



# Snaproll II

## April 18th - Minter Field Aircraft Reunion & Fly-In



It's a new approach to holding an aviation event at Minter Field, and April 18th will be a day that many kinds of aircraft that actually flew at Minter Field will be reuniting in Shafter to recall the days of WW II.

You may be surprised to know that the B-25 Mitchell bomber was

actually based at Minter for training of pilots toward the end of the war. The B-25 "Executive Sweet" will be on hand, giving rides to those who long for the thrill that the Doolittle Raiders felt on their 30 Seconds over Tokyo. We'll also have rides available in the Vultee BT-13 Valiant, which was the dominant aircraft of the tarmac. This basic trainer took cadet pilots from the primary trainers like the Stearman and gave them the experience to move on to fighters and bombers. And if you would like the thrill of the wind in your face, we'll have a PT-17 Stearman giving rides too. Visit the Museum website: [www.MinterFieldAirMuseum](http://www.MinterFieldAirMuseum) for details on rides. Proceeds from these rides will go to support the Museum and our projects.

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MARCH, 2009

**INSIDE  
THIS  
ISSUE**

Right Seat	2
New Ideas New Blood	3
Fly-In Pix Page 1	4
Fly-In Pix Page 2	5
New Museum Lapel Pin	6
Membership Form	7
Volunteers Needed	8

### CALENDAR

#### April, 2009

**Saturday, April 18th**  
Minter Field Aircraft  
Reunion & Fly-In;  
Gates Open at 8am  
With Pancake Breakfast

25- Board Meeting  
8:30AM-Museum

#### May, 2009

16- Board Meeting  
8:30AM-Museum

#### June, 2009

20-Board Meeting  
8:30AM-Museum

### Four Year Project Starts to Take Shape

It was nearly four years ago that the Museum bought the materials for a 48' x 48' hangar to house the two aircraft we owned - a Vultee BT-13 and an Aeronca L-3B Grasshopper. Since that time, we have acquired two more unique aircraft that we hope will fit in there too. The Pietenpol Air Camper, built to original 1928 plans was donated in 2007, and last year, we acquired a beautiful Fokker DR.1 Triplane, like the one flown by the infamous Red Baron in WW II. All of these aircraft will be on display at the Fly-In in their current state of restoration. Like many other items in our artifact collection, these aircraft are unusual and quite unique.



## The Right Seat by Dean Craun, Vice-C.O.B.



On occasion, when Chairman Jim Whitehead is engrossed in other issues, I get the opportunity to pass along some of my thoughts about Museum topics. I can tell you from experience that writing a column like this every issue of the Snap Roll can get to be a chore. Even with as much going on as we do, it is a task to steel oneself to sit and write a couple hundred words or so.

So I'll start with an obvious question: *Why is the Museum holding a Fly-In on April 18th instead of an Air Show?* It's a simple question with a complex answer. It's a question of funding, resources, and manpower. Putting on an air show has become a very expensive undertaking. Last year's air show cost nearly \$75,000 to stage. The cost of fuel was a major expense, as usual. But there is so much more. It takes a pretty good stash of seed money to get an air show staged, even if much of the cost is born by the admissions at the gate. Sponsor money in today's economy is harder to come by. And the manpower and hours of planning are not to be believed. On top of it all, this year, we are finally moving ahead with the erection of our hangar. The expense of this project, now nearly four years old, has hit our bank account hard. So we made the decision to continue to hold an aviation event in the Spring, but one that we feel we can handle on all fronts.

The Aircraft Reunion will be an attempt to bring back the types of airplanes that actually flew at Minter Field in WW II. This includes the BT-13 primarily, but also means AT-6s, Stearman trainers, and even the B-25 Mitchell bomber, which was stationed at Minter in the latter part of the war. The one airplane that eludes us is the UC-78 (T-50) Bamboo Bomber. Flying models of the Cessna Bobcat, which was the civilian name, are few and extremely far between. We have exhausted several possibilities, but are still working on the task of bringing one to Minter. We'll let you know.

The Museum's new hangar, which is taking shape as you read this, is a project that started nearly four years ago when we purchased the materials at a substantial discount because the steel used was "old" steel, purchased before the price hike. After years of struggling, we finally took the plunge and committed to put it up. The proceeds of our 2009 Fly-In will go towards the cost of this construction. But we'll at last have the hangar we've been waiting so long for.

I must take this opportunity to ask our members and prospective members to take a few moments and send us your annual membership dues. Without the annual dues, the day-to-day cost of keeping the Museum open and paying the utilities would not be possible. To date, we only have 50 members who have renewed their memberships for 2009. We truly need your support. Won't you take time to fill out the membership form on page 7 and send us a check? The Museum's goal of keeping the rich aviation history of the Southern San Joaquin Valley alive as well as saluting those who contributed to that history depends on the generosity of our members. We thank you.

*Dean Craun*

Vice-Chairman

# New Ideas Drive the Museum Ahead

## New Blood Revives Motor Pool

The Museum is home to some unusual motor vehicles. A couple of WW II jeeps, including a bright yellow Follow Me version, a 1945 GMC Fire Truck that was based at Minter Field during and after the war, a recently acquired 1941 fire truck that is on loan from the City of Shafter, and a very special 1940s era Plymouth staff car that spent time at Gardner Field in Taft during the heyday of Minter Field's training days.

This car was recently give a thorough updating by one of our new Museum members. The engine, which has had a history of overheating for years was substantially revived. And it was decided to give it a new olive drab paint job too. During the sanding process, the original Gardner Field numbers and star was uncovered. Our motor pool specialist, Scott Hogstad, will be returning it to its 1940 look when final painting is finished. Scott has spent many hours giving his special brand of TLC to the car. Come out to the Museum on a Saturday and take a look at a real WW II artifact.

**Scott Hogstad Overhauls 1940s Staff Car**



## 2nd Annual Military Vehicle Show Scheduled for October 10, 2009

Last November, the Museum put on the very first Military Vehicle Show at Minter Field. With the help of members who are part of the ODD (Olive Drab Drivers) and own various military vehicles of their own, we brought together an impressive array of jeeps, cars, trucks, half tracks and even a Weasel.

The decision to hold our second event came easily. This time, we'll include a BBQ dinner after the event. And we'll repeat our raffle of a significant military firearm by offering a M1 Garand rifle as a grand prize.

**Marines Bring the Big Toys**



We hope to have tickets for the raffle available at our Fly-In. Tickets will be \$20 each, and we'll only sell a maximum of 500 tickets.

The event will include a swap meet of parts and specialties that will draw military vehicle enthusiast from all over Central California. So mark your calendars now, and be sure to come out to see what we hope will be a regular annual event to help raise funds for the Museum. You won't be disappointed.



Military Aircraft To See at Fly-In



Bombardier's View from a B-25 Mitchell - 2 BT-13s that will give rides at Fly-In



PT-17 Stearman rides for \$100 - Aeronca L-3B Grasshopper



SNJ - Navy version of the AT-6 Texan - Museum's new Fokker DR.1 TriPlane



**MFAM Pix Page**

**Non-Military Aircraft Welcome at Fly-In**



**Home Built**

**Ultra-Lite**



**Sport Plane**

**Harmon Rocket**



**1928 Design Pietenpol Air Camper**

**Burt Rutan Experimental VariEze**

Get your MFAM Membership Pin with your 2009 Donation



If you haven't sent in your 2009 membership to the Minter Field Air Museum, please check the Membership Program on the next page. There's a level to fit every budget, from a \$20 student membership to a \$10,000 corporate donation.

The Museum is buying a new MFAM Membership Pin, which will be sent to every 2009 member of the Museum. This handsome 3/4" pin can be worn proudly on your lapel, hat, or wherever you want to display your support. Please clip the bottom of the form and send your membership donation today. Thank you.

**Your Membership is the Museum's Life Blood**



**Kern County Sheriff's New Huey II Helicopter to be at Fly-In**



# MEMBERSHIP– Join or Renew Now for 2009



## MINTER FIELD AIR MUSEUM



### 2009 Membership Program

The support of our members allows the Museum to preserve the rich history of the San Joaquin Valley and educate the community on the important role played by Minter Field during WW II.

**\*Veterans receive 20% Discount on Pilot Level Annual Renewable Memberships**

<u>Member Recognition Level</u>	Newsletter & MFAM Pin	Warbird Cup	Warbird T-Shirt S M L XL XXL	MFAM Golf Shirt S M L XL XXL	Life Member – One-Time Fee	**Warbird Flt. in WWII Trainer	Leather Flight Jacket	Sponsor Plaque	*** VIP Status
<b>Pilot</b> (Basic Individual - \$40* Membership) Family - \$50* (Annual) Student (6-18) \$20	+		^	^					
<b>Senior Pilot</b> (Annual) \$100*	+	+	+						
<b>Command Pilot</b> (Annual) \$250*	+	+	+						
<b>Squadron Commander</b> (Life) \$500	+	+		+	+				
<b>Wing Commander</b> (Life) \$1,000	+	+		+	+				
<b>Division Commander</b> (Life) \$2,000	+	+		+	+	+			
<b>Air Force Commander</b> (Life) \$5,000	+	+		+	+	+	+	+	
<b>Supreme Commander</b> (Life) \$10,000	+	+		+	+	+	+	+	+

Your contribution is tax deductible – US Tax ID #953646320

*\*\*Warbird Flight in a WW II trainer)*

*\*\*\*VIP Status receives 6 tickets to the annual Warbirds In Action Air Show with VIP Parking,  
6 tickets to the Annual Founders Day Banquet in February.*

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Authorized Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Make Checks Payable to: Minter Field Air Museum**

**PO Box 445, Shafter, CA 93263**

E-mail: [mfam@minterfieldairmuseum.com](mailto:mfam@minterfieldairmuseum.com) - Website: [www.minterfieldairmuseum.com](http://www.minterfieldairmuseum.com)

3/23/2009

# MINTER FIELD AIR MUSEUM

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We're on the Web

[www.MinterFieldAirMuseum.com](http://www.MinterFieldAirMuseum.com)



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## Volunteers Needed for Fly-In on April 18th

Putting on an event like the Minter Field Aircraft Reunion and Fly-In is a tremendous undertaking. Even though this year's event is not an Air Show, there is still a huge amount of planning that goes into it.

This year we have committed to holding a Pancake Breakfast on Saturday morning from 8AM to 11AM. This is a favorite event at many Fly-Ins around the state, but one we've haven't tried—at least in the last 15 years or so. Hats off to Randy Randall, who stepped up to chair the event. We could certainly use some volunteers to help pull it off the day of the Fly-In. If this is something you could do, please call the Museum at (661) 393-0291, and leave a message on the machine. We'll get back to you and let you know how you could help.

There are many other things our volunteer crew cover. We are fortunate for the help of some supporting groups such as the Civil Air Patrol, the Sea Cadets, and other ROTC units. Both adults and youth pitch in to handle the parking of cars, working the admission gate, assisting with ramp activities, and clean-up at the end of the day. We want to thank all those who give freely of their time to make the event a memorable experience for all.