



# STRAIGHT SCOOP

Volume XVII Number 6 June 2012

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

**Night at the Air Museum**  
**Saturday, June 16**  
**5:00pm-8:00pm**

**\$10**  
Admission

**\$5**  
Members

**PACIFIC COAST AIR MUSEUM**  
2230 Becker Blvd.  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

*Pilots and ground crew  
who flew/worked on  
each aircraft will be  
present to share their  
stories and experiences*

**Special Guest Aircraft**  
**PT-17 Stearman**      **P-40 Warhawk**

Tickets available on line at [www.pacificcoastairmuseum.org](http://www.pacificcoastairmuseum.org) and in the museum Gift Shop and Admin Office.

[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 on line 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: [Chris Tart](mailto:Chris.Tart@windsor.com), Editor, 1064 Maple Drive, Windsor, Ca 95492, 707-836-9226 [sctartusaf@yahoo.com](mailto:sctartusaf@yahoo.com)

### 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.

## Board of Directors

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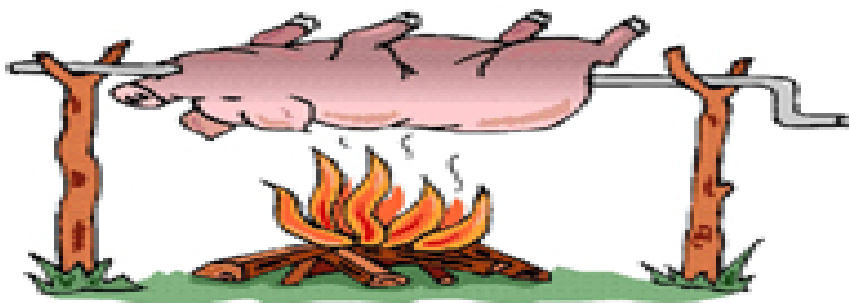
## Valuable Assets

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**Volunteer Coordinator (Air Show)**  
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**Web Administrator**  
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**PACIFIC COAST AIR MUSEUM'S**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS INVITES YOU TO A**



# **WESTERN PIG BAR B Q**

**WITH ALL THE FIXINGS**

**ON THE MUSEUM'S PATIO  
5:00 TILL 8:00 PM**

**THE NO HOST BAR  
WILL START SERVING AT 5 PM**

**SATURDAY  
JUNE 23RD, 2012**

**\$15.00**

**UNDER 6, WITH PARENTS, FREE**

Tickets available from any Board member, Officer and in the museum Gift Shop and Admin Office.

## Crew Dawg News

Ron Stout <[stouts@sonic.net](mailto:stouts@sonic.net)>

We are sure getting into the busy season quickly around the Museum.

We have some events coming up that we will need some help with.

**June 7** - Chamberree - Most of you have done this before and our main need is again for AOA badge holders to act as "security". Open aircraft would be nice but not necessary.

**June 16** - "Night at the Air Museum" - New Special Event with open cockpits and folks that flew or worked on the aircraft speaking

**July 11** - Another of Roger's business meetings to try for sponsors but this one from 4-8. Roger's groups and the Chamberree have agreed that our folks that are working can partake in the food at those events.

Speaking of food - don't forget the Western Pig BBQ on **June 23**. Tickets are by pre-sale only (that way they know how many are coming). Tickets are available at the Gift Shop or I have them. Price is still \$15.

Lots of work is happening on our aircraft now that the rain has stopped (hopefully!).

T-37 - Jim and crew have been prepping for painting, doing some painting and making decals. He has obtained a tape of a T-37 starting up and has used it to surprise kids on tours who "start up" the plane. Ask him about it!!

Albatross - **Don Thomen** has taken over from Duane as Crew Chief and is working to spiff her up. He could use some help from some of younger crew dawgs. Please let me know.

F-14 - Sarah and crew have been sanding and doing corrosion control on this great bird.

A-6 - Cody and crew have been doing the same

F-106 - Jim and Don have repaired the canopy lift and have realized how poorly this was designed.

F-84 - Aaron and crew have been working on the cockpit, canopy, tail and wheels.

H-34 - Bob & Mary have been prepping the new rotor blades for paint and are just about ready to shoot.



T-28 - slow but steady progress on both the inside and outside.

USS Iowa - She was towed out of Richmond and arrived in S. CA late this past week. I want to thank all who have given their time to staff our F-4 Simulator down in Richmond and let you know that it was worth it. We have seen a noticeable increase in Bay Area guests at the Museum and a lot of them found out about us from the Iowa. Thanks again!

**Air Show - F/A-18 Demo team is coming!** Maybe a couple of other surprises!

UAV - Maybe in PCAMs future?

I know that I've forgotten much but I'm running out of time. One more thing, we did a big clean up around the Museum a couple of weeks ago, so please clean up after yourselves and put things away when you are done. A little effort goes a long way in keeping our Museum looking good.

Thanks to all of you for your hard work.

Ron

PS A-26 & C-118 Crew please let me know if you HAVE NOT received this email twice. I'm trying to get all of you on the general Crew List.

## **The May 11th Bus Tour & the SR-71 "Blackbird"**

(see next page for lots more photos)\_



### Beale AFB Trip

On Friday, May 11th, 55 Pacific Coast Air Museum members and guests were privileged to visit Beale AFB where the "red carpet" was rolled out for our group. From a Wing Mission Briefing (given by our friend "Huggy") to the Munitions Training Squadron, to seeing how bombs are built, to SR-71, U-2, T-38 and Global Hawk static displays, to the U-2 simulator and U-2 Squadron and "Heritage Room", we were shown these fine young men and women and the equipment they use to help keep our nation free. Here are just a few of the things we saw at Beale AFB on our great tour.





## Our Fantastic 2012 Parade Float

Thanks to Bruce Tinkham and Tony Bassignani for the hundreds of hours they put into designing and building our 2012 float. By all accounts, it was the best float we have ever had.

As just rewards for their tremendous efforts,, **the museum received the Thomas P. Keegan Award in the Santa Rosa Rose Parade for Best Entry Using Local History.**

**Then, in the Windsor Day Parade, our float won best in class.**

We haven't heard the results from the **Healdsburg Parade** yet, but rumor has it that our float did very well there too!

Bruce and Tony deserve a huge pat on the back for all the hours and hours of working they put into building our beautiful float. Thanks again guys!



# INTO THE JAWS OF THE DRAGON!

## Ho Chi Minh's Backyard!



Join us on Wednesday evening June 20<sup>th</sup> to share [Gerald Finton's](#) exciting account of the extreme low level attack against the Thai Nguyen Steel Mills and North Viet Nam which is the essence of what flying a jet fighter in combat is all about! He describes in vivid detail what it was like to go into combat, the excitement of living at that incredible pace and how someone adjusts to civilian life afterward. He currently participates at the Pacific Coast Air Museum's "Wings Over Wine Country" air show each year, standing alongside the Museum's one F-4 Phantom which ironically, was one of the very planes flown by Gerald during his tour of duty in the Viet Nam war! Gerald's presentation is an exciting reflection on what the war was like from a participant's viewpoint and what it was like to fly a high performance jet fighter into a battle zone!

After arriving at Ubon Royal Thai Air Force Base in Thailand, Gerald would spend the next 9 months flying for the 433<sup>rd</sup> Tactical Fighter Squadron and the famous 8<sup>th</sup> Tactical Fighter Wing "Wolf Pack" into North Viet Nam and Laos. On March 30<sup>th</sup> Gerald was one of three aircraft that participated in the now famous slashing low-level attack against the Thai Nguyen Steel Mills led by the legendary [Robin Olds](#)!

[Gerald Finton](#) was commissioned a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt when he graduated from Bradley University in 1961. In 1966, Gerald graduated as a rated pilot from Vance AFB in Oklahoma, and was assigned to F-4s with the Pacific Air Force (PACAF) in South East Asia. Gerald left the Air Force in 1974 to settle in Petaluma, California with his family.







From a Hamilton AFB history blog: F-104

The puzzle of 56-769 at Cotati solved May 17, '05 2:15 AM by starfighter-781 for everyone 56-769 was on an FCF, (functional check flight ), on the faithful day of the incident. **Dick Quigley** was at the controls, in a burner climb.450kts to .9 Mach, then .9 to altitude. At FL 220, he picked up .9 Mach, and pushed the nose over to hold it. There was a washer laying on the bottom of the oil tank, that was inadvertently dropped in there at an earlier time. Could have been done at the factory, or anywhere between there and the flight line. When the plane was pushed over, the washer floated up due to the negative "G" force, and was sucked into the oil pump, causing the pump drive shaft to shear. He lost oil pressure at FL 290, and was over NAS Santa Rosa airport's 7,000 ft runway, so he put it in there, T.O. flaps, and 210kts over the fence. He shut the engine down at touch down and had the plane towed off the runway. We later towed it back to Hamilton via the highway.

**Got this shot of the USS Iowa leaving San Francisco. Waited 4 hours for her arrival, but I think she was worth the wait. **Forrest Galt****





“Top Gun” Weekend  
Climb Aboard  
AV-8C “Harrier”  
June 16th & 17th

### REMEMBER THESE DATES

Thursday, June 7th @ 11:30-1:30 Hot Dog Thursday  
Wednesday, June 13th @ 8:30 a.m. Board of Directors Meeting at the Museum  
Thursday, June 14th @ 12:00 p.m. Executive Director’s Staff Meeting at the Museum  
Saturday, June 16th @ 5:00pm-8:00pm—”Night at the Air Museum  
Wednesday, June 20th @ 7:00 p.m. Membership Meeting  
Saturday, June 23rd @ 5:00pm-8:00pm

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