



PLANES OF FAME AIR MUSEUM

NEWS

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Planes of Fame's Douglas Dauntless SBD will fly at the May 14-15 air show

2011 AIR SHOW SALUTES 100 YEARS OF NAVAL AVIATION

The County of San Bernardino Planes of Fame Air Show 2011 joins the nation in commemorating 100 years of United States Naval Aviation. It will be held at Chino Airport May 14 and 15.

The birth of naval aviation is generally pegged at May 8, 1911, which was the day that the Navy signed a contract to purchase aircraft. This happened just months after pilot Eugene Ely, working for Glenn Curtiss, and flying a Curtiss pusher biplane made the first take off from a ship, the USS Pennsylvania in San Francisco Bay. Curtiss immediately offered free training to any Navy pilot and chose North Island in San Diego Bay for that work.

Just 100 years and days after the Navy signed that first contract, the Chino Airport skies will be filled with generations of Navy and other services airplanes. Some 40 aircraft are scheduled to fly in the 2011 show and many more will be available in close up static displays.

In addition, panel discussions with U.S. Navy veterans will be moderated by Shawna Hoppes, great granddaughter of General Jimmy Doolittle. Promising something for every age and interest, there will be a vendor marketplace and delicious food and beverages. Even the Road Stoves gourmet food trucks, featured on the Food Network, will be on the ramp.

Gates for the show open at 8 a.m. both Saturday and Sunday with the flight demonstrations scheduled between 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. Among the aircraft flying will be the Grumman Wildcat, Hellcat and Avenger; the Douglas Dauntless and Skyraider, and the Vought Corsair. In addition, the only authentic

download their ticket(s) before the show. A letter was mailed to all members in March with instructions and the promotion code. If you are a member and have not received the letter, please call the museum gift shop to get the update. Members who do not have a computer can get their tickets from gift shop personnel.



Advance discount tickets can be purchased online or through the Museum's gift shop. Through May 13, adult tickets are available for \$17 plus service charge. On the show days, general admission adult (age 12 and older) tickets are \$20 while children ages 5-11 are \$5 and those under five are free. Parking is free.

For the first time this year, air show visitors have options for seating at the air show. Preferred Chalet seating that includes preferred parking and a box lunch will be available for \$100 per person. There will also be grandstand seating for \$10 plus the general admission.

original Flying Wing, the Northrop N9M, and the World War II Japanese Mitsubishi A6M5 Zero, both restored at Chino, will fly. Aircraft currently in active military service and scheduled to appear at the Chino show include the C-17A Globemaster III and F-15 "Strike Eagle."

Current Planes of Fame Air Museum members still receive free admission to the air show; however, this year members are asked to

Photographers who want to get close up pictures of the parked aircraft may want to consider the Sunrise Photo Pass. A limited number of the passes are available for purchase online for \$75. Pass holders have preferred parking and must arrive at Chino Airport by 5 a.m.

For complete details about Air Show 2011, visit planesoffame.org.



NEW 'SIGHTS' AT CHINO



Planes of Fame's Vought A-7A Corsair II.

A Vought A-7A Corsair II and a Messerschmitt Bf 109 are among the newest features seen at Planes of Fame Chino.

The A-7A comes from a line of aircraft which were first flown in 1965 and its service ended in 1991. It was donated to the museum by Brian Cole of United Aeronautical Corp.

The A-7s flew in support of U.S. military activities in Vietnam, Lebanon, Grenada, Panama, Libya and in the Persian Gulf. According to published reports, this type of aircraft tallied 41,000 carrier landings and logged more than four million flight hours. The Navy used them on most of its aircraft carriers.

While its history is still being gathered, the A-7A in the Planes of Fame collection is known to have served in Vietnam as well as the Middle East.

The Bf 109 has been called Germany's most memorable World War II fighter. Originally unwanted by the German government, it became the country's most widely produced, respected and varied Luftwaffe fighter. The prototype Bf-109V-1 was ready in 1935 and featured a low wing, all metal construction monoplane with flush rivets, leading edge slats and a retractable landing gear plus a fully enclosed canopy. Early German pilots distrusted the Bf-109 because it seemed frail and the enclosed canopy was disconcerting. But, its speed and agility won over the skeptics.

The Bf-109 E1/7 on display at Chino was reportedly shot down in 1942 while on an escort mission and landed wheels up on a frozen lake. It sank and rested on the

lakebed until its recovery in 2003. The highly decorated German pilot Wulf-Dietrich Widowitz was at the controls but survived, dying more than a year later during another crash landing. Owned by the Friedkin Family Warbirds, the aircraft was built in 1939 and is known to have flown in the Battle of France and the Battle of Britain.

President's Message



Steve Hinton flying the Planes of Fame's authentic Japanese Mitsubishi Zero

Excitement is building at Chino Airport as we finalize the details for Air Show 2011 which will salute 100 years of U.S. Naval Aviation. We are pleased to have the County of San Bernardino as our co-sponsor again this year. And, we are look forward to giving our members and visitors the best air show experience anywhere.

As we prepare, we are watching aviation fuel costs increase dramatically and that could impact the benefits this event brings to the Planes of Fame operations for the coming year. The annual air show has become our largest fundraiser. In March, for example, the cost of our aviation gas at Chino jumped 20 percent to \$5.37 a gallon. Where will it be when Air Show 2011 takes off?

Still, our concerns over fuel costs are dwarfed by the tragedy in Japan. As this newsletter comes together, we are deeply saddened by the loss, pain and suffering as a result of the earthquake and tsunami. Those of us at Planes of Fame have many good friends in Japan; friendships initiated

through a mutual love and excitement for aviation and for historical preservation.

Planes of Fame was the first to fly an authentic World War II Japanese aircraft in that country after the war when we restored and took a Nakajima Ki-84 "Frank" fighter there in 1973. Today, our collection in Chino has the largest number of Japanese warplanes in one place in the world, including the only flying Zero. We have flown these aircraft in Japan and have many visitors from that country who come to see our collection.

All of this makes the world smaller and concerns for their pain deeper. We value these relationships and are honored that we have been able to preserve their aviation history, along with that of the U.S. and other countries.

At Chino, we are dedicated to "keeping 'em flying" and will do so, but it is only through the support of our friends – the air show sponsors, members and others – that we are able to do this.

As always, we are thankful.

Keep 'em flying!

Steve Hinton
President



PLANES OF FAME
AIR MUSEUM



Messerschmitt Bf 109



VETERAN VOLUNTEER LEADS AIR SHOW GROUND OPERATIONS

While most eyes at the air show will be fixed on the aircraft overhead, Jerry Wilkins isn't likely to see much of the show. His focus will be the ground operations – all of it – and he rarely gets to enjoy the flying.

At an air show planning meeting several years ago, Jerry says "I kept raising my hand for different jobs and Steve Hinton didn't give me any of them. After the meeting, I asked him 'have I done something wrong?' He said he wanted me to be the air show coordinator."

Since then, Jerry has taken responsibility for any place that a propeller isn't turning and that includes all the people from the first person on the property to the last one to leave. "It's a lot of work and ever changing, but I get to work with great people," Jerry says.

"We get 300 volunteers for the show, some we only see at this time. Everybody knows their jobs and helps make certain everything goes well."

Jerry came to Planes of Fame with a couple friends nearly 30 years ago. He had done some flying at Flabob Airport as a teenager, mowing the taxiways in

exchange for flying lessons, but he had followed his father into the construction business. He and his friends were the Museum's video department originally, but he wanted hands-on aircraft work and worked on painting the P-39 and on the B-25.



Jerry Wilkins plans air show ground activities.

"Then, they found out that I knew construction," says the owner of J&P Construction Inc., a small commercial and residential company. "It's never been the same since."

He oversaw the construction of offices and of all the hangars, besides overseeing ground operations for the air show and, in recent years, has coordinated the Museum's day-to-day volunteer program.

"Getting involved in the volunteer program has helped me look at the Museum with a whole different view. We have a phenomenal group and they are the heart of the museum. As the Alec Baldwin character said in the movie, Pearl Harbor, 'There's nothing stronger than the heart of a volunteer.'

"We are family at the Museum," Jerry says, and he is proud of the fact that volunteer hours totaled over 49,000 in 2010 and "it's going to keep going up. A core group of nearly 50 is here every Saturday. That used to be only seven to 10."

Jerry recalls telling Steve Hinton early in his nearly 30 year "career" as a Planes of Fame volunteer. "I'm here to stay," Jerry says. "He said, we'll see."

Jerry still does have a dream for his work at Chino. "I miss working on airplanes, getting my hands dirty. Someday I'll give up volunteer coordination and go back to working on the airplanes. Then, I will be here until the day I die.

"First though, I love to fly and my wife Patty and I have a goal to fly across this country."

ZERO FOCUS OF JAPANESE PUBLISHER'S PROMOTION



Japanese tour group at Planes of Fame Air Museum, Chino

The Planes of Fame Mitsubishi Zero was the focus of considerable attention in early December as representatives of the publishing house DeAgostini Japan and members of a tour group came for engine sounds and pictures.

The Zero will be featured in 100 consecutive magazines each of which will include a die cast part for a Zero model. Taken all together, the parts will

make it possible to build a Zero model. As a special feature, the model of the Nakagaima Sakae engine will include a microchip with sounds of the Planes of Fame engine running.

A tour group organized by Kintetsu International Tour Operation Company came to Chino for the filming and sound recording as well.

The museum's Zero is the only authentic flying Zero in the world and is a highlight of Planes of Fame's collection of Japanese and other foreign aircraft.



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PoF VOLUNTEERS RECOGNIZED FOR EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE

Planes of Fame volunteers received special recognition at the annual volunteer luncheon, hosted by the Board of Directors and management of the museum, in early February.

Some 150 volunteers attended the event which commemorated the nearly 50,000 hours that volunteers put in during 2010.

The special Founders Award was presented to Cory O'Bryan by Planes of Fame Founder Ed Maloney. "Cory has contributed so much to restoring our aircraft and when it comes to painting aircraft, he is a true artist," Maloney said. "Besides working on aircraft restorations, he has arranged and improved our jet and race plane displays."

President Steve Hinton presented two President's awards. The Pappas family – Dean, Keith and Justin – took one. "They are known as the Can Do Family," said Hinton. "They are willing to do everything that's asked of them and more."

The second Presidents Award went to Gino Proctor. "After I asked Gino if he'd help with the SNJ overhaul, I was surprised to see him here almost every day. Then when the overhauled Stearman engine arrived, Gino jumped in and helped with the installation. He does great work and has given over a thousand volunteer hours to the Museum."

The Bob Reed Award, presented by Jerry Wilkins, went to Jim Halloran. Jim is the lead tour docent and coordinates the tour schedule and docent availability. In his spare time, he works in the gift shop.

Numerous service pins were presented, including: 65 bronze pins for those serving 100 to 299 hours, 21 silver pins for 300 to 499 hours served, 34 gold pins for 500 or more hours served. In addition, Life Achievement honors for 20 or more years of service went to John Bryant and Chuck Jacobs while five volunteers received 15-year service pins, eight for 10 years of service and 13 for five years of service.



Ed Maloney with Cory O'Bryan receiving the Founders Award.



Steve Hinton presenting the President's Award to Gino Proctor and the Pappas family.



PLANES OF FAME AIR MUSEUM

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TWO LOCATIONS!

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Planes of Fame, Valle Airport

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