

COMBAT AIR MUSEUM

→ → → Plane Talk → → →

The Official Newsletter of the Combat Air Museum

April / May 2004 • Vol. 20, No. 3

Auction proves to be a fund-raising success for Combat Air Museum

The **Combat Air Museum Benefit Auction** held at the Old Mill Auction Center in northeast Topeka on March 6 was a great success. The responses from donors and the owner/operator of the auction center have been so positive that we plan to hold another auction in the late summer or early autumn of this year. On March 8, **Martin Moyer** brought the Museum a check for \$3,722.50. And, the auction closed for the evening before all the items for the Museum had been auctioned off. We went over \$4,100 when these remaining items were subsequently sold in later auctions.

Obviously, the success of this auction was due to the many people who donated items for the event. Just in case some of you are wondering – NO ARTIFACTS from the Museum were put in this auction, and none will be. The only aviation-related items in the auction were a donated set of framed aircraft art prints and a mahogany aircraft model.

Special thanks go to **Martin** and **Gene Howerter** for working with the Old Mill Auction Center to allow us to have the auction, and very special thanks go **Susan Metzger**, owner, operator, and auctioneer of the Old Mill Auction Center. Without Susan's help and cooperation, this event would not have happened. Susan not only agreed to the auction for CAM's benefit, but allowed us to store donated items at the auction center prior to the auction. She was also auctioneer for the event. It was quite interesting (and enjoyable) to watch her and her helpers work the floor and the bids.

On the Friday before the auction, several of our volunteers spent over two and one-half hours setting up for the event. This gives you an idea of how many items people donated to the cause. **Martin, Gene, Dick Trupp, Don Dawson, Jack Vaughn, and Amos Page** set up a large horseshoe arrangement of the goods. The night of the auction, several CAM members were present and a few assisted in holding items for bidding.

In preparation for the next auction, we offer the following suggestions. Still, no clothes. We do not want any tires. We will take computers and accessories, if they are complete and work. After talking with

Auction, con't. on page 2

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Combat Air Museum

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Museum Hours

Monday - Saturday
 9 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.
 Last Admission 3:30 P.M.
 Sunday 10 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.
 Last Admission 3:30 P.M.

Plane Talk, the official newsletter
 of Combat Air Museum
 of Topeka, Kansas,
 is published bi monthly.

Your questions and comments
 are welcomed.

Any information for **Plane Talk**
 should be submitted to CAM office.

Westar Energy Community Partners program rewards CAM thanks to Bob & Judy Crapser

On January 21, CAM received a \$500 contribution through the **Westar Energy Community Partners** program. This contribution was due to volunteer time at the Museum by **Bob Crapser** and the fact that **Judy Crapser** is an employee of Westar Energy.

Westar Energy's Community Partners program is one in which Westar employees, retirees, and their spouses can participate. For every one hundred hours of volunteer time, a person in one of the above categories can place his or her name in a hat, figuratively speaking, for a chance to have their name selected for a contribution to a non-profit organization of their choosing. Over the past year, Bob put in over 1,000 hours volunteering at the CAM, so his name was registered 10 times. Fortunately, it was also selected as one of 11 recipients of \$500 contributions. There were also levels of \$100, \$750, and \$1000.

This year's volunteers were recognized at the Community Partners' 6th Annual luncheon held in Topeka on January 21. **Jim Haines, Jr.**, CEO of Westar Energy, announced each volunteer recipient at the \$500, \$750, and \$1000 levels. As the recipients approached the podium area, a photo of each was shown on a large screen along with the name of the non-profit organization receiving the contribution. Each received a personal award from Westar and had a photo take of their award level group.

Danny San Romani also attended the luncheon with Bob and Judy on behalf of CAM. It was an excellent program, and Westar Energy distributed a lot of dollars to non-profit groups throughout the state where Westar is located. The Museum is very grateful to the Westar Energy Community Partners for the donation, and we especially want to thank Bob and Judy for making it possible at all to receive such a donation. We also want to congratulate Bob for his recognition and award. ➔

Auction, con't. from page 1

Susan, we found out that she does have the means to take garage sale items. She has racks with boxes that hold a large number of such items, and people bid on an entire box. But, there are garage sale items, and there is junk. We ask for items that have a good chance of bringing in a little money. We do not want items that are on the way out to the trash.

Although we may have tapped out some of you for items, please pass the word on to your friends, family, and neighbors for donations. Martin and Gene have already moved a couple of truckloads to the auction center for the next event. For further information about donations please call the Museum at 862-3303.

If you are interested in auctions, Susan holds two a week, on Wednesday and Saturday evenings, starting at 6 p.m. ➔

Celebration of the 100th Anniversary of manned, controlled flight

Membership Luncheon speakers share the experiences of their trip

Dick Trupp and **Stu Entz** were our guest presenters at the February luncheon. They spoke about their December 2003 trip to the East Coast to attend ceremonies celebrating the 100th anniversary of manned, controlled flight. Their first stop was the opening ceremonies for the National Air and Space Museum (NASM) Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center, held on December 15. This is NASM's new museum located at Washington Dulles International Airport. The Udvar-Hazy Center is south of the main Dulles terminal. The building has 760,057 square-feet of space. Just for comparison, our two hangar bays total about 42,000 square-feet.

Dick and Stu got to the facility early enough that they got a front row seat for the ribbon cutting ceremony. They said the building is neat and new, but most of the exhibits inside are not done. Several aircraft on exhibit are in pristine or near pristine condition, such as the Concorde and the B-29 Enola Gay – which is now completely assembled. But the majority of the 60 to 70 aircraft in the building are in need of at least a good cleaning, as well as restoration or preservation work. The new center provides the area to do this work. Most of the aircraft had been at the former Paul E. Garber Restoration, Preservation and Storage Facility at Silver Hill, Maryland. The Garber Facility is now closed.

About two hours after the opening ceremony, a group of pro-

testers entered the Udvar-Hazy Center and targeted the Enola Gay with their demonstration. A bottle of red liquid was thrown at the aircraft, bounced off the plane and shattered on the floor. Several demonstrators were arrested and the remainder removed from the building.

Dick and Stu also visited the NASM on the National Mall. A special, expanded exhibit on the Wright Brothers and Wright Flyer was set up in that building.

From Washington, the two traveled to Kitty Hawk, North Carolina to attend the December 17th anniversary ceremony. The weather for the event on Kill Devil Hill was terrible with a lot of rain and most uncharacteristically, no wind. The Wright Brothers had specifically chosen Kitty Hawk because of its constant winds, knowing they would need the lift to make their craft fly. Dick and Stu said some 35,000 to 40,000 people were at Kitty Hawk and some 5,000 were around the monument at Kill Devil Hill. Dick and Stu timed their arrival and stuck out the rain such that they got a front row view on a fenced area around a replica Wright Flyer and launch rail. The ceremony was to include a reenactment flight of the replica Flyer. The launch did not take place because of the rain, so they went into a large pavilion where work was being done on a Flyer replica. A while later, the rain stopped and they went back out to the launch site. But the wind never came up. Also, the fabric of the Flyer replica had ab-

sorbed a lot of moisture, which certainly increased its weight.

The people who moved and positioned the replica Flyer on the launch rail were all descendants of folks who were present at the first flight in 1903. The launch was tried, but with no wind and the additional weight, the Flyer did not get airborne. It left the rail and splashed into some large rain puddles. Stu said had it been successful, the plane would have headed right for where he and Dick were standing. Rain or not, successful launch or not, the crowds were very enthusiastic about being where it all happened 100 years ago, and were very keen on aviation. →

Visitors

During **January**
the Museum had
354 visitors
from **22** states
and
Canada
China
Japan

During **February**
we had
396 visitors
from **23** states
and
Canada and
Sweden

→ → →

Another Biscuits & Gravy Feed is in the works for May 29

We are planning another **Biscuits and Gravy Feed** for **Saturday, May 29**. This one will be on a larger scale than the one held last December. We anticipate needing volunteers comparable to our celebrity pancake feed.

Our target audience for this feed is folks attending the National Hot Rod Association Summer Nationals at Heartland Park Topeka raceway. This national competition typically draws thousands of fans, many of whom arrive in campers and motor homes, and will, hopefully, rather eat out than cook in.

Gene Howerter and **Larry McCormack** are heading up this fund raiser. It will be held in Hangar 602 from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. In early May we will have volunteer sign-up sheets posted in the Gift Shop and 604 lunchroom to help serve the event. This has the potential for becoming a new, annual fund raiser, and we look forward to your help to put it on. →

2004 Calendar

Events subject to change

April

- 17* – Model Contest
- 24 – Celebrity Pancake Feed

May

- 29 – Biscuits and Gravy Feed

June

- 7-10 – Aviation Education Class
- 21-30 – Fireworks Stand

July

- 1-5 – Fireworks Stand
- 5-8 – Aviation Education Class

August

- 2-5 – Aviation Education Class

October

- 16 – Model Contest

December

- Christmas Break – Aviation Education Class
- * moved back one week because of Easter

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Join the Combat Air Museum!

Noller Dealerships of Topeka

Laird Noller Ford
23rd & Topeka 785-235-9211
www.nollerford.com

Noller Lincoln-Mercury-Mazda
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www.nollersales.com

Noller Automotive on the Mall
West Ridge Mall 785-228-0812

April/May Calendar of Events

April

Sunday, April 11

Easter Sunday
The Museum is closed

Monday, April 12

Membership Luncheon
Jean Wanner Education
Conference Center
(JWECC)
11:30 a.m.

This will be a
potluck luncheon.

Saturday, April 17

Model Contest
Hangar 602
9 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 24

Pancake Feed
Hangar 602
7 a.m. – 12 p.m.

May

Saturday, May 29

Biscuits and Gravy Feed
Hangar 602
7 a.m. – 11 a.m.

There is no
Membership
Luncheon in May.
The next luncheon is
Monday, June 14,
Flag Day.
It will
be a potluck luncheon.

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Letters and mission logs from Korea

This is the fourth installment of letters and combat mission logs written from South Korea in 1952 by John Walker Hatcher, then a USMC Second Lieutenant flying Corsair fighter-bombers. Times are based on a 24-hour, military clock. K-6 was a Marine

Mission #6 [K-6] 6 May

Close Air Support (near Sutaevi) CT-6745
Armament 2 1000# bombs. 8 5" HVAR
TO-0640 BL-0705 Land 0810

I was division leader's wing-man. Target was bunkers & trenches on & near ridge-line. Dropped 1 1000# first run, 1 second run. Made a total of 6 runs. Fired rockets & strafed hills & trenches. Could not see any ground-fire, but Mosquito [forward air control aircraft] said ground-fire was fairly heavy. Fair hits. No outstanding incidents.

Mission #7 [K-6] 7 May

Flak Suppression (near Kodak) CT 4852
Armament-2 1000# VT, 6 100# GP
To-1630 BL-1700 Land-1745

I was no. 4 man in a one-division flight. Our target was 4 155mm howitzers, and mainly flak suppression in that area. We made 3 runs, dropping 1000#ers first 2 runs, and strafing last run. On 1st run I saw 37mm tracers going by my plane, and exploding 1000' above. Very close in lineal, off in altitude. Otherwise, no outs. inc.

Letter No. 4 [K-6] Wednesday, 7 May

Dear Folks,

I have already decided definitely (and been accepted) to go into VMF-312 aboard the carrier. I'll be leaving here about Friday or Saturday, and will spend about one week at Itami [Japan] doing FCLP (Field Carrier Landing Practice). I'm beginning to really like the boys here in 212, and the type of flying we do: rail cuts, close air support, flak suppression, and combat air patrol or cover for downed pilots. But my reasons for going into 312 are purely selfish: better liberty, more time flying with a squadron (here in 212, I would be given a desk-job after about 5 months), and the type of flying they do: road reccies (reconnaissance) and strikes on towns. Well, truthfully, I like any and all types of flying we're doing out here; maybe I'm even getting blood-thirsty, but I get a sort of thrill when I have a target in my sights, and give it a bomb or rocket, or strafe it (we have 4 20mm in our wings).

I have been in a couple of close air hops (not to mention the others), and have gotten a pretty good look at most of the

airfield about 40 miles south of the South Korean capital city of Seoul. USS BATAAN (CVL-29) was a light aircraft carrier and Pacific veteran of World War II.

country here. Korea is very similar in weather, climate, and topography to W. VA., but the hills and mountains are a little higher, and are very barren. And the strangest thing of all that I've seen is that the Commies have trenches dug along the top and sides of almost every ridge, hill or mountain north of the bomb-line, (and that's a hell of a big area).

I was on a couple of rail-cuts Monday where we went farther north than any of our planes (American) have been since Chosen Reservoir days. We cut the rail near Huichon, which is a little north (in latitude) of Sinanju and Antung, but is east of there, and about in the center of Korea.

We (this field) lost 4 planes yesterday, but 2 of the pilots were rescued, 1 was captured, and 1 killed. The one killed was a 2nd Lt. in VMA-121 (the AD squadron [Douglas AD Skyraider]); we went through flight training together, and he was a very good friend of Kiser and myself. What a rotten break. I have the (typical) attitude, though, that it can't happen to me, and if I do get hit, I'll get out of it okay. I guess that's what keeps us going. It's exciting, anyway. NEVER A DULL MOMENT!

Enclosed are the joint account cards. When writing me, still use the old address until I notify you of my new one. I'll write again in about 5-7 days.

Love, Johnny

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**to be continued
in the next issue
of Plane Talk**

New Supporters

The Amos Family
Joe, Julie, Erin,
Zak, & Justine

Renewing Supporters

Connie & Larry
Arensman
Jane & Paul Fortin
Dr. Carl & Marguerite
Fyler
Merrill & Barbara
Ross
Steve Wodtke

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Annual Celebrity Pancake Feed April 24

volunteers and pancake eaters wanted

Volunteers and pancake eaters alike, this is a reminder that our annual **Celebrity Pancake Feed** takes place **Saturday, April 24** in Hangar 602. The event is open from 7 a.m. to 12 p.m.. People can get all the pancakes they can eat for \$4. The initial serving includes two sausages and drink. You can purchase additional sausages for a small fee.

We will move aircraft and set up tables either the Thursday or Friday before the feed and will need volunteers to help run the event on Saturday. Sign-up lists will be posted in the Gift Shop and the 604 lunchroom.

As we go to press, the letters for celebrity flippers have been out less than a week, but we have received the following responses from folks who will be here:

Dick Barta, Shawnee County Sheriff
 Jim Cates, Cumulus Broadcasting, KMAJ 1440
 Mike Coker, Director of the Topeka Zoo
 Ted Ensley, Shawnee County Commissioner
 Bill Griffin, Director of Sales, Heartland Park Raceway, Topeka
 Nancy and Raymond Irwin, Owner of Heartland Park, Topeka
 Paul "Gunner" Kelly, Swim Coach and head of the

Marine Corps Junior ROTC program at Topeka High School.

Ed Klumpp, Topeka Chief of Police

Once again, we are very fortunate to have Bob Carmichael, Perkins Restaurant and Bakery, providing the grill, pancake mix, and pancake cooking expertise. Bob's personality and interaction with the celebrity flippers is worth the price of a ticket.

Come out or call us to sign up for volunteer slots. →

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