



Presidents Report Winter 2014

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Oakland Aviation Museum is to:

- Educate about Oakland & Bay Area Aviation history,

- To celebrate the achievements and technology of flight

and to

- Inspire individuals by linking aviation's past to the future.

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As usual it's been very busy around the museum and I proud to say that we have some significant achievements to report.

- *In January one of our key volunteers - Lyzzy- had her wedding reception at the museum. Lyzzy and Tommy Tachis had a well attended event and our own museum - Friends of Ken - band played. A great time was had by all.*
- *In February an event was held at the museum in honor of Bessie Colman, the first African-American female aviator and featured in our "Women in Aviation" room. The Port of Oakland, Oakland City officials and distinguished guests renamed a portion of Airport Drive leading into the Oakland International Airport as Bessie Colman Drive in honor of the first female African -American aviator. The event was attended by the Mayor of Oakland-Mayor Jean Quan and Vice Mayor Larry Reid, Barbara Lee- member of congress, Deborah Ale Flint-Director of Port of Oakland, Port commissioners, David Cunningham- President of Tuskegee airmen. It was heavily covered by the news media.*
- *Thanks to superior skills of one of our board members, John Van Geffen, we were able to reach a settlement with the AT&T insurance company on the damage cause to some of our aircraft when their telephone pole collapsed. All of the repairs have not yet been completed but things are in motion.*
- *In March the museum hosted the Vitas Hospice volunteer appreciation event. Over 150 people were present and expressed many complements on the museum.*
- *Jackie Larson, Treasurer and V.P. of Collections, has successfully accomplished re-engaging with World Airways and the Edward J. Daley Foundation and the museum will soon be getting a grant to catalogue and digitize all of the artifacts and literature pertaining to World Airways at the Oakland Airport. The World Airways room at the museum has been completely refurbished and displays will be replaced now that the roof has been repaired. Jackie has also met with representatives of JFK University concerning a grant for our library. More to follow on this subject. Well done Jackie!*



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Additional Items:

- *One of the key pieces of equipment needed to operate the museum is the fork lift which has been in a sad state for the past year or so. We now have it repaired and will be back in service this month*
- *If you have visited the museum lately you noticed that the parking lot is in a rugged state. This is because the City is replacing a water line and needed to replace the part that crossed the parking lot. But; on the edge of the parking lot was part of the original rail road track that was the only means of providing supplies and materials to Oakland's North Field in the early 1920's. They saved it for us along with the railroad spikes. Our intention is to make a display out of it since we have photographs of when that track was actually being used. If anyone is interested in helping with this project please let us know. The parking lot will be replaced. Please be patient.*
- *We now have donation tools attached to the website whereby anyone can make donations, pay membership dues or purchase Solent dinners directly on the website. We have been trying to get this feature for quite some time.*
- *We also welcomed Talbot Martin as the newest Board member. Talbot is also a lawyer and has an extensive background in aviation.*
- *We have acquired some websites that feature the Short Solent - not ours but others of the same era that you might be interested in viewing:*

<http://www.britishpathe.com/video/35-ton-flying-giant-short-solent-lands-on-the-tham/query/T>

<http://www.britishpathe.com/video/flying-boat-lands-on-thames/query/tower+bridge+Solent>

<http://www.britishpathe.com/video/flying-giant-lands-on-the-thames>

<http://www.britishpathe.com/video/boac-flying-boat/>

- *Funding for the museum is always a primary concern. We have several projects on the schedule which I have listed below. In addition to the generous donations from sponsors we have been conducting "rummage sales". Some of the items available for anyone interested are such things as aircraft instruments, spare aircraft parts, aircraft manuals and assorted other items. Contact Ian if you're interested in seeing some of the items. Your donations are greatly appreciated.*
- *The museum continues to be the destination of choice for many organizations and groups that want special events. The museum recently hosted the Kaiser Foundation and several other special functions. As always, these events could not be possible without the help of our volunteers. A special thanks to all of you.*

Projects

- *Landscaping: Tina has been doing a fantastic job with the front entrance. We are still working on the basic design for the side yard. One of the ideas we are working on which would improve the appearance of the side yard and provide fund raising as well is to have a brick imprinted with a donors name and placed in the yard. A donor would then have an everlasting part of the museum and at the same time help to enhance the appearance of the museum.*

John D. Horton

John D. Horton, President, OAM



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Volunteer of the Quarter

Bill & Lori Marion



After graduating from Arizona State University in 1980, Bill was commissioned a 2nd Lt in the USAF and stationed at Nellis AFB Nevada where he did computer simulations for the Red Flag air combat exercises. He then attended pilot training at Vance AFB Oklahoma where he flew T-37 and T-38 jet trainers. Bill spent the next 5 years as a “Hurricane Hunter” flying WC-130 aircraft at Keesler AFB Mississippi and Andersen AFB Guam. In total he flew 39 missions penetrating the eyes of hurricanes and typhoons in the Gulf of Mexico and Pacific. Changing aircraft, Bill flew the C-5 Galaxy at Travis AFB. Leaving active duty in 1990, Bill joined the Air National Guard at Moffett Field where he was the Aircraft Maintenance Squadron Commander. He deployed in 2003 for Operation Iraqi Freedom where he was responsible for the maintenance of MC-130 aircraft and HH-60 helicopters in Northern Iraq and Eastern Europe. Bill retired from the Air National Guard in 2004 as a Lieutenant Colonel with 24 years of service.

In addition to his military career, Bill spent 22 years as an IT Manager in local government retiring in 2012. He met his wife Lori (also a retired Air Force Officer) while on active duty and they have three grown sons; Ian, Neil and Reid. Bill enjoys the time he spends volunteering at the museum and particularly likes giving tours to children and veterans.

Bill has been instrumental in setting up the ‘Boeing School of Aeronautics’, ‘Amelia Earhart’, ‘Flying Boat’, exhibits and signage for the ‘engine room’, . He has also worked on all the inside Aircraft for Open Cockpit days.

Thank you Bill