



# Snaproll II

## Holiday Open House on Dec. 18 at Museum

VOLUME 17 ISSUE 2

DECEMBER, 2010

**INSIDE  
THIS  
ISSUE**



Please Join Us for our Annual  
**Holiday Open House**  
Saturday, Dec. 18, 2010



At the

**Minter Field Air Museum**  
**20% Off All Gift Shop Items**



10am - 2pm  
Refreshments



Left Seat	2
Photo page	3
WASPs at Minter Field	4
Membership Program	5
Membership Join or Renew	6
1941 Class Book	7
Pistol Raffle	8

## Annual Board Seat Election on Jan 15th

### CALENDAR

#### November, 2010

- 11- Veterans Day Parade  
- Military Vehicle Show  
Bak RV Park, Wible Rd
- 20- Board Meeting  
8:30am-Museum

#### December, 2010

- 18-Board Meeting  
8:30am-Museum
- 18- Holiday Open House  
10am-2pm

#### January, 2011

- 15-Board Meeting  
8:30am-Museum
- 4 Board Seats Election-  
9:30am

#### February 2011

- 5- Founder's Day Banquet  
Hodels, Bakersfield

Each year at the first Board meeting of the year, elections are held for one-third of the board seats. The Board currently has 12 seats, so the elections of board members will be for the four seats in the rotation:

<u>Through</u>	<u>Current Board Member</u>
1/13	Dave Patterson
1/13	Dean Craun
1/13	John Cavanagh
1/13	David Day

All Museum members with current dues paid for 2011 are eligible to vote for board members. Current Board members may be renewed, or new board members may be nominated. Following the board seat elections, the Board itself will elect officers for the coming year. Current officers are: Chairman-Jim Whitehead; Vice-Chairman- Dave Patterson; Secretary-Gary Ebel; Treasurer-Dean Craun.

## The Right Seat by Dean Craun, Public Relations



On this rare occasion that our chairman is on the East Coast, and asked me to handle the Holiday message this year, I want to take this opportunity to wish each and every one of you the most Happy of Holidays as we wrap up another year. We appreciate the support of all who help us in our efforts to keep the memory of the past and recent present alive. To our hard-working board of directors and staff, thanks for a great year, and onward and upward to a successful 2011. We have lots in store as we move into our 30th year as a Museum.

We will be holding our Holiday Open House on Saturday, December 18th at the Museum. We'll have refreshments, and invite you all to come out and see the many new displays we've added over the last few months. Our gift shop is offering a 20% discount on all items. So come out and join us.

Please note that the date for our Founder's Day Banquet is Saturday, Feb. 5, 2011. It will be held again this year at Hodel's Country Dining in Bakersfield. Cost will be \$25 per person, and we will have the event on our website soon so you can make reservations. Or you can just e-mail us at [mfam@MinterFieldAirMuseum.com](mailto:mfam@MinterFieldAirMuseum.com). We are finalizing plans for an interesting speaker, and look forward to another evening of camaraderie.

The end of the year is the time for renewing memberships. We rely on our dues to pay the operating expenses: lights, phone, office supplies, postage and more. If you haven't renewed your membership for 2011, or if you've never been a member of our Museum, we urgently ask that you take a few moments to fill out the form on page 6 and send us a check. And most of all, we could sure use some extra people helping us by spending a few hours a month at the Museum.

It's a rewarding experience, meeting some of the interesting people who pop in unannounced. Last Saturday, two gentlemen from the L.A. area stopped by. They both worked at the Northrop plant during the development of the YB-39 and YB-49 Flying Wings. It was great hearing their stories of nearly 60 years ago during the development of what was the inspiration for the current B-2 Stealth Bomber.

Let's take a look at some of the projects we have planned for the coming year.

- AH-1 Bell Cobra Helicopter—This project is a partnership between the Museum and the Kern County Fire Department, which provided the Cobra we currently have at the Museum. We are assembling parts to be able to make a static display to honor the Cobra's role in Vietnam. The Fire Department recently provided the shaft to mount the rotor blades onto the transmission.

- M-37 Dodge 3/4 ton truck: After having spent many years in our bullpen, this vehicle is once again mobile. With the assistance of some of our Olive Drab Driver friends, it is set to be renovated to operational condition to join our jeeps, staff car and fire trucks for display and parades.

- H-34 Sikorsky Choctaw Helicopter— this bird was actually a part of the South Vietnam Army and has the bullet holes to prove it. The type also was widely used in the Korean conflict. We hope to bring it to a static display that would allow people to sit inside. Our Motor Pool gurus even think the engine may be resurrected to run. We received an almost operational engine stand for it recently. We recently acquired wheels and tires for it so we can move it around.

Other projects requiring manpower are the painting of our Quonset Hut and the outside of the Museum. We have other ideas for the inside of the Museum too. We just need your help to get them done.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR !!

*Dean Craun*

# Museum Activities

**Follow-Me Jeep at Volkslauf Mud Run**



**Glenwood Gardens visits Museum (Above)**



**Museum's T-33 & Aermacchi Jet Trainers Move to Hangar Grounds**



**Museum and ODD Drivers take 1st place trophy in Vets Day Parade**

## From 1945 Snap Roll Newspaper

### W.A.S.P.s Released from Minter Field in 1945



WASPS TO LEAVE--Above is a group of WASPS (Women's Airforce Service Pilots) who comprise Minter Field's girl fliers that will leave Dec. 20 when the WASP program will be inactivated. Reason for the inactivation is that Gen. Henry H. Arnold recently announced that by the 20th, there will be sufficient male pilots to fill all flying assignments in the states and overseas. Front row left to right, Lorena B. Daly, Ruth L. Steele, Julie Jenner, Imogene Barnes, Geraldine B. Masinter, Barbara J. Reimer, Second row, Evelyn Brier, Eleanor Gunderson, Ann Tucker, Barbara Hart, Marjorie Osborne. Third row, Pearl B. Brummett, Gertrude Dietz, Patricia Braun, Grace Ashwell, Mary Stimson, and Anabel Earp.

It is a historical fact that women served in the Military at Minter Field during WW II. We have photos and accounts of WACs at the field in a variety of roles. But it was also true that women of the Women's Airforce Service Pilots were also present at Minter Field, ferrying aircraft and serving as test pilots.

A few years ago, one of the WASPs pictured above, Eleanor Gunderson, appeared at our 60th Anniversary of Pearl Harbor salute in 2001. Eleanor stood less than 5 feet tall, but even at her advanced age at the time, she was a feisty woman. She told us of her time at Minter Field, flying many different aircraft, especially testing an AT-6 Texan. She put the plane through its paces and pronounce it fit for duty. As noted above, there were 17 of the lady pilots assigned to the base in late 1945 when "Hap" Arnold de-activated the group. Originally founded by Jackie Cochran to reduce the need for active duty men pilots to ferry aircraft, the WASPs flew everything from trainers to fighters to bombers. After all the controversy about the B-26 bomber being difficult to fly, the fly-boys jaws dropped when WASPs were chosen to fly them to England to begin their service in Europe.

# MEMBERSHIP– Join or Renew for 2011



## MINTER FIELD AIR MUSEUM



### 2011 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**

<b><u>Member Recognition Level</u></b>	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 (Basic Individual - \$40* Membership) Family - \$50* (Annual) Student (6-18) \$20</b>	+		^	^					
<b>Senior Pilot (Annual) \$100*</b>	+	+							
<b>Command Pilot (Annual) \$250*</b>	+	+	+						
<b>Squadron Commander (Life) \$500</b>	+	+		+	+				
<b>Wing Commander (Life) \$1,000</b>	+	+		+	+				
<b>Division Commander (Life) \$2,000</b>	+	+		+	+	+			
<b>Air Force Commander (Life) \$5,000</b>	+	+		+	+	+	+	+	
<b>Supreme Commander (Life) \$10,000</b>	+	+		+	+	+	+	+	+

Your contribution is tax deductible – US Tax ID #953646320

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

*\*\*\*VIP Status receives 4 tickets to the annual Air Show or Fly-In with VIP Parking,  
4 tickets to the Annual Founders Day Banquet in February.*



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ St \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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Membership Level: \_\_\_\_\_ #Members: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment: Check Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ Total: \_\_\_\_\_ **OR** Charge to my Credit Card ->

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_ 3Digit Code on Back \_\_\_\_\_ Total \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*Please Charge \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to my card for \_\_\_\_\_ month(s)\*\*

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)

Please Join Our Museum as an Active Member  
OR  
Renew Your Membership Now  
Good thru 12/31/2011

The address we sent this Snap Roll to has a code after your name with the last year that you have paid membership dues.

A2011=paid for 2011;      B2010= Last paid for 2010;  
C2009= Last paid for 2009, etc;    #Life=Lifetime Member

If you don't have a year code, then you have never joined the Museum as a supporting member. (X, Y, Z, V, etc). We cordially invite you to become a member and help enable the Museum to continue to grow.

If you have been a member, please renew your membership through the end of 2011. Recent Snap Rolls are available in color on our website: [www.MinterFieldAirMuseum.com](http://www.MinterFieldAirMuseum.com) .

We currently have 686 names on our mailing list. Of that, only 143 are current members of the Museum (Lifetime, 2010 and 2011). That leaves 543 of you who are not members of the Museum. We could really use your support in these trying times. We try to keep our dues reasonable. Annual dues go to keep the Museum open to the public.

If you're already a member and have the ability to help further, we would appreciate your donation. We have some great projects planned for 2011, but need funding to accomplish many of them.

Hope you can come and visit us at our Holiday Open House on Sat, Dec. 18th. We'll have refreshments and you can see some of the work we've done in the last year. And our Gift Shop will be offering a 20% discount through the end of the year. Please come join our dedicated band of elves !

## 1941 Echelon Class Book Shows Early Days at Minter Field



The KEEP behind "Keep 'em Flying."



A recent find at the Museum has added yet another Echelon Class Book to our collection. This one combined the class of 41-i and 42-a. It is one of the earliest class books printed, as the first troops were spread out over several camps in Kern County as they took their basic training in BT-13s.

Don Westfahl, our resident artifact, was a cadet at Minter Field and was in the class of 44-F. He has been compiling a database of names from the 29 Class Books we have (out of a total of 39). He has over 11,000 names in the file now, and can usually find a picture of a cadet or staff for many of the family members who come to the Museum. We are still looking for copies of 1944-H->K, and 1945 A->D, as well as 1942 H and J. If you happen to have one, or know someone who does, we would love to borrow it to scan. We have transferred scans of all the Echelons we have to CDs for anyone who would like to have one from our Gift Shop.

We have also scanned the Minter Souvenir Book which can be seen on our web page: [www.MinterFieldAirMuseum.com](http://www.MinterFieldAirMuseum.com) and is available on a CD in the Gift Shop.



On the weekends it's "milk (!) and honey.."



**Somehow, the Troops always found the "Honeys"**

**MINTER·FIELD**  
AIR MUSEUM

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We're on the Web

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



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Last Call to Purchase Raffle Tickets

**MINTER·FIELD**  
AIR MUSEUM

# Centennial Raffle

## SPRINGFIELD

### 1911-A1 .45 PISTOL

Pistol on Display at Valley Gun, 2728 Chester Ave, Bakersfield, CA 93301



**\$10 per ticket**  
**Drawing 12/31/2010**

Need NOT be present to win

Must be 18 to Enter

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