



Snap Roll II

Volume 21 Issue 1 / January 2014

NEWSLETTER FOR MINTER FIELD AIR MUSEUM

Founder's Day Banquet February 22nd, 2014

The Minter Field Air Museum will hold its Annual Founder's Day Banquet on Saturday, February 22nd, at Hodel's Country Dining located at Highway 99 and Olive Drive, in Bakersfield.

Social hour begins at 6:00 p.m., with dinner at 7:00 p.m., followed by our program.

Minter Field was officially dedicated on Saturday, February 7th, 1942. This banquet commemorates that official act.

Special guests will include Pearl Judd, a WASP (Women Airforce Service Pilot) assigned to Minter Field during World War II and Elinor Otto, an original "Rosie The Riveter" still working for Boeing, at 94 years young!



The guest speaker is tentatively scheduled to be Major General Arnold W. Bunch Jr., the Commander, Air Force Test Center, headquartered at Edwards Air Force Base, California. He directs a \$31 billion enterprise of more than 18,000 military, civilian and contractor personnel across Edwards AFB, Eglin AFB and Arnold AFB.

Please make reservations on the web site (www.minterfieldairmuseum.com) or by phone at (661) 654-9159. The cost is \$30 per person.

2014 Membership Drive Your Support Is Needed!

The heart of any non-profit, as most know, are the staff and volunteers. The lifeblood, however, are the paid members that make it possible for the non-profit to achieve its goals.

The Minter Field Air Museum was formed as a non-profit corporation over 30 years ago by a small group of history buffs. The museum has gone through numerous changes, improvements, and challenges over the years. It has become a respected member of the community.

Last year was a banner year for the museum, both in membership and accomplishments. This year the museum is faced with a set of new challenges. There are many projects that are in progress, along with several new events. In addition, the museum enters into a new era of cooperation with the Minter Field Airport District. This is very exciting for us!

With the member in mind, we have been working hard to create value for you. We will be providing a more in-depth quarterly newsletter. We are on Facebook as well as Youtube. We also have a new web site. All of this is to keep you more informed and hopefully, more involved.

Please consider renewing. If you know anyone who is interested in local or military history, airplanes or military hardware, please pass on a copy of our newsletter and ask them to join. A membership form is included in this issue. Note, your mailing label shows the last year you renewed.

**Minter Field Air Museum's
Mission, Vision, Values & Goals**

Mission Statement

To educate the public about Minter Field and Kern County aviation's impact on local, regional, and global history through preservation efforts, specialty presentations, and community outreach programs.

Vision Statement

To be the finest museum of its type, ensuring that the legacy and historical significance of Minter Field is passed on to future generations so that no one forgets why people fought to preserve our freedoms.

Core Values

1. Integrity
2. Patriotism
3. Commitment
4. Teamwork
5. History
6. Freedom
7. Community
8. Family

Goals

1. Educate the public about the important role that Minter Field played during World War II
2. Educate the public about the historical significance that Kern County has played in aviation history, both military and civilian
3. Preserve the history of and commemorate the service of local residents that served in the armed services, including World War I
4. Educate the public about the global impact of Minter Field.

Minter Field Museum Board

- Ronald Pierce - Chairman
- Jim Whitehead - Vice- Chairman
- Cody Bowling - Secretary
- Dean Craun - Treasurer / Public Relations
- Gary Ebel
- Don Westfahl
- John Cavanagh
- Jeffrey "Al" Goines
- David Patterson
- Scott Hogstad
- David Day
- Randy Randall

Open Staff Positions

The museum has an immediate need for individuals to fill staff positions. In order to achieve our goals we need good, qualified people. We would welcome your involvement! Contact the museum at (661) 654- 9159 or at MFAM@MinterFieldAirMuseum.com.

Membership Coordinator - maintains the membership roster, addresses membership concerns, and coordinates the membership drive.

Digital Information Manager - manages the museum's information on the web site, Facebook page, and Youtube. Responsible for content, event notices, campaign's, etc.

Marketing - responsible for marketing the museum's fund raisers, capital projects, and brand to potential donors, sponsors, public, corporations, and other museums.

Publicity - responsible for publicity for events and activities, as well as making the museum more visible in the community.

Collections Specialist - responsible for managing the museum's artifacts and archives, including cataloging and inventory.

The Left Seat

Ronald Pierce, Chairman of the Board



Doesn't seem like a year has passed since I wrote my first Left Seat as Chairman of the Board. My wife says she is sharing me with the Museum more than half of my time. Please help me out so I can go back to at least half and half.

During 2013 we hosted many special events and weekday tours. These events were a success thanks to all our volunteers.

In April 2013 the museum invited Peter Merlin to present a program on Area 51 and the SR-71. The attendance was much more than we expected, but as always our volunteers were up to the task.

On Mother's Day weekend the Airport District held a two day air show ("Madness Over Minter Field"). Our volunteers manned a booth on the flight line and sold souvenirs, MFAM shirts and raffle tickets for a limited edition military style bicycle. The Museum was open both days of the air show. Saturday we were packed with visitors all day and Sunday about half as many visitors. I want to thank all the volunteers that helped Saturday and Sunday, especially since they sacrificed Mother's Day to help the museum.

Saturday, May 25th, Memorial Day weekend was spent at the Kern County Raceway Park. The museum displayed Dave Patterson's Weasel and Bill Tracy's Jeep. Scott Hogstad brought the Staff Car and I brought the Yellow Jeep. Al Goines and Jim Whitehead also volunteered for the day. We were asked to come back for the Fourth of July and Labor Day weekend races.

Thanks to Jim Whitehead there is a new Viet

Nam POW and MIA display. Scott Hogstad has added more to his World War I display.

Cody Bowling worked hard on the 9-11 memorial event. We had over 300 motorcycles in attendance. Also on hand was San Joaquin Wellness clinic to check blood pressures, and the Kern County Fire Dept Helicopter was on display. Over 800 people attended. The hit of the day was the HUGE American flag flown from the top of the hook and ladder fire truck. Speakers included Mike Maggard (Chairman of the Kern County Board of Supervisors), General James Whitehead, and veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan .

On October 5th we had a James Dean 50's Dance to commemorate the races in 1955 that James Dean competed in. I want to thank Daryl Curtis for all his research and contacts with the James Dean Museum, in Fairmount, Indiana, for enabling Daryl to fill the hanger walls with Dean's racing memorabilia. Also, special thanks to the Golden Empire Region Porsche Club. They had 12 cars on display throughout the day.

On November 2nd the Minter Field Air Museum and Minter Field Airport District sponsored a fly-in, complete with a pancake breakfast and at least 50 airplanes. We honored two special guests - Pearl Judd, a WW II Women Air Service Pilot (WASP) and Elinor Otto, a WW II "Rosie the Riveter." The fly-in was a huge success!

In 2014 we are starting out with a bang! The first event of the year is the Frontier High School Winter Formal ("Come Fly with Me") on January 25th, with 1200 attendees expected.

As you can see we are an active museum providing excellent programs in the local community. Why not enjoy the fun and help us. Maybe my wife will be liberal with my "Kitchen Pass" .

Have a Happy, Healthy & Prosperous New Year!

2013 Year-In-Review

(See Pictures on Page 10)

Area 51 Exposed (April 20th, 2013) - Peter Merlin, a well-known historian and author on the subject of Area 51 and the top secret testing of planes such as the SR-71, the U-2, and the F-117 Stealth Fighter, gave a presentation on Area 51 in the museum's hangar.

Madness Over Minter Field (May 11th-12th, 2013) - The Minter Field Airport District put on an airshow in May. The museum was on hand to support the MFAD and to give tours in the museum. It turned out to be one of the busiest weekends for the museum, with over 200 visitors.

Kern County Raceway Park (Memorial Day, July 4th, and Labor Day Weekends) - The museum has had the honor of participating in the pre-race activities at Kern County Raceway Park, Kern County's premiere NASCAR sanctioned half mile raceway. The museum has been invited to participate in 2014.

7th Annual "Support Our Troops" Memorial Run (September 11th, 2013) - The museum, once again, was host to the 9-11 memorial put on by Harley Davidson of Bakersfield. It was quite spectacular to see over 300 motorcycles converging on Minter Field for such an important event.

"James Dean Was Here" Fund raiser (October 5th, 2013) - The museum held its first ever event to commemorate James Dean and the races that he competed in at Minter Field in 1955. On hand were the Golden Empire Region - Porsche Club of America with 20+ beautiful Porsches. There was a costume contest, '50s music, Deep Pit Beef BBQ dinner, and dancing. It was a wonderful evening and in 2014 the event will be even better.

Shafter Centennial Celebration Parade (October 19th, 2013) - The museum participated in the parade that kicked off a day of celebration. The museum's fire truck, "Follow Me" Jeep, Dave Patterson's Weasel, the 1942 Plymouth Staff Car, and the Hughes OH-6 Helicopter pulled by a 1943 vintage Jeep led the parade.

November Fly-in (November 2nd) - The museum and the Minter Field Airport District hosted a fly-in complete with a \$5 pancake breakfast, Flour drop and spot landing contest. Special guests including Pearl Judd, a WASP stationed at Minter Field in 1944, and Elinor Otto, an original "Rosie The Riveter." The event was a huge success.

Veteran's Day Parade (November 11th) - As is tradition, the museum participated in the Veteran's Day Parade in Bakersfield. The parade length had increased over previous years, and there were more entries than ever before. It was an honor to participate.

Museum Open House (December 14th, 2013) - The museum had its annual open house in December, with lots of refreshments and snacks to celebrate the holidays.

Collections Update

James Whitehead, Vice Chairman of the museum, has been very busy organizing the artifact displays. If you haven't been to the museum in more than a year, you should make the effort and plan a visit. You will be surprised at the changes. Some of the more notable changes include the addition of the Viet Nam POW display. There have been additions to the World War I collection, courtesy of Scott Hogstad, whose grandfather (a local resident) served. The collection is in honor of his service. Recently Pearl Judd, a former WASP stationed at Minter Field in 1944, donated the medal that she was awarded in 2013, from the Gathering of Eagles Foundation, in recognition of her service as a WASP. Great progress has been made on the Link Trainer, one of the original mechanical airplane simulators used at Minter Field during WW II. It is now operational, but still requires a little more restoration before any more "simulations" can commence. Also on display is the original transmitter that came out of the air control tower. The transmitter was salvaged by Ron Pierce, current Chairman of the museum, and his father, who worked on the base during WW II. Another unique addition to the museum are the original glass runway landing strip light globes.

Library Project

Did you realize that the Minter Field Air Museum had a library? The library has quite an extensive collection of books on just about every type of subject related to 20th century and 21st century military history, people, and hardware. There is quite a collection of technical manuals, reference books, and coffee table books. In addition, the museum has a large number of periodicals and magazines specializing in airplanes, military subjects, plastic modeling, and so much more.

The library is not quite ready for public use, but plans are to have it available to the public later in 2014. Currently Daryl Curtis and Pat Marshall are cataloguing the collection and setting up a searchable database. The database will be available online as well as on the library computer.

The goal is to have a great place for researchers, military buffs, and students to broaden their education and make Minter Field Air Museum a valuable resource to the community.

If you would be interested in assisting in this project, the museum staff would welcome your help. Please contact the museum at (661) 654- 9159, or Daryl Curtis at (661) 747- 0769.

Cataloguing Project

For the past two years the museum has been diligently working on reorganizing its cataloguing process. New protocols are being developed, and an inventory of all the artifacts is being conducted. This is not a simple task. To meet the demands of such a large undertaking, the museum has purchased software to document every artifact as well as create an inventory process that will be utilized in future years. Unfortunately, due to limited personnel and the large number of activities that the museum is involved with, progress has been slow.

If you would be interested in assisting in this project, the museum staff would welcome your help. Please contact the museum at (661) 654- 9159, or Daryl Curtis at (661) 747- 0769.



Peter Merlin was the guest speaker at the Museum's "Area 51 Exposed" event held April 20th.

Internet Presence

In an effort to become more engaged in the Social Media scene, the Minter Field Air Museum is now on Facebook. Just log onto Facebook and search for Minter Field Air Museum.

The benefit of following us on Facebook is that you will receive updates, news, and announcements of upcoming events on a weekly basis. We are also interested in your feedback, as well. This way we can interact with our members and keep membership updated on a more frequent basis.

As an added benefit, we've also set up a Youtube account. This allows us to upload videos that we think members might be interested in, as well as show you videos of our recent events and activities. You can search under Minter Field Air Museum if you are on Youtube.

We've also refurbished our web site. You can access our Youtube and Facebook sites from there, make purchases (soon!) from our online gift store, renew your membership, check the calendar for upcoming events, and download color versions of our newsletter.

Please take time to check out all of our digital locations and tell us what you think. Who knows, before long we may

Gift Shop News

If it's been awhile since you've visited the museum, chances are that you have not seen our new gift shop, located in the trailer adjacent to the main museum building.

Some of the new items that we have in stock include the official Minter Field Air Museum coffee mugs. They are absolutely beautiful.

We also have some new T-shirts with the museum logo on the front, with the "Rosie the Riveter" image on the back, commemorating the contributions of women during World War II, for \$15.

And the most recent item that we have received are the Ghosts 2014 calendars by noted photographer Phil Makenna, that can be purchased for \$15.



Landscape Project

The museum staff is excited about our upcoming landscape project. This project will revitalize the bare property that the museum sits on. The purpose is to give the museum "curb appeal" and to distinguish itself from all the other nondescript buildings located at the Minter Field Airport. The landscaping design will be provided by students from Bakersfield College. The initial project should be completed in 2014.

In related news, the Minter Field Airport District replaced the fencing around the hangar adjacent to the museum. The fence is wonderful, looks great, and provides added security for our collection.

Museum Communications / Public Relations Programs Evaluation

The museum is in discussion with Cal State University at Bakersfield to have its Communications / Public Relations program reviewed by the CSUB Communications Department.

This would be of great benefit to the museum as well as the Cal State students assigned to this project.

**Walk of Honor /
Memorial Plaza**

The museum, in conjunction with its landscaping project, will incorporate a “Walk of Honor” and a “Memorial Plaza,” to be located near the entrance to the museum.

The “Walk of Honor” will incorporate 13” diameter discs set into the concrete walkway leading to the museum entrance.

The Memorial Plaza will be constructed of granite bricks, incorporating the existing monument and flag pole as part of the Memorial area.

Details regarding the cost for the Walk of Honor plaques and the Memorial Plaza bricks (which includes the engraving) will be in the next newsletter and on the web site under “Membership.”

The Memorial Plaza will encompass the dirt area around the monument and the flagpole (below). The Walk of Honor will utilize the sidewalk leading to the entrance.



Restoration Project: Hughes OH-6 Helicopter

The latest project (one of many!) that the museum is engaged in is the restoration of its Hughes OH-6 Helicopter that the museum acquired several years ago from the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA). This helicopter will be restored to its original Viet Nam era configuration, in honor of veterans that served in Viet Nam. The rotor craft was built in 1968, and served in Viet Nam. Later it saw action as part of a fleet of helicopters for the Border Patrol service, then the DEA, before ending up as a trainer for the Department of Agriculture. More details will follow in subsequent newsletters. Please come out to the museum to see this project underway. We are looking for donations or sponsors to help complete this project. The gift shop will have specialty T-shirts on sale, with proceeds benefitting the restoration.



The OH-6 soon after the museum acquired it in 2012 (above). The OH-6 was on display during the 2013 Veteran’s Day Parade (below).



Bicycle Raffle

In December the drawing for the 3-speed Military Police bicycle was held at the museum's annual Open House event. The lucky winner of this great bicycle was Justice West. Stay tuned for the 2014 raffle.



Justice West, with girlfriend Kimberly Gonzales, trying out their new bike!



Gary Ebel checking out the spread for the museum's open house in December!

Former WWII Minter Field Pilot Goes on Recent Honor Flight

Don Westfahl, a World War II veteran and former pilot school graduate from Minter Field went on a recent Honor Flight back to Washington, D.C. to visit the World War II Memorial. Don flew back in October, and was sponsored by The Original Roadhouse Grill (located on Rosedale Highway).

Museum members and staff congratulated him with a send-off lunch at the Original Roadhouse Grill, and then some early morning risers saw him off from the local airport.

Don had an outstanding time while on his three day trip, and was impressed with how smoothly the trip went. He, along with his fellow veterans, were greeted at each airport destination by Armed Service representatives. They were the guest of Kern County's House of Representatives' Kevin McCarthy. Kevin gave them a tour of the House chambers. Don also toured all the monuments at the Capital, and was most impressed by the Marines on duty at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

We're glad Don had a great time, and we are proud of his service and contributions during World War II. Don is the museum's most valued docent. Please make a effort to get out to the museum and spend some time with Don.



**Upcoming Events / Activities
in 2014 At The Museum**

- 1/18 Minter Field Air Museum Board Mtg
8:30 am - 10:00 am

- 1/22 Board of Trade Tour

- 1/25 Frontier High School's Winter Formal

- 2/8 Work Day at the Museum - Volunteers Needed - 8:00 am - 2:00 pm w/lunch

- 2/15 Minter Field Air Museum Board Mtg
8:30 am - 10:00 am

- 2/15 **Presentation** - African Americans stationed at Minter Field during WW II
12:00 p.m.

- 2/22 Founder's Day Banquet - Buy Your Tickets NOW! - Hodel's @ 6:00 p.m.

- 3/8 Work Day at the Museum - Volunteers Needed - 8:00 am - 2:00 pm w/lunch

- 3/15 Minter Field Air Museum Board Mtg
8:30 am - 10:00 am

- 3/15 **Presentation** - Viet Nam: MIA's - history presentation along with ceremony in the main building
12:00 p.m.

- 4/12 Work Day at the Museum - Volunteers Needed - 8:00 am - 2:00 pm w/lunch

- 4/19 Minter Field Air Museum Board Mtg
8:30 am - 10:00 am

- 4/19 **Presentation** - World War I: Houser Family - local member shares history of grandfather's service during WW I along with discussion of WW I artifacts on display
12:00 pm



Pearl Judd (left), a former WASP at Minter Field, and Elinor Otto (right), a real life "Rosie the Riveter" were the special guests at the November Fly-in.



The giant flag that flew at the 9-11 tribute in September



Motorcycles converge on Minter Field for the annual 9-11 Event



"Madness Over Minter Field" airshow in May



The museum promoting at the Kern County Raceway



The "James Dean Was Here" Event in October



Participating in the Shafter Centennial Parade in October



The Fly-in held in November



Getting ready to participate in the Veteran's Day parade in November



MINTER FIELD AIR MUSEUM



2014 Membership Program

The support of our members allows the Museum to preserve the rich history of the San Joaquin Valley and educate the community on the important role played by Minter Field during WW II.

Member Recognition Level	Newsletter & MFAM Pin	Warbird Cup	Warbird T-Shirt S M L XL XXL	MFAM Golf Shirt S M L XL XXL	Life Member – One-Time Fee	**Warbird Flt. in WWII Trainer	Sponsor Plaque	Leather Flight Jacket	*** VIP Status
* Veterans receive 20% Discount on Pilot Level Annual Renewable Memberships Pilot (Basic Individual - \$40/* \$32 Membership) Family - \$50/* \$40 (Annual) Student (6-18) \$20	+								
Senior Pilot (Annual) \$100/* \$80	+	+	+						
Command Pilot (Annual) \$250/* \$200	+	+	+						
Squadron Commander (Life) \$500	+	+		+	+				
Wing Commander (Life) \$1,000	+	+		+	+				
Division Commander (Life) \$2,000	+	+		+	+	+			
Air Force Commander (Life) \$5,000	+	+		+	+	+	+		
Supreme Commander (Life) \$10,000	+	+		+	+	+	+	+	+

Your Museum membership will become active 14 days after payment

Your contribution is tax deductible – US Tax ID #953646320

***Warbird Flight in a WW II trainer)*

****VIP Status receives 6 tickets to the annual Fly-in and/or Founder's Day Banquet*

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Company: (if applicable) _____

Address: _____ City _____ St _____ Zip _____

Spouse: _____ E-Mail: _____

Membership Level: _____ #Members: _____

Payment: Check Enclosed _____ Total: _____ **OR** Charge to my Credit Card ->

Card # _____ Expiration Date: _____

Name on Card: _____ Total _____

Please Charge \$ _____ to my   card for _____ month(s)

Authorized Signature: _____

Credit Card receipt will be e-mailed to you.

Make Checks Payable to: Minter Field Air Museum

PO Box 445, Shafter, CA 93263

E-mail: mfam@minterfieldairmuseum.com - Website: www.minterfieldairmuseum.com

MINTER FIELD AIR MUSEUM

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401 VULTEE ST.
P.O. Box 445
SHAFTER, CA. 93263

Phone: 661-393-0291

Email:

MFAM@MinterFieldAirMuseum.com



See Your Ad Here

Business Card - 3 1/2" x 2"

\$75 per Quarter

Contact: (661) 654-9159

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WE NEED YOU - NOW!!



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