

# EAGLE



## ESTRELLA WARBIRDS MUSEUM/ WOODLAND AUTO DISPLAY

Paso Robles, CA



Remembering The Past/  
Inspiring The Future



Vol 31 No 8

August 2023

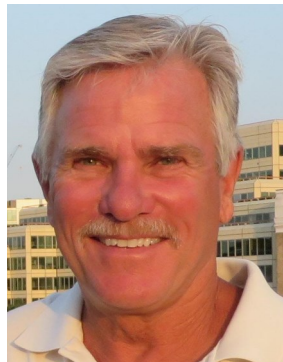
EWM'S MISSION:  
PASS IT ON



### PREZ SEZ

ESTRELLA PRESIDENT JOHN COUCH

I hope you all had an enjoyable Independence Day. I had the pleasure of hanging out with family and friends at the Templeton parade. I so enjoyed seeing the vehicles from our museum in the parade and felt a genuine pride to be a part of Estrella Warbirds. A short time later the airplanes of the Gooney Bird Group really impressed the crowd with their flyover.



It occurred to me how fitting it was to have those vehicles and planes at the parade, honoring those who served in the U.S. military. These museum pieces are from a different era, yet they're well preserved and still able to serve to teach a captivated audience about the sacrifices endured by others without having to say a single word. They are not simply vehicles or airplanes from the past filling up space in a parade. Each one is an avenue that connects us to the past. Each one has its own story much like those who operated or depended on them in service to our Country.

Our Estrella Warbirds Museum serves this very noble purpose: To bring that connection to our lives here, right now in a free country so others might feel it and appreciate what we have here in America. I want to heartily thank each and every one of you who gives of your time, resources, energy and talents to be able to fulfill that purpose. If you or someone you know has an interest in checking out how you can be a part of our museum, please get in touch with our Museum Coordinator, Ken Neuman at 805 238-9317 and find out how you can help. You'll be glad you did! —John Couch

These two eager docents working today at Estrella Warbirds are ID'd officially as 2 youngsters: **Robert Hagar** (97 years young) , former gunner on a **Navy SBD Dauntless**. Yeah that's right! And **Daniel Gomez** an ancient 13-year-old who vols in the Gift Shop. . .with parents' approval. Same for Mr. Hagar. You both get something adorned with Oak Leaf Cluster at the next Vol Banquet.

HOOOOAH!!

# Monthly Dinner/Meeting August 2, 2023 Thomson Hall

**Local Talent Turns Upstart into Renowned Name In Aviation Circles:  
The Story Of *ACI Jet*, A Friend Of Estrella Warbirds. Be There!**

Estrella Warbirds Museum/  
Woodland Auto Display

## Board Of Directors

John Couch President  
Margi Bauer Vice President  
Carol Verstuyft Secretary  
Cindy Bergin Treasurer

## Directors

Marge Bauer  
Cindy Bergin  
Ron Brooks  
John Couch  
Mike Kelly  
Rob Kinnear  
Laurie Smoot  
Ren Stelloh  
Carol Verstuyft

## Staff

Scott Stelzle COO  
Ken Neuman Museum Coordinator  
Kelly Pickering Asst. Coordinator  
Kathy Kroeker Bookkeeper/Accountant  
Carol Verstuyft Advertising  
Paula Hall Gift Shop  
Marcia Rice Library  
Ron Boyte Vehicle Restoration  
Margi Bauer Volunteer Program  
Ron Brooks Facility Maintenance  
John Spooner Public Information  
John Everett Parade Mgr.  
Gary Corripo Ambassador Emeritus  
Bob Kelly Membership Manager  
Rob Kinnear Aircraft Restoration  
Peter Visel Webmaster  
Wayne Rice Kitchen Mgr.  
Betty Miller City Liaison  
Steve Lochen Newsletter  
Joel Chesler Local Business Contact

## MENU

**BBQ CHICKEN**

**CHILI BEANS**

**SALAD**

**DESSERT**

PROGRAM AFTER DINNER

No Host Bar 5:30 p.m., Dinner 6:30 p.m.  
Dinner is catered and open to the public.  
Reservations are required prior to 6 p.m.  
Monday prior to dinner, either  
online at [ewarbirds.org](http://ewarbirds.org) (drop down to  
dinner reservations) ....or  
phone 805 296-1935  
Dinner price: \$25/pers.



William Borgsmiller is the 46-year-old CEO of *ACI Jet*, an aviation services company headquartered in San Luis Obispo, California. He founded the company in 1998 with a capital of \$75,000. Today it's worth over \$100 million in annual sales. Mr. Borgsmiller oversees the worldwide operation of ACI managed fleet of 15 corporate jets and manages the company's FAR 145 Repair Station. He has also established and developed three full-service FBOs (Fixed-Base-Operators) in San Luis Obispo, Paso Robles, and Orange County (John Wayne Airport).

Mr. Borgsmiller has a Bachelors of Science in Aeronautical Science from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, with minors in Aviation Business Administration and Computer Science. He has earned multiple FAA certificates, including Airline Transport Pilot, Multi-Engine, Instrument, Seaplane, Flight Instructor (CFI, CFII, MEI, Seaplane), and Mechanic (Airframe; Powerplant). Before founding ACI Jet, Borgsmiller worked as a Sales Manager for Valley Oil Company (Texaco / Phillips 66) representing Texaco and Phillips 66 for aviation fuel accounts in California and Nevada. He's also worked as a Pilot/Aircraft Mechanic for Sierra Pacific Industries, a Federal Law Officer for the United States Coast Guard, and a Pilot/Manager for a small FBO in Northern California. He's a Harvard Business Grad.

Get a reservation for August 2d at Thomson Hall and learn what it takes to be a "Godfather" in local/national aviation business circles. He has a ton of stick-and-rudder stories too.

This is yet another "Do-Not-Miss opportunity!

**Psssst. . .**

Outcome from WWW14 weekend:  
Just shy of \$31,000 into Bank.  
Not that shabby. Great job everyone!  
Bigger and Better in 2024!

# HEY Y'ALL

WE'RE FIXIN TO HAVE A

## HANGAR ONE HOE-DOWN

OCT 14 2023

6 PM - 10 PM

FEATURING:

MONTE MILLS AND  
THE LUCKY HORSESHOE BAND

\$60 PER PERSON

TABLE OF 8 \$420

TABLE OF 10 \$540

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

805-286-5566 OR 805-238-9317

[WWW.EWARBIRDS.ORG/HOEDOWN.SHTML](http://WWW.EWARBIRDS.ORG/HOEDOWN.SHTML)

DINNER  
SILENT AUCTION  
50/50 DRAWING  
COMPLIMENTARY  
LINE DANCE  
LESSONS

WINE AND BEER  
AVAILABLE AT  
NO HOST  
BAR

TRI-TIP,  
BBQ CHICKEN,  
SCALLOPED  
POTATOES,  
SALAD, ROLLS,  
DESSERT



ESTRELLA WARBIRDS MUSEUM  
4251 DRY CREEK ROAD, PASO ROBLES, CA 93446

ALL PROCEEDS SUPPORT THE ESTRELLA WARBIRDS MUSEUM,  
A 501(C)(3) NON-PROFIT CORPORATION. FEDERAL TAX ID 77-0324714

# Hangar 1 Hoe-Down

## Dinner & Dance *REGISTRATION*

### Saturday Night, October 14, 2023

Location: Estrella Warbirds Museum and Woodland Auto Display  
Hours: 6pm to 10pm • Doors open at 6:00pm, dinner at 6:45 pm

Dancing starts at 7:30pm.

Beer and wine available for purchase.

Tickets are \$60.00 per person.

Table of (8) = \$420.00 • Table of (10) = \$540.00

**Reservations required by October 10, 2023**

Limited to first (250) people.

DINNER/ DANCE: \$60.00 per Person X \_\_\_\_ People = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Barn Dance tables: • Table of 8: \$420.00 • Table of 10: \$540.00

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

FOR CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS: CARD TYPE: AMEX VISA MASTERCARD DISCOVER

NAME ON CARD: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

EXPIRATION: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ SECURITY CODE: \_\_\_\_\_ Billing Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to Estrella Warbirds Museum, 4251 Dry Creek Road Paso Robles, Ca 93446

## August 2023 Quiz Military Flight Demonstration Teams

- 1) The Blue Angels were formed by the US Navy in 1946. It was the 2nd oldest aerobatic team. What was the first?
  - a. The RAF “ Red Arrows”
  - b. The French Patrouille de France
  - c. The Italian Frecce Tricolor
- 2) The F-4Js flown by the Blue Angels between 1969 and 1974 had a short life as demonstration aircraft because:
  - a. High fuel consumption
  - b. Difficult to keep turns over the crowd
  - c. Required a lot of maintenance
  - d. All of the above
- 3) The Canadian demonstration team’s name was chosen by a popular contest. It was:
  - a. The Wild Geese
  - b. The Polar Bears
  - c. The Snowbirds
- 4) The Snowbirds performed the first ever airshow at midnight at Inuvik ( Northwest Territory ).  
True or False
- 5) The Royal Air Force has 2 demonstration teams. The famous “ Red Arrows” and \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. The Sopwith Camels
  - b. The WWII Memorial flight
  - c. The King’s Helicopter Flight
- 6) The RAD Memorial Flight consists of ; A Dakota, A Hurricane, A Lancaster and a Spitfire.  
True or False
- 7) The Italian Air Frecce Tricolor team is the ONLY flight Demonstration Team to fly over a civilian funeral service. The deceased was:
  - a. Luciano Pavarotti
  - b. Enzo Ferrari
  - c. Pope Paul XXII
- 8) The USAF “ *Thunderbirds*” fly the fast and agile F-16. Their first aircraft was:
  - a. F-84
  - b. F-100
  - c. F-104
- 9) The USAF had a demonstration team at Oshkosh in 2022. It was:
  - a. The Thunderbirds
  - b. The C-17 Globemaster III
  - c. The A-10
- 10) The US Army has a wildly popular aerial demonstration team. They are.
  - a. The Apaches
  - b. The Golden Knights
  - c. The Cheyenne



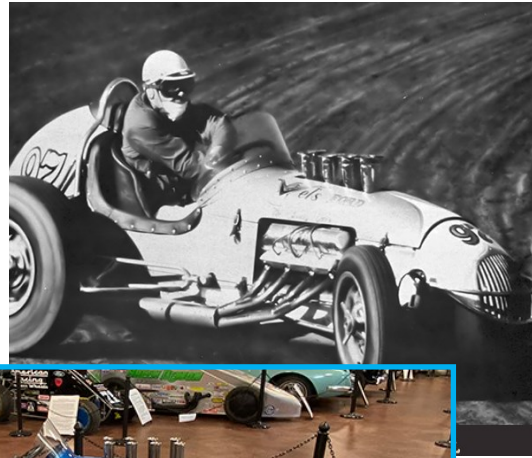
Answers: Back Page

## FROM THE DUCKPOND

### Dick Woodland

This 1962 Sprint Car is one of the more interesting race cars in our display as both the owner, Vel Miletich, and his regular driver, Allen Heath could have books written about them.

The colorful Heath was also known as "Splinterhead" as he had numerous serious accidents during his Hall of Fame career, with one in 1953, causing him to lose his left hand. He worked with UCLA to help develop the first "hook" prosthesis. Within one year of his accident, he won a 100 lap midget race in San Bernardino.




Vel was first a sponsor of this car. He later purchased it and hired Allen Heath as his driver. Vel is well known for his Ford dealerships, Vel's Ford. He later hired an upstart driver named Parnelli Jones. This eventually led to the Vels/ Parnelli Jones partnership, a win at Indianapolis, and later, numerous Indy Car wins with the so-called Super Team of Joe Leonard, Mario Andretti and Al Unser Sr.

Very few Rip Erickson cars have survived over the years. This particular one is really unique in that they ran a Big Block Ford engine. While the engine was powerful by early 1960's standards, it was also much heavier than most engines used at the time, which made handling and corner speed an issue. Even so, this car accounted for numerous wins and quick times. This historical survivor was meticulously restored by former Sprint Car Champion, Jon Stanbrough.

The following is known as "command Information"...

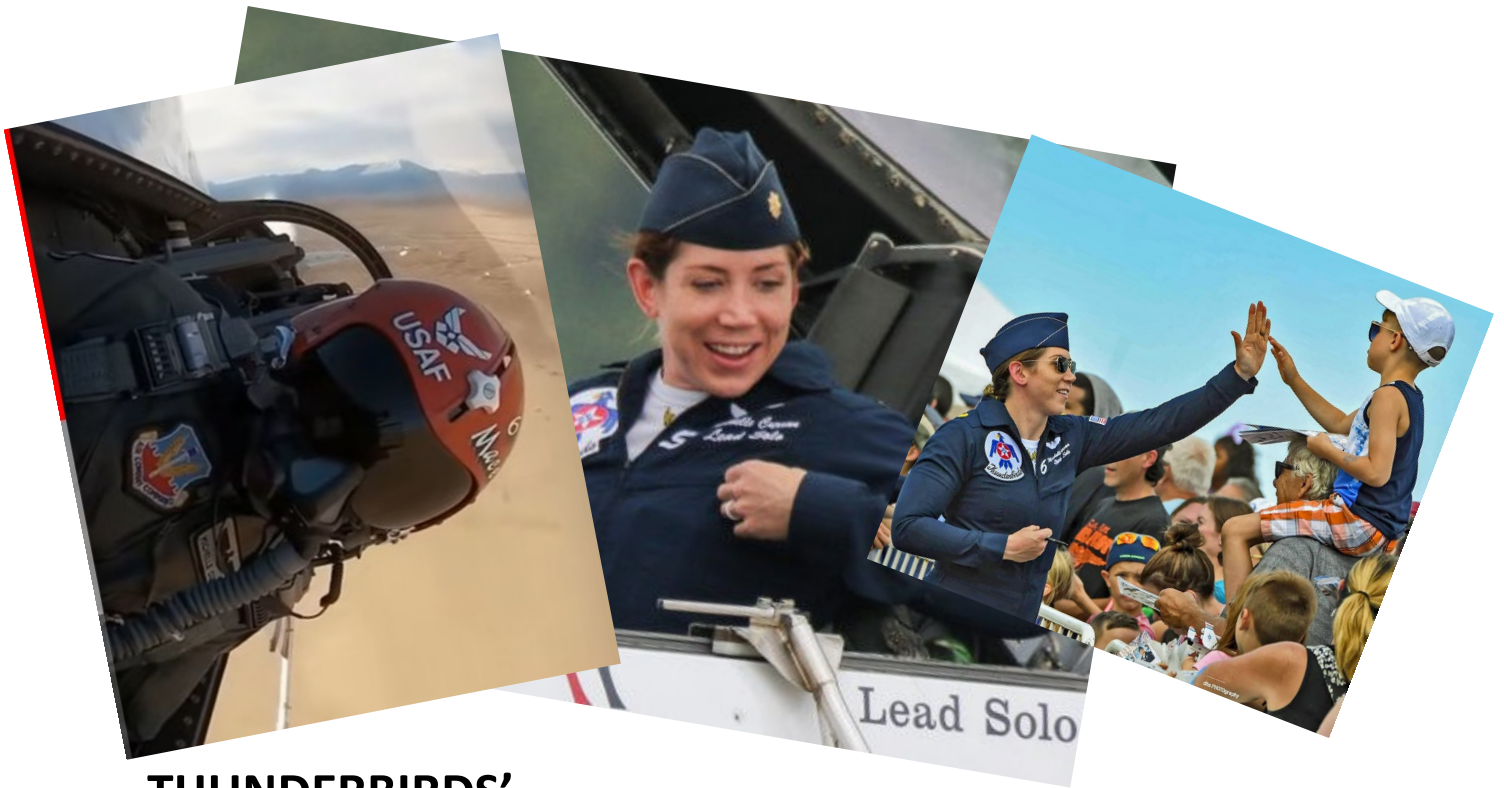
### FYI: Membership "Dues" As Of Today's Date

|                   |                      |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| Single/Individual | \$75/yr              |
| Family            | \$100/Yr             |
| Sustaining Family | \$100/Yr             |
| Patron Family     | \$225/Yr             |
| Life              | \$500/Life           |
| Star              | \$1000 - \$5000/Life |
| Corporate         | \$500/Life           |



Keep the **Eagle** flying in your house. Catch up on any late "payments" (dues) to Estrella Warbirds Museum. Your Dues are deductible and keep this vital community alive and current. We have expansion in mind and every cent counts. Stay part of the Team. You are vital!

Membership portal: [ewarbirds.org](http://ewarbirds.org) . Go to *About*, drop down to *Membership*, Execute. Thanks!! (see back page for "Now Hear This")



## THUNDERBIRDS’ 2021 LEAD SOLO PILOT MAJOR Michelle “Mace” Curran

Maj. Curran was widely known as a member of the [U.S. Air Force Flight Demonstration Team, the Thunderbirds](#). She flew position #5, lead solo, one of the most visible positions on the team. 2021 was Curran’s third season with the [Thunderbirds](#).

During her three years of assignment with the Thunderbirds, she quickly established herself as a highly visible and positive influencer for the Air Force, through innovative use of social media. Curran also provided a candid transparency about her career and personal life, effectively leveraging social media to bring airshow fans and aviation enthusiasts inside the world of a fighter pilot. Curran defined what it is to be a modern Air Force officer for many outsiders, providing a valuable insight into the Air Force experience and showcasing the opportunities of an Air Force career.

In conversations around the U.S. during three air show seasons, Curran told *The Aviationist* about her role on the team and its opportunity to, “showcase the Air Force experience and let people know what is possible”. During a conversation at the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, Michigan, for the Thunder Over Michigan Airshow in 2021, Curran said that, “These are long days sometimes, but this is the best job in the world. The thing that makes it great are the people I serve with—everyone, the team I work alongside every day. We lift each other up, we accomplish more as a team”.

Maj. Curran flew as Thunderbird #6, opposing solo, before her advancement to Thunderbird #5, lead solo in the 2020/21 airshow season. Curran has worked with the Thunderbird team media personnel to bring scintillating in-cockpit viewpoint video of the lead solo’s dynamic routine during the Thunderbird demonstration, including thrilling video of opposing maneuvers with Thunderbird #6 and her signature vertical rolls during the team’s “high show”.

“Mace” Curran served as Chief of Standardization and Evaluation for the team, a leadership role which will positively impact the trajectory of the team in upcoming airshow seasons and beyond into civilian life. ( Lifted from *The Aviationist*—Tom Demerly)

If you are in High School and are interested in Aviation Careers, check out the Youth Aviation Club at Estrella Warbirds Museum. **See page 8 and inquire!**



**ESTRELLA WARBIRDS MUSEUM  
WOODLAND AUTO DISPLAY**

4251 Dry Creek Road  
Paso Robles, CA 93446  
825-238-9317  
Thursday—Sunday  
10am till 4pm



**Flyer Inside! October 14 HO-DOWN Registration!**

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



**Youth Aviation Group** gets the Grande Tour from Brad Eaton, Youth Leader at CALFire at PRB on June 3, 2023. They observed a live tanker demo dropping retardant on a target, attended an Antique Aero roundup right there at the airport, and sat in an F-18 cockpit and played Maverick for a minute or two, while the Navy pilots explained the workings of a modern jet fighter. Sound like “fun”? See below

**HEY AVIATORS PRESENT AND FUTURE:  
YOU IN HIGH SCHOOL?  
YOU LIKE AVIATION/AIRPLANES?  
LIKE ENGINES/MECHANICS/PHYSICS/  
ENGINEERING?  
LIKE A CAREER IN AVIATION?  
WHY NOT INQUIRE WITH  
ESTRELLA YOUTH AVIATION CLUB  
ESTRELLA WARBIRDS MUSEUM  
CALL MARY ALLMON  
OR  
BRAD EATON  
805-550-8755**

Oh, BTW.....see page 6 if necessary

**NOW HEAR THIS!!!...  
MSGT REDASSKY:**



**“You are now on notice:  
This newsletter’s mailing list will be  
updated as of next month to remove  
lapsed/unpaid memberships. You know  
who you are. Please do the right thing.”**

That is all.

Answers: 1-b, 2-d, 3-c, 4 True, 5-b, 6 True, 7-a, 8-a, 9-b, and 10-b