



# Snap Roll II

Volume 21 Issue 2 / April 2014

NEWSLETTER FOR MINTER FIELD AIR MUSEUM

## Al Goss Presentation and Fly-in June 14th, 2014

On Saturday, June 14th, the Minter Field Air Museum will be hosting a Pancake breakfast, Fly-in, and Memorial of Al Goss, the local air race champion. In addition to planes, the Porsche club will be present. The pancake breakfast will be served from 7:00 am until 9:30 am, with presentations beginning at 11:00 am.

\$10 - Entry to event (Adults); \$5 for kids 6- 12  
Entry for kids 5 and under is FREE  
Breakfast is \$5 extra



## Top Gun Flight Simulation Raffle

Enter this raffle to win five (5) F- 16 Flight Simulations at "Fly The Dream" Studios in Los Angeles.

The winner gets ALL 5 sessions, to use for themselves or to share with others. Each package contains:

- A comprehensive training session.
- Each session includes 10 minutes to gear up, 20 minutes of training/briefing, and 50 minutes to fly.
- FREE rental of Flight Suit and Headset.
- Hands- on personal assistance from a Flight Instructor, and...
- A personalized Flight Certificate.
- Retail Value: \$445

**Raffle tickets are just \$10.00 Each, and the drawing will take place on July 31st. Tickets can be purchased at the Museum or through Paypal on the Museum's website.**

For more information, you can visit [www.FlyTheDream.com](http://www.FlyTheDream.com) or go to [www.MinterFieldAirMuseum.com](http://www.MinterFieldAirMuseum.com).

## Membership and Staffing Update Help Us Make A Difference!

The year has started out a little slower than the year before in membership renewals. This time last year we had 151 members. Currently we are at 139 members. Like many organizations, we rely on our memberships to help fund the daily operating expenses that keep the doors open. We also host several fundraising events throughout the year to supplement our operating expense budget as well as completing projects.

As a requirement of our lease obligations, we have several projects that need to be completed in 2014. All are underway but are far from completion. These projects include the LOACH restorations, the landscaping project, and the renovation of our bull pen behind the museum. Any and all donations to help with those projects will greatly help.

On another front, we are seeking people who are interested in taking on the challenge of running this organization. We have an immediate need to fill six positions (see page 2). The jobs are necessary for the continued growth of the Museum, and these positions are essential to ensure that this Museum has a future. If you've always wanted to give back to a community, teach young people the lessons and importance of history, and to have a lot of fun while utilizing your skill sets, then you won't regret this opportunity. Interested applicants should contact Daryl Curtis at (661) 345- 7733 during the day or (661) 397- 3958 in the evenings.

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

**Mission Statement**

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.

**Vision Statement**

To be the finest museum of its type, ensuring that the legacy and historical significance of Minter Army Air 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 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.
3. Preserve the history of and commemorate the service of local residents that served in the armed forces from World War I to today.
4. Educate the public about the global impact of Minter Army Air 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 Daryl Curtis at (661) 345- 7733 or at [MFAM@MinterFieldAirMuseum.com](mailto: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 cataloguing and inventory.

**Book Keeper** - responsible for the financial record keeping of the Museum. This person would need some experience in Quickbooks.

**Newsletter Credits / Information**

The Snap Roll II is published quarterly. Submissions should be made to Daryl Curtis at [DarylCurtis@onetoughpc.com](mailto:DarylCurtis@onetoughpc.com).

Editor: Daryl Curtis

**The Left Seat**  
**Ronald Pierce, Chairman of the Board**



I cannot believe that three months have passed. I want to thank those members that have renewed and those that have come aboard for the first time.

We have had a whirlwind of activities in the first quarter of 2014. First of all, on January 25th, we hosted a

Winter Formal for Frontier High School. The theme was "Come Fly with Me" and there were 1300 students and chaperones in attendance. I want to thank our members for their help, Bob Coe for the use of his hangar (for the dance), and the Airport District. The Museum hangar was used for photographs, with the BT- 13 and the Yellow Jeep as a background.

On February 22nd we held our Founder's Day Banquet at Hodel's. Thanks goes out to the members that helped load and unload the displays for this event. Our guest speaker was Major General Arnold W. Bunch Jr., the Commander of the Air Force Test Center headquartered at Edwards Air Force Base, California. His talk was great. Special guests included Pearl Judd, one of the WW II Minter Field "WASPs" and Elinor Otto, an original "Rosie the Riveter." On hand at the banquet was Elli Cunanan, a student doing a history documentary on "WASPs". She interviewed Pearl as part of her documentary, and won in her subject category for the Kern County History Day competition.

On March 14th and 15th, Ken Nishiyama presented his personal experiences on Japanese Internment Camps. On Friday, March 14th, Redwood Elementary School had 150 students, teachers and parents in attendance to listen to Ken's presentation. Then, on Saturday, March 15th the talk was open to the public. There were over 150 people that attended Ken's talk. We served cookies and punch. Ken's talk ran 40 minutes and there were 30 minutes of questions and answers, plus two personal interviews by students studying the Internment Camps.

If you have not been able to help with or attend these activities, there are lots of activities coming up. Keep up to date with Minter Field Air Museum activities by going to the "Calendar" page on our website at [www.MinterFieldAirMuseum.com](http://www.MinterFieldAirMuseum.com), or check out our Facebook page (search on Minter Field Air Museum).

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

- 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
- 5/3 **Cinco De Mayo Parade - Shafter, CA.**
- 5/10 Work Day at the Museum - Volunteers Needed - 8:00 am - 2:00 pm w/lunch
- 5/17 Minter Field Air Museum Board Mtg 8:30 am - 10:00 am
- 5/24 Kern County Raceway Park - Memorial Day Event - Salute to Veterans
- 6/7 Work Day at the Museum - Volunteers Needed - 8:00 am - 2:00 pm w/lunch
- 6/14 **Al Goss - At The Races: Fly-in, Pancakes, and Fun! 7:00 am- 2:00 pm**
- 6/21 Minter Field Air Museum Board Mtg 8:30 am - 10:00 am
- 7/5 Kern County Raceway Park - July 4th Celebration w/fireworks
- 7/12 Work Day at the Museum - Volunteers Needed - 8:00 am - 2:00 pm w/lunch
- 7/19 Minter Field Air Museum Board Mtg 8:30 am - 10:00 am
- 8/9 Work Day at the Museum - Volunteers Needed - 8:00 am - 2:00 pm w/lunch
- 8/16 Minter Field Air Museum Board Mtg 8:30 am - 10:00 am



## Collections Update

The first few months of 2014 have seen some interesting donations to the museum.

A gentleman donated a large amount of items from his father, who flew during World War II, and eventually became a commercial airline pilot. There are a lot of items to catalog, but this could be a very interesting type of display.

We also received personal items that belonged to a gentleman whose grandfather was in the Spanish American War. By far, this is the oldest collection of items that we have acquired, and we look forward to displaying them in the near future.

The process of inventorying our collection has been challenging, given our manpower and time constraints, but we are making good progress. We have been rearranging our storage areas, developing a better process for storage management, and determining what constitutes an artifact that is relevant to the museum's mission. This will be a long term process, but we are slowly chipping away at it.

In addition, we are developing procedures and protocols to manage the ever growing and valuable collection of artifacts.

## Landscape Project

The plans for the landscaping in front of the museum have been completed and are now under review. We expect to begin this project soon, with completion some time 3rd quarter 2014.

## Library Project

Since the last newsletter, great progress has been made in our Library Project. The Library has been reorganized to make more efficient use of space. The Library is where the Board Meetings are held each month, and is also where we hold presentations or get together.

We are still in the laborious process of cataloguing the books and periodicals, with a target deadline of early fall to be complete.



*Before (top) and After (bottom)*

**If you would be interested in assisting in this project, the museum staff would welcome your help. Please contact the museum at (661) 393- 0291, or Daryl Curtis at (661) 345- 7733.**

## Walk of Honor / Memorial Plaza

The plans have been finalized for the Walk of Honor and Memorial Plaza. Partial construction will be completed by June 14th.

Granite bricks can be purchased for the Memorial Plaza. A 4" x 8" brick is \$125, and can include up to three lines of text. The 8" x 8" brick is \$250, and can include up to six lines of text.

Information regarding the Plaques for the Walk of Honor have not been finalized as of the printing of this newsletter. There will be complete details and an order form in the next newsletter.

For additional information, please call the museum at (661) 393- 0291, or email us at MFAM@minterfieldairmuseum.com.

## Internet Presence

Since the last newsletter, the museum's website has been updated and streamlined. Check it out at [www.minterfieldairmuseum.com](http://www.minterfieldairmuseum.com). The links page has been updated with some really great website links. Also, keep up with future events by visiting the calendar. You can also download past newsletters.

While you're at it, don't forget that we are also on Facebook and Youtube. Just type in the search term "Minter Field Air Museum."

## 2014 Founder's Day Banquet

On Saturday, February 22nd, the Minter Field Air Museum held its annual Founder's Day Banquet, commemorating the official dedication of Minter Field on February 7th, 1942. The event was held at Hodel's on Olive Drive in Bakersfield.

In attendance was the guest speaker, Major General Arnold W. Bunch Jr., the Commander of the Air Force Test Center headquartered at Edward Air Force Base near Mojave, California. Special guests included Pearl Judd, a former WASP stationed at Minter Field during World War II, and Elinor Otto, an original "Rosie The Riveter."

The evening started out with the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the invocation. General James Whitehead (USAF Ret) then performed the ceremony for those service men and women missing in action in the Viet Nam war.

Several honors were bestowed upon very deserving guests. First, Ken Nishiyama, a long time museum member, was given a beautiful coffee table book, courtesy of the Minter Field Air Museum, in honor of his service to his country, and for his support of the museum. Then Elinor Otto was made an Honorary Lifetime Member of the Museum, and she was given a beautiful keepsake box with her name engraved on it.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation given by Major General Bunch. He spent twenty minutes discussing the changes that have occurred over the last few years, and the changes that are coming in the near future in regards to the test center. Because the military has had to become "leaner," many changes in logistics and response to requests have been streamlined. This included combining the Test Center activities of Edwards AFB, Eglin AFB, and Arnold AFB under one strategic command umbrella. The purpose was to reduce costs, eliminate duplication of efforts, and to proactively stay at the forefront of aviation technology. After the presentation, many people asked questions for another twenty minutes.

The positive message that everyone walked away with was that our Air Force is committed to the challenges ahead, and that we are still the superior force in the world today. The presentation was impressive, and the guest speaker was outstanding. It was a very memorable evening. A special thanks to General Bunch for his willingness to drive 1.5 hours to our event, and then make the late night trip back to Edwards AFB.

## Japanese Internment Camp Presentation by Ken Nishiyama

On March 15th, Ken Nishiyama gave a presentation titled "Thankful and Proud to be an American." He recounted his experience of what it was like to be a child of Japanese Americans when the United States entered the war, and how his family was sent to a Japanese Internment Camp in Topaz, Utah for the duration of World War II.

There were many things about this presentation that were insightful and surprising. Ken started by giving a short history of Japanese immigration to the United States, beginning in the 19th century. Ken's grandparents came to America in 1900, and his father was born soon after. Ken's father was very patriotic and forward thinking, and he told Ken something that remained with Ken the rest of his life. He said, "You were born in America. You're an American citizen. Take advantage of it. You're not a Japanese American. Don't go by that."

Soon after the attack on Pearl Harbor, Ken's family was given 72 hours to pack and carry whatever they could to the local train station, in Oakland, California. From there they were taken by bus, under armed guard, to temporary accommodations at a local horse race track, before finally ending up in Topaz, Utah. At the camp in Topaz, there were 8300 people. The camp was located at the edge of a desert, where temperatures ranged from -30 °F to 106 °F. Early on the camps were called Concentration Camps, but the name was changed to Relocation or Assembly Centers, and finally the use of Internment Camps was adopted.

Ken says that he is not bitter about the experiences that he had, but said that this taught him some valuable lessons, that he passes on to school children today. These lessons are -

- 1) Constitutional rights must be protected
- 2) Prejudice must not influence attitudes and actions
- 3) Must not let history repeat itself

I was honored to meet Ken and to listen to his presentation. Obviously the audience of over 150 people agreed with me, as they intently listened for 40 minutes, and then spent another 30 minutes asking great questions. By the attendance, it was obvious that there is a desire to understand and to pass on this important message, seventy three years after this event occurred.

~ Daryl Curtis

**National History Day  
Competitors Visit the Museum**

Two very impressive young ladies, Elli Cunanan and Cassidy Porter, visited the Minter Field Air Museum on March 29th. These ladies were preparing to compete in the National History Day state level competition in April, in Riverside, California. Elli and Cassidy won in their category at the Kern County level, qualifying them to move on to the state level. What makes them so special is their passion for history, and how well they convey that passion to their audience.

Elli is competing in the Individual Documentary category, and is presenting her documentary about the WASPs, also known as Women Air Service Pilots. She chose this subject last November when she sat next to a lady on a float during the Veteran's Day parade, and was asking her questions about World War II. It led her to think about her grandfather, who served as a pilot during the war, and she wondered if women served as pilots during the war. After some research, she found out about the WASPs. In February, Elli and her mother attended the Museum's Founder's Day Banquet and they had the chance to meet and speak with Pearl Judd, a former WASP who served at Minter Field during the war. It was a very special meeting for Pearl and Elli, and Elli was invited to spend time the next day interviewing Pearl about her experiences. Elli's ten minute documentary is outstanding, spending countless hours researching, scripting, composing, and compiling her video.

Cassidy Porter, a 3-time National History Day State Champion is Elli's best friend, and is competing in the Individual Performance category. Her subject is Photojournalism of the Viet Nam War. Her inspiration was her mother, who is Chinese and lived in Viet Nam during the war. Cassidy had the privilege of meeting several well known photo journalists, including Nick Ut, who shot the famous photo of the "Napalm Girl," Kim Phuc. Cassidy's enthusiasm for history is obvious, and she has so much energy when presenting her subject matter. She was an inspiration to those who listened to her.

Both girls gave a wonderful overview of their presentations, and we know that they will do well in the upcoming competition. They impressed a lot of people during their visit with the Museum, and we wish them the best of luck.

~ Daryl Curtis

~~~~~ Update ~~~~~

Since the newsletter was delayed until May, Elli and Cassidy have since finished their competition in the state championships. Neither Elli nor Cassidy made it to the National level, but both were strong competitors. Cassidy won "Outstanding in County" for Kern County. Congratulations to both ladies for a tremendous effort. You made us very proud of your efforts and achievements.

~~~~~  
Message from Elli's mother, Laura Cunanan -

Elli presented her project Friday (4/25/14). She competed against 31 other documentaries.

Friday night it was announced that she had advanced to the finals round.

Saturday, Elli's documentary competed against 7 other documentaries.

This morning (4/27/14) National announcements came and we were disappointed to learn that Elli would not be advancing. As disappointed as we are, we are not disappointed that Elli chose a topic that was amazing.

We both have very much enjoyed getting to know some of the amazing WASP and have met friends at [the] Minter Field [Air Museum]. We both feel that we've made life long friends.

By the way, when we got the judges' comments for the final round, Elli had received all superior comments. You just cannot get better than that! It's hard to say why they chose the other documentary to advance but I know for sure it wasn't because Elli's project didn't match up. We had the opportunity to view the documentary that went on and felt it was a good documentary and well done so at least we don't feel Elli got beat by a poor project (that has happened).

Thank you all again for being part of Elli's project. We hope to hear from all of you and hope you will keep in touch.



*Elli Cunanan*



*Cassidy Porter*



Frontier High School held their Winter Formal at Minter Field in January. Pictures were taken in the Museum's hangar (below).



Bob Coe's hangar was transformed into a dining area and dance floor (above). The area outside the hangar became a gathering place (below).



The oldest bunch of high schoolers got their pics taken (below). This is the Museum staff and volunteers for the evening.





*Elli Cunanan (middle) and her mom, Laura (right), speak with Pearl Judd (far left) at the Founder's Day Banquet.*



*The Founder's Day Banquet held at Hodel's (above); Elinor Otto receives award (left) from Gen. James Whitehead*



*General Bunch receives recognition from the Museum (above).*

*Pat Marshall gets a picture with Gen Arnold Bunch, the keynote speaker (right)*



*Pearl Judd, a WASP stationed at Minter Field during WW II was a special guest (below)*

*There were over 60 people in attendance at the banquet (below)*





# GOLDEN EMPIRE REGION PORSCHE CLUB OF AMERICA

The Golden Empire Region Porsche Club has been a nice addition to our events over the past year. What's more fun than going out to look at vintage planes, beautiful cars, and great conversation? If you are a Porsche enthusiast, or just love cars, please take a moment to visit their website at <http://gem.pca.org/>. You won't be disappointed. In addition, this local club supports MARE, a local therapeutic riding center where horses are used to help children with disabilities. This is a great organization to support. The Minter Field Air Museum is proud to be associated with the Golden Empire Region Porsche Club of America, and we look forward to many successful adventures with them in the future.



*The Porsche club out in force at our "James Dean Was Here" event in October 2013 (left). A Porsche gets ready to compete at Minter Field (above).*

*A beautiful Porsche 914 on display (right)*



*The Museum had a potluck lunch with the local Porsche club in early April (left). There was racing on the runway that same day (below)*





Ken Nishiyama (far left) gives a presentation on Japanese Intern camps on March 15th. The day before, Ken gave his presentation to grade school children (left).

The Museum provided a few vehicles for a fundraiser - Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) - held by E&B Natural Resources at Bakersfield Countryclub on May 2nd (Right).



The Museum participated in the annual Cinco De Mayo parade in Shafter, on May 3rd. The group was lined up #4 in the parade (above). Dave Patterson is enjoying his Saturday morning coffee (left). Nothing like a beautiful morning for a parade (right).





# 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.

<b>Member Recognition Level</b>	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 <b>Pilot (Basic Individual - \$40/* \$32 Membership) Family - \$50/* \$40 (Annual) Student (6-18) \$20</b>	+								
<b>Senior Pilot (Annual) \$100/* \$80</b>	+	+	+						
<b>Command Pilot (Annual) \$250/* \$200</b>	+	+	+						
<b>Squadron Commander (Life) \$500</b>	+	+		+	+				
<b>Wing Commander (Life) \$1,000</b>	+	+		+	+				
<b>Division Commander (Life) \$2,000</b>	+	+		+	+	+			
<b>Air Force Commander (Life) \$5,000</b>	+	+		+	+	+	+		
<b>Supreme Commander (Life) \$10,000</b>	+	+		+	+	+	+	+	+

**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*

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**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

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