

EAGLE



**Estrella Warbirds Museum/
Woodland Auto Display
Paso Robles CA**



**Remembering The Past/
Inspiring the Future**

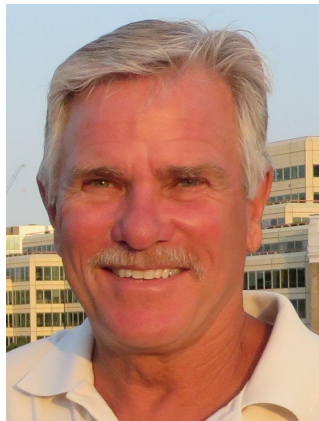
Vol 31 No 7

July 2023

PREZ SEZ ESTRELLA PRESIDENT JOHN COUCH

The dust has finally settled and everything put back in place after WWW14. We don't have a final tally of the attendance yet but I know that it was a good turnout with a good showing on all the cars that were entered for judging.

What I thought was noticeable was the general atmosphere of the event. People were in good spirits and appeared to be enjoying the event. There were a couple glitches as expected, but far less than last year. They only serve to make it better next time, since we always debrief and figure out how we can do better. I attribute our museum performance to the leadership of Carol and Dan Verstuyft, along with the participation of staff and a lot of dedicated volunteers. So thank you all for your help and support.



I also want to thank our generous sponsors who never fail to support us. Mark your calendars for WWW15 coming up Saturday, May 11, 2024.

It's gonna' be great! —John



Now Hear This

**Re: July 5, 2023 Dinner Presentation
Planning By Board Of Directors**

The Board of Directors is looking forward to the July 5 dinner to conduct a State of the Museum presentation. We will be highlighting our current and future plans for events, programs, acquisitions, restorations, and revenue generating ideas recently identified in a strategic planning session.

We look forward to answering your questions about the direction we are heading as a museum and how we plan to get there. There are a lot of things in the works and always a lot of challenges in how to accomplish them. We look forward to your participation and input as well, all while enjoying another awesome meal prepared by Larry Eastwood and crew. *All are welcome!*

See you then, John

LIBRARY QUIZ: *EDWARDS AFB FLIGHT TESTING*

- 1) Before WWII, the need for a bombing and gunnery range accessible to March Air Field resulted in “Hap” Arnold acquiring land in the Antelope Valley. It was on:
- Rogers Dry Lake
 - Owen’s Dry Lake
 - Barstow Dry Lake



- 2) The Airfield there was initially called Mojave Field, but later became Muroc Air Force Base.
True or False

- 3) The necessity of a super-secret flight test site was made clear by:
- Development of Russian Jets
 - Our development of the P-59
 - Public exposure of Wright- Patterson Air Force Base



- 4) Rogers Dry Lake was extremely isolated. Thirsty pilots and engineers had few choices. The favorite was:
- The Muroc truck stop and café
 - The Antelope Valley Inn
 - The Happy Bottom Riding Club

- 5) The proprietor of Club was a confident and drinking buddy of the test pilot community. This person was:
- Pancho
 - Pancho Barnes
 - Tex Ritter



Estrella’s N824NA at work at Edwards with B-52B

- 6) The competition to “break the sound barrier” was a national sensation and followed closely by the public and the aviation community. The competition was between the Bell X-1 and the XP-86.
True or False

- 7) Many knowledgeable pilots and engineers considered the Bell X-1 not eligible for the honor of being first because:
- It was not a military design
 - It was rocket powered
 - It could not take off on its own
 - All of the above



First 3 protos XP-??

- 8) Alternatively, the XP-86 was not designed to pass the speed of sound in level flight. It could (theoretically) only do so in a dive.
True or False

- 9) Flight testing in the 1950’s resulted in all these cold war icons EXCEPT:
- F-102 Delta Dagger
 - F-105 Thunderchief
 - B-70 Valkyrie
 - B-52 Stratofortress



P-??

- 10) Edwards became a landing site for the Space Shuttle in 1981 with the landing of The Shuttle “Enterprise”.
True or False

Answers on back page

BEST OF THE WEST Memorial Day 2023



Estrella Warbirds Museum vehicles had quite a presence at the Santa Margarita "Best Of The West" show that took place on Memorial Day Weekend.

Best Of The West is an antique tractor show with the addition of military vehicles accenting the Memorial Day remembrance. We had 6 vehicles: the AMG "Deuce-and-a-half Gun truck aka "Snoopy", the 1953 Dodge M-43 Ambulance, the 1940 Ford US Navy 4-door staff car (Pearl Harbor, 2-star Admiral), the 2006 US Army HumVee, the 1942 US Army 1/4-ton Jeep (Ed Chidlaw's), and the 1945 US Navy 1/4-ton Jeep. Display vehicles were "hands-on", sparking keen interest from all the climbing-oriented kids in the crowd.

Estrella acknowledges the participation of the Estrella Warbirds Museum docents and our Parade and Restoration staff members, without whom we couldn't have presented this unique display. These included staffers John Everett, Keith Dekker, Dennis Johanson, Greg Heidenreich, Mike Brophy, James Messineo. The Museum docents who volunteered their time were Stephanie & Brent Turner, Janice Nelson, Phil St. Martin, Dave Scott. The Estrella Parade staff, with critical help from John Brady and crew with **S.L.O. Tow Co.** and Elijah with **JohnBoy Heavy Tow**, prepared, organized and transported the Museum's vehicles to the show. These companies **donated their time and expenses** involved with this job!

Thank you all for your time and expertise!

What Comes To Mind When Someone Says The Word: WHALE?

The Douglas A-3 Skywarrior—descriptively nicknamed the 'Whale'—was the largest combat aircraft routinely catapulted off and recovered on the deck of an aircraft carrier. Originally this airplane was conceived and designed to perform dangerous nuclear bombing missions. In over 35 years of service the many Skywarrior variants ended performing just about every other conceivable mission: dive-bombing, aerial refueling, carrier onboard delivery, jamming, photo-reconnaissance, electronic surveillance, VIP transport, and aggressor training.

While the Navy acquired the piston-engine **AJ Savage** bomber as a nuclear-strike stop-gap, a jet-powered bomber was necessary to avoid speedy Soviet interceptors. The Navy, therefore, solicited Douglas and Curtis-Wright for a 50-ton carrier-based jet bomber. This was to be the A-3.

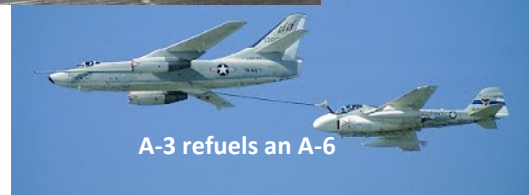
The Skywarrior's ability to refuel agile jets assigned more dangerous raids rapidly proved more useful than its service as a crude bomber, as an A-3 tanker could carry three times more fuel than a refueling-configured A-4 or F-8 jet. This became the Whale's primary function: a carrier based refueler.

But the "Achilles Heel" for all Skywarriors remained carrier takeoffs, with many suffering collapses of the nose gear or catapult bridle with unfavorable consequences. Hence Skywarrior tankers were ultimately replaced by smaller KA-6D Intruder jets similar to the one we have on display at Estrella.

'Whales' saved hundreds of pilots, who would never have made it back to safety without their aid. It was truly the *Forgotten Bomber That Did Everything*. Estrella's Whale (cockpit assembly) is on display.



The "before" image of our "Whale". Aft portion was scrapped



A-3 refuels an A-6



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

WWW14

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

Come To Estrella Warbirds Museum/Woodland Auto Display May 11, 2024 For WWW 15.

Estrella Warbirds Museum

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

Directors

Margi Bauer
 Cindy Bergen
 Ron Brooks
 John Couch
 Mike Kelley
 Rob Kinnear
 Laurie Smoot
 Ren Stelloh
 Carol Verstuyft

Remember:
Thomson Hall
Wednesday July 5, 2023
Monthly Dinner/Meeting
4pm \$25
Planning Session
Make a Reservation
805-296-1935
ewarbirds.org
Drop down to *dinner reserv*

HAVE AN INTEREST IN AVIATION?
LIKE AIRPLANES?
LIKE MECHANICS, PHYSICS, ENGINES?
STILL IN HIGH SCHOOL?
CHECK OUT:
PASO ROBLES/TEMPLETON
AVIATION CLUB
CALL BRAD EATON
ESTRELLA WARBIRDS MUSEUM
805-550-8755

Answers 1-a, 2-True, 3-b, 4-c, 5-b, 6-True, 7-d, 8-True, 9-c, 10-False . . . It was "Columbia"