

MINNESOTA ANG MUSEUM NEWS

*Minnesota Aviation History — Learn of the Past
Fall 2023*



The MNANG Museum is Moving Forward

story by Greg Haase and photos by Deon Ford

My how time flies. It is hard to believe another tour season is coming to an end. The board and I would like to express our heartfelt thanks to the volunteers during these trying times. The thank you needs to come in two parts: First, the volunteers did an outstanding job in meeting the Wing's deadlines for disassembling the displays and meticulously packing them up. Second, with a makeshift museum, the volunteers provided tours to well over 1,000 people during 92 different events. This is quite an effort in telling our story and inevitably helping the Wing expose the campus to potential recruits.

The search committee continues to reach out to various organizations in the hope of finding a new home for the museum. The properties immediately adjacent to the Minneapolis St. Paul International Airport are very valuable and likely not available. About two thirds of the Ft. Snelling Officer's Club lies within the runway protection zone and the building itself is littered with mold. We have explored a two-acre parcel on Bloomington Road and are still in contact with the Minneapolis Park Board to see if a lease is possible. We also have a few leads at the feeder airports in the area that appear quite promising. Moving the artifacts is easily achievable but the aircraft would present a challenge. As the docents have pointed out, the biggest draw to the museum is the air park. I do believe with some creative marketing we may find sponsors to fund the moves of the larger aircraft.

I think the future holds residence at more than one location. We currently have artifacts at the Minnesota Historical Society (the Jenny) and the 133rd Airlift Wing (the Oriole, the timeline and many other artifacts). We will also have artifacts at the Minnesota Military and Veterans Museum, adjacent to Camp Ripley, and other prospective locations we are presently exploring. The foundation will remain an independent entity and will manage the funds acquired for scholarships, displays, and future engagements, as well as a new museum, which likely will be smaller but more accessible. With that in mind, we will continue to recruit new members and the associated membership fees.



Minnesota History Center—Curtis Model JN-4 “Jenny”



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Also inside:

- **Thanks to volunteers**
- **Tours are still going strong**

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, which includes the preservation of important artifacts and archives.

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Past Newsletters can be accessed on the museum website at: <https://mnangmuseum.org>

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(The Minnesota Air National Guard Historical Foundation, Inc. is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization and not affiliated with the Dept. of Defense, Minnesota Air National Guard, or the 133rd Airlift Wing.)

Museum Tours - 2023

story and photo by Mike Drews

This year the museum has had its up and downs. The 133rd, due to its new mission, has been moving into the museum's hangars and most of the office space. But even with the volunteers packing up the artifacts and other items for storage, the museum has had a successful tour season.

The season was shorter than normal, from June to November. During these five months, the museum completed 92 tours with 1,056 people. For the last two years it has been amazing how many people from different countries have come for tours.



Recent Museum Visitors

There have been visitors from the UK, Australia, Germany, Asia, and Canada. U.S. visitors were mainly from Minnesota but we also had visitors from Texas, Wisconsin, Florida, South Dakota, Virginia, Illinois, and Arizona.

As always, much of the credit for the success of the tours goes to the volunteer tour guides. Most visitors say their tour was one of the best because of their tour guide's knowledge and the hands-on displays.

As the search for a new location for the museum goes on we will continue to publish the MNANG Museum News. However, because the content will be limited, we will not be publishing it in hard copy format, it will only be available electronically. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause, and will be glad to print copies if requested via email. Also, if you know of anyone who would like to be added to the email list, please let us know at

mnanghnewsletter@gmail.com

Once the museum relocates, the full-sized newsletter will return. Thanks to all for your patience during this time!

Visit Our Website for Updates

We hope you continue to view the Air Guard Museum website and watch for updates throughout this relocation process. The site hosts an abundance of information about the history of the Minnesota Air National Guard with links to a timeline, ways to donate, airpark information, past newsletters and more. Click the link to visit the site:

<https://mnangmuseum.org>

We Appreciate our Volunteers!

story by Karen Wolf

A great group of volunteers and their guests were recognized by the museum Board of Directors at the Wolf home in June. It had been too long since we were able to do this due to the pandemic and the continuous need to pack up the museum. However, as the packing came closer to being finished, the Board began to plan a party to show our total appreciation of all the hard work and dedication of our volunteers. Sharon Drews, Julie Jensen, Anja Drescher and Karen Wolf planned the food, while Mike Drews put together a great list of prizes and we had ourselves a party.

Like a Guard family, the families of our volunteers need to be especially thanked for their patience and understanding. Our volunteers have given their all toward the effort of safely packing all of the museum artifacts and archives. Our docents have continued to provide interesting and entertaining tours throughout the summer, even as the physical museum has become smaller.

Scan the QR Code below to order your copy of “Century in the Sky”



Continued from page 1 **The MNANG Museum is Moving Forward**

The book, “Century in the Sky”, continues to provide a gateway to the history of the 133rd Airlift Wing. Recent engagements with KSTP, the 934th Airlift Wing and the 133AW’s Family Day offered additional exposure to the book. Ideally, we will go national with the advertising and develop a Version 2 of the book. Perhaps the largest feedback we got on the first version is the lack of certain stories and the names of the Airmen involved. Given a second version we can add additional Airmen and their stories.

The work you all do in capturing the history of the wing and relaying the heroic service of Minnesota’s Airmen cannot be appropriately measured. One can, however, measure the spirit in an Airmen’s eyes as they realize the imagination and grit of our forefathers and the unique opportunity it is to serve as a Citizen Airman.

May a safe and happy holiday season be with you all!

Greg Haase, Brig Gen (Ret), USAF/ANG
Chairman, MN Air National Guard Historical Foundation