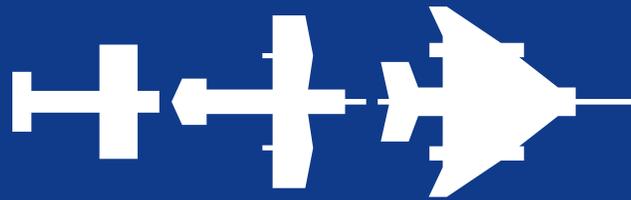


CONTRAILS



CASTLE AIR MUSEUM - PRESERVING MILITARY AVIATION HERITAGE

WINTER 2021

ON APPROACH

By: Joe Pruzzo, Executive Director

I am pleased to get this newsletter produced and out to our outstanding membership and volunteers! Thank you to everyone for your incredible patience during this period! The newsletter has been in hibernation the past year, and we are extremely apologetic for its hiatus. As with the rest of the Nation and the entire World, due to COVID, many items went on hold at the Museum, with a skeleton staff to handle the daily business and maintaining a safe place for Museum attendees to visit. In April we were honored to have Mr. Ralph Graham from Texas and who is 99 years young golf in our golf tournament fundraiser. Mr. Graham was a Radioman on a B-17 Bomber in the same formation led by General Castle on that fateful day, December 24, 1944.

2021 has been a much more productive year with our attendance up substantially over 2020 and with new foresight and goals! The Museum was able to execute several fundraising events, including both Open Cockpit Day events,

Golf Tournament, Korks and Kegs (Wine and Craft Beer Tasting) and more!

On the aircraft side of things, there has been much progress on the restoration of the B-58 Hustler. In March, we witnessed the arrival of our Grumman A-6E Intruder. This monumental effort led by the A-6 Intruder Association and Greg Smith, through which raised the funding to transport the aircraft from Tucson Arizona to Castle! We have the F-4S VX-4 Phantom II, and the F-117 Nighthawk in the wings which we hope both will be arriving in early Spring 2022! In 2020, we expanded the number of full hook-up sites in the Museum's RV Park, along with security cameras and Wi-Fi capability.

Our 2022 calendar is in planning for many exciting fundraising events, so stay tuned and keep checking our website along with our Facebook and Twitter postings.



Ralph Graham flew in General Castle's Bomber Formation



UH-1 Huey acquisition.

Thanks to sponsor Jameson Harvesting of Turlock for transport.



A-6E Intruder arrival from March of 2021 with Navigator Gary Poe and Pilot Greg Smith.



New restoration of the F100C Super Saber.



HANGAR HAPPENINGS

By: Jeff Heyer, Restoration Manager

We have most of our restoration team members back now. We don't have the UC interns program this semester. We did have twenty some students sign up as regular volunteers helping us plus they are gaining aircraft related experience. So far this year we returned our F-100 to display in NASA markings. We also moved two of the century series aircraft to avoid some pesky power lines that were above the F-100. We gained a very nice A-6E Intruder plus a UH-1N Huey Helicopter. Progress continues on our B-58 with the installation of two nacelles and one main landing gear restored. We restored a Firebee 1 target drone. October wind storms ruffled several of our display airplanes, with two returning to very short flights. Millions of fasteners over the last 40 years are getting sorted and put back into a bench stock. These fasteners have migrated to all points in our hangar over the years; now they will have a home and can be used when we need them. Remember that Castle Air Museum members are welcome to come visit the hangar on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays. We are always excited to show off our toys!



Folding wingtip installation on the A-6 E.



Restoration Mgr. Jeff Heyer pressure washing the A-6E Intruder.



Work on the B-58 Hustler.

Events Volunteer/Gift Shop/RV Park Coordinator

By: Don Covington, Events, Volunteer Coordinator

I am the new kid on the block, having come to Castle Air Museum in March, 2021. I was overly excited to start a new adventure. I am retired from the McLane Co. after 24 years, Wells Fargo Bank after 11 years and past President of Old Town Atwater. I guess you could say I'm a workaholic.

The last 8 months has been high pace and exciting. I now have two Open Cockpits, Korks and Kegs and numerous tours and other events under my belt. Our two Open Cockpit events were very successful, and each brought out several thousand visitors to the Museum. Korks and Kegs was a good event which brought out around 300 people. I need to mention that we have hosted a book signing for the book Speed, about the SR-71 by Bob Gilliland and another by Brian Shul who actually flew the SR-71 that is here at the museum.

Our Gift Shop here at the museum has been very successful this year, welcoming thousands of visitors. The shop carries a variety of military toy airplanes, shirts, flight jackets, hats and other items of interest. Come visit the Gift Shop as new items come in all the time.

Our RV Park has been very busy this year with monthly, weekly and daily campers. There is a constant call for space availability. The RV Park also has storage spaces for rent.



Our new Volunteer and Events Coordinator Don Covington.

IN MEMORIAM

NELSON "DOC" HOWLETT ~ CLIFF JAMES "MR. MUSEUM" ~ BARBARA WILLIAMS ~ RAY BAKER ~ KEN HAAS
B.A. HANSEN ~ RICK MORRISON ~ HUGH FLANAGAN ~ ROBERTA FLANAGAN ~ LARRY DUDDY ~ BILL FASTENAU

FROM THE CURATOR'S DESK

Timothy D. Brown, Museum Curator

Another winter approaches along with, and following, months of fluid and ambiguous pandemic quarantine mandates. That being said, there were some aspects of last year that could be considered in a more gladsome frame of mind. Despite the challenges, Castle Air Museum continues to perform its mission of providing a world-class military air museum and to supplying innovative and creative solutions while continuing to preserve military aviation heritage for future generations.

It has been anything but business as usual at Castle Air Museum over the past months. These notes will try to reflect and comment on what is being talked about most in the Castle Air Museum membership and staff family. There can be no doubt that the dominate subjects, at the present moment, is organization, volunteerism, and funding, and it is not confined to those who are professionally interested.



Greg Smith with the Intruder reunite after 24 years.



Former Pilot Greg Smith and Navigator Gary Poe were the last ones to fly our A-6 Intruder.



Thank you Supervisor Daron McDaniel for this \$10,000 donation.

Everyone who knows anything about Castle Air Museum knows that it is staffed throughout by hard working, competent people who are greatly distressed at being able to perform their duties to the desired standards and tempo. They struggle because their departments are understaffed, under funded and because they are under continual strain to find imaginative ways to exhibit, store, maintain and restore objects in their keeping. I write freely on this matter as we have become a mature museum with high expectations from our community both public and professional.

We at Castle Air Museum are recipients of “An Excellent Beginning.” Our staff is motivated, resilient and we’re ready for anything. We know our situation is straightforward compared to many others; being healthy, or lucky, yet we are lonely in an unusual way. We have been working seamlessly with a dedicated, yet dwindling, volunteer program. The safety of our personnel and volunteers is a main priority, yet minimal manning has affected our effectiveness as we find that keeping us connected now requires a much more diligent and deliberate approach. There have been difficult days and indeed may be some more ahead. We have endured nostalgic moments of farewell. We continue to look to the future, and all we must do to see the bright side is to visit our wonderful museum; spend some time with our dedicated staff and volunteers. The value received will sustain you, the Castle Air Museum, its staff and members.

2021 CASTLE AIR MUSEUM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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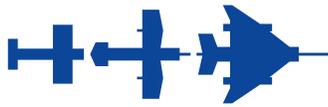
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The smaller of the above bricks will be the one used in our display. They are a standard 4"x 8"

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.

CASTLE AIR MUSEUM FOUNDATION, INC. "MEMORIAL HERITAGE PARK"

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Email: _____

Select: Number of bricks () Cost: \$ _____ (@ \$250.00 per brick)

Credit Card # _____ Exp. _____

Order Date ____/____/____

Text on Brick #1 (up to three (3) lines - with up to 20 spaces per line):

Text on Brick #2 (up to three (3) lines - with up to 20 spaces per line):

Text on Brick #3 (up to three (3) lines - with up to 20 spaces per line):

**CONTACT TIM BROWN, CURATOR - (209) 723-2178 EXT. 306
OR DON COVINGTON, VOL. COORD. - (209) 723-2178 EXT. 305**

Add additional sheets for each additional Brick ordered.