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Photo by Larry Kushner

Wings Over Wendy's Bi-Annual Group Picture

On March 23, 2026, eighty-eight members of Wings Over Wendy's met in the El Camino Real Charter High School North Campus Auditorium for the bi-annual group picture.

March 2026 Meetings

March 2, 2026



Larry Kurhner Visits New Orleans for China Tourism World Magazine

On March 2, 2026, Larry Kurhner gave the featured presentation, documenting his trip to New Orleans and the World War II Museum for Chinese Tourism World Magazine.

Focusing on the tourist aspect of a visit to a city like New Orleans, Larry started with pictures and descriptions of the NOPSI Hotel, where he enjoyed a special chef's table dinner featuring tomato jelly with bacon and fried oysters, followed by strawberry shortcake for dessert. That was followed by breakfast at Brennan's, cruising the Mississippi, dining at Dickie Brennan's, a tour of New Orleans Architecture, Jazz at Preservation Hall, and finishing with a tour of the WWII Museum.

(Continued page 2)

New Orleans Ship Tour Overview

Larry provided a detailed tour of the ship New Orleans, discussing the ship's hydraulics powered by Detroit V8 diesel engines.

His river tour included views of the Mississippi River, sugar plant, and various restaurants, with particular attention given to the architectural styles and ironwork of the French Quarter.

Next, Larry visited Preservation Hall in New Orleans, describing the intimate setting and lively jazz performances. He also highlighted various attractions in the French Quarter, including a cigar shop, a cultural history museum, and an artist's studio. Larry mentioned visiting a 1930s or 40s-style soda shop, exploring bars and restaurants, and encountering tourists from different places. He concluded by describing the lively nightlife in the area, expressing a desire to return his hotel as the evening activities were winding down.

The next day focused on a detailed tour of the National World War II Museum in New Orleans. Highlights included the Higgins boats, which were crucial for amphibious landings, as well as various aircraft displays, including the B-17, B-24, and P-51, along with a PT boat exhibit. The discussion also covered the museum's extensive collection of military equipment, uniforms, and veterans' personal stories, including displays on the Manhattan Project and atomic energy kits from WWII. The tour concluded with a visit to a local restaurant and a brief discussion about torpedo technology.

(For those that don't know, Wings Over Wendy's has been a contributor to the museum, thank you to Steve Klausner.)



Bob Eisenhart and Ed Reynolds present a Certificate of Appreciation to Larry Kushner for his presentation.

March 9, 2026



Looking Back 15 Years: Featuring a Recording of the First Group Picture

On March 9, 2026, the featured presentation was a video of the first group picture taken on the "tenth" anniversary of Wings Over Wendy's.

On March 5, 2012, within the West Hill Wendy's restaurant, gaily decorated with red, white and blue bunting, balloons, flags and framed pictures of classic combat aircraft, the Wings Over Wendy's Organization celebrated their 10 year anniversary. The event featured free doughnuts, bagels and coffee donated by Wendy's owner, Mr. Ron Ross as well as assorted cakes and cookies. Several speakers representing, Operation Gratitude, city and state governments also joined the festivities.



(Continued page 3)

At the time, the group was meeting at Platt Village. It had started in 2001 as a lunch group of aviation aficionados. Pilots, mechanics, crewmen, writers, and artists. Sharing their stories. Several members were still flying, and that summer they talked about supporting the Wings Over Camirilo Air Show, a co-founder, Mickey Epstein, suggested they call the group “Wings Over Wendy’s”.

A year later, a columnist for the Los Angeles Daily News, Dennis McCarthy, profiled the lunches in a column, and attendance exploded to the size it is today, of 60 to 80 people per meeting. Ron Ross, owner of the Wendy’s franchise, asked the group to move the meeting to the morning in 2004.

When El Pollo Loco outbid him for the Platt Village location in 2018, he offered to let Wings Over Wendy’s use his Woodland Hills restaurant on Ventura Boulevard, it was crowded, and Wendy’s started serving breakfast. Two years later, we moved again to the El Camino Real Charter High School Auditorium at their North Campus, where we meet today.

The 10-year video was spliced from several angles, showing how meetings were conducted differently 15 years ago. Several of the current members spoke in the video, including Andy Kepetskey, Bob Styles, and Bob Donovan. Shirley Andrews and Anne Marie Radel were in scenes.

March 16, 2026



When Soviet Advisors Were Shocked When US F-15’s Set a Trap for the MiG-25

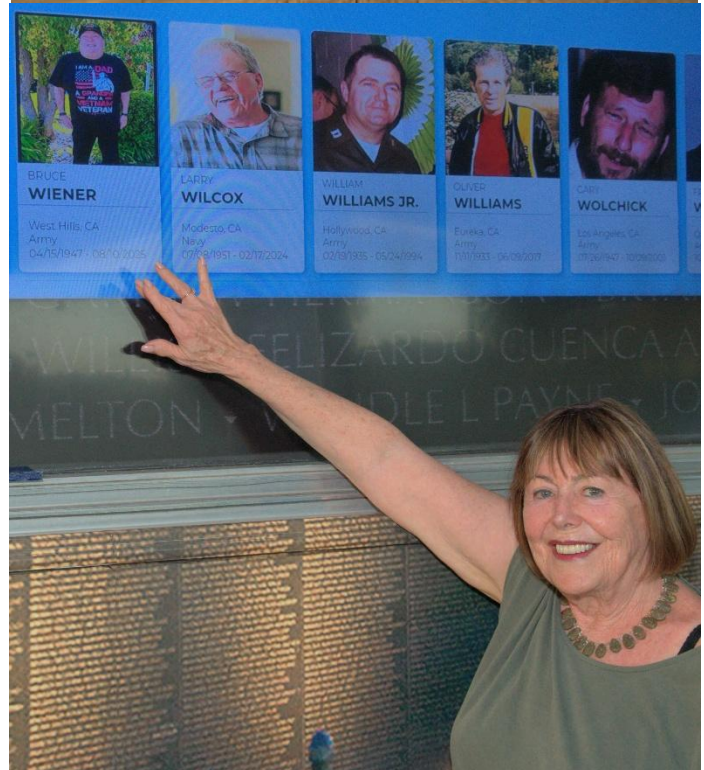
On March 16, 2026, the featured presentation was a video titled “When Soviet Advisors Were Shocked When US F-15’s Set a Trap for the MiG-25.” It was a fascinating presentation on how American engineers designed, manufactured, and installed new radar systems in USAF aircraft without Russian knowledge.

In the early 1980s, the Soviet MiG-25 Foxbat was the fastest combat aircraft on Earth—a machine considered untouchable at altitude. But in 1981, Israeli pilots flying the

American F-15 Eagle did the impossible: they shot down a Foxbat from below, shattering Soviet military doctrine. For months, Soviet advisors were baffled. Was it a lucky shot? A new missile? Or a spy?

This documentary reveals the true story of the technological trap set by the Israelis and the secret “Look-Down/Shoot-Down” radar technology that turned the Soviet Union’s greatest strength into a fatal weakness. Discover how a single algorithm changed the course of the Cold War forever.

The Wall That Heals Visited Woodland Hills



The Wall That Heals visited Woodland Hills from March 17 to 22, 2026. Many members of Wings Over Wendy’s supported the Jewish War Veterans in scheduling, installing, and volunteering to support the project. Despite record-setting heat, it was a great success. Army Krane should be congratulated for making the project happen.

A large group of police officers, mostly men, are seated in rows, facing forward. They are wearing dark blue or black uniforms with caps. In the background, a sign is visible that reads "Entry Nightingale 9:30 am to 11:00 am". The setting appears to be an indoor training facility.

March 23, 2026, was the Bi-Annual Group Picture in the El Camino Real Charter High School North Campus Auditorium. A short business meeting no raffel was conducted. Larry Kushner, Mike Surgarman, Dave Andersen, Bruce Schultz, David Timmerman, Ed Reynolds, and others helped Larry set up the lighting configuration on Friday.

March 30, 2026



On March 30, 2026, the meeting was held in the dining room of the Canoga Park Elks Lodge. The Ball Room was rented to a larger group. Max Carlisle was not able to attend but had provided instructions for setting up speakers for the group in the dining room (which Ed didn't fully plug in at the beginning of the video). We eventually were able to see and hear the video.

The documentary explains that Operation LUSTY, a secret U.S. program to seize German aircraft and research, brought several Me 262s to Wright Field and Freeman Field for testing. American pilots were astonished: the jet could exceed 500 mph, climb rapidly, and deliver devastating attacks with its four 30mm cannons and advanced air-to-air rockets. Its swept-wing layout and aerodynamic efficiency would later influence the design of American jets such as the F-86 Sabre.

Yet the video also highlights why the Me 262 ultimately failed to change the course of the war. Its Junkers Jumo 004 engines, while revolutionary, were fragile, short-lived, and prone to catastrophic failure. Germany lacked the high-temperature alloys needed for durable turbine blades, forcing engineers to rely on inferior materials that degraded quickly. Maintenance demands were enormous, fuel shortages were constant, and inexperienced pilots were rushed into service. Hitler's insistence on using the jet as a bomber further delayed its deployment as a fighter, squandering its strategic potential.

Despite its flaws, the Me 262 left a profound legacy. U.S. engineers recognized that they were witnessing the future of air combat, and the aircraft's design principles directly shaped postwar aviation. The video concludes by emphasizing that the Me 262 was both a technological marvel and a cautionary tale: a weapon decades ahead of its time, but introduced too late, in too few numbers, and with too many logistical weaknesses to save the collapsing Third Reich.

**Wings Over Wendy's 24th
Anniversary and Bi-Annual Picture
was documented in two local
publications:**

The first was the: Valley News Group: (continued page 5)



Wings Over Wendy's Soars at 25th Anniversary

Wings Over Wendy's (WOW), a group of veteran aviators and supporters, celebrated its 25th anniversary last week with a large commemorative group photo featuring its members.

The organization was founded by Fred "Crash" Blechman, a Navy Corsair pilot, and Lee Auger, who remains the longest-living member and still attends meetings. The group began as informal lunchtime gatherings at the Wendy's in the Platt Village shopping center in West Hills—hence the name. (Continued page 5)

Wendy's owners Ron and Diane Ross welcomed the veterans warmly, offering special prices on coffee and bagels and eventually opening early every Monday to accommodate the growing group. As membership expanded beyond the restaurant's capacity, WOW relocated in March 2020 to the El Camino Real Charter High School auditorium, where meetings now take place both in person and on Zoom.

Each Monday, members recite the Pledge of Allegiance, share stories, enjoy camaraderie, raffle items, and hear from guest speakers. Meetings sometimes feature military-themed films. The group includes veterans, aviation enthusiasts, and military supporters, with pilots, bombardiers, tail gunners, and radiomen from World War II, Korea, and Vietnam among its ranks.

Women have long been part of WOW as well. Ethel Margolin, an original "Rosie the Riveter," remained an active member until just weeks before her passing in 2025.

Three members—Annemarie Radel, Peter Helm, and Jan Edwards—still attend meetings after having participated in the original Wendy's lunches. The oldest active member, Bill Dillon, continues to drive himself to meetings at age 101.

For more information about Wings Over Wendy's or attending a meeting, visit wingsoverwendys.com.

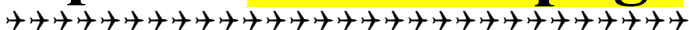
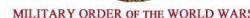
The second reference to Wings Over Wendy's 24th Anniversary and Bi-Annual Picture was in Councilmember John Lee's CD12 Community Update.



Friends,

I was honored to join veteran's group Wings Over Wendy's for their annual photo as they celebrated their 25th anniversary and the incredible community they have built. For many years, I have had the opportunity to attend their gatherings and support this group, and I have seen firsthand how important this community is for the veterans who participate.

Groups like Wings Over Wendy's provide more than just a place to meet, they provide friendship, support, and a lasting sense of community. Celebrating their 25th anniversary was a great reminder of how important it is to continue supporting the veterans in our community and recognizing the connections they have built over the years.

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 Fred Kaplan
 Jerry Knotts
 Larry Kushner
 Jill Lace
 Howard Lewis
 Martin Light
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 Don Maclay
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**Reminder**  
**Wings Over Wendy's**  
**monthly food drive is**  
**on Monday, April**  
**6th**



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**Wings & Meeting Staff**

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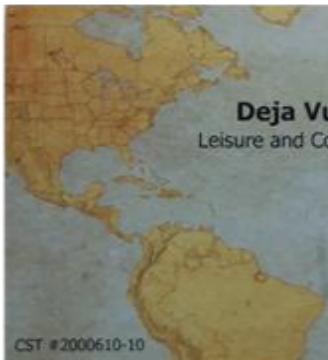


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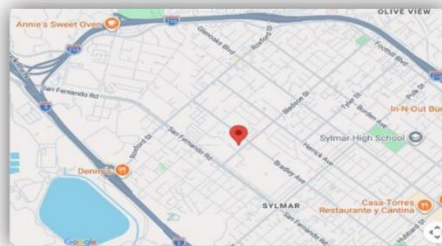
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# T H E N E T H E R C U T T M U S E U M



The Nethercutt Museum Address:  
15151 Bledsoe Street, Sylmar, CA 91342

**- Wendy's Tour Time: April 16, 2026, 9:30 AM -  
Cost: \$ 20 sign-up by April 8<sup>th</sup>**

Team Wings Over Wendy's will be visiting the Neathercutt Museum in Sylmar Calif. We will meet at the museum lobby no later than 9:30 (note: museum opens at 9:00) and then walk across the street at 9:45 to the Collection building for a guided tour of their amazing auto collection, mechanical musical instruments, and vintage steam locomotive and private rail car. The tour will be complete by 1:00pm. There is some walking, some ramps, and stairs, elevators are also available. This is a self-drive event.

**Sign-ups are today, see Gloria or ask DaveA**



**Wings Over Wendy's**  
We are a 501 (c)(7) non-profit club, self-funded  
by our membership & our generous sponsors of the club