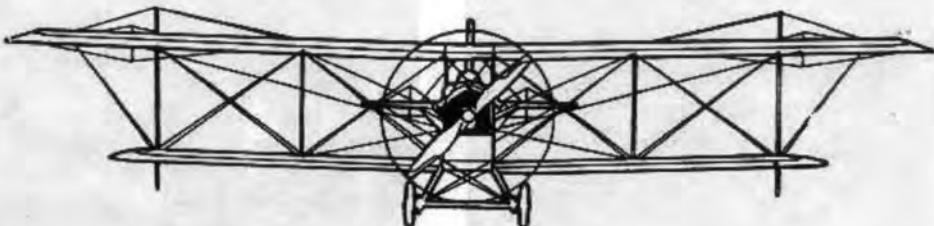


Straight Scoop



PACIFIC COAST AIR MUSEUM

To promote the acquisition, restoration, safe operation, and display of historical aircraft.

Volume IX Number 12

December 2004

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December Gatherings

Our guest speaker this month logs his considerable flying time not in hours, but in distance flown. He is also the world record holder for the most landings and takeoffs in a twenty-four hour period and proves himself quite capable of breaking this record every year. Although he pilots a most unconventional aircraft with multi-bio-prancing power plants which burn no fossil-fuel, and has been responsible for the most anticipated flights ever recorded, he is primarily interested in talking (and carefully listening) to the younger crowd. To dovetail his schedule with the largest possible number of his rapped admirers, he will visit the museum on **Saturday, December 18th**, arriving (by air of course) around 11am. Please lend assistance to any and all who wish to make this important rendezvous.

For the die-hard museum fans who want to get together and celebrate the season, their friendship, and the progress of PCAM, an evening meeting will be held (at SCOE) **December 15th at 7pm**. (There will be no airshow planning meeting this month. Planning will resume its regular schedule in January '05!)

Come thank the many responsible for PCAM's banner year. Presentation of the **Volunteer of the Year 2004** and **newly elected members of our illustrious Board of Directors**, will highlight the gathering, but you can be sure there will be many other items of museum interest to be shared. Speaking of sharing . . . besides bringing your smiling, fun-loving, captivating self (and your ballot, if you haven't sent it in by then) feel free to bring along samples of your favorite holiday faire, be it hors d'oeerves or other confectioners' delight.

Remember the operative word for the evening . . .

JOY

The Pacific Coast Air Museum

Located on the corner of N. Laughlin and Becker Blvd. on Charles M. Schulz -

Sonoma County Airport, just north of Santa Rosa, CA.

Museum hours:

Tues./Thurs. 10:00-2:00

Sat./Sun. 10:00-4:00

A selected aircraft is available to "Climb Aboard" on the third weekend of each month (weather permitting)

Call **707-575-7900**

for details and information, or fax us at 707-545-2813.

Meetings are typically held at Sonoma County Office of Education, located near the airport on Skylane Blvd., on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 P.M.

"Straight Scoop" the museum's newsletter is published monthly. Members are encouraged to submit articles for possible publication - due by the 20th of the month prior to publication.

All articles in this newsletter are copyrighted. If you wish to use any of the contents, please contact:

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barnstorming@comcast.net

Address corrections and Membership Renewals

(\$24.00 per year/\$36.00 for a family) should be sent to:

**PCAM, 2330 Airport Blvd.
Santa Rosa, CA 95403**



Where are we going to keep these fine restorations ?



Please Welcome our Newest Members

Santa Rosa: Steve Gruber, Bob Gutteridge, Geroge Megner, Brig. Gen. Walter S. Smith, Robert Trombetta, Michael and Karen Mussabini.

Calistoga: Harold and Kay McAfee

Windsor: Rob Gordon, William and Sharon Kerkhof, and . . .
Carley Rayanne Kerkhof who was introduced to this world by proud parents and dedicated A-26 crew members Sarah and Billy Kerkhof on Sunday November 28th.

A Memorable Gathering

Stan Strout and Ray Anderson

Wednesday, June 9, started as a typical sunny and warm summery day for your Healdsburg scribe. But things would soon change as I had a reservation at the World War II Pilots Group luncheon at Santa Rosa's Los Robles Lodge. Arriving early, I was waved to a corner table where George Magner and PCAMer Stan Strout were shepherding guests to the selected table. Once seated and introductions began it was apparent that this was no ordinary gathering of war veterans. The snapshot photo shows the old timers with identities in the caption.

Some of the veterans' military careers were legendary and a book could, and should, be written about them. However our condensed newsletter article limits us to a short bit about selected events in each biography.

Stan Strout: Served as a crew chief with Chennault's Flying Tigers in China in 1943-5 in the same P-40 Warhawk squadron as Paul Royer.

George Magner: A Navy veteran who served aboard the jeep aircraft carrier Altamaha (CVE-18) and after the war was a civilian electronic specialist at Hamilton Field - where he worked on occasion with Joe Sylvia. George was primarily responsible for this affair

Paul Royer: A P-40 pilot with the China-based Flying Tigers - who shot down two Japanese Betty bombers on one flight, but lost his fighter when debris from the disintegrating second Betty ripped the left wing off of his Warhawk and he miraculously parachuted to safety from his wildly gyrating craft. Perhaps more about this mission, involving the interception of 38 enemy bombers and fighter escort, at another time.



clockwise from lower left: Stan Strout, George Magner, Paul Royer, Joe Rogers Jr., Joe Rogers, Joe Sylvia, Bob Archibald

Joe Rogers Jr.: Son of Joe Rogers, who accompanied his dad to the luncheon from their ranch homes on westside Road between Healdsburg and Guerneville.

Joe Rogers: His historic aviation career started in the Army Air Corps in 1943, instructing for a while after receiving his wings, then receiving orders to Korea in 1946 to reinforce the U.N. forces there. When the "North" invaded the "South" and the U.S. elected to provide military support to the South, Joe was in the midst of it flying P-51 Mustangs. It was later, on November 8, 1950, when leading a flight of four P-51s in the Yalu River area that Russian Migs attacked, and he shot down one of them - an encounter that

he described in detail at the luncheon. After nearly 200 missions in the Korean theater he returned stateside and eventually to Test Pilot School and on to F-86D, F-102 and finally the F-106 Delta Dart test programs.

Then in 1959 he was chosen to pilot the 106 in an attempt to regain the world speed record, and on December 15 Major Rogers became the fastest jet pilot in the world at a speed of 1526 mph - a record that still stands today for single engine Jet airplanes.

In 1960 Joe commanded the Air Force's largest fighter squadron, and in 1963 he was named the Air Force's "Top Gun" after winning at the USAF Air-to-Air Weapons meet. In 1964 he was lured back to flight testing, commanding the SR-71A/F-12A test program - where he and his radar operator were forced into a high speed bail-out after an in-flight explosion.

By 1973 Joe returned to a combat zone as Vice Cmdr. of a Fighter Wing in Vietnam, and added 40 more missions in his logbook. In 1975, during an Air force Chief of Staff assignment, Col. Joe Rogers retired

Progress on Aircraft



Nick van Kruning, Ed Dunlop and Les Carey proudly stand behind the diminutive BD-5J which they have been assembling in the museum's main hangar. Out in the sunshine it is resplendent in its "firecracker red," white and "sonic boom blue" scheme complete with stars!



Phil Williams and Dick Detra replace glass and add authentic markings to the museum's "Huey" along with **John Charlebois, Bob Moon and John Hayes**. Each served with helicopters in Vietnam. Dick, John, Bob and our "Huey" all served in the "Black Widow" squadron.



Airshow Preparations

In addition to the Airshow planning meetings at 6pm prior to the general meetings at SCOE, interested parties are invited to meet with Steve on Wednesdays AT THE MUSEUM after 5pm.

Questions? call Steve Hoxie 707-824-1122

Volunteers are encouraged to call
Ben Snow at 707-544-8558

Airshow Performers Reception

On **Friday, August 20th**, the museum will present a dinner reception to welcome the air show performers, military pilots, demo team personnel, and warbird pilots to Sonoma County, and our air show. The reception will be in the Nagasawa Room at the **Sonoma County Hilton Hotel**. A full sit-down dinner will be served. This event cannot be held without the support of PCAM members. We need folks to "sponsor" one or several of the performers, military personnel, warbird pilots, and/or their guests. Sponsoring one of these individuals means you are buying them dinner. There are approximately 80 people who need to be sponsored, and a list of these will be available at each monthly meeting.

Cost is calculated to be \$45 per person – not including drinks. This means you would pay for...

- 1) yourself and your spouse/guest ...
- 2) the person(s) you are sponsoring.

Please note, we must have payment by August 3rd. Best way is to mail a check, made out to Pacific Coast Air Museum, to:

PCAM
Attn: Chuck Thomas
2330 Airport Blvd.
Santa Rosa, CA 95403



You will receive an invitation and map to the Hilton, well in advance of the event. For more information or any questions, contact Julie Conklin at 707-433-9069 or Regina Thomas at 707-527-7573.

This reception is a fun and relaxing way to meet and welcome the pilots and personnel who will help make our show a success and is a great way to kick off air show weekend.