



PACIFIC COAST AIR MUSEUM

# STRAIGHT SCOOP

Volume XVIII Number 9 September 2012

To promote the acquisition, restoration, safe operation, preservation and display of historic aircraft, preserve aviation history and provide an educational venue for the community



## Wings Over Wine Country!

[www.pacificcoastairmuseum.org](http://www.pacificcoastairmuseum.org)

(707) 575-7900

## The Pacific Coast Air Museum

**Location:** At the Charles M. Schulz-Sonoma County Airport, North of Santa Rosa, West of Highway 101, at 2230 Becker Blvd, off North Laughlin Road.

**Hours:** Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday. 10:00am—4:00pm.

**“Climb Aboard”:** A selected aircraft is available to “Climb Aboard” the third weekend of each month (weather permitting). Please visit our web site at [www.pacificcoastairmuseum.org](http://www.pacificcoastairmuseum.org) or call 707-575-7900 for details or further information.

**Member Meetings:** Normally held on the third Wednesday of each month, 7:00 pm at Mesa Beverage Company, Inc. 3200 N. Laughlin Road, Santa Rosa, CA

### “Straight Scoop”

The museum newsletter, “Straight Scoop” is published monthly and is available online on the museum’s web site. Members are highly encouraged to submit articles for possible publication. The deadline is the 26th of the month prior to publication. All articles in the newsletter are covered by copyright. If you wish to submit articles or use any of the content, please contact: [Peter Loughlin](mailto:Peter.Loughlin@loughlinmarketing.com), Editor, in care of the Pacific Coast Air Museum, 2230 Becker Blvd., Santa Rosa, CA 95403, [pcam-news@loughlinmarketing.com](mailto:pcam-news@loughlinmarketing.com), 707-575-7900.

### Membership Renewals:

\$30 per year individual; \$45 per year for families. Send renewals to the museum, address below.

**Address Corrections:** Please send to: Pacific Coast Air Museum, 2230 Becker Blvd., Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Please visit our web site at [www.pacificcoastairmuseum.org](http://www.pacificcoastairmuseum.org) or call 707-575-7900 for details or further information.

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## 2012 Wings Over Wine Country Air Show Pictorial Review

To everyone who made it out to the Charles M. Schultz - Sonoma County Airport on August 18 & 19, thank you for your support! It was a great show and we hope you enjoyed it as much as we did. For those of you who could not make it, we hope these photos give you some idea of the diversity, color, and excitement of the event.



In commemoration of 100 years of Marine Corps Aviation, a USMC color guard raised the flag for the national anthem.



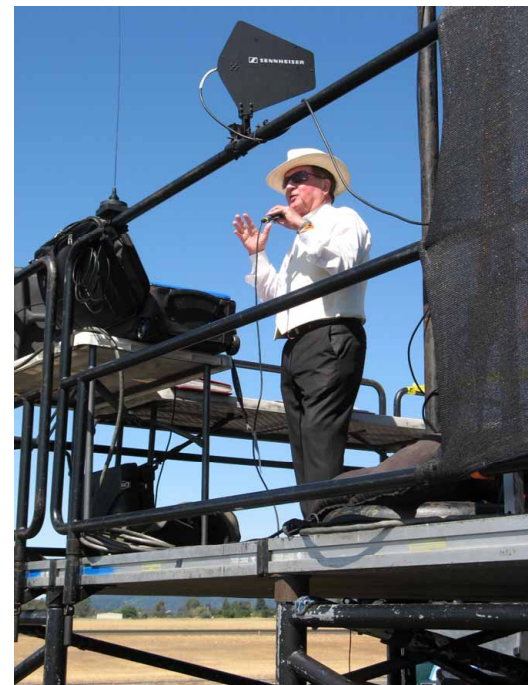
ForrestGalt.com

One of the two USMC AV-8B Harriers makes a rolling takeoff for their demonstration flight. A third was on static display.



ForrestGalt.com

The Heritage Flight: A USAF A-10 Thunderbolt and a beautifully restored P-51 Mustang flown by veteran air racer, stunt pilot, movie pilot, and test pilot Steve Hinton.



Famed air show announcer Danny Clisham does what he does best, calling the shots and entertaining the crowd.

## Wings Over Wine Country Pictorial, Continued



A young air show patron checks the view from the museum's F4-C Phantom. Where else but Wings Over Wine Country (or the museum itself) can you sit in the cockpit of genuine historical fighter aircraft?



Always a crowd pleaser, the USAF U-2 climbs out in full view of the crowd, engine roaring. Those wings are 103 feet from tip to tip (about the same as a B-17 Flying Fortress), and combine with a powerful engine for an impressive rate of climb.



All eyes (and ears) were turned skyward as the Marine Corps AV-8B Harriers flew their demonstration.



It wasn't all military jets and warbirds, as this immaculately restored Beech Bonanza will attest. A couple dozen civilian aircraft were on static display, from homebuilts to classics like this.

## Wings Over Wine Country Pictorial, Continued



Some aircraft designs have an impressive capacity for soldiering on and outliving their expected usefulness. This UH-1 Venom (left) and AH-1Z Cobra (right) are the direct descendents of their famous Vietnam-era forebears, albeit with some pretty significant upgrades. The AH-1Z Cobra is the primary attack chopper of the USMC to this day. We are grateful to the Marine Corps for sending these examples our way and for putting them on display where our Air Show guests could get a very close look.



Bill Cornick has a unique way of tying the sky in knots, though this maneuver looks more like a question mark. But there was no question about his ability to thrill the crowd; he's an outstanding showman and a top Unlimited competition pilot.



Another air show celebrity is Steve Hinton. Here he is waving to the crowd after his Heritage Flight, where he flew a P-51D Mustang in close formation with a USAF A-10.

## Wings Over Wine Country Pictorial, Continued



A staple of the Wings Over Wine Country air show, the Navy's FA-18 sits on the ramp waiting for its turn to perform. A very versatile aircraft, the FA-18 is the Navy's go-to aircraft for both ground attack and air-to-air combat.



An extremely rare sight is this beautiful Grumman J2I-6 Duck. Here it is taxiing out for its demonstration flight (see the in-flight shot at the lower left on page 1) The Duck was responsible for rescuing hundreds of downed airmen during WWII, and was flown by the US Navy, Marines, Army Air Forces, and Coast Guard.



This is the museum's C-118 Liftmaster, formerly operated by the US Navy. The C-118 was the military transport version of the civilian DC-6 airliner. This one belongs to the museum as a static display and climb-aboard aircraft. Its open cargo doors proved a popular place for watching the aerobatic acts. Several other climb-aboard aircraft are visible in this shot.



We were fortunate to have an unusually large number of P-51s present and displayed within easy view. Most of the '51s wore WWII livery and one was a local plane converted to a two-seater. Who wants a ride?

## Wings Over Wine Country Pictorial, Continued



Another local plane is this modified Yak3. A Soviet design from the end of WWII, this Yak was re-built for racing and aerobatics with a Pratt & Whitney R-2000 radial engine and a bunch of other changes. It has placed fourth in the Unlimited Gold class at the Reno Air Races, and set a time-to-climb world record. It was on static display both days.



One of the oldest aircraft in the museum's collection, this WWII-era Douglas A-26 Invader is a popular climb-aboard. The movie "Always" from 1989 told the story of aerial fire fighters and featured A-26s like this. Ours is being restored to 1944 specs. The umbrella was not original equipment.



There were two Curtiss P-40 Warhawks present. This one lent the sound of its Allison engine to the parade of circling warbirds towards the end of the day, as another remained on static display.



Spencer Suderman traces lines in the sky in his Pitts biplane as the Navy's FA-18 Hornet is prepared for its flight later in the day. One of the great things about shows like Wings Over Wine Country is the extreme variety of aircraft.

## Wings Over Wine Country Pictorial, Continued



Here's a rare opportunity indeed. Sit in the cockpit of one attack jet and look at its active-duty sibling a few feet away. That's the museum's AV-8C in the foreground, and a visiting AV-8B from the USMC facing you on the right. That makes four Harriers at one show: two flying and two for display.



A Grumman S-2 Tracker flies in the parade of warbirds. The S-2 was a US Navy Cold War era submarine hunter. In recent years a number of them have been converted to S-2T air tankers with turbine engines. A couple of the California Department of Forestry's S-2Ts are based at Santa Rosa and were clearly visible parked on their ramp during the show.



Julie Clark in her Mentor T-34 performed her show "Serenade in Red, White, and Blue." The music and choreography were beautiful, and the stunt flying breathtaking. Look closely at the attitude of the plane, the relative straightness of the blue smoke trail, and far sharper curve of the red smoke trail. Now think about the gyrations that created this pose. We doubt this former military trainer was ever expected to do this and keep flying, but Julie makes it look easy.



You could call this section of the airfield Warbird Alley. In the foreground is a Hawker Sea Fury, with a collection of colorful AT-6 Texans and other military trainers further out. Beyond that are some of the P-51s. Many of these planes were seen and heard flying throughout the day. In the distant background are about a dozen of the museum's climb-aboard aircraft. This view actually shows only one fourth of the air show grounds.



## Wings Over Wine Country Pictorial, Continued



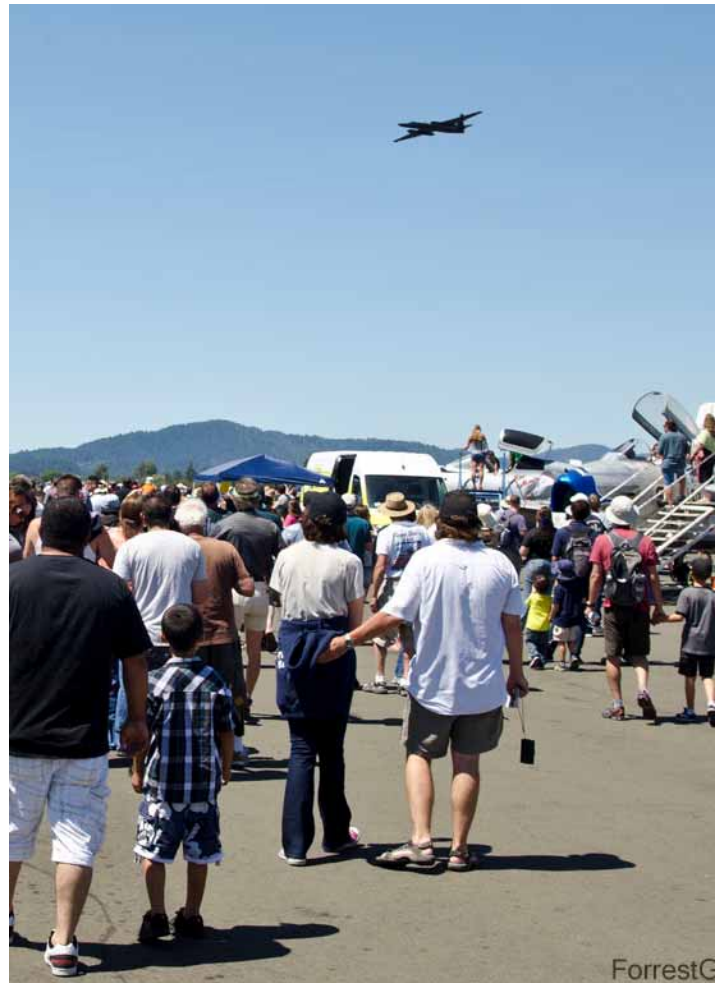
During the finale, vapor forms off the wings of the US Navy's FA-18 as it roars past at high subsonic speed. And it did roar. You can hear it for miles when it performs at our show.



Four P-51 Mustangs flying for the crowd. The sound of a single Merlin engine is pretty impressive, but when you get four or five at a time flying right overhead it is unforgettable.



[Above] In some ways this Stinson L-5 Sentinel was more important than its fighter and bomber contemporaries. This light-weight and highly maneuverable little plane did exemplary service as a liaison craft during WWII, and was also used for aerial photography, delivering supplies, laying communication wire, evacuating wounded, directing ground attack fighters, and transporting VIPs in forward areas.



[Right] When the USAF U-2 came in, announcer Danny Clisham had to actively draw the crowd's attention to it because it was virtually silent. Soon after this shot was taken the pilot hit the throttle for a performance climb that was anything but silent.

## Wings Over Wine Country Pictorial, Continued



The museum's Grumman HU-16E Albatross provides shade for spectators watching one of the aerobatic displays. The Albatross was used by the Coast Guard, Navy, and Air Force for search & rescue, medical evacuation, and many other functions.



The USMC AV-8B Harriers demonstrated high-speed and low-speed flight. In this shot, both are moving very slowly forward (note the extended speed brake on the upper one). Shortly after this, they performed a simultaneous slow/high speed pass with one crawling past air show center and the other zipping by at high speed.



Here's a rare sight at an air show. This is a Douglas C-54 Skymaster, a type made famous during the Berlin Airlift. This example is still flying actively as a fire-fighting aerial tanker. It made some impressive low-level passes.



The proud owner of a gleaming 1953 Cessna 195 pauses to humor the photographer while doing some maintenance. The number and quality of classic civilian aircraft at our show was truly impressive, and it would have been easy to spend the entire day examining them and talking with their owner-pilots.

## Wings Over Wine Country Pictorial, Continued



The USAAF/USAF AT-6 Texan (or SNJ to the US Navy) was used to train the vast majority of U.S. Pilots during and just after WWII. It is popular among civilian owners for its historical significance, pleasant flight characteristics, and classic look. There is even an AT-6 class that races at the Reno Air Races.



A B-25 Mitchell, similar to the planes used on the famous "Doolittle Raid" on Japan in April 1942. This beauty hails from Merced in California's Central Valley, and you could practically get a sunburn from the shine off its aluminum. Later in the day it flew around the field during the parade of warbirds.



Brooding over everything was the Air Force's C-17 Globemaster. Thousands of air show visitors walked up the cargo ramp to get a look at the interior, and the crew was available to answer questions. Among the C-17's features are reversible engines, which can act as brakes so the aircraft can land on shorter runways, and even taxi backward to a degree.



We think this one speaks for itself.

## Sonoma County Board of Supervisors Declares The Pacific Coast Air Museum “Wings Over Wine Country Week”

We are honored and gratified to announce that the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors officially declared the third week in August 2012 to be The Pacific Coast Air Museum “Wings Over Wine Country Week.” The Board’s very special Gold Resolution, dated August 19, recognizes a number of outstanding aspects of this year’s show:

- The air show has been in existence for over twenty years, commencing in 1997.
- It’s the biggest air show in Northern California.
- This year a key theme was the commemoration of 100 years of Marine Corps Aviation.
- The event showcased “the largest collection of private and military aircraft in its history”, including displays and performances from the U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Air Force, U.S. Navy, and the civilian sector.
- The show “substantially benefits Sonoma County tourism and provides an interactive educational venue for children, families, and the general public to experience extraordinary exposure to the historical and technical aspects of aviation”

The declaration further affirms the support provided to the show by the citizens of Sonoma County, and recognizes the Charles M. Schultz-Sonoma County Airport as the facility that helps make it possible.

Our hats are off to all the volunteers and guests who made the show as great a success as it was.

### Wings Over Wine Country Promotion: Oakland Coliseum Fly-By



The Wings Over Wine Country air show was announced in grand style on Monday August 13 during the opening of the Oakland Raiders Vs. Dallas Cowboys game.



Three P-51s and a P-40 flew over the Oakland Coliseum to advertise our air show. The fly-by took place right after the National Anthem, which was sung by the Pacific Boys Choir. The color guard was from the U.S. Coast Guard. About twenty thousand football fans were present at the time of the flyover, and the game announcer acknowledged the museum, the air show, and the pilots. They also played our TV commercial on the big screens in the stadium.

Staunch air show supporter Supervisor Mike McGuire and our very own Marketing Director Doug Clay were on the field. We are all grateful to Doug for having arranged this very creative advertising event — he’d been working on it for about a year and a half!

Watch the video! See and hear the pilots and the planes as they prep for and fly this mission!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0rcAa1-6z28>

## **New Members**

Marc & Kelly Osborne – Windsor	Sunshine Deering Family – Forestville
Thomas Hopkins – Petaluma	Ken Moholt-Siebert Family – Santa Rosa
W. Dennis Hutton – Santa Rosa	Edwin Schulze & Andrea – Santa Rosa
Frank Gallagher – Santa Rosa	Noel Schween – Santa Rosa
Michael Eodice Family – Petaluma	Andy Werback & Sam- Sebastopol
Valentino, Joshua – Santa Rosa	Tom Boylan Santa Rosa
Venard, Michael – Santa Rosa	Bruce & Donna Carpenter – Santa Rosa
Haufler, Casey Family – Santa Rosa	Barbara Brainerd – Ross, CA
Sellathamby, Dinesh – Batticaloa, Srilanka	Sorina Leon & Family – Santa Rosa
Nick Aquila – Santa Rosa	R. Douglas & Lora Nunes – Arnold, CA
Robert Swarner Family – Windsor	Frank H. Lamb – Santa Rosa
Phil Harrison Family – Windsor	Jim & Amy Lynch – San Rafael, CA
Michael Venard – Santa Rosa	Skip Archie – Windsor
Jason & Shelley Pollock Family – Santa Rosa	Karen Mazzanti Family – Windsor
Sandra & Gabriel Knoy Family – Rohnert Park	Jennifer Fukunaga Family – Elk Grove
Kevin Brennan & Family – Santa Rosa	Donald Bowsher Family – Las Vegas, NV
Jun Ding & Family – Danville, CA	David W. White – Santa Rosa
Neal Lindley – Rohnert Park,	Dave Blackham Family – Santa Rosa
Shannon Dalessandri – Rohnert Park	Robert Bergeron – Santa Rosa
Geraldine Humes Family – Santa Rosa	

## **Donations Since the Previous Newsletter**

Hillary Schweiso

Don Doherty

## September 19, 2012 Speaker Information



Lieutenant Colonel Wayne Laessig USAF (Ret.) joins our membership meeting on Wednesday, September 19, 2012, at 7:00 PM (19:00 for aviators) to share his stories of flying AC-119 gunships with an Air Force Special Operations Squadron during the Vietnam War. He will also talk about the AC-119 Association's efforts to obtain and restore the only known remaining AC-119 that flew combat missions in Southeast Asia. The AC-119 replaced the AC-47 often referred to as "Puff the Magic Dragon" as well as the newer AC-130 gunships that were slowed in production/conversion due to the critical need for C-130s to fulfill resupply

and troop transport missions. Few people are aware that the "Boxcar" flew close air support throughout the theater as well as interdiction missions along the Ho Chi Minh Trail.

### Wayne Laessig BIO

Wayne hails from Magnolia, New Jersey. He received his degree in English from Glassboro College in 1970, so the Air Force made him a pilot, earning his wings in 1971. He later earned a Masters in Communication (people-stuff, not electronics) so the Air Force made him a Manufacturing & Quality Assurance Manager for a while, before they realized his college degrees were better suited to piloting C-5s for more than 5,000 hours. After retiring from the Air Force, he's been hunting, fishing, doing organizational assessment consulting (Baldrige if that rings a bell), and working to get the AC-119 into the Vietnam histories. He currently lives in Vacaville, California with Lynette, his wife of 38 years, and Lynette's Mom, who is 92. Their son Robin and daughter-in-law Cathy live a few miles away, and a weekly family night keeps them all close. Wayne is the current "Board Member at Large" of the AC-119 Association which is holding its 13<sup>th</sup> reunion on September 26 through 29 in Fort Walton Beach, Florida.



## PCAM Seeks New Executive Director: Position Description

As you may have heard, PCAM's Executive Director of seven years Dave Pinsky has retired from the position. His contributions have been many and admirable, and we will all miss him. We are now looking for a similarly qualified individual to fill the vacant position. If you or anyone you know are qualified and interested, please contact President Allan Morgan at [amrgn@comcast.net](mailto:amrgn@comcast.net).

The Pacific Coast Air Museum (PCAM) was founded in 1989 and is dedicated to promoting the acquisition, restoration, safe operation, and display of historic aircraft; preserving aviation history; and providing an educational venue for students and the community. PCAM is a non-profit 501-3C Organization that operates almost entirely through volunteer support.

We are currently seeking the following:

**Job Title:** **Executive Director, Museum Operations**

**Reports To:** PCAM Board of Directors, along with four other Division Directors

### Primary Duties and Responsibilities

- Directs the day-to-day Museum Administrative Functions and Facilities Maintenance.
- Oversees the Gift Shop Operations, in conjunction with the Gift Shop Manager.
- Interfaces with and seeks input from our vast volunteer network in conjunction with our Volunteer Chair and Coordinator.
- Brings forth ideas that will help achieve our financial and general obligations.
- Oversees all Membership activities. Works to meet PCAM's Mission and Vision.
- Prepares, in conjunction with the CFO, the annual budget; monitors it, and reports the monthly status to the Board (for all divisions).
- Conforms to the Board's Bylaws and Governance Standards.
- Plans and coordinates with staff, volunteers, and the Airport Manager; special events and other gatherings at the museum.
- Directs and coordinates the day-to-day Communications, Safety, and Security functions.

### Qualifications

We seek an individual with proven management experience. Specifically, we are looking for the following:

- A team builder and problem solver.
- Strong communications and organizational skills.
- Experience with budgets and financial statements.
- Knowledge and proficiency with computers, databases, and the Internet.
- Experienced in community and personnel relations
- Prior business experience would be a definite plus.

**Compensation:** Negotiable.

Please send resume to Allan Morgan, President, Pacific Coast Air Museum, [amrgn@comcast.net](mailto:amrgn@comcast.net)



"Reconnaissance Weekend"

Climb Aboard

RF-8 Crusader Cockpit

RF-86F Sabre

September 15 –16

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

### REMEMBER THESE DATES

Thursday, September 6	11:30 –1:30	Hot Dog Thursday
Wednesday, September 12	8:30 a.m.	Board of Directors Meeting at the Museum
There is no Executive Director's staff meeting this month.		
Wednesday, September 19	7:00 p.m.	Membership Meeting
Thursday, October 4	11:30—1:30	Hot Dog Thursday: Last one of the year!

**PACIFIC COAST AIR MUSEUM**

**2230 Becker Blvd.**

**Santa Rosa, Ca 95403**