

# Provider Weekly E-Newsletter

November 11, 2007

## Celebration and other festivities

By Paul Vasconi

Hello friends near and far!

Today, was eventful in many ways.

First, the winner of the Earthquake McGoon Print came by and received the print. Good friend, and AAF member/supporter, Jim Kunz was awarded the Artists Proof Print as the attached photo confirms. He said he was going directly to the framing shop to get it matted and framed.

Thanks very much Jim, for many reasons.... For your generosity, your ongoing interest, and for your friendship! Enjoy!!

HAPPY FIRST BIRTHDAY!!! Dont expect cake and a song.... but today is a bit of a special day.....Exactly one year ago, the concrete parking area where our C-123 sits was poured. The handprints of Air America C-123 pilot, Capt "Weird Neil" Hansen, Vern Goding, and myself are permanently embossed in the slab, along with the date. 11-09-06 Not sure how to wish 20 tons of concrete happy birthday, but HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!

OPEN HOUSE at the VAC, day one.

An afternoon report from AAF Volunteer Vern Goding says that the Friday version of the Open House was slow but steady. Other AAF volunteers who answered the call to duty were Rod McIntyre, Cal Crocker, Ed Bloom, and Lyle Barney. Thanks guys for your participation! New friends were made and more folks know about our program. Can't lose!

During the course of the week, Cal Crocker, Rod McIntyre and I met at the airplane on Tuesday and Thursday to work on the last of the landing gear door repairs, namely the installation of the weatherseals on the side doors. We also unloaded the usual contents of the C-123 and prepped the airplane for inspection by the visitors attending the open house at the museum in honor of all veterans.

*Continued on page 2*



In other Museum news:

I have learned that this weekend is also the Stuart FL airshow. We've attended it with the Cat House C-123 3 years ago. It is one of the best organized, well run, and enjoyable airshows that I've ever attended, as a spectator and as a participant over the 15 years I have been involved in the warbird scene. The principal sponsor organization is the VNA, Visiting Nurse Assn. and they have gotten the whole community behind them too. A fine group of hard working people. The Museum has made room for two fine airplanes that are planning on flying from Stuart and taking up temporary residence at the VAC. One is a fine B-25 medium bomber owned by longtime VAC member and warbird restorer, Tom Reilly, and the other airplane is a P-51 Mustang.

I will be sure to take photos if they arrive as scheduled.

We will be doing something new at our open house display over the weekend as we will be opening up the cowlings of one of the R2800 radial engines, for the public to see. We also will be putting the Caribou on public display although it still looks pretty forlorn at the moment. That is going to change dramatically in the coming months as we will soon be receiving all or most of the interior and exterior parts needed to make the airplane appear complete. Once restored, it too will be put on public display alongside the C-123 during the upcoming VAC air show in March 08. The people who have made this possible are Rod and Trevor McIntyre the father and son AAF team who have been instrumental in obtaining and restoring the airplane's cockpit, and working to return 389 back to a more accurate appearance while it flew for Air America. One compromise will be the use of the current radar nose piece which was not used on her during her days with Air America. but a little artistic license must be observed!

Oh, and those of you who ordered the AAF polo shirts...They are here! The nice folks who ordered shirts who live overseas will be notified of the final amount due, after I get the chance to go with the packaged shirts to the Post Office to obtain the mailing fees. I will get that done early next week.

We do have a few extra shirts but they will go on a first come, first served basis. The shirts are \$29 each plus shipping.

Bye for now!

Paul



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