Thanks to many donors and volunteers the 9th Annual Taste of Flight Gala was a special evening. We were able to host a silent auction of incredible items, special luxury packages, and aviation treasures, as well as provide wine tasting from key Paso Robles wineries, beer tasting from noted breweries, vodka tasting and delicious food from gourmet eateries. Funds raised at the event will support the ‘Aviation Discovery Educational Program’, create new displays for Planes of Fame Air Museum and contribute to ongoing restorations and preservation of aircraft to help educate future generations.

We were honored to have Clay Lacy, an aviation legend, as our keynote speaker. Clay Lacy has achieved worldwide acclaim for his indelible and lifelong contributions to aviation as a commercial airline pilot, service in the Air National Guard, test pilot, aviation company founder, aerial cinematographer, National Air Races champion, National Aviation Hall of Fame inductee, and an extraordinarily experienced pilot. Clay has been the recipient of many prestigious awards and honors and is this years recipient of the Planes of Fame Achievement in Aviation Award.

Thank you for being a Volunteer, Donor, Sponsor, Member, Supporter, and Contributor to the continued work of preserving Aviation History for Future Generations.


Top left: The participating caterers supplied the most amazing food! Thank you!
Top right: Britt Dietz Photography donated some gorgeous pictures for the silent auction.
Photo 1: POF President Steve Hinton and Clay Lacy behind the Mig Ace Bike that was custom made and donated for the event.
Photo 2: POF Karen Hinton presents Clay Lacy with the first annual Achievement in Aviation trophy.
Photo 3: POF Supporters Triple Ace Col. Clarence “Bud” Anderson and Mark Foster enjoying the Gala.
Held on the first Saturday of each month the 'Living History Flying Day' events are educational and inspirational. The topic for the August 1st event was 'Whistling Death', featuring the Vought F4U-1 Corsair.

We were fortunate to have 5 veterans, all 90 yrs old or older present. CDR Mitchell Flint, Col. Richard Watson, CDR Bill Hardy,Lt. Col Mel Locke and Lt. Col William R. Lucas gave us first hand accounts of their experiences in the F4U Corsair during WWII and Historian Kevin Lucas presented an overview of the aircraft. The presentation was followed by a question & answer period and flight demonstration of the Vought F4U-1 Corsair. After the flight demonstration the guests were invited to the Planes of Fame Theater to watch “Flying the F4U Corsair” a 20 minute instructional film produced jointly by the U.S. Navy and the Chance Vought Corporation. Over 350 guests were in attendance to enjoy the Veteran's presentations, flight demonstration and movie. "TWO GUYS GRILLING" was on hand BBQing hamburgers and hot dogs and kids were making candy airplanes in the Aviation Discovery center. A fun and informative time was had by all in attendance.

Some 75 years ago Flight Captain Erich Warsitz made the first jet powered flight in the Heinkel He-178. This unique jet powered aircraft was the brain child of the noted and famous aircraft designer, Ernst Heinkel. The Heinkel He-178 made its first flight August 27, 1939. Erich Warsitz made test flights in some of Ernst Heinkel's previous aircraft like the He-112 Luftwaffe fighter.

During the summer of 1936, Ernst Heinkel heard about a new German engineer and designer, Hans Pabst von Ohain, and he hired him to design a new jet engine for the He-178 jet aircraft at Heinkel's Rostock Laboratory. The He-178 was fitted with the engine, the He-S2B, which was first successfully run in September 1937, attaining 1102 pounds of static thrust. Heinkel had kept the He-178 a secret from the German Air Ministry, a fact that he later regretted as the Air Ministry would have nothing to do with Heinkel's new He-178 design.

This full size replica of the He-178 was built by George Lucas for the Planes of Fame Air Museum in Chino, California. It took almost 4 years time to build the aircraft.
The restoration of the Spanish version of the German Messerschmitt ME 109 is progressing well. This airplane was used in the movie “The Battle of Britain” and restoration started about 7 years ago.

Our restoration crew consists of Bert Bruckman, George Orff and Justin Nihitshuiji. This airplane will get a complete restoration. The 109 has been stripped of all paint and primed. Hydraulics has been rebuilt, all electrical wiring and controls will be replaced and a new instrument panel that closely resembles the German original has been fabricated. Cockpit, canopy, cockpit controls and control surfaces, wheel wells and outer wheels, instrument and landing gear including a tail wheel has been rebuilt and reformed.

The museum is also doing restoration of a North American O47 (The “O Bird”). This restoration is lead by 30 year volunteer John Benjamin, Dick Horst, Dave White, Greg Pascal, Robert McCain, John Zink, Bill Buchanan, Roger Long, Larry Glover, John Petersen, Phil Claypool are also involved. This airplane was a basket case and suffered fire and water damage. Wings and control surface along with hardware, actuators, cockpit, canopy, engine mounts, landing gear are being remade or overhauled. The airplane will require complete hydraulic, electrical, instrument and systems fabrication.

We volunteers would like to thank Les Watson of Watson Hydraulics, Jorge and Louis Torres of CPPG Chrome/Machine services and Luis Garcia of Anodyne (Cadmium plating) for their GRATI’S contributions. As the museum is a non profit endeavor, these three save us time and money. It is very much appreciated.

Pictures by: Frank Mormillo
Volunteers Bert Bruckman, George Orff and Justin Nihitshuiji work on the Hispano Aviacion Ha1112 Buchon.

Restoration Updates

Why is history important? Well, with human nature being what it is, history repeats and if we knew ours, perhaps we can avoid some of the mistakes made in the past. Maybe we would be more interested in studying it if we renamed it Oursstory, because that's what it really is. History tells us about ourselves, what our forefathers did, how our family members were affected and as a result, why we are who we are.

Here at Planes of Fame we are surrounded by historical aircraft and on most days, we are transported to bygone days by the firing up of an engine or two. Thank you for your renewing your memberships and making donations to Keep 'em Flying. Your generous support enables us to pursue our mission to preserve and display historic aircraft!

But the aircraft are only part of the story. When we connect our visitors to the PEOPLE, they leave feeling less like they've had a history lesson, and more like they've heard a story. New displays telling the stories of the people who flew the aircraft will be in place by year's end, thanks to the generosity of Jeff Harris' family. Many thanks to all of you who donated personal items from your family archives that we can add to our displays to educate the public.

Do our children learn U.S. History in school? You might be surprised to learn how little history they are actually taught. Most cannot identify our founding fathers, much less why and whom we fought in WWII and WWI. We work hard to fill in that void and this year doubled the number of students participating in the Aviation Discovery Program. Thank you to the donors who supported the Aviation Discovery Program.

Our newest program is the Kilroy Coffee Klatch which is held at 9:00 the first Tuesday of each month. Veterans and their guests are admitted to the museum free of charge and offered coffee, some light refreshment and a chance to visit with other veterans. Starbucks have donated the coffee but we are still looking for refreshments sponsors for future meetings. Offering our veterans a safe place to share their stories is central to our mission in honoring our veterans.

And of course none of this would happen without our wonderful volunteers and staff!

Planes of Fame has prospered for 58 years because you have given generously of your time, talent and treasure. New challenges await and we hope to have your continued support as we move toward 2016. Can we ask you to give an additional gift to help Planes of Fame? Perhaps you’d like to commemorate a loved one with a personalized bench. Or maybe you’d like to fund spark plugs for the P-51 for a year. Or look over the enclosed flyers to see if one of those programs strikes a chord with you. And of course, general operating support is always greatly appreciated.

Thank you for being a part of our story and for your belief that Oursstory matters!
Are you shopping for one of those people who have everything? We have the antidote to your quandry: 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 email Kristen Maloney to order your bench today!

Kristen can be reached at (909) 397-4754 or at Kristen.maloney@planesoffame.org.