

# The Supercruiser

## The Western Museum of Flight Newsletter

3315 Airport Drive Mailbox No.6, Torrance, California 90505

Phone: (310) 326-9544

FAX: (310) 326-9556

E-mail: WMOFSCHAFF@um.att.com

Website: <http://www.wmof.com>



Issue: Volume 10, No. 4

December 2010

Page 1

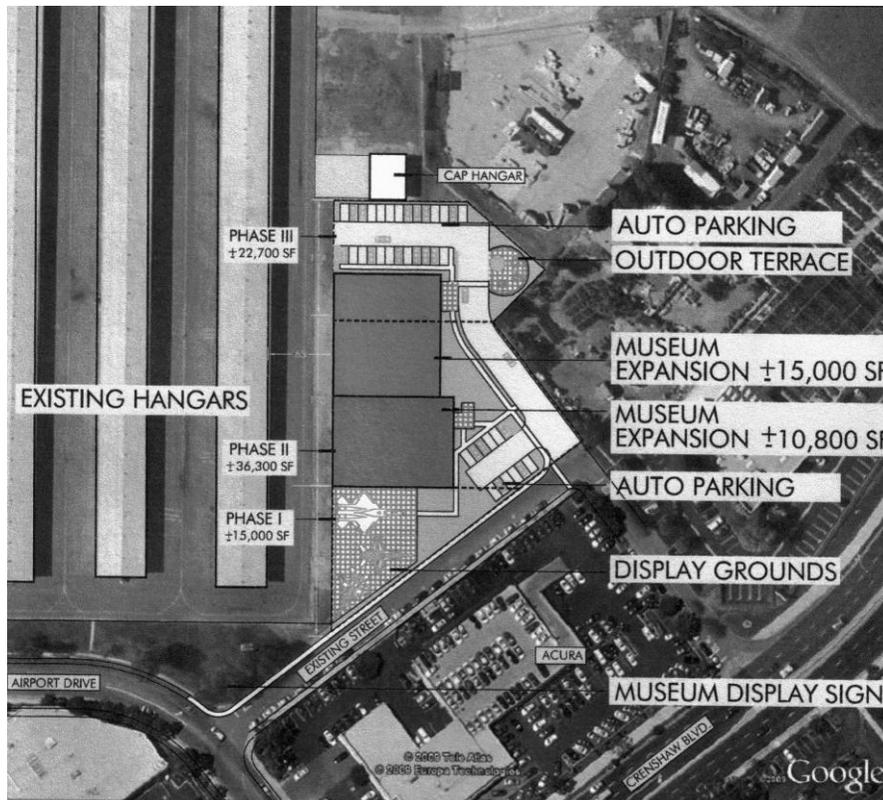
### New Museum Construction Site Approved

*Cynthia Macha, Director*

At the November 23<sup>rd</sup> Council meeting, the Torrance City Council made the most sincere statement of support which took the form of the allocation of land at the east end of Torrance Airport. The resolution passed unanimously offering our museum a one dollar per year lease.

As always, we are very appreciative of the encouragement and support we receive from the Torrance City Council. We are now ready to proceed with the next step which is the detailed planning and fund development for all three phases of construction for our new home. (see March newsletter)

The lease agreement has been executed and SCHAFF has contracted with an engineering firm to conduct soils tests and to initiate plans for Phase I. As currently envisioned, the entire project through Phase 3 comprises approximately 22,000 square feet of building construction plus paving and area infrastructure over a ten year period on the three-acre parcel.



### New Book at Museum: *Images of Aviation- Torrance Airport*

The *Images of Aviation* series celebrates the history of flight – from early experimental craft to modern air vehicles.



Using archival photographs each title presents distinctive stories from the past

that commemorate aviation and its impact on American communities.

Author Charles Lobb is a certified flight instructor and unofficial historian for Torrance Airport, also known as Zamperini Field, and formerly Lomita Air Strip. Over a ten-year period, he has combed through federal archives and private collections for vintage and compelling photographs, many now published for the first time. Charles is also an advisor to the SCHAFF Board of Trustees.

### Thank You for Your 2010 Support!

*Fred Peitzman, SCHAFF Treasurer*  
Thank you to all of you who contributed to the Western Museum of Flight in 2010. Your memberships and other donations are essential to keep the museum going. Special thanks to our Lifetime Members who continue to support WMOF through their Sustaining Life Membership

gifts and to all of you who contributed to our Year End Campaign. The Year End Campaign was a big boost to the museum, bringing in over \$7,600! Thank you again for your continued support!

### Closer to Home



The YF-17 and the F-14 Tomcat have been re-located directly in front of the Museum hangar; they were previously moved to tie-down areas in other parts of the airfield when the YF-23 was returned to the Museum.

## Volunteer Recognition *Cynthia Macha, Director*

The brightest spot of the past year has been the magnificent job our volunteer force has done. Dedicated people, with a wide range of talents and skills, have pitched in for all of the activities that make our museum so valuable to the community. Our displays have never looked better, our lecture series and other special attractions have enjoyed large crowds and enthusiastic audience response, our education programs have become important to our schools, and our special events have attracted many VIP's and celebrities, and have dazzled the general public. All of this is the direct result of our willing and reliable volunteers, who have never let us down.

Peter Arany	Gary Fisk	Jack Kenton	Barry (Herc) Smith
Tim & Helen Ashford	Lowell Ford	Ray & Barbara Krank	Mort Sogaard
Pam Barrett	Gordon Gates	Tom Lasser	Ray Solomon
Ann Bromley	Paul Geerligs	Ed Levy	Ted Stinis
Edmond Bronner	Bill Graziano	Charles Lobb	Don & Debbie Stewart
Robert Burns	Mike Griffith	Harold Lung	Jerry Stoll
Aaron Butler	Bruce Guberman	Christopher Meyers	Rick Stubbs
Jim Christensen	Gary Hall	Mac Morrison	Earl Theaker
Robert Christy	James Halloran	Dana Muelot	Brian Tilley
John Cleek	Jim Hill	Russ Mularz	Dale Toth
Bill Dean	Dale Hoffman	Fred Peitzman	Marty & Lola Ungar
Paul Dehaven	Robert Houston	Bernie Petitjean	Bruce Waters
Greg Demer	Terry Hughes	Gloria Pfau	Jarel & Betty Wheaton
Bob & Ruth Doddy	Ben Inada	Richard Russel	Neil White
Emily Downes	Martha Ivey	Irene Sapia	Ed Whitefire
Harvey Eidenoff	Jack & Vicki Jenkins	Cami Sasaki	Eric Yamasaki
John Elam	Lynn Jenson	William Sauers	
Buzz & Jan Elliot	Hy & Esty Joseph	Bernie Slotnick	
Mark English	Bob Kelchner	Dick Smisek	

## Volunteers' Scrapbook

The museum is proud and thankful to have an excellent staff of volunteers. So we were not surprised to hear that volunteer Hy R. Joseph, Chief Docent and Kids Love Aviation Science (KLAS) Lead, is a recent recipient of the President's Volunteer Service Award. This prestigious award from the White House was presented to Hy at the California Science Center's Staff and Volunteer Awards Ceremony late last year. Hy has served for many years in the Education Technology Volunteer Group of the Amgen Center for Science Learning. This group is responsible for designing and building many of the interactive displays and projects for the Center and for its Summer School classes of kindergarten through 6th grade students. The accompanying letter from President Obama congratulated and thanked Hy for "helping to address the most pressing needs in his community and our country", as stated in the President's Inaugural Address. "Your service demonstrates the kind of commitment to your community that moves America a step closer to its great promise... Thank you for your

devotion to service and for doing all you can to shape a better tomorrow for our great nation."



*Hy Joseph with KLAS kids from Billy Mitchell School*

The President's Council on Service and Civic Participation was established in 2003 to recognize the valuable contributions volunteers are making in our communities and to encourage more people to serve. The Council created the President's Volunteer Service Award program as a way to thank and honor Americans who, by their demonstrated commitment and example, inspire others to engage in volunteer service. To date, the President's Council has partnered with more than 80 Leadership Organizations and more than 28,000 Certifying Organizations to bestow nearly two mil-

lion awards to the Nation's deserving volunteers. 

## Farewell

*On January 7<sup>th</sup>, the Museum hosted a memorial service for Ray Krank, a valued and universally admired member of the volunteer staff. Following are excerpts from Director Macha's address:*

Probably the most memorable quality that most of us valued about Ray was his genuineness. What you see is what you get, and, with Ray, what you got was always pretty good. Ray didn't believe in making any pretences; he just went about his business in the manner he thought best, and didn't bother trying to impress anybody. As a result, he was always impressive. At first, in fact, the impression he left was a bit on the gruff side. That is because he had accepted some heavy responsibilities here, and he took his responsibilities seriously. It was this seriousness that produced the initial gruff impression. But that impression didn't last long, because the genuine Ray was also a very considerate Ray. When someone came to him with a question or a problem, he took them seriously. Whether it was part of his assignment or not didn't matter. Their issue became his issue, and he tended

Cont'd- see **Ray** page 3

**Ray** – from page 2  
to it, either by getting the answer for them, or by finding the right person to provide it. That serious demeanor meant that anyone who needed his help was taken seriously.

Naturally, it wasn't long at all before Ray became the go-to guy for all kinds of issues, and the serious Ray was also found to be the even-tempered Ray. He didn't get flustered; he didn't let frustration show; and he never expressed anger, even when he was having to do things that other people should have already taken care of. It was just part of taking the job seriously. He wasted no time on excuses; he just took care of business.



**Ray with kids at a "Make & Take" session.**

And, of course, any person who was as considerate of others as Ray was, just naturally knew how to enjoy life, himself. He had a happy enthusiasm for a great many activities, and pursued them as diligently as he pursued his Museum duties. This enthusiasm was easy to see, and if someone asked about one of his other activities, he was just as willing to respond to that kind of question as he was for questions about Museum business. Soon, his stories about his various hobbies, his vintage car, and his construction projects up at Big Bear Lake were favorite topics for casual conversation in the Museum office. Taking pride in anything he did, Ray was an inspiration to everyone. No matter what the project, Ray got things done, and he enjoyed doing it.

Oh, and one other quality of the genuine Ray was his unfailing sense of humor. Sometimes, his one-liners were pretty subtle, but everyone quickly learned that while you sometimes had to listen carefully, listening was worth the effort. I can't begin to count the number of times that Ray's sense of humor served to lighten up a tense or stressful situation.

And finally, Ray was always generous about giving credit to others for any achievement. And, although many of us enjoyed the benefit of that special quality of his, no one received more credit, more often, nor deserved it more than his devoted wife, Barbara. Ray acknowledged, regularly and emotionally, that his real inspiration and motivation was his wife. Like everything else in his life, Ray was open and unequivocal about that. Barbara was always his source and his strength. We are honored to have known Ray Krank, and are privileged to have Barbara here with us today to help us pay our sincere and heartfelt respects to one of the most valued members of our Museum family.

### Museum Lecture Series

Past and upcoming featured speakers in the Museum's continuing lecture series are listed below:

Jan: *For Love of Life and Country: One Man's Account of Heroism with Humor*; Lt Col Dean Hunter

Feb: Lt Col Tony Marshall- Shot down over North Vietnam in an F-4J Phantom, Marshall describes the ordeal of captivity

Mar: Dennis C. Lord, Public Affairs Manager, Sempra Utilities; *Target: Messerschmitt Aircraft Factory, July 19, 1944: a B-17 Story*

Apr: Peter Stekel will share the results of his investigation of the four-man crew who perished on a routine navigation training flight in 1942.

Many of the lectures in this series have been recorded by Betty and Jarel Wheaton of the PV Seniors organization. Their award-winning work is aired on local cable channels RVPTV and TCTV and can

be found on the PV Seniors website: [pvseniors.org/videos](http://pvseniors.org/videos)

The museum schedules regular presentations on the third Saturday of each month. See our website or call the Museum for more information.

### Bird Watchers' Alert

Recently spotted roosting near the Museum, a couple of rare birds with origins in Eastern Europe and the Far East.... Bearing plumage revealing its Soviet lineage, one appears to be a single-seat derivative of the trainer/aerobatic Yak-50.



Often assumed to be a Soviet-developed evolution of the Yak-18, the Nanchang CJ-6 is actually an indigenous Chinese design developed in the 1950's to replace the Yak-18 variant they had outgrown.



**Nanchang CJ-6**

Both birds serve as proof to the old axiom, "It's got to look good to fly right."...

*Like to write? The Supercruiser is looking for reporters and contributing writers to help produce the quarterly newsletter. Contact the Supercruiser Editor at the email address or phone no. noted in the title page header – Super Ed.*

### Membership Renewal

Check your address label. If there's a date after your name, it represents your membership expiration date. Please renew!

# Southern California Historical Aviation Foundation Membership Form

## Western Museum of Flight and Vintage Aircraft Boosters Club

**THANK YOU TO ALL  
OUR MEMBERS!**

Why not  
share this  
newsletter with  
your friends,  
co-workers and  
relatives!



Mail this form and check to: SCHAFF / Western Museum of Flight  
3315 Airport Drive Mailbox No.6  
Torrance, CA 90505

Please make check out to: **SCHAFF** **Amount Enclosed** \_\_\_\_\_

For further information, call: (310) 326-9544

(Please print)  New Member  Renewal  Donation only

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #1 \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #2 \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please consider a donation to the Museum and check whether your employer has a policy to match the contribution.

Annual individual membership \$50. Call us for information on "Legacy" memberships and other levels of support.

### Western Museum of Flight

3315 Airport Drive Mailbox No.6  
Torrance, California 90505



Apply for the **NGFCU MasterCard** honoring Northrop Grumman's contribution to aerospace technology. Visit [www.ngfcu.us](http://www.ngfcu.us) or call 800-633-2848.