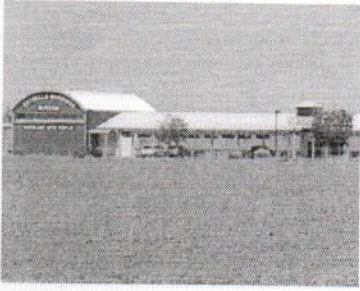


### **VOLUNTEERS WILL BE NEEDED**

As good stewards, for those who have been so generous in allowing us to keep their collections intact and safe, we have agreed to only have these building open when a Docent/greeter is available to meet the public. It is our responsibility to keep these items/vehicles safe.

**WITHOUT VOLUNTEERS** these building would be closed to the public.





**Estrella Warbirds Museum**  
**4251 Dry Creek Road**  
**Paso Robles, CA 93446**

**Non Profit Org.**  
**PAID**  
**Permit 163**  
**Paso Robles, CA 93446**

**RECORDED INFO:** 805 227-0440

**HOURS:** Thursday to Sunday 10AM-4PM

MON—Only on major Federal Holidays: 10AM-4PM

Open Memorial Day, Labor Day and Veterans Day: 10AM-4PM

**ADMISSION:** \$10 per adult/ Children 6-12 years: \$5: Toddlers under 6 FREE

Students with student photo ID Card and Seniors 60+ \$8

Family Rate \$20—includes 2 adults and up to 4 kids between 6—12 years of age

Active Military with white ID card FREE

**GROUP TOURS** (Minimum of 10 or more)

By appointment, reserved 7 days in advance (805 835-1882)

Price on Group tours is \$8 per person

Facility Rental: Phone 805 226-8605 for more information

## **DATES TO REMEMBER!**

Wednesday, April	1	Dinner Meeting	6:00pm Social/7:00pm Dinner
Wednesday, April	15	Board Meeting	6:00 pm to 8:00 pm