

MINNESOTA AIR NATIONAL GUARD HISTORICAL FOUNDATION  
**MINNESOTA ANG MUSEUM NEWS**  
*Minnesota Aviation History - Learn of the Past*  
*Fall 2015*



## MUSEUM'S C-97 COCKPIT FLOOR RECEIVES UPGRADE

Story by Jim Atwell and Greg Bastyr, photos by Greg Bastyr



During this summer, several of our museum volunteers have been very busy working to improve the condition of the floor in the cockpit area of our C-97 aircraft. Over the many years this aircraft was in service and after, the floor in the cockpit area has grown weak and unsafe for our visitors to walk on.

In several areas, the floor is being replaced with approximately 40 square feet of plywood. The whole area under the navigator's seat has been replaced, as well as some to the right of it. There is an area behind the flight engineers seat that we are not replacing. However, we are reinforcing this area with a combination of sheet aluminum and plywood.

*C-97 floor story and photos continue on page 4*

Volunteers improve the C-97 floor. *photo by Greg Bastyr.*

### **Also inside:**

- Supporting Pets Loyal 2 Vets
- New Dick Wiessner book
- C-130 heritage and future

## PHOTO PHANTOM ENJOYS SUMMER SUCCESS

Story and photos by Ray Pittman

The summer of 2015 was a busy one for the 'Photo Phantom'. We attended several air shows and also a few non-aviation related events in the Twin Cities and surrounding area.

Because of the recently implemented security restrictions by the military, we were not able to have our usual Saturday 'Open Visitor Days', which was a source of fund raising for the museum. To solve that problem we had to go off base with the Photo Phantom and gift shop.

*Phantom story and photos continue on page 4*

The Photo Phantom was a big hit with the crowds at shows.





## Our Volunteers:

### Pete Backlund

Story and photo by  
Terry Morris



Pete Backlund became a 25yr+ volunteer at the Minnesota Air National Guard Museum after a visit in the late 1980's. This was not his first visit to the facility though as he had served with the 133rd Airlift Wing from 1958 to 1964. Initially trained as an F-89 fire control/radar system specialist, he later became a personal equipment specialist after the unit converted to C-97s.

After completing his service with the Wing, Pete continued his association with aerospace through technical support and writing positions at several Fortune 500 companies including Honeywell and Unisys from which he retired. Some of his work supported the Gemini and Apollo space programs.

Since becoming a museum volunteer, Pete has been directly responsible for restoration of the F-89's fire control system and the C-45's floor boards, plus he contributed to the restoration of a Curtiss Oriole replica and F-102. In the case of the Curtiss Oriole, he was able to leverage his personal equipment training to lace the fabric to the ribs of the wing. Currently, he is focused on various graphics related projects and supporting the museum's web site maintenance.

Interestingly when asked what his favorite airplane project was, Pete will answer the F-89. When asked what he likes most about being a volunteer, Pete will immediately answer the volunteers themselves along with their dedication and competence!

*New Life Members: The museum recognizes two new life members, Rick Heinecke and Tom Rohland. Rick was a mechanical engineer in the aerospace field for Honeywell and ITT Corporation. He is currently serving on the Minnesota Air National Guard Historical Foundation board of directors. Tom was a member of the 109th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron in the Minnesota Air National Guard.*

*The museum greatly appreciates the contributions these life members have made. It is through the support of individuals like Rick and Tom that we are able to continue to strengthen our programs and develop new and innovative projects to serve our members and the community.*

## We partner with Pets Loyal 2 Vets

Jeff LeBaron, an honorably discharged Vietnam Era U.S. Navy veteran and executive director of Pets Loyal 2 Vets, invited the Museum to participate in its annual fundraising event on August 8 in Prior Lake, Minnesota. Pets Loyal 2 Vets is a nonprofit outreach organization connecting U.S. military veterans throughout Minnesota with trained therapy companion dogs at no cost to the veterans. The museum displayed its F-4 Photo Phantom cockpit and also set up a gift shop. The museum volunteers took a tour of the organization's new training facility and also met some new puppies that will be trained as therapy companion dogs. At the end of the day, the museum donated its Minnesota Air National Guard Museum News



profits to Pets Loyal 2 Vets. If you are interested in finding out more about Pets Loyal 2 Vets, or you would like to make a donation, their website is [www.petsloyal2vets.org](http://www.petsloyal2vets.org).

## 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: Brian Wyneken

Vice Chairman: Karen Wolf

Secretary: Terry Morris

Executive Dir./Dir. of Operations: Mike Drews

Treasurer: Tom Simonet

Members: Ray Pittman, Bob Minish, Rick Heinecke, Jerry Schultz, Brig. Gen. Greg Haase, Anja Drescher, Jim Atwell

Wing Advisor: Col. Loren Hubert

Legal Counsel: Kelly & Lemmons, P.A., Joe Kelly and Kevin Beck

Newsletter editor: Jim Atwell

Assistant editor: Mark Moss

### Museum Hours:

9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Open Visitor Saturdays, open to public. See museum website for dates (<http://mnangmuseum.org>).

Tours can be arranged through Stan Christianson ([stanangmuseum@gmail.com](mailto: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 READER INPUT IS IMPORTANT TO US

We would love hearing from our readers regarding the style, look and format of our newsletters. We are committed to always improving on what we provide as a window to the Minnesota Air National Guard Museum and all it has to offer. For instance, do you prefer a black and white edition or are you happy with the color in our articles? Are six pages enough? Would more be better? Less? Your input is valuable so that we are providing you with the very best of what we have to offer in each and every edition. Additionally, do you want to receive your newsletter by mail or electronically via email? Please let us know your thoughts with an email to: [mnangmuseum1@gmail.com](mailto:mnangmuseum1@gmail.com) or mail it to Minnesota Air National Guard Museum, PO Box 11598, St. Paul, MN 55111.

## Chairman's comments

This newsletter is full of stories of robust activity and progress. The cause for this happy condition is the dedication and hard work of the members and volunteers. As the foundation board chair I'm both authorized and delighted to express our thanks for all of this work and generosity.

Your continued membership and volunteerism is ever appreciated and we could not sustain a museum without it. In addition to the new life members recognized elsewhere in this newsletter, it bears mention that the foundation recently received a gift through the Fidelity Charitable "Kathryn La Tourelle Charitable Gift Fund" in the amount of \$15,000.00. It was an anonymous gift in the sense that un-named donors to the fund have a role in recommending distributions. That a donor or donors would recommend us for such an extraordinary gift is a testament to our volunteers and the obvious value they bring. To whoever recommended this gift, please accept our heartfelt and collective thanks for your generous vote of confidence.

On July 31, 2015, the board adopted updated bylaws. A copy of those bylaws are available to review or copy in the museum office. Your board presently has 12 directors, who serve for 3 year terms. In January of 2016, there will be an election for 4 of those positions. There should be an election every year for about one-third of the board positions. Board work consists primarily of reviewing committee reports, working on strategic direction, forming policy, and monitoring the integrity of operations and our non-profit status. The board meets every other month. If incumbent directors or other members are interested in seeking election to the board, please contact me at [wynekenb@gmail.com](mailto:wynekenb@gmail.com) and provide your phone number so we can discuss how to learn more about working on the board and the nomination process. The deadline for nominations is Dec. 13, 2015.

We want our board to be accountable, accessible, and transparent in its decision-making and actions. Please feel free to contact any board member for information or insights. As we progress in updating our business practices, one major goal is to ensure that those practices enhance our foundation members' sense of their stake in the future and the value of their contributions. On that note I will close with welcoming our two newest board members, Jim Atwell and Anja Drescher, who came on this year to fill vacancies. Thank you Jim and Anja for your service to the foundation.

Your Foundation Board Chair,  
**Brian Wyneken**



## C-97 floor continued from page 1

A good portion of the project is now complete. The navigator's seat has been reinstalled along with several other items that had been removed in order for our volunteers to gain access to the floor.

A rough estimate is that this project should be completed by the time this newsletter is in distribution to our readers.

Thanks go to; Mike Drews, George Brown, Greg Bastyr, Anja Drescher, and John Wagers for the many hours they have devoted to this very important project. As a result of their hard work, we now have a much cleaner, visually pleasing and safe cockpit in the C-97 for our visitors to enjoy for many years to come.

Improvements to the C-97 floor make it safer for museum visitors. *photo by Greg Bastyr.*



## Photo Phantom continued from page 1



During the previous winter, a used trailer the Museum purchased was updated and modified to carry the Photo Phantom. The trailer the museum had been using was a military issue trailer that belonged to the 133rd ALW, based at the Minneapolis International Airport. Because of certain restrictions, we were not allowed to take the trailer off the base property. With help from Reserve and Guard members, the museum volunteers were able to transfer the Photo Phantom from the Guard trailer to the museum's trailer during one of the active duty weekends. The Museum was then free to travel around the area with the Photo Phantom.

The events attended this summer in Minnesota were the Boy Scout Aviation Expo in Buffalo; AirExpo at Flying Cloud Airport, Eden Prairie; Discover Aviation Days at Jane's Field, Blaine; Rush City Fly-in, Rush City; Red Bull Military Appreciation Day, North Branch; Pets Loyal 2

Vets, Prior Lake; and in Wisconsin we attended the Burnett County Fly-in, Siren; and Wings and Wheels, Osceola. Several volunteers from the museum accompanied the display and gift shop to help with the set-up, operation and tear down at each event. Some events were attended for museum exposure rather than monetary gain.

This fall the museum's members will gather and review the events attended and decide which ones to attend again in the future. Distance and event subject will determine whether or not we will consider the location. There has also been some discussion about having a 'flat rate' fee for the Photo Phantom to appear at an event. In some instances the sponsors may not want a fee charged for sitting in the Phantom display. When there is no possibility of raising funds for the museum, it has been suggested we charge a travel fee to cover transportation and/or crew expenses. All these subjects will be discussed and a decision will be made before the 2016 season.

Plans are in place to work on the Photo Phantom this winter and replace logo graphics, missing instruments, and possibly repaint the black radar nose. It needs some TLC, and we invite anyone who would like to participate in this project to contact us at the museum. All in all, it was a successful season. There is a lot of work to be done to get the displays looking 100% again, but when completed they will draw even more attention to the museum. Thanks to all the volunteers who gave up many of their weekends this past summer to accompany and work with the Photo Phantom and gift shop. The museum staff applauds all your efforts and dedication. It wouldn't have been a successful season without YOU!

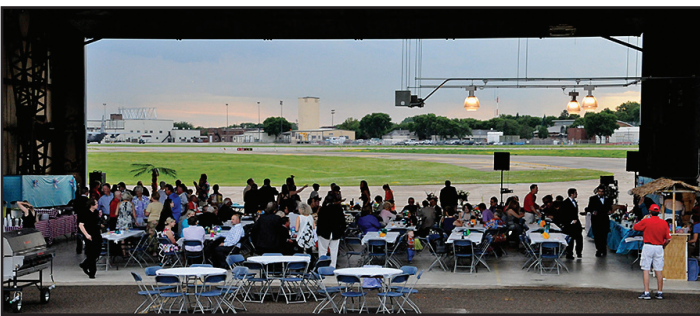
## Wedding reception at the museum

by Karen Wolf

On June 26, the museum hosted a wedding reception. The groom, who is in the Air Force, and his bride, brought the Hawaiian islands to Hangar 1. With the help of many volunteers including Mike and Sharon Drews, Nancy Wilson, Ron Kaup, Stan Christianson, Jim Atwell, Anja Drescher, Pete Backlund, Ray Pittman, Kirk Ransom and Karen Wolf, the reception for 150 people came off without a hitch (except for the wedding couple!).



The volunteers spent the day helping set up tables and chairs, decorating, acting as parking attendants, as well as providing a wonderful atmosphere in and around the air park and museum. Part of the thrill for the event was having the hangar door opened to watch the beautiful sunset. One reception guest was heard to say “this is the best wedding reception I’ve ever attended”.



### OUR WISH LIST FOR THE MUSEUM:

The museum has a need for the following items. These items will help our docents and volunteers in providing better historical exhibit presentations and tours around the air park:

A portable public address system (two of these would be wonderful)

MNANG stories/memorabilia from recent deployments

Portable DVD players and screens for use on our trailer with a P-51 & F-4 cockpit

Mannequins to display uniforms

*Minnesota Air National Guard Museum News*

## Wing Family Day brings visitors to the Air Guard base and museum



by Pete Backlund

On Sept. 19 the 133rd Airlift Wing held its annual Family Day celebration. The weather cooperated, and it was a beautiful day for families to come on base and see the workings of an Air Guard unit. There was plenty to do. The north hangar had displays and fun activities for kids, and a C-130 “Hercules” was on display. The visitors could climb up into the plane, and even get up in the cockpit to get a pilot’s eye view, and gaze at all the controls and indicators of a modern military cargo plane.

Parked outside on the ramp was a group of colorfully painted antique aircraft of the Commemorative Air Force and more.

Again this year there was a car show where Wing members brought out their antique and classic cars display. A new feature this year was to having a ‘monster’ truck drive up on a pair of junk cars and crush them. For kids there was a hayride on a trailer pulled by a John Deere tractor that took them for a spin around the base.

Many of the visitors came up to visit the museum, and volunteers shared information about the history of the planes in our collection. The gift shop was open too, and folks could buy souvenirs to take home. Last but not least, a hearty lunch was served to those who trekked over to the base dining hall.



## Just released book available: The Real World of War



A just released paperback called “The Real World of War,” tells the story of Lt. Col. Richard (Dick) Wiessner, MNANG, ret., edited by Ruth Welsh.

Wiessner, a World War II fighter pilot who flew 80 missions on the Western front in P-47 aircraft. Vividly told in his own candid words, this fast moving story of death defying combat offers a graphically illustrated account of what war was really like and how it changed lives.

The book can be purchased from the Museum. You can also order the book for \$20.00 directly from Ruth Welsh, 6650 Vernon Ave. S. #110, Edina, MN 55436. Mention the museum and \$5.00 will be given for each book purchased to the MNANG Historical Foundation for a scholarship to deserving Air National Guard personnel in Dick’s memory.

## You can become a volunteer

The Minnesota Air National Guard Museum is looking for great people to join our volunteer team. Our focus is to preserve the heritage and traditions of the Minnesota’s Air National Guard. That includes maintaining and operating a museum and library. Promote and encourage research into the history, traditions. Take custody, restore, catalogue, and validate historic objects and artifacts. Foster and promote public knowledge and interest in local military history, as part of the continuing military history. Volunteers at the museum can engage in a variety of opportunities to apply diverse skills, learn new skills and meet great people in the process.

### *Become a Volunteer*

Volunteer positions are open to all individuals with an interest and commitment of service to the museum who are at least 18 years of age, a US citizen and able to perform defined duties. Volunteers work independently with other volunteers and with the permanent museum staff.

If you have skills or just simply a passion that could help bring the Minnesota Air National Guard’s rich history to others please consider contacting us at 612-713-2523, or fill out the volunteer form at <http://mnang-museum.org/about/volunteer/> and email it to [mnangmuseum1@gmail.com](mailto:mnangmuseum1@gmail.com) or mail it to Minnesota Air National Guard Museum, PO Box 11598, St. Paul, MN 55111.

If you wish to make a donation to the Richard Winkly Wiessner Scholarship Fund send your donation to the following address:

**Air National Guard Historical Foundation**  
**PO Box 11598**  
**St. Paul, MN 55111**

<b>Opportunities include:</b>	<b>Museum Operations</b>
	Administrative assistant
<b>Face of the Museum and Visitor Experience</b>	Data entry
Onsite awareness and education	Newsletter committee
Docent (Tour Guide)	Photographer
Offsite show and events support	Museum guide update and development
Drivers to transport large museum artifacts to offsite events	Volunteer Coordination support
	Membership coordination support
	Marketing
<b>Visitor Experience</b>	
Gift shop	<b>Research and Archiving</b>
Greeters	Collections archivist
	Librarian
<b>Event Planning and Executions</b>	
Offsite event planning	<b>Maintenance and Artifact Preservation</b>
Special event planning (Birthdays, Weddings)	Museum maintenance
	Exhibit development and construction
	Artifact restoration

## LOCKHEED C-130D "HERCULES" USAF SERIAL NUMBER 57-0485

The C-130 is presently flown by the 109th Airlift Squadron of the 133rd Airlift Wing of the Minnesota Air National Guard. This unit has flown three models of the C-130 beginning with the C-130A then moving on to the C-130E and are now currently flying the C-130H.

The Lockheed C-130 is a four engine turboprop military transport designed and built originally by Lockheed, now Lockheed Martin. Although designed as a military transport the versatile airframe has found uses in a variety of other roles including as a gunship, for airborne assault, search and rescue, scientific research support, weather reconnaissance, aerial refueling, maritime patrol and aerial firefighting. It is the main tactical airlifter for many air forces worldwide.

Over 40 models and variants of the Hercules serve with more than 60 nations. Having first flown on Aug. 23, 1954 it has the longest continuous production run of any military aircraft in history with production continuing to this day with the updated C-130J. As of 2009 over 2,300 C-130s have been built with firm orders for many more. The C-130 has been used in every U.S. combat operation since the Vietnam War. A total of 70 C-130 aircraft were lost by the USAF and USMC during combat operations in the Vietnam War. A civilian version of the C-130, the L-100 (L-382) is equivalent to the C-130E without the military equipment.

**COST: \$62,000,000 (C-130J)**

**CREW: 5**

**CAPACITY: 92 PASSENGERS, OR 64 AIRBORNE TROOPS, OR 74 LITTER PATIENTS WITH TWO MEDICAL PERSONNEL, OR SIX PALLETS OF CARGO.**

**LENGTH: 97 FEET, 9 INCHES**

**WINGSPAN: 132 FEET, 7 INCHES**

**HEIGHT: 38 FEET, 3 INCHES**

**ENGINES: 4 ALLISON T56-A-15 TURBOPROPS, 4,590 SHP EACH (C-130H)**

**MAXIMUM SPEED: 320 KNOTS (366 MPH)**

**RANGE: 2,050 MILES (C-130H)**

**SERVICE CEILING: 33,000 FEET (EMPTY, C-130H)**

**TAKEOFF DISTANCE: 1,400 FEET AT 155,000 LB MAX GROSS WEIGHT (C-130H)**

**ARMAMENT: NONE (FOR THE TRANSPORT VERSION)**



Minnesota ANG museum's C-130D



Museum's C-130 when on active status.

Interesting Facts: The C-130 holds the record for the largest and heaviest aircraft to land on an aircraft carrier, it made 29 touch-and-go landings, 21 unarrested full stop landings and 21 unassisted take-offs on the USS Forrestal in October and November 1963. The museum C-130 is a C-130A re-designated as a C-130D after being equipped with skis. The C-130 is the largest aircraft to ever land and takeoff with skis, a mission that the C-130 still flies. In the 1950s the USAF had a C-130 aerial demonstration team called the "Four Horsemen" utilizing four C-130A aircraft. The last C-130 flight out of South Vietnam before that country's collapse to North Vietnam was made on April 29, 1975 when a Republic of Vietnam Air Force C-130A, heavily overloaded estimated at 20,200 pounds over gross, lifted off from Tan Son Nhut Air Base with 452 people on board, 32 of them crowded into the Hercules flight deck.

*Photography Offer: All you aviation enthusiasts out there, for a small donation the museum staff would be happy to take detailed pictures of any aircraft we have on display for you. Send us your wishes.*

**Minnesota Air National  
Guard Museum  
P. O. Box 11598  
St. Paul, MN 55111-40598**

**Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE  
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Twin Cities, MN  
Permit No. 7911**

## Museum recognizes Wing support

Story by Mike Drews, photo by Col. Jim Johnson

Two museum members attended the 133rd Airlift Wing's October Town Hall that briefs members on what has occurred during the past month. Stan Christianson and Mike Drews presented three framed certificates of appreciation at the meeting. The first certificate was presented to the 133rd Security Forces Squadron for their time and effort in processing background checks on the visitors who toured the museum or attended special events. The background checks were required due to the increased security status on the base. The second

certificate was presented to the 133rd Civil Engineering Squadron for maintaining the museum hangars, including cleaning the Hangar 1 floor and making sure the hangar was safe for a wedding reception the museum hosted in June. The last certificate was given to Master Sgt. Tim Burns who throughout the years has worked with the museum as liaison with the Wing. He is the first contact for processing EAL's and has been our main contact for any questions or issues regarding the museum's relationship with the Wing. Burns and the Security and Civil Engineering units have helped make the museum a successful organization, and we greatly appreciate our relationship with them.



*Presenting certificates on Oct. 23, 2015 with Stan Christianson, Museum Docent, Lt. Col. Piontek; Master Sgt. Claypool, Capt. Nacionales; Master Sgt. Burns, and Mike Drews, Museum Operations Director.*