

MINNESOTA AIR NATIONAL GUARD HISTORICAL FOUNDATION
MINNESOTA ANG MUSEUM NEWS

Minnesota Aviation History - Learn of the Past
November 2014



Camp Ripley's Minnesota Military Museum provides ideas
Story and photos by Ray Pittman



In May of this year, MNANG Museum board members were invited to visit the Minnesota Military Museum at Camp Ripley, near Little Falls, Minn. Upon arriving there, they were greeted by Executive Director Jeff Thielen and Museum Curator Douglas Bekke. Members were treated to a very nice lunch in the camp mess hall during which several issues were discussed concerning possible museum exhibit exchanges and also general swapping of museum suggestions and ideas.

After lunch the members were given a tour of the museum grounds and the many exhibits displayed inside well kept retired military buildings. Displays ranged from several military aircraft placed around the outside of the buildings to thousands of uniforms and combat artifacts collected from many of the major conflicts that the U.S. military has been involved in over the past century.

Later on in the visit the members were treated to yet another unique experience. Chief Warrant Officer 4 Bruce Moenck gave Karen Wolf a lesson on how to fly the Army's current operational helicopter, the

Ripley visit story and photos continued on page five

Members from the MNANG Museum and Minnesota Military Museum pause for a photo in front of a vintage Army aircraft at the Minnesota Military Museum at Camp Ripley on May 19, 2014. From left to right: MNANG museum members Ray Pittman, MMM Executive Director Jeff Thielen, Karen Wolf, Mike Drews, Terry Morris, MMM Museum Curator Douglas Bekke and Jerry Shultz.

Inside: C-97 featured

Minnesota Air National Guard Museum's C-97G, on display between the hangars in 2006.



Also inside:

- ***JRAD event provides retiree resources***
- ***New board member gives perspective***
- ***Miller scholarship gives towards the future***
- ***Corvette club rallies***

JRAD gives visibility

The MNANG Museum was invited to participate in the Joint Retiree Appreciation Day event at Mystic Lake Casino on Sept. 27, 2014. JRAD is the gathering of retired military personnel from all the Service branches. The event updates retirees on subjects like Tricare, long term care, estate planning, and other important subjects.

Bruce Graham, Dave Himmer and Mike Drews represented the MNANG Museum at this event. The table the museum representatives manned had brochures plus volunteer, membership and donation forms available. The table display included a wooden Stearman prop, pictures and concept drawings of the new museum.

The day was very productive. Many who stopped by were not aware of our museum. The reps answered many questions, and the most-asked question was “Where is the A-12 Blackbird?” We let them know



Dave Himmer, Mike Drews and Bruce Graham provided information and opportunities to serving with the MNANG museum at the JRAD in Shakopee, Minn. on Sept. 27, 2014.

that the CIA took possession of the aircraft, which is now located in Langley, Va.

This was the first time the museum was invited to the JRAD event, and because it was such a great success, we were invited to participate in next year's event. Credit for our success at the event goes to Bruce and Dave, who knew many people attending the event as they had served with them in the Air Guard.

Meet the Board - Brig. Gen. Greg Haase

When asked, “Why I wanted to be a board member”, I must say I had to stop and contemplate the question. Some things require putting your feelings into words and that is not necessarily easy. The question is perhaps even more complex when one considers the love for the wild blue, soaring between the clouds and seeing objects from vantage points few others can even imagine. As I contemplated even more I found the faces in that emotion, the friends that transcended the last 28 years of flying to the remote ends of the world.

Yes our wing is ripe with history, especially when we consider all history is contemporary once. The history of today may in fact be some of the most profound and we dare not let it be forgotten or lost. The fact America remains safe in the aftermath of 9/11 can absolutely be attributed to the sacrifices our service members and their spouses make on a daily basis – this cannot be forgotten!

In my seven years as Wing Commander, I came to appreciate all the goodness that resides within the great faces that occupy the halls of our Minnesota Air National Guard museum. The MNANG Historical



Brig. Gen. Greg Haase, pictured here when he was a colonel and commander of the 133rd Airlift Wing, is the National Guard Bureau Deputy Director of Domestic Operations and Force Development (NGB J-3/7).

Foundation and museum are the means to forever tell the story of the great accomplishments and sacrifices the men and women of the MNANG make every day to support our state and nation.

My answer to the question then quite simply becomes, “I want to, in any way possible, continue to preserve the history of this great institution and pass it on to our future generations”. Please join me in our quest to honor the great men and women in the MNANG. My hope, also, is to make the 100th anniversary of the 133rd Airlift Wing in 2021, as the first federally recognized air wing, a truly historic moment for all those who have served and serve so honorably to support and defend the freedoms offered by our great nation!

Mission Statement:

The mission of the Minnesota Air National Guard Historical Foundation is to preserve the heritage and traditions of the Minnesota Air National Guard.

Board Members:

Chairman:

Vice Chairman: Karen Wolf

Secretary: Terry Morris

**Executive Director/Director
of Operations: Mike Drews**

Treasurer: Tom Simonet

**Members: Ray Pittman, Bob Minish,
Rick Heinecke, Jerry Schultz,**

Brig. Gen. Greg Haase

Wing Advisor: Col. Loren Hubert

Newsletter editor: Jim Atwell

Museum Hours:

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Open Cockpit Saturdays, open to public. See museum website for dates (<http://mnangmuseum.org>).

Tours can be arranged through Stan Christianson (stanangmuseum@gmail.com) or call him at 612-713-2523.

Address all correspondence to:

*Minnesota Air Guard Museum
P.O. Box 11598
St. Paul, MN 55111-0598*

(The Minnesota Air National Guard Historical Foundation is a non-profit organization and not affiliated with the Department of Defense, Minnesota National Guard or the 133rd Airlift Wing)

OUR WISH LIST FOR THE MUSEUM:

Professional Matt Cutter
Laminating Machine
Portable Generator
Portable Electric Heaters
Electrical Air Circulation Fans
MNANG memorabilia from recent deployments

The Minnesota Air National Guard Museum would like to thank Mr. Paul Glaeser for his generous donation of an electric generator.

Vice Chairman's comments

We continue to look for new and better ways to fund this meaningful museum. We have enlisted the help of Museology, a company whose expertise includes grant writing as well as collections storage and management training, exhibit design, and research. They are helping us with a grant application for funds to support updating our collections management plan, to purchase another laptop and update our museum software, as well as purchase museum-quality storage materials so that a collections inventory can progress. All of this will make for a busy winter season. For this project, additional volunteers are needed, especially ones with an eye for detail. You are invited to become a volunteer or attend our board meetings as a guest. We meet every other month. We welcome your input.

We appreciate your membership and support of this unique museum. The annual membership drive will be coming in November and we need your participation. If you are a lifetime member, you will not be getting an annual membership letter. However, if you are looking for a way to continue to support the museum, please know that we gratefully accept your tax-deductible donations anytime. We greatly appreciate your past giving and acknowledge you were the ones who got the museum off to a wonderful start.

No matter what your membership status is—annual, lifetime, or not yet a member—be assured that the MNANG Historical Foundation Board of Directors and the Minnesota Air Guard museum volunteers are active and ready to take on more challenges.

Karen Wolf

TO OUR READERS: We would enjoy hearing from you if there are articles or subjects you would like to see covered in future newsletters. Please contact us at: mnangmuseum1@gmail.com. Your contact information would also be helpful so that we can reach you to be accurate in understanding your thoughts. Thanks!

Correction:

In an article in the Spring 2014 Minnesota ANG Museum newsletter we incorrectly identified Mr. Ted Stamos, a volunteer member of the Minnesota Historical Society, as a World War II veteran. He is a U. S. Air Force veteran of the Korean War. We sincerely apologize to Mr. Stamos and our readers for the error.

Our Volunteers: Ron Hokenson

story and photo by Terry Morris



Ron Hokenson is a 25+ year volunteer at the Minnesota Air National Guard Museum. Ron became a volunteer before retiring from a 21 year active service career with the USAF and Minnesota Air Guard where he supported the maintenance of C-130 and OV-10A aircraft.

His first museum endeavor was participation in the restoration of an at the time recently acquired F-89H Scorpion interceptor. The F-89 was flown by the 133rd Fighter-Interceptor Group from MSP-IAP during the late 1950's. Ron became so interested in the project that he would work through his lunch hours.

Ron went on to participate in the restoration of the museum's F-102, MIG-15, C-131, C-97 and the A-12

aircraft. As an exceptionally talented artist, Ron also designed the current museum logo.

When asked which project was his favorite, Ron will answer the F-89H as a number of the components had to be fabricated from scratch to bring this bird back to presentation quality. When asked what he likes most about being a volunteer though, Ron will unequivocally answer the other volunteers because of their competence and dedication!

Become One of Our Volunteers!

The Minnesota Air National Guard Museum is looking for great people to join our volunteer team. If you have skills or just a passion that could help to bring the Minnesota Air National Guard's rich history to others please consider contacting us at 612-713-2523 or mnamuseum1@gmail.com to become a volunteer.

We are especially looking for help in the following areas:

- Gift Shop Sales and Support
- Archive and Cataloging Support
- Docents
- Admin support
- Data entry
- Display Planning

Help continue Eva Miller's dream!

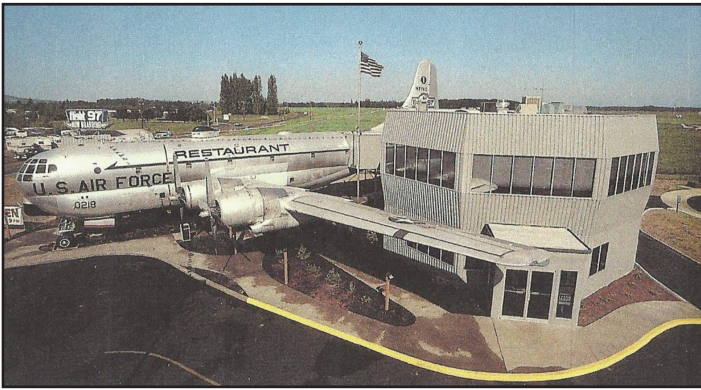
The Eva Hope and Brig. Gen. Ray Miller Scholarship was founded by Eva Hope Miller to honor her husband, Brig. Gen. Ray Miller, (right) the first commander of the Minnesota Air National Guard. Mrs. Miller knew the importance of education and set aside in her will \$100,000 as a scholarship fund for members of the Minnesota Air National Guard. When interest rates were strong, the fund granted two scholarships. One scholarship was for \$1,000 and the other scholarship was for \$500, awarded to an individual in the name of their school. With interest rates being at an all time low and the intent to maintain the generous gift from Eva Miller, the scholarships have not been awarded the last couple of years.

This year the fund will give two \$500 scholarships to dedicated individuals. Details regarding the submission of an application can be found on the museum



web site (www.mnamuseum.org). If you are interested in donating to the scholarship fund, consider a gift. The scholarship fund is part of the Minnesota Air National Guard Historical Foundation, Inc a 501(c)3 charitable organization. Contact us on 612-713-2523 or mnamuseum1@gmail.com

BOEING C-97G STRATOFREIGHTER USAF SERIAL NUMBER 53-0218



The Minnesota ANG museum's C-97 when it was "The Flight 97 Restaurant" in McMinnville, Ore. sometime after 1983.
MNANG Museum file photo

CREW: 5

COST NEW: \$1,205,000

The C-97 Stratofreighter is a long range heavy military cargo aircraft based on the B-29 bomber. The prototype first flight was in 1944. 888 C-97s were built, 816 of them built as KC-97 tankers (aerial refuelers), the KC-97L aircraft had two additional J47 jet engines mounted on under wing pylons. The museum aircraft was built as a KC-97L however all the in-flight refueling equipment has been removed to depict a C-97 aircraft.

Ripley museum visit (continued)

UH-60F Black Hawk, in a simulator, located in one of the hangars at the camps airfield. All members were supposed to get a chance to fly in the simulator but time ran short and plans were made for the rest to fly on a future date.

A Camp Ripley drone is shown to MNANG museum members on a tour of the hangars in May.



C-97 aircraft served in the Berlin Airlift and in the Korean and Vietnam wars. All C-97 and KC-97 aircraft were retired by 1978. A civilian airliner version of this aircraft was known as the Boeing 377 Stratocruiser with some of these aircraft having been modified to "Super Guppies" used to carry oversized cargo loads. This aircraft was the first mass produced air transport to feature cabin pressurization. The C-97 could carry cargo, 96 troops or 69 stretchers or a combination of all three.

Interesting Facts: This aircraft entered service in 1955 and ended its USAF mission serving with the Utah Air National Guard. This aircraft was sold as surplus on Nov. 15, 1983 for \$8,500. Following its military career this aircraft was converted to "The Flight 97 Restaurant" in McMinnville Ore. If you look closely at the tail you can still make out a hamburger that was painted it. Also, if you look at the upper fuselage one can still see where the word RESTAURANT was once painted and then removed. This aircraft was then acquired by Hawkins and Powers of Greybull, Wyoming where it sat for many years until the Minnesota Air Guard Museum received it in a one for one trade with a C-123 aircraft the museum owned. On Nov. 3, 2000 this aircraft made a onetime flight from Greybull, Wyoming to where it now resides here at the Air Guard Museum.

Our next stop was a hanger next to the simulator hanger which housed three U. S. Army drones. The drones are used to teach army troops how to fly and maintain them. What appears to be just a simple computer and monitor sits atop a small desk in an adjoining room. Army Guard members are given a mission to fly and the drone is flown entirely from this computer. Missions done at Camp Ripley are purely reconnaissance in nature.

The visit to the Minnesota Military Museum was very educational and enlightening. The Air National Guard Board Members wish to thank Jeff, Douglas, and Bruce for a very fun and productive day. The MNANG Museum and the Minnesota Military Museum are planning to work together in the future to enhance each other's appeal to the general public.

If you would like to find out more about the MMM, go to www.mnmilitarymuseum.org.

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**Non-Profit
Organization
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Corvette club rallies in support



On Saturday, Oct. 18, the Suburban Corvettes of Minnesota made their second annual visit to the Minnesota Air National Guard Museum. Needless to say, all of the Corvettes were in pristine condition and several were brand new. The group's spokesperson, Phil Brunt, stated that there are 238 members in the club and 140-145 corvettes, ranging in years from 1959 to 2015. They have their club meeting's every third Tuesday at Jimmy's Restaurant in Vadnais Heights, Minn. The club was originated in 1970 and over the years has grown steadily to its current membership. It was a real pleasure having them at the museum. The museum visitor's and staff members thoroughly enjoyed speaking with the owners of the cars and hearing the history and stories behind them. A special "Thank you" to all of the club members who attended! photo by Ray Pittman