

Santa Claus Lands At The Museum In A Helicopter!

By Connie Reyerse



Saturday December 16, 2017 started off with a balmy morning, which was surprising, since we were all ready for much colder weather than we received. When I walked onto the museum grounds of the Pacific Coast Air Museum that morning all was very quiet, the signage was in place, the platforms for the central characters were in place, and so began what would amount to be the year’s pinnacle event for PCAM, the annual Santa Fly-In.

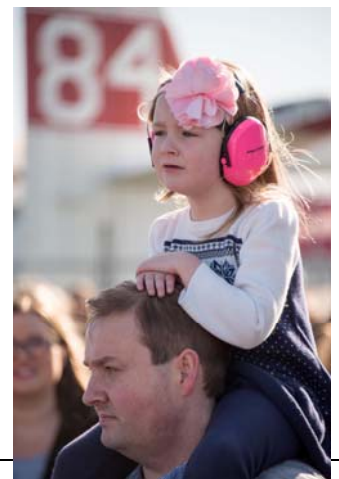
This would be our way of thanking the community for their support of our museum. It would be a free show for all in attendance to see that Jolly Old Man in his red suit, Santa, and the missus. This would also be the inaugural debut of Mrs. Santa Claus, in her first appearance at PCAM.

As the morning moved along the field activities began to get more active as first the inflatable jumpie and side crew arrived to begin their setup, soon to be followed by the coffee crew. Next came the California Highway Patrol with two of their patrol cars to provide road safety information for the children and parents.

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The PCAM Mission

“To Educate and Inspire both young and old about our aviation heritage and aerospace technology, to Preserve historic aircraft and artifacts, and to Honor veterans.”

Santa Fly-In—Continued from previous page

In the front of the museum, families began to gather. Some had in fact started lining up at 09:00—the faces of the young children eager for the morning's events. Soon the line grew and began to extend out to Becker Road. It was a good sign: lots of people were coming to this event!

The morning's activities were the culmination of preparations that began months prior, from the filing of the permits with the airport, to the requests for support to the CHP, coffee vendor, jumpie people and many, many logistical efforts that comprise this event. We also arranged the helicopter with Helico Sonoma, who would supply the red Robinson helicopter for.

Working to acquire the funding to put this event on was a constant effort that was faithfully supported by the Santa Rosa Active 20/30 Club #50. They graciously donated \$2,500 to this program. In addition, the Coding Foundation provided the funds that supported the cost of the Jumpie and air slide to the tune of \$700. Funding from other sources also contributed to the success of this event. The work took months, then down to weeks, then down to days.

In the days just before the Fly-In, signs were made by Ray Smith and Janet Doto (wife of Paul Doto) to show our visitors who the sponsors were, the tickets and sponsor passes, the direction signs and much more. So much work goes into this show and not a single complaint from any of our volunteers. Robin Dotti dutifully spent her time purchasing the gift bags and toys to go into them, then put the crew to work to stuff hundreds of these bags for the children.

Soon the doors opened and the hundreds of parents and children flocked into the museum grounds to look with awe at the aircraft displays, and play on the jumpie and air slide. The field was filled with the excited squeals of the children as they enjoyed their time and eventually all flocked to the special viewing area where soon they would get an up-close and personal look at Jolly Old Santa as he arrived in his personal red helicopter. At the sound of the approaching helicopter,

all eyes peered upwards to look for, then spot that red helicopter which began circling the field to show off Santa as he waved to the crowd. It was quite the sight to see all those little fingers and faces pointed upwards with glee as soon Santa would make his appearance.

Upon landing, Santa was helped off his helicopter by his lead Elf (Robin Dotti) and joined by Mrs. Claus (Marylin Pahr), as they were escorted onto their Royal Coach (the PCAM Golf Cart appropriately decorated by the PCAM crew of Tony Basignanni, Paul Doto and Bruce Tinkham -- Bruce was also the chauffeur). The Royal Coach made its trip along the fence line, much to the joy of all those children who came to see this special event. Soon all would have the opportunity to visit Santa, Mrs. Claus and the Lead Elf to make their wishes known and receive their gift bags.

Overall, it went from a quiet morning to one filled with the joyful sounds of happy children seeing this special Someone who visited only once a year, in a means of travel that is so true to the PCAM mission and tradition: a helicopter. All the hard work by all those who volunteered to support this program made it all possible.

As the day wore on, teams of volunteers worked to remove the event items and all worked to pack everything up. The barbecues from the hot dog team, the tables, and the coolers and ice cream were all packed away. The clean up extended well into the late afternoon, and none of it would have happened without the help of these hard working volunteers who I can count on every year. They are the same core group that made it all possible and I cannot thank them enough. But thank you all for everything you have done to make the annual Santa Fly-In program the success it was. THANK YOU ALL. ★

Photos of Santa Fly-In continued on next page

Photos of Santa's Fly-in



President's Message—End of year Newsletter, December 31st 2017

Wow, what a year that was. Here we are at the end of 2017 after a fast and productive year. For me, as your President, it has been very busy time but I can report on making good progress toward being a first class air museum.

Our volunteers have been busy nearly every weekend and many times during the week giving tours, classes and preparing for the next event. I am very proud of all those who have come out and helped operate this museum.

Our service to the public takes many forms in the realm of museum interests but here is a review of this year's activities.

1. Tour groups for all ages, from wine touring groups to school and youth groups.



2. Flight wing activities restoring Museum aircraft assets to show quality.



3. Operating a Virtual Reality flight simulator, giving many visitors their first virtual flight experience.

4. Conducting WWII & Korean era Veteran appreciation day for 40 Veterans.

5. Operating a gift shop which is loaded with period-specific memorabilia.



6. An annual Wheels & Wings Car Show, which helps provide funds for our operations.



7. A Toys for Tots collection drive, which gathered toys for needy children in our community.

8. Santa Fly-In - Free admittance for all 1,100 people who attended.



9. We are open to the public about 30 hours a week with volunteer help.

As we look forward to 2018, it promises to be the most exciting year yet. By mid-summer we should be operating from the new property on the Butler Hangar site. The paint on the administration building should even smell brand new. We should have working air conditioning and heaters making the overall conditions much better.

The Gift Shop will have a new layout. Most of the outdoor aircraft display will be sitting on real concrete.

Our Volunteers of the Year have been recognized and received their awards at the December meeting. The President's award went to a very energetic Volunteer who was instrumental in the success of several of our major events, particularly with the WWII and Korean War appreciation event and the Ford Tri-Motor event last February. That award went to Carol Lawson.

We have a group of about 35 members who form the "Hot Dog Thursday Gang". During 2017 they served thousands of delicious hot dogs. It has been noted that this group of individuals was always smiling and working together making our events very popular with the local merchants. During the summer months when HDT is going on, the Pacific Coast Air Museum is THE place to dine. Therefore, the "Hot Dog Thursday Gang" was selected to be the "Volunteers of the Year" by their peers. This was an excellent choice.

I am retiring from service to PCAM as President but will be around to take on special projects, of which there are many.

Thanks to all of you who helped PCAM make progress toward a very bright future. Keep up the good work. I shall be here to help.

Sincerely,
C J Stephens

Immediate Past
President,
Pacific Coast Air
Museum



Flight Wing—Grumman S2/CIA

By Lynn Hunt

By virtually any measurement, the Grumman S2/CIA is a lot of airplane. In sophistication it outranks comparable aircraft due to its complex hydraulic system thanks in part to its folding wings. The state of California significantly reduced its fleet maintenance costs by simply adopting a policy of not folding them. That would never pass muster for the PCAM Flight Wing. The convenience of a significantly smaller aircraft makes ground-handling and storage a breeze plus the fact that we could never look those crusty Navy veterans in the eye if we couldn't fold the wings.

Several museums have S-2/C-IA's in their inventory, yet there are only two currently flying in the US. Of course they are expensive to operate but they are also a challenge to maintain. It takes a special group of people with two important qualities to maintain such an aircraft in airworthy condition. First they need some technical skills especially when it comes to aircraft systems. Having a basic understanding of how systems work is essential. Secondly, they need confidence. This important quality helps to propel them through the dark periods when no one has a clue of what could be causing a particular symptom. Confidence helps to feed perseverance which propels you through the troubleshooting process.

When this hardy band of volunteers first started working on PCAM's flagship they started with neither of these important qualities. They have developed into a formidable team who perform a magnificent job of keeping the aircraft healthy and alive. The Flight Wing could not be more proud.

Conspicuously absent from the picture above is our crew mate Henry Granger. We fear that Henry may have lost his home in the recent fires and we have not been able to contact him. Henry, if you are listening, "We miss you". 🌟



C-IA crew overhauls a leaky wing fold cylinder.

Volunteer Updates

By Jim Mattison

- Volunteer Hour Awards will be given out at the January Meeting on Jan 17, 2018.
- Deadline for submission of hours has been extended to Dec 31, 2017
- Volunteers are encouraged to also submit an estimated "career total hours to date".

2018 will begin the push to move PCAM to the former Dragonfly Area. One critical need will be volunteers to help with the multitude of tasks. Please consider stepping up to lend a hand; we will need EVERYBODY's help. 🌟



Popular PCAM Volunteer Duane Coppock Flies Off into the Sunset

Developed from an email sent by Sonoma County Tourism, December 11, 2017"

Duane Coppock is hanging up his wings and retiring as a Pacific Coast Air Museum volunteer in January.

Duane, a retired Coast Guard pilot, joined the museum in 2001 when he drove past one day and saw the exact plane he flew - the Coast Guard Albatross #7245 - parked at the east end of the property. Duane spent more than 230 hours in that plane, so he knew it well. He wanted to hang around people who cared about aviation history.

In 2002, Duane took on the role of executive director and served in that capacity for three years. He stayed in museum operations after that.

Duane graduated from Cal Poly with a degree in poultry husbandry. He was enticed by a Coast Guard recruiter and soon said goodbye to the chickens and hello to training at Pensacola. He served in Corpus Christi and Miami.

Below:

Duane leads a tour during one of our Hot Dog Thursday events.



Along with discovering the Bermuda Triangle is a hoax, Duane spent time in search and rescue, moving aircraft during hurricane warnings, and assisting refugees coming from Cuba by sea.

Over the years, Duane has shared his love of history and aircraft with hundreds of visitors to the Pacific Coast Air Museum. Cheers to your next great adventure, Duane. ✨

PCAM EXPLORER POST 707

By Dave Ford

The holidays have families traveling near and far to enjoy the spirit of the season with family and loved ones. Understandably, at times like this it can be difficult to muster a large number of troops for “active duty”. Having said that, Explorer Post 707 was able to have two Explorers report for duty at the Santa Fly-In. Leo Dunleavy and Michael Gonzales checked in with Safety Officer Dan Widger for their assignments early in the morning. As roaming safety personnel, their job was to keep an eye out for wayward children attempting to climb on aircraft and other equipment common to an aviation museum. They performed their assignment well during the entire event. Michael’s mother, Mrs. Gonzales, decided to join the museum as a member and stayed the day as a volunteer helping out in different areas. Thank you, Mrs. Gonzales and welcome aboard as a new member of PCAM. ✨

PCAM and Local Chamber of Commerce organizations

PCAM is once again enjoying the benefits of membership in the Santa Rosa and Healdsburg Chamber of Commerce organizations. Board VP Dave Ford is the PCAM Rep for Santa Rosa and Julie Conklin is the “acting” PCAM Rep for Healdsburg. PCAM will rejoin the Windsor Chamber of Commerce once we have a Windsor resident who is a PCAM member and who can be our Representative.

What do we get in exchange for these memberships? A lot--as long as we participate.

The Chamber organizations offer a multitude of networking opportunities, discounts (for example, we get an 18% discount on Sonoma Tourism Bureau advertising with the Santa Rosa Chamber membership) and they have huge postal and email lists.

Repetition is very important to getting the message out about PCAM and having it 'stick'--people need to see the PCAM logo and hear about PCAM over and over again for there to be general recognition of PCAM. Seeing PCAM Reps in PCAM logo attire (Thank you to PCAM Gift Shop!) at community events is helpful as well. These memberships are part of that as they promote their member lists and cross-promote within their organizations.

Wanted: PCAM Representative to Healdsburg Chamber of Commerce

Do you live in Healdsburg and enjoy meeting new people, businesses and organizations? If yes and you also are a PCAM member, please call Julie Conklin to discuss becoming the PCAM representative to the Healdsburg Chamber. Julie presently fulfills the position and would like to share the duties which are quite light and fun. There is a monthly Thursday morning meeting with City and business leaders and a few social events. There is also a weekly email update to review and share pertinent information with PCAM Board of Directors, Staff and Newsletter Editor. Please call Julie at 707/486-4914 or eMail Julie-Conklin707@gmail.com



If you are a Windsor resident and would like to be the PCAM representative to the Windsor Chamber of Commerce, please contact Julie or Dave Ford (544-4437 or av8r@sonic.net). ★

Santa Rosa
chamber of commerce



Member Meeting—January 2018



Details to be announced.

Our monthly Member Meetings typically include updates on important Museum news, a raffle, video presentations, a chance to visit with other Museum members, snacks, and a presentation by a featured speaker. Speakers may include military Veterans, historians, civic leaders, and other people with interesting stories to tell of their historical research or their aviation or military experiences.

January 17, 2018 Member Meeting, Volunteer Hour Acknowledgements

Time and Location:

Wednesday, January 17, 2018, 7:00 p.m.
Columbia Distributing.
3200 N. Laughlin Road. Santa Rosa, CA
Cost: Free for Members and Guests. ★

Events at the Pacific Coast Air Museum

The Pacific Coast Air Museum regularly hosts and participates in family-friendly events and educational programs for all ages. Check the details on each event for times, places, and entry fees. PCAM is a non-profit, so entry fees go to cover the costs of the events and to help PCAM raise money for ongoing operations and expansion. ★

PCAM ELECTION RESULTS

By Dave Ford

In the latter part of November, 427 ballots were mailed out to the general membership. Of the 427 ballots, 134 were returned which represents 34 percent participation.

On December 20th, Jim Sartain, Anthony Marinelli, Dave Ford and Marge Ford met at the PCAM conference room before the general meeting to count ballots. It was a smooth operation with Marge unfolding the ballot pages and passing them to Dave who read the tallies to Jim and Anthony who were both writing the results on their separate tally sheets.

The results were announced at the general meeting and the new Directors elected by the membership are Lynn Hunt and Chris Brown. They will be seated on the Board January 1st. Congratulations to both, Lynn and Chris.

Officers for 2018 will be chosen by the Board of Directors at the first Board meeting in January. The President, Vice President and Secretary will be chosen at that time. ★

What is ahead?

Visit the PCAM website for more details:
<http://pacificcoastairmuseum.org/events/> ★

Open Cockpit February 17-18, 2018: DC-6 Airliner

Look inside this vintage aircraft, and learn about its history from the crew who has lovingly restored it.

The DC-6 was a large and powerful piston-powered airliner. In its day, the DC-6 circled the globe delivering passengers to North America, South America, Europe, Africa, Asia, and all spots in between. When it was replaced by jetliners in the larger airlines, the DC-6 carried on with smaller and regional airlines. Many served as military transports, and later several were converted into aerial tankers for fighting fires.

Find out more about the [DC-6](#). ★



Open Cockpit March 17-18, 2018: H-34 Choctaw Helicopter

Look inside this vintage aircraft, and learn about its history from the crew who has lovingly restored it.

The H-34 was the last of the really powerful piston-engined helicopters built in the US. It saw extensive use as a submarine chaser, utility/liaison, troop transport, airborne ambulance, cargo ship, and even gunship. This one served with Air America during the Vietnam War.

Find out more about the [H-34 Choctaw](#). ★



The Pacific Coast Air Museum's Platinum Sponsors

The Pacific Coast Air Museum thanks its Platinum Level Sponsors, whose contributions help make our museum the thriving community resource it is! If you would like to find out about sponsorship opportunities with the Pacific Coast Air Museum, contact Doug Clay, PCAM Development Chair, 925-997-2774 or dougclay@gmail.com. ★





The Pacific Coast Air Museum

Location

One Air Museum Way, Santa Rosa, CA, 95403
www.pacificcoastairmuseum.org
707-575-7900

At the Charles M. Schulz-Sonoma County Airport, north of Santa Rosa. Hwy 101 north to Airport Blvd. and go west. Turn left on North Laughlin Rd, right on Becker Blvd. then right on Air Museum Way.



Hours

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday.
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Closed on major holidays.

Open Cockpit Weekends

One or more aircraft are open for close examination the third weekend of each month (weather permitting) and you can even climb aboard some of them! For more info phone 707-575-7900 or visit www.pacificcoastairmuseum.org.

Member Meetings

Normally held on the third Wednesday of each month, 7:00 p.m. at Columbia Distributing, 3200 N. Laughlin Road, Santa Rosa, CA

“Straight Scoop” Newsletter

The museum newsletter, “Straight Scoop” is published monthly and is available online on the museum’s web site. Members are encouraged to submit articles for possible publication. Deadline: 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, Editor: pcam-news@loughlinmarketing.com, 707-575-7900.

Membership Renewals

\$50 per year individual; \$100 per year for families. Send renewals to the museum, address below.

Address Corrections

Please send to Pacific Coast Air Museum,
One Air Museum Way, Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Visit our web site at www.pacificcoastairmuseum.org or call 707-575-7900 for more information.

Read the “Red Baron Flyer,” the quarterly newsletter of the Charles M. Schulz-Sonoma County Airport: <http://www.sonomacountyairport.org/red-baron-flyer>

Board of Directors

- Ben Barker 707-838-0238
- Chris Brown TBD
- Julie Conklin 707-486-4914
- David Ford 707-544-4437
- Nancy Heath 707-477-4307
- Julia Hochberg 707-523-2800
- Lynn Hunt 707-235-2552
- Anthony Marinelli 707-695-6886
- Andy Werback 707-823-5616

Officers

- President**
C J Stephens 707-799-2878
- Vice President**
David Ford 707-544-4437
- Treasurer**
Nancy Heath 707-477-4307
- Secretary**
Anthony Marinelli 707-695-6886

Board Emeritus

- Immediate Past President**
C J Stephens 707-799-2878

Ex-Officio Bd. Members

- Director of Museum Operations**
Position Open

- CFO**
Judy Knaute 707-545-7447

Valuable Assets

- Administrative Assistant**
Duane Coppock 707-575-7900

- Gift Shop Manager**
Mike Lynch 707-575-7900

- Planned Giving**
Barbara Beedon 707-695-3683

Project Coordinators

- Aircraft & Assets**
Lynn Hunt 707-235-2552

- Flight Wing**
Lynn Hunt 707-235-2552

- Marketing**
Julie Conklin 707-486-4914

- Volunteer Coordinator**
Jim Mattison 707-291-4719
(Saturday - Thursday)

- Air Show Director**
Nancy Heath 707-477-4307

- Vol. Coordinator: Air Show**
Anita Forbes 415-987-4163

- Education**
David Ford 707-544-4437

- Safety Officer**
Position Open

- Exhibits**
Mary Jane Brown 707-566-9032

- Guest Speakers**
Charley Taylor 707-665-0421

- PCAM Development Chair**
Doug Clay 925-997-2774

- Membership Records**
Open Position

- Sunshine & Sympathy**
Diana Watson 707-578-6883

- Oral History Program**
John Nelson 707-239-1002

- Communications**
Peter Loughlin 707-704-6498

- Website Administrator**
Peter Loughlin 707-704-6498

- PCAM YouTube Video Channel**
<http://www.youtube.com/user/PCAMvideos>



STRAIGHT SCOOP

January 2018

REMEMBER THESE DATES

Don't Miss the Next Open Cockpit Weekend

[Open Cockpit: DC-6 Airliner Cockpit](#)

Saturday, February 17, 2018 - Sunday, February 18, 2018

[Open Cockpit: H-34 Choctaw Helicopter](#)

Saturday, March 17, 2018 - Sunday, March 18, 2018

2018 Calendar of Events Coming Soon—Stay Tuned!

The Pacific Coast Air Museum hosts many family-friendly and child-friendly events all year 'round. We host an annual Santa Fly-In around Christmastime, monthly Member Meetings, monthly Hot Dog Thursday lunches from April through October, our annual Wings Over Wine Country Air Show in late summer, and special events like car shows and guest lecturers, and more!

Most events focus upon aviation and our collection of over 35 historic aircraft including military jets, helicopters, and other classic airplanes. 🌟

Pacific Coast Air Museum
One Air Museum Way
Santa Rosa, CA 95403
707-575-7900
www.pacificcoastairmuseum.org