



# PLANES OF FAME AIR MUSEUM

NEWS

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PoF's latest acquisition now on display, a Russian Yak-3 fighter in French Normandie-Nieman paint scheme.

Photo By: Michael O'Leary

## 4th Annual 'Taste of Flight' Features Battle for the Pacific ~ Pearl Harbor to Japan

You don't want to miss this year's 4th Annual Taste of Flight, scheduled for Saturday, October 23rd, featuring California wine tasting, fine dining, a program highlighting the Battle for the Pacific, aviation and wine-themed silent auction items, and up-close encounters with the Museum's rare aircraft and the pilots who fly them today.

Taste of Flight has helped Planes of Fame Air Museum to successfully pursue its mission to collect, restore, display and preserve the Museum's collection of aircraft and memorabilia. The 2010 goal is to raise funds towards restorations of aircraft such as America's first jet, the P-59 Aracomet; the Japanese "Val" dive bomber, and O-47, as well as continuing development of the education program in the Hands-On Aviation center for children and a planned Korean War memorial.

The evening program commemorating the "Battle for the Pacific – Pearl Harbor to Japan," will feature Jonna Doolittle Hoppes, author and granddaughter of General Jimmy Doolittle, who will facilitate the panel of Veterans sharing their stories of WWII in the Pacific.

Participants include Jack Hammett, a Navy medic at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941; Col. Perry J. Dahl, a P-38 Ace in the 475th Fighter Group with a service record spanning

nearly four decades; Charlie Stroehner, TBM Avenger pilot and one of 833 survivors aboard the USS Franklin when it was bombed and nearly sunk by the Japanese on March 19, 1945; and Marine Master Gunnery Sergeant



Andrew Benjock, who served in World War II, China, Korea, Beirut and three tours in Vietnam.

Continuing to build upon last year's event highlighting Astronaut Bill Anders and the Apollo 8 mission, the Taste of Flight fundraising gala planning committee has been working behind-the-scenes for months acquiring the most unique and rare auction

items, researching fantastic speakers and their stories, inviting new wineries, creating advance publicity, and soliciting sponsors. Chaired by Karen Hinton, members include Susie Newman-Harrison, Debra Relly, Penelope Hecker, Meg and Jan Kylander, and Andrea Eldridge.

Advance individual tickets for the Taste of Flight can be purchased online at our new website [www.planesoffame.org](http://www.planesoffame.org) where sneak previews of selected auction items and featured wineries can be found.

To become an event sponsor or reserve a table, call **Karen Hinton at 909.596.4754**. The Planes of Fame Air Museum and Taste of Flight also have a Facebook page with all the latest special event news. Join us *Where Aviation History Lives!*



The ToF Committee from left to right: Andrea Eldridge, Debra Relly, Penelope Hecker, Karen Hinton, and Susie Newmann-Harrison.



## Our Volunteers



Mustangs ready for their "mass gaggle" flight during the PoF Airshow 2010.



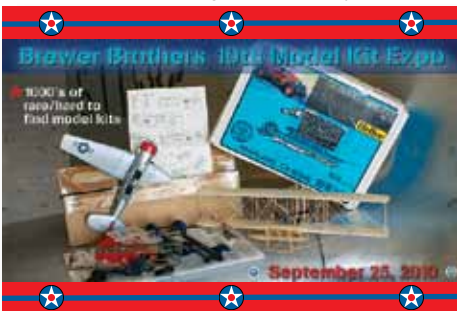
Messerschmitt Bf109 lifted out of a Russian lakebed in 2003 is now on display.



The Planes of Fame pilots are ready to put on another awesome Airshow!



The largest Planes of Fame Airshow crowd EVER having a fantastic day.



Don't miss the Model Kit Expo; vendors all day Saturday, September 25, FREE for PoF Members!

## President's Message



Steve Hinton, Planes of Fame President, with the Museum's silver Bearcat.

There are so many things here at Planes of Fame Air Museum that we can all be proud of and certainly one of the finest is the annual Airshow that improves with every year. It is truly an event that could not be accomplished without the ongoing and year-round assistance of our volunteers and sponsors. Again I would like to personally thank every individual who put in the time and effort to bring this Salute to the Greatest Generation to the public. And nearly 40,000 people from around the world were in attendance making this our largest Airshow to date! The same goes for our Planes of Fame Fly-In at Valle Airport near Grand Canyon with a record number of Member flights for this year's enthusiastic crowd.

I hope to see everyone again at our fourth annual fund-raising gala, the 'Taste of Flight' on October 23rd here in the Maloney Hangar. It's shaping up to continue the trend of chart-topping events held at Planes of Fame. Look forward to more eyewitness stories shared by our WWII Veterans during their Battles for the Pacific from Pearl Harbor to Japan, as well as great wineries

pouring their latest vintages just for us to taste, and one-of-a-kind aviation and wine-related auction items for your bidding pleasure and our fund-raising. Bring your friends and help keep 'em flying!

Note that we have changed the hours during which Planes of Fame Air Museum is open to the public. Saturday hours remain unchanged, the Museum will be open from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm. Sunday through Friday we now open one hour later at 10:00 am, closing at 5:00 pm which we expect to be a cost-saving measure.

Since the Northrop Flying Wing and our latest acquisition, the Yak-3 Russian fighter, were airworthy in time for the Airshow, we are refocusing on the OV-1 Mohawk as a Salute to Vietnam Veterans and continuing efforts to get "Piccadilly Lilly", the P-59, the Spanish 109, the Navion and the VAL back in the air. Routine maintenance required on the Stearman and T-6 is underway and both should be up shortly. And of course our eyes are always peeled for the next rare wreck to be rebuilt. Check out the individual Progress Reports on the Restoration Projects page of our new website for the latest news and updates on all of our Planes of Fame Air Museum projects.

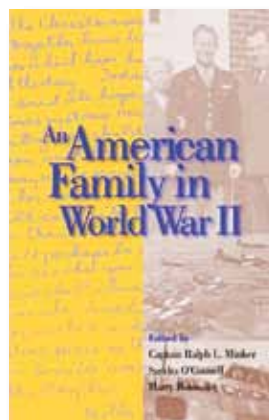
### Keep 'em flying!

Steve Hinton  
President  
Planes of Fame Air Museum



**PLANES OF FAME**  
AIR MUSEUM

## ALL THINGS B-17



Book Signing in time for Holiday shopping! **Meet Sandra O'Connell, author of 'An American Family in WWII'** about B-17 pilot Ralph Minker Jr., Saturday, December 18th during her presentation and reading. And, back by popular demand, a \$20 donation will get you a Planes of Fame B-17 "Return to Flight" Team T-shirt while contributing directly to the B-17 Piccadilly Lilly Restoration Fund. Available online or in the gift shop.





## OV-1 Mohawk Project at PoF ~ a Salute to Vietnam Veterans

By: Jim Dale

The Mohawk Project has been a team effort from the start. We could not have come this far without many of the volunteers who have assisted. In July of 2006 I spent eight weeks in Opelousas, LA during the first attempt at recovery of our Mohawk. It had been sitting for an undetermined amount of time, but the locals were pretty sure that it had been through at least three hurricanes. Apparently this is how you measure time in Louisiana. Mike DeMarino came down from Atlanta and helped along with Joe Scheil from Palm Springs. The airport community was also very helpful and at one point several of the local pilots came out to wax. No easy task since it had been sitting in the sun for the last six years. After an initial five weeks of work the Mohawk was still winning and I returned to California.

It was rumored and later confirmed that the reason the Mohawk ended up in Opelousas was that it had a hydraulic failure of some kind. When we put the airplane on jacks and hooked it up to a hydraulic mule it leaked from every corner. The mule we rented was not properly wired and you could feel a slight tingle when you touched the airplane and had the mule running. Of course we gave the job of putting the gear up and down to Joe. He would stand on a wooden ladder and try to reach into the cockpit and move the gear handle without touching or getting near any metal parts of the airframe.

First flight was in October and identified several squawks that needed to be addressed. After putting several hours on the airplane directly over the airport I was ready to start on the trip to California. It started out on the day before Thanksgiving. I made it to central Texas in two legs, completed three legs the next day and hoped to get to Tucson to have Thanksgiving with my family. Got stuck in Pecos, Texas waiting for the FBO operator to finish his turkey dinner. Done for the day, I missed dinner. On the departure out of Las Cruces, the



Photo By: Frank Mormillo

The 'OV-1 Mohawk' photographed by Frank Mormillo over Lake Matthews on a return flight to the Planes of Fame Museum, Chino, California.

highest, hottest airport that I would fly out of, the left engine failed right after takeoff. After determining there was no more that I could do, back to California I went. Rented a car and headed off into the sunset.

Fortunately Planes of Fame had a spare engine. It came with a Schlepp attached to it. We determined that it would be easier to change engines and continue the flight to Chino. Dick Cole volunteered to help with the engine change. By April 2007 I could take the time to rescue the Mohawk again. I would fly and Dick would drive the truck with all of our "stuff" in it. Dick was able to keep up with me due to the time I was on the ground fixing things. We both stopped in to see Mike "Maj" McDougall. The next leg would be on to California.

Then I lost all hydraulics. I put the gear handle down and yawed the airplane in an attempt to lock the gear. After several gyrations I heard the hydraulic system groan. The system pressure came up long enough to lock all three gear and then dropped to zero again. At least I had three green. Now all I had to contend with was a no flap, no steering, no brakes landing.

After surviving an engine failure during takeoff, how bad could this be? So far Dick was making better time than I am. Another repair was made and I was on my way again. So much for travelling by air. I made it to Palm Springs just before dark and Dick made it all the way to his home in L.A.

One more leg delivered the Mohawk to its new home at Planes of Fame complete with photo shoot over Lake Mathews and a safe landing at Chino. All along the way people were willing to give their time and efforts to continue helping to get this historic aircraft back in the air—thank you all for your ongoing support!

*Note: We are very close to getting the Mohawk back into the air where she belongs. Our goal is to fly the Mohawk at air shows as our "SALUTE TO VIETNAM VETERANS". As you can imagine the Mohawk needs some work and financial support. If you are able to give, it would be greatly appreciated. If you have questions or would like to tour the Mohawk, please contact Planes of Fame Air Museum volunteer and project coordinator, Scott Turner.*



## Planes of Fame Airshow 2010



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