

Ding Friends HaG

Monthly Meeting



February 2011

This newsletter is published by and for the Friends of The 3rd Pursuit for their sole enjoyment and entertainment. It is not associated with the Commemorative Air Force and is strictly for the use of the Friends of The 3rd Pursuit

February Dinner Meeting: Our Largest Meeting In Years If Not Ever!! 45 People Attended We Had A Great Speaker



February Meeting

3rd Pursuit was fortunate to have Pearl Harbor Survivor Jim Lee as our speaker for the monthly meeting. We had a very large crowd and had our food prepared by Jacob Jouni for the second time. It was every bit as excellent as his first meal last month.

Jim told us about the memorable day that he and his fellow U.S. Army troops awoke to the sound of Japanese aircraft overhead firing torpedoes and strafing both ships and ground sites with machine-gun fire. Jim was a radar operator and they had some very sophisticated radar that could find a target and aim and fire a large gun to bring it down. Unfortunately the Jap planes were painted the same color as ours and bore no national insignias, i.e.

Meatballs. Jim and some of his crew left the barracks and were outside when their building was strafed and four of his buddies killed inside. He obtained a machinegun and brought down some of the Japs. An interesting fact that I had never heard before is that several of the Japanese pilots that were shot down were wearing graduation rings from American colleges!!!! These men had been living and were educated in the U.S.A.!

As you may know, we had broken the Japanese "Purple" code days before and the pending attack was known to the leaders in Washington but Roosevelt apparently chose to let 2400 Americans die to politically motivate the American people to support our entry into the war.

After Pearl Harbor, Jim was sent to England. There he saw his brother who was a B-17 pilot with

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

the Air Force. The circumstances of the meeting were quite strange and continued over a few days. Jim was at a loss to understand what was going on until he was asked to work on the machine gun in the tail turret. While he was there, the aircraft started up and flew a mission over Europe. He was the tail gunner! He did his job and shot down enemy aircraft and they returned to base safely. It turned out that the plane and crew were grounded due to the loss of their tail gunner and they desperately wanted to participate in the war with their compatriots. Since Jim was Army and they were Air Force, he could not be assigned to the position.



Jim Lee's Pearl Harbor Display



Jim Tells His Story



Jim In Front Of His Extensive Display



Jim Signed Our Prop Of Honor

The Meal

Our meal was again provided by Jacob Jouni, a professional restaurateur. The theme was Italian and the courses were Lasagna, Chicken Piccata, and Pork in Gravy. Of course salad and dessert as well as side dishes were provided.



Jacob Jouni, Our Chef



Jacob Also Brings Flowers To The Table



Barbara, Marian and Jacob Cut The Cake

The bottom line is that we are once again back to the food quality that we enjoyed in the former era of our excellent chef/members.

.We also enjoyed the company of Bob Paquet who brought Jim Lee to us and helped set up the displays. Bob is very active in Veterans Affairs and for that we also thank him.

The Rest Of The Meeting



Cliff Heathcoat Runs The Show



**What would be a meeting without a “few”
“Soft” words from “Loud Pipes”?**



Part of the meeting included welcoming our newest members Daniel Wotring and Brian Lepkowski who had just joined the CAF and received their FAST (Formation and Safety Training) at the recent Ramona TRARON with Chuck Hall. The FAA was represented as well by PirateAir Chief Pirate, Ryan Gullett of Swift fame!



Marian Llewellyn handled the reservations and the greeting table and was in large part responsible for the success of this meeting.



Photographer Marian



It Was Clear That A Good Time Was Had By All: Ryan, Daniel and Brian

"Never ask a man if he is a pilot. If he is, he'll let you know. If he isn't, don't embarrass him."

Harry E. Trumbull

AN-2 Ground School

Saturday, February 5th, was the ground school training for the Antonov AN-2. Fifteen new recruits were present and learned considerable information related both to the care and handling of the aircraft as well as history and current information about the Antonov and the Commemorative Air Force so that they are now able to answer questions from the public at the display site at future air shows.

Cliff Heathcoat chaired the program and introduced the speakers who included Bud "Loud Pipes" Ukes, John Varley, and Carlos Fontes. Bud Ukes gave the history lessons concerning the AN-2 and the background of the CAF. Maintenance and preflight preparation were covered by crew chief John Varley and included ground crew handling of the Antonov. Carlos Fontes instructed the class on relevant aspects of marshalling especially necessary for placing the aircraft for display at airshows.

The members of the class are now qualified to act as loadmaster and to man the desk at airshow displays and deal with the public to answer their questions. They are also able to assist in the maintenance and preparation procedures for the AN-2.



PIPES LISTING

- 1/23 IEW Friday movie God is my Co pilot
- 1/29 IEW Wheels to Warbirds Cruise
- 2/2 3rd Pursuit Staff Meeting also GroundHog Day
- 2/12 249 aircraft fly over North Island
- 2/18 IEW movie night
- 2/19 3rd Pursuit Monthly meeting
- 2/25-26-27 Winter staff at Midland
- 3/19-20 Luke AFB Show
- 3/26 Riverside Airshow
- 4/29-30 Beale AFB Airshow
- 5/14-15 Chino Airshow
- 6/3-4-5 Gillespie Airshow
- 6/11 Castle AFB open house
- 7/9 Great Park something
- 7/25-31 Oshkosh
- 8/20-21 Camarillo Airshow
- 8/27-28 Santa Maria Airshow
- 9/3-3 Watsonville Airshow
- 9/10-11 Sacramento Airshow
- 9/24-25 Hill AFB Airshow
- 9/30-10/1-2 Miramar Airshow
- 10/4-10 Midland Raiders flight
- 10/7-8-9 CAF Midland Airshow
- 10/15 Flight Test Nation Edwards AFB
- 10/23 Wings Wheels & Rotors Los Al
- 11/11-13 Nellis Airshow
- 12/10 IEW Christmas Party



Friends of The 3rd Pursuit Squadron

1749 W. 13th St.
Upland, CA 91786

NEXT MONTHLY MEETING

March 19th

Regular 3rd Pursuit Meeting!!!

Speaker to be Announced!

Next General Meeting February 13th at 5:30
PM. Location: the 3rd Pursuit building on the
airport entrance street next to the Quonset
hut.

Meeting Saturday
3/19/2011
Please Note:
Details to follow

DINNER MENU

TO BE ANNOUNCED