

# Soaring Valor: WW2 Museum Trip

## Wings Over Wendy's WWII Members Travel to New Orleans



The Gary Sinise Foundation's "Soaring Valor", sponsored a trip to New Orleans, LA for Wings Over Wendy's World War II veterans and a companion to tour the World War 2 Museum. Taking the trip were WWII veterans: Art Sherman, Mike LaVere, Barney Leone, Leon Waldman, Kent Kellegrew, Jim Henshall and Abe Rosenzweig. WOW companions were: Paul Boghossian and Howard Swerdlick. Non-WOW members serving as companions were: USN Capt Steve Sheppard for Leon, Gary Roehm for Barney, Jimmy Henshaw for Jim, Matt Kelligrew for Kent and Jay Rosenzweig for Abe.



Howard Swerdlick, Mike LaVere, Jay & Abe Rosenzweig, Gary Roehm & Barney Leone, Gary Sinise, Art Sherman, Matt & Kent Kellegrew, Leon Waldman & USN Capt Steve Sheppard, and Paul Boghossian

The Soaring Valor program was created through a partnership between the World War 2 Museum, American Airlines and the Gary Sinise Foundation. The partnership strives to acknowledge the veteran's service and archive their personal stories from World War II.

On Tuesday, July 25 the group checked into the Sheraton Gateway Los Angeles Hotel at LAX for an early morning flight on Wednesday. Their departure was covered by the local news stations filming their arrival at LAX. Art Sherman, Paul Boghossian and Abe Rosenzweig were filmed arriving as Mike LaVere videoed the events next with Howard Swerdlick in the background. Bobby George and Mac Harris from the Foundation accompanied the group on the flight on a new American Airlines Embraer ERJ-175 Regional Jet. Only 63 of the 75 seats on the plane was used.

At the Louis Armstrong IAP the group was welcomed by Gary Sinise and Museum volunteers and then taken to the Sheraton New Orleans Hotel for the two-night stay.

Dinner and the Thursday morning breakfast were at the museum. They toured each exhibit in the World War 2 Museum stopping only for lunch at the museum. After the tour, they had dinner at the museum and were treated to a program that included a speech by Gen Robin Rand, Commander, Air Force Global Strike Command and a performance of the "Victory Belles" doing the Andrews Sisters song and dance from the 1940's. They flew back to LAX on Friday.



## **VIP Visits** **July 17, 2017** **SLOs Kari McNamee & Duke Dao**



Photos by Peggy Jean Bassett

During the month WOW was visited by VIP's. On July 17<sup>th</sup>, we were visited by two of the areas Senior Lead Officers: Kari McNamee and Duke Dao who had just completed an operation in the area and stopped by to say hello. They are always welcome to attend our meetings.

## **July 25, 2017** **LA Mayor's West Valley** **Rep: Kevin Taylor**



Photo by Ed Reynolds

WOW 2 was visited on Tuesday, July 25<sup>th</sup> by Kevin Taylor, Los Angeles Mayor's West Valley Representative. Kevin used to manage the Tarzana Community and Cultural Center and helped secure the facility for WOW 2 to meet there every Tuesday. He is always welcome and he told us that he is trying to get the Mayor to visit Wings Over Wendy's this summer.

## **Assemblymember Matt Dababneh Donates to Wings Over Wendy's**



On July 4<sup>th</sup> at the "Concert on the Green", Ed Reynolds, thanked Assemblymember Matt Dababneh for his donation to support the Wings Over Wendy's Luncheon in January 2017.

## **July Speakers** **July 3 & 18, 2017** **Karcy Bowles**



Photo by Ed Reynolds

Karcy Bowles, Volunteer Coordinator, Engagement and Learning Division, Los Angeles Public Library, spoke to Wings Over Wendy's on Monday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> and Tuesday, July 18<sup>th</sup>, about the Library programs she coordinates. Karcy wanted the attendees to be cognizant of the programs at the libraries that support veterans. She also was looking for volunteers to work at their local libraries to assist veterans. She was provided with flyers for Wings Over Wendy's Conversation with Heroes program which she will pass on to the various libraries to schedule our veterans to tell their stories.

## July 3, 2017

### Tom Bates



Photo by Ed Reynolds

Also, on July 3<sup>rd</sup>, Tom Bates, a new member from Malibu told the group the story of his US Army service. Tom went to basic training and advanced training to learn US Army regulations.

He told us about producing the daily Morning Report. His unit was called up twice, first for the Watts Riots and then for Vietnam. When they got to Ft. Lewis the units training was overstated so they were not qualified to be called up, so they sued the USA but lost.

He typed, filed; he was “chairborne”, not “airborne”; he didn’t retreat – he back spaced; he couldn’t get a Purple Heart for a paper cut, but he tried.

He felt very comfortable joining our group.

## July 10, 2017

### Alan Archer



Alan Archer, a new member, told us the story of his service in the British Royal Air Force. He was a Dental Technician and was altered to be inducted in the RAF to fight the Korean War. By the time he was inducted in 1953 the Armistice had been signed so he was sent to Egypt to guard the Suez Canal. He spent two years assigned as a Stores Clerk (not in a Dental Lab). On leave he would go to Cyprus. He left Egypt just before the Suez War.

As a young boy, he lived in London during the bombing. His house was only hit by one bomb but it didn’t

destroy his house. On occasions, he slept in the “Tube” during air raids and spent one year in the country with his sister to avoid the bombing.

His father was a tailor who understood German so when a German was captured he was called in to translate during the interrogation.

He came to the United States in 1976 with his family to make teeth for Hollywood films special effects. He and his son have supported over 400 films. His company is G.A. Enterprise, manufactures of top quality removable dental prosthetics for the film and entertainment industry. A family run business with over 50 years of dental experience in fixed and removable prosthetics. They developed the art of changing an actor or actress’s teeth, smile or facial contour to suit any role they were playing, without any interference in their speech patterns, and eliminate bulky mouthfuls of glues, gadgets and wires. A few credits include Austin Powers 1, 2 & 3, Blade, X-Men, Mrs. Doubtfire & Interview with the Vampire

## Gary Archer

Alan’s son Gary filled in some of the details of his father’s talk.

## July 17, 2017

### Monte Merken



Photo by Ed Reynolds –



USCG Academy photo of Crotty

Monte Merken told us a story about **USCG Lt Thomas James Eugene Crotty** who single handedly won the Coast Guard a Battle Streamer for the defense of the Philippines. A native of Buffalo, New York, Crotty graduated from the Coast Guard Academy in 1934. He served on a variety of Coast Guard vessels, and then took a US Navy course in mines and demolitions. On October 28, 1941, he was posted to the Cavite Naval Yard in Manila.

After the Japanese bombed Cavite on December 10<sup>th</sup>, Crotty joined the USS Quail, a 187-foot minesweeper. Since Crotty had been stationed at the Cavite Naval Yard as a demolitions expert, he knew where every piece of ammunition on the base was, and how to get to it. Shortly after arriving on the Quail, Crotty gave this information to

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the Captain, and a raid was organized. The Quail steamed out from Corregidor, and headed for the old Navy Yard.

Sailors on the Quail remarked at how often this lone Coast Guard Officer would disappear for days at a time. Sometimes he went into the jungles of Bataan, other times into the old Naval Yard.

During these missions, Crotty was involved with scuttling American submarines and ships which had been docked at Cavite before the Japanese bombed it. Any vessel that could not operate was stripped of its guns and ammunition and most importantly, fuel. These were then transported back to Corregidor.

Crotty oversaw the scuttling of the USS Sealion, one of the few submarines docked at Cavite. It was filled with explosive charges, then sunk to the bottom of Manila Bay.

When Corregidor fell he became a prisoner. He was the first Coast Guard POW since 1812. Shortly after arriving at the now infamous Cabanatuan prisoner of war camp, Crotty came down with diphtheria and he died on July 19, 1942.

His actions from December 1941 to May 1942 single-handedly earned the United States Coast Guard the Philippines Defense Battle Streamer; a feat unmatched in the service's history. For his bravery and skill in combat, he was awarded the Bronze Star, along with the Purple Heart. Tragically, the whereabouts of his remains are unknown.

## Stuart Bird-Wilson



Photo by Ed Reynolds

Stuart Bird-Wilson, SAS, Capt. Ret, gave us a presentation on his father's career in the Royal Air Force.

His father, Harold "Bidie" Bird-Wilson, joined the 17<sup>th</sup> RAF Squadron before the war and in 1937 he crashed in a Gloster Gauntlet. The squadron converted to the Hawker Hurricane fighters, but kept the Gauntlet symbolizing armed strength in their squadron badge.



Gloster Gauntlet



17<sup>th</sup> Squadron Badge

In 1939 his father flew in the "Battle of France" which include the Dunkirk Evacuation. During the evacuation, his squadron relocated from France to the Channel Islands and then back to southern England where they took part in the Battle of Britain.

After the war, his father was assigned to test aircraft. He was testing the Gloster Meteor, an early twin-engine jet. He had one disintegrate in flight but he was able to bail out and survived to be promoted to command the Air Fighting Development Squadron for the Hawker Hunter, Supermarine Swift, English Electric Lightning I, and many more.

"Birdie" lost his nose in the 1939 crash and he agreed to be treated by the pioneering plastic surgeon Archibald McIndoe and became the number two member of the Guinea Pig Club. McIndoe reconstructed many disfigured airmen during and after the war.

Stuart showed pictures of the pilots and the bases. "Birdie" was featured in Life magazine. Pictures of the RAF Club in Piccadilly, London, and many other pictures, books and newspaper clippings from "Birdie's" life.

## July 24, 2017 Adam Renteria



Photo by Ed Reynolds

Adam Renteria, Director of Strategic Development, Operation Gratitude spoke to us on July 24<sup>th</sup>. Adam started by thanking the veterans in the room for their service and strong commitment to the country. He told us of his background as what he calls the post 9-11 generation. He enlisted and spent 5 years in the US Army. After his third overseas tour in 2004 he got out and used the G.I. Bill to go to college.

Initially he wanted to be a professional ball player's rep, but he soon found that his military service set him apart from most of the other students. He saw there was not much support for student veterans. At Cal State Long Beach in 2008 he changed his entire professional focus to serve the veteran community. First by forming a student veteran's organization at Cal State Long Beach and then expanding the organization across the country. The organization used their strength and voice to get the politicians to improve GI Bill benefits and other programs that relate to current and

(Continued page 5, column 1)

past veterans of all ages. Starting with student veterans he expanded to support: Homeless Veterans and Unemployed Veterans working with non-profit organizations that support veterans.

During this work he met a Gold Star widow in 2006 that supported the veteran's causes by running Marathons throughout the world raising funds for veteran organizations. They worked close together and finally got married in April 2017 and have dedicated their lives to service veterans.

This summer they are very proud that their son was accepted to West Point. He has reported back on his plebe summer training that he "Hates to love it, and loves to hate it".

## July 31, 2017 WOW Soaring Valor Group Trip Report



Photo by Ed Reynolds

The Wings Over Wendy's WWII veterans that participated in The Gary Sinise Foundation's "Soaring Valor", trip to New Orleans, LA talked to the attendees on July 31<sup>st</sup>. They were very impressed and appreciated the treatment given them on the trip. They spoke in glowing terms about the departure from LAX, the new charter aircraft, the greeting they received in New Orleans.

Mike LaVere, Barney Leone, Leon Waldman, Art Sherman, Kent Kellegrew, and Jim Henshall spoke about their experience. Several stating it was a "once in a life time experience". Art Sherman stated that he had been on similar veteran's trips but Soaring Valor was the best he had taken.

## Jim Henshall



Photo by Ed Reynolds

Jim Henshall told us one of the most interesting

experiences on the trip. General Robin Rand, Commander, Air Force Global Strike Command, gave each veteran his Challenge Coin and told them if they were ever in the bar without it and were "challenged" they had to buy the "challenger" a drink. The last night of the trip Jim and his son were in the hotel bar when the General joined them. Jim, who had already had a drink, "challenged" the General and discovered that the General had passed out all his coins and was in the bar without one and therefore had to buy Jim another drink. Thus, the reason Jim was not in the Wings Over Wendy's group picture with Gary Sinise on page 1.

## PROFILES

### WOW's Wonder Woman: Marion Lovelace

By Ed Reynolds



Photo by Marion Lovelace

Behind every successful organization there is usually a woman. In Wings Over Wendy's we have several but this profile is about our "Wonder Woman": Marion Lovelace.

She was born Marion Schultz, ninety years ago on April 16th, in La Crosse, Wisconsin. Marion attended the La Crosse schools and after high school, Prospect Hall Secretary School, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The war was over but the newly created Department of Defense was being established in the Pentagon, Washington, DC. Marion took a test and passed with flying colors to be selected to work in the new Secretary of Defense James Forrestal's Office. (Continued page 6, column 1)



After a short stint in Washington, like so many members of Wings Over Wendy's she and a girlfriend moved to California to make their fortunes. In 1961, she joined Forest E. Olson Co., the largest real estate company in the west, with 50 offices and over 3000 agents before being sold to Coldwell Banker in the 1970s.

While working Marion attended night classes at UCLA. She grew her business to become one of the top producing Real Estate Brokers in the West San Fernando Valley for 56 years. During that time, she fell in love and married a fellow broker Richard T. Lovelace, and together they were top producers for Forest E. Olson for many years.

Dick was a WWII B-17 pilot and son of Captain Thomas T. Lovelace one of the early pioneers in the design and development of aircraft and aircraft engines. (We documented some of his accomplishments in the December 2016 Wings News). He inherited his father's entrepreneurial talent and applied it to the business world after the war.

After World War II, Lovelace joined the Santa Monica Fire Department and at the same time began studying at USC's Business School he came up with the idea to form a non-profit membership warehouse store for federal, state, municipal, and utility employees. For a two-dollar membership fee they could buy goods for 25% less than other stores in the area. Vendors set-up goods in the warehouses and one was Sol Price from San Diego. When Dick sold his five stores to Thrifty Drugs, Sol copied Dick's idea and developed the concept that has evolved into Costco and Sam's Club membership warehouse stores.

Dick turned to real estate after losing his fortune in a bad investment, and joined Forest E. Olson Co where he worked with Marion. She said if he hadn't lost his money he would not of met her. She became his million-dollar baby. They were married by Rev. Robert Schuller in Garden Grove, in 1973, and Marion inherited two grown children from Dick's former marriage.

It was Dicks daughter who named Marion "Wonder Woman", and Marion is very close with Dick's son, as well. She now has 4 step-grandchildren and 6 step-great grandchildren.

Richard and Marion established their own company: Lovelace Realtors in 1985 with a different style of marketing by sending out small useful items like letter openers and plastic tooth picks in a carrying case saying: "The Perfect Pick, Marion and Dick Lovelace". Her red hair and cheery disposition attracted a loyal clientele.

After Richard passed away in 2002, Marion started attending Wings Over Wendy's with another former WWII pilot, Darrell Huston, a "star" member of Wings Over Wendy's that she and Dick knew from their church. Darrell had started the practice of bringing a shopping bag of "goodies" as the grand prize for our weekly raffle. Marion would bring Darrell to the meetings and when his health

was failing she took on the responsibility of providing the weekly "Grand Prize".

A regular attendee, Marion serves as the organization's secretary, recording the profile of new attendees, writing and sending thank you letters to our speakers and the hosts of our tours. She still drives and often provides rides for members that live in her neighborhood to meetings and tour events.

Along with Shirley Andrews, Karen Vegtal and Connie Hein she provides a vital role of what makes our organization so successful.

Marion, is truly a Wonder Woman in our eyes.

## THIS IS YOUR LIFE RAY ROSENBAUM

By Ray Rosenbaum

Nobody asked me, but this seems a good time to get autobiographical.

Having recently retired from a 50-year career in public relations, a combination of publicity and advertising, I have been reminiscing about how it all started.

My military travels began when I was 17 as I joined the Naval Reserve directly from Compton College (Straight Outta Compton.) Little did I know I was in for two weeks at sea annually aboard a destroyer and 14 days of seasickness.

The ships were all different, but many of us found a similar place to gather, and we named it "Heavers' Haven."

Six years of being shook up, and I was ready for active duty. So, after taking my last civilian cruise out of Rhode Island (I had moved back to Chicago) I reported to Washington, D.C.

Dreading I would get destroyer duty, I joyously went aboard the USS Midway which was being rebuilt in Norfolk. I had a journalistic background, but they bounced me around between radar duty, ET striker and finally ship's editor,



Ray on the Midway

(Continued page 7, column 1)

From '53 to '55, I served aboard the Midway and just as I was to take a trip around the world after a Med cruise and shakedown cruise through the Caribbean I was transferred to the Antietam out of Boston.

Another Med cruise followed, and I was finally discharged in Quonset Point and on my way home to Los Angeles, which had remained my resident port.

So much for my illustrious military career. Sounds like I was a true-born civilian, doesn't it?

I worked for newspapers and in PR until 1963 when I launched my own agency, Headlines, Ink. We grew to a six-man firm and we were lucky enough to handle such accounts as Hilton Hotels, Lawry's Prime Rib, several hospitals and a pile of sports accounts, including the Beef Bowl, racing cars, table tennis championships and boxing matches. I once worked for the Official Boxing Record.

My best luck was connecting with my wife, Rita, 32 years ago. She's a retired teacher and together we have raised five children and eight grandchildren.

I joined Wings Over Wendy's 14 years ago, one year after it was created in 2002. Many strong friendships have followed, and I hope to make many more.

## An Early WOW Member Lee Auger

By Ed Moreno



Photo by Harlis Brend

A long, long time ago in Sebastopol, California in 1929 a son was born to the Auger family.

Time passed and soon Lee was graduating from grammar school on June 6, 1944-D-Day. Next it was a diploma from Grant Union High School on June, 1948. Lee then enlisted in the Navy on August 2, 1948.

His new career began at Boot Camp, in San Diego. Between November 1948 and February 1950 Lee received Pre-Technical Training at Corpus Christi, TX, then Aviation Radioman School at Memphis, TN, and in Norfolk, VA he attended the Fleet Radio School.

Lee's training as a radioman made him also responsible for all communications with ground radio units.

He was sent to London, England via Washington, D.C. from Westover AFB. The cargo plane went to NAS Argentia, Newfoundland to the Azores and then to

Manchester, England.

Like the other services the Navy had its own air force. In general terms, the Navy's system for designating naval aircraft squadrons usually conformed to the following loose classification structure: Squadron designations were based on specific letters used for indicating the missions for each type of squadron and its assigned aircraft, numbers were assigned to each squadron within the same mission. VC-4, VR-24, etc. The V means, that it is a fixed-wing heavier than air squadron. Lee was assigned to VR-24.

From London, an Air Force C-47 flew Lee and others to the RAF Base at Bovingdon. They were then assigned to their squadron at RAF Hendon in North London. The VR-24 had a detachment at Port Lyautey in French Morocco, a supply base for the 6th fleet. His tour of duty assigned Lee's squadron to London and he looked forward to spending time there, but in June the North Korean affair forced his squadron to spend more time at Port Lyautey.

In December of 1951 Lee was assigned to VC-4 a Night All Weather Fighter Squadron. Still attached to the Squadron he went on three pilot qualification cruises aboard the aircraft carriers: USS Oriskany, USS FDR, and USS Saipan. On the aircraft carrier Saipan a pilot and plane were lost attempting a night landing during a storm. Not a trace was ever found of plane or pilot.

Lee made Aviation Radioman Third Class in 1950 while assigned in London. In the same year Congress gave the G.I. Bill to those who served in the Korean Conflict. Lee Auger was discharged on July 20, 1952.

School, work, and building a family followed. In the early '90's Lee met Fred "Crash" Blechman. They were both active with the Association of Naval Aviators. Lee drove Fred to activities and speaking events. Both belonged to the B-17 Combat Crewmen. Thus, when Wings Over Wendy's was forming Fred invited Lee to be one of the earliest members.

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## Peggy Jean's Hanger

A monthly column by Peggy Jean Bassett

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## Then and Now: Oxnard AFB to Camarillo Airport

Oxnard Airport (not to be confused with the current Oxnard Airport) was opened in 1934 by the County of Ventura and consisted of a 3,500-foot (1,100 m) dirt runway. The first fixed-base operator on the field was Joe Plosser. He owned only two aircraft, but had no housing for them. During the thirties Howard Hughes erected a tent on the airport to shelter his H-1 racer, which he tested from the Oxnard Airport. (Continued page 8, column 1)

The County of Ventura paved the runway in 1938 and a large hangar (now known as Hangar #2) was built by the Works Progress Administration. In 1939 James "Elmo" McLean opened the Oxnard Flying School with two aircraft, a 40 hp J-3 Cub and a Kinner two-seater.

In 1940 during the build up to World War II, the U.S. Army Air Corps moved its civilian training program onto the airport to establish an Air Corps Flying Training Command contract flying school called Mira Loma Flight Academy. Housing was built across the street for the cadets and instructors. The airfield was first activated on 12 September 1940. The school was one of many in California that trained aviation cadets in primary flying skills, the graduates being reassigned to basic flying schools at regular AAF bases.

Following the war the airport was developed into Oxnard Air Force Base, an Air Defense Command Base, defending the West Coast of Southern California.

The Base was equipped with the Northrop F-89 "Scorpion" aircraft. By 1958 the base had four alert hangars, concrete ramps, and a 9,000 ft. runway. It was an entire community with administration buildings, housing, recreational facilities, a theater, and even a gas station.

In 1960 the Supersonic McDonnell Douglas F-101B "Voodoo" interceptor aircraft, equipped with "Genie" Tactical nuclear missiles were based there. In the years following the closure of Oxnard Air Force Base, January 1970, the county of Ventura pursued the acquisition of the base airfield and the transfer of the airport was finally approved, providing the runway was shortened to 6,000 feet, by displacing the threshold on one end.

By 1985 the airport was entirely managed by the Ventura County of Airports, now the Camarillo Airport. It has one runway and exclusively serves privately operated general aviation and executive aircraft. A separate airfield is in the Southwest quadrant of the airport and is for exclusive use of light-sport aircraft and ultralights. In recent times, new hangars have been built and final touches on a building that will soon house a dozen much-needed hangars. There's about a five-year waiting list right now, with more than 150 names for hangars. More hangars are in the works to be built. Under the current plans it will bring the number of hangars to about 450. The airport has 650 acres of land. "So, watch us grow!" I love this airport, said Plane Peggy".

P.S. The commemorative Air Force(CAF) has a museum hangar with much to see artifacts, actual warbirds on display. Glass showcases filled with WWII memorabilia and other military items. A great "hands-on" air museum. Bring the kids, enjoy the souvenir shop area with volunteer's eager to answer questions.

Also, the Waypoint Café is worth the wait as the atmosphere and food is "just the best". Five stars from me.

Written and reported by Peggy Jean Bassett.

## Wings over Camarillo 2017

37th year tradition airshow, August 19, Saturday and the 20th Sunday.

Oh, my, how the time does fly. So, load up that old Radio Flyer wagon with munchies and enjoy a day in the sun." Bring your own shade, hats, umbrellas, and sunscreen.

You will need a folding chair in a bag! Water in a bottle! Do you remember thinking I'll never buy water in a bottle, or why, it comes right out of the kitchen faucet, or I'll never have one of those cell phones, as long as I have a quarter for a phone booth! Wrong! You can walk around and collect freebies for the grandkids like pens, pencils, key chains, paper planes, etc. and there are plenty of booths of all kinds.

Take time to visit our Wings Over Wendy's veteran's booth area, "The Greatest Generation and Veterans of all Wars", and our supporters who are so very helpful and much needed. Thanks to all.

Now on to the Airshow. Don't you just love the roar of those engines starting up the Allison, Pratt Whitneys, Merlins, Wrights and all. "Music to my ears.", said Plane Peggy, the aerobatics, spins, dives, tailwheels, dogfights, stunts performed in flight. The parachute jumpers and much more. A favorite of all the Warbirds, and the Grand Finale. The formation flying the "*Those Birds was worth waiting for. Throw a nickel on the grass.*"

By Peggy Jean Bassett.

P.S. the Camarillo Airport is located at 555 Airport Way, Camarillo, Calif 93010. Gates open at 9:00 AM. The show starts at 12:00 noon to 4:30 PM.

Veterans, for a Discount Ticket, sign up with Avery Willis, our WOW member and the CAF museum docent in charge.

## Wings Over Camarillo 2017 The Performers

**Vicky Benzing** is back! Born and raised in California, an accomplished pilot, skydiver, Aerobatic Competitor and Reno racer. Vicky has over 6,000 hours of flight time and 1100 parachute jumps. She took aerobatic instructions from legendary pilot Amelia Reid, and now has a flying career of over thirty years, and now has a long list of aviation accomplishments.

**John Collver**, legendary pilot will demonstrate his aerobatic skills in his SNL "Wardog" (TX Texan.) with over 14,000 hours of flight time in over 50 types of aircraft, John flew for the Northrop Gruman Corporation, supporting the US military for over a decade.

**Judy Phelps**, a Master Certified Flight Instructor, Aerobatic, CGI - Instrument, specializing in Tailwheel, Spins, and Aerobatics. Judy has logged over 7,000 hours and has many career awards. (Continued page 9, column 1)





- The 8th AF shot down 6,098 fighter planes, 1 for every 12,700 shots fired.
- Polish Catholic midwife Stanisawa Leszczynska delivered 3,000 babies at the Auschwitz Concentration camp during the Holocaust in occupied Poland.
- British soldiers got a ration of three sheets of toilet paper a day. Americans got 22 sheets.
- In 1941, more than 3 million cars were produced in the US. Only 139 more were made during the entire war.
- Four of every five German soldiers killed in the war died on the Eastern Front.
- Only 20% of the males born in the Soviet Union in 1923 survived the war.
- Only 25% of the men serving on U-boats survived
- The largest Japanese spy ring was in Mexico.
- The mortality rate for Russian POWs in German camps was 85%.
- The third city selected for the Atom Bomb was Tokyo.
- Hiroo Onoda, a Japanese Army Officer in the Philippines never surrendered in 1945. In 1974 his former CO traveled from Japan to issue orders reliving him from duty.
- Total casualties totaled between 50-70 million people. 80% came from just 4 countries: Russia, China, Germany and Poland. Over 50% were civilians.
- The highest-ranking American killed was Lt. Gen. Lesley McNair, killed by the US Army Air Corps
- Between 1939 and 1945 the Allies dropped 3.4 million tons of bombs, an average of about 27,700 tons of bombs each month.
- 12,000 heavy bombers were shot down
- 67% of Allied bomber crews were lost for each plane destroyed.
- 3 or 4 ground men were wounded for each killed.
- 6 bomber crewmen were killed for each one wounded.
- The youngest US serviceman was 12-year-old Calvin Graham, USN. He was wounded in combat and given a Dishonorable Discharge for lying about his age. (His benefits were later restored by act of Congress).
- At the time of Pearl Harbor, the top US Navy command was called CINCUS (pronounced "sink us"), the shoulder patch of the US Army's 45th Infantry division was the swastika, and Hitler's private train was named "Amerika". All three were soon changed for PR purposes.
- Germany lost 110 Division Commanders in combat
- 84 German Generals were executed by Hitler
- Germany lost 136 Generals, which averages out to be one every 2 weeks.
- Air attacks caused 33% of the German Generals' deaths
- Most members of the Waffen SS were not German.
- More Russian Civilians died than Russian Military

## **In Memoriam**

We lost another World War II veteran on July 2, 2017.

### **Jack Sherwin Schneider** **June 13, 1924 to July 2, 2017**



Photo by Howard Swerdlick

Jack Sherwin Schneider was born on June 13, 1924. He served in the USMC after WWII and was stationed in Hawaii guarding P-51 aircraft at the USMC/USN Air Station Kaneohe Bay. He was wounded by a friendly fire accident during his service. Jack was a long-time resident of the San Fernando Valley, initially in Encino and then in West Hills.

## **Prayers**

Unfortunately, several of our most active members were hospitalized or are either in Nursing Homes or at home recuperating from their injuries or illnesses. Our prayers are for a speedy recovery and a return to our meetings:

**David Plumb (The Chief)**  
**Earl Minkin**  
**Ellie Harrison**  
**Mort Green**

## **New Members**

We welcomed the following new members during the month of July 2017.

**Larry Kushneres**  
**Ray Ives**  
**Alan Archer**  
**Rosadel McClure (Widow of Chuck McClure)**  
**Hal Landy**

## **We all want raffle prizes!**

Please search your closets and garages and bring your items to the next Wings Over Wendy's meeting.

Suggested Items: Military books, magazines, DVD's, tools, etc.

**Thank you!**

## August Birthdays

Bob Donovan	August 01, 1948
Robert Lee	August 02, 1944
Ed Reynolds	August 05, 1935
Justin Devine	August 07, 1996
Marce Rankin	August 10, 1931
Marty Cohen	August 11, 1948
Jim Gillum	August 14, 1942
Richard Gross	August 16, 2026
Leon Waldman	August 16, 1924
Boots LaVere	August 17, 1930
Jack Rolston	August 17, 1921
Ray Rosenbaum	August 17, 1930
Luanne Pomerantz	August 18, 1961
Stan Stater	August 18, 1937
Richard Hernandez	August 21, 1953
Ed Phillips	August 21, 1926
Neil Baliber	August 22, 1941
Harlis Brend	August 22, 1941
Mike Brodey	August 24, 1937
Marc Orfanos	August 25, 1955
Reed King	August 26, 1924
Dick Bublitz	August 28, 1932
Jerry Lief	August 29, 1933
Dick Edwards	August 31, 1930

## Wings News Staff

<b>Publisher:</b>	Ed Reynolds
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<b>Photographers:</b>	Harlis Brend Mike LaVere Howard Swerdlick Ed Reynolds
<b>New Members:</b>	Marion Lovelace Shirley Andrews
<b>Reminders:</b>	Connie Hein
<b>Speakers:</b>	Barney Leone
<b>Tours:</b>	Warren Weinstein

**WOW's monthly food drive  
is Monday, August 7th.**



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The following is a list of WOW members who have contributed \$10 to fund the publication of the *Wings News* for 12 months.

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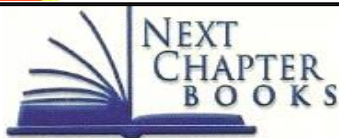
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