

Estrella Warbirds Museum Woodland Auto Display

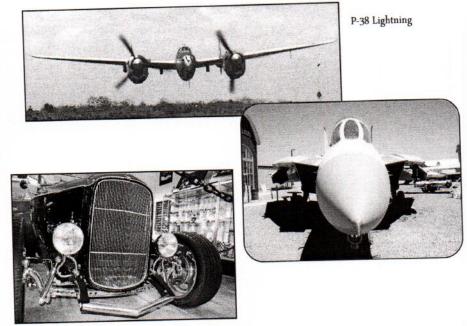
## The Eagle

Remembering The Past, Inspiring The Future.

Vol. 21, No. 9

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September, 2016



## Estrella To Experience Growing "Pains"

Lease for 10 Acres Of Airport Land



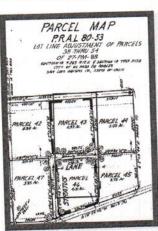
The **F9** Cougar jet has new gloss paint applied and is like many patients in Restoration: It is awaiting attachment of crucial parts. Looking Good!

More on pages 2 and 3.



### MUNICIPAL AIRPORT PROPERTY LEASE

Paso Robles - The City Of Paso
Robles officially voted affirmation on
Estrella's request for lease on 10 acres of
airport land adjacent to the museum, west
of our parking lot. Unanimous "Ayes" from
the Council were tallied at the August 16
meeting. This agreement grants Estrella
the use of this area for expansion and
paves the way for new exhibits, displays,
hangars and out-buildings. More details
on page 2 from President Sherman
Smoot.



Parcels Leased To Estrella



#### **Monthly Dinner Menu**

Wednesday, September 7, 2016
Social Hour 6pm
Dinner 7pm

Roast Beef
Mixed Vegetables
Salad
Mashed Potatoes & Gravy
Apple Crisp Cobbler

Reservation By Telephone/Text: 805-296-1935
By Monday September 5, 2016

On Line:

www.ewarbirds.org/dinnerrsvp.html
Only \$17.00 per person

## From The President, Sherman Smoot

A.K.A. "Pres Sez"

#### Hi All!

Sorry for the delay in getting "Prez Sez" back up and operating.

Wow, have we been busy! As I write this, the city of Paso Robles has on their consent calendar for approval EWM's new ten-acre lease. We will now have a total of 20 museum acres! It has been a long time coming, but I would like to personally thank Jerry Takier, Scott Stelzle, and Rob Kinnear for all their hard work. Once the lease is approved, we will move ahead on the planning and construction of our first large display hangar (± 24,000 sq ft). We have been turning away display aircraft because we had no inside display area. This construction will end that once and for all.

Along with more museum space comes more responsibility - We are continuing to work on a rewarding volunteer program. With all of these buildings planned for construction, we will need more volunteers. With the addition of Jerry Jones as museum coordinator, things will be running much smoother. I want to thank Jerry for stepping up and helping. He may have the most important job at the museum. Without



President Sherman Smoot

volunteers, "We are destined to the ash heap of history", to use that famous quote.

Our curator, Jill Thayer, continues to catalog everything as she works to help EWM toward accreditation. With that accreditation, we will have access to huge financial resources Thanks to all the volunteers that help Jill in her quest. Make time to visit Studio on the Park in Paso Robles. Through August 28<sup>th</sup>, they have a fantastic collection of military art on display. (cont page 8)

#### May, 2016-June, 2017

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#### THE MORGANS PAY A VISIT TO ESTRELLA

The Morgan Sports Car Club of Northern California held a rally/meeting the weekend of July 17 at Pine Lodge Cambria. They call it MOGWEST. They wanted something interesting to ex-

#### Who IS This, **EWM Members?**





Warbirds Museum and/ or Woodland Auto Display.

First Monthly

what is actually

IN the Estrella

Quiz about

\*Answer On Page 8

perience on their final day, Sunday. There were many options, of course. Someone suggested Woodland Auto Display, Estrella Warbirds Museum, According to Lynn Willburn, a former officer at MSCCNC, most of the participants never knew EWM/WAD existed and jumped at the chance to motor their Morgans over to Airport Drive. Thirteen pristine Morgans showed up at the gate promptly on that Sunday at 10am and were guided by Betty Miller and Peter Snyder back to the exhibit area where they parked in front of the display aircraft, making it a sight to behold. The tour took place and before you knew it, members were roaming the entire grounds taking in everything from our C-47 to the North, to the M-46 to the South. We trust that they will be back sometime soon....with Many More Morgans! For more information on the Morgan Car Club go to:

www.norcalmog.com

Photos Steve Lochen

#### NOW HEAR THIS.....

Storage Shed Door......Works!

"We, the ladies of the dinner set up and decoration group, can not tell you or John Hamon how much appreciate his efforts. I know it took special skills to fix, as parts are no longer available for that trailer box. It's a chore for 70+ year olds to move tables and chairs, let alone try to put that door up. Thank you to all involved." -- Toni Moore



John Hamon, Owner, Hamon Overhead Door

#### Estrella:

#### Portrait Studio, Classroom

Paso Robles -- There is a spot in the Brooks building that is special to Mr. Zach Deweese. Zach, who lives in Templeton, is a regular on the restoration crew and gets dirty a few days per week back there in the hangar where the nuts are (and the bolts and the sheet metal workers and the painters and the designers and the fabricators and the engineers, et al).



Zach Deweese . EWM Restoration Crew and 2016 Templeton High School Graduate.

Photo-Studio 101, Atascadero-Dennis Swanson

Zach is the youngest of the crew. At the time of this writing he is graduating from Templeton High School. Graduating Seniors get their picture taken, usually at the studio, under ideal portrait conditions. Not Zach. He preferred a spot in the Brooks Building, next to the pristine 1944 Birmingham Small Arms LTD. WD M20 Motorcycle on permanent display here at Estrella. So, the Studio, Studio 101 in Atascadero, came to him.

Mr. Deweese says his favorite class is History. The Brooks building is full of history. He likes cool things like this restored bike and the history it represents.

#### **Estrella Welcomes NorCal Chinese Aviators**

San Jose To Harris Ranch To Paso Robles and Back

Praise for Estrella As A Destination



Paso Robles—Members of NorCal Chinese Aviators dropped in to Paso Robles airspace July 24 and paid a visit to **EWM/WAD.** This group hails from San Jose. There are "chapters" up and down the Coast.

Flight Leader Chris Zhang (5th from left) emailed back next morning, saying "Our organization, NorCal Chinese Aviators (NCCA) has 50+ members who are Chinese American pilots or student pilots, mostly based in the Bay Area. One of our major functions is to organize fly-out events such as the visit to your museum yesterday. One of our board members suggested your museum as a fun place to visit."

When asked about returning with the rest of the group, spokesman Hao Dong, far right in photo, second in command, added... "Definitely! We've shared the amazing experience with the group. And some of them are automobile fans as well. I believe more pilots are going to fly to visit the museum in the near future!" We loved visiting the museum for a number of reasons. The beautiful KPRB airport is huge and easy to fly into. Taxiing right up to the museum, and parking our airplanes next to the warbirds was both fun and convenient. The exhibits of airplanes, military vehicles, and exotic cars offered a deep look into history as well as a variety not seen at other aviation museums. Last but not least, the cheerful staff at the museum couldn't be more helpful and made our trip all the more enjoyable!"

"Thank you Steve, Ren, Betty, and Peter. We will definitely come back soon."

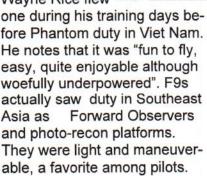
I say Baloney Sandwiches on white bread, chips, cookies, one (1) soda on the house in Thompson Hall next time NCCA calls on us!

#### **Restoration Corner**

Rebirth Of A Cougar

Things are "born" here at Estrella. The Restoration Hangar over there in the southeastern corner of the museum is now in labor....literally. The beautiful thing to be born is called an "F9F-8P Cougar jet, the photo recon version of the fighter used by our Navy and Marines during and after the Korean conflict.

Our baby Cougar only saw about 4 years of service, starting in 1956, when it was delivered to the U.S. Marine Corps. Our own Wayne Rice flew



Our Cougar "expired" about 1960 and was "buried" Chevy Chase, near Nearly 10 years later it was moved again to a "burial" plot near Loraine, Ohio. Somehow it made its way to Santa Rosa, This is within range of CA. Gary Corippo's (USMC, Ret.) internal radar. He negotiated a price for the Cougar, which by now is in bits and pieces. She arrived home at the Estrella Warbirds Museum in February, 2015, prepared for

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#### Davey Allison's #28 On Loan To Charlotte

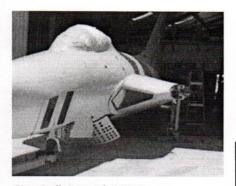
Off For 3Years of TDY at NASCAR HOF



On August 12, #28, Davey Allison's NASCAR 1987 T-Bird rookie car was pulled from view at Woodland Auto Display and sent on a long haul to Charlotte, NC. It is one of 18 historical NASCAR Stock Cars selected from throughout the United States which will go on display at the NASCAR Hall of Fame and Museum.

"This latest honor really adds to the credibility as well as to the quality of automobiles we have at our facility", said #28's owner Dick Woodland. "This race car will be seen by literally hundreds of thousands of visitors over the 3 years and there will be signage giving credit to the lending facility and location."

One can only imagine what EWM/WAD will be like in 10 years.



First Roll-Out. July, 2016

Cougar Cont from page 4...

the "re-birthing" process. A dedicated crew including Al Schade, Dave Highland, Ron Boyte, Tom Gorham, Dennis Johansen, Charlie Harper, Zach Deweese and others have made this, as well as all the other projects worthy of Paso Robles' number one attraction. Updates on our Cougar in future editions!



F9 Dermatology Dept. James Messineo and Lou Esposito





#### Events To Consider......



August (Just a few days left!)-

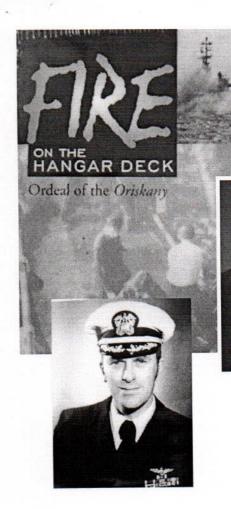
4-28 Military Experience In Art Studio On The Park, Paso Robles

#### September-

- 7 Member Dinner Thompson Hall
- 25 Mega Swap Meet EWM/WAD
- 30 Paso Robles Air Fest PasoRobles Airport. (Day 1)

#### October-

- Paso Robles Air Fest Paso
   Robles Airport (Day 2)
- 5 Member Dinner Thompson Hall



## Ray Johnson To Offer Rare Look Into Life And Death On A Battle Carrier

The Orinskany Incident First Hand

Estrella looks forward to welcoming Ray Johnson, aviator (helicopters), author and 22-year Navy Man to Thompson Hall on September 7 for his presentation about a harrowing incident aboard the U.S.S. Orinskany.

Almost 50 years ago to this day a terrible fire broke out on the Orinskany. Mr. Johnson has documented this incident carefully and will share his story with our membership.

Ray is a local boy now. He moved here from Out East to Atascadero in 1987. He and his wife Helen have six great grandchildren. Be sure to make your reservation early to get a first-hand view from a Combat Search And Rescue pilot and Squadron Commander of what can happen when things get just slightly off track.

# Estrella Crew Puts It Up For The Grand Opening — Military Experience In Art

Paso Robles — An exhibit lasting 24 days opened on August 4, bringing in works of art from Estrella Warbirds Museum and Camp Roberts.

Selected works will be on display at Studios On The Park, 1130 Pine Street, through August 28.

Our crew, headed up by Dr. Jill Thayer, second from left, included (left to right) Jacob Anderson, Dr. Thayer, Ron Brooks, Mike Blunden, Judy Blunden, Emily Grim and Tim Rathbone. Not pictured, Mary Baiamonte.

The theme is "Protecting Freedom". Catch it through August 28 on the square in Downtown Paso Robles.



## Birthday Greetings And Surprise For Restoration Guru

Charlie Harper is 96!

The Birthday Boy had a birthday celebration he was not planning on. Charlie Harper had a custom made cake (a lot like his custom work in the Restoration Dept.) delivered plateside on July 6 when wife Jeannie, Naomi



McCormack and Molly Smith ambushed him on a George Marrett Restoration Saturday with a cake that looks good enough to eat. So they ate it. If you were not there it "Happy Birthday Charlie....96 years....and still having fun!" Mmmmm chocolate and raspberries....my fav! Happy Birthday, Mr. Harper!

## KVEC (AM 920) Gets Lucky **Lands Interview With** George Marrett

On August 4 George Marrett sat down at the KVEC mic and, for about one hour, told the Central Coast all about the love of flying, Estrella Warbirds, Woodland Auto Display and the place Estrella holds in our community. I hope you were lucky enough to

George Marrett on the air with host Dave Congalton



## "Look! Up In The Sky! It's a.....BRONCO!"

It's fire season and Paso Robles Airport is a busy place. It is also home of CAL FIRE's OV-10 Bronco.

The workhorse spotter and observation platform is zooming around in CAL FIRE colors, directing air traffic around the active fire zones. It is a neat little ship and looks like fun to fly. Perhaps it is, but it's business is deadly serious. It always has been.

Military applications for which the Bronco is suited include anti-guerrilla operations, helicopter escort, close air support,

armed reconnaissance and forward air control. For peacetime operations, the guns, bomb

racks and armor can be removed quickly, and the aircraft becomes a short takeoff and landing utility vehicle. Potential applications include aerial mapping, geological survey.

spraying, disaster relief and patrol work.

The Paso Robles Air Attack Base, located at the airport, was established in 1968. The complement of aircraft located there includes one OV-10 Bronco and two S-2T air tankers.

We have a **Bronco**. Right here at **Estrella**. It resides on the tarmac awaiting work in Restoration. It will be showcased someday soon among the other masterpieces. Can't wait!



Project Bronco next in line?



## 4251 Dry Creek Road Paso Robles, CA 93446 805-238-9317

#### Thursday—Sunday 10 Until 4

Zach..... Cont Pg 3 Estrella "is a part of my life and is something that makes me, ME" he says. "I like the cool vehicles, artifacts, displays and the people who I work with. I am

displays and the people who I work with. I am able to visit and see the things every day as I work."

Restoration is a "class" of its own. Zach holds as mentors Ron Boyte and Tom Gorham among others. "They lead me in the right direction when I don't have the answer. They are great people"

Zach intends to learn welding, aircraft and auto mechanics. He likes to read military books and build models. Why, he may be in charge of restoring an F-35 here at Estrella 30 years from now.

For Bike detail check out link:

www.ewarbirds.org/vehicles/1944bsamd20.html

Prez Sez cont ....

As a reminder, the date of our next Dinner Meeting is <u>Wednesday</u>, September 7, 2016. Make your reservations 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. Thanks for your continued support.

My prayers to you and all brave Americans in harm's way,

Sherm

Who Is This ...

General Lewis Burwell "Chesty" Puller. Born 26 June, 1898. Died 11 October, 1971. He is the most decorated U.S. Marine in history. "Chesty" refers to his military bearing and perfect posture. His fearlessness in combat earned him respect from his men and fear from the enemy. Noted quotation from WWII: "All right, they're on our left, they're on our right, they're in front of us, they're behind us. They can't get away this time." They (the Enemy) didn't. Commander of 1st Marine Division, he won the Silver Star, two (2) Legion Of Merit awards, the Distinguished Service Cross and Five (5) Navy Cross medals, all for actions in Korea in 1950. Find his image in the museum near the Docent Desk.

From the Editor Steve Lochen:

If you see or experience anything concerning planes and/or automobiles that you think may be of interest to our membership, send it to me via email: <a href="mailto:steve@lochenphoto.com">steve@lochenphoto.com</a> Send it to me by the 12th of the month.

Everything will be considered. Easy as that!