

EAGLE

ESTRELLA WARBIRDS MUSEUM WOODLAND AUTO DISPLAY

PASO ROBLES, CA



REMEMBERING THE PAST/INSPIRING THE FUTURE VOL 29 NO 1 JANUARY, 2018



PREZ SEZ. . .

President Ren Stelloh
December 3, 2017



Dear Museum Members, Friends;
Do you know that Trip Advisor and Yelp rank our museum as the best area attraction outside of the wine industry in Paso Robles? I

want to share with you exciting highlights of 2017 and provide a sense of our strategic goals for 2018, goals we hope to achieve with the help of our loyal donors and volunteers.

The year 2017 saw the conclusion of three years of negotiations with the City of Paso Robles when we signed a 40 year lease for an adjacent ten acres. This affords the opportunity for a dramatic expansion of the museum, including additional hangars in which to house our aircraft. There is nothing more disheartening than watching a meticulously restored airplane sit and bake under the summer sun. The new hangars will help preserve these wonderfully restored aircraft, and could include donor name recognition of the building.

During 2017, the restoration crew completed magnificent restorations of an extremely rare US Navy F9F reconnaissance jet and a US Army H-19 Chickasaw helicopter which saw service in Korea, and (as I draft this letter) the final touches are being applied to a Marine Corps H-34 Choctaw helicopter which served in Vietnam. Come out and see the planes! (cont on page 4. .



MEET 'N GREET NEW LOCAL VOLUNTEER AIDEN BAJEMA USHERS IN NEW BREED READY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

EWM-There is a new kid on the block at EWM. His name is **Aiden Bajema**, and he is ready to assist in the business of getting Estrella to the next level.

Those of us fortunate enough to have met Aiden can tell you that he is mission-ready. His interest in everything on the property sparks ideas as to how we can foster the Estrella brand and get people to find EWM/WAD, enjoy it and pass the word on to others. Mr. Bajema, at 14, should major in "Brand Awareness". He lives in Paso Robles, attends Templeton High School and admits having . . . "a passion for aviation, the military and history which makes this place perfect for me". He is enlisted in the **Civil Air Patrol** and seems partial to the **United States Air Force**. He is already hosting **F-18 sim rides**, assisting Steve Mowry and becoming quite the stick man in the F-18 Flight Simulator. **Welcome to Estrella, Aiden!**



Al Schade Memorial Pays Fitting Tribute To Marine, EWM Legend



Aircrew For 6-Ship Flyover



Missing Man



grandsons

Jordan Liebling
Jesse Unruh



EWM— Al Shade’s family and friends at EWM held a “semi-private” memorial service in Thompson Hall on November 18th. Friends gathered for speeches, music and a moving video tribute to Al the father, Marine, crew chief and good neighbor he was rightly famous for being. After a delicious lunch, everyone adjourned to Hangar 1 for the Marine Color Guard ceremony, Flag Presentation to sister Judy Liebling and family, followed by a 6-ship flyover and Missing Man formation executed perfectly while Taps sounded. George Marrett led the formation and later ferried Al’s ashes to a spot over the Pacific near Cambria to be dispersed by his grandson Jordan Liebling, riding back seat in the L-5.

Restoration Corner. . .

TO INCLUDE: MIKE BROPHY, BILL KERSTAN, JEFF QUIAD

Dicks Garage. . .

**Nomination For Induction Into West Coast Stock Car Hall of Fame Honors
DICK WOODLAND.**



Tom Gorham & Suspension

M151A Front Suspension



Tom Nixon & Suspension

The **M-151A Jeep** is a work in progress as the thousand or so pieces taken off the vehicle when it got here are slowly being massaged, sanded, wrenched, polished, re-assembled and painted. The **front suspension** has been completely overhauled with news nuts and bolts, rubber gaskets, sand



Jeep Frame

blasting and painting. It is now ready for installation on to the **frame**. A recent photo of **Ron Boyte** at left will hint at the readiness of the frame to accept its suspension. Heard around the hangar: "man, it's gonna be a year". Well, if it is a year, it will be worth the wait. **2018 starts** of with the Jeep

in the shop along with the **H-34 Sikorsky** helicopter. The paint scheme is now decided upon. There was some "discussion" as to how to paint the beast to best please museum visitors:

Green with either white or black lettering. Per BOD vote, white won. Good thing. White was already on the bird.

The **Purple Wolves** who flew the H-34 might pay a visit upon



H-34

Tom DeVaul and the White Letters

its completion and subject it to inspection. These are field grade Marine officers. Their jaws will drop when they see it.



D4 Cat

Keith "Cat-Man" Dekker

Out in back of the hangar is an under-played piece that lacks the glamor



DONE!

but is just as important: **The D4 Cat Tractor**. **Keith Dekker** fabricated and installed the belt shroud and Amp Meter. Last "heavy" work before makeup: install grill. . .**DONE!**

WAD-20 Nov-On Top of all the accolades we hear regularly about **Dick Woodland** comes the notice that WCSCHF has nominated him for induction to its Hall Of Fame. West Coast HF has been a significant contributor to Warbird Wings and Wheels/Swap Meet events in the past. The nomination was official back on November 20th, with the induction announcement due June 21, 2018.

The West Coast Stock Car Hall of Fame was conceived in 2001 as a means of recognizing significant contributors and contributions to the sport of stock car racing. Taking a page from the WCSCHF Mission Statement: "*The **Mission** of the West Coast Stock Car Hall of Fame is founded to preserve history and heritage of the important role west coast stock car competitors have played in the sport's development and continuation and to recognize, through annual enshrinement, of outstanding individuals and groups within the sport such as, but not limited to, designers, engineers, mechanics, drivers, race track owners, promoters, publicists and members of the motorsports media.*"

It should be noted that Mr. Woodland is selected as an "Owner". Only one other *Owner* is recognized in this round of inductions, Mr. Jason Gibbs. Both are associated with world-class racing teams. The other categories: Promoters, Drivers, Crew Chiefs. Learn More: <http://westcoaststockcarhalloffame>.

Prez Sez cont. . .

2017 witnessed a successful combined Warbirds Wings and Wheels Car Show and Mega Swap Meet. This attracted 250 exhibitors and well over 3,000 visitors. Also, aviation legend Dick Rutan - he flew around the world nonstop - visited the museum and donated a large portion of his personal library to the museum.

In 2018, we want to build on this momentum and achieve:

- * Hangar Construction
- * Museum Solar Project
- * Added Display Space
- * Increase our Visitor Count with emphasis on Education.

We depend on financial and other kinds of civic backing and community support. Your contribution is extremely important to us and we are grateful for each and every gift. Come see us for a tour. Thank you!

Yours very sincerely,

Ren Stelloh, President
Estrella Warbirds Museum

Donation Match !
*All donations from this appeal
will be matched by an
anonymous donor up to the
first \$10,000.*

Monthly Meeting/Dinner Menu
January 3, 2018
6pm Social 7pm Dinner
\$20

Baked Chicken
Roasted Red Potatos
Seasonal Vegetables
Green Salad
Rolls

“Evacuation Of Saigon”

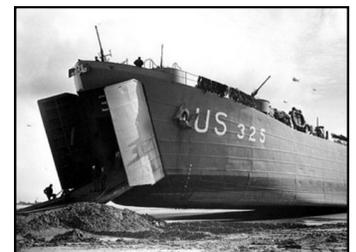
Reservations:
Phone: 805 296 1935
On Line: ewarbirds.org
drop down to Dinner Reservations

Happy Landing In Starfighter Saga



A White Knight (aka Bruce Ross of Paso Robles) rode through the turnstile on Nov 16th, had a few words with resident Acquisition Mgr. Gary Corippo and On-Duty Docent Ed Cobleigh about the plight of our Starfighter (The White Knight's Fav Aircraft) and presented a **check for exactly \$5k** to President Ren Stelloh to cover the Starfighter's title transfer to EWM from the State Of California. It will be determined just how Estrella Warbirds will thank Mr. Ross for his generosity. It seems that the F-104 holds a special place in the Knight's heart. He built a lot of models. This was simply his favorite. 'nough said! Once in a while a little lightning strikes. . .and it feels good! Perhaps the ship will get into the 2018 painting schedule? The Starfighter is one of our stars.along with Mr. Ross!

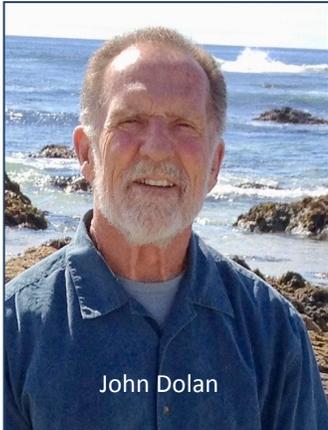
Lon Allen Masterpiece Made From Scratch: LST325



EWM-Another masterwork of meticulous detail was donated to Estrella early in November. **Lon Allen** of Atascadero (see his occasional column in the SLO Tribune) made the detailed model of **LST 325**, a WWII Tank Landing Ship that saw action throughout most of the war. The original ship has been restored and now takes on visitors in Evansville, IN. Stop in to admire the model's detail and remember that Lon makes these models to exact scale and dimension entirely from scratch. It now sits in its **display case in HIND PAVILION**.

Learn about the ship's legacy and restoration at:
www.lstmemorial.org

Memorial Service for John Dolan Scheduled For Thompson Hall



John Dolan

Services for EWM Founding Member **John Dolan**, who passed on October 18, 2017, will be held in Thompson Hall, Estrella Warbirds Museum at **12:00 noon** on Saturday, **January 13th, 2018**. All are invited to attend for lunch and service to include Color Guard, Flag Presentation and Missing Man Formation flown by Estrella Museum Pilots, captained by George Marrett.

Ventura Turkey Night Grand Prix Marshalled By WAD Docent Rick Goudy

From Dick Woodland. . .

FYI, Claudia and I attended the 77th running of the **Turkey Night Grand Prix**, (National Midget Points Race) which was held at **Ventura** this year. The **winner of the WAD Fast Time Award** was NASCAR super star, **Kyle Larson**. The main event was a no holds bar race the entire distance with newly crowned **NASCAR Truck Champion, Christopher Bell**, who got the best of Kyle Larson.

More important is the fact that part time WAD docent, **Rick Goudy, was the Grand Marshall** at this years event. Back in the day, he won the CRA (**Champion Racing Association**) Sprint Car Championship and the Turkey Night Grand Prix Midget Race in the same year. That added his name to that of Bill Vukovich, AJ Foyt, Parnelli Jones, etc., etc..

Just a little something you probably didn't know about one of our docents.

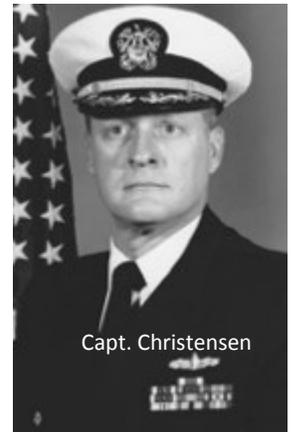
Oh yes, he also perfected a method of aluminum spinning and provided some of the parts used on the space shuttles. His home office is full of photos of him with various astronauts. (He might even be a good one to bring in as a guest speaker sometime, as he can tie the racing world and the aeronautical world together.)

Dick

George Marrett Presents: "THE EVACUATION OF SAIGON" Another "Do Not Miss"

Come to Thompson Hall on Wednesday, January 3rd to hear **Capt. Robert Christensen USN (Ret.)** talk about exiting the Viet Nam Conflict in 1975. The harrowing tale of logistics, moving people and materials safely out of harm's way in the face of the advancing North Vietnamese Army.

Captain Christenson was at sea as executive officer in **USS Blue Ridge**, a **command ship**, during the **evacuation of Saigon** in April 1975. Aboard the ship



Capt. Christensen

was the admiral in charge of "**Frequent Wind**", the US Marine helicopter effort to save US and associated Vietnamese nationals in Saigon who had supported us during the war. Additionally, the supporting Marine general and ultimately our ambassador to Vietnam and swarms of press embarked. Rogue South Vietnamese helicopters arrived over the fleet in droves. He witnessed it all.

Arroyo Grande's Welcome Home Heroes Fly-Over Nets Rave Reviews, Extra Donation For Estrella

November 12 was a busy day for the **C-47, Bug Smasher and L-19**. Welcome Home Heroes, a program initiated by Robert Tolan and Family a few years ago, agreed to donate \$300 to EWM for the 3-ship fly-over. On the way back from a Santa Barbara appearance the formation flew over the event 3 times. Per Mr. Tolan: "We are sending a new check and we are going to **raise it to \$400**. Thank you so much for the great fly-over!!! We hope we can schedule you guys again for next year!!"



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

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



Hey! Interested in *History, Aircraft, Cars?*



NOW HEAR THIS!!:

Volunteers Wanted.....

GIFT SHOP: Thursday through Sunday, 10am until 4pm.
Call Toni Moore at 805-238-9317.

LIBRARY: Open when the Museum is open. Contact Tom Gorham at tag2878@cox.net or call the museum at 805-238-9317.

MUSEUM GREETER/DOCENT: Open when museum is open. Meet and Greet. Call Jerry Jones, Museum Coordinator at 805-238-9317.

RESTORATION: Hands On! - "Get Dirty"! Just show up Monday, Wednesday or Saturday, starting at 9AM. Gourmet Lunch on Saturday provided by Wayne Rice. See Ron Boyte or Anyone in the Shop.

COOKS: Saturdays cooks/assistants for the volunteers. Contact Wayne Rice at 805-423-8828.

From The Editor:

If you see or experience anything concerning airplanes and/or automobiles that you think may be of interest to our membership, send it to The Editor via email:

eagleeditor@ewarbirds.org

Send it by the 12th of the month deadline.

Everything will be considered. Send names with any photos. Submissions will belong to Estrella Warbirds. Easy as that! Thank You! Steve Lochen, Editor