



# “READY ROOM”

## NEWSLETTER

Volume 7: Issue 4

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

## Berard Bridges Donation

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**Berard Bridges** donated the headset that his brother, **Thomas Hugh Bridges**, wore while flying a Hellcat from 1942-1945. He also donated a baseball hat for the aircraft carrier USS San Jacinto CVL-39 where Lieutenant Bridges was stationed. He was also stationed on the USS Enterprise. He flew during the Battle of the Coral Sea. En route to deployment, Thomas flew the Hellcat from NY to Corpus Christi stopping in Rome Georgia on the way. He buzzed Broad Street as he was leaving to say goodbye to his girlfriend who worked on Broad Street at the time. Thomas was also a Purple Heart recipient.



*Berard Bridges* holds his brother's headphones and a USS Sab Jacinto baseball hat, both donations to the museum.

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## New Patch for the Atlas Boys

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A big thank you goes out to; **Gerard** who had our new 'Redneck Air Force' patch made, **Jimmy Don** for starting the 'Atlas Boys,' and both **James Greene** and **Rob Haley** for helping to orchestrate everything. Because of these Gentleman, the *Atlas Boys* now has a patch of their very own. The patch itself is quite handsome, but the **RAF** is a reminder of their redneck roots. A copyright has been submitted.



## Geodetic Marker

An often forgotten or overlooked fact about the museum is that it is equipped with its own geodetic marker which was installed in 1944. The marker is part of the national database which is maintained by the National Geodetic Survey. Each marker is assigned a unique six-digit code that correlates to the marker's datasheet describing the station. The markers can be found online.



## The Museum Helps Local Families

The Open Hangar Gala was a success, not only because it was an evening filled with dancing and delicious cuisine, but also because money was raised for local children. The Ronald McDonald House of Chattanooga's director, **Jane Kaylor**, accepted a check of \$3,500 to help children and their families while they are undergoing treatment at the hospital.

The evening of the gala **Miracle**, the smallest child ever born prematurely to survive visited the gala and helped raise awareness for the need of local families, she is a true testament to the good that can come out of our local community. For more information about the Museum of Flight, or to find out how you can help the museum benefit chronically ill children, please call **(423) 228 2359**.

*Miracle, born at 14 ounces, the smallest child born prematurely to survive attended the gala, now 18 years old, to help raise money for the McDonald House to help other children and families going through crisis.*



Museum Director, **Christine Lewis**, gives the \$3,500 check to the Ronald McDonald House of Chattanooga President, **Jane Kaylor**.





# Local Children Visit the Museum

There is not a better way to instill the love of aviation and history into the hearts of the next generation, than catering tours directly for school-aged children. May was a month filled with the laughter of children. First, over a hundred eight graders, teachers, and parents from **Trion Middle School** were escorted by Museum volunteers for their class trip. Later in the month, thirteen kindergartners some homeschooled and some from **Unity Christian School**, explored the museum. They were accompanied by their nine chaperones.

## Eight Graders from Trion Middle School



## Kindergartners Running Wild



## A Chance at one of the Last Tomcats

The Museum of Flight is given the extremely unique opportunity by the **National Naval Aviation Museum** to bring one of the last surviving Tomcats to our museum. It is a very exciting prospect to host and display Georgia's ONLY Tomcat, a living relic that tells the story of brave men and women who have flown them in defense of our great nation. However, fees for the transport of the aircraft have been quoted at \$40,000! With a price this steep the museum feared that it might crush our chance at homing such a spectacular craft.

Yet, the end is not nigh. Director, **Christine Lewis**, contacted the **F-14 Tomcat Association**. The Association offered to publish our GoFundMe (<https://www.gofundme.com/museum-of-flight-f14-tomcat>) in their newsletter, website, and on their Facebook page. They also offered their expertise and to help guide us along the way. Although this process may be long-term, our members have made the impossible possible before. We look forward to one day having the Tomcat as our own and will use this goal to help push us to make it happen. A big thanks goes out to the **National Naval Aviation Museum** and the **F-14 Tomcat Association**.

## Challenge Air Fly Day

The Museum of Flight was lucky enough to take part in **Challenge Air for Kids & Friends** at the **Wilson Air Centre** at the Chattanooga Airport (CHA). A nonprofit that pairs special needs children of ages ranging from 7-21 with pilots and volunteers to make their dreams come true.



*Jim Beaver supervises the event.*



*Kelly Williamson and Peter O'Hare pose with a child and his sister*



*Even the C-45H and T-28 made an appearance.*



# Flyby for the Chattanooga

## Football Club



The Chattanooga Football Club played the Chivas U23, the most popular team in Mexico. But, our locals held their own and the match ended in a tie at Finley Stadium on the 27<sup>th</sup> of May. The second in a series of ties after last year's match ending in a score of 1-1. Fans look forward to next year to see who will come up on top.

Not only was the match exciting, but our Museum of Flight added some extra energy. In an emotional moment the two T-28s flew over during the National Anthem, just a few days before Memorial Day. This was the first time that the two aircraft were up and flying together since September 2016. We are all very proud to say that now all of the museum's aircraft are airborne. A big thank you is also due to Larry 'Oscar' Jarett who hung the engine, repaired the struts, and flew the mission.



# Happenings at the Museum



Children enjoy the Soviet manufactured 152mm Iraqi Howitzer that was captured by the US Marines during Desert Storm 1. The bullet holes still remain from the terrorist attack in Chattanooga in 2015.



The Eighth Graders' trip to the museum made the news!



The 1969 Vietnam era 2.5-ton AKA Deuce and a Half, or Sixb completed some rode time.



The View from the C-45H and the T-28 in Stone Mountain Georgia.



Museum of Flight members, Tiger Flight Members, and JLC Airshow Enterprises all attended a delicious luncheon held at Bella Roma Restaurant.





# UPCOMING EVENTS

With summer upon us we have several events for members to get involved.

June 10<sup>th</sup> is KPDK in Atlanta an overnight one day event

June 17<sup>th</sup> is the Calhoun Fly-In a one day event pretty much in our backyard

We also have 3 flybys July 1st, 3rd, & 4<sup>th</sup>.

Anyone wanting to volunteer their time to launch the aircraft, attend the event, or be at the hangar to recover the aircraft please give Shelly Ambler a call at 706-266-3705.

# SUMMER PROJECTS

WWII Water Buffalo Restoration: Anyone wanting to help Pete with this project please call 678-641-9004

Motorcycle Ammo Cart Restoration. Is this the project for you? Please call Christine 423-800-3455

Calling all Grease Monkey's! Duece 1/2 brakes need diagnosed and fixed. Please call Chris Stewart 850-830-2182



Wing Wall Mural: We are looking for an artist who would like to paint a mural on the entry wall which is constructed out of two C-45 wings. If interested, please call Christine at 423-800-3455

Wing Wall end caps and led lighting installation and TV mounted: Call Christine 423-800-3455

Glider hung from museum ceiling: This needs a project owner: Please call Christine 423-800-3455



## 2017 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

<http://mofts.org>

1765 Thrasher Pike, Hixson, Tennessee 37343  
423.228.2FLY  
Hangar: 304 Russell Field Rd, Rome GA 30165

# T-28 Alpha Back in the Air



This month T-28 Trojan A was able to fly three missions since her engine was remounted. She flew the Chattanooga Football Club flyby, the flight for Ronnie "Gunny" Cox and Good Neighbor Day at KPDK. This was made possible only because of our dedicated members who worked so hard to take the engine off and put it back on after Anderson Aeromotive worked their magic. Thank you Tommy Stallings for delivering the engine to Idaho and staying with it till the diagnosis was complete, being the point of contact with Anderson Aeromotive every step of the way!



Larry Jarrett, thank you so much for volunteering to take your personal time and time off work to install the T-28 Alpha engine that had been rebuilt and to rebuild the strut. You also selflessly volunteered to do an operational check flight and



then flew the airplane to Chattanooga in formation to execute a Memorial Day weekend flyby. The museum is made up of selfless, interested volunteer members who are dedicated to the history of aviation and community. Thank you for your dedication and taking part.

Thank you Devin Standish, Shawn Woodward, Daniel Buxton, Jason Beaver, Phil Gilliland, Terry Madden, Bill Darby, Gary Franks, Gil Espy, Mike Ambler Jr., if I missed anyone I am so sorry, for being the extra set of hands Larry needed to get the job done!

We are preserving history with these monumental feats the museum accomplishes and I am so proud to be a part of it along with our members!





<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
March 11 <sup>th</sup>	Open House	Rome Airport	Complete
March 24-26 <sup>th</sup>	Airshow	Brunswick	Complete
March 31-April 1 <sup>st</sup>	Airshow	DeFuniak Springs	Complete
April 8-9 <sup>th</sup>	Airshow	Columbus	Complete
April 15 <sup>th</sup>	Open Hangar Gala	Rome Airport	Complete
May 27 <sup>th</sup>	Flyby	Chattanooga FC	Complete
June 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Fly-in	Madison County Open House	Complete
June 10 <sup>th</sup>	Airshow	PDK Good Neighbor	Complete
June 17 <sup>th</sup>	Fly-in	Calhoun	
July 1 <sup>st</sup>	Fly-in	Floyd County Wildlife Club	
September 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Airshow	Lafayette, GA	
September 30 <sup>th</sup>	Airshow	Crossville, TN	
October 20-22 <sup>nd</sup>	Airshow	Coosa Valley Fairground	

## LIFETIME MEMBERS

Jeanne & Tony Bass  
Michaela Baswell  
Voron Baughon  
Garrett Bennett  
Jim Beaver  
Ernie Betancourt  
Bob Brodie  
Daniel Byrnes  
Dr. Gary Caldwell  
Phil Cataldo  
Dr. Donald Chamberlain.  
Nan Coddington  
Ronnie Cox  
Dr. James Creel  
Erich DeHart  
Logan DeHart  
Peyton Dehart  
William Diaz  
Charlie Dickens

Phil Gilliland  
James Green  
Jeffery Hatcher  
Thomas Henegar  
James Henthorn  
International Aviation Services  
Dave Johnston  
Larry Jarrett  
Frank Kalinowski  
Chris Keefe  
David Lawson  
Christine Lewis  
Art Matthews  
Dawn Miller  
Spencer Morgan  
Scott Murray  
Bjorn Nelson  
Pete & Susan O'Hare  
Sonny Padayao

Don Shephard  
Woodrow Smith  
Sol Snyder  
Anthony Sommer  
John Sullivan  
Stratton Tingle  
Jorge Verdias  
Wayne Vick  
Brent Wade  
David Wallace  
Kim Watkins  
David Wells  
Sanford White  
Jody Whitmire  
Judy Wilson  
Ed Wood  
Doug Woodruff