OCTOBER 30, 2025

www.castleairmuseum.org

CASTLE AIR MUSEUM

# NEWSLETTER

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Veterans Day Parade - Nov 11**
  This year's Veterans Day Parade is a salute to Brig. Gen. Frederick W Castle. We invite you to join us for the parade, helping us to make a large turnout for this special event.

- **Christmas Tree Lighting - Nov 29**
  Join us to for the lighting of our official Christmas tree lighting ceremony. Enjoy free hot chocolate, delicious cookies, and festive fun!

## GIFT SHOP

**LUCY SILVA, RETAIL SALES MANAGER**

Did you know your museum has a banquet room available for rent? Great for meetings, receptions, birthday parties, or family reunions! Tables, chairs, and sound system available. Call the Gift Shop for details. Special rates for members. 209-782-2182

## FROM THE BOARD CHAIRMAN

**MAJ GEN CLAY GARRISON USAF (RET)**

It has been an exciting October! We had the Fall Blitz Car Show along with Air Fest with Castle Airport, the Black Bunny made a reappearance, and the restoration team went to China Lake to recover some parts for the A-7. All good stuff and very good for the museum. You can read more about these events in the rest of the newsletter.

I want to thank volunteer Ed Chambers for once again organizing our Car Show. This has become a great fundraiser for the museum, and it is only possible because of Ed's heroic effort. If you have never been to one of the car shows, you are missing out! Put the Spring Bombs Away Car Show on your calendar now. Check out "Events" on our web page.

We have some administrative details to take care of this month. It is October and nominations are complete for the Board of Directors. Later in this letter, you will find a list of all the nominees to fill out our Board for the coming year. Ballots will be mailed by November 15th. Please return these as quickly as possible so we can announce out new board members at our December member dinner. So, don't forget to mark your calendars for the annual Membership Dinner, Dec 6th, at the Elks Lodge.

I hope you enjoy this month's letter, and I look forward to your feedback.

## RESTORATION HANGAR

**GREG STATHATOS, RESTORATION MANAGER**

It's been an exciting month for the restoration team! We took a field trip to China Lake to remove the new wing and vertical stabilizer for our A-7, officially kicking off restoration on our Desert Storm veteran. Bill and I also visited March Field Air Museum to pick up canopies for the T-34 and the cradle for the MiG-17—important pieces for upcoming projects.

Our efforts haven't gone unnoticed—by both the USAF and USN (and maybe their Security Forces, too!). Let's just say hauling a vertical stabilizer across base traffic in Bill's trailer was an adventure. The team continues to work with a higher level of integrity and compatibility as a united team—big things are happening in the hangar!

The hangar will soon house three aircraft in various stages of restoration:

- TF-102: Pat and John are closing up the fuselage and reviving the weapon bays.
- A-7: Moving in soon with its new wing and vertical attached.
- MiG-17: Scheduled to move from Hangar 47 after November 5.

Join us November 5 for a double aircraft rollout! Both our beautifully painted Huey—a Jeff Heyer masterpiece—and our stunning F-4 "Black Bunny" (thanks to Bruce and Jeff) will go on display together for the first time.

### Veterans Day & Volunteer News

Our friends from the Pharaohs Car Club are prepping parade vehicles for the Veterans Day celebration honoring Gen. Fredrick Castle. Expect to see the ambulance, Bell-47 "MAS*H" helicopter, WWII Jeep, "Mighty Mite" Jeep with a drone, and our 1936 tug pulling something special—thanks to help from Sunbelt Rentals.

We've welcomed new volunteers and even had special helpers—my grandsons Oliver and Atlas, who swept the entire hangar (without a dustpan!). Our core team—Bill, Bruce, Frank, Jeff, Pat, John, Richard, and Eric—continues to preserve aviation history with pride and teamwork.

### B-52 Progress

The B-52 wings are being sanded and will soon be ready for primer. A special thank-you to Al Osborne, whose tour for our partners at Amazon inspired them to donate all the sandpaper and tools we need to finish the job.

ONE TEAM... ONE FIGHT!

**Mel Christler & Avery Aviation's crew loading the Douglas B-18B, as N52056, for a spraying job in 1956.**

## VOLUNTEER SERVICES

**BOB SCOBLE, VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR**

Our monthly volunteer meetings continue to grow in attendance and energy—thank you to everyone participating and sharing ideas! At the October meeting, we welcomed five new volunteers: Rosie Schwarberg, Christian Santos, Ian Garrott, Ethan Presto, and Eric Oh. Welcome aboard!

### Aircraft Surveys

Crew Chiefs were asked to complete surveys on their aircraft to identify work needs. The results, coordinated by Curator Rusty Wynn, will help prioritize upcoming restoration projects. Please return completed forms to Rusty.

### Volunteer Hours & ID Badges

All reported volunteer hours are now entered into our PastPerfect database. Printouts were distributed for review—please let us know if any corrections are needed.

A reminder: all volunteers need a current ID badge to access the museum. To update yours, email a passport-style photo or stop by the Gift Shop to have one taken.

### Safety & Events

We reviewed lessons learned from our recent Open Cockpit event, where we experienced a few heat-related issues and one injury. Suggestions for improvement include:

- Adding cooling stations at both ends of the event area
- Improving communication among staff and golf cart drivers
- Providing First Aid kits and BLS/First Aid training, offered by George Yates
- Expanding water distribution and adding port-a-potties at key locations

These steps will make future events safer and more comfortable for guests and volunteers.

The Restoration Crew at China Lake

## CURATOR'S CORNER

**RUSTY WYNN, CURATOR**

They say it's hard to teach old dogs new tricks—and we in the curator's office have found that to be true, especially when learning to navigate PastPerfect! The good news is that progress is being made as we continue inputting Castle Air Museum's artifact collection. We're well into the process of accessioning our loaned aircraft and have begun cataloging the museum's artwork. Each artifact requires individual attention and must be accessioned on its own—not as part of a group—so it's careful, detailed work.

Another ongoing project is relocating the magazines and periodicals from the curator's office to make room for aircraft technical manuals. Progress has been steady, and our goal is to complete the move by the start of the new year, pending no major complications.

A sincere thank-you to all the Volunteer Crew Chiefs who completed the Aircraft Survey Forms, and a special thanks to Bob Scoble for coordinating their distribution and collection. The initial report from the first batch of surveys has been shared with the CAM Board and the Restoration Team, and an addendum will follow once the latest surveys are reviewed. These reports are helping guide valuable discussions about the condition and needs of our aircraft—thank you for your continued attention and input.

## MEMBER SERVICES

**Renewals:** Go online and complete the form or contact Janie Sundgren at: membership@castleairmuseum.org

**Membership Credentials:** Stop by or contact the Gift Shop at 209-723-2182

**Guided Tours**: Stop by the Gift Shop or contact our retail sales manager, Lucy Silva at 209-723-2182. Email at: giftshopmanager@castleairmuseum.org

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The strength of Castle Air Museum lies in the dedication of our members and leadership. It is once again time to elect the Board of Directors who will guide us into the future. This election provides each member with the opportunity to take part in shaping the museum's direction and ensuring its continued success for generations to come.

In this edition of our monthly newsletter, you will find a list of our current Board of Directors, along with names of the nominees seeking election to open positions. Ballots will be mailed to all members, with nominee biographies. We encourage your thoughtful participation in this important process.

### Officers of the Board

Chairman: Clay Garrison Maj Gen USAF (Ret)
Vice Chairman: Jeff Stopper
Secretary: Kim Nickerson-Nutt
Treasurer: Robert Tyler

### Directors

Russ Parsley, John Marshall, Bill Emery, Jared Hines, Dennis Bruno, Cliff Talley, Carl Knoch, John Sundgren, Mike Jensen, and Kari May.

### Education Committee Chair:

Director Emeritus: Barbara Hoffman

### Nominees

Incumbents: Clay Garrison and Carl Knoch

George Clover, Doug Davis, Tom Dixon, and Scott Oliver.

The A-7 vertical stabilizer loaded onto a trailer as the crew prepares to leave China Lake.

# AIRCRAFT OF THE MONTH

**RUSTY WYNN, CURATOR**

## Douglas B-18 Bolo – BuNo 37-0029

Built on June 10, 1938, at the Douglas Aircraft Company's Santa Monica, California, plant, B-18 Bolo No. 37-0029, began its military service just days later. On June 16, 1938, it was assigned to the 9th Bombardment Group at Mitchel Army Airfield, New York.

Originally designed as a medium bomber, 37-0029 was later modified into a B-18B submarine hunter as World War II intensified. Over the years, it served at several key airfields across the country:

- Nov 2, 1938: Transferred to the 2nd Bombardment Group at Langley Army Airfield, Virginia
- May 15, 1940: Assigned to the 29th Bombardment Group at MacDill Army Airfield, Florida
- Jan 14, 1942: Stationed with the 3rd Air Force/Antisubmarine Command at Drew Army Airfield, Tampa, Florida
- Aug 2, 1943: Moved to the Central Flying Training Command at Ellington Army Airfield, Texas, as a pilot trainer
- Aug 2, 1944: Assigned to the 4007th Army Airfield Base Unit (ASC) at Brookley Army Airfield, Alabama
- Nov 21, 1944: Final posting with the 4119th Army Airfield Base Unit (ASC), also at Brookley

After nearly seven years of distinguished service, 37-0029 was retired on February 12, 1945, and sold through the Reconstruction Finance Corporation to a private owner. It received civilian registration NC52056 and went on to serve in civilian life as both a crop sprayer and a firefighting tanker.
Its final flight took place on October 26, 1981, when pilot Gene Powers of Hawkins & Powers Aviation flew 37-0029 from Wyoming to Castle Air Force Base—making it the last flyable B-18 in the world.

Today, this remarkable aircraft proudly resides at Castle Air Museum, representing a rare and important chapter in early U.S. air power history.

Aircraft of the Month - Douglas B-18 Bolo

**At Avery Aviation, Greybull,WY as N52056, operating as fire service tanker #B20.**

**B-18 Bolo, 37-0029 as it arrived at Castle Air Force Base in 1981.**