

COMBAT AIR MUSEUM

✈ ✈ ✈ Plane Talk ✈ ✈ ✈

The Official Newsletter of the Combat Air Museum

Forbes Field Topeka, Kansas

April / May 2011 • Vol. 27, No. 2

Spread the word: the Celebrity Pancake Feed is April 30th And why not volunteer to help us with this fundraiser?

Spring is here, and with it comes our annual **Celebrity Pancake Feed**. Please support this major fund raiser for the Museum on Saturday, April 30 from 7 a.m. until noon. One way you can do this is by promoting and selling tickets for the feed. We have flyers at the Museum that can be posted and passed around, and you can just talk the event up with people you know and come in contact with. A \$6 ticket will get a person all the pancakes they can eat and includes admission to the Museum. **Gene Howerter** has a list of celebrity flippers lined up to work behind the grill with **Bob Carmichael** of Perkins Restaurant/Bakery. Come out and see who they are.

For those who can, we need volunteers to prepare the hangar, work the event, clean up, and bring aircraft back in. **A sign-up list is in the Gift Shop.**

Wednesday through Friday before the feed:

Move out three aircraft and start cleaning the hangar floor. Then set up tables and chairs.

Day of the event:

Greeters to welcome incoming guests and to escort our celebrity flippers to the grills,

Ticket sellers in the conference room,

A ticket taker in the food line,

Servers at the food and beverage tables,

Coffee makers and folks to move coffee urns back and forth from the kitchen to the serving table,

Volunteers to monitor the syrup and butter on the tables and replenish them as needed.

A couple of volunteers to mop up spills as needed,

Volunteers to run the Silent Auction,

Clean up crew.



Forbes Field, Topeka, KS

CELEBRITY PANCAKE FEED

Saturday, April 30, 2011

Hangar Building #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
and a tour of the Museum

Only \$6.00 per person

Participate in our "Silent Auction"

Enjoy our Entertainment
Many Celebrities



Pancakes by Perkins Restaurant/Bakery

And, of course, buy a ticket and eat your fill of pancakes.

Depending on the weather and people available, we may move the aircraft back in that afternoon.

"Pancakes," con't. on page 7

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Combat Air Museum

Forbes Field • Hangars 602 & 604

P.O. Box 19142

Topeka, KS 66619-0142

Telephone (785) 862-3303

FAX (785) 862-3304

www.combatairmuseum.org

Provided by

Rossini Management Systems, Inc.

Email: office@combatairmuseum.com

Museum Curator

Danny San Romani

Office Manager

Deloris Zink

Board of DirectorsGene Howerter - *Chairman*Dave Murray - *Vice Chairman*Tad Pritchett - *Secretary*

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***Newsletter******Editing & Design***

Toni Dixon

785-865-4221

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of Combat Air Museum

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Your comments are welcomed.

**Kansas 150th Anniversary
Armed Forces Celebration
at Forbes Field**

On June 4-5, 2011, a salute to our Armed Forces as part of the celebration of the Kansas Sesquicentennial will take place at Forbes Field. Please review the schedules of events for that Saturday and Sunday.

The State of Kansas has a long, rich and colorful military heritage. It began with the frontier forts of Ft. Leavenworth, Ft. Riley, Ft. Scott and Ft. Larned, protecting our Nation's westward expansion along the Santa Fe and Oregon Trails, and continued through Kansas' first century as our military leaders passed through the Armed Forces Command and General Staff College and onto the battlefields in the Civil War and to those overseas. We proudly recognize the First Infantry Division's victory at Cantigny and Soissons in France, to the mighty 35th Division's participation in both World Wars.

Over the last fifty years Kansas' military operations have included the 69th Infantry Brigade's service in Vietnam with the loss of 38 lives; Kansas Army National Guard units serving in Afghanistan, Bosnia/Kosovo and Iraq; the 184th Intelligence Wing, the first such wing in the Air National Guard; and the 190th Air Refueling Wing's leading role in Desert Storm. In all these theaters, on the world stage, the Kansas military has proven and continues to prove itself worthy in the eyes of our Nation.

Our State's proud military lineage is truly embodied in the thousands of dedicated citizen-soldiers who have served our great Nation and, as Kansas celebrates its 150th anniversary, it is appropriate that we lift up, for special recognition, the role our State's armed forces have played in the military affairs of our Nation from its frontiers to foreign soil around and throughout the World.

***Our Mission is to recognize, record, demonstrate,
celebrate and proclaim the long, rich and colorful
military heritage of the State of Kansas
on the occasion of its
Sesquicentennial Anniversary of Statehood.***

This will be a busy weekend for CAM. Saturday's schedule runs from 8 a.m. - 6 p.m., and Sunday's schedule runs 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. We will need volunteers to work with the anticipated crowds to answer an expected myriad of questions. As the event draws closer, we will have some specific areas for volunteers to work, such as parking vehicles for the Classic and Antique Car Shows, or extra help in the Gift Shop and Admissions. We will need volunteers in both hangars and on the tarmac in front of the hangars to watch out for the best interests of both our visitors and our own aircraft and exhibits. We do not plan to move any of our aircraft outside, as visiting civilian and military aircraft will be on static display in the areas in front of our hangars. Please block these dates on your calendar and prepare to work at CAM this weekend.

→ → →

Kansas 150th Armed Forces Celebration Forbes Field - Topeka June 4-5, 2011

8 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday 9 a.m.-3 p.m Sunday

Combat Air Museum

862-3303

Admission

Adults - \$6.00

Children - \$4.00

Active Military – Free w/ID

Concessions

Events at CAM

Aircraft Display

Commemorative Air Force

Experimental Aircraft Assn.]

Military Aircraft

KSU-Salina Aircraft

P-51 Mustang – Steve Craig

Ft. Riley Helicopters

Lifestar Helicopter

KS Hwy Patrol Aircraft

T-6 & T-38 Aircraft

Car Shows

Classic Car Show-Saturday

Antique Car Show-Sunday

Other

190th ARW & MTAA Fire Truck

Museum of the Kansas National Guard

862-1020

Free Admission

MASHExhibit

Concessions

Events at KNG Museum

Heartland Military Day

WWII Vehicle and Military Equipment

Civil War Reenactors

WWIIBattle Reenactment

Vietnam Vets of America

Amateur Radio Operators

Army Guard Recruiting Command

Humvee, Inflatables, Motorcycle, etc.

STARBASE Rocket Building & Launches

Schedule of Activities

Saturday

6:30 a.m. - Hot Air Balloons

8:00 - Both Museums Open

9:00 - Classic Car Show at CAM

10:00 - Opening Ceremony on KNG

Museum Patriot Field

10:00 - Skydiving – SkyDive Kansas

10:00-2:00 - Model Airplane Flying

10:15 - WW II Battle Reenactment

11:00 - Parade around Forbes Field

3:00 - WW II Battle Reenactment at KNG

Dusk - Hot Air Balloons

Sunday

6:30 a.m. - Hot Air Balloons

9:00 - Museums Open - See List of Activities.

10:00-2:00 - Model Airplane Flying

9:00 - Antique Car Show at CAM

For an updated schedule

check the website: www.kansas150forbes.net

Update on Exhibits and volunteer work

Ie Shima exhibit

Although now living in Lincoln, Nebraska, **Tom Witty** has been enlisted to build a new exhibit for us. It will be built around the August 19, 1945, photos of the Japanese Peace Envoy landing at Ie Shima Island, off the east coast of Okinawa. The photos were left by our front door in October 2010. We still do not know by whom.

Tom was in Topeka recently, so we met to show him what we had gathered for the exhibit. Besides the photos, **Danny San Romani** had five model airplanes, four of which need to be built, and a number of references we had accumulated about the Ie Shima event. **Dave Murray** and **Dick Trupp** were also present. Having had the advantage of looking at the materials for a few months, these three all wanted to share with Tom what they had found. It was initially a bit of information overload for him, but they slowed down, and Tom got a good feel for what we had and wanted to do with the materials.

Two of the models came from our own version of the “boneyard,” like Tucson, Arizona. Dick worked with **Ted Nolde** and **Jason Bahr** to get the remaining three, and these came from Internet sources. We expect Tom will be busy for some time preparing the new exhibit for us.

"Exhibits," con't. on page 7



Experimental aircraft and the Oshkosh Fly-in were the subject of the February Membership Luncheon presentation

Prior to our Valentine's Day Membership Luncheon, **Gene Howerter** made a few announcements. He recognized **Marcella Briery, Marlene Urban, Mary and Desiree Naylor, Mary Braun, and Mary Ann Kelly** for setting the tables and serving the food, beverages and desserts. As attendees received their trays from Marcella, they found little valentines on them. Guests were introduced, then Gene spoke about the 2010 attendance numbers and Museum finances. He introduced those members of the Museum's Board of Directors who were present and spoke about our 2011 fund raisers. These include the Celebrity Pancake Feed on April 30, the Kansas 150th Armed Forces Celebration on June 4 and 5, and our Winged Foot 5K Run/Walk on September 24.

Dick Trupp then spoke about the Silent Auction that is a part of the Celebrity Pancake Feed. He encouraged people to bring items to put into the auction, asking for new or almost new items. Also, we plan to add more to the baked goods section this year. Mary Braun is the point of contact for this. Dick also announced that about \$3,000 has been raised for the F-86H restoration fund so far.

Our guest speaker, **Mike Kozubek**, a CAM member, was then introduced. Mike's topic was the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA).

Mike introduced **Major Bud Park (Ret)** who put together the program shown on the big screen and **Don Thun** of Don Thun Midwest Aviation Photography, who has photographed the Columbia, Missouri, Memorial Day airshows and Kansas City, Missouri, downtown airport airshows.

Mike is the current sitting President of EAA Meadowlark Chapter 313. The chapter formed in 1968, and since that time its members have built and flown over 75 aircraft. Several have made the journey to the EAA's annual AirVenture/Convention at Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

The Experimental Aircraft Association began in the 1950s. Mike said people unfamiliar with the Association felt then and even today the word "Experimental" signified ideas of recklessness and flying untried aircraft designs. Some people felt the Association was stunt pilots and aerobatics. That was not and is not the case. Mike especially said the Association is not reckless or a bunch of "stunt" pilots.

Paul Poberezny founded the EAA. He was born on a farm near Leavenworth, Kansas, and moved to Wisconsin.

There, he lived under the Milwaukee-Chicago Air Mail Route and watched the flights of airmail planes between those two cities. These created his interest in aviation. He has received over 500 aviation awards. He flew P-51 *Mustang* fighters during World War II and flew in the Korean War. Mike said Poberezny is a lifelong tinkerer. He designed 15 homebuilt airplanes, and wrote an article in a 1953 issue of *Popular Mechanics* titled "How to build and fly an airplane under \$800." After this 1953 article, Poberezny was besieged by people wanting to build airplanes.

The first EAA Fly-in took place in 1953 at Hales Corners, Wisconsin, a town just southwest of Milwaukee. During the mid-50s and until 1970, the annual Fly-ins were held at Rockford, Illinois. In 1970, Steve (Sylvester Joseph) Wittman, an air racer of the 1930s and 1940s, set up the Fly-in at a county airport outside Oshkosh, Wisconsin. He had been manager of the airport from 1931-1969, and it was renamed Wittman Regional Airport in his honor in 1972. From 1970 to present, the world famous AirVenture Fly-ins have been held at Oshkosh. The Fly-in/Convention lasts one week and is held the last week of July annually.

Mike said that in 2010, AirVenture brought in over \$80 million to Wisconsin with three fourths of that spent in Oshkosh.

Paul Poberezny was President and CEO of EAA from 1953-1989. Those duties were taken over by his son, Tom, from 1989-2010.

In 2010, Rod Hightower took over the duties of Chairman and CEO of EAA. Tom Poberezny remains as Chairman of EAA and AirVenture. Hightower is a Texas native with a 25-year business career in management of US and international manufacturing and industrial companies. He joined EAA in the mid-1970s and has an interest in warbirds.

Mike said that EAA is General Aviation. He said that if it is not military and not commercial, then it is General Aviation. He then talked about a particular aircraft design called the RV.

RV stands for Richard VanGrunsven, designer of the RV series of homebuilt aircraft. Mike said the RV-8 homebuilt is a real hot dog. He knows an owner of an RV-8 who lives in Houston, Texas. Mike said that in good weather, the Houston to Topeka flight can be made in under three hours, at about 200 mph.

The RV series designs started a revolution in homebuilt aircraft. Over six thousand of the series are flying with another six thousand under construction. Mike said a basic kit runs about \$14,000 with another \$24-25,000 for an engine. If a “glass” screen (digital instrument panel) is purchased the overall costs are about \$40,000.

Mike went on to say the RV is a tried and true design. It is listed under the experimental category because no one factory is building it. Aircraft built by Boeing, Cessna, Hawker Beechcraft, and the like are certificated aircraft. Mike said that he cannot make changes/modifications to his own Cessna 172 unless the Federal Aviation Authority approves such changes. He added that General Aviation aircraft owners have to know the Federal rules and regulations.

Mike talked about the “light sport” category of aircraft. He said this is a relatively inexpensive category of aircraft that are under 1320 pounds maximum gross weight. They require a recreational license and driver’s license, but not a pilot’s license. A self medical evaluation and self certifying medical are required. Mike said the development of the light sport category was the biggest license change in over 50 years for EAA/AOPA (Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association.) He went on to say that some early Ercoupes and Taylorcraft now qualify as light sport aircraft.

There are some 600,000 registered pilots. In 1980, 300,000 planes were registered in the US. Today there are 260,000. Many of the previously registered planes have gone or are going overseas. Less than 30 per cent of commercial pilots are military trained.

Mike said EAA is big on working with youth to get them interested in aviation. He said there are 14 EAA chapters in Kansas with memberships ranging from 10-12 members to over 1,000. In 1993, the Young Eagles program was started. The program’s goal was to give one million youths their first flights between 1993-2003. Mike said that goal was met, and first flights are now up to 1.7 million. Volunteer pilots donate their time, aircraft, and fuel. The youth get their names entered into a master logbook at EAA headquarters in Oshkosh, and the pilots get bragging rights, including logos, shirts, and hats.

The Young Eagles program has given 1,586 youths their first flights in Topeka. Mike said that Harold Jameson has given 308 first flights to date. He also flew the 600,000th Young Eagle at Oshkosh one year. Mike said he has flown 208 Young Eagles and Bud Park has flown 114 in a two seater.

During the annual AirVenture Fly-in/Convention, Wittman Regional Airport becomes the world’s busiest airport for one week. Air traffic controllers from around the world ask to be a controller at AirVenture a year in advance. There are literally acres of airplanes at Oshkosh during the event.

There are also acres of camping area, and many pilots pitch tents under the wings of their planes.

Attending AirVenture requires booking lodging reservation a year in advance. Mike said it is best to get into an area college dorm, which are made available during the Fly-in/Convention. He said they stayed at Ripon College one year, about 20 miles southwest of Oshkosh.

Mike said that during the Fly-in/Convention there are a number of tents set up at the site for non-aviation persons to do non-aviation things. He also said the 2010 admission was \$27 per day for a non EAA member.

Also located in Oshkosh next to the airport is AirVenture Museum, a world class aviation museum. One aircraft in its collection is the non-stop, around the world aircraft *Voyager*. A short distance from the museum buildings is Pioneer Airport with several hangars. The airport recreates the atmosphere of aviation in the 1920s and 1930s and is stocked with aircraft from those periods. Mike said pioneer Airport includes the Chicago Searchlight, or Lindberg Beacon, that once was atop the Palmolive Building in Chicago.

Concluding his talk, Mike showed a video of AirVenture 2010. If you have never been to the Oshkosh Fly-in, and are able to make the trip, you should. It will be one you will never forget. ➔

April Membership Luncheon

Our speakers for the April Membership Luncheon will be students from Seaman High School, who will present their projects for the national History Day competition. These high school juniors will be accompanied by their teacher, Susan Sittenauer. This year’s theme is “Debate and Diplomacy.” Susan said she plans to bring one documentary presentation and one exhibit presentation to the luncheon.

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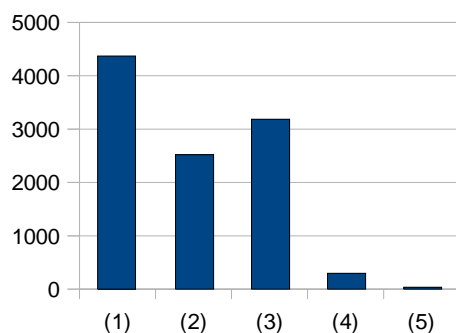
Stats on our visitors for 2010

Museum attendance for 2010 was something of a roller coaster ride.

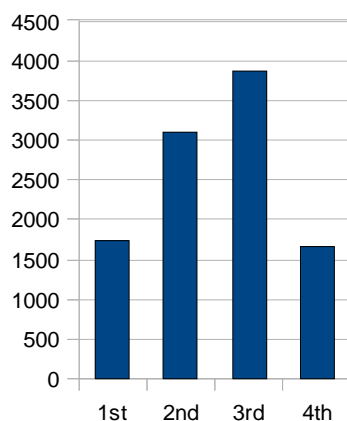
We finished the year with 10,375 visitors, down 535 from last year.

The following is a summary of the recorded attendance for the year.

- (1) 42.1% (4,367) were from Kansas, outside of Topeka/Shawnee County.
- (2) 24.1% (2,498) were from Topeka/Shawnee County.
- (3) 30.7% (3,187) were from 48 other states, Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico. There were no visitors from Hawaii
- (4) 2.8% (288) were from 30 other countries.
- (5) 0.3% (35) were from residences unknown.



1st Quarter 1,740
 2nd Quarter 3,089
 3rd Quarter 3,872
 4th Quarter 1,674



Museum tour guides conducted 43 scheduled tours for a total of 1,578 visitors.

Six of these were motor coach tours (274 people).

The top five states outside of Kansas were Missouri (768), Texas (218), Colorado (190), Illinois (177), and Nebraska (158).

The top five countries outside of the US were Canada (107), Great Britain (57), China (16), Germany (13), and Mexico (12).

April/May Calendar of Events

April

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 30
 Celebrity Pancake Feed
 Hangar 602
 7 a.m. - Noon

Sunday, April 24
 Easter Sunday
 Museum Closed

May

There is no
 Membership Luncheon
 in May.
 The next luncheon will be
 June 13.



Visitors

During **January**
 the Museum had
332 visitors
 from **17** states,
 and
 Australia
 Germany
 Malaysia
 Russia
 Spain

During **February**
 we had
447 visitors
 from **22** states
 and
 Australia
 Brazil
 Germany
 Russia



Renewing Supporters

Michele Borgarelli
 Monte, Marli, & Kenny
 Brokate
 Anderson Chandler
 Bill Clawson
 Tom Cunningham
 Harold Jameson
 Mike & Patricia Kozubek
 Richard Long & Sharon
 McDorman
 Don & Nancy Nisbett
 Ted Nolde
 Tom & Carole Rost
 Chris & Clarris Rundel
 Rev. Larry Thomas
 Dick & Jeanne Trupp
 Eric & Lyn Walther
 William Welch
 Steve Wodtke



"Pancakes," con't. from page 1

Otherwise, we will bring them back in on the following Monday or Tuesday.

This will be our third year for the Silent Auction, and it has proved quite successful. Please donate items for auction. Bring them in, and we will direct you to where they are being stored, and you can fill out the slips for each item. Please participate in the auction. You may find yourself a small treasure or perhaps gift items for other people.

We expect students from Beverly Bernardi Post's dance studio to perform during the feed. Gene has meteorologists lined up from Topeka's local television stations to participate in a pancake catching contest. The 190th Air Refueling Wing of the Kansas Air National Guard is graciously providing a KC-135R *Stratotanker* for guests to tour. *Lifestar of Kansas* is also scheduled to have a helicopter ambulance on exhibit, and there will be vehicles from the Military Vehicle Preservation Association on exhibit.

Rain or shine, come on out and enjoy a fun day and fine pancakes at the Museum. ➔

"Exhibits," con't. from page 3**F-86H**

Robert Johnston, Don Dawson, Lowell Seymour, and Danny San Romani have been working on the F-86H. Most recently, the work involved removing linkages from both main landing gear doors to do corrosion control to the doors and the linkage parts. Robert, **Ric Steel** and Danny also removed the nose gear door and two nose gear panels for cleaning and corrosion control.

Mower and Forklift

Don brought the John Deere ZTRAK mower into the shop to get it ready for the mowing season. He installed a new water pump and an engine exhaust gasket on the forklift. Don also kept our two snow blowers operational through the winter.

Hiller helicopter

Bob Crapser has been working on the engine assembly and rotor stabilizer fins for the Hiller. He recently bead blasted and did some repairs to one fin and is removing items from the engine assembly to bead blast and paint, before doing the same to the engine.

Various exhibits

We reported in a previous issue of *Plane Talk* about some exhibits Dick Trupp set up. He has since added to one of these and set up two more small ones. The artifacts added to a case in Hangar 604 include three cutaway exhibits of ordnance rounds, showing the contents of each respective round. He set up one of the new small cases with a 1/32 scale model of an Mitsubishi A6M *Zero* by the Japanese Fliers exhibit. Dick set the second small case by

the B-17 landing gear exhibit in Hangar 602. It contains a 1/48 scale model of a B-17G *Flying Fortress* we pulled from our models boneyard.

We have different sized practice bombs in our collection, and Dick set three of the larger types near one end of the Naval Air Station Olathe exhibit in Hangar 602.

Danny San Romani pulled a 1/72 scale PBY-5A *Catalina* from the boneyard, and either Dick or **Gene Howerter** will add this to our World War II Anti-submarine Warfare exhibit.

Michele Borgarelli recently brought in a 1/48 scale P-40L *Warhawk* model he built to go with the V-1650-1 Packard-built Rolls Royce engine we have on exhibit. While most folks associate this engine with the famous P-51 *Mustang*, the particular dash number on our engine defines it as one that was used in the Curtiss P-40F and P-40L variants of the *Warhawk*. Danny San Romani selects model kits that go with engines in our collection and sends them to Michele for building. The models will be mounted on or near their respective engines.

Gene Howerter took the Museum's storyboards and traveling exhibit to a recent Lawn and Garden Show, held at the Kansas Expocentre in Topeka over a weekend. Gene and Dave Murray spent some time updating photos and information on the storyboards prior to the event. ➔

2011 Events Calendar

Dates subject to change

April

Pancake Feed

April 30

June

Kansas 150th Sesquicentennial
Celebration

June 4 - 5

Aviation Education Class

June 20 - 23

July

Aviation Education Class

July 11 - 14

August

Aviation Education Class

August 1 - 4

September

Winged Foot 5K Run/Walk

September 24



CAM hosts Washburn University Merit Badge Challenge for 57 local scouts

On Saturday, February 5, 2011, Combat Air Museum partnered with **Washburn University** in the annual 2011 Washburn University Merit Badge Challenge. Fifty-seven Scouts and 15 adults were given classroom instruction and tours for the aviation merit badge. **Dave Murray** and **Dick Trupp** conducted the classroom work that included the principles of flight, aircraft power plants, aircraft structures, flight control systems, and pilot qualifications, to name a few.

The visit to the Forbes Field control tower covered tower operations and procedures, FAA regulations, air field operations, radio transmissions, and the tower operators air traffic control profession.

To complete the session CAM guides **Ralph Knehans**, **Jack Vauhgn**, **Dan Pulliam**, and **Bob Kelly** toured groups of Scouts through the Museum hangars and exhibit galleries. The scouts were able to see the types and differences of military aircraft through history and to view other artifacts.

It was a morning well spent. The Museum enjoys working with Washburn University and the Scouts on this annual project.

The next Scout Merit Badge instruction will take place on Saturday, April 9, for Boy Scout Troop 459 from Kansas City.

**Join the
Combat Air
Museum!**

**Your
membership
is important**

