

PROP NOISE

The Membership Newsletter for The Military Aviation Museum

Spring 2017

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The Museum is in the News



Our museum got some serious recognition by appearing on the front cover of the May issue of the *Smithsonian Air & Space Magazine*. As if that were not enough, the issue also carried the eight page article “Jerry Yagen and the Fighter Factory” that the front cover billed as “Warbird Spectacular – The Ultimate FLYING Collection”.

Over the Beach show. He took notes in great detail and made several follow-up calls. Two years later, the article made it through the selection process, and now you can't find a copy of this magazine anywhere in Hampton Roads because it has gathered so much attention.

Freelance writer Tim Wright had interviewed museum founder Jerry Yagen two years ago at the annual Warbirds

A big thank you to Tim and the *Air & Space* editor and staff! Maybe this will help us not to be such a well-kept secret! ☐

Military Aviation Museum
www.MilitaryAviationMuseum.org

Virginia Beach Airport
www.VBAirport.com

Fighter Factory
www.FighterFactory.com

Warbirds Over the Beach
www.VBAirshow.com

Get Your Tickets: Warbirds Fly Over Virginia Beach at the WWII Air Show



Join us for the annual Warbirds Over the Beach Air Show, May 20 & 21 at the Virginia Beach Airport, home to the Military Aviation Museum. The Museum's aircraft from the 1940's and earlier will be on display and flying maneuvers. Plus, visiting aircraft from personal collections will be on hand from all around the country.

Rides will be offered by the Commemorative Air Force (CAF) and Bay Aviation. The CAF will be offering rides in the mighty P-51 Mustang, SBD-5 Dauntless and the aircraft made famous by the Doolittle Raid, the B-25 Mitchell! In addition, Bay

Warbirds continued on page 5.



HANGAR HAPPENINGS

A First for Colonel “Bud” Anderson

By Mike Spalding, Pilot



In February of this year, the National Warbird Operators Conference (NWOC) was held at the Military Aviation Museum. We were honored to have it in our city and to host the Saturday evening dinner at the museum. Winter is a good time to have this event because it is the off-season for air shows, and all are getting winter maintenance taken care of in preparation for the upcoming flying season. February, as most of you know around here, is a brutal month to do anything outside, one of them being flying. The runway is either snow covered, frozen or a soggy mess until spring. This year... temperatures were in the 70's, it was dry and very much like spring already.

NWOC is a gathering place for everybody that speaks Warbird. It's a chance to communicate with each other about flying, maintaining, ground handling, education and anything else you can think of that has to do with Warbirds. But never flying! This year was different. It was as though it was supposed to happen. We had toyed with flying the Mosquito during our event on Saturday night, but couldn't commit to such a thing because of typical winter weather. We decided to ask special guest and speaker Colonel Bud Anderson, if he would be interested in a flight in the Mosquito. "Bud" was a triple ace in World War Two, and without hesitation he said "Yes!"

We shared with Bud that getting in and out of the cockpit was a "young man's game" but he was not going to be deprived of his ride in the Mosquito.

Once in the cockpit, I gave him the cockpit brief on where everything was, what he needed to know in case of an emergency and how to communicate with me after we started the engines. He was on top of it all and taking it all in. He sat quietly during the entire flight. I offered to let him take the stick, but he graciously declined. After landing and shutting down, Bud asked "Do you have to switch hands to

Anderson continued on page 4.

Follow the Winding Road: The History of the Spitfire



Above: Dame Vera Lynn; Right: RAF Pilot Leonard E. Brooks and his Logbook



This story is an odd collection of related "bits and pieces", but it's been fun putting it together. Regular readers of Prop Noise know that our Spitfire fighter plane is a combat veteran of World War Two. They may also recall that we have color film of this exact aircraft flying from the island of Corsica in 1944.

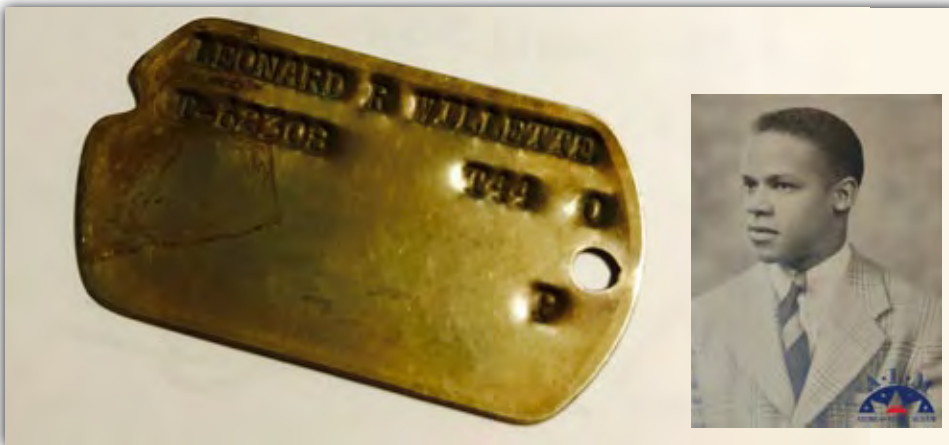
Film Director Billy Wyler, who shot the original "Memphis Belle" movie during the war was on the island of Corsica to film for a new movie about American fighter planes. During his shoot, a flight of Royal Air Force Spitfires arrived and Wyler shot the "Spits" doing "circuits and bumps" (take offs and landings). This film can be found on YouTube by simply entering "MJ730" in the search bar. It's a lovely clip, with period music along with it.

One of the pilots who spent a lot of time in this exact Spitfire was Royal Air Force pilot Leonard E. Brooks. His logbook shows 15 flights in 14 days doing armed reconnaissance over Italy in June of 1944 in the very same plane that resides here at the museum. We know this because his grandson Andy Wright will be coming to "Warbirds Over the Beach" to have his picture taken in his grandfather's plane, and Andy has given us photos of the pilot, the plane, and various logbook entries.

Now, back to the video clip and the "period music". One of the best known songs of WWII plays in this clip as our Spitfire and others are flying. It is the classic "(There'll Be Bluebirds Over the) White Cliffs of Dover" by Dame Vera Lynn. It was a "sensational hit" in 1942, and it lifted the spirits of millions of people all over the world. Museum founder Jerry Yagen was looking for an original recording (on an actual 78 rpm record, for those of us who remember what those are) of this song to use in an exhibit at the museum. Who did he write to? He went to the source, Dame Vera Lynn, who is still kicking and singing at the age of 100. Dame Lynn sent a lovely letter to the museum along with a wonderful signed photo shown here.

Oh yes, Mr. Yagen also found an original copy of the recording as well. Look for that to be playing soon in the RAF Goxhill tower on the actual wind-up record player that was used in the Officers Club at Goxhill! ☐

French Military Historian Gifts Museum with American Tuskegee Airman Dog Tag



Left: Recovered Dog Tag of Tuskegee Airman Leonard Willette; Above: French military historian Antonin DeHays

A few months ago, one of our favorite people, D-Day veteran Norwood Thomas, visited our museum. He had in tow with him French military historian Antonin DeHays. Antonin and Norwood have made several ceremonial trips to Normandy together and are good friends. They had come to the museum to have one of Antonin’s “bucket list” dreams come true, and to offer the museum a gift for exhibit.

The bucket list issue was to sit in a Spitfire for a while, Antonin’s favorite plane. That was easily done as Antonin and Norwood reminisced. Then Antonin held out his gift. It was a very small but very historic and personal item. But first, a flashback.

Leonard Willette was inducted into the International Artist Society at the age of only 17. This New Jersey native was a very interesting young man. He was offered an appointment to West Point, but preferred to get into WWII faster than that, and he enlisted in the military after Pearl Harbor. He graduated as Flight Officer T-62308 in early 1944 at Tuskegee Army Airfield and was assigned to the “Red Tails” operating out of Foggia, Italy.

On September 22, 1944, Lt. Willette was flying his P-51, “The Wrong Woman” escorting bombers to Munich, Germany. His engine lost oil pressure, and he was last seen looking for a hole in the cloud

deck. The German authorities found his crash site immediately, and he was buried the same day. Leonard’s mother Lenore received a telegram from Eleanor Roosevelt to express her sympathy, because Eleanor and Lenore had worked together in the past.

Antonin’s gift was a dog tag recovered at the crash site, stamped “LEONARD R WILLETTE T-62308”. We have since communicated with the American Legacy Museum on the West Coast which owns uniforms, documents, and three years of research on Willette. Look for more on this brave young American in the near future. □

Local Artist Tags the Museum



Almost every Virginia Beach resident has seen the murals painted around the resort area on the outside of buildings. There are tributes to First Responders such as this police dog missing his handler. They are moving and quite amazing pieces of art by local artist Todd Lindbergh. Todd is very talented in tricking the eye of a viewer into thinking they are seeing actual scenes with his use of forced perspective.

Todd had always wanted to do something here at our museum, so we challenged him to take a look at

one of the paintings that Mr. Yagen always commissions when he gets an important new plane. The celebration of our “Mossie” was a painting of the famous “Operation Jericho” raid on the Gestapo prison at Amiens. That excellent art was done by Mr. Marc Stewart who gave his permission to have his painting be the inspiration for a mural.

Todd’s mural is on the second floor of the museum, and it delights everyone who sees it. There are Mosquito fighter-bombers climbing away from the Amiens attack,

but they have escaped the framed painting on the wall. No, wait, there is no framed painting – it’s all part of the mural. It’s great fun to see guests walk up to the mural trying to “look behind the frame”. Our thanks to both Marc and Todd for creating this fun and entertaining exhibit for guests of all ages.

Marc’s work can be seen at the museum and at <http://aviationart.homestead.com>, and Todd’s work can be seen at <http://www.muralsbytalent.com> and at the museum. □

MUSEUM NEWS

Meet New Museum Staff Member Greg Mills



As our museum plans for an eventual transition from a privately owned world class collection to a sustainable community asset, our sources of funding for museum expansion and education need to diversify. The museum has brought to the team our first Development staff member to lay the groundwork for attracting corporate and individual major gifts and sponsorships.

Greg Mills joined the museum in 2017 with 16 years of non-profit development experience, much of it with an aviation museum. Greg was part of a team that attracted significant attention and funding to the Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor. Greg has worked extensively with the Washington, D.C. representatives of major defense contractors and other potential sponsors, and he is already working with our Advisory Board to build a local network of museum supporters.

If you know someone that Greg should get to know, call him at (757) 712-7767. □

Anderson continued from page 2.

retract the landing gear?" I replied yes, that was the case. He then replied "That's the British for ya, they did the same thing in the Spitfire. Doesn't make any sense."

I thanked Bud in that short private moment before opening the door to the gathered crowd outside for his service and how it was an honor that will be with me for the rest of my life to have been able to take him for a flight in the Mosquito. He is one of our country's true American heroes! □

Event Preview: The Flying Proms at the Museum



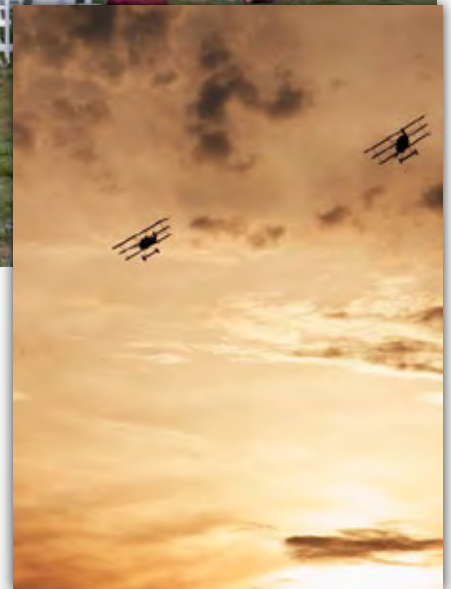
Get your tickets now!

The Military Aviation Museum is hosting its 7th installment of the Flying Proms Symphony Air Show on Saturday, June 10th. The Museum is also pleased to have Symphonycity back as the orchestral partner for this year's event.

The Flying Proms is the only event of its kind in North America. It offers guests a truly unique experience getting its roots from the United Kingdom's traditional Proms. The first half of the evening's entertainment will feature aerial displays from select museum aircraft, accompanied by musical selections from popular aviation-themed movies. As dusk falls, and the planes land, the second half of the performance will commence, featuring an assortment of patriotic and pops music.

It is during this part of the evening that our guests will hear, many for the first time, one of the beautiful aviation-themed compositions ever written. For those who love everything about the magic of flight, this is an evening not to be missed. Festivities culminate with a fireworks finale provided by Zambelli Fireworks.

Come early, bring your lawn chairs, beach blankets and stake your claim in the field for the best seats. Bring your family, friends and neighbors for an evening picnic while waiting for the concert to begin! Better still; why not reserve one of our Tent Chalets for your whole party that includes tables, chairs, electricity and ice service throughout the evening. Food vendors will be on-site to solve your dinner worries and of course the Museum will vend beer, wine, soda and water as a fundraiser to help keep these warbirds flying.



Proms gates open at 3 p.m. with the concert starting at 7 p.m. Come out early and enjoy the museum's hangars, aircraft and the friendly confines of rural Pungo! □

2017 Volunteer Safety and Coaching Meeting



The Museum reconnects with volunteers during our annual meeting.

Recently, the museum held its annual meeting of the volunteer corps to award service badges, discuss air show season safety issues, and just catch up on what's going on at the museum. Director Mike Potter started the meeting by observing that the "mandatory" annual meeting didn't quite fit with the volunteer nature of the group. He also thanked the volunteers for such strong dedication on a Saturday morning in the spring, with no less than 80% of the volunteer corps in attendance.

Board of Directors President Dr. Edward George attended the meeting to recognize the



astonishing achievements of the group and to help present the awards. While Dr. George had been to the museum many times, it was the first time he got a true sense of the level of commitment and generosity of spirit that the volunteers bring to the museum. He was quite impressed, and left the museum with even stronger hopes for a bright future for MAM. □

Warbirds continued from page 1.

Aviation will offer rides in their PT-19, a World War II primary trainer. These four aircraft are in addition to our two museum plane ride birds, the single passenger 1941 Stearman and the two passenger Waco biplanes.

You will truly feel like you have stepped back in time with numerous re-enactors camped on site representing all facets of World War II troops. Enjoy continuous musical entertainment from the 1940's beginning both days at 10:00am and running throughout the weekend.

We are honored that several veterans from World War II will be at the event, sharing their experiences. What a way to kick off Memorial week celebrations. Get the unique opportunity to shake the hands and thank the ones that fought for the freedom we now enjoy!

Travel to Virginia Beach, where German submarines once hunted merchant ships in the Gulfstream waters. Look up in the sky, where you will see fighters and bombers of our armed forces patrol the countryside to protect our homeland from the Axis forces. If you are coming from out of town, stay at one of the many hotels that overlook the ocean, or at the Holiday Inn Virginia Beach where you will get the Warbirds Over the Beach special rate.

Come visit and see the impressive line-up of meticulously restored vintage aircraft that will be on display and soaring above. For ticket prices and packages, please visit our website www.VBairshow.com. □

Meet Your Museum Board Member Dr. Edward George

Dr. Edward George is an Associate Professor of Medicine at the Eastern Virginia Medical School, and a board certified Hematologist/Oncologist with Virginia Oncology Associates, based in Norfolk, Virginia. He is very active in the community as a board member of Towne Bank, the Sentara Health Foundation, and other organizations as well as our museum.

Dr. George has been a pilot for several years, and currently flies a "glass cockpit" Cirrus SR22 SE. The doctor became President of the museum Board of Directors in 2016, and is currently heading the effort to involve the board in the creation of a sustainable Military Aviation Museum for the future.

Dr. George offered the following comments on his work with the advisory board and Mr. Yagen:

"Over the past year, Mr. Yagen and the Board have been exploring a variety of initiatives, seeking ways of strengthening the financial position of the Museum, and securing its enduring presence. We have sought and obtained expert outside evaluations and advice

from aviation museum experts, and combined this with the deeply qualified advisory contributions of our dedicated Board members. We have been very fortunate to have a very diverse and motivated Board, who will work with the Yagens to be sure that their legacy is preserved for the future, and that the Museum assumes an ever increasing role in the education and entertainment of the public, well into the future. We are now considering a variety of options to make our Museum financially self-sustaining.

We recognize the tireless efforts of our volunteer corps, who have shown amazing skill and knowledge of our Museum artefacts, and who have capably communicated these to the visiting public. The result is a high quality experience for the visitor, a living representation of our vital military aviation history, rendering the Museum at the top of the list of Virginia Beach attractions. The volunteer corps is fundamental to the continued growth and development of our Museum." □



OUR COMMUNITY

Warbird Aviation Summer Camp 2017



The Military Aviation Museum is pleased to announce the dates for its 2017 Warbird Aviation Summer Camp. From Monday, July 17th through Friday, July 21st for boys and girls rising into 4th Grade through 11th Grade, will have fun learning about the great collection of the Military Aviation Museum, warbird restoration, aeronautics, air combat, flight operations support and their future in aviation.

This year's camp will feature 4 groups based upon your child's school grade.

- **Group 1 Cadets - Grades 4 to 5 (half day):** Learn about the basics of flight. Explore the wonders of propulsion with your very own homemade rocket. Talk to real pilots.
- **Group 2 Virtual Aces - Grades 6 to 7:** Learn about fighter planes and how pilots fought them. Learn

how to fight them, too, on a computer simulator.

- **Group 3 Plane Captains - Grades 8 to 9:** Learn what it takes to keep these warbirds in the air, how to get them ready for flight, protect them from fire and how they are moved.
- **Group 4 Probees - Grades 10 to 11:** Look into the theory of flight including gliders and museum aircraft. Provide the basic knowledge of numerous aviation career and pleasure activities.

This promises to be quite the experience and one that any young aviator surely won't want to miss!

For additional information, rates, questions, and registration, check out our website at: http://www.militaryaviationmuseum.org/summer-camp_2017.html, or contact the Military Aviation Museum's Gift Shop at (757) 721-7767. □

The Museum Hosts Girl Scout Fest 2017

The Military Aviation Museum was proud to join with the Girl Scouts of the Colonial Coast to host GIRL SCOUT FEST 2017, which took place on Saturday, April 29th at the Military Aviation Museum.

This event was open to the Girl Scouts of the Colonial Coast, which has more than 10,000 girl members and almost 6,000 adult members. Their service area covers all of Hampton Roads and northeast North Carolina reaching from Gloucester and the Northern Neck all the way to Ocracoke Island.

This year's GIRL FEST theme was "Explore Aviation" where the girls discovered a wide range of careers and pastimes available in the world of aviation. The goal was to raise awareness towards the array of career opportunities available to women in the aviation industry. The girls visited various stations set up throughout the venue, to practice and/or learn team building and socialization skills. Many participants from local businesses, military and government agencies and individuals came to support the Girl Scouts while the girls learned more about science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) career

paths in aviation. Visiting aircraft from around the area participated including the Virginia Beach Police's Jet Ranger, Sentara Hospital's Nightingale helicopter, WAVY-TV's Chopper 10 helicopter; Epix Aviation from Chesapeake Regional Airport flew in their general aviation aircraft. Dave Von Rump, a Museum volunteer flew in his aircraft and represented the Experimental Aircraft Association's Young Eagle Program designed to introduce flying to a new generation of youth. Civil Air Patrol helped with crowd control and safety and brought one of their search aircraft in for a visit. NASA Langley had a display of their UAV research devices and a celebration of their centennial anniversary.

Other participants included commercial airline pilots, Aviation Institute of Maintenance (AIM) technical college staff and students, Naval Air Traffic Controllers, and the Tidewater Soaring Society glider group from Windsor, VA. One of the highlights of the day



Girls Scouts of the Colonial Coast

was when the Girl Scouts and visiting Country Western singer SaraBeth help load an H-60 from Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 22 with 200 cases of Girl Scout Cookies compliments of the USO of Hampton Roads and Central Virginia for our Navy sailors assigned at sea.

What a day! □

The ABA Conference: Speed Dating with a Twist

By Mitchell Welch, Event Coordinator



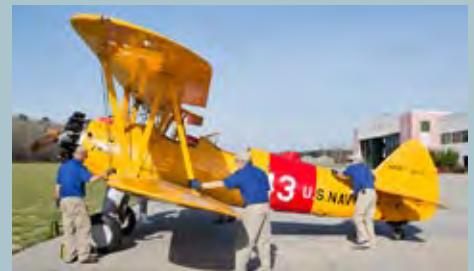
You are nervous, your hands are sweaty and you've practiced your shtick! You have 7 minutes to make a great first impression, sell yourself and make it halfway across the conference floor to the next 7-minute appointment. In a nut shell, that was just part of what I got to experience at my first American Bus Association's (ABA) Annual Meeting & Marketplace this past winter.

The ABA conference provides access to hundreds of bus and tour owners and operators throughout North America who plan tours for millions of passengers each year. The motorcoach and group travel market continues to evolve and expand. Given the opportunity to sit in front of tour operators and personally market our museum to them is already paying dividends. Our first ABA was

in 2016...and it takes nearly a year to harvest the work because most tour operators have already scheduled their calendars through the early winter by the time they come to ABA. The 2016 conference helped produce numerous tour bus visits to the museum this year. On one of these tours we will host 275 guests for a visit and evening meal under the wings of our naval aircraft.

My appointments—I made it through 24 of them—combined with other local reps visiting the Virginia Beach Convention and Visitor's Bureau's Booth display, who I partnered with at ABA, made for a very successful trip. New faces, old friends and networking are all key to bringing more people to our world class museum! □

The Military Aviation Museum Wants You!



Have you ever thought of volunteering your time at a world class aviation museum? Do you enjoy meeting people from around the world? With the number of guests and events increasing significantly each year, we also need to increase the number of dedicated docents (qualified tour guides) and volunteers.

If you share a special interest in the history of military aviation in the first fifty years of flight and can spare a minimum of eight hours per month, this may be your calling. If learning about our exhibits seems overwhelming at first, why not begin as a volunteer? Our volunteers work at such varied tasks as events (dinners, weddings, air shows, etc.), library, gift shop, wheeled vehicle mechanics, facilities, briefers/greeters, duty desk, security, event parking, building trades, etc. We need many volunteers to ensure the safety and success of each event.

If you'd like more information, please contact Warren Curd, Volunteer Coordinator at (757) 721-7767 or at volcoord@aviationmuseum.us. If you're sure you want to become a volunteer, complete the on-line application under the "Volunteer" tab of the museum's website, www.MilitaryAviationMuseum.org.

Why not join a dedicated corps of volunteers who share the common bond of keeping alive the history of military aviation and sharing it with our guests? □

EVENT CALENDAR

Warbirds Over the Beach

Back in action, with new additions to the fleet, the air armada of the Military Aviation Museum will be on display on land and in the air for three days in May.

MAY 19-21

Virginia Beach Crime Solvers Pig Pickin'

Attend the annual Crime Solvers Pig Pickin' on Saturday afternoon. Enjoy BBQ, entertainment, flight demonstrations, and help raise funds for the Crime Solvers.

JUN 3

The Flying Proms

This distinctive outdoor occasion combines the best of both worlds: a live performance by the musicians of Symphonicity, in concert with demonstration flights by the aircraft of the Military Aviation Museum.

JUN 10

Warbirds & Wings Aviation Summer Day Camp

Register your children for this memorable MAM summertime tradition. Campers will learn the fundamentals of flight, and will enjoy multiple field trips. Ideal for children ages 9 to 14.

JUL 17-21

6th Annual Mid-Atlantic Dawn Patrol R/C

Early 1900's Radio Control (R/C) models will take to the air as builders and enthusiasts convene near the museum's World War I hangar to display and demonstrate their work as part of Tidewater Radio Control's 5th annual Mid-Atlantic Dawn Patrol. Come out and enjoy the fall event!

OCT 3-8

Biplanes & Triplanes Air Show

Take a step back in time as we recognize the War of the Nations. Experience a journey to the dawn of aerial combat and discover where the term dogfight originated. Join us at the historic style buildings of the Military Aviation Museum, located at the Virginia Beach Airport.

OCT 7-8

1949 Douglas AD-4 Skyraider



ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

Open Daily
9:00 am - 5:00 pm

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Membership Newsletter for the
Military Aviation Museum



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