ON APPROACH

We’re Back and better than ever with dedicated staff to make certain our members, volunteers and customers have a pleasant and enjoyable experience! After well over a month long hiatus due to the COVID 19 Pandemic, the Museum cooperating with local, state and federal guidelines, closed on March 23 and reopened to the public on May 8. With the reopening we are taking steps for social distancing to ensure a safe environment. This period was indeed a challenging and interesting period for the Museum and operations that needed to be done, maintain the grounds and our business transactions.

I must admit that it was so unusual not to have visitors at the Museum and on the grounds during this time! I along with our Facilities Supervisor held the Museum in a “caretaker” status as there are always needs to address. We have also branched out and have found new friends along with our old friends in the community who came forth and facilitated our every need during this time, which will lay the ground work to a fruitful relationship going forward putting the Museum in a much more positive position in our community.

From beautiful grounds, exhibits, and a fresh new gift shop look I know that you will be impressed when you visit us. Thank you to all those who have supported the Museum through the recent Pandemic emergency and got us through the turbulent skies and back into smooth air!

GIFT SHOP

Summer is here and what better way to spend it in the great outdoors amongst some beautiful historic aircraft. Here in the giftshop we have many exclusive items you can only get at our shop. We are keeping up with the latest and greatest trends, as well as keeping some of our inventory original, to accommodate every generations needs. The giftshop now offers gift certificates, which is a perfect gift for all our aviation lovers. Here at Castle Air Museum we take pride in the valleys most beautiful gems. If you would like any items in the giftshop please call 209-723-2178 EXT:307
As we adapt to the new norm, we are welcoming our restoration members back to the hangar. Good news is we have a lot of work being completed. New stands for the back door of the MC130 and a stand for the CH47 both with custom paint work. The GTD-21B is completely assembled and mostly painted including lots of marking. Our F100 has the silver paint going on. The F102 has the last corroded magnesium removed and one more patch to make and install. Our Jayhawk is completed and on display in Hangar 47.

I would like to make a shout out to our volunteers as we had to postpone our recognition dinner in April. Restoration has awards awaiting new homes. At the end of 2019 we have eleven members with 500+ hours. Four volunteer with 2500+ hours and six volunteers with over 5000 hours.

You are invited to follow us on Facebook Castle Air Museum restoration team.
Fantastic News: Castle Air Museum is back stronger and healthier than ever as we are now open to the public and continue to accomplish our mission of preserving and displaying aviation history for current and future generations.

In response to the recent and sudden world-wide pandemic of Covid19, Castle Air Museum had found itself in a very unique situation. Promptly and professionally replying to the state health advisors’ recommendations, Castle Air Museum had to cease operations for an extended period and restrict public, volunteer and employee access to the museum grounds for the first time in its history. This abrupt halt and habitual deviation affected us and caused changes physically, economically, and procedurally.

Castle Air Museum was rapidly inaccessible to the public, volunteers and most of the staff as a bare-minimum “skeleton” crew was retained to maintain and secure the grounds, building, and artifacts. These unadorned circumstances allowed the Castle Air Museum management and staff to roll up their sleeves and show the “Can Do” attitude that has permeated our mission for over four decades.

The unembellished staff of employees and volunteers found themselves with blended responsibilities, delicate workloads and a “Robinson Crusoe” working environment. It permitted us an opportunity to discover advanced managerial capabilities, novel approaches to problems and to venture into innovative ranges of thrift.

One of the more palpable changes is in my new assignment as the Museum Curator at Castle Air Museum in aggregation with my continued responsibilities as Facilities Supervisor. I find this opportunity as exhilarating and enlightening as I now have the unique occasion to work along with some of the finest restoration and preservation professionals in the industry and a new staff of enthusiastic, dedicated, museum specialists. I look forward to your comradery, continued support and positive attitude as Castle Air Museum enters into this new chapter.

I wish to take this opportunity to enthusiastically thank Castle Air Museum Facilities Volunteers Brian Silveria and David Griffin for the dedication, hard work and sacrifice they showed during this problematic period. Brian displayed his friendliness, mechanical expertise and endless energy as he assisted in maintaining the grounds and installing new irrigation systems to contribute in the ease of aircraft upkeep by the crew chiefs. David came to us from the RV camp volunteers and wholeheartedly took on the responsibility of evening and weekend security and unselfishly added his construction and mechanical expertise. Thank you, gentlemen, from all of us at Castle Air Museum.

As Castle Air Museum exits this turbulence, we look onward to a smooth mission in the remainder of our 2020 endeavors. “Come Be Amazed.”

FROM THE CURATOR’S DESK

Timothy D. Brown, Museum Curator

VC9 Nose Cone for Presidential Plane

Thank you California Radomes in Santa Clara.

Completed nose cone for Presidential VC9 plane.

VC9 nose cone in good hands.
Well this has definitely been an interesting few months!! Our usual rush of volunteers to come help get the museum ready for all our special events was halted by the vicious virus!! The outpouring of concern for the museum and all its’ programs was outstanding. We have moved past the roadblock and we are up and running again!!!! I am accepting volunteer applications and will be doing interviews by appointment only. We still need all Crew Chiefs and Crew members to come out and keep their aircraft clean and weeded. The good weather has produced a bumper crop of weeds. Facilities has been doing a lot of weeding and upkeep of the aircraft, but that is the crew chiefs/members job, so come out and check your aircraft to make sure everything is secure on it. I think you will be surprised when you see how well the museum grounds and facilities look due to the work of Tim Brown, Facilities Manager and his volunteer crew that came out. Grass still needed to be mowed, watered, and displays taken care of. Thanks Ed, Brian, Larry, and Cliff. You guys are great!!

Our Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner was unfortunately postponed and I am not sure when it will be rescheduled. I will definitely do something for our 2019 volunteers so stay tuned! We were also unable to show our appreciation to the UC Merced Interns that were working at the Hangar. As all the volunteers were not allowed to come out while we were closed, the Interns were unable to complete their hands on time with the Restoration Crew. Hopefully we can get a few back this summer. Our monthly Volunteer meetings have also been cancelled until further notice. Please follow our website for updates on special events, opening and closures and other notifications.

I was given this Youtube video to watch and I thought you might enjoy it as well. It involves the Thunderbirds and Blue Angels doing their fly over in New York City. Enjoy! Youtube.com/watch?v=1JESy0CnYPw

Life as a Volunteer
by Emily Pruzzo

My name is Emily Pruzzo and I have been volunteering at Castle Air Museum since I was 16, but I’ve been around the museum since I was in diapers! As a volunteer I come out every afternoon and do office work such a shredding paper, organizing, cleaning, stuffing envelopes and lots of other stuff. I also help with all the Special Events. I put in about 40 hours of volunteer work a month. I enjoy helping and it’s a rewarding thing to help the community, especially a cause as satisfying as this. It really warms my heart to give back!
Hello all. As I write this on the 14th of May, it is the first week the museum has been given permission to reopen. It has been trying times for all of us at the museum. From volunteers to staff and board members, we all are trying to fly through these never before flown skies we call Coronavirus.

It has been a long winter with little to no work on the aircraft due to the restrictions placed on the museum by local and state officials. As of now the grounds are open for washing and other maintenance work you choose to do. If you are coming out, let Joe or Tim know. Now is the time to get out and get your plane ready for display. The public has been pinned up over the last few months and now that we are open, we are hoping for large numbers of visitors wanting to see well-kept aircraft.

As for events, we will let you know as things change, however May OCD was cancelled. If we are lucky and the Governors large gatherings restrictions are lifted, we may be able to pull off a Fall OCD. I would like to end this by saying the Board would like to thank all of you for hanging in there over these trying times, we will get through this. You may contact me as needed at billemery5@aol.com or (559) 277-8081

Membership and Special Events

Happy summer Castle Air Museum warriors. I would like to introduce myself. My name is Laurie LeRoux and I have taken on the role of Events and Membership Coordinator. I take on these tasks with great enthusiasm and pride. I look forward to assisting the museum and our great team make the rest of 2020 memorable and successful. Many of our fundraising events were canceled or rescheduled for the fall, despite this fact, our team, volunteers and members have supported us through these unchartered times. With that said, Castle Air Museum is very grateful for all the kind words, donations, new memberships and membership renewals.

I moved to Atwater in May of 2018 from Gilbert, Arizona. I began my career in aviation, in my hometown of Winston-Salem, NC with Pace Airlines. Working as a Flight Attendant I soon moved to Phoenix, AZ to continue my career with Sports Jet later to become Swift Air. In 2014 I began as a Customer Service Representative at Gateway Aviation Services, located at Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport, the former Williams Air Force base. I will use my years of customer service to reach out all over the world to bring new attention to our city’s hidden gem.

I am looking forward to a long, successful career with the Castle Air Museum Family! Atwater is a truly blessed community.
We have settled on a brick design for our "Memorial Heritage Park" which will be installed in an area next to the SR-71 by the Castle & 93rd signs. The standard 4” x 8” brick will be available for purchase at $250.00 per brick. We have chosen the "Regimental Red" for the display. You may have up to three (3) lines of text with up to 20 spaces per line.

We have applications and photo examples in the office and gift shop if you are interested. Or, if you prefer we will be happy to mail you information on this project.

This will be a wonderful way to commemorate a loved one or an event and to support Castle Air Museum at the same time. Again, if you have any questions, please contact the office or gift shop.

CONTACT TIM BROWN, CURATOR - (209) 723-2178 EXT. 306
OR KIM HEYER, VOL. COORD. - (209) 723-2178 EXT. 303

Add additional sheets for each additional Brick ordered.