



READY ROOM"

NEWSLETTER

May 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



What a terrific night we had for the Museum Gala! The weather was beautiful, the facilities were excellent and the crowd was extremely attractive! We want to thank all of our volunteers who worked so hard to make the event a success. We thank James Howard of WDEF for serving as Master of Ceremonies! And we thank Doug Woodruff, Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Museum for being such a gracious host. Our sincere appreciation goes to the ROTC color guard from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga for once again giving the presentation of the colors for our event! We were also delighted to welcome back "Ladies For Liberty" who entertained us to wonderfully. This year, the band was the Beaters and they kept everyone tapping their toes and/or out on the dance floor. A wonderful meal was catered by BiBa's and enjoyed by all. We were most appreciative of remarks by the head of Erlanger's Children's Hospital. It kept all of us



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thoughtful and mindful that we are so fortunate to have this wonderful facility to take care of the children who need their services in the Chattanooga area. The proceeds from the silent auction went to them.

What a delight it was to have in attendance Ralph Mitchell who had been the owner of the Taylorcraft plane which is now a part of the Hixson Flight Museum. A welcome addition was his four sons and a grandson! We thank all who attended and if you were unable to attend this year, you might definitely want to plan to attend next year!!



THEN



By: MR Mitchell

The Mitchell Family would like to thank The Hixson Flight Museum for

Honoring Ralph Mitchell. Ralph Mitchell is in his 80's and he is coming up on 60 years of marriage to his wife Dolores. They have seven kids two girls and five boys. They have 12 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren. Dad retired as a transportation supervisor from the Leasway Corp. He served in the army and was stationed in France during the Korean War he then served for 25 years in the army reserve and retired as a warrant officer 4th class. He is very active in the Catholic Church and served his church in his younger years as a Knight of Columbus. God, Country, Family about covers it.

NOW



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Saturday Morning 4/12/14 Ralph Mitchell departed Elyria Airport for Dallas Bay Skypark home of Hixson Flight Museum with two sons and a close family friend. Due to weather we diverted to Crossville, Tennessee, and waited for the fog to clear at Dallas Bay Skypark, as the fog was breaking up we departed again for Hixson Flight Museum where Dad caught up with two more sons and a grandson. There were warm family greetings and then Dad walked up to his old Taylorcraft N96661. Emotions flooded over dad as he approached the old Tcraft. Memories of his dear recently departed brother Bob who he owned the aircraft with, his days of flying and other memories from long ago came rushing back, brought him to tears, he stepped back, wept and was speechless. Pictures were taken as dad looked over his old friend. He then met Andreas Montgomery the pilot who would fly him to Chattanooga Airport where the Gala Event will be held. Andreas warmly greeted dad and talked to him about his old bird and then moved it into position for more family pictures.

Then plans were made to fly the aircraft to Chattanooga airport. The 1946 Taylorcraft is being kept in original condition, no radio, and no transponder. Since it is a canvas airplane it doesn't show well on radar. It was decided to fly in formation going to Chattanooga airport we would fly as slow as we could while the Tcraft would fly as fast as it could 65hp against 200hp. We would handle radio work with Chattanooga and relay info to the Tcraft via their handheld. Flying formation together Father and oldest son both in the first airplanes we had both owned. One owned 50 years ago one owned 10 years ago. Dad flies again, more memories.

Dad landed at Chattanooga, Andreas taxied up to the hanger where the Gala event was to be held and was greeted by the great people from Hixson Flight Museum what a treat. He said to me I wish my brother Bob was here, I thought about Richard Dreyfuss in the movie "Always" and told him, he's here dad and you were one soul heavy on the way over. The tcraft was moved into position in the event hanger. Dad then got to talk and spend time with the people there to welcome him.

Saturday night dad went to the Gala event, he was treated like a star, more pictures more introductions, he never had before been that honored. He was introduced along with his family as an honored guest as the festivities began. The Ladies of Liberty brought him up front and sang to him as the night went on. Dad presented Mr. Peter O'Hare a blown up canvas picture of him standing in front of the Taylorcraft in 1964 when it was tied down at Columbia airport in Ohio. He wanted the museum to have this as well a a sheet from his personal log book showing some flight time in the Tcraft. We then had a wonderful meal and so many people came over and welcomed him and thanked him for being there.

During the weekend I had asked him why he gave up flying as the Tcraft was his first and only airplane. He told me that on one of his last flights he was doing pattern work around the airport. He looked down and saw his family picnicking in the grass which we did often at the airport when dad was flying or working on the plane. He realized that that's where he need to be, with his family. I thought about this and as everyone here was honoring him for being an aviator, I will honor him for being my dad.



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LOOK WHO MADE THE PAPER :

From the Chattanooga Times Free Press



Jim Beaver, right, and his son, Chris Beaver, are photographed Thursday at the Hixson Museum of Flight with two T-28 Trojans, vintage aircraft that will do a fly-over at the beginning of the Armed Forces Day Parade on Friday morning in downtown Chattanooga.
Photo by John Rawlston

Today's 65th annual Armed Forces Day Parade in downtown Chattanooga may be the longest-running such parade of its size in the nation, organizers say. Starting in 1950, the first year of the holiday, the Scenic City has held this parade every year, parade committee member Maj. Marty Malone said. Malone participated in the parade first as a high school band member, then as a JROTC cadet for Central High School between 1987 and 1990. He said participation has remained consistent. A decade ago the Tennessee Air National Guard officer began working with the organizing group the Chattanooga Area Veterans Council to conduct the parade. He's impressed with the long-running status of the parade. "I think it shows that we have, particularly with the veterans who like to stay involved, that they have such pride in the military they served in and they keep that continuity," Malone said.

The Armed Forces Day holiday replaced individual holidays for each military branch. The leagues for the Army, Navy and Air Force adopted the newly formed day. The Marine Corps league honored the holiday but did not drop support for Marine Corps Day, according to the U.S. Department of Defense. The official Armed Forces Day is celebrated on the third Saturday in May. The local parade is held earlier and on a weekday to accommodate school schedules, Malone said. The long-standing continuity here reaches even those who haven't served in the military or haven't had the opportunity. Nearly 1,000 local JROTC cadets from 10 Hamilton County programs and two Georgia schools will be marching in today's parade, retired U.S. Army Col. Tom McConnell said. McConnell heads Hamilton County JROTC for the public schools.



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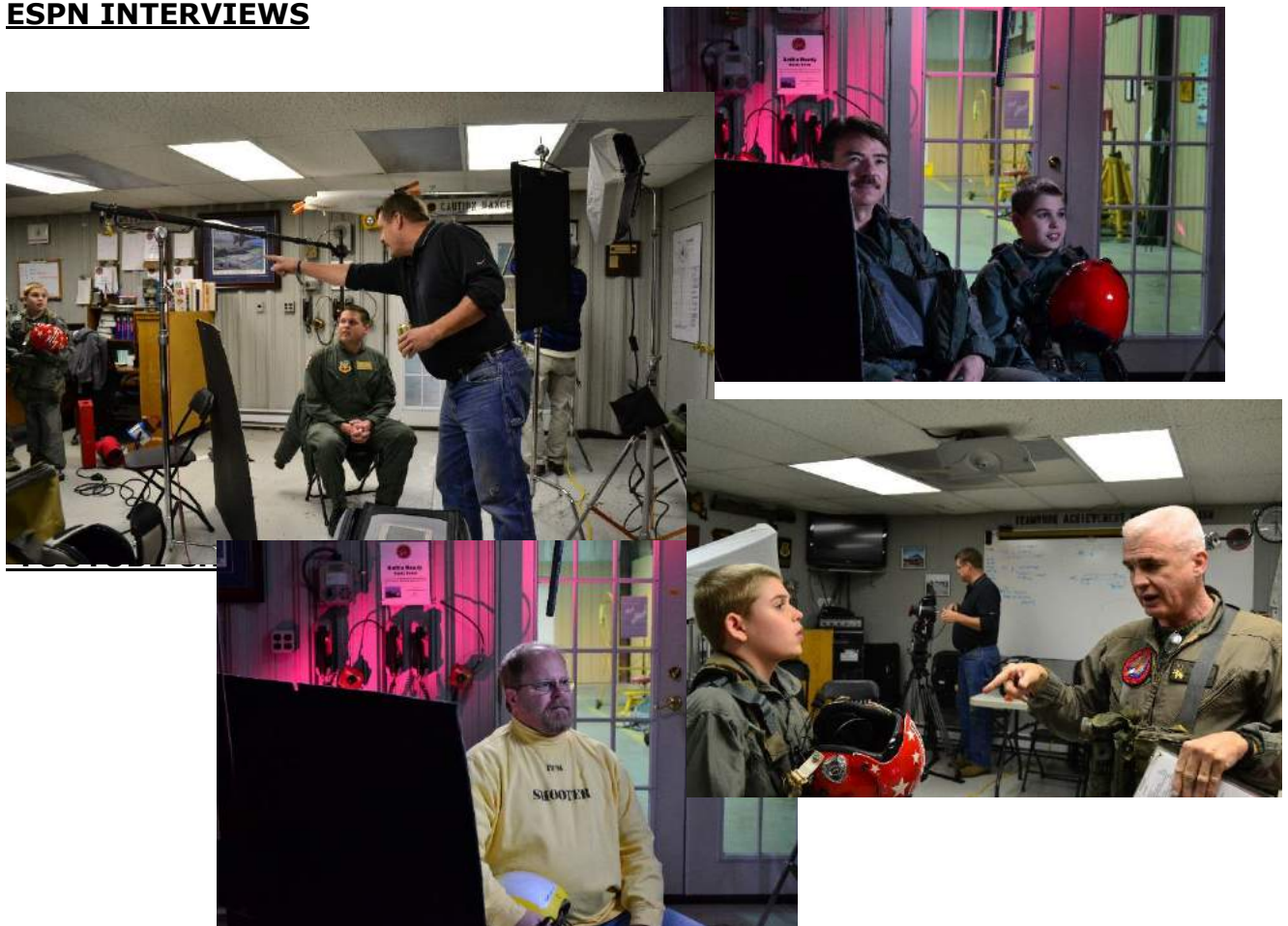
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Not only will the cadets be strutting their stuff for family, friends and community, they'll be watched closely for possible recognition. Graders will evaluate and mark each group's performance. The top three finishers will be awarded a plaque by the Hamilton County Board of Education, McConnell said. "I'm pretty sure it's a highlight of the year, especially for the senior cadets," McConnell said. The estimated 45-minute parade will be followed by a luncheon at the Chattanooga Convention Center. Maj. Gen. Leslie J. Carroll, the chief of staff for the U.S. Army Forces Command, will be the speaker. He is this year's reviewing officer.

A huge thank you to Rick Reddick, Chris and Kiersten Beaver, and David Lawson for their help in moving the "752" to downtown in preparation for the Armed Forces Day Parade this morning. Your help and continued support for our events is greatly appreciated! And another thank you to them for the parade participation. We had a great parade, a great fly over by Pete and Dan, a great response from the reviewing stand, and the remarks by the announcer really promoted the museum BIG TIME! Thanks so much! Jim Beaver

ESPN INTERVIEWS



http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjA_MuKrP_1tQ20-VFsPgg check out the video.



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COLUMBUS AIRSHOW – March 14-16



Many thanks to the following for their hard work at the Columbus Air Show this past weekend! Chris and Kiersten Beaver, A.B. Calhoun, Cliff and Denise Evans, Marie-Claire LeBerge, Christine Lewis, Tim Warren, Tony Potter, Peyton DeHart, Marty Galyon, Eddie Stanfield, Andreas Montgomery and Pete O'Hare

NEW BOARD MEMBER



Congratulations to Deming Gray on being voted our newest board member. Deming is an aircraft owner and a member of Civil Air Patrol. Deming also conducted the blood drive back in December with the Hixson Flight Museum.



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MAINTENANCE:

Pictures speak louder than words and there are not enough words to express our gratitude to all who have worked so hard to get the planes ready for all these events the museum has done in the last couple of months!

THANK YOU!!!!!!



ICAS

On the events schedule, below, you will notice the ICAS meeting which will take place in Las Vegas from December 2-5. This is an important meeting where air shows are scheduled and we get an opportunity to put our efforts before people in the field of aviation.



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UPDATED EVENTS SCHEDULE FOR 2014 (updateable at any time due to maint, weather other reasons):

2014

March 8 – Tuskegee Airman Cleveland TN Airport **COMPLETED**
March 14-16 - Columbus Air Show Columbus, GA **COMPLETED**
April 12 - Museum Gala at Wilson Air **COMPLETED**
April 19 – Hixson Flight Museum Huey/Cobra rides **COMPLETED**
May 4 – Talladega Flyby **COMPLETED**
May 17 – PDK C-45/T-28s static display
May 25 – Charlotte International Speedway Coke 500
June 6-14 - Riverbend
June 14-15 – Great Tennessee Airshow
September 13 – Wings Wheels and Water
October 17-19 - Rome GA C-45/T-28s static display
October 25-26 – Calvary Museum Ft. Oglethorpe
November 1-3 – Stewart FL T-28s for virtual Vietnam
December 6 – Toys for Tots Drive



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