

COMBAT AIR MUSEUM

✈ ✈ ✈ Plane Talk ✈ ✈ ✈

The Official Newsletter of the Combat Air Museum

Forbes Field Topeka, Kansas

April / May 2010 • Vol. 26, No. 2

Help us make the Celebrity Pancake Feed a big success

For all of you who can, please support our Annual Celebrity Pancake Feed. This is a major fund raiser for Combat Air Museum, and you can help out in a variety of ways.

First of all we need folks to promote and sell tickets for the event. We have flyers available that can be posted in locations around the city. Encourage your friends, extended families, and acquaintances to attend, and sell them their tickets in advance. A \$5 ticket will get each person all the pancakes they can eat and includes admission to the Museum. For adults, this is \$1 off regular admission.

As, always, we need our member/volunteers to work the event. This includes:

Prior to the event; moving out aircraft, cleaning the hangar floor, and setting up tables and chairs.

Day of the event; greeters to welcome guests and escort celebrity flippers to the grills, ticket sellers in the conference room, ticket taker in the food line, servers for the food and beverage tables, coffee makers and folks to move the coffee urns from the kitchen to the serving tables and back, folks to monitor syrup and butter on the tables and replenish them as needed, one or two persons to clean/mop up spills, volunteers to run the Silent Auction, and clean up crew at the end of the event.

A sign up list is at the counter in the Gift Shop.
con't. on page 2

COMBAT AIR MUSEUM

Forbes Field; Topeka, KS

Celebrity Pancake Feed



Saturday April 24th

Hangar Bldg. #602 J Street

Special Event Admission

7:00 AM to 12:00 Noon

Includes: "All you can eat **Pancakes**"

Plus a serving of Sausage and a Drink

Only \$5.00 per person

Participate in our "**Silent Auction**"

Enjoy our **Entertainment**

Many various **Celebrities**

Pancakes by Perkins Restaurant/Bakery

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Combat Air Museum

Forbes Field • Hangars 602 & 604

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Les Carlson

Don Dawson

Stu Entz

Raymond Irwin

Doug Jacobs

Ted Nolde

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

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Your comments are welcomed.

"Help us make the Celebrity Pancake Feed a success," con't. from page 1

Please continue to donate items for the **Silent Auction** and/or bid on items in the auction. Last year was our first year for this, and it proved a very worthwhile addition to the Pancake Feed.

If you are not able to work the event, then by all means, please attend and enjoy the pancakes.

Entertainment lined up for this year includes dancers from Beverly Bernardi Post's Conservatory of Dance and Pom and Topeka's Santa Fe Band. We will have the pancake catching contest, pitting meteorologists from WIBW 13, KSNT 27, and KTKA 49 television stations against each other. We hope to have a KC-135R Stratotanker from the 190th Air Refueling Wing, Kansas Air National Guard, on exhibit.

So, it will be a busy day with plenty of things to do and see. Please come and help us make the event a big success.



Join the Combat Air Museum!

Your membership and
support are
important to us.

In Memoriam**Ed Baker**

Founding Member

32

Thirty-three year

membership

1922 - 2010

Winter weather alters the program for the February Membership Luncheon

Despite the winter mix of precipitation, over 35 people attended our February Membership Luncheon. **Gene Howerter** called **Dick Starks**, one of our scheduled speakers, the evening prior to the luncheon, and after discussing the current weather conditions and the Monday forecast, they decided not to tempt icy roadways between the metro Kansas City area and Topeka and rescheduled for a future luncheon, probably in August.

Gene emceed and ran the luncheon program. After folks went through the food line and were settled in their seats, Gene recognized the ladies who were in the kitchen and on the serving line; **Mary Naylor, Marcella Briery, Lois Ecord, Marlene Urban, and Helen Wiedle**. Our luncheons are pot luck affairs, and this group arrives prior to the luncheon to arrange the serving line as various foods are brought in. They prepare a coffee, tea, and water serving area and a dessert table. Marcella passes out trays with napkins, paper plates, and tableware. Lois, Helen, and Mary serve up the food and beverages.

As the diners finish with their meals, they deposit the disposables in the trash and the tableware and trays to designated areas. Marcella takes the trays home to wash and usually Mary and Marlene wash and dry the tableware, serving utensils, beverage pitchers, and anything else that needs washing. It is an efficient group of ladies who get the rest of us through the serving line with our plates filled with various foods.

Gene next asked for the introduction of any guests and we had three for this luncheon; **Dr. Dennis Dinwiddie, Chuck Hanna, and Dwight Cowan**. After these introductions, Gene asked **Dick Trupp** and **Marlene Urban** to talk about the Silent Auction that will be part of our Celebrity Pancake Feed. This will be the

second year we hold the Auction, and it proved quite successful last year.

Dick and Marlene asked members to please donate items for the auction, and Marlene demonstrated the steps to register items that are brought in. They also said they will need volunteers to help set up the auction area, put the items on the tables and assist bidders during the auction.

Gene then talked about the Pancake Feed in general. It is the last Saturday of April, the 24th, from 7 a.m. until 12 noon. He asked that folks sign up to help work the event, and also to promote it and take part in advance ticket sales. Gene told the audience that Beverly Bernardi Post would be returning with students from her dance conservatory, and this year, Topeka's Santa Fe Band will make its first appearance at the Pancake Feed. He also said that members from KTKA Channel 49 newsroom, weather, and sports had replied they would be coming.

Gene told audience members that the 3/4 scale replica Pfalz E1 German scout fighter was assembled and in Hangar 604 if they had not yet seen it.

For a program, Gene brought in a couple of DVDs

to show on the big screen TV. One was a documentary about the World War II shoot down of Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto, Commander-in-Chief of the Imperial Japanese Navy, by US Army Air Force fighter pilots of the 339th Fighter Squadron flying Lockheed P-38 Lightning fighters. The US pilots flew over 430

miles, over water, at an altitude of 50 feet and less, from Gaudalcanal to Bougainville using dead reckoning navigation, and successfully intercepted Yamamoto's flight

It is an efficient group
of ladies who get
the rest of us
through the serving line
with our plates filled
with various foods.

See "Membership Luncheon,"

con't. on page 11



Dave Murray uses modern technology to present the Aviation Merit Badge to Scouts.

Museum hosts Aviation Merit

On February 6, **Dick Trupp** and **Dave Murray** held an Aviation Merit Badge class for 33 Boy Scouts from the Jayhawk Area Council in the Museum's Conference Room. Seven adult leaders also attended the two sessions.

Dick and **President Jerry Farley** of Washburn University arranged the class as part of the Jayhawk Council's Merit Badge Challenge hosted at the Student Union of Washburn University. The purpose of the Merit Badge Challenge was to provide Boy Scouts, Varsity Scouts, and Venturers in the Council with qualified counselors for merit badges so they could complete or partially complete requirements for two merit badges during the one day event. The Challenge offered Scouts 17 merit badges from which to choose.



Badge class for Boy Scouts

The Scouts who came to Combat Air Museum for the Aviation Merit Badge were split in two groups. While one group was with Dick and Dave, the other was touring the Forbes Field control tower. **Jack Vaughn** and **Bob Kelly** also toured the Scouts through the Museum.

Two days after the Challenge, the Boy Scouts of America celebrated their 100th Anniversary. President Farley reported to his Board of Regents that during the one-day event, Washburn hosted approximately 225 Boy Scouts and over 60 leaders. Jayhawk Council serves nearly 6,800 Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Varsity Scouts and Venturers in 11 Kansas counties.

While former Naval Aviator Dick Trupp uses the older 'talk with my hands' approach.





Students call on CAM member as a resource in their preparation for History Day competition

CAM member **Ray Miller** recently helped some students at **Mater Dei Middle School** of Topeka with their project for the 28th annual History Day competition. The 2010 theme is "Innovation in History." A group of four young ladies at Mater Dei entered the Junior Group Exhibits of the competition, choosing the B-29 Superfortress as their topic.

One of the major research tools judges look for in the History Day projects is use of primary resources. These can include first person accounts, original written works, photographs or recordings. The Mater Dei team of **Ashlie Anderson, Brooke Anderson, Bridgette Beforet**, and **Angelica Soria** sought to talk with a veteran associated with the Boeing B-29 Superfortress. **Ann Jones**, their teacher, contacted Ray and asked if he would meet with the girls and visit with them about his experiences with this famous bomber. Ray was a navigator on B-29s during the Korean War and also had flying time in the KB-29 aerial tanker.

Ray met with the girls at Mater Dei on February 16 and said they had already done a great deal of research on the B-29 and wanted to know anything first hand about the bomber. They were interested in how it was used in World War II and Korea and wanted to know if there were particular innovations used in the aircraft. Ray related his experiences in both the B-29 and KB-29 and said they did not seem to know about the tanker conversion of the plane. He also said they did know the B-29 was used for different purposes such as the first atomic bomb aircraft and the later use as mother planes for X research aircraft.

A student teacher with the girls was curious about what the World War II Home Front felt about the B-29 and bombing of Japan, especially the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Ray replied that most people were happy about it. It ended the war. He also said that later, as the amount of death and destruction caused by a single atomic weapon became known,

April/May 2010 Calendar of Events

April

Monday, April 4

Easter Sunday.

Museum closed

Monday April 12

Membership Luncheon

Jean Wanner Education Conference Room

11:30 a.m.

Seaman High School students will
present History Day contest entries.

Saturday, April 24

Celebrity Pancake Feed

Hangar 602

7 a.m. - 12 noon

May

There is no Membership Luncheon in May.

→ → →

Photo on page 6: Ray Miller with Ashlie Anderson, Brooke Anderson, Bridgette Beforet, and Angelica Soria of Mater Dei school.

there were people who felt badly about the numbers of deaths and others who feared the world to come with atomic weapons.

Ray said he spent about an hour with the girls during their lunch period, and he enjoyed their questions and conversation about their project. An article on the first round of competition appeared March 2, 2010, in *The Topeka Capital-Journal*. Ashlie, Brooke, Bridgette, and Angelica received Honorable Mention for their B-29 Superfortress Junior Group Exhibit in the District 3 competition held at Washburn University. First and Second place finishers advance to the State competition that will be held April 17, also at Washburn.

Our guest speakers for the April Membership Luncheon will be three students from Seaman High School of Topeka. They will present two documentaries they prepared for the 28th annual History Day competition.

→ → →

Visitors

During **January**
the Museum had

267 visitors

from **22** states,

and

Czech Republic

Mexico

During **February**

we had

460 visitors

from **25** states,

and

Netherlands

→ → →

We keep working away at projects around the Museum

Aircraft Model

Dr. Michele Borgarelli, a CAM member, recently dropped off a scale model airplane Curator **Danny San Romani** asked him to build. It is a US Army Air Forces Lockheed P-38J *Lightning*, World War II fighter. The model is done in the markings of *Marge*, a P-38 flown by the United States' highest-scoring ace, Richard Bong.

This is the third model Dr. Borgarelli has built for the Museum. Earlier, he built two Nakajima B5N *Kate* bombers for the Pearl Harbor exhibit. One was built carrying an aerial torpedo, the other carrying an 800Kg (1,760 lb) armor piercing bomb, as both were used against US battleships on December 7, 1941.

Danny will put the P-38 in a clear plastic display box and mount it on our Allison V-1710 engine. The dash number after an engine's basic model number helps identify what aircraft a particular engine was used on. In our case, we have a V-1710-89 (military designation). The dash 89 was used on Lockheed P-38H and P-38J *Lightning* fighters, their F-5C and F-5F photo-reconnaissance counterparts, and the one-off XB-38, a Boeing B-17E *Flying Fortress* fitted with four of the Allison engines. As the *Lightning* was a twin engine fighter, the dash 89 engine was installed on one wing; a V-1710-91 was installed on the other.

Dr. Borgarelli is a cardiologist with the Veterinary Medicine Teaching Hospital at Kansas State University. Last year, he was elected president of the European College of Veterinary Internal Medicine. Danny's next project for him will be a Curtiss P-40F or P-40L *Warhawk* to mount on our Packard-built, Rolls-Royce V-1650-1.

Wagons

Mobility of artifacts and other work going on in the Museum is essential to us. If we can put wheels on an object, we will. For those we cannot, we use a variety of wheeled devices to move them around, large and small.

Don Dawson is currently rebuilding two wagon-type platforms. These had been outside for a number of years. The decking of the larger wagon was gone and boards of the smaller wagon were rotten and broken. Their metal frames were rusty, and the front wheels on

one had fallen apart. The smaller wagon has a deck about 33 inches X 50 inches. The larger wagon has a deck about 35 inches X 71 inches. Don brought the two units into the workshop and dismantled them to refurbish and repaint the frames. He scouted around our storage areas inside and out and found all the materials he needed to build new decks and found a replacement set of wheels for the one wagon. By the time you receive this newsletter, the two wagons will be completed and ready to carry materials where needed.

Drone Engine

Chuck Urban brought a drone engine that a brother of his had owned to the Museum in February. It is a four cylinder, air-cooled engine built by the McCulloch Corporation as the O-100-1. It has a 46-inch laminated propeller with metal leading edges that Chuck's brother built.

Don Dawson currently has the engine on his bench. He removed the propeller and some other accessories from the it, and has bead blasted and primed some of the latter items. Don plans to use our steam jenny to clean the engine casing and cylinder heads and then determine if anything further needs to be done to those areas.

Gene Howerter is refurbishing the propeller. He has sanded the wood and removed the rust from the metal edges. He repainted the metal with an aluminum color and plans to coat the wood with a satin polyurethane.

Hiller UH-12

Bob Crapser has been refurbishing the skids and associated framework for the Hiller helicopter. He bead blasted the skid supports and primed them, and replaced some worn and damaged wood plugs in the ends of the skids. Bob cut the round shape of the plugs and Don Dawson turned them down to fit.

Bob also worked on the wood framework built earlier to support the Hiller and allow us to roll it around as necessary. Remember the paragraph about mobility? The wood frame needs some rework to make it larger. When Bob reassembled the skids to their framework, he positioned them so that a litter can be carried on each side

of the helicopter, such as this type was used in Korea. This requires widening the wood frame accordingly, which he and Don are working on.

Scooter Planes

We are down to one scooter plane originally built by the late **Martin Moyer** and **Amos Page**. That plane has been spoken for by a couple at Fort Riley expecting a new baby. As soon as some touch up work is finished, this scooter will be sold to them.

In the meantime, **Dave Houser** is building the first of the next generation of scooters. We do not plan to mass produce them as in the past, but build a few for sale in the Gift Shop, and build replacements as sales occur. Dave currently has the components of the new scooter cut out and he recently primed and painted these parts prior to assembly. Since 2005, we have sold nearly 80 scooter planes.

Screen Doors

Dick Trupp has been painting five wooden screen doors we acquired locally last year in preparation for installing them in Hangars 602 and 604. They will replace existing screen doors that have seen much better days.

For members who can remember the days before screen doors were installed, you may recall the numbers of pigeons and starlings that called the interiors of both hangars home. The installation of the screen doors and, of course, keeping the main hangar doors closed, and several months of efforts, finally rid us of the pigeons, and with an occasional exception, the starlings, from inside the hangars.

Dick has primed and painted five new doors. As much as possible, we will use the existing hinges mounted to the steel frames. We also expect some door trimming will take place to fit each door to its frame. Three screen doors will go to 604 and two to 602.

F-86H

Robert Johnston painted about 10 panels from the tail assembly of the *Sabre* at the McConnell AFB hobby shop and delivered them to the Museum. As the weather gets warmer, he will be painting larger parts and assemblies here. Robert and **Danny San Romani** also made repairs to the trailing edge of one flap, and Danny has removed a patched area from the second flap so a new repair can be made. ➔

New Supporters

John & Cindy Barry
Monte, Marli, & Kenny Brokate
Richard & Janet Keeney
Gerry & Tom Lushington

Renewing Supporters

Bette Allen
Chuck & Connie Bradshaw
Marshall & Katrina Clark
Bill Clawson
Thomas Cunningham
Don Dawson
H. Philip & Darlene Elwood
L.C. Hinter
Harold Jameson
Ralph & Margaret Knehans
Michael & Patricia Kozubek
Boniface Kreuter
Louise "Cookie" Langberg
Jim & Ruby Leighton
Ann Mah
Richard Long & Sharon McDorman
Dave & Judy Murray
Ted & Sharon Nolde
Rev. Larry Thomas
Terry Wages
Eric Walther
Tom Witty
Steve Wodtke

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Visit our website at
www.combatairmuseum.org

Aviation Education Classes are offered in 2010

Over the summer, CAM will again offer its **Aviation Education Class**.

For the last several years Combat Air Museum has conducted classes for students between the ages of 7 and 12 in its Aviation Education Class, focusing on the history of aviation, principles of flight, parts of an airplane and how they work, weather and weather forecasting, aviation communications and flight control. These four-day long classes are conducted over schools' spring break and three times in the summer.

The cost of the class is \$40.00 per student. Tours of other aviation tenants at Forbes Field are planned as their respective schedules allow. These include the 190th Air Refueling Wing, Kansas Air National Guard, the 108th Aviation Battalion, and Kansas Army National Guard.

If you would like to have a child, a grandchild, and/or a young friend enroll in the Museum's Aviation Education Class, call the Museum at 862-3303. See the "2010 Calendar of Events" for the complete schedule.



An update on the access to Forbes Field control tower

Sometimes, the stupidity of one person can have a remarkably large trickle down effect. Many of you may remember the recent lapse of common sense and good judgment by an air traffic controller in New York, who allowed his children to talk with commercial aircraft and coached them with air traffic information and commands to pass to pilots. Well, the trickle down arrived here during the first week of March.

For some 15 years, part of the Aviation Education Classes put on by CAM for young people included a tour of the Forbes Field control tower. Thanks to what happened at JFK International Airport, we can no longer offer tours of the tower as part of our classes. **Jim Menge**, tower manager at Forbes Field, called **Dick Trupp** with the news.

There have been other times when Aviation students could not get to the tower. The terrorist events of September 11, 2001 certainly had an impact in regard to tower operations and security. In the aftermath, we have had occasions when the warnings of a possible terrorist threat were at a level high enough that the tower was off limits to non-employees. Several years ago, a new control tower was built at Forbes Field, and there was a transition period when tours were temporarily halted. Fortunately, these were only temporary suspensions of tours. Right now, we do not have a feel for how long the current suspension may last, and hopefully, it is not a permanent injunction. Tours with Boy Scouts working on their Aviation merit badge were going through the tower as recently as February 6. ➔

Winter weather alters the program for the February Membership Luncheon," con't. from page 3

at the appointed place and time. Two Mitsubishi G4M Betty bombers, one carrying Yamamoto, were shot down. One P-38 and its pilot were lost. The rest returned successfully.

The second DVD was from a World War II collection. This disc dealt with vignettes of the Home Front in the United States. Gene asked for audience comments as the various clips ran. Included in this DVD were scenes of movie stars of the day encouraging Americans to buy War Bonds. The settings included the Hollywood Canteen, and a song and dance routine by Carole Landis, Mitzi Mayfair and Martha Raye. A young Mickey Rooney appears in a clip, and the Andrews

Sisters sing *Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy* on a Kay Kyser radio broadcast.

Bing Crosby did a humorous sketch with his sons, with his youngest giving him some good-natured grief about Bob Hope and Frank Sinatra. Actor James (Jimmy) Stewart, dressed in his US Army Air Force uniform, presented a recruiting clip for Aviation Cadet Training, including all the jobs available to USAAF officers.

The DVD ended with a Daffy Duck cartoon where Daffy is a commando matching wits with a German army officer and an enlisted man named Schultz.

The meeting ended after some general comments and discussion. ➔

Our volunteers from IBM help us in many ways

It is good to have retired IBM employees volunteering for your organization. We recently received a check from the IBM Corporation Matching Grants Program for \$776 for the period covering January 1, 2009, through December 31, 2009.

The monies received from IBM are based upon cash gifts/donations made by employees and/or retirees. Oftentimes, our members and volunteers make purchases of items or goods for the Museum and donate them without reimbursement. Other times, the donations are outright gifts. IBM has a ratio they use to match such gifts/donations. In our case, each of the IBM folks involved are retirees. They have participated in the Matching Grants Program for at least several years.

Last year, **Dick Trupp**, **Bob Crapser**, **Jack Vaughn**, and **Russ Wiedle** made gifts/donations to the Matching Grant Program, and we thank them so much for making these contributions to Combat Air Museum. We are also grateful to the IBM Corporation for still offering this program, given the national and world economic situation the past couple of years.

Perhaps there are others of you in our membership who have a similar program with your employer or former employer. If so, would you please consider supporting Combat Air Museum through a matching grant program? ➔

2010 Events Calendar

Dates subject to change

April
24 Pancake Feed

August
2 - 5 Aviation
Education Class

June
7 - 10 Aviation
Education Class

September
25 *Winged Foot* 5K Fun
Run/Walk

July
12 - 15 Aviation
Education Class

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Learn more
about the
Combat Air Museum
at

www.combatairmuseum.org

Our next Membership Luncheon

Our guest speakers for the April Membership Luncheon will be three students from Seaman High School of Topeka. They will present two documentaries they prepared for the 28th annual History Day competition. This year's theme is "Innovation in History." The presentations we will hear were entered in the Senior Individual Documentary and Senior Group Documentary categories.

Students conducted their research and then produced the documentary in digital format, usually on a Digital Video Disc (DVD). The productions may include images, documents, a narrative, and perhaps a soundtrack, all formatted and edited by the students.

The first round of competition was the District 3 regional, held at Washburn University February 27. First and second place winners in each of 14

categories advance to the State competition, to be held April 17 at Washburn University. First and second place winners of State qualify for Nationals at Washington, D.C. in the summer.

The presentations for our luncheon include "*Radio on the Air*," produced by Caitlyn Priddy. Caitlyn placed second at District in Senior Individual Documentary and advances to State. The second documentary is "*Dorothea Lange: Zooming in on the Great Depression*," produced by Gina Mosser and Kathryn Brooks. This duo placed first at District in Senior Group Documentary and also advance to State. Susan Sittenauer, who teaches Advanced Placement US History at Seaman, will accompany her students.

