

COMBAT AIR MUSEUM

→ → → Plane Talk → → →

The Official Newsletter of the Combat Air Museum

Forbes Field Topeka, Kansas

June / July 2012 • Vol. 28, No. 3



Celebrity Pancake Feed brings in over \$4200 to CAM

We enjoyed a very successful Celebrity Pancake Feed on April 28th as some great weather brought out nearly 600 fans of pancakes to support this annual fund-raiser. We collected 584 tickets at the grills. The Pancake Feed brought in over \$3500 and the Silent Auction raised over \$1700. After expenses, we raised over \$4200 for the Museum.

Bob Carmichael of Perkins Restaurant ran two grills and ensured the celebrity flippers made and served quality pancakes. Bob also provided the pancake mix, butter and syrup, and sausage. **Gene Howerter**, CAM's Board Chairman, ensured we had adequate supplies of plates, utensils, cups, orange juice, coffee, and table coverings. Gene also wrote the invitation letters to celebrity flippers and followed up with personal phone calls. CAM member **Jim Leighton** set up the sound system, provided by **Smith Audio Visual, Inc.**, of Topeka

When not eating pancakes, attendees were checking out the Silent Auction tables and bidding on items. They were also entertained throughout the morning by songs from the **Soul-full Singers**, youth dance demonstrations from the **Beverly Bernardi Post Conservatory of Dance**, and music by the **Santa Fe Band**. Then there was the ever popular pancake catching contest with local celebrities. This year we had unique spatula trophies for the contestants. These were created by **Zona Hudkins** of

"Pancakes," con't. on page 6



Left to right: Gene Howerter looks on as Mike Welch (left) and Sheriff Herman Jones load the grill with batter.

Topeka Roadrunners Mascot Reggie high fives award winners in the pancake catching contest.

A view of some of the pancake eaters.

Images by Don Thun

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Dave Murray - *Vice Chairman*

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Les Carlson

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Dick Trupp

Museum Hours

January 2 - February 28/29

Mon. - Sun. Noon - 4:30 P.M.

Last Entry Every Day is 3:30 P.M.

March 1 - December 31

Mon. - Sat. 9 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.

Last Entry Every Day is 3:30 P.M.

Closed New Year's Day, Easter,

Thanksgiving, Christmas Day

Newsletter

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Your comments are welcomed.

From the Chairman's Desk

As I write today I cannot help but think of the words that Winston Churchill spoke many years ago, "Never has so much been owed to so few by so many." Member volunteers at the Combat Air Museum fall into that category according to my way of thinking. We have Gift Shop workers, tour guides, office and administrative help, as well as maintenance and restoration, grounds maintenance and custodial support, all who volunteer here at the museum. In recent years the numbers of these people have decreased most notably due to attrition which could be attributed to aging and, of course, death.

One of the things which strikes me the most is the way these volunteers just show up and perform their individual duties without much fanfare or being told what to do. You might say it is a labor of love for the most part. Well, as the body gets older there may be a few groaning now and then. Because we are a museum which conducts our daily business with (for the most part) a

volunteer work force these individuals are the heart of the organization.

This past week our museum had its annual Celebrity Pancake Feed which helps raise money for support of the museum. I could not help but notice how various museum volunteers performed their various duties without much prompting. They knew what needed to be done and they did it. I would like to thank all for their support. Thank you, Thank you, and Thank you.

Now we will begin the task of organizing our annual 5K fun run/walk and this year we are adding a 10K run for the first time. You can help by becoming a sponsor or finding others who will be a sponsor for the September 29, 2012, event and passing that information on to the museum. Please support this event.

Finally, if you are able to volunteer in some capacity in the museum please do so. We always need Gift Shop workers and tour guides which most people can do even if it is only one day a month. We already have a lot of tours on the schedule for the next few months. Excellent training will be provided. Please come often and see what is going on at your museum. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Gene Howerter

Chairman, BOD

Visitors

During **January**
the Museum had

423 visitors

from **18 states,**

and

Australia

Finland

Israel

Malaysia

During **February**

we had

627 visitors

from **22 states,**

and

Australia

Great Britain

Philippines

→ → →

Join the Combat Air Museum!

Your membership and
support are
important to us.



Officers from Fort Leavenworth visit CAM for Membership Luncheon

Seven officers from the Command and General Staff College (CGSC) at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, were our guests at the April Membership Luncheon. All are Majors, with four from the US Army and the remaining three US Air Force. Rather than a formal presentation, each officer gave a brief introduction of themselves, then the floor was open to questions of them all.

The officers included:

Major Steve Griffin, US Army
 Major Lee Hungerbeeler, US Army
 Major Gene Seiter, US Army
 Major Steve Nelson, US Army
 Major Raja Chari, US Air Force
 Major Lou Ruscetta, US Air Force
 Major Steve Smith, US Air Force

The officers' backgrounds included Academy, ROTC, and OCS graduates. Two were prior enlisted, including one who was in both the Navy and the Army. Their duties and experiences ranged from acquisitions, structural engineer, airborne, infantry, and fighter, cargo, and rotary wing pilots. Most had served overseas, with one serving in the Balkans and three tours in Afghanistan, and another had one tour in Iraq. He served this tour concurrently with his spouse.

After their introductions ended, questions came from the audience, and all seven officers readily joined in with responses, comments, and discussion. The first question was what kind of course were the officers going through at CGSC? The answer came back that it is a 10 month program focusing on an intermediate leadership position. The course materials deal with leadership development and preparation for positions such as battalion staff for the Army students or squadron commanders or staff for the Air Force officers. Their

respective assignments would be at operational and/or strategic levels.

The course of instruction includes US armed services and Department of Defense capabilities and inter-agency cooperation, both on national and international levels. Their classes typically have two or three international officers. For these officers, the schooling is usually preparation for a field grade assignment. Joint forces and joint exercises are also emphasized in the schooling.

A question was asked about how officers were selected for the College? The Army officers responded that it is an Army goal to send 100 percent of its mid-grade officers through CGSC. The Air Force officers responded that about 15 to 20 percent of eligible officers are selected for CSGC. Most Air Force officers go to the Air University at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama. One of the Air Force officers added that getting assigned to CGSC is considered a treat for them.

A question was asked how the services were doing today in light of the long wars in Iraq and Afghanistan? The term "asymmetric warfare" was used in one of the responses. This term can also mean guerrilla warfare, terrorism/counter-terrorism, or insurgency/counterinsurgency. It generally describes a formal military fighting a smaller, less established, but determined enemy, such as the US fighting Al Qaeda and the Taliban. The US military still trains for symmetric warfare where both sides would have similarities in the size of forces, equipment, resources and tactics, but the conflicts involving US forces since September 11, 2001,

"Officers," con't. on page 4

Above: Our guests from the Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

"Officers," con't. from page 3

have involved more and more asymmetric warfare, and our fighting forces must also be trained for these battles. We are not fighting a distinct, uniformed or uniformly equipped enemy.

Another question was how the officers felt about the military as a career? All felt at this point they will make the military a career, but all also felt they will see changes during their careers, including what will constitute retirement. One officer commented that there is a lot of flux about making the military a career. People still look to a career and are attracted to its professionalism. If there is a major change to the retirement system, the hope was expressed that those currently serving would be grandfathered under the current system.

One response regarding today's service members was that it is not so much what we are fighting as why we are fighting. Another comment was that 55 to 60 percent of today's service members joined after 9/11, which indicates there is still a desire by people to join the military. There are some issues with retention of service members and quality control of new recruits, but these were not viewed as major problems.

"Why are so many troops in so many countries?" was asked. One response was that our presence in some countries still involves ties to the Cold War. Our national strategy still requires us to have a presence in these countries. Another officer commented that we need the support of local populations, and it is best to have a continued presence of some type with those populations to maintain a dialogue and a feel for their sentiments. This is true for countries whose current leadership may come off as anti-American, and also true for countries whose leadership may currently be anti-democracy. One officer commented that we still have forward deployed troops around the world, and we need to maintain a presence in order to train with indigenous forces so we know how to operate with them.

Recognizing that 2012 is the 200th anniversary of the beginning of the War of 1812 and the continuing 150th anniversary of the Civil War, a question was asked if there was anything from those two wars that is still relevant today? One response was that each war has something to offer today because history repeats itself; lessons learned. There may be a particular geographic circumstance or even a weather circumstance from history that provides a lesson on how a military force responded to a given circumstance. One officer re-



Dave Murray handing out Certificates of Appreciation to our guests.

ferred to his master's thesis which is about the Philippine Insurrection against the US during 1899-1902 [Philippine War of Independence]. He said that reading that history is like reading the current conflict in Afghanistan. Another example given was the "insurgents" in South Carolina [led by Francis Marion, the Swamp Fox] during the Revolutionary War and their similarity to Afghans.

A question about how many foreign military personnel are there schooling and training in the US came up and whether this was a good idea or not? The response was that there were hundreds of international students sponsored by the US going through various schools and training commands. As to whether this is a good idea, a response was that we cannot predict exactly what countries' governments will do. If something happens that may make students a liability, then we will react. One officer responded he has recently gone through schooling with an Iraqi who served under Saddam Hussein.

The responses transitioned into how our influence and other countries' influences' can affect unstable governments. The officers said it cannot only be the US military, but has to include US diplomacy. Right now, China is exerting its influence and economic interests in far flung places. They are looking globally for mineral rights and are really involved with this issue, more so than the Russians. An example was given of the Chinese flooding the market with goods in the west African nation of Burkina Faso.

A question was asked if cultural differences are addressed in the officers course of instruction? The response was that no particular part of the curriculum will focus on a certain culture. Diplomatic, humanitarian, and military missions all have to have some cultural awareness, and there is an emphasis on this issue but not a study.

A question was asked of those who had been in combat or in support of a combat mission if they ever had the White House talking in their ear, which brought a bunch of smiles to the officers' faces. Their answer was, "No." A couple responded there may be some talking from one level up, and one officer said even if that becomes too much, there may be a sudden communication problem. They felt they were not micro-managed in carrying out their missions. Another comment from one officer was how glad he was that he [Army] could talk directly with a supporting aircraft [Air Force] rather than through a nightmare of communication relays.

This concluded the questions, and the audience appreciated the participation and candor of the officers. They, in turn, asked how many in the audience had served in the military. They expressed their appreciation for their service, and also their deep appreciation for there being a Combat Air Museum. **Dave Murray** then presented each of the Majors with a Certificate of Appreciation.

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2012 Events Calendar

Dates subject to change
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Dates subject to change

June

4-7 - Aviation Education Class

July

9-12 - Aviation Education Class

August

6-9 - Aviation Education Class

September

29 - Winged Foot 5K Run/Walk

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June-July Calendar of Events

June

Monday - Thursday, June 4-7

Aviation Education Class

Jean Wanner Education Conference Room
9 am-12 pm

Monday, June 11

Membership Luncheon

Jean Wanner Education Conference Room
11:30 am

Our Membership Luncheon speaker will be Darrin Roberts, who will talk about the history of US Navy aircraft markings.

July

Monday - Thursday, July 9-12

Aviation Education Class

Jean Wanner Education Conference Room
9 am-12 pm

There is no Membership Luncheon in July. The next luncheon will be August 13.

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Visit our website at
www.combatairmuseum.org

New Supporters

C.M., Toshiyuki, & Kenneth Kikuchi
Glen Nelson

Jack, Katie, Dallas, Jordon, & Rylan
Pittaway
Joe Pullen

Richard & Susan Storm
Karen Waller 04/02/12

Renewing Supporters

Oscar, Olivene, & Arron Albrecht

Bruce Baker

Tim Behrens

Jim & Mary Braun

Marty, Terry, Matthew, Andrew, &

Katherine Braun

Shelly Buhler

Marshall & Katrina Clark

Ron & Linda Coash

Bill Davis

Michael DeBernardin

Wayne Dodson

Loren & Lynda Fisher

Donald & Olga Fluke

Monte Fuller

Tom & Diane Gorrell

John & Louise Hamilton

Phil Hotzel

Paul Idol

Harold Jameson

Ralph Knehans

Scotty Larimer

Greg Moser

John & Rita Moyer

Bill & Toni Newman

Marion Raper

Chris, Claris & Adam Rundel

Danny San Romani

Jay Stevenson

Rev. Larry Thomas

Dick & Jeanne Trupp

Dr. Rees, Catherine, Karsen, Morgan, &

Luke Webber

William Welch

James & Anita Young

Gary Zook

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"Pancakes," con't. from page 1

Zonas Engraved Creations, Inc. of Topeka. The spatulas were in gold, silver and bronze colors.

The contestants this year included:

Ben Bauman, Anchor/Reporter Kansas First News

B. J. Clelland, KMAJ 1440 AM Radio

Tom Hagen, Meteorologist, Kansas First News

Ralph Hipp, News Anchor, WIBW TV

Jake Lebahn, Sports Sanity, WIBW 580 Radio

Doug Meyers, Meteorologist, WIBW TV.

As in the past, we had members of **Washburn University's football team** to help with the feed and take part in the activities, but this year we also had the welcome addition of members of the **Washburn Lady Blues basketball team**. Washburn University men's basketball **Coach Bob Chipman** was a celebrity flipper. Continuing with sports personalities, we also welcomed members of the **Topeka RoadRunners Ice Hockey team** and **Reggie, their team mascot**.

The **190th Air Refueling Wing, Kansas Air National Guard**, towed one of their KC-135 tankers down the ramp and opened it for the public to tour. These large aerial tankers are a natural people magnet, and we greatly appreciate the 190th's support of our event. Other military hardware for people to view outside included several vehicles from the **Rolling Thunder Chapter of the Military Vehicles Preservation Society**. The **Kansas Wing, Civil Air Patrol** also had a table set up with materials about CAP.

Students and staff from the **Washburn University School of Nursing** returned this year to conduct free blood pressure and glucose screenings. Like last year, we set them up inside the NCH-53A Sea Stallion helicopter.

Marlene Urban, Mary Braun, Mary Ann Kelly, and Dick Trupp had the Silent Auction tables set up and running, and they were filled with a variety of items to bid on. Larger items took up space adjacent to a row of tables. This was the fourth year for the

auction, and it has proved to be a very successful addition to the Pancake Feed. Our thanks go out to all the members who donated items for the auction.

Clean up of the hangar floor began earlier in the week and this year went much faster thanks to an acquisition CAM made in May 2011, a used electric floor scrubber from Federal Surplus Property. **Don Dawson** went through the machine during the fall, and we downloaded an operator/service manual from the Internet. New batteries were installed and after some minor repairs, we had a fine working machine. We tried it out on a small floor area and found it to be pretty agile for a 900 pound machine. It is self propelled. The big test came cleaning a floor area normally occupied by four fighter jets. With its dual scrubbing pads, floor squeegee, and water vacuum system, the machine worked like a champ, saving many man-hours previously done with a scrubbing pad under a floor buffer and a cadre of people with mops. A handful of volunteers operated the scrubber and all agreed this was a sound purchase by the Museum.

Another Pancake Feed successfully completed, thanks to all the efforts by Museum volunteers in its preparation and participation. It is a people-intensive event to set up and run, and we would be nowhere without all the volunteers who assist at various stages of this important fund-raiser, including the purchase of a ticket to enjoy the food and entertainment. Next year is the 20th anniversary of the Celebrity Pancake Feed. Mark your calendars, now, for the last Saturday in April 2013, April 27th.

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Above: State Senator Vicki Schmidt and Kansas First News' Ben Bauman work the grill.

Left: A musical selection from the Santa Fe Band.

**Images on pages 6 & 7
by Don Thun**





Our celebrity flippers for 2012

Mary Brownback, Kansas First Lady
 Bob Archer, Topeka City Councilman
 Shelly Buhler, Shawnee County Commissioner
 Bob Chipman, Washburn University
 Men's Basketball Coach
 H. R. Cook, General Manager, Kansas Expocentre
 Ted Ensley, Shawnee County Commissioner
 Dr. Jerry Farley, President, Washburn University
 Representative Lana Gordon,
 State Representative 52nd District
 Karen Hiller, Topeka City Councilperson
 Raymond and Nancy Irwin, Heartland Park Topeka
 Herman Jones, Sheriff, Shawnee County
 Senator Laura Kelly, Kansas Senate
 Assistant Minority Leader
 Doug Kissinger, President and CEO,
 Topeka Chamber of Commerce
 Derek Kreifels, State of Kansas Assistant Treasurer
 Colonel Roland Krueger, Vice Wing Commander
 190th Air Refueling Wing
 Representative Ann Mah, State Representative
 53rd District
 Bruce Steinbrock, Assistant AD for Development,
 Washburn University
 Mike Welch, Chairman, Board of Directors,
 BRB Contractors
 Kurt Young, President, Topeka Lodging Association



*Top: The Soul-full Singers performing one of their songs.
 Center: Dave Murray gets checked over by Washburn University nursing students.
 Bottom: A few of the dance performers.*

June Membership Luncheon Speaker

Darrin Roberts of Olathe, Kansas, will be our guest speaker at the June 11th Membership Luncheon. His topic will be the history of US Navy aircraft markings. Darrin is a master modeler who built many of the aircraft models on exhibit in the Museum. He is currently building the flight deck models for the USS ORISKANY exhibit. ➔

Former highway billboard gets a new assignment as a banner in the Museum

Gary, Patricia, and Rachel Naylor and Danny San Romani hung a large banner above the Museum offices in Hangar 602. The banner had once been on a billboard along the Kansas Turnpike on the east side of Topeka. It is about 19 feet high by 9 feet wide and has a full color view of the Grumman F11F-1 Blue Angel #5 in a nearly vertical climb. The Museum's winged logo is below the jet with our name and location below the wings.

Gary did the bulk of positioning the banner, with Patricia, Rachel and Danny working the hoist line among wooden rafters and hauling on the line to raise the banner. Gary also attached a tag line so the banner would not twist around.

Initially, Patricia and Rachel were down and up from the top of our offices to the hangar floor to check on the correct height and levelness of the banner. **Gene Howerter** finished with a scheduled meeting and joined in from the floor, giving directions on making the final adjustments to set the banner. It looks pretty impressive in its new location.

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