



# UN - SCRAMBLE



Official Bulletin of the Valiant Air Command

October 2006

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| <p><b>VALIANT AIR COMMAND</b><br/> <i>Dedicated to restoring military aircraft</i><br/> A 501c(3) Non-Profit Organization</p> <p><b>6600 Tico Road</b><br/> <b>Titusville, Florida 32780-8009</b><br/> Phone: 321-268-1941<br/> FAX: 321-268-5969<br/> Email: <a href="mailto:vacwarbirds@bellsouth.net">vacwarbirds@bellsouth.net</a><br/> Website: <a href="http://www.vacwarbirds.org">www.vacwarbirds.org</a></p> | <p><b>VAC Warbird Museum &amp; Gift Shop</b></p> <p><b>Open 7 days a week, 9:00 AM-5:00 PM</b><br/> except the day of<br/> Thanksgiving, Christmas &amp; New Years</p> <p><b>Admission</b><br/> Adults \$12.00 Seniors/Military \$10.00<br/> Children 5-12 years \$5.00</p> <p>Special Tour &amp; Family Rates available</p> |
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## STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The Valiant Air Command was formed to perpetuate the history of aviation, to encourage gathering of men and women in camaraderie, research and Warbird restoration. To serve as an educational tool for young and old alike and to assure that the memory of those who gave their lives in service to their country shall not perish.

### NEXT BOARD MEETING



**Days:** October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2006  
**Time:** 12:00 Noon  
**Place:** VAC Board Room

### HOW WOULD YOU LIKE YOUR UN-SCRAMBLE?



OR



We would like to know if you would like to receive your newsletter by email. If you would, then send us an email. As always a copy will be available on our website.

[www.vacwarbirds.org](http://www.vacwarbirds.org)

### ADDRESS CHANGES



**Please remember** to notify the office when you are going to be temporarily away, or if you move.

**The post office will not forward** your newsletter. They charge us a substantial fee for returning it.



## ELECTION INFORMATION

The following members filed applications to run for a Board of Director position: Marilyn Bettencourt-Finance, Frank Pound-Personnel, and Robert Frazier-Procurement. No other applicants were filed and each of the above was elected unanimously. Congratulations to our new directors.

## **OPEN HOUSE AT VAC MUSEUM**

In November we will celebrate two great OPEN HOUSE weekends at the VAC Museum. One is to remind you to "exercise your right to get out and **vote** on November 7th," and the second is to HONOR all our **Military Veterans**, both active and retired. Please come and visit your Museum, bring a friend, neighbor or Veteran! We are always making changes, and this year we have improved the look in the PX, the hangar, the upstairs Library and other areas, as well! Come visit, give us your comments and ideas, and maybe help make some additional changes. We look forward to greeting you!



### **FROM THE FRONT COUNTER By Ginger, Crystal and Sandi**

Halloween is coming the end of this month and we have GREAT jumpsuits for dress-up for the kids. October 28<sup>th</sup> **Trains, Planes, and Automobiles** Set-up 7-9, more information? Call Norm 321-268-1941. November 11-12 Our second Annual Veteran's Day Open House 9-5pm Brevard Residents and Military Need volunteers for this weekend. Shop early for Christmas and don't forget 10% off for members.

**Come see us at the PX. Remember everything is 10% off for members.**

## **UPCOMING ANNUAL AIRSHOW**

**Mark your calendars for 2007 Airshow dates  
March 16, 17, and 18<sup>th</sup>, 2007  
Advance ticket sales-call 321-268-1942**

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**EDITORS CORNER**

All news articles and officers reports are due by the 15th of the month. Please e-mail information to [vacwarbirds@bellsouth.net](mailto:vacwarbirds@bellsouth.net) Attention: UNSCRAMBLE article.

**OFFICERS REPORTS**

**EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

**Hal Larkin**

**TA-4J** After removing all excess hydraulic lines from the left access bay, we traced the two hydraulic lines that operate the canopy. We tried to operate the canopy hydraulic cylinders with air, and nothing happened. We then removed the canopy selector valve, took it apart, cleaned, reassembled and installed it. Using low-pressure air, we located the two ports that operate the canopy hydraulic cylinder. We then plugged the remaining ports, applied air pressure, and BINGO! The canopy hydraulic cylinder operated per the maintenance manual.

We will fabricate a two-quart hydraulic tank and install it so that we can use the existing hand pump in the access bay to operate the canopy. The fitting that attached the hydraulic cylinder to the canopy has been fabricated, tagged and put in stock until we are ready to install the canopy. We have removed all excess cables, tubing, brackets, etc., from the tail section. The speed

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**brakes have been closed and locked in position. The tail section is now ready for a new light sanding prior to priming.**

**R-2800** The two vendors, one in Texas and one in Oklahoma, that thought they had some of the parts we need for the R-2800 turned up nothing. Back to the search for hard-to-find missing parts. Rework of the baffle clamps is ongoing.

Hal Larkin  
Executive Officer

**OPERATIONS OFFICER**  
**Ken Terry**

For those of you that read my July report and are interested in seeing the airplane that I bragged about, Rick and Zack Nesius's T-34, you need to drop by the Museum as it is on display, however you better make it soon as it is only going to be there temporarily. Zack is attending school in Orlando and Rick has allowed us to show it off a little while Zack is in Florida, then it will go home to Chapel Hill, TN. By the way, both have joined the VAC, welcome aboard guys. We hope to see a lot more of both you two, your families, and of course, your airplane, especially at TICO 2007. What better excuse can you have to stop by your VAC Museum than to see a beautiful airplane.

Scott MacLeod, has agreed to take over administrating our Scholarship and within hours of accepting the task informed me he had already received the donation of a breakfast for two (max of \$15.00, at Flapjacks, in Port Orange, I-95 and Taylor Road) to be raffled off at our next meeting as a fund raiser. Great Work Scott and thank you for the help! I have eaten many a breakfast at Flapjacks and can vouch for their quality and taste, it is a very good place to eat.

If you know of a deserving young person that would like to apply for the Valiant Air Command Scholarship please drop me a note.

We are currently developing a process to fill out forms for Membership, Pilot Registration, and FAST Documents on our web site, thank you Dave Rich Web Master. If you have any thoughts of other items that could be placed there to assist you, the members, let us know. The object is to save time by allowing you to accomplish these chores at your leisure, during times when you are "playing solitaire" on with your computer. And save a few pennies of postage and the time of mailing. Of course, the "old standby" of U.S. (Snail) Mail is always available. Check it out and let us know what you think.

We are busy selecting items for the Pilot "Goodie" Bags for 2007 and have a couple nice surprises. We are considering a policy of only giving them to those who pre-register. How do you guys feel about that? Let me know. Remember, if you pre-register and don't show up – no big deal – but the pre-registration is a HUGE help for us.

Respectfully submitted  
Ken Terry

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**MAINTENANCE DIRECTOR**  
**Robert E. James**

**C47-**The two battery platforms are undergoing some rework to correct clearance problems. Once that problem is resolved the old batteries will be installed temporarily and the process of initial circuit verification will begin. All the circuit breakers will be pulled and then checked one circuit at a time. We have the promise of a borrowed wing jig that is required to perform an attach angle airworthiness directive (AD) prior to installing the wings. The jig is available to us, however, we must arrange transportation from the Knoxville, Tn. area to the VAC. The jig is over 14 feet long, several feet square and weighs about 2,000 pounds. After we finish with it we will have to return it to its owner in Thomaston, Ga. Any volunteers out there with a suitable truck or trailer to accomplish this mission? It can be picked up anytime, the sooner the better.

**TBM-**Work on the sheet metal aft of the turret is nearing completion. The canopy "glass" replacement is continuing along with a rework of the turret port side escape panel. A new opening mechanism will be fashioned to allow the panel to be used operationally as originally designed. We are still looking for a good 50-caliber gun mockup for the turret. Anyone with same or good, detailed pictures of one that can be used to fabricate a mock gun please contact me at the museum (Tue, Th or Sa) 321-268-1941. My thanks to Gary Hester who recently made a substantial donation to the TBM project in honor of his uncle who had served in WWII in the Southeastern battle zone.

**UTVA-**We finally have an engine fuel pump system that is working! With that problem resolved we have only an instrumentation problem with the vacuum system to correct and then to go through the airframe for an annual inspection prior to flying the airplane.

**L13-**This project is currently on hold until the TBM sheet metal work is completed or we come up with another skilled A&P that wants to take on the rebuild of the wings. As a matter of history, the L13 was designed and produced (by Consolidated-Vultee) shortly after WWII as a replacement for the L4 and L5. It was originally powered by a 245 HP Franklin engine but had some overheating problems. Only 300 or so airframes were built and most that survived (probably only a couple of dozen) are used in Alaska or Canada. Most had been re-engined with a 300 HP Lycoming as our example. Some even had a P&W 450 HP engine allowing for some terrific short field and payload performance gains. This project is for sale and all the work done to date is of the highest quality. Please contact me if you have any interest in buying this project. We have most of the parts for the aircraft including all new glass. All funds from the sale will go toward the C47 rebuild per the direction of the donor.

Robert E. James

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**PERSONNEL DIRECTOR**  
**Frank Pound**

Everyone is reminded that any articles, notices, pictures, etc., for publication in the UNSCRAMBLE *must be received by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month.*

**AIRSHOW 07** is only 5 months away ! We're moving up printing Airshow posters, and plan to have them available for distribution early in January 2007. Please let the office know if you can distribute posters in your area; bulletin boards, recreation rooms, and your favorite retailers are good spots. Just make sure you have authorization before putting up posters.

Frank Pound  
Personnel Director

**FACILITIES DIRECTOR**  
**Norm Lindsay**

The past few months have been a busy and exciting time for the VALIANT AIR COMMAND. The VAC, along with other public service organizations, put together a presentation that would benefit the VAC and other organizations of North Brevard County. The VAC is located in North Brevard County. This presentation was put before the South, Central and North Brevard County Commissioners with a request that an amendment be placed on the November ballot, to fund projects benefiting North Brevard County. The Commissioners agreed that the projects would benefit not only Brevard County residents, but also all who visited out part of Florida. It was also agreed to place it on the November ballot.

Phase II will be to make the voters aware of the importance of this initiative by advertising and presenting our agenda to various organizations throughout Brevard County. ***This is where the VAC members come in.*** We need to fund this program and we are asking for your help. Very rarely does the VAC ask it's members to fund projects of this nature, but this will be a once in a lifetime opportunity for the museum to grow with the funds provided if the voters approve the amendment in November.

The construction of our restoration hangar in 2001 was the last major project that expanded the VAC facilities. If the above is approved our next expansion could rival or exceed that. This would put **YOUR** museum at the top of the list of warbird museums.

Any donation will be greatly appreciated and will help in ensuring that the VAC remains a first class museum through its member's continuous support. Please make donations out to:  
**VAC Facilities Fund** 6600 Tico Road Titusville, FL. 32780

Norm Lindsay  
Facility Director

**PROCUREMENT DIRECTOR**

**Robert H. Frazier Jr.**

**GRUMMAN F11F TIGER**---Timing for availability of the aircraft is still being determined by the completion of the restoration of the A4D replacement aircraft for the Pensacola city airport. The timing seems more in the hands of the Pensacola Airport Manager but they have an offer of a crane to remove the F11Fairplane from the pylon. I have arranged for trucking and disassembly for delivery to the VAC. Loan Agreement with the Navy Museum--NMNA--has been signed but with a cancel option.

**BILLBOARDS**--- Again working with the Billboard Company for sign board information that could be used by the local Tourist Board Council--TDC-- for VAC Air Show advertising.

**DONATION**---Pratt & Whitney-Florida have given the VAC a substantial donation to help fund the restoration of our P&W powered C-47. A sound THANK-YOU is in order.

Robert H Frazier, Jr. Procurement Director

**FUTURE VAC EVENTS - MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

OCTOBER 28TH Planes - Trains - Automobile Show

NOVEMBER 4 **Tico Airshow 2007 meeting** - Saturday 1:00  
Come on down - we need your ideas and your help!

NOVEMBER 4 & 5 Museum Open House - Brevard County Residents

NOVEMBER 7 ELECTION DAY - **EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE!**

NOVEMBER 11 & 12 VETERANS DAY Weekend Open House for Military & Brevard Residents. Special Pearl Harbor photo display by Elwood "Pappy" Neener

Non-members are asked to bring a canned food or a non-perishable item to be donated to the Sharing Center

November 30 Annual "**Decorate the Museum for Christmas & Volunteer Luncheon**" Everyone welcome! Bring a dish to share - 10:00 until done!

December 9 **VAC Members and Guests Christmas Party**

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**VAC Family News**

**MEMORIES OF VAC MEMBERS GONE WEST**

We are saddened to share the news of the passing of two of our dear members.

**James W. Hawkins, Jr.** on **August 21, 2006** in Port Saint Lucie, Florida. Many of you remember Jim as an avid aviation enthusiast and photographer for the airshows, in charge of press and media and especially as UNSCRAMBLE editor for many years. Jim's life experiences were extraordinary, and we could fill pages with his wonderful stories. Jim has two sons, James W. Hawkins, III of Thailand and Robert of Manassas, Virginia.

**Orlando Benjamin Titus** or "Spatz" as he was affectionately known to all his VAC friends, passed away on **August 29, 2006** in Titusville. He was a veteran of WWII, having served in the United States Army, a pilot, and a welder. As a welder he worked on the FM-1 Wildcat Project here at the Museum. His families' question was always "did he own more welding machines or more airplanes in his lifetime." Spatz was a friend to all, always offering a smile and a hearty wave. A daughter, Dr. Karen Titus, survives him.

Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to both families from all their friends at the VAC.

**Share Your Stories or Write a Remembrance**

For veterans, the memories, images and flashbacks of war are so painful that they often have great difficulty talking about them. Yet sharing these stories can have a powerful healing effect. Each service member's story is a part of our nation's history and needs to be told, re-told and remembered. We invite you to share the story of a spouse, a child, a parent, another relative, or a friend who participated in one of America's conflicts. You can contribute a eulogy, a remembrance, or a prayer in their honor. Share your own story of grief over the loss of a loved one. Tell us of a funny tale that was relayed to you or that happened to you. You will have the choice of the story being published or kept private. I will randomly choose one to print each month in the newsletter if space allows.

Sometimes getting through the experience of sharing your story the first time is the most difficult part of all. This is all part of the healing process. Make sure that you have someone you can talk to if the memories are too painful.



## PLANES – TRAINS & AUTOMOBILES

This will be the last reminder for the October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2006 Planes—Trains & Automobiles event held at the VAC. Showtime hours are 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Bring your family and friends for a day of antique cars on display, trains for sale and the museum's fine collection of warbirds for your viewing pleasure.

The car guys and gals will be glad to talk about cars and the joy of auto restoration. The train people will be selling their wares and have information on various products. Free appraisals will be available on Lionel and American Flyer trains if you care to bring them to the event.

There will be running train layouts and a scenic clinic provided by the Titusville Area Model RR Club.

Helicopter rides will be offered for a fee. A food vendor will be available for your eating pleasure.

The following self-proclaimed experts can answer questions:

### Antique Automobiles:

|            |              |
|------------|--------------|
| Dick Hart  | 321-223-7561 |
| Dave Smart | 321-264-3267 |

### Trains:

|              |              |
|--------------|--------------|
| Norm Lindsay | 321-267-3622 |
|--------------|--------------|

General questions about the museum please call, who else but the museum@ 321-268-1941.

Admission: Adults \$ 9.00

Seniors \$ 8.00

Children under 12 \$ 5.00

Family rates available. Admission includes Train, Auto Show and entrance to the museum.

Free parking. No charge to the VAC members in good standing.