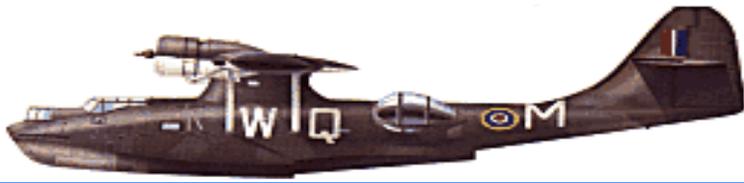


Historic Aviation Memorial Museum



**PROP WASH
JUNE/JULY 2022**

Museum

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Board Members

Lou Thomas-Pres- - - -2022*

Sam Brandon- - - - -2022*

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Michael Hilgert- - - - -2023*

Ivan Torres-VP- - - - -2023*

Chip Williams, III- - - -2023*

Bob Strong- - - - -2024*

Jack Downing- - - - -2024*

Dan Cramer- - - - -2024*

*Term Expiration Year

Museum Staff

Chip Williams- - - Curator

Karon Gilmore- - - Finance

Gail strong- - - - Librarian

DOUGLAS TA-4J SKYHAWK

HAMM's feature this month is known as "Heineman's Hot Rod" after its designer, and originally designated the A-4D, the Navy and Marine A-4 Skyhawk, developed in the early 1950's as a lightweight, nuclear capable strike aircraft for use in large numbers flying from aircraft carriers. Its mission was to attack and destroy surface targets in support of ground forces, or as in Vietnam, destroy strategic targets such as buildings, power plants, airfields, etc. and to conduct other operations as directed. There were numerous models of the A-4 in use. All models had two internally mounted 20mm (.8 inch) cannons, and were capable of delivering conventional and nuclear weapons under day and night visual meteorological conditions. A large number of A-4's were in action during the Vietnam war, and because of its relatively slow speed and vulnerability to SAM missiles and MIGs, plus the sheer number that were flown in combat, it had the dubious distinction of being the most shot down (over 200) U. S. Navy aircraft. It was also sold/given to several NATO, South American, and Israeli Air Forces. The Israelis even produced their own version and flew it for many years after most countries had retired it.



Our aircraft is the two seat TA-4J mode. Each combat squadron was normally equipped with twelve single seat aircraft and two TA-4 aircraft. Within the squadron the TA-4s were used for training pilots new to the A-4 and routine proficiency training such as instrument flying. USN advanced Training Squadrons used all TA-4 versions. Our aircraft's lineage is somewhat clouded, but it appears to have mainly been assigned to VA-43 and ATKRON-43 (Same squadron, different nomenclatures) beginning in 1967 until its retirement.

RESTORATION HANGAR REPORT

FJ-4 Project

We reported in the last issue of the Prop Wash HAMM'S restoration teams spent months working on our FJ-4 Fury preparing it for painting. We also reported that to properly prepare and paint the aircraft will require a four step process and the cost of the materials required in the process, was approximately \$9,400.00.

A number of letters soliciting funds for painting the aircraft were sent to local community businesses. We are very happy to report that one of our local businesses, who had provide funds in the past to HAMM, has provided the necessary funds for this project. We will keep you informed of our progress.



PLANE ON A POLE

We are happy to report that the project to place the F9F Cougar on a pole at the intersection of Route 64 and Airport Drive is very active again, and we expect to complete this project in the next several months. Our restoration team worked many hours rebuilding the Cougar and preparing it for installation. However, many obstacles delayed the installation project. Recently, Warren Moore, one of our restoration engineers, took on the project, found a company to provide the engineering drawings, then found a pole, then a company willing to take on the task of installing the aircraft (at a cost). As Warren will be out of town for the next few months, the project will be handled by another restoration engineer, Darron Jackson. We will also be sending out solicitation letters for donations to support this project.



HAMM MEMBER RECOGNITION F9F RESTORATION TEAM

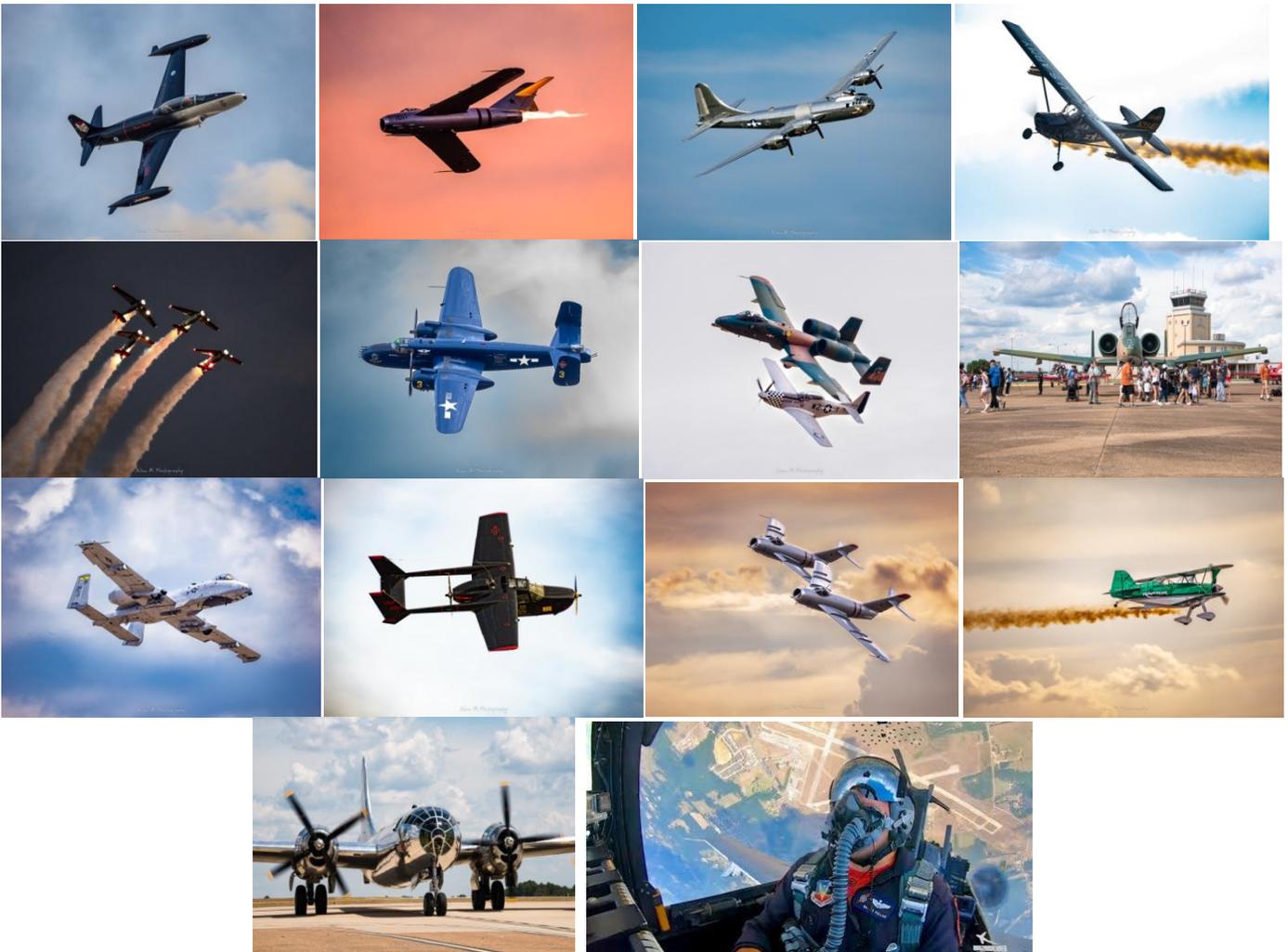
Now that the Plane on a Pole is back on track, I believe it is appropriate to recognize the individuals who were responsible for resurrecting an aircraft that had been severely damaged in a storm, and then the owners used blow torches to cut off the wings, and a fork lift to punch holes in the fuselage to move it to the junk pile. In essence, what HAMM purchased were pieces of an aircraft.

Under the guidance of John Conaway, a retired Aeronautical Engineer with an extensive background in all phases of aircraft maintenance and powerplant engineering, the aircraft was restored, painted and prepared for mounting on a pole for display. Other members of the restoration team were Chip Williams, Tim Spence, John Mustard, Bob Strong, Jim Alexander, and J. T. Lackey. The restoration took several years of very difficult work in repairing the extensive damage done to the airplane.

The photograph above (of the F9F) illustrates what can be done by a team of professionals. The team should be proud of the finished work as I am sure the public will be when they see the Plane on a Pole.

ROSE CITY AIRSHOW AND WARBIRDS EXPO

The airshow and EXPO was an extremely successful event. The hard work by the support staff and vendors resulted in a great evening and many weekend visitors. Some photos:



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

HAMM is in need of volunteers. We are open from Wednesday –Saturday. Gift Shop/Greeters are our number one need. Technically-inclined individuals to work in our restoration facility are second. Docents are Third, and Library Assistants. Although the library assistant is last, we have only one person filling that position. This position would be ideal for a college student to gain experience in Library Science.

Gift shop/Greeters – Welcome visitors, process admission fees and Gift shop purchases.

Technically Inclined individuals – work in our Restoration Facility helping to maintain our extensive aircraft collection. **Docents** - Guide visitors through the Museum, providing details of various displays, and our aircraft parked on the ramp.

Library/Administrative Assistants – Assist in managing our Aviation Library and various tasks

NEW MEMBERS

| <u>NAME</u> | <u>MEMBERSHIP</u> | <u>NAME</u> | <u>MEMBERSHIP</u> |
|------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Joe Hulburt | Individual | Amy Bolton | Family |
| David Bailey | Individual | Jeff Wood | Family |
| Austin Bullock | Individual | Lyndel (Vic) Massey | Family |
| Bobby Francis | Individual | Dusty Ahlgren | Family |
| Jon Goddard | Individual | David Gary | Family |
| Gary Daniels | Individual | Glyn Gowing | Family |
| Russell Dodd | Individual | Kelley Goodwin | Family |
| Rex Roach | Individual | Chris Hall | Family |
| Jason Fletcher | Individual | Robert Tippens | Family |
| Michael Longley | Individual | Jeffrey Fields | Family |
| Charles Muirhead | Individual | Andrew Capezzeria | Family |
| Patrick McGown | Individual | Giuseppe Giovenzana | Family |
| Carson Allen | Individual | Steve Hunt | Family |
| Jerry Parker | Individual | Mike Spraggins | Family |

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150 Airport Drive, box 2-7
Tyler, TX 75704



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