



# Snaproll II

## B-17 "Sentimental Journey" Visits Museum



Looking for something special to do on the Memorial Day weekend? How about visiting an amazing piece of history at the Minter Field Air Museum at the Shafter Airport. The beautiful WW II B-17 bomber "Sentimental Journey" will be at the field on display, giving

rides and tours. It's one of only 5 WW II Flying Fortresses still flying, operated by the Commemorative Air Force (formerly Confederate Air Force) Arizona Wing.

The big plane will be arriving on Thursday, May 24th, and be on display Friday, Saturday and Sunday morning. Friday has been set aside as a special day for schools and students to see the plane and get a free tour inside. (Contact the Museum to schedule a class visit at (661) 654-9159). Rides at \$425 per person may be scheduled by calling (602) 448-2350 or email [rides@azcaf.org](mailto:rides@azcaf.org).

The Museum will be holding a Deep Pit Beef Dinner on Saturday from 6-10pm. See details about tickets on page 6 Or go to our website: [www.MinterFieldAirMuseum.com](http://www.MinterFieldAirMuseum.com) to place your order.

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MAY 2012

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### CALENDAR

#### May 2012

21- Board Meeting  
Museum -

#### May 24-27 2012

24 - B-17 Arrives  
25 - B-17 On Display  
School Tours  
26 - B-17 On Display  
Deep Pit Beef Dinner  
6-10pm  
27 - B-17 Departs

#### June 2012

16- Board Meeting

## Museum Videotapes Living History



Jordan "Turk" Eliades

Part of the Museum's Video Library includes video-taped interviews with veterans who served in conflicts like WW II, Korea, Vietnam, and the Gulf. Dr. Alvis West of Bakersfield has volunteered to tape veterans to get a personal accounting of their time in the service.

We have dozens of interviews in our library. Recently, renowned Bakersfield and Shafter football coach "Turk" Eliades came to the Museum to share stories of his times as a cadet at Minter Field, and a P-51 Mustang pilot in Europe. He was shot down and spent time in a prison camp late in the war. If you know someone who would like to provide a Living History, contact us at (661) 654-9159, or you can e-mail us at [mfam@minterfieldairmuseum.com](mailto:mfam@minterfieldairmuseum.com).

## The Right Seat by Dean Craun, Public Relations



My how time flies - it's been since January since we sent out a Snap Roll, and we can't believe how fast the calendar pages turn. But that's not to say that nothing has been happening at good old MFAM. Just the opposite.

Our Founders Day Banquet in February was an amazing opportunity to meet a truly historical figure, Pearl Judd, a former W.A.S.P. who was at Minter Field in 1944 and 1945. She's still as feisty as ever, as were most of the W.A.S.P.s of the era.

We now have 3 Vietnam era helicopters that are projects to become displays. Recently, an OH-1 Cayuse known as the LOACH arrived in our hangar. It's a great example of the scout helicopters that flew as the eyes for the Huey gunships and later the Cobras. We recently came into contact with a man who was a mechanic on the AH-1 Cobras, and he has contacts that we need to acquire many of the parts we need to put the Cobra in our bullpen in shape to display as a memorial to a Kern County helicopter pilot. We never know when something outstanding happens to help us along.

We have also welcomed several new members to our staff. Cody Bowling, Daryl Curtis and Roy Pena have stepped up recently. Their efforts range from mechanical to docents to computer whiz. We welcome their support.. Thanks, guys !

Just a note to wish a big GET WELL SOON to the Museum's Vice Chairman and Facilities manager, Dave Patterson, who has been in the hospital recently. We wish him a speedy recovery, and look forward to seeing his happy shining face back at the Museum soon. In the meantime, our go-to-guy is Ron Pierce, our Shafter resident who is always willing to give us of his many years of experience. And I do mean many years - Ron is older than dirt, but can outwork most all of us. We can't do without him. We always need to add more volunteers so he can pass on his knowledge.

While we're passing out Kudos, we must acknowledge Gary Ebel and Randy Randall, who have been working on our Link Trainer for a decade. Recently, they gave it a "test flight" and the system of bellows that gives it movement worked on all three axes. This landmark event is due to the unwavering dedication of these two men.

The next big event on our calendar is the visit of the CAF-Arizona Wing's B-17 bomber, "Sentimental Journey". What a beautiful piece of WW II history it is. She'll be at Minter Field from Thursday afternoon, 5/24 through Sunday, 5/27, on display to see, to give rides and tours, and be part of our Saturday night Deep Pit Beef Dinner. See details elsewhere in this Snap Roll, and on our website. We are limited to 250 tickets, so get yours now. When they're gone, they' GONE !

In closing, I'd like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the hard work of our fearless leader, Jim Whitehead. Talk about hands on leadership, besides being chairman of the board, Jim can be found giving tours of the Museum, painting the outside, setting up the Christmas tree, and especially creating new and interesting historical displays, Now he's filling up the new flower box under the Museum sign in the yard. Give him a pat on the back ! He's earned it!

*Dean Craun*

# MFAM Pix Page

Russian Antonov AN-12 Visits Meadows



Museum's Follow-Me Jeep with B-17 "Sentimental Journey"



# 2012 Founders Day Banquet

Feb.18th was a sort of homecoming for Pearl Brummett Judd, as it was just about 67 years since she was a W.A.S.P. at Minter Field. She and 16 other women formed a group of pilots who flight tested aircraft at the field. The W.A.S.P.s (Women Airforce Service Pilots) performed a valuable service during the war by flying aircraft—fighters, bombers, cargo—so that men pilots could be in combat. We were very proud to have her with us.



Pearl Judd holds up her medallion received from the government—duplicated on her gift box presented by Chairman Jim Whitehead.

The next day, Pearl and her escort, Ernie Pearson, came out to the Museum in Shafter for a tour of both the Museum and Minter Field where she spent time flying BT-13s, AT-6 and other aircraft. Pearl is always a welcome guest to come back and enjoy our newfound friendship.

Our guest speaker was retired Air Force test pilot George Marrett, who also flew 188 missions in the A-1 Skyraider, as a “Sandy” rescue pilot in Vietnam. George has written 4 books, including “Cheating Death”, about his rescue missions. He told many stories about his exploits as a test pilot at Edwards Air Force Base flying the F-104 Starfighter, F-106 Delta Dart, F-4C Phantom, and F-111 Aardvark.

Honorary Lifetime membership awards were given to both of our special guests, as well as to Jim & Diane Calanchini, Eric Banducci, and J.L.”Bud” Cashen, for their contributions to the Museum.

## Special Guests—Pearl Judd & George Marrett



# MEMBERSHIP- Join or Renew for 2012



## MINTER FIELD AIR MUSEUM



### 2012 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.

**\*Veterans receive 20% Discount on Pilot Level Annual Renewable Memberships**

<u>Member Recognition Level</u>	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	Leather Flight Jacket	Sponsor Plaque	*** VIP Status
<b>Pilot</b> (Basic Individual - \$40* Membership) Family - \$50* (Annual) Student (6-18) \$20	+		^	^					
<b>Senior Pilot</b> (Annual) \$100*	+	+	+						
<b>Command Pilot</b> (Annual) \$250*	+	+	+						
<b>Squadron Commander</b> (Life) \$500	+	+		+	+				
<b>Wing Commander</b> (Life) \$1,000	+	+		+	+				
<b>Division Commander</b> (Life) \$2,000	+	+		+	+	+			
<b>Air Force Commander</b> (Life) \$5,000	+	+		+	+	+	+	+	
<b>Supreme Commander</b> (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 Founder's Day Banquet*

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**Make Checks Payable to: Minter Field Air Museum  
PO Box 445, Shafter, CA 93263**

E-mail: [mfam@minterfieldairmuseum.com](mailto:mfam@minterfieldairmuseum.com) - Website: [www.minterfieldairmuseum.com](http://www.minterfieldairmuseum.com)



**MINTER FIELD AIR MUSEUM PRESENTS**

**A NIGHT WITH SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY”**  
**COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE – ARIZONA B-17 FLYING FORTRESS**  
**AT THE MUSEUM HANGAR - MINTER FIELD, SHAFTER**

**SATURDAY, MAY 26<sup>TH</sup> 6-10PM**

**DEEP PIT BEEF DINNER**

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**1940'S UNIFORM AND DRESS ENCOURAGED**

**\$20 PER PERSON-10 & UNDER FREE**

**LIMIT OF 250 GUESTS**

**VISIT [WWW.MINTERFIELDAIRMUSEUM.COM](http://WWW.MINTERFIELDAIRMUSEUM.COM)**  
**FOR INFORMATION AND TO ORDER TICKETS**

**B-17 “Sentimental Journey” - E-mail or Mail Reservation**

**2012 Deep Pit Beef Dinner—Sat, May 26th, 2012**

**Museum Hangar — 6pm—10pm**

Reservations & Payment in advance please -

\$20 per person—10 & under Free

E-mail from website: [www.MinterFieldAirMuseum.com](http://www.MinterFieldAirMuseum.com)

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_; E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

# Reservations \_\_\_\_\_ x \$20 ea = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Payment: Check enclosed \_\_\_ Call me for Credit Card \_\_\_

Mail to: MFAM % Dean Craun

9217 Hoxie Ct, Bakersfield, CA 93311

## Yellow Stearman Pilot Friend of the Museum



**J R Smith**

You've seen his bright yellow Stearman 450 at many Museum air shows and fly-ins. It's the one that has "BiPlane Rides" painted on the bottom wing. The pilot is J. R. Smith, who calls Oceano home, but also hangs his Stearman and J-3 Cub here at Minter Field. J. R. is always on the spot when a ride in a WW II primary trainer type airplane would be of benefit to the Museum. Recently, he was at the field giving Pearl Judd, a Minter Field W.A.S.P. a close look at his plane.

Although she was not longer taking "thrill rides", I was quick to step up with my camera to get climb in the front seat and get some shots through the propeller. We took a couple trips around the patch, and

then with Pearl and the staff watching, he pulled into a loop, and then a right roll. I had the video button pushed, and captured the earth going by first in front, and then around the side. A real thrill for me, and some great footage that I can share.

Recently, J. R. joined us at our booth at the National Street Rod Association show at the Kern County Museum. He was selling rides there, and also donated a ride that the Museum raffled off.

J. R. has connections that allowed us to add a OH-6 Cayuse helicopter, nicknamed in Vietnam as a "LOACH" for it's low altitude observation duties flying alongside Cobras and Hueys. We have the LOACH in our hangar, awaiting some final parts and main rotor blades to complete another outstanding Vietnam helicopter display. Thanks, JR.

Photos by Dean Craun

**Stearman Banks over Museum Hangar**



## Russian AN-12 Cargo Transport Visits Meadows Field



first flown in 1957, and was one in a long line of Antonov heavy lifters. I grabbed my trusty camera, and trucked up to Meadows just in time to see the plane arrive, and taxi up right in front of me at Atlantic Aviation.

We got a phone call the other day from Museum member Gary Plomp, a former area resident who now lives in Gilroy. Gary worked at Meadows Field back in his heyday, and spends his time browsing the internet looking for interesting aircraft. He told me that he was on a website that tracks planes: [www.FlightAware.com](http://www.FlightAware.com). He noticed there was a Antonov AN-12 on it's way from Florida to Bakersfield. The plane is flown by SFX, a Florida company. We surmised it was flying oil field equipment. This big 4 engine turboprop was

(See Page 3 for other Photo by Dean Craun)

# MINTER FIELD AIR MUSEUM

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MFAM@MinterFieldAirMuseum.com



We're on the Web

[www.MinterFieldAirMuseum.com](http://www.MinterFieldAirMuseum.com)

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## WANTED - MINTER FIELD ECHELONS

The Museum has a collection of the class books of Minter cadets. We sell CD's of them in our Gift Shop.

We have a few classes missing.

If you have these Echelons, please contact the Museum to discuss donating them or loaning them for scanning.

We need 42-H; 42-J; any after 44-G



This Air Museum needs your support in order to operate. We need your financial support by renewing your annual dues, or stepping up to become a Life-time Member.

Check the Membership Program on Page 5. The code number after your name above is the last year you were a paid member of this museum. If there is no year in the code, then you've never been a paid member.

Won't you please sit down and write us a check and help to keep our doors open. The board and staff of the Museum are all unpaid volunteers who give thousands of hours to provide an historic testament to the military and civil aviators who have come before. And we provide programs to youth who are our future with our Air Explorer troop.

We need your help to maintain our resolve to present a truly unique experience to those who take the time to visit our Museum.