

Vintage Flying Museum Meeting August 25, 2007

Air Shows & Flights

- Doc cancelled the Dayton trip. Although it's disappointing, the show is too close to the dance to risk a possible mechanical failure since the B-17 is a dance highlight.
- Sept. 8 Lancaster – We'll need help all day: ground crew, giving tours, PX, etc. Sign-up sheets for flight are in the Briefing Room. We'll also have folks driving. Living History Group plans to be there
- *Liberty Bell* tour – The *Liberty Bell* was in DFW barn-storming recently. This is a great way to make money but takes a lot of advance work to get the crowds turned out for an appearance. If you're interested in organizing, handling advanced publicity and other arrangements to set up "barnstorming" appearances for *Chuckie*, please contact Doc.
- Fire bottles – We need B-17 fire bottles and valves for *Chuckie*. If you come across any, please let Doc know.
- Alliance Air Show, October 20 – Doc's working on arrangements, but hasn't made contact yet. This was a major money maker last year.
- B-17 Co-op Group Meeting, Oct. 27 – At Oshkosh the weekend of the Cowtown Warbird Roundup. Anyone interested in representing the VFM, contact Doc or Chuckie.

Welcome New Members!

Several new members introduced themselves at the meeting. We're delighted to add you to the crew and hope to see you around the hangar!

Special Events

We're getting requests to hold weddings, reunions, dinners, meetings and other events at the hangar. These events can raise much-needed revenue for the museum, but they do involve a lot of coordination and volunteer effort. Catering, insurance, set-up and clean-up could be handled by hired help, but we need VFM volunteers to move aircraft and supervise. If you're interested in helping to set up and coordinate these sorts of events, please contact Chuckie.

Big Band Hangar Dance – Saturday, October 13

The dance is our biggest annual fundraiser. It takes lots of volunteers to set up and staff this event, so we need everyone to pitch in, especially the week of the dance. Clipboards to sign up for jobs are in the Briefing Room. Please sign up for 1 or more jobs.

- Publicity - Distribute flyers and talk up the event everywhere you go! Flyers can be downloaded from the website. Print copies are available at the VFM. Press releases are going out to radio, newspapers, television stations, etc.
- Tickets – Tickets should be printed and ready to sell by September 1st. Tickets will also be available online. We'll need lots of volunteers to sell tickets in person at the museum, to take telephone orders and process "Will Call" orders. *Remember that the price has increased this year: Dance only advance tickets are \$25; \$30 at the door; dinner & dance is \$40 advance sales only. Reserved tables require a minimum of 10 tickets.*
- Silent Auction – We have a letter you can take to merchants requesting a donation. There's also a donation receipt form – fill out half to give to the donor and attach the other half to the item. Please specify the value of the donation on the receipt. We need items and coupons for services that will appeal to different folks in all price ranges. Southwest Airlines donated roundtrip tickets; Texas Motor Speedway donated tickets. We have model airplane kits, oil changes, gift bags, flashlights, restaurant meals and other items ranging from hundreds of dollars to \$10. Vintage clothing, uniforms and collectibles are welcome (but not flea market items). Let's add some B-17 parts (cleaned up, of course) to the auction. Deanna Bromkowski will be helping with merchandising and Greg Quinn will run the auction. Greg's making some more neon signs to direct people to the Silent Auction in the OV-10/FAC space. Please get your donations in so we can start typing bid sheets.

- Corporate Sponsors – Corporate tables are \$1000. If your company might be interested in sponsoring a table, please let us know. Each corporate sponsor gets a reserved table in a preferred location, 10 dance & dinner tickets, a gift basket and signs acknowledging their donation.
- Sonny Bryan's Smokehouse – Sonny Bryan will be catering the dinner again this year. They offer a choice of barbecued meats, sides, drinks & cobbler. Volunteers will get their meals at cost. Be sure to get your volunteer meal ticket before the dance. We eat at 5:30 before the crowd arrives.
- Set-ups – We sell soft drinks & ice and snacks at the dance. If you see cases of canned sodas, lemonade or iced tea, or bottled water on sale, please pick up a couple to donate for the set-ups.
- Facilities – Everyone will need to help sweeping and readying the hangar, preferably a week before the dance. Stanchions need cleaning. We'll set up tables and chairs, cut coverings & cover the tables the week of the dance, but they can be wiped down & restacked beforehand. Chuckie's making arrangements for an extra dumpster, "crowd pleaser" (large portable bathrooms), spotlights and generators. Rudy will pick up the lights. We need someone to check the hangar lightbulbs so they can be replaced. Ernie Ruff and some other volunteers will set up the sound system. Is any volunteer with a truck and hitch available to help tow a trailer with golf carts?
- Tours – We need to move visitors quickly through the aircraft. Encourage them to ask any questions outside the B-17 (volunteer at tail).
- Dance Week Schedule: Weekend before – sweep hangar; set up tables; print signs.
Thursday – roll aircraft out of the hangar (John Frazier, lead) & set up stage. **Final day for advance ticket sales.** Friday – final sweep; move tables & chairs into position, wipe down chairs; cover tables, set up lights, ticket table & Silent Auction area; pizza party for work crew. Saturday morning – inflate balloons; place centerpieces; set up PX & Silent Auction merchandise; get ice & set ups ready; set up sound system; any last minute items. Saturday afternoon – take a break & rest up. Be back @ 5 PM to staff dance. Midnight & on – clean up, put hangar back together; count money; go out for breakfast; collapse.

Cowtown Warbird Roundup - October 26 & 27

- Terry Tabor reported on plans for the CWR. This event will be 2 weeks after the dance. The good news is that the tables & chairs will only have to be moved once, the hangar should be clean and it should be cooler. Jim Bloomberg indicates that 75-80 aircraft will be participating. They'll be arriving on Friday, Oct. 26th. Fort Worth Meacham has authorized parking on the ramp and Taxiway Kilo. Flight crews must be in front of each aircraft during the event. Security will be assisted by CAP squadrons and Young Marines. Several squadrons will be holding reunions during the event with over 1200 veterans in attendance.
- All VFM volunteers are invited to attend the FACoberfest celebration (German food, beer & oompah band) Friday evening - \$10 per person.
- VFM participation will include: moving aircraft, setting up the stage, tables & chairs in the hangar for exhibitors (non-profit groups and approved vendors), tours of the B-17, PX sales, clean up, first aid station in the Briefing Room.
- Professional vendors will handle food sales in a tent set up on the south lot. The Ninety-Nines are evaluating whether to hold a pancake breakfast, but it would only run 6-9 AM. A free lunch will be provided for volunteers participating in the event.
- Admission will be \$5 per person/military in uniform and accompanied children free. Public event parking will be at Meacham terminal with shuttles to the VFM area. VIP and volunteer staff parking near the hangar will require a sticker or ID card on the vehicle (TBA). Volunteers will need to carry VFM member ID card.
- If you plan to fly in for the CWR, you must make advance arrangements with Jim Bloomberg by the Monday prior and be prepared to stay parked for the duration of the event. Otherwise, you may wish to park your aircraft at the FBOs near the terminal.
- Sign-up sheets and an "All Hands" meeting will be scheduled before the event. More details will be provided at that time.

Publicizing the VFM

Jim Hocker came up with a wealth of suggestions for increasing awareness/visibility of the Vintage Flying Museum. Many of these ideas have worked well in the past. All it takes is volunteers to organize and staff. Here's a list of Jim's ideas – would you be interested in taking on one or more projects? If so, please step forward.

- Ask sponsors to purchase newspaper advertisement 1 weekend edition each month announcing ongoing and upcoming events and tours.
- Maintain a current VFM calendar of events on the website.
- Buy 1, get 1 free coupons in “Welcome Wagon” or “ValPak” packages. (We have B1G1F coupons on the Fort Worth Convention & Visitors website.)
- Check with the city authorities & install temporary roadside signs (like home builders) and billboards publicizing the VFM.
- Use your social network – talk up the VFM at your Lion's Club, Rotary, church, professional, alumni or civic group. Suggest a tour of the VFM as an activity.
- Human interest and unique stories in newspaper – war stories, American Flea, etc.
- Create news events – take a reporter on a flight.
- Offer our hangar & aircraft as interesting background for advertising photos (local & national newspapers, magazines, TV)
- Provide facilities & tours for special events, banquets, reunions with veterans groups, American Legion, VFW.
- Offer special Veterans' Day events.
- Hold a Family Night once a quarter/annually with a specialty food (fish fry)
- Speakers bureau – provide guest speakers (aviation, military history, etc.)
- Offer special tours for defense plant workers, aviation and related industry employees or students.
- Offer special tours for retirement home, seniors, and other special populations.
- Expand in school activities such as speakers.
- Offer seminars & workshops such as how to get a pilot's license, sport pilot licenses, how to get your LSA N-number & airworthiness certificate.
- Special exhibits and demonstrations each quarter – hot air balloon, helicopter, ultralight.
- Set up special displays – business jets, antique aircraft or cars, WW II noseart, etc.
- Write & publish articles for local & national magazines.
- Research what other museums do to raise money.
- Other ideas??

Miscellaneous Business

- The Fort Worth Star Telegram will publish “Click” photo submissions starting Oct. 1st with 2 weeks advance notice. There's a “how to” workshop on Sep. 10th.
- Take Flight Days – We're getting lots of requests for Take Flight Days. If you're available on weekdays, @ 9:30 AM – 12 noon, Dan Patz needs volunteers interested in giving tours, speaking, helping build balsa gliders.
- Member polo shirts – if you'd like a blue VFM polo shirt with your name embroidered, please let Kate know the size & name. Volunteers are easy to identify at the dance, giving tours, etc., in this shirt. We'll let you know the price. They're usually sold at cost (@ \$25-30).
- Hats – The cap style & embroidery are being finalized. We hope to have some cap orders filled soon.

Next Meeting – Saturday, September 15, 4:30-6:00 PM