

Historic Aviation Memorial Museum



PROP WASH MAY 2015

Museum

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Board Members

- Lou Thomas, Pres—2016*
- Joe Jones, Treasurer—2016*
- Wyley Smith—2017*
- Jamal Moharer—2017*
- Chip Williams, VP—2017*
- Bill McKenzie—2015*
- Court Hazelton—2015*
- Dick Gilmore—2015*
- Karon Gilmore—Secretary
(non-voting board member)

*Term Expiration Year

Museum Staff

Norm Walker—Interim Curator

Karon Gilmore—Finance Mgr.



Collings Foundation Weekend

From March 13 - 15, HAMM hosted a visit by the Collings Foundation, which is a 501c3 corporation that flies a variety of vintage WWII aircraft. Each year the foundation members visit a number of communities across the country to allow people to tour and fly in these majestic aircraft. This year, two bombers (a B-17 and B-24), a P-51 fighter, and a UH-1H helicopter visited Tyler. This visit provided a unique setting for our WWII veterans, civilians, and other visitors to share their experiences with relatives and friends.

Although the aircraft were scheduled to arrive by Friday noon, the weather did not cooperate so the first aircraft did not arrive until 1:00 pm on Saturday: the remaining three aircraft showed up in the late afternoon. However, the bad weather did not stop

Visitors from coming to the airport since we had a record turnout for Saturday and Sunday with more than 900 visitors during those two days. They arrived early and left late and, at times, the lobby was so full that it was difficult to transit.

Unfortunately, the flying activities of the B-17 and the B-24 were curtailed to only to only one flight each late afternoon on Sunday. The P-51 did somewhat better with two flights on Saturday and two on Sunday. The winner was the UH-1H pilot; we lost count of the number of flights he made but he was in the air more than he was on the ground.

Wyley Smith, a member of our Board of Directors, arranged with an outside group to donate \$600.00 to purchase tickets (valued at \$12.00 each) which were then given to the first 50 visitors who were wounded warriors or veterans of foreign wars. Wyley began handing out tickets at 9:00 am and ran out by 1:00 pm.

Tim Spence, who volunteers at our Restoration Facility, and Red Griffin, another long-time volunteer, collected a trove of small items to include toy airplanes, photographs, and books which they then gave to children attending the festivities. Donations were also gratefully accepted.

The entire HAMM staff and volunteers worked long and hard to make the weekend meaningful for both our visitors and Foundation members. Given the overwhelmingly positive comments from the numerous visitors, (both adults and children), and the Collings Foundation personnel, their weekend visit was deemed a resounding success (despite the weather).

Welcome to our New Members

Linda Hazelton – has volunteered to work in the Gift Shop on Thursdays. Please stop in and welcome her.

Stephen Thompson – has volunteered to work as a Docent. He is currently in training.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

May 20 **Board of Directors Meeting** **4:00 pm**

May 23 **General Meeting** **10:00 am**

The special presentation at this meeting will be by several members of “F” troop 8th Cavalry (“BLUEGHOST”) community who flew the AH-1F Cobra helicopter in Vietnam. “F” Troop was what the Army called a “Bastard Cavalry Troop”. They were not part of an Air Cavalry Squadron or Regiment, but were totally self-contained. Be sure to attend the meeting in order to hear the rest of the story.

May 23 Luncheon (\$5.00 donation)

Hot Dogs – Buns with/without Chili

Frito Chips Grapes Tea

Cake and Ice Cream

June 1 **Docent Meeting** **10:00 am**

June 17 **Board of Directors Meeting** **4:00 pm**

June 20 **General Meeting** **10:00 am**

June 20 Luncheon (\$5.00 donation)

Pounder Sandwiches Chips Fruit

Tea Cookies

July 4 **Thunder over Cedar Creek** **6:00 pm**

July 21 – 25 **Aviation Camp** **10:00 am – 3:00 pm**

HAMM will conduct an Aviation Camp for young adults (ages 12 to 15) from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm each day from July 21 through July 25, 2015. The classroom activities will include: how airplanes fly, the history of flight, pre-flight an airplane, pilot experiences, flying the flight simulator, and a scavenger hunt. We also take field trips to visit the airport control tower, fire station, airport terminal building and one of the fixed-base operators.

With written parental permission, each camper will have the opportunity to take an orientation flight on Saturday. The cost of the camp is \$110.00 dollars: attendance is limited to 15 participants. For additional information or to make reservations call 903-526-1945.

Recognition of our Members

(New Prop Wash Feature)

Gloria Kolb

Gloria has been a member of HAMM since it began in 1984. She and her husband, Jim, were early contributors and helped get HAMM started. Although Gloria has lived in Tyler for 50 years, she spent her first 23 years in Maine and Massachusetts, married a man from Arkansas, lived in California and also spent 9 years in Venezuela.

Gloria is a retired Registered Nurse, who has served on the HAMM Board of Directors and Special Events Committee; she also continues to volunteer once a week at the museum.

Gloria's wish for HAMM is that it will continue to educate and keep the history of flying in the hearts and minds of the young and more senior visitors to the museum.

Volunteers Needed

The museum is looking for volunteers to fill the following positions:

Docent: Learn about the many historical items and planes we have at HAMM and share that history with our visitors.

Gift Shop: Meet and welcome visitors and register sales from the gift shop.

Library: Assist the library staff with data entry.

Business Office: Assist with grant writing, mailings and miscellaneous activities.

Aircraft restoration: Assist our other volunteers in our restoration facility where HAMM's airplanes are repaired, refurbished, and painted to keep them in good shape for static display.

Skills Required

A desire to learn about our museum and share this historical knowledge with our visitors.