

# Flight Line

**The Official Publication of the CAF**  
Southern California Wing  
455 Aviation Drive, Camarillo, CA 93010  
(805) 482-0064

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© Photo by Frank Mormillo  
Legacy Flight – Our F6F & F8F with FA-18 at Reno

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**Col. Jim Tierney in high spirits after having “slipped the surly bonds of earth”\*  
in our SNJ-5 #290, and returned with that huge smile on his face.**

\*John Gillespie Magee, Jr., RCAF, 1922-1941

**Wing Staff Meeting, Saturday, October 20, 2012 at 9:30 a.m. at the  
CAF Aviation Museum Hangar, 455 Aviation Drive, Camarillo Airport**

**Our CAF Mission: To Honor American Military Aviation Through Flight, Exhibition and Remembrance.**

# October 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Museum Closed	2 Work Day	3	4 Work Day	5	6 Work Day
7	8 Museum Closed  Columbus Day (observed)	9 Work Day	10	11 Work Day	12	13 Work Day
14	15 Museum Closed	16 Work Day	17	18 Work Day	19 Docent Meeting 3:30	20 Work Day Wing Staff Meeting 9:30
21	22 Museum Closed	23 Work Day	24	25 Work Day	26	27 Work Day
28	29 Museum Closed	30 Work Day	31 Halloween	Museum Open 10am to 4pm Every Day Except Monday and Major Holidays		

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Safety Officer	* Shari Heitkotter	(559) 285-0430	<a href="mailto:planejanex15@gmail.com">planejanex15@gmail.com</a>	K. Gottschall, Candidate for Maint Officer 5
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\* Denotes Staff Position

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## Wing Leader's Report

by Steve Barber



This year is flying by, if you'll forgive the pun. Your Wing has been very busy, as usual, and we have accomplished many wonderful things so far with several months to go.

I'm very proud to announce to you if you haven't heard by now, your Wing, has been awarded a matching grant from CAF HQ of \$375,000.00! This is the first time in the history of the CAF that I am aware of that this has been done. With this grant, we will build another needed hangar, enclose and modernize our museum, and get the museum hangar floor finished, along with many other improvements for our Wing.

In doing this, HQ will make us an Air Base of the CAF. This will give us more exposure and bring in new members. I am busy working on bringing in the matching funds so that we can get started ASAP. If you are interested in helping or have any fundraising ideas, please let me know. This is very exciting for our Wing.

Our air show schedule has been busy with more events popping up all of the time. The Ride Program has been doing a wonderful job of raising money for your Wing. Saturday September 8<sup>th</sup> saw 9 rides given in one day! Two rides in the SNJ and 7 rides in the Mustang! The PT-19 is now flying, after much hard work spearheaded by Mike Perrenoud. This will bring our third aircraft back into the Ride Program, and altogether we have a wide choice of rides to offer the public.

The museum docents and display creators have been doing a fantastic job. As I talk to the public after their tours, they are all very positive with the tours and most important with the knowledge of the docents leading them. Way to go, guys and gals. It is a major goal of our Wing to educate the public on history, specifically as it relates to military aviation history and how it applies to individuals who participated. Not just types and numbers, but on individuals that made the history. This we do so well. My

heartfelt thanks go out to our wonderful volunteers in the museum.

We have two important elections coming up this year. I encourage you to be involved with both and for crying out loud, vote! The first of course is the national election. Your vote counts! Regardless of how you vote, you owe it to all of those who have given their full measure for you to VOTE! Your Wing elections are also to be held and ditto for this election, Vote! Our number of members participating has always been underwhelming and it would sure be nice to see that improve.

I'm running for Wing Leader again this year. I had thought that I would not, but one of our major donors advised me to run, as I was going to be asking for a lot of money from several powerful folks. He advised that it would be better if the request for funds came from the Wing Leader. So, here I go again. This is my last year (for a while at least) on the General Staff. I'm so happy I was there to help us get the matching funds while serving!

Many people said years ago we would not be able to build the hangars we have now. Some people say we won't be able to raise the funds to continue growing. I have news for any doubters: we will do it. We will build it and we will be proud of what we accomplish.

As an all-volunteer non-profit organization - all types of people join our Unit. Each member joins with their own motivations and ideas of how things should operate. Most of our members are unbelievable! The work they do, the time they donate, the things they accomplish sometimes just astonishes me.

The PBJ crew is a classic example of what can be accomplished with hard work and dedication. Well done! We have these types of members all around us, from mechanics to those that seem to be able to do anything - like Lloyd McAfee. Ask him to build something and he will make it happen!

Jason Somes; Ken Gottschall; Steve McCartney; Mark (Mutha) Hubbard; Shari Heitkotter; Jessica, Jennifer, and Greg Bauman; my wife La Tanya and I and many others just returned from the Reno Air Races. Mark and I flew Friday, Saturday and Sunday in the Tailhook Legacy Flights and Jason and I flew Sunday in the missing-man formation - honoring those lost last year in the tragic crash at Reno and also the loss of Howard Pardue and Bob Odegaard.

Ken Gottschall flew the Spitfire to Edwards AFB from Reno on Friday for a British contingent honoring the Battle of Britain. The Bearcat and Hellcat left on September 21 for NAS North Island to do flybys for their "Speed Fest". You can see your Wing's Aircraft are busy not only making people aware of our Wing, but also making us money so we can not only survive, but prosper and grow!

Keep the painted side up!

**Dick Troy**  
**Candidate for Wing Leader**



My name is Richard Troy. I am 71 years old, and have been a member of our Wing since 2002. I am the recipient of the Charles Taylor Master Mechanic Award, given by the FAA to A&P mechanics with more than 50 years in aviation maintenance. I was employed by American Airlines as a mechanic, beginning my career at LaGuardia. I have been stationed at LaGuardia, Newark, JFK, Tulsa, DFW, LAX, Reno, and St. Louis, and at a variety of other stations during my forty plus years with AAL

During that time, I have had a number of positions, starting as a junior mechanic, progressing to senior mechanic, then to lead mechanic, and then a jump to management. As a supervisor, I joined the DC-10 technical team and was responsible for troubleshooting and repair of our sixty-plus aircraft. After a short period, I was fortunate to be selected as Maintenance Manager at Los Angeles, where I supervised 300 mechanics, 25 supervisors and 5 managers – while at the same time I assumed responsibilities for our satellite stations at Long Beach, Santa Ana, Burbank and San Diego.

I was directly responsible for managing an annual budget in excess of 25 million dollars.

After spending forty-two plus years with AAL, I decided it was time to hang up the wrenches and I retired in September, 2001, right after 9/11.

I believe in hard work, honesty, and leading by example. I have a vision for our Wing that is both doable and far-reaching. With the support of all of our hard-working volunteers, who have brought us to this point, it is my opinion that we can all take that next step, we can all keep these relics of history safely flying, and we can all together expand our horizons – and we can do it in a responsible and financially prudent way.

I will appreciate very much your vote for me as your Wing Leader, and I thank you for your consideration.

**Steve Barber, Sr.**  
**Candidate for Wing Leader**



Steve Barber has been a member of CAF for twenty-two years. He has served on the CAF General Staff for eleven years, and was Chief of Staff in 2003.

Steve is a Marine, having served in the USMC from 1966 to 1970, with service in Vietnam in 1969-70.

He flies many CAF aircraft, including the F6F Hellcat; F8F Bearcat; SB2C Helldiver; SNJ/AT6 Texan; A6M3 Zero; Spitfire Mk XIV; C-46 Commando; P-51 Mustang and others.

He holds an unlimited LOA for single and multi-engine aircraft. He is a CAF fighter check pilot; SNJ check pilot; and a TRARON Formation lead pilot. He founded the Navy's Tailhook Legacy Flight Program along with Admiral Mike Bowman in 1999.

Steve has sponsored several CAF aircraft, and has donated many thousands of dollars to the CAF cause. He lead the development and fund raising for our hangars.

He brought to our Wing the F8F Bearcat, F6F Hellcat, A6M3 Zero, Spitfire Mk XIV, Fairchild F-24, and P-51 Mustang.

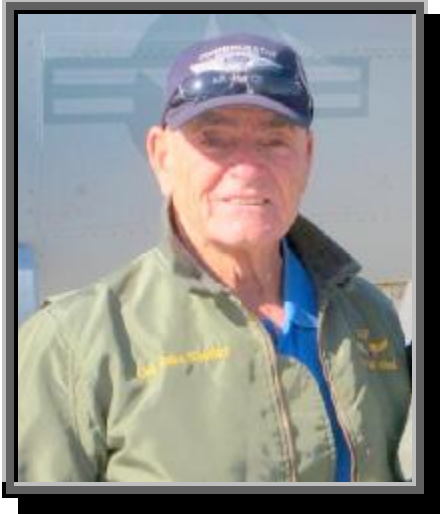
He has been the Wing Leader on two other occasions, serving for a total of eight years in that office.

Steve is a Senior Vice President of Investments for Stifel Nicolaus & Company, Inc.

He has two grown children, Stephen, Jr. (34) and Shellie (42), and two grandchildren, Luke and Jake. His wife, La Tanya, worked for CAF at HQ in Midland for six years.

Steve pledges to continue to recruit new members; to build a new hangar and build a world-class aviation museum as planned. He also wants to improve our Wing's financial standing. In addition to the above, he still wants us all to just have fun.

**John Woolley**  
Candidate for Executive Officer



I feel that the following educational, professional and life experiences place me in a position to assist our SoCal Wing in moving forward as it becomes the first Airbase in the United States.

**Professional experience:** Served over thirty (30) years in the California Community College system as a faculty member, dean and vice-president. Currently I am an officer on the executive board of the Ventura College Foundation (501(c)3 non-profit foundation) while also serving as chair of the scholarship committee.

**Education:** BA in History from CSULA, M.A. from Immaculate Heart College, M.Ed. from University of Arizona and a doctorate in administration from Brigham Young University.

**Military:** Served two tours of active duty with the United States Army Security Agency.

I have served the SoCal Wing as a docent, museum director and executive officer. I have learned a great deal about the CAF, having attended the CAF annual conference and represented the Wing at the CAF Staff Officer's Conference this past March. I have worked closely with the Wing museum committee and docents in developing a team that is moving our museum forward. We have worked together in developing a plan to renovate the museum from an open-air hangar environment to a state-of-the-art enclosed facility improvement project. I have worked with the wing leader in preparing documents that resulted in the SoCal Wing being designated as the first CAF Airbase in the country – a move that will bring the museum renovation to a reality.

I feel honored to have served the past two years as Executive Officer of the CAF SoCal Wing. To maximize our chances for success in the future, I believe we need to improve communications and promote a sense of openness, trust and dialogue. Working together we can accomplish a great deal.

*John is our current Executive Officer.*

**Ken Gottschall**  
Candidate for Maintenance Officer



My aviation maintenance background started at a very young age, thanks to my father. My first plane ride was at two weeks of age in the family plane. Our family always had a 4-place plane and it was only natural for me to help my dad with the upkeep of the plane.

My love affair with war birds started early on as well. My first trip to the airshow at Oshkosh was when I was 9 years old and that's when I decided that I would do whatever it took to fly the WWII Fighters. Fast forward to my 20s, when I was one of three guys that restored one of the first civilian owned T-28Cs. A 3-year ground-up restoration of an AT-6G followed thereafter. Realizing aviation maintenance might be a great way to make a living - I hired on with Garrett Aviation Services and worked on all sorts of corporate jets, which included overhaul of their jet engines.

I still continued to work on and fly war birds in my spare time, which eventually lead me to the CAF over 5 years ago. Presently, I am Director of Maintenance for a Gulfstream IV in Burbank, and thoroughly enjoy working at the CAF SoCal whenever I can.

My goals for the position are to maintain and restore the aircraft within our collection to ever-increasing higher standards. Efforts will include not only prompt repair of any grounding discrepancies but also ongoing restoration of structures and systems to include overall aesthetic condition. I will also make sure that all logbooks and associated regulatory paperwork are kept up-to-date and stored in a safe place. I will continue to educate and encourage any member within our wing who wishes to learn more about aviation maintenance.

I greatly appreciate all who have supported my CAF SoCal efforts - as many of my life- long dreams have come true here. I ask for continued support in exchange for whatever I can do to help anyone of our members share the same wonderful experience I have had.

*Ken is our current Maintenance Officer.*

## Jim Tierney: He Tells It Like It Is

by Dave Flood



© Photo courtesy Jim Tierney, Jr.

### Here's Jim, with wife Jean, daughter Joyce and son Jim, Jr. – celebrating Jim's 75<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Jim Tierney has been a man of many talents in our Wing. He has headed up the Museum Collections Department for many years, taking in donations from citizens from all over the United States and the world – aviation books, manuals, aircraft instruments, military uniforms, etc. – and recording them, storing them, and getting them ready for display in our Aviation Museum.

Jim also helps out the Docents each day he is at the museum – with the Gift Shop, the telephone, and the toting up of finances at the end of the day. He was manager of our Gift Shop for several years, and saw it grow commensurately in that time.

Jim has a photographic memory of aviation history, and is active in the research currently underway on trying to find out what actually happened with Amelia Earhart in the South Pacific. He is also a movie buff, and helps to settle many discussions of old movies and actors & actresses who played in them. He and Jean take in many movies, and are fountains of information on the ones worth seeing.

Jim has been in "sick bay" recently, and undergoing therapy for some time. He has continued to come out to the Aviation Museum, but he needs now to conserve his energy in preparation for surgery scheduled tentatively for October 19. Please keep him in your thoughts & prayers.

An Irish Blessing for you Jim:

**May the roads always rise to meet you; the wind be always at your back; may the sun shine warm upon your face; the rain fall soft upon your shoulders; and until we meet again, Jim, may the good Lord hold you in the hollow of His hand.**

## David Spence Candidate For Safety Officer



© Photo by Dave Flood

I have been a member of the CAF for four years, primarily helping to restore and maintain our Spitfire, and helping with any other jobs that come along.

Since being a child in England, I have been an aviation enthusiast, visiting my local airfields every weekend. After moving to the USA in 1973, I bought my own aircraft, a Citabria, and flew it for seven years, servicing and maintaining it myself.

I have spent my career in the movie business as a post-production supervisor, responsible for completion of multi-million dollar film productions and television shows. This has given me the opportunity to work with and organize groups of people, under time and budget constraints.

My three grown children are Brandon (28), Shannon (27), and Addison (22). Addison is currently serving in the U.S. Army, Second Cavalry, Stryker Force, based in Germany.

At the recent "Wings Over Camarillo" Air Show, I was the Ground Safety Officer, organizing thirty-five volunteers and fifty Sea Cadets during the two-day air show. It was a great pleasure, and I learned a lot about running an air show.

I am in total agreement with Dick Troy regarding our diligence for adherence to the rules of safety, and, if elected, hope to be able to implement many of the measures that will make all of us and all of our visitors safe while working in and visiting our hangars.

I respect our country and our flag, along with having great respect for our current and past military servicemen and women, who have taken and are now taking care of us in troubled times.

My pledge to you is that I will do my best to keep our Wing safe, and to help promote CAF and our Wing – and have fun doing it.

**Wing Photo Page I:  
Jacob Van Gilder**



© Photo by Eric Van Gilder  
A new generation of aviation photographers has arrived. Here's Jacob Van Gilder, Eric's son, who took almost all the remaining photos at "Wings Over Camarillo."  
Kudos, Jacob!



**Grumman Albatross**



**F4U Corsair, SBD Dauntless, A6M3 Zero, & F6F Hellcat**



**Lockheed P-38 Lightning from Chino.**



**Inland Empire Wing's C-53 with Navion formation.**



**Our SNJ-5 #290 (right) flying with the Condor Squadron**



**North American B-25J "Executive Sweet"**



**John Collver's AT-6 "Mad Dog" doing what John does best at air shows – a spectacular aerobic routine.**



**Northrop C-9 Flying Wing, a popular air show aircraft.**



**The Ventura County Sheriff's helicopter displaying a water drop.**



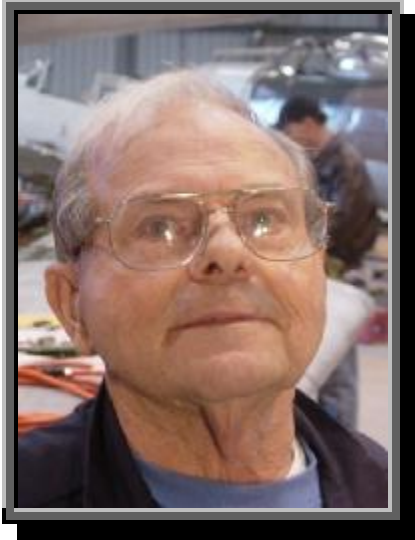
**Clay Lacy in his Grumman F7F coming right at you!**



© Photo by Dave Flood  
**Here's Jacob, with Ken Gottschall's "Bogey" a few years ago. They grow fast, Eric!**

## Gil Brice's Students Continue To Excel

by Jim Hinckley



© Photo by Dan Newcomb

**Gil Brice – May 15, 1927 to April 11, 2009**

When we moved Gil Brice's Memorial Photo Board up to the new fire wall, alongside of the other nine Memorial Boards, it brought back memories of that wonderful man, who was friend and mentor to so many of us – especially to those who work and have worked on our Fairchild F-24 airplane, which is slowly but surely getting restored.



© Photo by Dave Flood

**Gil Brice's Memorial Board, "Gil's Place," in our Maintenance Hangar – fashioned by Jim & Catie Hinckley and Rich "Doc" Witten**

I once was a Docent, and, when my hearing became a problem, I transferred to the Maintenance Hangar to help Norm Swagler, the Crew Chief, work on the Fairchild F-24. Many of you "golden eagles" can commiserate with my hearing problem – which is only one of the many plaguing factors which happen to us as we "mature."

My grandchildren, Drew, now 17, and his brother Will, 15, started working on the F-24 as far back as 2007, a year before I moved to the Maintenance Hangar. Under Gil's expert tutelage, the boys learned quickly how to stitch the fabric onto the wooden wings of the F-24 – an almost lost art of airplane stitching that dates back to the early days of

manned flight. All of our other aircraft use rivets and gluing to attach fabric to their control surfaces – the F-24 is the only one to require stitching.



© Photo Courtesy of Jim Hinckley

**Jim's grandsons, Drew (left) and Will, in 2007 – part of the Fairchild F-24 Restoration Team.**

Gil would show Drew and Will what to do, and they would then perform the tasks he had assigned to them completely to Gil's satisfaction.

Now Drew and Will are leading members of the Chino Hills High School Marching Band, which, in April, won the 2012 Percussion Scholastic World Classic Championship. In the three previous years they had finished second, third, and fourth among the eighty bands competing from all over the world.



© Photo Courtesy Jim Hinckley

**Chino Hills High's Championship Marching Band.**

Working with Gil Brice on the fabric jobs on all our aircraft's control surfaces were Gregg Schuh and Jo and Jack Brinckerhoff, who visited us intermittently during their travels around the country.

George Sands joined Gil in 2007 as a partner in the art of attaching fabric to vintage airplanes. George was probably closer to Gil than any of the rest of us. He was told what needed to be done on one of the airplane's wings in the morning, and then would work at it the rest of the day by himself – always under Gil's watchful eye. Gil had all the confidence in George to do the job the right way. George and Gil formed a wonderful fabric-attaching team.





© Photo by Jim Hinckley

**Gil Brice and George Sands discussing the fine points of attaching fabric onto aircraft control surfaces.**

Some time back, George underwent shoulder surgery, and, in addition, broke his wrist on the other side. When his work schedule permits, he works both on our PT-19 and the F-24. His latest project on the latter aircraft is attaching the fabric “sleeve” to the fuselage.

Mike Hohls, a United Airlines pilot and a former 10-year USAF veteran, was another of Gil Brice’s students. Mike flew the Fairchild A-10 “Warthog” for the USAF. The A-10 is considered the most devastating fighter/bomber in the USAF. If you would doubt that statement, consider the now-defunct Iraqi Air Force, laid to rest in short order in 1991 in the deserts of Kuwait.



© Photo by Jim Hinckley

**Gil and Mike, with one of the F-24’s wings behind them.**

Mike came to work with Gil right after I had started working on the F-24 early in 2008. Much like George, Gil liked Mike right from the first day. After the first day on the job, Mike became the official spray-painter.

The four-man fabric team of Gil, George, Mike and myself, finished the F-24’s wings in 2008, attached them both temporarily to the fuselage, and then wrapped them up and placed them on movable storage racks that Gil had built all by himself.

After Gil’s death on April 11, 2009, Mike moved over to the PBJ Restoration Team, and is now their official spray-painter and fabric restorer. The PBJ is now looking bigger and better each day. Mike also joins George in working on the PT-19 with Mike Perrenoud – trying to get that aircraft flying soon. He will also be working with George on attaching the fabric sleeve to the F-24 (see Wing Page II on page 11).



© Photo by Dan Newcomb

**Gil Brice focusing on the fine points of placing the fabric on one of the F-24’s wings.**

Rest in peace, old friend. You will never be forgotten as long as I am a participant in this Wing, and, I’m sure, for a long time after that.



© Photo by Rich Witten

**Jim Hinckley, our Maestro of Memorials, who, along with wife Catie and Rich “Doc” Witten, has done much to keep the memory of Gil Brice and his accomplishments alive.**

## Wing Special Events Coming Up

On October 6, 2012, in the Aviation Museum Hangar, we will host a book-signing by famous aviation author, Bruce Gamble. His new book, “Swashbucklers and Black Sheep,” is a saga of the Marine fighting squadron 214 in WWII. See page 14 for all the details.

Our annual Hallowe’en Party will be in the Aviation Museum Hangar on Saturday, October 27. See the poster on page 18 for all the details. Calling all ghouls!

## More Viva Volunteers!

by Dave Flood

My second tribute article devoted to the CAF-SoCAWing Volunteers includes:

### The Aviation Museum Staff

They keep our Aviation Museum functioning – with continuous military aviation displays; special events; popular Gift Shop items, such as tee shirts and caps tied in with all our CAF-SoCAWing aircraft; organizing and storing military aviation artifacts, manuals, books, etc.

The stellar staff includes: John Woolley, Museum Director; Charles Carr, Jr., Display Manager and Model Guru; Ron Fleishman, Wing Historian; Janet Rizzoli, Gift Shop Manager; Cliff Brown, Collections Manager; and Jim Hinkelman, Librarian & Military Vehicle Guru. Jim Tierney, who for so many years was Collections Manager, has retired for health reasons. Another recent staff member who did an exemplary job on displays is Shirley Murphy, who has moved on to the Wing Training Staff. Sharon Dwyer pitches in as a “Deputy Director” and freelance photographer.

### Facilities Personnel

These volunteers keep our hangars current on safety; make sure the roofs don't leak; keep our city and county permits current; dispose of unneeded equipment and trash; keep our hangar floors and toilets clean; make sure our lighting and electrical service are working properly; and take care of a myriad of other concerns related to our physical plant.

The volunteers doing these important jobs are: Al Kepler, Dick Troy, Lloyd McAfee, Horst & Rudi Wallasch; Chuck McCammon; Jim Hinkelman and Casey de Bree.

### Personnel Management

These volunteers keep records of all CAF-SoCAWing members and monitor renewal of memberships.

They are: Shirley Murphy, Norm Swagler, and Casey de Bree.

### Financial Management

This important group “keeps the books” for the Wing – handling all the complicated financial dealings – including paying the bills; budgeting; paying all applicable local, county, state and federal taxes; compiling monthly, quarterly and annual profit & loss statements and balance sheets; billing accounts receivable; preparing for the CAF annual audit; etc., etc.

This fiscal fraternity includes: Craig Bennett, Finance Officer; Casey de Bree, Deputy Finance Officer; Norm Swagler, Dick Troy, John Woolley and Bill O'Neill, Budget Director.

### Purchasing Management

After our long-time Purchasing Manager, Chuck Williams, passed away, Gene O'Neal has stepped up and is doing an admirable job in this position. He handles requests for purchases from all departments – making sure our Wing gets the best parts and equipment at the lowest possible price.

### Cadet Training Program

A wonderful training program for CAF-SoCAWing Cadets has been started – headed up by Joe Peppito, the Wing's Training Officer, ably assisted by Jim Stirone and Shirley Murphy. Also assisting with the Cadets is Gayle Fischler, mother of Eric Fischler, one of our Cadets, and Carol Bachman, a Wing member.

They have learned to take apart and rebuild several radial aviation engines, and have repainted them and made cut-away custom displays of them for our Aviation Museum.

They are currently working on an R-3350 radial engine – the type used in the famous Boeing B-29 bomber.

At the same time as they are learning about aviation radial engines through a “hands-on” approach, they are also absorbing military aviation history provided by Joe Peppito, Jim Stirone and Shirley Murphy.

Our CAF-SoCAWing Cadets, past and present, include:

Austin Anderson	Mason Matzke
John Anderson	Britany McWaid
Keaton Burghardt	Kenneth McWaid
Benjamin Carow	Austin Medeiros
Samuel Carow	Nick Mejerski
Javier Chavez	David Merkley
Austin Comegys	Kasey Michell
Matthew Decker	Miro Moin
Alejandro Echevarria	Max Musson
Chris Eubanks	Ian Nelson
Eric Fischler	Ryan Osborn
Charlie Foulkrod	Adam Ramzi
Jason Fridlund	Zachary Ramzi
John Glatt	Aaron “Sean” Riddle
Breyden Good	Thomas Rix
Conner Greenslit	Robert Sanchez
Charlie Greulich	Jean Saute
Jonathan Hartley	Willem Schep
Andrew Henderson	Josh Spiegel
Eric Henderson	Shan Tambat
Alex Heuchert	Tommy Triplett
Griffin Howd	Forrest Van Stein
Derek Iudica	Sam Venable
Erik Jensen	Pierce Walker
Brittney Johnson	Kenneth Wang
Pace Lund-Sidi	Sean Williams

More “Viva Volunteers” to come next month.

## Wing Photo Page II: F-24 "Sleeve"



© Photos by Dave Flood

Prior to "fitting on" the fabric sleeve which will eventually cover the F-24's fuselage, George Sands, and Barry Roberts, cleaned all the wood surfaces.



Here George is beginning to set a support for the fuselage prior to the sleeve fitting.



The wooden support, with clamps, in place. The ends of the fuselage have bars attached, which will help to spin the aircraft when the sleeve is finally attached.



George and Barry unboxing the fiber covering prior to slipping it on the fuselage, from tail to cockpit.



The Fairchild F-24R with her frame finally covered. George & Barry checked to make sure there was enough material to fold under and around the attach points. Everything looked good for final attachment.



View from the tail. The fabric will tighten to the fuselage as it is heated. No stitching will be necessary, as was the case with the wings. George, Barry, and Mike Hohls & Norm Swagler will do the work soon.

## Aviation Museum Update

by John Woolley

The CAF SoCal Wing Aviation Museum would like to share with our Wing family - members, Friends and Cadets - some of the activities in which we are currently involved, some of our near future projects and, looking forward with much anticipation, our long-term goal - the start of the Museum renovation/Airbase Project.

Organizationally the Aviation Museum is comprised of the following five (5) units: (1) Admissions/Docents/Rides Program; (2) Library; (3) PX/Gift Shop; (4) Displays; and (5) Collections.

The **Admissions/Docent and Rides Program Unit** comprises numerically the largest number - twenty plus - of our volunteer Aviation Museum personnel. It should be noted that the revenue generated from this unit and the PX basically pay for the overhead of the Wing, with very little expenses other than the unselfish donation of time by our docents. Bill O'Neill heads up the reservation and coordination of the Wing Aircraft Rides Program - Mustang, SNJ-5, SNJ-4, and PT-19A - with the pilots and the public.

The Aviation Museum Director works closely with the Wing cadre of docents to insure that the Wing museum is adequately staffed to provide tours to individuals and groups, who visit not only from local areas, but from all over the United States and the world. We have lost some very valued docents over the past two years and are always looking for a "few good men" as he saying goes. Fortunately we have found some new, great replacements and interns from USUCI - but we need more.

The **Library Unit** is headed-up by Jim Hinkelman. After many months of developing a cataloging system, cataloging, re-arranging and installation of new bookcases, the Library will be opening for member usage beginning on Saturday, 9/29. To inaugurate the event Jim Hinkelman will be introducing Joe Pepito and Jim Stirone's Cadet Class to the Library and going over procedures for checking out books and video materials. Hinkelman has been greatly assisted by Friends volunteers Don and Cheryl Williamson who have developed a spreadsheet, cataloging system and have entered all titles. There are currently over 1,200 titles listed with an additional 2,000 plus books in storage that must wait until such time we have more space for bookcase shelving. Hopefully the Museum renovation/Airbase build-out project will make this possible.

The **PX/Gift Shop** is the total brain-child of Janet Rizzoli. She indicates that Wing blue polo shirts are now back in stock, including women sizes. Provision for the embroidery of names is also available at the cash register. The latest custom tee-shirt, PT-19, is now on sale, and the Spitfire tee-shirt is in the design stage. Mustang and Hellcat mugs are now for sale, and PBJ mugs will be arriving soon. Visit the PX to see all the great merchandise Janet has on

display. Not only will you be getting a great buy, you will also be supporting our Wing!

Charlie Carr is the head of the **Display Unit**. The Display Unit's goal is to preserve the historical significance and legacy of a wide range of military aviation events and aircraft - American, foreign, and even those of the enemy. Charlie is assisted by Ron Fleishman and Jim Hinkelman. They have developed some very interesting, accurate and visually effective displays. Near completion is a U.S. night fighter display to be followed by a display of WWII allied and axis night fighters. Other displays being considered are - allied and axis seaplanes and jet aircraft; transport aircraft; training aircraft; and gliders/towing aircraft.

Cliff Brown is the director of our **Collections Unit**. His responsibility is to accept donations on behalf of the Wing, send out thank-you notifications and to consolidate and store our collection. Two challenges he is facing are organizing our collection of uniforms, and also our substantial collection of large size graphics, posters, photographs, drawings and prints. The latter group fill a flat file over six (6) feet in height with some very fine aviation art. We need to find some help for Cliff in inventorying, organizing and storing our accumulation of uniforms, WW II military metal and cloth insignias, letters, pamphlets, manuscripts and scrap books.

On top of the above short-list of challenges, the Wing is faced with a shortage of storage space - which demands that we need to take a serious look at our total collection of books, artifacts, uniforms, memorabilia, art work, etc. and take measures to thin-out, give away, sell or send to other wings duplicate items or those not in condition for display. We may even be faced with not accepting further donations until we have addressed this problem.

Though not officially identified organizationally with the Aviation Museum, **Pat Brown, Public Information Officer**, performs a myriad of tasks for the Wing. She represents us out in the community. Pat has been responsible for up-dating/making available our brochures and spreading the word about our Wing with local chambers of commerce, service organizations and the press. Pat also handles all our advertising. She personifies the term "perpetual motion".

We are fortunate to have the following group of dedicated volunteers that make things work!

Ray Beck, Pat Brown, Charlie Carr, Len Carter, John Cutright, Russ Drosendahl, Sharon Dwyer, Kurt Ehren\*, Alex Fernandez\*, Ron Fleishman, Tom Harlan, Jim Hinkelman, Larry Kates, Don Katz, Paul Kleinbaum, John Knopp, Greg Mead, Walt Metcalf, Sheryl O'Neil, Bill O'Neill, Tim Phillips, Janet Rizzoli, Tom Roe, Don Sabol, Dan Schranze, Robert Smith, Rebecca Thompson, Jim Tierney, Al & Lois Watts, Avery Willis, and Ken Wright.

\* Intern

# Wing Photo Page III: Oktoberfest

© Photos by Dave Flood



On September 22 & 23, 2012, the Rotary Club of Thousand Oaks – Sunrise Chapter – held an Oktoberfest at our Aviation Museum. Here you see some of the booths, with our C-46 “China Doll” in rear.



And what would an Oktoberfest be without the proverbial beer keg, and a mobile one, at that. Note the Rotary logo on the tap handle.



Here “Steve” mans the booth for Rotary, with our Spitfire and Zero out on the flight line.



Our members took advantage of the opportunity, and advertised our Vintage Warbirds Ride Program. Here Jennifer Bauman and Roland Fogel welcome customers.



The Museum Hangar was transformed into a festive beer garden, replete with a band-stand.



The Rotarians donate their proceeds to many worthy causes. We are proud to have them at our Museum!

# BRUCE GAMBLE'S SWASHBUCKLERS AND BLACK SHEEP

The Commemorative  
Air Force SoCal Wing Welcomes  
the "Sweet Chariot" Tour



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2012 • 1:30-3:00 PM

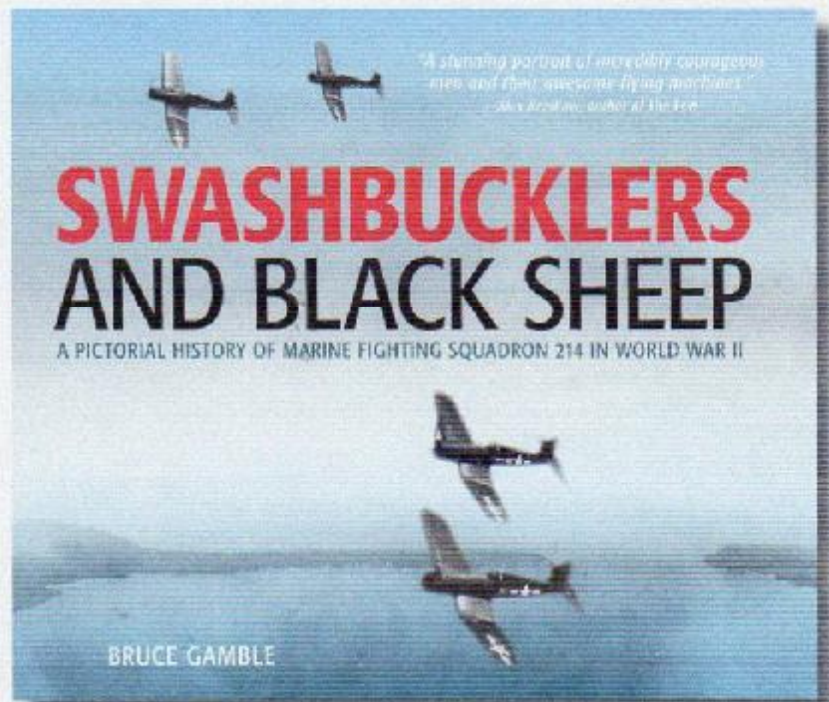
## ABOUT THE "SWEET CHARIOT" TOUR:

In 1947, a restless young Navy veteran named Jack Kerouac embarked on a cross-country journey of discovery from NYC to California and back. His autobiographical novel *On the Road*, based on that 6,000-mile trek, would become a classic of the 1950s. On the 65th anniversary of Kerouac's journey, award-winning author and historian Bruce Gamble will trace the entire route in "Sweet Chariot," a 1967 Mustang convertible named for a bomber his father flew in WWII. Throughout the trip, Bruce will celebrate the release of his new book **Swashbucklers and Black Sheep** through presentations and book signings.

## ABOUT THE BOOK:

**Swashbucklers and Black Sheep** is the first illustrated history of WWII's Black Sheep squadron, from their formation and first two combat tours as the Swashbucklers to the arrival of their legendary second commander Greg "Pappy" Boyington, after which they became the Black Sheep. The book details the squadron's combat over Bougainville and Rabaul, the story of Boyington being shot down, the squadron's exploits in the latter part of the war (while Boyington was a POW), and the heavy losses suffered aboard the carrier USS *Franklin*. It closes with their service in Korea, Vietnam, and the Global War on Terror.

Bruce Gamble is a retired Naval Flight Officer, cancer survivor, and permanently disabled – but above all, he is an award-winning author as well as a vintage car enthusiast. Bruce's literary awards include the Adm. Arthur W. Radford Award for naval aviation history and literature, received in 2010 from the Naval Aviation Museum Foundation. He has written five nonfiction books on World War II and appears in a half-dozen documentaries produced by the History Channel, Fox News Channel, and PBS.



Follow Bruce's progress at [www.mysweetchariot.wordpress.com](http://www.mysweetchariot.wordpress.com)  
See Bruce's titles at [www.zenithpress.com](http://www.zenithpress.com)

## Crew Chief Mike Perrenoud

By Docent Avery Willis



© Photo by Avery Willis

### Col. Mike Perrenoud, Crew Chief, Fairchild PT-19A

I'm part of the Friday docent team. Our day starts about 9:15 a.m. when we open the museum to be ready for guests by the 10:00 a.m. opening. We raise the American flag, turn the lights on, set up the cash register, open our C-46, and open the hangar door to the maintenance hanger.

This past year, every time we opened up, there was Mike working on Charlie Plumb's PT-19, as he was on most days. Sometimes he would help Rowland on the Hellcat, and still work on the PT-19.

As I would bring guests past the maintenance hangar, the usual questions I would get would involve our people who keep the airplanes flying. The first question would be: "How much do you have to pay aircraft mechanics?." The answer would be: "Actually, they pay the C.A.F. for the opportunity to work on our warbirds."

I wanted to get to know Mike and the rest of the guys and gals in the "other hangar" better. They are doing what makes the C.A.F. museum special - restoring, maintaining, and flying our WWII aircraft. So I will start at the beginning of Mike's love of warbirds.

Mike began as an Air Force jet mechanic during the Vietnam era, working on Air Force, Army, and Navy aircraft in New Mexico. He enjoyed working on airplanes. After leaving the Air Force Mike worked as a supervisor for Los Angeles Public Schools until his retirement in 2001. In 1996 Mike started volunteering as an aircraft mechanic at the Planes of Fame in Chino and fell in love with WWII warbirds. In 1998 he earned his A&P license. Mike worked with the Planes of Fame team for six years until me moved to Thousand Oaks. The commute was just too far, so Mike joined the CAF-SoCAWing in 2004 and was back working on warbirds.

In the summer of 2009, Steve Barber successfully landed the Bearcat at the Burbank Airport after the engine failed. Mike was one of the crew who volunteered to go to Burbank. After inspecting the engine, the crew determined that it was "totalled," and a hangar at Burbank Airport would be needed to replace the engine.

The cost to get our Bearcat flying again seemed out of reach. A good friend of the C.A.F. offered space in his hangar to work on the Bearcat. Matt Jackson donated an engine core, and Ray Anderson of Anderson Aeromotive did the overhaul. Mike worked 12 to 16 hour days in the summer heat getting the old engine out and the new engine installed. As the new engine was a bit different from the old one, Mike had to make many modifications to get everything right. Mike got a lot of help from Ken Gottschall. Their goal was to have the Bearcat fly in the 2009 Wings Over Camarillo Air Show. They succeeded! Mike said he learned a lot working with Ken.

Back to the PT-19 - this was going to be an engine change with a few other minor repairs. As Mike began working on it he found a lot of other things that needed work, including wiring, wood repair, brakes, and fabric work. Mike not only wanted the PT-19 flying, he wanted it done right. By Mike's high standards, the PT-19 is 99% right. As with the Bearcat, the goal was to have the PT-19 flying in the Wings Over Camarillo Air Show - this time in 2012. In order to meet that goal, the final work on the PT-19 was an all-hands-on-deck effort. Mission accomplished!

Mike got his pilot's license in 1976, and this year he bought his first airplane, a Piper 140. So, if you don't find Mike in the Maintenance Hangar, he might be out flying.

Some of Mike's favorite perks working at the C.A.F. are flying the PT-19, and taxiing any of the C.A.F. aircraft.

I asked Mike what it takes to be a C.A.F. mechanic. After thinking about it for a bit. Mike's first word was "perseverance." Things don't always come apart easily, and don't always go back together easily, either. Next, a good work ethic is critical as is a willingness to learn. When working on warbirds, new problems always pop up.

Mike is willing to train younger members to work on our warbirds, as long as they also come with perseverance, a willingness to learn, and a good work ethic.



© Photo by Eric Van Gilder  
Charlie Plumb's Fairchild PT-19A

## Wing's Air Show Schedule: 2012

Oct 5-7 Kingman, AZ F6F, Zero, P-51, SNJ-5  
Oct 12 – 14 Miramar Air Show F6F, F8F, SNJ-5, SNJ-4  
Nov 3, 4 Bullhead City Air Show TBD

Should you be planning to attend any of these air shows, please contact us at 805-482-0064 for updated information, as air show schedules may change.

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## New Wing Members

### Colonels:

Robert Cheveres  
Wes Harris  
Troy Kirby  
Randy Manes  
Richard Somers

### Cadets:

Chris Eubanks  
Breyden Good  
Jonathan Hartley  
Alex Heuchert  
Max Musson  
Willem Schep

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## Wing Christmas Party: 2012

Our Christmas Party is set for Thursday, December 13, 2012 at the Wedgewood Banquet Center, 5880 Olivas Park Drive, Ventura, CA. The banquet center is located at the Buenaventura Golf Course.

The social hour will start at 6:30, with dinner served at 7:30. We will wrap up by 10:00 p.m.

The dinner will be buffet style, featuring barbecue chicken, tri-tips of beef, salads galore, garlic bread, roasted red potatoes, beverage, and dessert. There will be a no-host bar available during the social hour.

Our annual Special Wing Auction will be held after dinner, with the inimitable David Baker as our auctioneer. Please bring your valuable items for the auction to the dinner. We will have tables on which to place them. It's all in good fun, and our Wing benefits greatly.

The cost per person is \$35. Please mail or bring your reservation with a check made out to: Southern California Wing to Casey de Bree. Our mailing address is: 455 Aviation Drive, Camarillo, CA 93010.

We look forward to having a good turnout this year. We have a lot to celebrate, and we are fortunate to be able to get together with friends, spouses, and families.



Col. Ken Gottschall flew our Spitfire XIV to Edwards AFB to help celebrate "Battle of Britain Night" with the UK's Test & Evaluation Squadron. Here it shares the ramp with the F-35 Lightning II, our newest fighter.



The Spitfire flies over the F-35, the latest strike fighter in the USAF/Navy/Marine arsenal.



© Photo by Frank Mormillo

Our Hellcat ("Mutha" Hubbard) and Bearcat (Steve Barber, Sr.) flying a Legacy Flight with a Navy FA-18 Hornet at the Reno Air Races in September.



## Wing Photo Page IV



© Photo by Eric Van Gilder

Tim Kutzbach, with his daughter, Camryn Grace, 2 ½. Tim took care of moving planes during “Wings Over Camarillo” Air Show



© Photo by Richard Witten

A sample of the photos that “Doc” Witten provides for air show customers who get their photo taken in our “Bluebird” cockpit. They also get a colorful folder.



© Photo by Dave Flood

The Cadet Training Program crew planning their next steps in making the R-3350 engine a display model.



© Photo by Dan Newcomb

Dan took this shot over CMA from Marc Russell’s T-34, after a long flight over the San Diego region. Note our hangars in upper left of the photo.



© Photo by Dan Newcomb

The PBJ Restoration Team, here showing John Syrdahl and Mike Hohls getting the front cowl on the left engine. The PBJ looked terrific at the air show!



© Photo by Dave Flood

Keith Bailey (left) and Trace Eubanks wrestling with the rebar to go on the bottom of the excavation for the eventual placing of the tower which will hold our display propeller, which should be erected soon against the south side of the Museum Hangar.



**HALLOWEEN** IS ALMOST HERE AND IT'S TIME TO GRAB A COSTUME AND COME OUT AND GET GHOULISH WITH YOUR FRIENDS AT THE COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE - SOCAL.

A Few Details:

Haunted C-46 "China Doll" and museum.

Live performances from 2 bands:

80's cover band White Leppard

Bar cover band Kyle Hunt and The King Gypsy ([www.kinggyp.com](http://www.kinggyp.com)).

Live (or is he?) DJ hosting and playing Top 40 before, in between, and after the bands.

Food, beer, wine, and well drinks will be available for purchase.

**Costume contest with cash prizes!!!**

It's a great way to celebrate Halloween and help raise money for our WWII aircraft.

Saturday, October 27, 2012  
8pm to 12am (or until we're dead!)

CAF WWII Museum and Headquarters  
455 Aviation Drive. Camarillo, CA

Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door.

Go to our [Gift Shop](#) to order tickets in advance and save \$\$\$.