



ESTRELLA ★ WARBIRD ★ MUSEUM

EAGLE

Paso Robles, CA

REMEMBERING THE PAST/INSPIRING THE FUTURE

Vol 30 No 4 April 2022



KPHM PHOTO John Dwelle

PREZ SEZ

EWM President John Couch

The 30th Anniversary committee has been meeting and firming up details for several open house events, as well as a fund raising dinner in October 2022.

During the planning process, it has become very clear that we have come a long way in 30 years, thanks to those who acted on the vision they shared, the donors who helped make it possible and especially the volunteers and staff who have shared the load in completing the myriad of projects over the years. Where do we go from here?

We continue to collect and preserve artifacts that educate others about the sacrifices made by men and women for the sake of others.

We take seriously our management of resources and our fiduciary responsibilities, while managing the museum.

We reach out to youth and instill in them a desire and willingness to learn and participate in our efforts.

And we build a team of staff and volunteers that identify not as individuals, but as part of a larger effort to take the vision of those who started our museum to an even higher level.

Recruitment and retention of volunteers is critical to our success, so we are always eager to plug you into an area of service that you would enjoy.

There is SO much more to come. *And it's going to be great!* —John

WARBIRDS WINGS & WHEELS 13 MAY 7, 2022 - 7AM TO 4PM

THE BASICS:

- ◆ **WHERE:** 4251 DRY CREEK RD, PASO ROBLES, CA. BLDGS. OPEN @ 10AM
- ◆ **CAR SHOW AND SWAP MEET.** GATES OPEN 6:30am, CLOSE 8:45am FOR SHOW ENTRANTS. DEPART AFTER 4PM
- ◆ **CAR ENTRY FEE \$45.** ADD \$10 AFTER MAY 1, 2022. RESERVE ONLINE AT ewarbirds.org. OR: CALL JOHN SPOONER 831-238-1278
- ◆ **RESERVE SWAP MEET SPACES:** CALL JOHN SPOONER 831-238-1278
- ◆ **DONATION AT GATE \$10 PER ADULT.** UNDER 12 FREE. INCLUDES ENTRY TO ALL BUILDINGS. **NO PETS, PLEASE.**
- ◆ **FRIDAY NIGHT BARN DANCE WITH MONTE MILLS BAND.** RESERVE PRIOR TO **MAY 1, 2022.** \$35 PER ADULT, 8-ROUND TABLE \$245, 10-ROUND TABLE \$315. ATTENDANCE LIMITED TO 250.
- ◆ **QUESTIONS? CALL CAROL:** 805-286-5566 OR ESTRELLA MUSEUM 805-238-9317

Ride With *Betsy* Is An Affair To Remember



Joel and Diane

On Saturday, January 22, 2022 a number of Museum volunteers and a few visitors were treated to a fabulous flight on our own C-47, *Betsy's Biscuit-Bomber*. Our pilots were Sherman Smoot and Scott Stelzle.

It was a perfect day in Paradise (the Central Coast); clear, light winds, and no perceptible gusts.

At the last minute, I was invited to join the group & it took me all of 3 seconds to accept.

It was really a once in a lifetime experience; I was even given the opportunity to view Hearst Castle from the cockpit windows as we banked right to start our trip home; which ended way too soon for me.

The flight had a special significance for Diane, as her father was a *Distinguished Flying Cross* recipient in South Africa and had taken her on the SA C-47 a number of times. The experience actually brought tears to her eyes, recalling those early days.

On behalf of all the passengers, I want to thank the great crew and Ken for doing such an excellent job.

If you have not had the opportunity to experience this for yourself; you can purchase a ticket for the monthly flight from Ken.

—Diane and Joel Chesler
EWM members & Local Merchant Liaisons

Restoration Corner F86, Bomb Truck Wheels



Mike Brophy Drives
Gary Woodall Bonds Wing

Dennis Johansen Stencils



Jim Brass Sands Wing

Mike Brophy Lugs Nuts

Mr. Brophy Changes Bearings



Come in and join the Resto Crew. You'll learn something cool and have some fun too!

**FOND ADIEU TO THE
REAL “CANDY BOMBER”
Colonel Gail Halvorsen 1920-2022**

German Embassy note on passing of Col. Gail Halvorsen
RIP Colonel #GailHalvorsen. Berlin's 'Candy Bomber', has passed at 101 years-old. When supplies were short during the Berlin Airlift, he dropped candy from his plane for the children of the city, inspiring Operation "Little Vittles". Thank you for your kindness, Colonel

After World War II, Berlin was divided into four sections occupied by the United States, France, England, and Russia. As the **Cold War** began, Russia blocked food supplies from coming into the city. The United States then began dropping food supplies over Berlin. This was 1948.

Col. Halvorsen was one of the pilots assigned to fly food and supplies to the blockaded citizens of Berlin. This mission became “Operation Little Vittles.”

The Short Story: Upon sharing some of his chewing gum with local children on the ground in Berlin, and seeing how excited they were to receive it, Halvorsen promised he would drop more for them from his airplane the next day. He dropped handkerchiefs full of candy from his own candy rations and became known as the “Candy Bomber” until the Blockade ended in 1949. His mission of kindness earned him the Congressional Gold Medal.

Col. Halvorsen attended the 2019 70th anniversary of the lifting of the blockade. There to honor him was Estrella’s C-47 Betsy’s Biscuit Bomber, piloted by **Sherman Smoot** (pictured above right) and **Scott Stelzle**. The Good Colonel got some “hours” in The Bomber just for good measure.

He is a Legend now locked in the history of the greatest conflict ever on the earth. The Colonel passed on February 16, 2022 at his home in Utah.

Does the story of Col. Halvorsen have a ring to what is happening in the news these days?

Do Betsy’s missions say “Why” Estrella Warbirds Museum and its Kin find, restore, cherish, display to all and, if possible, bring life again to the flying machines of our recent history, our very survival? Get a lesson at Estrella!



Col. Gail Halvorsen (left) in Berlin stands in front of **Betsy’s Biscuit Bomber** with EWM’s **Sherman Smoot**, who piloted our C-47 with **Scott Stelzle** to the 70th Anniversary celebrations of the Berlin Air Lift operation. Everyone there gets into the act.

The “C-54” on Col. Halvorsen’s cap is the main vehicle used in the Airlift. The C-47 like Betsy was also heavily used. He flew both.



VISTOR FROM OUTSIDE THE WIRE-GOT IN FOR FREE



Per Woodland Team: Woodland Auto Display, had a Siberian Husky mix wander onto the property. There is a collar but no ID.

Mr. (Ms.?) Doggie knows commands and is “very well mannered”.

Anyone out there interested in adopting him/her? This page is about “Kindness”, after all. If a “Yes”, email Ken Neuman: kenneuman@ewarbirds.org There!

MONTHLY DINER MEETING/DINNER

APRIL 6, 2022 - THOMSON HALL

MENU

Baked Ham

Scalloped Potatoes

Green Salad

Mixed Vegetables

Dessert

5:30 SOCIAL

6:30 DINNER

GEORGE MARRETT PRESENTS

POST DINNER

\$20 AT THE DOOR

RESERVATIONS:

PH: 805-296-1935

ONLINE: ewarbirds.org
drop down to dinner res.

GEORGE MARRETT PRESENTS

LEIA LARSON **USMC**

"Born in '78 raised in Santa Margarita, went to Atascadero HS, graduated in '97. Shipped to Boot Camp, MCRD Paris Island in March 2001, graduated June. During flight school at NAS Pensacola, FL. 9/11 happened and at that point, I knew it was only a matter of when and where I would deploy. Mobilized in Dec '03, deployed in March '04 to Iraq (OIF II) and then again March '05 (OIF III) to Al Taqaddum Air Base located between Fallujah and Ramadi."



LEIA WTH PET .50

Let's get down with some of the real nitty gritty about SERVICE from HER point of view! **BE THERE!!**

ESTRELLA WARBIRDS MUSEUM

John Couch President
Margi Baur Vice President
Carol Verstuyft Secretary
Cindy Bergen Treasurer

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Cindy Bergin
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Betty Miller City Advisor
Ian Webster Insurance
Dick Woodland Woodland Auto Display

NOW HEAR THIS...

Year end appeal letter generated donations in the amount of \$24K+ Match met as promised by anonymous donor!
Thank you very, VERY much!

LIBRARY QUIZ RUSSIAN BIG BIRD 225

1. The Antonov 225 is known as the “Mriya” Ukrainian (not Russian) for:

- a) Whale
- b) Impossible
- c) Dream
- d) Mountain



2. The aircraft was designed by the Antonov Design Bureau for the Soviet Union to:

- a) Transport entire tank Regiments
- b) Transport the Energia Rocket boosters
- c) Transport Russian Oligarch households

3. The Western world first saw the Antonov in flight at:

- a) The 1990 Farnborough Air Show
- b) The 1989 Paris Air Show
- c) Oshkosh in 1995



4. The main landing gear of the Antonov had 36 wheels.

True or False

5. The Antonov was the largest aircraft built, its max payload was:

- a) 200 tons
- b) 150 tons
- c) 250 tons

6. Although the Antonov is recognized as the world’s largest aircraft; the Hughes H-4 Hercules (Spruce Goose) had a greater wingspan and overall height.

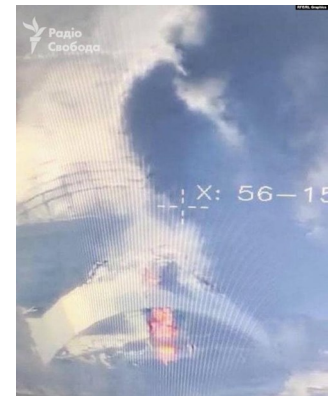
True or False

7. Following the collapse of the Soviet Union, the Antonov was mothballed in the Ukraine. It was restored in 2001 and flew until:

- a) 2020
- b) 2010
- c) 2015

8. In the attempt to rescue survivors of a sunken Russian submarine, the Antonov flew a British submersible to assist.

True or False



9. The Antonov was destroyed by the invading Russians at Hostomel airport. It was unable to evacuate because:

- a) An aircrew was unavailable
- b) The runway was damaged
- c) One engine was removed for maintenance

10. The Russians immediately admitted their error and offered to restore the damaged aircraft. Its cost in today’s rubles (March 4, 2022) is:

- a) 100 billion rubles
- b) 50 million rubles
- c) APRIL Fool!!!!



See the tail assembly? Impact area on the right.

Answers on Page 6

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



SAVE THIS WEEKEND DATE:

WE WANT YOU!

**THE ESTRELLA
 WARBIRDS MUSEUM
 WANTS YOU
 AS A DOCENT!**

**WE ARE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS
 WHO ENJOY TALKING WITH PEOPLE
 & HAVE AN INTEREST IN
 HISTORY, AIRCRAFT OR CARS**

WE WILL TRAIN YOU!

CALL ESTRELLA'S PETER SNYDER

805-238-6383

Answers 1-c, 2-b, 3-a, 4-False, 5-c, 6-True, 7-a, 8-True, 9-c, 10-c !!!