



“READY ROOM”

NEWSLETTER

August, 2015

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

Hangar Beautification

Floyd County began work in late July priming and painting to rejuvenate the hangar at the Richard B. Russell Regional Airport that was originally build during WWII. The white paint makes the entire area brighter and presents a nice backdrop for the museum.



Prepping the walls

Some additional changes are coming soon with a new pedestrian door to the hangar. This door will provide access to the museum hangar from outside the perimeter fence allowing the museum to once again be open and accessible to the public.

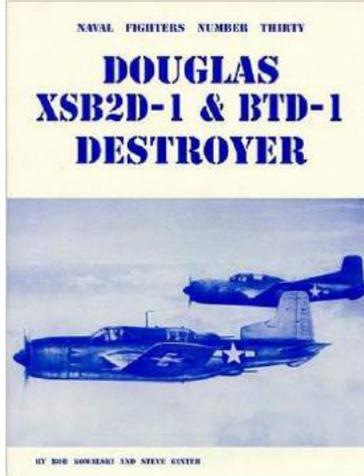


Did you know?

Development of the Rome, GA airport began in 1942 with the purchase of 670 acres by Floyd County. Shortly after the development, the land was turned over to the Dept. of the Navy for use as a Naval Auxilliary Air Base. After building three asphalt runways, the Navy discontinued its use of the airport and it was deeded back to Floyd County in 1945. The airport was named for Senator Richard B. Russell, an influential figure in Georgia's history.

Douglas BTD-1 Destroyer

On August 4th, the BTD-1 Destroyer GoFundMe campaign was started with the goal of raising \$100,000 for the retrieval of the plane from New York and the restoration of this addition to the Museum of Flight. A very interesting video was posted on YouTube about this particular plane and its history of being the first and last plane off the assembly line. If you have a chance, [be sure to check it out.](#)



\$100 GoFundMe Challenge Drawing

Almost a thousand dollars has been raised to date, with our current goal of \$3500.00 to cover the transportation costs needed to bring the plane south.

Anyone meeting the \$100.00 GoFundMe Challenge which will be entered into a random drawing for the book, "Naval Fighters Number Thirty Douglas XSB2D-1 & BTD-1 Destroyer" by Bob Kowalski and Steve Ginter and will receive a Museum of Flight patch.

Anyone who donates \$1000.00 or more will get an engraved metal plate with their names or name of their choice in the torpedo bombers area.



Sneak peak of September's Newsletter Highlights

The GoFundMe campaign page is at <http://www.gofundme.com/hixsonBTD1>.

You can view the video at <https://youtu.be/LfWrxEn9ghE>

According to Pete O'Hare, the BTD-1 is in much better shape than the T-28 Alpha recovered from Honduras as you can see from these images (the Alpha is marked with 213).



BTD-1 in field in New York



T-28 in Field prior to recovery.

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BiBa's
ITALIAN RESTAURANT

Joan Beaver

It is a sad duty to share the passing of Joan Beaver on August 20th, 2015. Joan spent untold hours at the museum, worked the air shows and was there through the restoration of the T-28. She was an anchor person for the museum as the Communication Manager, making sure we were kept informed about the events and activities of the museum through the newsletter and emails. She also created wonderful artwork for the silent auction benefiting the children's hospital.

Her dedication and kindness will be sorely missed. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Jim and the family.

<http://www.timesfreepress.com/obits/2015/aug/23/joan-beaver/68242/>



Joan Beaver, April, 2013



Joan at Wings, Wheels and Water

Aircraft Maintenance Day

In August, we had some great work days! The tug was fixed, the T-28 Alpha generator was fixed, the hydraulic leak on T-28 Bravo was diagnosed, the new tool room was set up and some aircraft cleaning started! A huge thank you to Justin Goss, Jason Beaver, Larry Jarrett, Phil Gilliland, Steve Lewis, Ricky LeCroy, Phil "Sunny" Cataldo, Mike Ambler, Ronnie "Gunny" Cox, Scott Ducker, and Loy Blackwell for all your hard work and dedication to the museum!



Chattanooga, TN Memorial Flybys

The Museum of Flight did a number of memorial flybys in the T-28s in support of the families and community of the fallen soldiers, three Marines and one Navy Sailor.

The memorial for LCpl Skip Wells was held at Sprayberry High School in Marietta, GA. Pilots Pete "Wheeler" O'Hare and Shawn "Thud" Barber flew Sgt Cheeley and LCpl Gilliam from the Chattanooga recruiter office that was attacked. Sgt Cheeley received a gunshot wound to the leg that day and LCpl Gilliam sounded the alert to evacuate the building when the gunman opened fire saving lives with his quick call to action.

The museum also did a honor flight along the river from Chickamauga Lake past the Naval Reserve Center and city of Chattanooga to Moccasin Bend. A big thank you to those that helped clean and prepare the "Ladies" for the honor flight for the Mike Battery Marines.



Chaplain Mark Beaver praying with our crew before the flight



Featured on the front page of the Rome News Tribune.



Pete O'Hare interviewed on NBC Nightly News



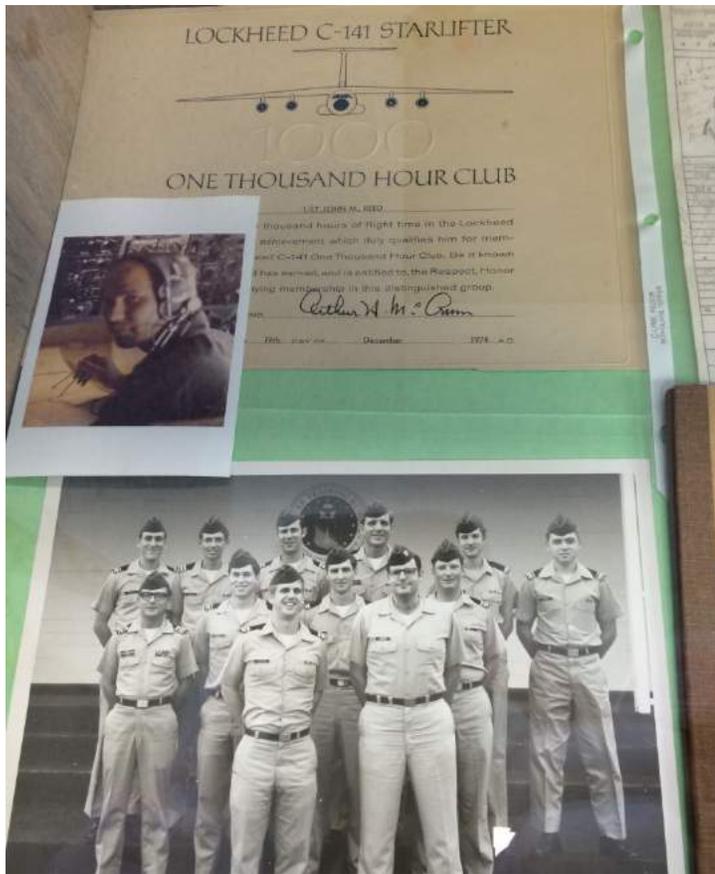
At Chattanooga, helping clean up the "Ladies" in preparation for the honor flight.

Callsign: Magellan

By John Dehart

Ferdinand Magellan was an explorer in the 1500's who is credited with the first circumnavigation of the globe. The renown of Magellan as a navigator is so entrenched in our culture (even after 500 years), that folks who navigate exceptionally well acquire the moniker as a nickname. In the aviation world, a nickname becomes a callsign.

John M Reed, callsign "Magellan," joined the US Air Force during the Vietnam War era and graduated at the top of his Navigator's School class. His assignments, to C-141 and C-130 squadrons, put him at the center of world-changing events as they unfolded.



Upon his passing, his wife, Sue Reed, wondered if anyone might find some of Mike's (he went by his middle name) military memorabilia interesting. I said "absolutely" and came into possession of extraordinary history. Objects and papers fill a case in the Hixson Flight Museum display area and I invite you to consider what we have.

Mike Reed is third from left, top row during officer training and above that, at the Navigator's station on a flight deck.





One of his earliest missions generated a particularly noteworthy artifact. Seen above as a page to the left of the blue Air Navigation manual, is a standard form that goes by the name of "Report Of Patients Evacuated By Air." It isn't a manifest of everyone onboard since it just lists medical crew who supported a flight (so they could get credit for flight time and flight pay). But what's hand written all over the form is FAR more valuable. Second Lieutenant Reed was the Navigator of a C-141 StarLifter, tail number 0236, involved in "Operation Homecoming;" the return of American prisoners of war from Hanoi to the U.S.

The paper had been passed around during the long flight from Clark Air Force Base (AFB), Philippines to Hickam AFB, Hawaii and finally into Travis ABF in California. Some of the former POWs wrote short notes on it:

"Thanks gang. - LtCol Howard Dunn, USMC" (Shot down 7 December 1965 while flying an F-4B Phantom. Released 12 February 1973 after 2,619 days in captivity.)

"Thanks for the best trip of our lives. Porter Halyburton, LCdr, USNR" (A Radio Intercept Officer (RIO) in an F-4B shot down on 17 October 1965 and believed to have been killed in action; until one and a half years later, when it was learned that he was held as a POW.)

"Thanks for the fast ride to freedom and a new life. CW2 James Hestand, US Army" (A UH-1H Huey pilot who said in a later interview: "Up until March 17, 1971 I was James Hardy Hestand, pilot, "one of the men the enemy could never get." Then the bullets started hitting my plane, not someone else's. Down I went.")



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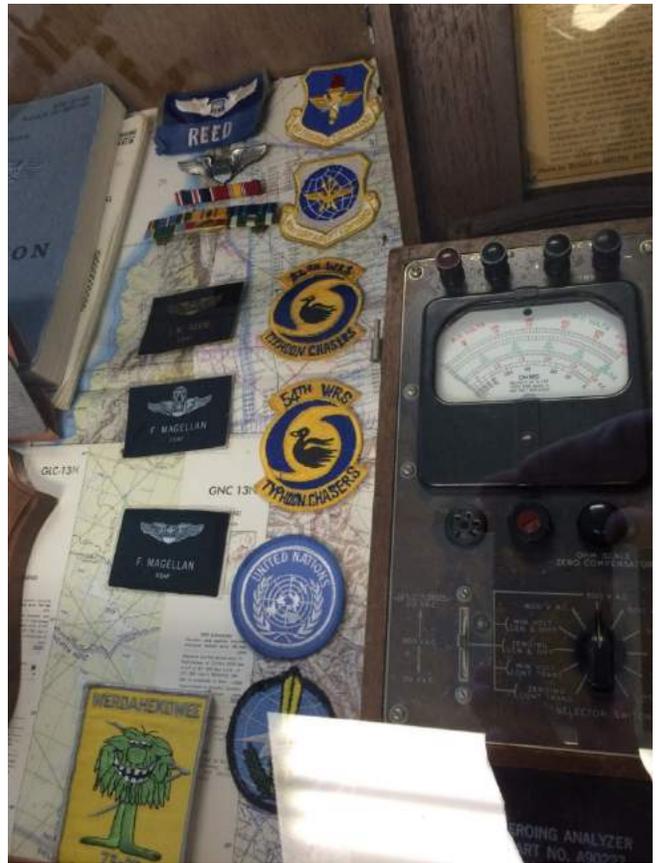
"Many thanks for your part in speeding us home. Ray Merritt, Col USAF" (He had flown 100 missions in the F-84 during the Korean War. Shot down 16 September 1965 in an F-105 Thunderchief. Released after seven and one half years imprisonment, on 12 February 1973.)

A momentous chapter in American history was drawing to a close.



Display case with some of Mike Reed's history in the foreground. In the background is an Air Force flight suit, with parachute, on loan from the Smithsonian Institute.

America at war in South East Asia was winding down in early 1973. By October of the same year all eyes were on the Middle East. Egypt and Syria attacked Israel during the Jewish holiday Yom Kippur. The intense military campaign that followed soon depleted Israel's military stocks and President Nixon made the decision to send American planes loaded with weapons and supplies to reinforce our ally. Reed was in the middle of that fray as well. A hand-written letter from an Israeli youth named Yoel Gutmann, addressed to "My friends in the American Air Force" reads, in part: "I would like to thank you for the great help you gave Israel. It's a good feeling to know that you have friends who are ready to help you when you are in trouble." The original letter is in the display case.



A patch showing a cartoon character holding a dowsing stick under the heading "WERDAHEKOWEE" is an inside joke. Any Navigator would instantly recognize that as the age-old question: "Where the heck are we?"

When it seemed that conflicts fighting bad men were on the wane, Reed switched missions in order to take on something monstrously bigger... Mother Nature. He joined the 54th Weather Reconnaissance Squadron based on Guam. The squadron's job was to fly into tropical storms and typhoons, to obtain accurate meteorological information. In the case of a fully developed typhoon (the Pacific Ocean version of an Atlantic Ocean hurricane), the goal was to "fix the eye;" meaning, be able to accurately plot the location of the eye of the storm and determine where it was headed next.

Volunteering at an aviation museum is endlessly fascinating. I had fiddled with the objects in Mike Reed's display case a number of hours; putting ribbons over here, patches over there... shuffling things. It was just right. I closed the glass cover, planning to leave for the day. Justin Goss walked out of his office with a box about the size of two reams of paper. "Next time you're here, you'll want to look at these pictures that were just handed to me. A local gent passed along his father's 1970's collection of photos that were in the attic. They look like 8x10's of 500 or more aircraft. Cool ones like the SR-71..."

I picked up the first five in the stack. Fifth one down, I said: "lookit this, an early C-130." Went to pick up the sixth in the stack when I did a double take and returned the fifth to an inch in front of my nose. There, on the tail, the vertical fin, was a blue stripe. Inside the blue stripe was a word. The word was, "WEATHER."

I couldn't make out any other markings on the aircraft itself, but when I turned the photo over, it was stamped, "54th WRS." It was from a completely separate collection, but we now had a picture of the WC-130 Hercules that was used in Mike Reed's squadron. Well, of course that had to be added to the display case!



Hixson Flight Museum is dedicated to raising awareness of aviation and the important role it has played in shaping our nation's history. Not only do we provide displays, a vast collection of historic flight and military memorabilia, and maintain flyable aircraft, the museum also donates to the local children's hospital.

Come by, see, and touch, some real history.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OWNER</u>
January 1 – 30	Safety, Security & Maintenance Stand down	RMG Hangar Rome GA	Mark McAlister
February 1 – 28	Safety, Security & Maintenance Stand down	RMG Hangar Rome GA	Mark McAlister
March 19 – 22	Thunder In the Valley Air Show	Columbus GA	Peter O'Hare
April 10 -12	Museum of Flight Open Hanger Gala	CHA Wilson Air Chattanooga	Peter O'Hare
May 29-31	Good Neighbor Days	Peachtree-DeKallb, GA	TBD
June 18-21	Tuskegee Air Show	Tuskegee AL	Peter O'Hare
"July 4 "	Independence Day Fly-By	Chattanooga TN	TBD
July 10 - 30	BTD 1 Destroyer Assembly & Paint	Rome Georgia	Christine Lewis
August 1 - 30	C-45 H Annual	RMG Hangar Rome GA	TBD
September 20	Barwick County Fly In	Lafayette GA	TBD
September 26	Crossville Fly-In	Crossville, TN	TBD
October 2-4	Wings Over North Georgia	Rome Georgia	TBD
"November 4"	Museum Mess Night	TBD	Peter O'Hare
November 6-30	Toys For Tots		
December 6-9	ICAS Convention	Las Vegas Nevada	Peter O'Hare
"December 15	Annual Blood Drive	TBD	Deming Gray



LIFETIME MEMBERS

Jeanne and Tony Bass

Shawn Barber

Voron Baughon

Jim Beaver

Ernie Betancourt

Dr. Gary Caldwell

Dr. Donald Chamberlain

Nan Coddington

Dr. James Creel

Erich DeHart

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