



PLANES OF FAME AIR MUSEUM

NEWS

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Photo: Frank Mormillo

Aviation legend, and this year's 'Taste of Flight' Keynote Speaker Robert A. "Bob" Hoover with the fabulous Manhattan Dolls singers.

2012 TASTE OF FLIGHT GALA A GREAT SUCCESS!

By Jonna Hoppes

Planes of Fame did it again making this year's Taste of Flight the largest to date! The 340 guests were transported back in time by The Manhattan Dolls – thank you Ace Clearwater for underwriting the dolls airfare! – and they enjoyed another excellent dinner catered by Spaggi's.

The featured wines this year came from Bella Luna, Venteux, Pianetta and Jack Creek Cellers. Beer, a recent addition to the event, was provided by Hangar 24, Anheuser Busch of Pomona, Dale Brothers and Stone Brewery.

Bob Hoover proved that there is such a thing as an "old, bold pilot" when he regaled the crowd with stories from his rich history as a test pilot and air show stunt pilot. The years melted away and the audience saw a young Hoover tempt fate while expanding the limits of aviation. There is a good reason why

Jimmy Doolittle called Hoover the best stick and rudder man that ever lived!

An event like this couldn't take place without great sponsors and Planes of

Publications, Paul Bordewich, Tom Nightingale, Richard Hodgkinson and all the guests who supported the museum by attending and bidding on an array of spectacular auction items. Bidding

was particularly heated for the Cal Aero bicycle and the DFC Society book autographed by 47 recipients. We want to thank all those companies and individuals who donated items for the auction whose generosity helped us reach our goal

And speaking of our goal, this year's event raised \$93,000 – helping to keep

our planes in the air and to educate the American public. Many thanks to the volunteers who worked on the event including Meg and Jan Kylander, Susan Newman Harrison, Valerie Maloney, Jerry Wilkins and the Planes of Fame volunteers!



Bob Hoover keeps the guests riveted with his incredible aviation stories. (above)

Steve Hinton welcomes Bob Hoover. (right)





WITH YOUR HELP THE P-59 AIRACOMET WILL FLY IN 2013!



Planes of Fame has been offered an amazing opportunity to get the P-59 in the air in 2013!

An anonymous donor has put up \$25,000 as a matching grant to raise the \$50,000 needed to finish the P-59 restoration.

For every dollar up to \$25,000 donated, a dollar will be given. But please act fast! We only have until March 31, 2013 to raise the funds to qualify for this offer.

Donate through the museum website, drop your check off in the museum gift shop or mail it in, but do it TODAY! Your generosity will be doubled AND the P-59 will take to the skies again!

RESTORATION UPDATE: L-17 NAVION 'LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL'

By Jurrie van der Woude



For those of you who have kept an eye on the L-17, it may look like nothing happened for a long time. But every Thursday and Saturday we have steadily been plugging away at her. The results are that basically from the firewall forward she is done.

We succeeded in obtaining a new mixture-control cable as well as a prop-control cable. The propeller is in the shop for the required check-up and we are waiting for the verdict. You may also notice that each of the landing-gear legs now has a brand-new landing light, and a beacon was installed under the fuselage.

The area of attention is now inside the cockpit itself. The plumbing is installed, the sidewall panels look great, we have 2 acceptable pilot seats and new carpet is on the floor.

Due to a recent generous donation from Paul and Cindy DeLaurell we have nearly all parts needed to complete the restoration!

Thank you for helping the Planes of Fame volunteers bring yet one more aircraft closer to airworthiness condition. Someday soon we will have a flying L-17 Navion!

President's Message



Planes of Fame Air Museum President
Steve Hinton with Bearcat.

Another year almost gone and so much to show for it here at Planes of Fame!

Not only did we have successful air shows at Chino and Paso Robles, Planes of Fame aircraft participated in 11 other shows in 2012. Kevin Eldridge and I flew POF aircraft in numerous Heritage Flights. John Maloney, John Hinton and Steven Hinton packed up the Zero for exhibition in Japan and just finished assembling it there, where it will be until next summer. It was a busy year keeping the warbirds flying. But with your support and a lot of help from our volunteers, we have had a terrific flying year again.

Speaking of flying, our air show will be held May 4-5, 2013 with the theme "Lightning Strikes" featuring the P-38. We hope to have five flying for the show which will really be something to see. The P-38 National Association and

the 475th Fighter Group have been so supportive of the museum and we would like to honor them and all WWII veterans with this display.

This year also brought the inauguration of the museum's education program, the Aviation Discovery Program. If you are at the museum Wednesday through Saturday, stop in and say hello to Christina Brown, the ADP coordinator. We have renamed our hands-on learning center the Aviation Discovery Center and Christina and the volunteers will have it open every Saturday in 2013. And look for Christina to add some activities for kids at our monthly Living History events next year as well.

I keep getting ahead of myself, talking about next year. But so much at Planes of Fame is like that. With your support, we are able to plan ahead and make great things happen. An anonymous donor has offered \$25,000 as a matching grant to get the P-59 in the air in 2013! How great would it be to get a photo of America's first operational jet, the P-59, with its latest, the F-22 Raptor in 2013? With your help, we hope this will come about.

Happy Holidays!

Let's keep 'em flying!

Steve Hinton
President



PLANES OF FAME
AIR MUSEUM



THE SEVEN BILLION AND THE THREE

By Kevin Thompson

In September, the Planes of Fame Air Museum teamed up with the Estrella Warbird Museum in Paso Robles, California for the first annual "Warbirds Over Paso" airshow at Paso Robles airport.

I was invited to be the airshow co-announcer for that event, and was privileged to ride up to Paso and back to Chino in the rear seat of Planes of Fame's Douglas SBD-5 Dauntless.

The museum's SBD-5 was built at El Segundo, California in late 1943, and served with Royal New Zealand Air Force in the South Pacific where it flew 25 combat missions against the Japanese. It is currently the ONLY FLYABLE SBD Dauntless in the world.

On our way out to Paso, and on the return trip, we flew in formation with the Northrop N9MB Flying Wing, piloted by Ron

Hackworth. Ron was head of the Flying Wing restoration project at Planes of Fame, and it took some thirteen years to bring this rare

As with the SBD, this N9MB is the only flying example in the world, and is flown at numerous airshows every year.



Top: PoF's Douglas SBD-5 Dauntless prepares for flight. Right: PoF's one-of-a-kind Northrop N9MB Flying Wing, photographed from the Dauntless.



As we flew along the California coast, I took some in flight photos of the N9MB from the back seat of the SBD with my cell phone camera.

As I rode along in the SBD (and briefly got to take control of the plane), I thought about what a rare opportunity and a blessing these rides were.

With Ron Hackworth on our right wing, and Tom

Nightingale up front at the controls (with me in the back), I said to myself "There are seven billion-plus people in the world. And right now, at this time, the three of us are doing something that no-one else in the world is".

And that, in itself, is pretty cool...

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A GIFT FOR THAT HARD TO SHOP FOR PERSON!

Are you shopping for one of those people who have everything? We have the antidote to your quandary: Purchase a Planes of Fame Air Museum memorial bench in their honor! A name, company, squadron etc. can be engraved on a sturdy bench that will be positioned in one of the seven hangars at the Museum. Your wonderful gift will give visitors an attractive, convenient resting place AND be a tribute to the individual or group you "gift" the bench for.

Benches are \$1,500 and help the museum further its mission. Call or e-mail Kristen Maloney to order your bench today! Kristen can be reached at (909) 597-4754 or at Kristen.maloney@planesoffame.org.



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