

# EAGLE

Estrella Warbirds Museum  
Woodland Auto Display  
Paso Robles, CA 93446

Remembering The Past  
Inspiring The Future

Volume 29 No. 4

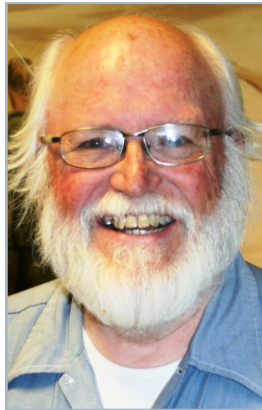
April, 2019



Prez Sez. . .

President Rob Kinnear

Winter is gone and spring is here. Although the rain has slowed down some projects, they are still moving forward. The rain again showed us we have a few roof-leak problems. We had work done on Hangar 1, Woodland Auto Display and the Red Ball Express buildings and I am happy to report we have stopped the leaks. As soon as the ground dries more the ground work at the north end of the property will be finished in time for May's Warbirds Wings and Wheels event. This spring we will also be top coating the parking lots and taxiway, and repairing two damaged areas in the asphalt. They have taken some heavy punishment from the weather and usage over the past few years.



Speaking of the Red Ball Express display, Mr. Phauter says he will be bringing more vehicles up soon. We are working to get a Cobra helicopter gunship, and have hopes to see it in the next few months. Likewise we are reviewing a few designs to put a cover over the outside display area east of Hind Pavilion.

Cont. Page 2. . .

## EWM/WAD AND THE POWER OF SOCIAL MEDIA

Back on March 2 **Web Master Peter Visel** shared an email about a video submitted by **Scott Stelzle** to the Web Site. It is hard to get used to the sound of a big radial engine start alone. But add the interest in the ultimate mission to fly from Paso Robles to NORMANDY in FRANCE just 60 days from now and you have an idea how this will draw the eye and ear of much of our web visitors towards Paso Robles and EWM/WAD. Peter's comments while monitoring traffic on our website:

"Here are a few results which emphasize the reason I keep insisting that everyone share stories and feedback concerning the museum. Scott sent me a cool little video of the C-47 "firing up" after engine replacement. Over 3000 views (for more than 3 seconds) in a week, displayed on the screens of over 8.4K viewers and engaging over 12,000 people. *Outstanding!*

I know it's a game of numbers, but of all the people who viewed it, *420 got involved* and either commented on it, or shared it with their friends, or friends commented on friends' posts about it, etc. *Networking at its finest.*

The more people who get to know us via social media, the more who are likely to visit the museum. It's the least expensive form of advertising one can get, and, all for a couple minutes of work between him and myself.

Thanks, Scott! "

What goes on at Estrella Warbirds is interesting, educational and entertaining! Getting the word out via "word of mouth" is incredibly powerful. Mention your Museum in your emails, texts, instagrams, Facebook Likes and Snap Chats. The results can be noteworthy.



**Visitors By The Numbers  
EWM Schedule is Heavy**

- 3/9 RV CLUB
- 3/15 MC CLUB
- 3/16 FERRARI CLUB
- 3/21 GRIZZLY ACADEMY
- 3/29 GRIZZLY ACADEMY
- 3/29 CRESTON VILLAGE SENIORS
- 4/5 NORTH COUNTY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
- 4/7 ALPHA ROMERO CLUB
- 4/8 SOCAL HORSELESS CARRIAGE CLUB
- 4/12 RV CLUB
- 4/12 MASERATI CLUB
- 4/26 GRIZZLY ACADEMY
- 5/3 IMPERIAL CLUB
- 5/16 ADULT EDUCATION GROUP
- 5/16 NOTRE DAME UNIVERSITY

Each Grizzly group consists of 50 cadets plus supervisors.

The Horseless Carriage group is on a **Monday**, but I have agreed to host .

**Monday Schmunday.** EWM is supposed to be closed on Monday? **NOT!** Get the folks in here so they can pass the word about how EWM IS THE PLACE for your group, club, tribe, organization to be!

**Prez Sez. . . Cont.**

If you have not attended an EWM Board of Directors meeting I invite you to come. We meet every third Wednesday of the month in Thomson Hall at 6 pm. This is the body that charts the course for our Museum. As in any organization, a meeting like this can be a little mundane, but here is where decisions are made which control our growth. The BOD meeting is open to all members and the public.

If you can give us some time, we can always use more hands to help us grow the Museum. If you are volunteering, bring a friend. As always, come out and join the fun with us.

Rob



**CURATOR FINDS**

Jill Thayer, Ph.D.

Here is a recent artifact that Brad Eaton picked up for our curatorial collection. It is a **1950s era Navy Weight and Balance Trainer** donated by **Ernie Persich from Vintage Wings and Wheels of Hollister.** Brad has agreed to restore the system for future display.



Brad Eaton



There are wooden models of various aircraft as each would hang on the back board with weights to see if they are comparable with the balance of the

airplane. Gage lights note if it is nose heavy or tail heavy. The cabinet includes a slide rule, teaching models (JRB-4, PV-2, PBY-5A, and R4D-6), lead weights, and other accessories.

Many Thanks!



More Curator Finds on page 3 →

**REMEMBER IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS:**

**Jeanne Thiebaud    Forrest Johnson    CDR Bill Houston**

Gift Shop Vet.                      USMC Combat Vet.                      "Padre Bill" USN.  
Tireless Volunteer at              Docent at EWM.                      Voice of God at  
Estrella Warbirds                  World's Nicest Guy.                  EWM meetings.



**CURATOR FINDS**

Cont. from page 2

Jill Thayer, Ph.D.



The 27ft. digital mural is now installed on the West wall in Hind Pavilion. The installation commemorates the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day and our Gooney Bird Group's participation in the historic event abroad. The area under the mural will be painted a neutral grey to accommodate the Freedom Flight Veteran's memorial wooden/brass wall case and plaque. Next, I am designing a glass panel Donor Wall that will be positioned to the left of the mural. The multiple panels will feature the following donor distinctions: Contributions over \$10k, \$25k, \$50k, \$100k, \$250k, \$500k, \$1 Million.

We have received numerous donations including this **WWII Silk WWII Japanese Kamikaze "Yosegaki Hinomaru" (good luck) flag**. And special thanks to Lon Allan for his 1/25 model of the Landing craft, mechanized (PA 22-3) donated by Gary Corippo. View these items in Freedom Hall.                      Many Thanks!



**WWW11 IS UPON US!**

**STUNTMASTERS BMX  
MOTIVATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

New for 2019! Three world class performances by [StuntMasters BMX](http://StuntMastersBMX.com). They've been spreading the Spokes of Character at schools in California. This will be a great opportunity for youth to see first hand as they turn positive thoughts into action!



In addition, 2019 sees many updates in store for both the car show and Swap Meet. First and foremost, we've now have access to our additional, 9 acres of land. This allows us much more visitor and vendor parking space. Relocation of the Swap Meet into this area creates much more space for all the vehicles put on display.



The **Swap Meet is headed by new** coordinator, **John Spooner**, who has plenty of experience managing CALFire events. The **SWAP MEET** will now be held just to the west of the main museum buildings making it easier for Swap Meet buyers to mingle amongst the vendors.

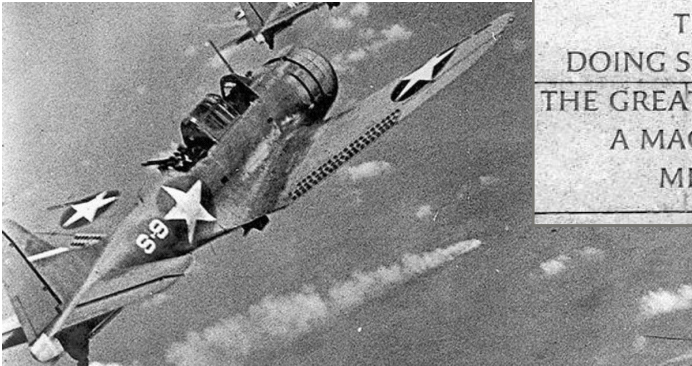
Want to spend a fun and worth-while day as part of the **WWW11 team**? You will not soon forget your time as a **VOLUNTEER** at the biggest event in the area on May 11. . .pre-dawn until post-dusk (if you want to include clean up duties). Get in touch with Dan or Carol Verstuyft. Get on the roster to help out parking cars, running errands, assisting visitors. . .and perhaps running into local celebs from radio and TV. You will wind up tired and satisfied! And, yes, the food is really good.



# Library Quiz For April: *The Battle Of Midway*



BATTLE OF MIDWAY JUNE 4-7, 1942  
 THEY HAD NO RIGHT TO WIN. YET THEY DID, AND IN DOING SO THEY CHANGED THE COURSE OF A WAR... EVEN AGAINST THE GREATEST OF ODDS, THERE IS SOMETHING IN THE HUMAN SPIRIT - A MAGIC BLEND OF SKILL, FAITH AND VALOR - THAT CAN LIFT MEN FROM CERTAIN DEFEAT TO INCREDIBLE VICTORY.  
WALTER LORD AUTHOR



1. The island of Midway is about half way between Asia and North America  
 True False
2. Pan American used Midway as a refueling stop between Asia and California  
 True False
3. The Battle of Midway preceded the Battle of the Coral Sea  
 True False
4. The American carrier lost in the Battle of Midway was the Lexington  
 True False
5. The Japanese carriers involved in the Battle were the Agaki, Hiru and Soryu  
 True False
7. The blockbuster movie "Midway" had a star-studded cast including
  - A. Charlton Heston
  - B. Glen Ford
  - C. Henry Fonda
  - D. Toshiro Mifune
8. The U.S. Navy was warned of the attack on Midway by
  - A. an agent in Tokyo
  - B. A Japanese POW
  - C. American Code Breakers
9. As a diversion, the Japanese attacked The Aleutian Islands and bombed Dutch Harbor  
 True False
10. American B-17 bombers were not effective in the conflict  
 True False

## VISITORS FROM OUTSIDE THE WIRE



**15 Santa Maria Harley Owners Feb 23rd**



**Inspire Charter School Feb 22nd  
Tour Guide Dave Brooks**



**Ferrari Group (5ea.) Feb 16th (plus 1 Corvette  
and 1 Yellow?) escorted by Peter Snyder  
through EWM/WAD. Dick Woodland met and  
escorted them all through his entire collection.**

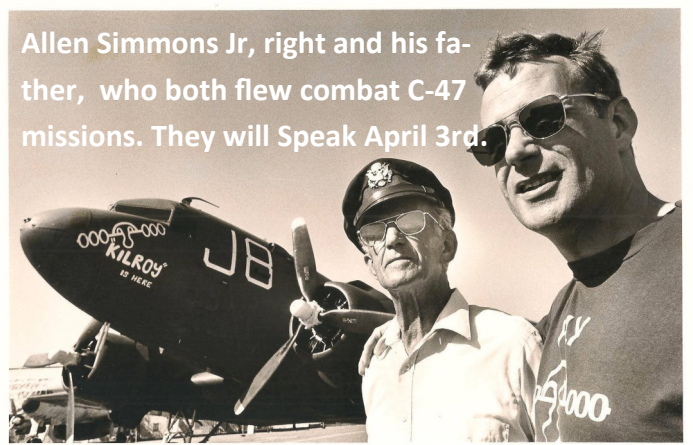
**Monthly Dinner/Meeting  
April 3, 2019  
Thomson Hall  
6pm Social, 7pm Dinner  
\$20.00  
Menu:**

**Ham  
Scalloped Potatoes  
Green Salad  
Green Beans  
Dessert**

**Sherman Smoot and  
Allen Simmons, Jr.  
C-47 Normandy Mission**

**Invite someone to come: Public Is Welcome**

Allen Simmons Jr, right and his father, who both flew combat C-47 missions. They will Speak April 3rd.



**Reservations:**

**Phone: 805-296-1935**

**On Line: [ewarbirds.org](http://ewarbirds.org) Drop Down  
To Dinner Reservations**



## Biscuit Bomber Getting Final Massage, Tune Up Prior to Normandy Mission



**Rob Kinneer** is observing (and standing by with fire prevention gear) run up and Dynamic balance test of the PORT side propeller. **Operator Jeff Jefferies and Scott Stelzle** monitor the gauges as prop spins.



**Scott Stelzle** motors the new STARBOARD (right side) engine into the install area for testing/evaluation. It took the better part of a day to figure out how to best load it onto the fork for precise positioning when lifted to the exact points of attachment.



Ready for props and testing



**Men At Work:** Scott Stelzle, son Jake (on ladder) and Aiden Bajema (Templeton HS Aviation Club members) install screws to lead edge of starboard wing prior to spin test.

### C-47 Status per crewman John Doyle:

There is continuing progress. A test flight is scheduled for the weekend of March 16. The rain has contributed to some lost time. Some new communications gear will be installed down at San Luis Obispo (new radios) on March 18. Then it is down to Santa Maria for some touch up work on the paint. The working crew will be with the C-47 during all of these off-site procedures. The plan is to finish up everything by the end of April.

There is an intricate and adventuresome flight plan for this coming journey further into history. *Betsy's Biscuit Bomber* will depart Paso Robles around May 4 and head to Chino, CA for the air show there and then head for a stop in Kansas prior to heading for the Carolinas, New York and Connecticut for crew training in formation flying.

She then will depart the U.S. by way of Nova Scotia, Greenland, Iceland and on to Scotland and U.K., ultimately landing in Duxford, England, the muster point for all Skytrains/Dakotas taking part in the operation: the re-enactment of the D-Day landing.

From Normandy she will fly to Berlin to re-enact the Berlin Airlift. Then it is back to England to proceed home the way she came. Picture the landing, taxi up and shut-down back in its place at EWM after all this!

This is a "Bucket List" trip for the "Gooney Bird" members and anyone even remotely associated with *Betsy's Biscuit Bomber* since its arrival at EWM. This writer trusts that this same C-47 will be around to drop paratroopers on the 100th anniversary of the beginning of the end of WWII. Who will make up the crew then?

Thanks to John Doyle and Gary Corippo

**Estrella Warbirds Mu-  
seum  
Woodland Auto Dis-  
play**

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**Scott Stelzle** Vice President

**Cindy Bergin** Treasurer

**Carol Verstuyft** Secretary

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**Bob Kelly**

**Betty Miller**

**Ian Webster**

**Dick Woodland**

**Restoration Corner...**

Huey and the Mutt

**EWM Restoration Update from Dennis Johansen and Ron Boyte-**

DJ: "Well, after about 18 months of continuous work, the restoration of the M151 Vietnam era Jeep is just about finished. Now, we have to figure out the bits and pieces of detail that need to be replaced. I am personally vested(\$) in the jeep's restoration, so the honor on choosing the details falls to me. I wanted it to resemble the jeeps we had at PIO in Cu Chi."

**Scott Benedict** pilots M151A1 "mutt" jeep into the fresh air with **Ron Boyte** (front) and **Mike Brophy** along as crewmates.

The hood is what's left to detail and fit....**Joe Caetano** is off-camera, busy with the "final buff off"

Work continues on the **UH-1** with final painting and informational details being added



*It's Alive!*



**Mike Brophy** leans into the side panel plexiglass on the pilot side of the UH1D. Result: *Spotless.*

this week (March 11). Completion is still anticipated by the end of the month. We had anticipated that a formal "roll-out" of the helicopter would take place by the end of March, but we have decided to push that into May so that we will not have to deal with the inclement weather. Currently, several Vietnam era Vets who served with **the 176th AHC** (Assault Helicopter Company) and flew in this and other UH-1's, are

planning to visit the Museum for the roll-out. These veterans from the 176th have been most helpful by providing specific details about the painting of their birds. Several previous flight crew members have sent photos taken in Vietnam while deployed there."

**Carl Robbins** spruces up the Huey control panel. Attention is given to every last detail. Local interest has spread about this important restoration.



The first stencil







**NON PROFIT ORG.  
PERMIT 163  
PASO ROBLES, CA  
93446**

**Estrella Warbirds Museum  
Woodland Auto Display  
4251 Dry Creek Road  
Paso Robles, CA 93446  
805-238-9317  
Thursday—Sunday  
10am till 4pm**

# NOW HEAR THIS!!

**PUBLIC IS INVITED!!**



*On Wednesday, April 3rd*  
Estrella Warbirds Museum will present a special evening with Sherman Smoot. Mr. Smoot will pilot Estrella's C-47 Skytrain to Normandy in France for the re-enactment of the D-Day Invasion. This epic journey for our 74 year old bird is the Bucket List mission for this proud airplane, dubbed Betsy's Buscuit Bomber. She will sport invasion paint scheme when she departs Paso Robles about May 6. For \$20 you will join the reverie at Thomson Hall. Call 805-296-1935 to make a reservation. Catered by Vic's Café.

**Do It Now!**

THAT IS ALL

**Answers: 1-true, 2-true, 3-false, 4-false,5-true, 6-true, 7-true, 8-c, 9-true, 10-true**