

Flight Line

The Official Publication of the CAF

Southern California Wing

455 Aviation Drive, Camarillo, CA 93010

(805) 482-0064



COMMEMORATIVE
AIR FORCE

**Special Photo Edition
Wings Over Camarillo**

Air Show – 2015

August 22 & 23, 2015

Plus: Oshkosh & Oregon Pics

Visit us online at www.cafsocal.com



© Photo by Avery Willis

Two veterans re-living their experiences at the
Wings Over Camarillo Air Show - 2015



© Photos by Scott Plummer & Avery Willis

What the Wings Over Camarillo Air Show is all about!

**A Tuskegee Airman with a young admirer; a young aviation buff
giving his “thumbs up;” and a father and son enjoying checking out the warbirds.**

THE CAF IS A PATRIOTIC ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION OF THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMBAT AIRCRAFT.



© Photo by Avery Willis
Tuskegee Airman Robert Friend – with friends at Wings Over Camarillo – 2015 Air Show at Camarillo Airport.



© Photo by Frank Mormillo
Our CAF – So Cal Wing Gift Shop under the protective wing of our Curtiss C-46 Commando “China Doll.”



© Photo by Frank Mormillo
Pilots’ “Ready Room” in our Aviation Museum Hangar, for instructions on flying the air show.



© Photo by Mike Greywitt
Part of the large crowd at Wings Over Camarillo – 2015, lined up on the flight line to get a view of the aerial displays.



© Photo by Frank Mormillo
The parachute team member displaying the large Stars and Stripes while descending over Camarillo Airport to start the 2015 Wings Over Camarillo Air Show.



© Photo by Mike Greywitt
The Air Show Control Tower. Our own Ron Fleishman was the official Air Show Announcer.



© Photo by Mike Greywitt

Sheriff's Dept. air crews gladly show off their Huey copter – used extensively for search & rescue and fire-retardant drops. They are esteemed neighbors of CAF.



© Photo by Scott Plummer

Young air show attendees visiting with the Navy crew of the Bell VH-1Y "Venom" helicopter. The Navy personnel, as always, were very friendly and accommodating to the youngsters.



© Photo by Mike Greywitt

The crew of VAW-116 that flies the Grumman E2C "Hawkeye" aircraft. Note the 8-bladed props.



© Photo by Avery Willis

The Nanchang CJ-6A Chinese training aircraft creating welcoming air trails to the thousands of spectators who came to our 2015 Wings Over Camarillo Air Show.



© Photo by Avery Willis

A squad of soldiers talking with the WWII air aces who occupied a booth at the air show. They were there to share their stories with young and old alike.



© Photo by Avery Willis

Mr. & Mrs. Robinson, parents of our Cadets Isaiah and Zachary, spending some time with Tuskegee Airman Robert Friend.



© Photo by Mike Greywitt

Our No. American PBJ-1J "Semper Fi" proudly displayed in front of our hangars for all the spectators to see how far along in the restoration process we are.



© All remaining photos this page by Frank Mormillo
Our neighboring outfit's Douglas C-47, which will be in D-Day colors when fully restored. She survived two Israeli wars and six winters in Canada.



CA Air Nat'l. Guard 146th Airlift Wing's Lockheed C130J Super Hercules. This type of aircraft was designed by the famous Kelly Johnson, and has been a valuable workhorse for the U.S. Air Force and guard units since 1951. One has landed on a Navy carrier.



The Grumman E2C Hawkeye of VMW-116 "Sun Kings" Squadron, stationed at Pt. Mugu Naval Air Station, and assigned to the USS Carl Vinson carrier (CVN-70). This aircraft is the "eyes and ears" of the Naval Attack force, providing intelligence and direction to aerial missions.



An interesting visitor from Marine Air Base at Miramar is this lethal-looking Bell H1Z "Viper" helicopter.



Another intimidating Marine visitor is this Bell VH-1Y "Venom" helicopter (also known as the "Super Huey"). Both Vipers and Venoms share engines (GE T700-GE-401C turboshaft @ 1800 shp), tail booms, drive-trains, and avionics. Both have 4-blade rotors. The Viper can fire a rotating 20 mm cannon, as well as rockets.



© All photos this page by Frank Mormillo
Clay Lacy in his Pilatus PC-6, a STOL aircraft that gives spectators plenty of time to observe it.



Here's our "sister ship," B-25 "Executive Sweet," in a low pass over the airport. She reminds us of the famous Doolittle Raid on Tokyo in April, 1942, in which 16 B-25s flew off the carrier USS Hornet and surprised the Japanese nation with a bombing raid on their homeland.



No. American B-25 Mitchell "Executive Sweet," with Chinese trainers Nanchang CJ-6As – lining up to take off and fly over the air show crowd in formation.



North American AT-6 Texans of the Condor Squadron salute the crowd with their spectacular formation flying. The AT-6 was an advanced basic trainer used to train most fighter pilots who flew in WWII and beyond.



Two of the most acclaimed fighters of WWII, the Supermarine Spitfire Mk XIV flying formation with the North American P-51 Mustang "Bunny." The Wings Over Camarillo Air Show brings history alive – showing young and old alike what the vaunted warbirds look and sound like as they fly over. The Spitfire, along with the Hawker Hurricane, helped Britain turn back the Nazi Luftwaffe in 1940, and the Mustang provided much-needed escort for Allied bombers in their raids over Nazi Germany.



The Marine air crews from MCAS, Miramar pose with our nearly-restored No. American PBJ-1J Mitchell bomber "Semper Fi." She will be the only PBJ flying in the world – when we get her airborne. Hoooh-Raaah!



© Photo by Frank Mormillo

The CAF-Inland Empire Wing's Douglas C-53 Skytrooper, returning to CMA after unloading the parachutists to begin the air show.



© Photo by Avery Willis

146th Airlift Wing crew member (C-130J) talking "shop" with Tuskegee Airman Robert Friend. Current military airmen love to talk to WWII pilots, and the feeling is mutual.



© Photo by Frank Mormillo

Our P-51D Mustang "Man O' War" giving the crowd a memorable fly-by, with the Merlin engine roaring its telltale sound.



© Photo by Frank Mormillo

The Star of our air show, the Marine Corps MV-22 Osprey, of VMM 363 Squadron, the "Red Lions," based at MCAS, Miramar, CA. It is a tiltrotor aircraft with both VTOL & STOL capabilities – functioning as a helicopter and a long-range, high-speed turboprop aircraft.



© Photo by Frank Mormillo

Our spiffy-looking Fairchild F-24R Forwarder, in the new colors of the Civil Air Patrol. It's dedicated to Steve and Gary Barber's dad, who flew for the CAP during WWII.



© Photo by Frank Mormillo

Planes of Fame's Curtiss P-40 Warhawk, in the colors of the North Africa campaign. This type aircraft also immortalized itself in the CBI theater, with the famous AVG – "Flying Tigers."



© All photos this page by Frank Mormillo

The Sheriff's Dept. Huey helicopter showing how it helps to combat brush fires in our area. The editor remembers vividly this helicopter drawing water from the Camarillo Springs Golf Course ponds to fight the Springs Fire in 2013.



Charlie Plumb's Fairchild PT-19A. It's an open-cockpit trainer, and it flies beautifully. You can reserve a ride in this aircraft by calling 805-482-0064.



A gorgeous trio of PT-23 trainers showing their stuff above our air show spectators. These planes helped a lot of young pilots learn flying in the early stages of WWII.



Row 44/s beautiful Grumman Albatross – which the company uses to test aerial wi-fi systems. The company put wi-fi into all of Southwest Airlines 737s.



Here are the three of the finest U.S. fighters to fly in WWII – the Grumman F6F Hellcat, Chance-Vought F4U Corsair, and North American P-51 Mustang. The fourth plane is the Grumman F8F Bearcat, which was on carriers headed for Japan when the war ended.



Our Supermarine Spitfire Mk XIV was flown in India by the Royal Indian Air Force. It was found in disrepair there, and transported to England, where it was renovated. David Price purchased it and brought it to the U.S., where more work was done in Mojave. David enabled us to buy it and keep it flying. It's a beauty!



© All photos on this page by Frank Mormillo
 Palm Springs Air Museum's P-51 Mustang "Bunny" is dedicated to the Tuskegee Airmen – who flew the Mustang so effectively in WWII. We had one of the last Tuskegee Airmen with us at the air show: Robert Friend. Thank you, sir, for your service to our country!



The Republic P-47 Thunderbolt from Planes of Fame, Chino, CA. Affectionately called the "Jug" this tough airplane was terrific in ground support and taking out airfields, tanks, supply depots, trains – you name it. And they could take a lot of punishment and get back to base.



The North American B-25J Mitchell "Executive Sweet" flying in formation with six Chinese Nanchang CJ-6A training planes.



The Bell P-63 King Cobra fighter – from the Palm Springs Air Museum. It was a tricycle landing gear, inline engine fighter that was used extensively by the Russians against the Nazis.



Planes of Fame's Lockheed P-38 Lightning twin engine fighter. These planes were designed and built by Lockheed in their Burbank plant, and many flew out to Camarillo to touch-and-go and do maneuvers at the Oxnard Air Force Base. Two P-38s crashed over Camarillo – we have an engine from one of them.



Memories of the American Volunteer Group (AVG) – the "Flying Tigers" – who did well in battles with their Curtiss P-40s against the more maneuverable Zeros in the China/Burma/India theater. P-40 pilots learned to come from high, and out of the sun, to beat the Zeros.



© All photos this page by Frank Mormillo
 Red Bull's aerobatic helicopter, flown by Ventura County resident Chuck Aaron, who was flying in his last air show. Thanks, Chuck, for the memories!



The Planes of Fame's Douglas SBD Dauntless, showing her air brakes, which allowed this venerable dive bomber to dive straight down on the target, then brake the dive and pull up away from the blast. SBDs were crucial in victory at the Battle of Midway.



Our pride and joy – the Mitsubishi A6M3 Zero, which is one of only a handful of true Zeros flying in the world today. Spewing white smoke, she is usually the loser in our air show- staged dogfight with our Hellcat, except once, when Japanese photographer Fred Fujimori asked that the Zero “win just this time.”



Our Grumman F6F-5 Hellcat “Minsi III” – in the colors of CDR David McCampbell, the Navy's top ace in WWII, with 34 Japanese planes shot down. The Hellcat, when it entered into WWII, was able to end the Zero's dominance in the fighter area of battle.



Our Grumman F8F-2 Bearcat has the tail symbol (S) of the US carrier Shangri La – which was on its way to Japan in 1945 just as the war ended. The F8Fs on its deck, with their superior speed, were destined to hit the “kamikaze” planes before they could take off from their bases in Japan.



The Navy's Chance-Vought F4U Corsair was a close second to the Hellcat in effectiveness against the Japanese. This type aircraft was made famous by Pappy Boyington and his “Black Sheep Squadron.”



© All photos this page by Jim Scheid

A view of our hangars and ramp, with our Grumman F6F-5 on display. The harbinger of things to come looms in the background – the fast-developing framework of our new hangars.



Air Show attendees gravitated to this beauty! Our North American PBJ-1J Mitchell "Semper Fi" is on the threshold of taking to the sky. She'll be the one and only Navy PBJ flying in the world!



Our North American SNJ-4 Texan "Bluebird" was busy giving air show attendees rides around the area. If you would like to sign up for a ride in the rear seat of this vintage WWII trainer, or would like to surprise a friend or relative with a once-in-a-lifetime ride, call: 805-482-0064 to make your reservation.



One of the more interesting warbirds to participate in an air show is always the Lockheed P-38 Lightning. Here is "23 Skidoo" from the Planes of Fame in Chino. The P-38 performed masterfully in both the European and the Pacific Theaters in WWII. It was P-38s that brought down Japanese top Admiral Yamamoto's plane after the Japanese code had been cracked.



Ramp Boss for the WOC Air Show was Tim Kutzbach, who, with his masterful crew, kept all the planes in the right lanes and parked in the right spots. Kudos to all the hard-working people who "ramped it up!"



The Marine MV-22 tilt-rotor Osprey transitioning as we observe from a helicopter to a conventional turboprop airplane, capable of carrying 24 troops 1,000 miles at speeds up to 315 m.p.h., than landing "on a dime."

EAA's AirVenture – Oshkosh, WI

© All Photos this page by Eric Van Gilder



© All Photos this page by Eric Van Gilder

Britain's Hawker Sea Fury was the last prop fighter used by the RAF. It was one of the fastest production single piston-engined plane ever built – with a top speed of 460 mph. It has a Bristol Centaurus engine.



The Avro Lancaster was the main heavy bomber for the RAF, used in night raids over Nazi Germany. Lancasters were used in night bombing on Ruhr Valley dams in Operation Chastise – using large, rolling barrel bombs, which sank and exploded near the base of the dam.



Grumman's TBF Avenger (TBM – Gen. Motors). Effective torpedo bomber starting at Battle of Midway through rest of WWII. Our late member CDR Don

McMillan, USN (Ret.) won the Navy Cross for putting a torpedo into the Japanese carrier Zuikaku from a TBM.



McDonnell-Douglas F4 Phantom fighter. Used by both Navy and Air Force during Korea and Vietnam conflicts. Great platform for guns, rockets and bombs. Flown by members Charlie Plumb (USN/POW) and Bob Cheveres (USAF) during Vietnam War.



Down on the deck! A Curtiss P-40 Warhawk chasing a Mitsubishi A6M2 Zero – trailing smoke.



Heritage Flight – With No. American P-51 Mustang, Lockheed P-38 Lightning and Lockheed-Martin F-22 Raptor wowing the Oshkosh crowd – don't ya know?

Erickson Air Museum, Madras, Oregon

© All photos on this page by Atsushi "Fred" Fujimori



Col. Robert "Lips" Hertberg, one of our Wing's pilots, next to our Mitsubishi A6M3 Zero at the Erickson Aircraft Collection Museum, Madras, Oregon.



Our Zero parked alongside the Erickson Collection's Nakajima Ki 43 "Hayabusa" (Oscar). This is the only Oscar flying in the world.



Fred Fujimori, a Japanese aviation photographer, and aviation book author, obviously wanted to get good air-to-air photos of this rare Japanese fighter.



Fred got this great shot of the two venerable Japanese fighter planes in tight formation over the Oregon landscape.



Here's our Zero flying with the Erickson Collection's beautifully restored Lockheed P-38 Lightning.



The Nakajima Ki 43 Oscar showing off her best side for the camera. The Oscar was, along with the Zero, the most used fighter in the Japanese Air Force.

Editor's Note:

We want to thank all the photographers who contributed to this "Flight Line Special Edition:" Mike Greywitt, Frank Mormillo, Jim Scheid, and Avery Willis for the "Wings Over Camarillo" photos; Eric Van Gilder for the AirVenture, Oshkosh pics; and Atsushi "Fred" Fujimori for the Erickson Collection shots! Kudos to you all!