

“READY ROOM”

NEWSLETTER

Volume 11: Issue 1



Our Mission is to increase the awareness of aviation through the flight of historic aircraft, while supporting the Anna Shaw Children's Institute.

Members and Friends,

After an afternoon at the museum yesterday, I feel energized to get this newsletter written with tidbits of museum happenings as well as sharing a fun item we have on display.

It is great to see the light in someone's eyes when they walk inside, browsing the aviation and military memorabilia, especially when they hear the stories and tales from our docents and staff. We have a very special museum, not only from the aircraft and transportation but with various displays inside. If you haven't been to the Paulding Airport location, it is a completely new experience. There are military displays going back to WWI, navigation and aviation training and equipment, chairs off aircraft carriers, survival gear and the list goes on and on.

For children (or adults), we have added a Scavenger Hunt to the Paulding County Airport location. Just ask for the list when you visit and start searching for a Greek shipping label for guns, practice bombs, an ejection seat, shark repellent and more!

Like last month's newsletter featuring the [4077 MASH six pack](#), it is my hope to share some of the unique items in our museum. If you know something special about an item, some of the memorabilia or just a story, please feel free to share it or write me an email at communications@mof.ts.org.

Each Saturday Garth Haver has been presenting a Facebook Live series on the History of Flight. Be sure to check out these short history lessons on different people, aviation, and the museum. You can [watch online](#) or visit the museum and attend in person at the Paulding location.

We have two events to add to your calendar: April 17th is now set for this year's Gala and a fly-in is scheduled for June 12th at KPUJ (Paulding). Our members have been working on the annuals for the flying aircraft and the weekly Safety & MX Stand Down events continue through the month of February. It is also with great hope that with COVID 19 numbers going down and the vaccine now being distributed, that airshows will be a 'go' for the 2021 season. We can hope!

Becky McAllister
Communications, MOF.TS.ORG



<https://mof.ts.org>



[Facebook](#)



[YouTube](#)

The inside aviation and military memorabilia and outdoor displays are open 10-4 (Tues-Sat) at the Paulding County Airport.

Paulding Co. Airport
730 Airport Parkway
Dallas, GA 30157

Tours of our flying aircraft in Rome (Richard B. Russell Airport) by appointment only. [\(423\) 228-2FLY](tel:4232282FLY).

Hangar: 304 Russell Field
Rd NE, Rome, GA 30165

Office: 1824 E. Crabtree
Road, Hixson, TN 37343

Mascot: Quimby



MOF Sighting: MaeWest Life Jacket

This month, the Museum Director, Christine Lewis, helped me decide on the MOF sighting for this month, specifically the “MaeWest” B-4 life preserver. I knew there had to be quite a story behind this one.

The USAAF Pneumatic Life vest was affectionately dubbed the "MaeWest" vest. Mary Jane ‘Mae’ West (1892–1980) was renowned as an amply endowed film star. The nickname probably started in the states since the vest was patented in the United States in 1928 and sold to the public before it was put into use by the military. Both the U.S. and British air force servicemen were issued these life preservers.

One of the early published mentions of the “MaeWest (or Mae West) life jacket was in *The Listener* (British Broadcasting Corporation, London) on Thursday 11th January 1940:

This squadron of Fleet Air Arm fighters is carrying out, day after day, what I shared with them for a few hours.

*First of all a word about the kit. Full flying kit consists of a combination suit like the skin of a teddy bear. On top of that goes a wind-proof combination suit with a high collar lined with fleece. Then comes a **life-saving waistcoat**. This can be inflated in a few moments by the wearer, and for some obscure reason is known technically as a ‘**Mae West**’. The parachute harness buckles on over this. It is a cumbersome arrangement to walk about in, but it can be released in a second, and there are moments when it gives its wearer quite a lot of moral support. Lastly there is a flying helmet with earphone attachments, gauntlet gloves, and fleece-lined flying boots.*



*Helcat Aviators, Naval Air Station
Vero Beach, Florida, 1944*

This life preserver was developed by Peter Markus (1885–1973). He came up with the idea when he was living in Minnesota. He had a passion for boating and fishing, but the life vests of the time were bulky and filled with cork. Of course, a bulky cork vest was uncomfortable and made it difficult to move around. Even more disturbing, jumping into the water from a height could knock out the wearer, break their jaw or worse, their neck.

His vest design, made of yellow rubber, used CO2 cartridges to inflate the vest, with a backup tube for manual inflation. When the front air pockets were filled, the wearer had the look of a well-endowed woman. You get the picture, right?

Matter of fact, in the 1970’s some thought the name should be updated and they called the life vest the “Dolly Parton”.

These life preservers might look familiar. If you have ever been on a commercial airplane, think about the safety talk. Yes, the life vests on a plane are based on the same design.

There were accessories added to these vests to help with survival in the open sea. The “MaeWest” life vest at the MOF has an attached canister of shark repellent as well as signals which would help getting spotted in the vast ocean. Some had dye packets that would put out a circle of yellow dye to assist in rescue efforts.

Events at the Museum

During the winter months, maintenance is done on our flying aircraft at the hangar in Rome in preparation for the summer airshows, fly-ins, flyovers, and other promotional opportunities.

On this day they were working on the T-28 Alpha. Later that day the Safety Stand Down presentation of the History of The Museum’s Aircraft was presented by Gil Espy.



Another Saturday Safety & MX Stand Down. Joel Megginson gives his talk virtually while the attendees take notes.

New Addition to the Collection

The museum just acquired a 1966 Vietnam era 1/4-ton trailer mounted compressor thanks to Museum Director Christine Lewis' hard work. ☺

The compressor would've been pulled by a vehicle of that era and used on flight lines for servicing compressed air items on aircraft and ground handling equipment including starting jet engines.



The Brock Foundation Museum Visit

Pilot Omar Brock recently launched The Brock Foundation. *“The mission of the Brock Foundation, Inc. is to propel diversity in aviation. Furthermore; to empower, engage and enrich minority youth with hopes of fostering tomorrow's aerospace professionals.”*

In December, groups of children attended “The Gift of Flight” at KPUJ. This event gave them the opportunity to visit the museum, speak with 20+ pilots and aviation professionals (male and female) and take a flight in a plane. You can watch a [video](#) on their website about the event.

To learn more about this foundation and the vision visit <https://www.thebrockfoundationinc.com>.



2021 Gala Tickets

As you know, all entities have been hit hard due to COVID19, especially our Museum and the Anna Shaw Institute. Our annual Gala helps these two very important organizations. Order your tickets from [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com). \$100 per person, \$800 for a table. If you are unable to attend, your ticket can be donated, in your name, to Active-Duty personnel, Veterans, Law Enforcement, Firefighters, EMS personnel, etc.



Museum of Flight

WWW.MOFTS.ORG
423.228.2FLY (2359)

Eleventh Annual Open Hangar Gala

TO BE HELD AT:
 PAULDING
NORTHWEST ATLANTA
AIRPORT
730 AIRPORT PKWY. DALLAS, GA 30157

April 17, 2021

Dress:

- *Military Dress Mess or Dress Blue
- *Civilian Cocktail Attire
- *Museum Blazer & Tie

Reception

1800 - 1900



Silent Auction

1800 - 2030

Supporting the museum &
The Anna Shaw Children's Institute

The Main Event

1900

- > Invocation
- > USMC Color Guard
- > Brief Program
- > Dinner Catered by Old Quarter

Dance The Night Away

2000-2230

- > Dancing By THE BEATERS
- > DJ & Sound BY
Matrix Music



Let Us Capture You



In A WarBird Cockpit
Pictures by Amilia



730 Airport Parkway Dallas, GA. 30157 - 423.228.2FLY (2359)



2021 MOF Calendar

As we have learned in 2020, all events are subject to change

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
1/09	Safety & MX Stand Down - Controlled Flight Into Terrain (CFIT): Jim Brown	MOF – Rome
1/16	Safety & MX Stand Down - Aircraft Ground Handling/Tug Training: Pete O’Hare	MOF - Rome
1/23	Safety & MX Stand Down - History of The Museum’s Aircraft: Gil Espy, Johnny Shook, Wain Bates	MOF - Rome
1/30	Safety & MX Stand Down - Airspace & FAR Review: Joel Megginson	MOF - Rome
2/06	Safety & MX Stand Down - Personal Protection Equipment (PPE): Ben Gilam	MOF - Rome
2/13	Safety & MX Stand Down - T-28A Engine/Prop: Kenny Thomas	MOF - Rome
2/20	Safety & MX Stand Down - All Pilot Training Session: Fred Amicangioli	MOF - Rome
2/27	Safety & MX Stand Down - Insurance: Pete O’Hare	MOF - Rome
4/17	Museum Gala – Purchase Tickets at Eventbrite .	MOF Paulding KPUJ
4/22 – 4/25	MCAS Beaufort Air Show	Beaufort, SC
5/14 – 5/16	Wings over Atlanta	Dobbins ARB
5/19 – 5/23	PDK Good Neighbor	DeKalb Peachtree (PDK)
6/4 – 6/6	Great TN Airshow	Smyrna, TN
6/12	Museum Fly-In	Paulding KPUJ
7/3	Pops on the River	Chattanooga, TN
7/15	Fallen 5	Chattanooga, TN
7/15 – 9/1	Mid-Season Maintenance and Projects every weekend	TBA
9/10 – 9/12	Crossville, TN Fly-In	Crossville, TN
11/4 – 11/6	NAS Pensacola	Pensacola, FL
11/12 – 11/13	Hearts for Heroes	Paulding KPUJ
12/4	Santa Flies into Dallas - KPUJ	Paulding KPUJ



We have been making some changes to the website with more to come. It is now a secure website and you can also [renew your MOF membership](#) online or donate securely.

<https://mofts.org>



LIFETIME MEMBERS

Fred Amicangioli
Shawn Barber
George Barron
Jeanne & Tony Bass
Wain Bates
James Beaver
Ray Bell
Ernie & Nancy Betancourt
David Biloz and Family
Jay Bostic
James Brown
Andy Butler
Ed Callahan
Thomas Calvanelli
Phil Cataldo
Dr. Donald H. Chamberlin
Nancy Coddington
Richard Dean
Peyton, Erich & Logan DeHart
Ron Dobbs
Scott Ducker
Mike Ellis
Vance Engle
Gil Espy
Jesse Evans
Rick Ferrin
Matt Fox

Ben Gillam
Deming Gray
James Greene
Bill Hall
Carson Hawkins
Rob & Cindy Henninger
Mark Homen
James Howard
Larry Jarrett
Dave Johnston
Frank Kalinowski
Chris Keefe
David Lawson
Greg & Jennifer Leach
Anne Lewinson
Christine M. Lewis Arthur
Matthews
Pamela McAllister Rebecca
& Sean McAllister Rusty
& Leigh Ann Miller
Spencer Morgan
Scott Murray
Tony Neal
Jeffrey Newcomb
Pete, Susan, Hanna &
Savannah O'Hare

John Osterhage
Clarence Greer Parramore
Edward Perman
Susan Reed
Hollis Reese
Tim Rhyne
Gerad Riester
Rob Riester
Brant Robinson
Karl Schwelm
Peter Serodino
Dr. Daniel Serrato
Don Shepard
John Shook
Woodrow Smith
Sol Snyder
John Sullivan
Kerry Tidmore
Jorge Veridas
Wayne Vick
Alan Ware
Kim Watkins
Gary Watson
John Webb
David Wells
Brent Westfall
Terri & Doug Woodruff

BLUE SKIES AND FAIR WINDS

Gone West

Voron Baughan
Joan Beaver
Lloyd Blackwell
Dr. Gary Caldwell
Ronnie Cox
Dr. James Creel

Frank Davey
Jimmy Eskew
Mark McAllister
Grady McDowell
Patricia O'Hare

Richard Robinson
Conrad Schalk
Martha Shook
Jasmine Sommer
Bill Wallace
Sylvia Wygoda



Have a story to share? Maybe a bit of history? We would love to have you write it up for a future edition. Send the story and any pictures you wish to share to Becky McAllister, communications@mofts.org.