



"READY ROOM"

NEWSLETTER December, 2014

Our Mission is to increase the public's awareness of aviation through the flight of historical aircraft, while supporting our local children's hospital.

Downwind : by President Doug Woodruff



In the years I've been associated with our Museum although I have always loved watching our ladies fly, loved working on projects for the Museum, and enjoyed listening to all of you describe the experiences you've had with the planes, I've never had the privilege of actually going up in one of our planes until this past Saturday.

From the donning of the flight suit (yes, I know, I had to get the biggest one in the closet) to the back seat brief, the feel of the vintage cockpit and instruments – it is an adventurous step back in time. Pete and I flew the T-28 Bravo on a day that could only be described as PERFECT for flying. Light winds, cool temperatures, not a cloud in the sky, very little air traffic – in short, nothing between us and Heaven (maybe I should say "a little heaven on earth" since the only things between us and "Heaven" were Pete's excellent piloting

skills and a pair of wings).

Why do we put in the long hours? What is it that inspires us to tasks that, on their face, are unpleasant, dirty and difficult? I've always thought I understood and that I "got it" but it was at the moment of lift-off behind the distinct throaty roar of the radial engine that I got a deeper insight into one of the many facets that our beloved Museum is about and it was all reflected in the huge stupid grin on my face!

Let's keep putting huge stupid grins on our faces – but, just as important – let's keep sharing and putting huge stupid grins on the faces of those around us!



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COMMUNICATION



Activities have continued to be busy since our last issue of the Ready Room Newsletter. We celebrated our Veterans with two fly overs. There was a Maintenance Day for the C45H. But the big activity was the move of “752” to Rome, Georgia. Work has been done on updating our Distribution List to our members and those who wish to be kept updated on Museum activities. What a chore! We now have over 300 names on our list! Also having taken place was the annual Mess Night. And there was the brief visit which was made to the Smithsonian. You will really enjoy



reading about that experience! It was an opportunity of a lifetime! I would like to take this opportunity to thank those of you who are kind enough to furnish us with

such excellent photos to be able to share with everyone. Among those are Hal Randle, Doug Woodruff, and Christine Lewis. And a special thanks to Christine, who uses her expertise each month in situating the photos with the various activities and articles.

“752’S” ROME ADVENTURE



Sometimes, things go through as easy as can be. Sometimes, they create problems. And other times they just flat out become an adventure and a challenge. We knew the move of the 752 T-28 from Hixson to Rome, Georgia, would be a



challenge. We just didn’t have any idea as to how much a challenge it would prove to be for us! First of all, Chairman **Jim Beaver** did his usual test run to plot out the course and document all of the challenges



involved with the tow. He made stops at two of the police stations (and Georgia Highway Patrol) to see if there was anything required to keep it legal. We learned of the requirement of numbers required by the Department of Transportation and a ton of other paper work. **Christine Lewis** got on top of that and managed all of that part. Then we learned that

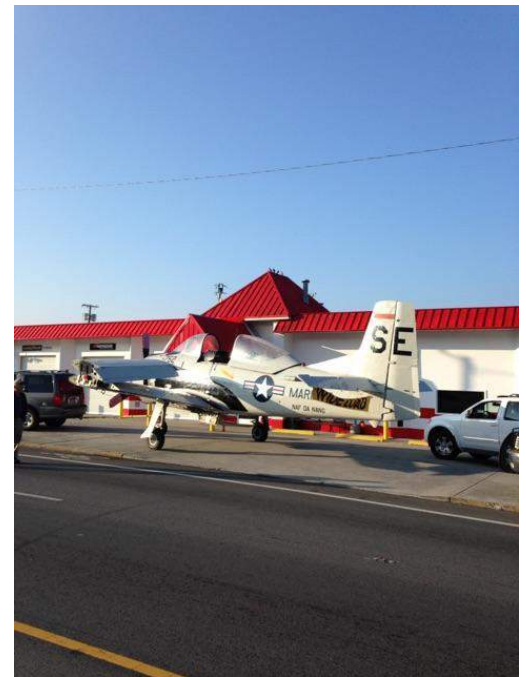
we would be required to have a highway patrol escort from the Georgia state line. So, we proceed from there! He next contacted the Tennessee Highway Patrol to find out what must be handled where they were concerned. A number of follow up calls were made, relating what we needed to know, but no return call ever came from them! Since we had previously towed the



plane a number of times and were told to just move it late at night when there was little traffic, there wasn't a great deal of concern about moving the plane from Hixson to the Georgia state line and our Georgia escorts. **WRONG!** **Jim, Chris Cooper, Gunny Cox, Chris Beaver, Kiersten Beaver and Christine Lewis** begin the first leg of the adventure when from behind them they notice blue lights flashing!

Please understand that in the past (approximately) six times that the plane has been towed, at least a dozen Chattanooga Police Department cars had passed the "event" and drove by without a second glance! Not so with a

young Corporal with the Sheriff's Department. Needless to say, we made the late news and the early morning news and the noon news and the afternoon news. From there, the Tennessee Highway Patrol entered the picture and we were informed that we must have a permit from them. The plane was moved to the back parking lot of Abba's House where **Reverend Ron Phillips** kindly, and with great humor, made us welcome. We got even more television coverage. The Reverend even wanted the plane moved to the front of the





building since it was drawing so much attention. So we moved it!! At any rate, after a lot of hard work by Christine, we got what we needed and the plane was on its way to Rome at 7:00 A.M. on Sunday morning with TWO extremely pleasant and helpful members of the Chattanooga Police Department as escort. They were met **at** the Georgia line by three members of the Georgia Highway Patrol and there were even two officers with the Summerville Police Department who assisted at their city. 752 made

the journey in eight hours and will be trying to be included in the Guinness Book of World Records. Channel Nine (WTVC-TV) gave us excellent coverage and we were on all of the Sunday news shows, beginning with live coverage at 7:00 A.M. Our thanks to them, to the excellent officers who assisted us so ably, and to our crew on Sunday – **Jim, Rick, Chris, Gunny, and Phil Gilliland**. As usual, 752 drew a lot of attention. A lot of photos were taken, including those made from aircraft which flew overhead and people who were following the “parade” which arrived at the Rome Airport on Sunday afternoon. The next installment in the rebirth of this plane is now ready to begin.



MESS NIGHT



Our annual Mess Night was held on 4 November at the Doubletree Hotel in Chattanooga with over 30 of our members and volunteers in attendance. Some of our members even arrived in dress uniform! A great meal was enjoyed and recognition was given to a number of people. **Ronny “Gunny” Cox, Art Matthews and Christine Lewis** were thanked for their hours of work. Recognition was also given to **Larry Jarrett** for his work on our aircraft, and to **Jim Beaver** for his project of moving

the 752. Be sure to come and be a part of this event next year.

MAINTENANCE DAY

Maintenance Day for the C45H was held on 22 November at Rome and a “burger burn” was held for those faithful volunteers who came and donated their efforts. Taking part in the work was **Jim Ambler, Justin Goss, Pete O’Hare, Larry Jarrett, Steven Hudson, Leslie Duke, and Bruce Kelly**. A huge thank you to all for coming out giving of your skills and time!

ROME SYMPHONY EVENT



On 7 November, the Rome Symphony had a special event at the hangar in Rome, Georgia, and our planes and motor pool items were on display for their members to enjoy.



SMITHSONIAN VISIT

As if it was a preview to the stellar day it was going to be the resolute travelers to the Smithsonian were greeted by a sunrise over and through the Blue Ridge Mountains that was not only awe inspiring it was breathtaking and was both a source of conversation and quiet while the majesty of the event unfolded.





The road trip to “America’s aviation attic” as Peyton Dehart called it started the day previously on Veterans Day. The museum was requested to participate in 2 honorary events with their veteran warbirds. Immediately after those were concluded successfully an event filled auto excursion to collect the items that the Smithsonian National Air & Space Museum was donating began.

The jaunt to the NASM Paul E. Garber Facility started on Veterans Day 2014 but the Journey to acquire artifacts from them began years earlier. As a new member of the museum community the Museum of Flight in Hixson joined the American Alliance of Museums and as an aviation museum was recognized by the National Naval Aviation Museum. Both organizations were eager to help with consulting on the how tos and provide tangible items for display or on museum processes and procedures. One valuable piece of advice was to reach out to the Smithsonian institute. Once the organization was up and running for 2 years the time was right to apply as an affiliate to the prestigious organization. While the Smithsonian accepted our application and showed interested in our members’ accomplishments the true test of their support was in a transfer, donation or loan. That happened July 2014 when an email from Erik Satrum the Head Registrar of the National Air and Space Museum informed us of the items to be transferred.

Our team arrived at the storage warehouses in Maryland at noon and were greeted by the friendliest security officers, who were as interested in us and that we came in person, as they were in securing the premises and they were LASER FOCUSED on security. The campus was impressive to say the least with 30-40 warehouses contained in a securely fenced area. As we were escorted into the warehouse containing our items we were explosively greeted as we walked in by a Messerschmitt Me 163 Komet. It was covered in very light sheer plastic and it screamed out to be touched. As we all have witnessed at airshows there is something tactile about an aircraft especially a Warbird more so one that flew in combat as this one of a kind Luftwaffe instrument.

Down to business. The items being transferred to us were impeccably laid out on a surgical steel table with a sorted mound of paperwork associated with the transaction at hand. While watching Christine Lewis the museum manager reviewing and signing all the paperwork, the mind swam thinking about all the historically significant aviation items that had passed through to display on these tables. The importance of the documentation was not only to show that the items were transferred from the Smithsonian but for us to also show our visitors the proof is where the items came.

We were lucky to be invited on a tour of the warehouse. While the security to get into the facility was comparable to accessing a secure military installation the freedom to walk amongst the historical items was fantastic. While we were watched by a hawk-eyed employee to make sure we were respectful of



the items we saw we were treated as fellow museum workers allowed to meet and greet with other museum staff ask questions help with items such as handing a pen to a museum worker custom pallet mounting a B17 Flying Fortress belly gun turret.

Cruise Missiles surrounded by Round, Jet, Rocket and a myriad of other engines that were in turn surrounded by original rotor blades, tools and items that were inexplicable a veritable cornucopia of aviation items that caused the senses to go into overload. Everything was touched except of course for the iridium irradiated B17 turret but even then it took pause to weigh the risk.

The drive back through the Washington Jefferson National Forrest was mostly quiet until the planned dinner stop at the historical Southern Restaurant in Leesburg VA. Then all the emotions of the group came to the

surface at the bar prior to being seated. Adjectives such as Unbelievable, remarkable and fascinating were used in practically every sentence. And it was.

A very special thank you to Josh Scurlock for being the designated driver home from dinner as the rest of the team toasted to the fantastic people we met that day, the fabulous sunrise, absolutely terrific company during the drive and especially for being citizens of a country that had such an outstanding museum such as the Smithsonian National Air & Space Museum.

BLOOD BANK DRIVE

Hello Friends,

You can help our local community during this time of need. Blood supplies are critical at our local area blood banks.

The **Hixson Museum of Flight** is sponsoring a blood drive again this year. Two donors will be entered into drawing to win a training flight in a **T-28 Trojan**.

Please mark your calendar for **December 13th**, and help our community on this issue.

If you wish to have an appointment time just contact me and I'll reserve a slot for you. Walk-ins are welcome.

Hixson Museum of Flight

Held at Yours Truly Hair Salon

(7032 D East Brainerd Road)

Saturday, December 13th

10:00 am to 3:00 pm

Register to win a training flight in a

T-28 Trojan Warbird

AND Register to win your choice of Playstation 4 or Ipad Air given by Blood Assurance in December!

Please share this with your family, friends, Facebook, and all of your distribution lists. *Please help us get the word out!* We need YOUR help.

Thanks,

Deming Gray 423-903-7059



GIFT SHOP ITEMS

We now have three new colors of T-shirts in stock for purchase. One is black with white screen printing. The second shirt is a forest green with khaki screen printing and the third is white with the royal blue screen printing. The design has been re-worked a little and the price is still \$12.00 each. These would make great Christmas gifts.

REMINDERS

Please make it a point to check your membership card (or call and check with Christine Lewis) to see if your membership needs to be renewed. The time passes quickly and the expiration dates can slip by us. Prices are still the same for memberships - \$10.00 for students; \$20.00 for an individual, and \$30.00 for a family membership (which includes up to 4 of a family). Life Memberships are available at several levels. And don't forget the engraved bricks which are available for sale. Any, or all, of these things would make a great, tax exempt gift for someone for Christmas!

SAFETY INFORMATION

If you wish to use any of the Museum vehicles, you must first be checked out by **Mark McAllister**, Safety Chairman. The guidelines were put in place some time back and are for everyone. It is mandatory that "anyone using the golf cart, tug or any other vehicle in our Motor Pool be checked out / trained / qualified. Use of these vehicles is only allowed if the person has met the qualification process and be 18 years of age and has a valid drivers' license."

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 13 December BLOOD DRIVE / CHATTANOOGA BLOOD BANK
- 25 December "Merry Christmas" to all!
- 1 January "Happy New Year"
- 20-21 March Columbus GA Airshow
- 11 April Gala
- 16-17 May Augusta GA Airshow
- 20 -21 June Tuskegee AL Airshow
- July BTD1 project
- August C-45H Annual Home Base



LIFETIME MEMBERS

Jeanne and Tony Bass	Scott Pilkington, Sr.
Voron Baughon	John Sullivan
Jim Beaver	Wayne Vick
Dr. Donald Chamberlain	Brent Wade
Nan Coddington	David Wells
Dr. James Creel	Jody Whitmire
Peyton Dehart	Ed Woods
Larry Jarrett	Jorge Verdias
Frank Kalinowski	Dr. Gary Caldwell
Chris Keefe	Doug Woodruff
David Lawson	Judy Wilson
Art Matthews	Stratton Tingle