



Snap roll



August 2018

Volume 25 Issue 2



SEPT 19TH - 30TH 2018

VOLUNTEERS ARE STRONGLY NEEDED & ENCOURAGED
FOR SETUP AND OPERATION OF THE EXHIBIT
(Details Inside)

Upcoming Events

- Tuesday September 11th Event
- Saturday September 15th Crest RV Park Car Show
- Saturday September 15th 8:30 Board Meeting in MFAM Library
- Kern County Fair Sept 19th-30th
- Saturday October 20th 8:30 Board Meeting in MFAM Library
- November 2nd James Dean Tribute Event at The Fox Theatre
- November 3rd Wings N' Wheels Main Event
- Saturday November 17th 8:30 Board Meeting in MFAM Library
- on December 1st, Santa Clause flying in for open house.
- Saturday December 15th 8:30 Board Meeting in MFAM Library

Updated: August 15th, 2018

MINTER★FIELD

AIR MUSEUM
California Pinups & Patriots, Inc.
Presents

WINGS N' WHEELS

AT MINTER FIELD

SHAFTER, CA

NOVEMBER 3RD, 2018



SIGN-UP ONLINE:

WWW.MFAMWINGSNWHEELS.COM

(Details Inside)

Where Flyboys Got Their Wings

Page 3

*Membership
Sign-Up Inside*

**Left Seat by:
Chairman Ronald Pierce**



It's hard to believe that a little over half of 2018 has gone into the Museum's history book.

You can see by some of Dave Cosimati's photos we have been busy the 1st half of this year.

The museums 2018 founders' day banquet on February 9th was a great success.

Once again we partnered with MOAA (Military Officers Association of America) of Bakersfield and between our two organizations we sold every seat that was available for this year's banquet. Our special guest was SR-71 pilot Major Brian Shul, USAF (Ret.). I hope you didn't miss his heart warming presentation.

Again we attended the Friends of Seniors annual car show in Bakersfield put on by the Studebaker club of Bakersfield with the Museum's

Loach after's Cinco de Mayo parade displaying Shafter's 1st city fire truck, the Museums Follow me Yellow Jeep pulling the Loach helicopter and Dave Patterson's weasel. The City of Shafter always puts on a fabulous event. helicopter, the Follow me Yellow Jeep and Dave Patterson's weasel.

We participated in Shafter's Cinco de Mayo parade displaying Shafter's 1st city fire truck, the Museums Follow me Yellow Jeep pulling the Loach helicopter and Dave Patterson's weasel. The City of Shafter always puts on a fabulous event.

On Armed Forces day we were out at Camp Hamilton showing off our Loach helicopter and the Museums Follow me Yellow Jeep. We had a great time with great people.

Then on June 2nd we were at Chuy's big car show in Bakersfield, with the Loach helicopter and like always it was a big draw for Children and Adults alike.

June 30th we were the Kern County Raceway Park for their fireworks display. We had the Museums Helicopter and the Follow Me Jeep on display. Again we got to take them on a lap around the track.

On July 3rd once again we had the Helicopter and the Jeep at the Shafter fireworks display on the Shafter high football field. What a grand event to be able to participate in.

Coming up in the 2nd half of this year:

The annual 9/11 Observance & Patriot day at the Museum. If you haven't attended in the past, this is a great patriotic program to go to.

September 19th to the 30th we will be out at the Kern County

Fair again. We do need help please sign up if you can. Email, call or stop by the Museum before the Fair. We will even give you a ride in the Museum's own golf cart thanks to the generosity of Minter Field Airport District.

Last but not least on November 3rd Minter Field Air Museum with the help from the California Pinups & Patriots Inc. we will be sponsoring the 1st annual Minter Field Wings N Wheels. We are anticipating that this event will draw 400 to 500 show cars and about 100 airplanes of different types. It will also be a special tribute to actor James Dean's racing career at Minter field in 1955. It will include live music, dancing, pinup contest, Beer and Wine garden, food, airplane rides and fun for all. We have seen interest for this event from James Dean fan clubs as far away as Switzerland and Germany.

In the 1st part of December we will have Santa Claus arriving by helicopter to greet the children and have a fun day at Minter Field Air Museum. It even looks like in December we will have one of the museums long-time members getting married in the Museum hangar.

That's one more use for the hangar.

Don't miss out on all the things that are coming up, be a participant and show that you appreciate what your Community Museum is doing. Our Facebook page "Minter Field Air Museum" will keep you up to date.

Don't be a stranger step up and help, we are willing to share the fun with you.

History in the Know

To illustrate the urgency of military production, Kern County had a shipyard in east Bakersfield. Assembly of ship sections for the famous Henry J. Kaiser shipyard in Richmond, Calif., took place in east Bakersfield between the Southern Pacific tracks and Kentucky Street and the ship sections were sent north via railroad cars. The Vega sub-assembly aircraft plant opened in Bakersfield and Taft to build parts for Boeing B-17s. "Vega officials asserted that through the work on the sub-assemblies of the works done at the Bakersfield, Taft and Fresno plants, production of the B-17 has increased 100 percent in a few weeks," The Californian reported on Oct. 6, 1943. Kern County's arid and clear weather invited the Army to establish and expand training airports at Minter Field outside of Shafter, Meadows Field in Bakersfield, Gardner Field in Taft and Muroc Army Air Base (currently Edwards Air Force Base) east of Rosamond. The Marine Corps took a pre-existing Kern County airport in Mojave, used to service the gold and silver mines of the Mojave Desert, and created the Marine Corps Auxiliary Air Station Mojave.

Minter Field: Where Flyboys Got Their Wings

BY DIANNE HARDISTY, Contributing writer dhardisty@bak.rr.com Jan 16, 2010



Don Westfahl looked across a barren field on the airport in Shafter. From a layer of fog poked weather-beaten buildings, the leftovers of World War II. They stirred memories of a time that changed Westfahl's life.

A 19-year-old farm boy from Perry, Okla., Westfahl was sent with thousands of other young men by the Army Air Corps to Minter Field, just east of Shafter, to learn how to fly fighter planes and bombers during World War II. "It was enjoyable to be there as a cadet," the 85-year-old Westfahl recalled during a recent interview. "We were treated well. The food was excellent. Honey, butter and a case of milk were always on the table. The mess sergeant would save the best steaks and he would put on a banquet at the end of training. "They demanded discipline, but they were more interested in getting us to be pilots than in changing us. It was a good group of guys who had a lot of fun flying."

Minter Field also

was where Westfahl met his wife of 55 years, the former Lee Becker of Bakersfield. Westfahl and Becker met during a Junior Women's League dance for cadets in 1944. Becker worked in a medical office on the base. The young cadet was just passing through. Westfahl spent 10 weeks of his 40-week aviation training course at Minter Field, the Army Air Corps' largest "basic training" base on the West Coast. After leaving Minter Field, he went on to advance training at bases in Texas, South Carolina, Georgia and Oklahoma.

But that dance in the "rec hall" sparked a romance kept alive through letters. "I still have letters I won't let anyone see," Westfahl confessed with a sly chuckle. The couple married in June 1944 and Lee followed her husband from camp to camp until he was sent overseas a year later. From a base in India, Westfahl flew weather reconnaissance flights to support pilots navigating the dangerous "Hump," a death-defying route over the Himalayas used to supply Chinese troops fighting the Japanese.

At the war's end, Westfahl came "home" to Bakersfield, where his bride and a young son he had never seen were waiting for him. He was hired by a local refinery and he worked his way up to assistant manager, before moving to Sunland

Refinery, where he wound up a 40-year career as its manager.

The couple raised three children -- Donald Jr., the oldest, who teaches English in Saudi Arabia; Patricia, a travel agent in Torrance; and Michael, who lives in Bakersfield and is retired from an oil equipment sales career. Westfahl's bride died 10 years ago.

About six months after retiring from his refinery post, Westfahl said he "got nervous." He went to work as a part-time plumbing and electrical salesman at the Lumberjack store on White Lane until it closed a few years ago. In 1999, a man Westfahl knew from his refinery days came into the store. Talk bounced around various topics and somehow Westfahl mentioned he had been stationed at Minter Field during the war. The man he was talking to was a volunteer at the Minter Field Air Museum. "I didn't even know there was a museum," Westfahl recalled. That was 10 years ago.

Not only was Westfahl recruited as a volunteer, he became the "go-to guy" when people want to tour the old base, and learn about its war memorabilia, restored aircraft and various World War II-era military vehicles. Westfahl is the museum's only docent who actually served at the base. His first-hand knowledge is treasured by volunteers

and visitors. "Most of the board members can give a good tour, but only he can tell you where the buildings were on the field. He can point out the ready room," said Dean Craun, a retired television marketing executive, who volunteers as the museum's public relations contact. "You never know who will pop through the doors," said Craun, explaining museum visitors include local residents and those from far away.

"A few years ago, we were contacted by a guy who had been adopted. He wanted to learn more about his father and knew he had been based at Minter Field," said Craun. Volunteers sorted through documents, including past issues of the base newspaper, the Echelon. They found a photo of the man's father, had it enlarged and sent it to him. The man later visited Minter Field. "He was quite moved by the experience." "Not long ago, a couple of guys from England had been visiting military museums in the Bay Area and then driving to Arizona. They pulled off the highway to see the Minter Field Air Museum," said Craun.

"It is important to preserve Minter Field," said Craun, noting that more than 11,000 pilots were trained at the base during World War II.

Cont. on Page 9



EAGLE EYE IN THE SKY



76th Annual Founders Day Banquet on Feb 9th 2018



Top Left: Jim Scott from KGET 17 News was pleased to emcee. **Center:** The California Pinups & Patriots proudly greeted guests. **Top Right:** Board Member Jim Lopez and his wife. **Lower:** We had over 300 in attendance. We thank each and everyone that arrived.

4th of July at Kern County Raceway on June 30th



Left: KCRP Official Pace Car. **Top Left:** Ron Pierce enjoying the show. **Top Right:** Junior Miss Kern County. **Bottom Left:** Pre race briefing from the officials. Staging before the race.



EAGLE EYE IN THE SKY



Armed Forces Day at Camp Hamilton



Top Left: Highland High school Bagpipers.
Top Right: Chad Garcia Ret. Army gives an impressive speech.
Bottom: The Pinups present a One-Thousand Dollar Check to Camp Hamilton.

Chuy's Car Show



Above: With the OH-6 in tow. Ron arrived at 5:30 to get the first seat in the lot. Early bird's always get the worm.

3rd of July Fireworks in the City of Shafter



Top: Our OH-6 is always an attraction.
Bottom Left: Sitting in the Yellow Jeep is like going back in time. **Bottom Right:** Thousands of pictures have been taken for selfies in the helicopter.

Cinco De Mayo Parade



Top: City of Shafter Pumper Truck #1 still rolls brutally. **Top Right:** The Wily's jeep can still tow twice its size. **Below:** Board Member David Patterson can take on any terrain in his Weasal.

February 9th, 2018

Founders Day Banquet was a Sellout



Above: An SR-71 landing. **Right:** Maj. Shul suited and ready for flight.

Our special guest this year was SR-71 Pilot Major Brian Shul USAF retired. I hope you didn't miss his heart warming stories and inspirational presentation. It was a sellout ...Thanks to you.

Brian was shot down Near the Cambodia border in Vietnam given up for dead, was rescued, spent one year in the hospital, enduring 15 surgeries was told his flying days were over. Brian went on to become a top gun instructor and finishing his Air Force career flying the top-secret spy plane the SR 71. The world's fastest and highest SR 71 aircraft requires an astronaut physical and Brian made Air Force history when he passed it without a waiver.



Romona Dolan Founder's Day Opening Speech

My name is Romona Dolan Co Commander of California Pinups & Patriots. We are the ladies auxiliary for Minter Field Air Museum and I Thank you all for coming. Minter Field is 76 years old. That's amazing isn't it? The museum is housed in the original fire station built in 1941. By 1942 multiple buildings were built and training of US Army Air Corps began. It grew to become the largest training facility of its type on the west coast. Nearly 12,000 pilots received training. 12,000! This had a global impact and helped change the course of the war. This happened right here in Kern County. This is our history. We should all be very proud and do all that we can to share and support this legacy for our community. Today Minter Field Air Museum teaches countless groups of school age children about the military and aviation history of this country. In 2016 the California Department of Education revised its public school curriculum. It's available on their website if you care to look it up. History now falls officially under social studies and the brief education about World War 1 and World War 2 dosent begin until 10 and 11th grade. Education about the Vietnam and Korean War looks like a footnote on the curriculum. At the most they're learning from textbooks and videos if they haven't opted out for other electives because they've fullfilled their social studies requirement by grade 11. At Minter Field Air Museum we have the actual artifacts... the mess kit, the trench kit communication equipment, a functioning Link trainer, full scale replicas as well as actual military issue aircraft. We have the uniforms the medals and most of all we have the stories of heroism housed in that museum. We are at work on creating a new curriculum for all age groups. Minter Field is 76 years old... 76 years from now after we are all long gone will it still be there ? For our great grandchildren and their children ? If we don't teach our children in this community about the military history of their grandparents and great grandparents how can we expect them to grow up to respect the sacrifices made for their freedom and the values that we hold dear as a coumminuty and as a nation. We are a small museum with very big stories to tell. Today, I challenge each and everyone one of you to remember Minter Field Air Museum kindly in your donations ,in your membership, in your estate planning. Our future is in your hands.

Thank you.



February 9th, 2018

MINTER★FIELD

AIR MUSEUM

BRINGS AVIATION HISTORY TO



SEPT 19TH - 30TH 2018

**EXPIERENCE MILITARY VEHICLES AND AIRCRAFT
WITH AWESOME PHOTO OPPURTUNITIES**

**HONORING
76 YEARS OF THE MINTER ARMY AIR FIELD
EST. FEB. 7TH 1942**

**VOLUNTEERS ARE STRONGLY NEEDED & ENCOURAGED
FOR SETUP AND OPERATION OF THE EXHIBIT**

**Contact : J. Ward @ (661)-414-2010
leave a message @ (661)-393-0291
email: melodyhillsranch@yahoo.com**

MINTER★FIELD

AIR MUSEUM



California Pinups & Patriots Inc.

WINGS N' WHEELS

AT MINTER FIELD

SHAFTER, CA

NOVEMBER 3RD, 2018

special tribute to

JAMES DEAN

Actor & Race Car Driveer

His 3rd race outing was May 1, 1955 at Minter Field

Antique Cars

Classic Cars

Hot Rods

Porsches

Rat Rods

Customs

Low Riders

Vintage Motorcycles

Vintage & Experimental Aircraft

Over 500 Cars

50 Aircraft Of All Eras

Airplane Rides Available

Food

Beer & Wine Garden

VIP Area

Raffles

Vendors

Dancing

Pinup Contest

Live Music

*The Rayford Brothers &
Special Guest Ron Brem*

(Bettie Page's Nephew & Local Musician)

Sponsorship Information

Romona Allibritton

661-489-0273

Vendor Information

Heather Gonzalez

661-489-0268

Aircraft Information

Ron Pierce

ron_pierce@att.net

Auto/Cycle Information

Craig Webb

661-337-0303



SIGN-UP ONLINE:

WWW.MFAMWINGSNWHEELS.COM

Reasons To Get Involved

We are extensively involved in community events, to name a few are the Veteran's Day Parade, Annual 9 11 Ceremony, Kern County Fair, many presentations at community organizations and schools. We are a non-profit organization operated completely 100% by volunteers. It is through donations, memberships and tireless efforts of volunteers that has allowed us to keep the museum open and continue free admission to the museum.

How You Can Help

- Become a member – see membership form in this Snap Roll
- Donate or loan artifacts both military and civilian aviation equipment
- Donate your time and talents to help operate and maintain the museum and it's activities
- Last but not least you can make a onetime donation up to including becoming a Lifetime Member (see explanation of Lifetime Member on Membership Form)

ALL DONATIONS, INCLUDING TRAVEL TO AND FROM MUSEUM, ARE TAX DEDUCTABLE !

Brief History

Minter Field was officially dedicated on February 7, 1942. The base was one of the largest training bases in the Western Training Command. From 1942 until the end of the war in 1945 it graduated 11,280 pilots. The museum was originally founded in 1983. Over the years there have been many achievements and goals accomplished. Many military vehicles and airplanes have been restored. Today the accumulation of donated artifacts has resulted in numerous historical displays from WWI, WWII, Korea, Viet Nam, Cold War and NASA. This was accomplished while maintaining the museum building which was built as a firehouse for Minter Field in 1942.

Who We Are...

Our Mission

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

Our Vision

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

Our Goals

1. Educate the public about the important roll that Minter Army Air 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 personnel at any given time. The primary training aircraft at the base of World War II videos. A library of Minter Field and World War II records also is being archived in what was once the base's original fire station.
3. Preserve the history of and commemorate the service of local residents that served in the armed forces from World War I to today. Valiant, affectionately known as the "Vultee Vibrator" because it shook during certain maneuvers.
4. Educate the public about the global impact of Minter Army Air Field.

Continued from Page 3

It was named after Lt. Hugh C. Minter, member of a prominent local family and World War I pilot. Minter, the commander of the 73rd Pursuit Squadron at March Field in Southern California, died in a mid-air collision in 1932 over that base.

In historical documents, Minter Field is described as a "city within a city," with about 7,000

"The museum honors the Greatest Generation -- people who put it on the line for their country in the '40s," said Craun. "The military is downplayed in schools. There isn't much taught about World War II, Korea or Vietnam." Craun is putting together a video library commemorating the generation at the museum. So far, he has

The museum is a nonprofit organization dependent on fundraising and donations. Major events conducted by the museum include a February founder's day banquet, a spring Warbirds air show and an October military vehicle show.

Dianne Hardisty can be reached at dhardisty@bak.rr.com.



MINTER★FIELD AIR MUSEUM



2018 Membership

The support of our members allows the museum to preserve the rich aviation history of the San Joaquin Valley and to further educate the community on the important role played by Minter Field during World War II.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Company: (if applicable) _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Spouse: _____ Email: _____

Membership Level: _____ #Members: _____

Payment: Check Enclosed: _____ Total: _____

Or Charge to my Credit Card



**Please Charge \$ _____ to my _____ Total: _____

Name on Card: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Card # _____ 3 Digit Code on Back: _____

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

Facebook: [Minter Field Air Museum](https://www.facebook.com/MinterFieldAirMuseum)

Member Recognition Level

		Annual	*Annual Veteran Discount	**Life	Newsletter	MFAM Pin New Members	MFAM Cup New Members	Warbird T-Shirt New Members	S M L XL XXL	MFAM Polo Shirt New Members	S M L XL XXL	Name on Life Time Plaque at the MFAM Museum	Leather Flight Jacket	***VIP Status
Pilot Pilot (Basic Membership)	Individual	\$40.00	\$32.00		★	★		★						
	Family	\$50.00	\$40.00											
	Student	\$20.00												
Senior Pilot	Individual	\$100.00	\$80.00		★	★		★		★				
Command Pilot	Individual	\$250.00	\$200.00		★	★	★	★		★				
Squadron Commander	Individual			\$500.00	★	★	★			★		★		
Wing Commander	Individual			\$1,000.00	★	★	★			★		★		
Division Commander	Individual			\$2,000.00	★	★	★			★		★		
Air Force Commander	Individual			\$5,000.00	★	★	★			★		★	★	
Supreme Commander	Individual			\$10,000.00	★	★	★			★		★	★	★

*Veterans & Seniors (65) receive a 20% Discount on Pilot Level Annual Renewable Membership

** Life members pay a one time fee

***VIP Status receives 6 tickets to the annual Founder's Day Banquet

Your Museum Membership will become active 14 days after payment

Your contribution is tax deductible-U.S. Tax ID #953646320



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Name: _____ Phone: _____

Company: (if applicable) _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Spouse: _____ Email: _____

Membership Level: _____ #Members: _____

Payment: Check Enclosed: _____ Total: _____

Or Charge to my Credit Card





**Please Charge \$ _____ to my _____ Total: _____

Name on Card: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Card # _____ 3 Digit Code on Back: _____

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

Facebook: [Minter Field Air Museum](https://www.facebook.com/MinterFieldAirMuseum)

Member Recognition Level

		Annual	*Annual Veteran Discount	**Life	Newsletter	MFAM Pin New Members	MFAM Cup New Members	Warbird T-Shirt New Members	S M L XL XXL New Members	MFAM Polo Shirt New Members	S M L XL XXL New Members	Name on Life Time Plaque at the MFAM Museum	Leather Flight Jacket	***VIP Status
Pilot Pilot (Basic Membership)	Individual	\$40.00	\$32.00		★	★		★						
	Family	\$50.00	\$40.00											
	Student	\$20.00												
Senior Pilot	Individual	\$100.00	\$80.00		★	★		★		★				
Command Pilot	Individual	\$250.00	\$200.00		★	★	★	★		★				
Squadron Commander	Individual			\$500.00	★	★	★			★		★		
Wing Commander	Individual			\$1,000.00	★	★	★			★		★		
Division Commander	Individual			\$2,000.00	★	★	★			★		★		
Air Force Commander	Individual			\$5,000.00	★	★	★			★		★	★	
Supreme Commander	Individual			\$10,000.00	★	★	★			★		★	★	★

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[Minter Field Air Museum](#)



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...AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!!