



# THE CHINA LAKER



Vol. 20, No. 44 Newsletter of the China Lake Museum Foundation December 2014

Merry  
Christmas



Happy  
New Year

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and a Prosperous New Year to our China Lake Museum friends!

We so appreciate your support and participation this "sea change" year! My husband Bob Campbell is now non-voting President Emeritus, but still volunteering in a big way. He has been affiliated with the CLMF since 1997, and President since 2006. I am now Acting President/Operations VP, elected to the Board in 2001 in charge of Membership with a mandatory one year break recently. The best news is that we have several new strong "China Laker" leaders who have joined the Board, and once they get their feet wet, I'm hoping we will have a new President and can transition into a younger generation of leadership! One of them, Elsa Hennings, was out on the ship and helicopter, recovering her Orion parachutes after the NASA test last week, working hand-in-hand with Cal Tech, the roots China Lake starting with NOTS Inyokern in WWII! She can help us with a parachute exhibit that's current and unclassified. Meanwhile, this job is huge, so I ask God for a lot of help and His creative ideas which many of you have provided, and so far, all is well.

We are moving forward with the Marriott Building, still in negotiations. Our Founders Program is going well, we have raised over \$200,000 in new commitments and funds since John Freeman kicked it off in October. New Founders, we could use your help as "new building tour guides" since the building sells itself. Christmas is a busy time of year, but it's also end-of-the-year giving, so we are encouraging more people to become Founders to get the most out of their investments by giving a fully tax deductible contribution of \$5000 or more to the CLMF, a 501(C)3 Non-Profit, to help us secure this building ASAP!

We had a very fun Donor and Volunteer Celebration in November for those who have given annually and significantly for 5 years up to 13 plus years. It was held at the Marriott adjacent to the new building, a truly lovely location!

Blessings,

Alice E Campbell

Alice Campbell, Acting President/VP Operations



## The Counterfeit Harpoon

History tells us that McDonnell Douglas Astronautics Company (MDAC) in St. Louis, MO was the prime contractor for the development of the AGM/RGM-84 Harpoon anti-ship missile in the early 1970s. China Lake had a major role in that program as the developer of the warhead section for the missile. Other China Lake responsibilities included environmental design criteria, the test & evaluation section that replaced the warhead section during T&E shots, various analytical support roles and aircraft integration. It was that latter function that became a key factor in a little known event during the early days of Harpoon flight testing.



Harpoon is a multi-platform system, capable of launch from ships, aircraft, submarines and even shore batteries. As a ship attack weapon, flying low over the ocean, it was logical that flight test activity be conducted on the sea ranges off Point Mugu. The Harpoon flight test articles were delivered to Point Mugu by MDAC in a conventional sequence: dummy vehicles first,

followed by vehicles with more and more internal subsystems as experience was gained. The earliest tests involved a dummy missile with a live rocket booster and were aimed at verifying that the missile could be safely boosted from a shore-based ASROC launcher without experiencing any major perturbations. Once this test milestone had been satisfied, the T&E program moved on to more complicated ship launch configurations and issues.

Air launch tests came a little later, with the Lockheed P-3 patrol aircraft being the first airborne platform. Just as with the surface launch test sequence, there were to be a few initial drops with instrumented but inert dummy vehicles to verify that the missile would separate from the aircraft in a safe and well behaved manner. MDAC produced several dummy vehicles for this purpose and the test preparations were moving along well until an issue was raised by their corporate legal staff. Putting it in simple terms, the issue was this: Who would be responsible for the loss of an instrumented test vehicle should there be a collision between it and the P-3 launch aircraft? (The potential loss of the P-3 and its crew didn't seem to be a corporate issue.)

The legal wrangling rapidly approached an impasse while the test schedule started to face slippage. Negotiations between the NAVAIR program office and MDAC seemed to be moving at a snail's pace. At that point, the NAVAIR



Program Manager (PMA-258) contacted G.O. Miller, the China Lake Harpoon manager, and asked for ideas. Miller and his team quickly realized that there was an opportunity to exercise a hardware option on one of the Harpoon aircraft integration contracts they held with Lockheed.

The next few hours involved some rapid design work for a simple Harpoon dummy vehicle with the proper external configuration, weight and balance. That was followed by a couple of phone calls and a FAX transmission of the design sketches to Lockheed. In short order, there was a response from the folks at the Lockheed Skunk Works that they could satisfy the Navy's needs in a matter of days for a very affordable price. After a quick verification with the



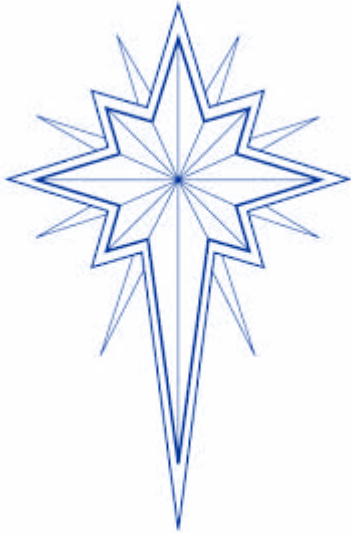
NAVAIR office the contract option was activated and the Ballistic Separation Round (BSR) effort was officially underway.

The Skunk Works delivered the first dummy round (BSR-1) to China Lake within a week. A couple of days later the Point Mugu P-3 assigned to the Harpoon project arrived at NAF and BSR-1 was uploaded onto it. Shortly thereafter, BSR-1 successfully and safely dropped away from the P-3 over the sea range.

To this point, none of this quick-reaction activity had been discussed outside of Navy circles. When the MDAC corporate people next met with the NAVAIR program staff to continue legal negotiations regarding separation safety, the NAVAIR program manager simply displayed the results of the BSR-1 flight test and asked "Any questions?" The legal matter was promptly closed and the air-launch T&E schedule was restarted.

And now it can be told that the first air-launched Harpoon test used a "missile" that was built by the Lockheed Skunk Works, not McDonnell Douglas.





We could save a lot of money by sending you your newsletter electronically...and you'd get it in **color!**

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760-939-3530*

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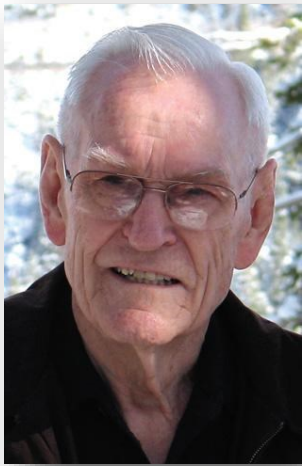
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## Valley mourns passing of Knemeyer

News Review dated 10/22/14

Rebecca Neipp

News Review Staff Writer

With the Oct. 15 death of China Lake pioneer Frank Knemeyer, the community lost a leader who helped define the mission that would inextricably link the Indian Wells Valley and its residents with the protection of our national security for decades.

Many a China Lake alumnus must have been struck by the parallel between Knemeyer's well-known espousal of the "smart buyer" concept and Rear Adm. Mike Moran's welcome remarks at last week's Alumni Day on the importance of raising the level of in-house expertise.

Knemeyer came to the Naval Ordnance Test Station in 1948, armed with a master's degree in aeronautical engineering, an unimpeachable work ethic and a leadership quality that saw him rise rapidly through the ranks at China Lake.

Among his contributions to the local mission were his participation in the Polaris effort, in-house thinking on the project that resulted in a dramatically improved weapon. Knemeyer, who had cognizance at one time or another over nearly all major products that came out of the local base, often cited the Polaris accomplishment as one of the most significant efforts to come out of China Lake.

In 1961 he was awarded the LTE Thompson Award — the highest honor at China Lake — "for his significant technical contributions, leadership and guidance on weapon-system development and his contribution to the formulation and implementation of the Free-Fall conventional ordnance program."

Elizabeth Babcock wrote in "Magnificent Mavericks," Volume 3 of the official history of China Lake, that Knemeyer helped to set the standard of commitment to mission in the workforce.

"Employees generally worked long hours for relatively low pay — but they considered themselves wealthy in more significant ways," wrote Babcock. "Nowhere could one become as rich in pride and satisfaction in a contribution to society," said Frank Knemeyer. "During the various conflicts — from Korea, Vietnam to present — there is nothing that can make you feel so rich as when combatants tell you how your system saved their lives and helped them to accomplish their mission."

Knemeyer held top civilian positions that included leadership of several technical departments. In a 1993 letter to Dr. Ron Westrum, Harold Metcalf recalled Knemeyer's "secret of leadership and ability to develop the full potential of his personnel."

Knemeyer asked Metcalf to succeed him as head of the Weapons Development Department, with its 400 employees, \$50-million budget and vast weapons responsibilities. "I lacked some confidence to undertake a line position of that magnitude and suggested to Frank that he try me in the position on a six-month probationary assignment," Metcalf recalled.

"He said, 'Nothing doing! That would limit your acceptance and authority and effectiveness!' He trusted me, delegated full authority and backed me to the limit, and then held me accountable. How could one not be willing to go all out for that kind of leader?"

### **Help Needed - Help Needed - Help Needed**

Please help! The China Lake Museum needs front-door entry greeters, a gift shop manager and multiple gift shop helpers. You can help by donating 2 or 3 hours per week. It can be fun and we will train you! If you would like to volunteer, please call Teri Raley at (760) 939-3530 or Pat Doucette at (760) 375-5962.

### **Help Needed - Help Needed - Help Needed**





# *From the Building Committee VP*

## **Building Committee Highlights:**

In the last six months the Building Committee has stopped work on the Kern County Lease land site and focused our attention on how we can transform the Marriott Office Building at 105 E Sydnor into a China Lake Museum. Originally, the architectural firm of Houston/Tyner did the design for the corner lot plaza across the street from the Maturango Museum and the design of the proposed China Lake Museum east of the Maturango Museum. With the current China Lake Museum Foundation (CLMF) focus on the Marriott Office building, the committee invited Russ Tyner to discuss how the Marriott Office building could be configured to best serve as a showcase for the history of China Lake. The objective was to incorporate the features included in the previous design done by Houston/Tyner.

The discussion with Russ Tyner included:

Flow through the museum. Ideally visitors would exit through the gift shop, and provisions should be made to allow the gift shop to be open while the main portion of the museum is closed.

Outside exhibits: Ideally the CLMF would also own the lot to the west of the Marriott Office building. This would allow space for outside exhibits that would blend with the exhibits inside. Russ suggested moving the existing parking area surrounding the office building across the street. This would provide an outdoor space for a limited number of displays.

Entrance to the museum through the north vs east entrance was discussed. Russ indicated that Houston/Tyner had discussed this issue and would recommend a north entrance. Russ also indicated opening up the ceiling to provide a high volume entrance suitable for hanging one or more weapons to provide a WOW factor. Opening up the ceiling is apparently not a difficult structural change. The only negative is how to direct flow of personnel to the upstairs offices.

The need to keep costs to a minimum was stressed. Russ said “He will limit modifications but ensure building codes are satisfied.”

The need for a physical presence in the town as soon as possible was stressed. This presence is not intended to be the final museum, but will provide evidence that progress is being made. Other organizations have experienced a significant increase in donor contributions when physical evidence of moving forward is present. Specifically it was proposed that a gift shop be set up in a small portion of the Marriott Office building, and that a flagpole, weapon, and signage be used to draw attention to the gift shop. Naturally the gift shop would include promotional material regarding the vision, donations, and possibly several interactive video displays. The obvious risk associated with this plan is losing the investment required to “frame-out” the gift shop if the CLMF cannot raise the funding required to purchase the building. The CLMF also needs an agreement with K-Partners, the current owners, to proceed with this plan.

The most significant highlight was that Russ Tyner offered to put together a limited amount of marketing material pro bono. Thanks Russ!! We expect to have some material from Russ by mid January 2015.

The Building Committee is also working with the Fund Raising Committee to develop a strategy for the procurement of the Marriott Office Building.

Wayne Doucette, VP Building Committee

Merry  
*Legacy*  
Christmas



## Gift yourself a Legacy for Christmas!

**Help purchase this building in front of the Marriott!**

**Become a Founder today for \$5,000 or more!**

**Our goal is 500 Founders and multiple \$100,000 Benefactors.**

**Move the "Secret City's" Museum into the City of Ridgecrest,  
where it won't be such a secret anymore.**

**Cash out some of your stocks while the market is still hot and  
make a difference for your legacy and for America.**

**Questions? Call John Freeman (760) 382-7776,**

**Bob Campbell (760) 377-7085 or**

**Wayne Doucette (760) 447-1484**

*With your help this will be the new China Lake Museum!*





## ***A “Sea Change” Opportunity for the China Lake Museum Foundation***

For the past fourteen years, the China Lake Museum Foundation has independently supported the operations of the US Naval Museum of Armament and Technology at China Lake, California. It has been the Foundation’s mission to educate the full spectrum of the scientific community and the general public of the contributions the military, civil service, academia and industry partners have made to the defense of our great Nation.

Due to ever increasing security restrictions, access to the Museum has been challenging, with diminishing membership, number of visitors and gift shop sales in the past few years. The Museum Foundation’s goal to re-locate the Museum has become more urgent to have a sustainable future for the Museum.

Recently, the Foundation was made aware that an existing 22,000 square foot “Class A” professional building adjacent to the Marriott Hotel complex on China Lake Boulevard, with an adjacent vacant lot suitable for an “outdoor plaza” of exhibits, was for sale. The estimated cost to acquire and convert this building and parcel to a state-of-the-art weapons museum is less than half the projected cost required to construct a new Museum and could be accomplished in the near time frame.

The Foundation’s current business plan expresses four fundraising imperatives that will make this vision possible:

- ◇ China Lake Founders/Donors/Contributors
- ◇ Corporate/Industry Partner Founders/Donors
- ◇ Large Foundation Donors
- ◇ The Foundation’s Traditional Fundraising Activities

### ***Opportunity to Become a China Lake Founder/ Donor/Contributor***

The Foundation believes the professional building and adjacent lot represent the best opportunity we have to establish a Museum in the City of Ridgecrest and we are seeking your financial support to make this a reality within the next two years. This is your opportunity to “give back to the Navy” and help ensure your legacy is passed to your kids, grandkids and the public so they gain an appreciation of what it means to help the country in its fight to remain free and preserve world peace.

Our goal is to find 500 China Laker individuals, families, and small business owners, willing to pledge \$5,000 as Founders and members of the “Founders Club”. Together with our other fundraising sources, we can establish a First-Class Museum in the City of Ridgecrest to display and document the many significant and innovative contributions that China Lake has made over the last 70 years to the defense of this great Nation.



CHINA LAKE MUSEUM FOUNDATION, P.O. BOX 217, RIDGECREST, CA 93556-0217

www.chinalakemuseum.org

760-939-3530



China Lake Founder/ Donor/Contributor Pledge Agreement

Founding (\$5,000 or more) - I pledge \$\_\_\_\_\_ to the China Lake Museum Foundation.

I understand that my name (or a name designated by me) will be added to a Founder's Plaque in the Museum. I also understand that I will be given the opportunity to document my China Lake story, which will be incorporated as a permanent part of the Museum history. A complimentary life membership (if not already a life member) and future "Founders Club" benefits will be included. Benefactor Founders (over \$5,000) will be given opportunities for naming rights commensurate with the amount pledged. If you prefer to pay in installments please indicate by filling out the information below.

Donor (\$1000 - \$4999) - I pledge \$\_\_\_\_\_ to the China Lake Museum Foundation.

I understand that my name (or a name designated by me) will be added to a List of Donors in the Museum.

Contributor (less than \$1000) - I pledge \$\_\_\_\_\_ to the China Lake Museum Foundation.

We, the undersigned, agree that this pledge will not be called due until such time as the Foundation executes a purchase agreement for the Marriott Business Building. When my pledge is called due by order of the Board of the China Lake Museum Foundation, I agree to make payment in full or in installments as agreed to below within thirty (30) days of the "call" which will be made by certified mail. I understand the pledge and subsequent donation identified as part of this agreement will be used in support of the purchase of the building, and land parcel, development of the building and plaza into the Museum complex, relocation and refurbishment of existing exhibits and development of new exhibits, and to sustain operations of the Museum in its new location. I understand that none of this pledge and subsequent donation will be used to pay a commission to any volunteer, employee or agent of the China Lake Museum Foundation.

Signature Printed Name Date Phone Number

Address (Street, City, State, Zip) Email

Foundation Signature Printed Name Date Title

I, \_\_\_\_\_(initial) authorize the China Lake Museum Foundation to acknowledge my pledge and subsequent donation within the museum and in museum publications.

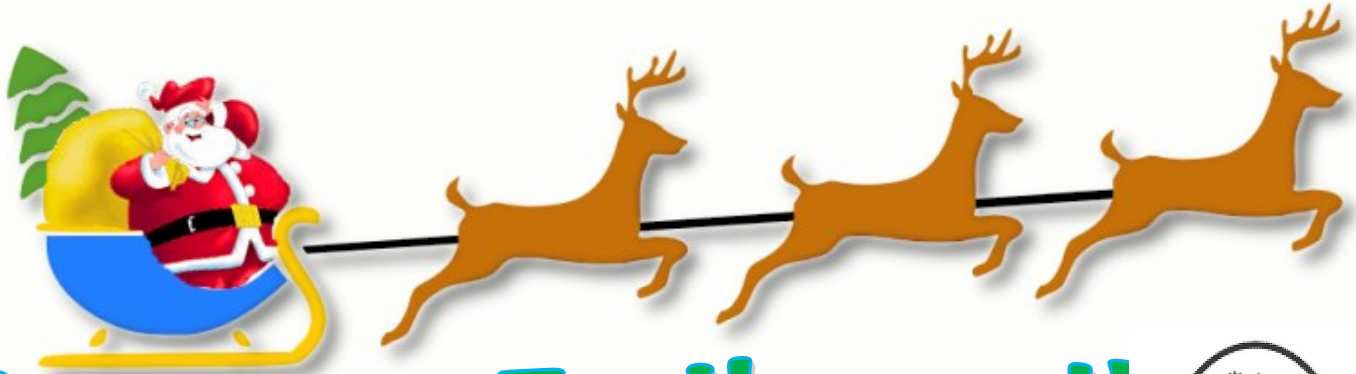
I, \_\_\_\_\_(initial) wish to keep my pledge and subsequent donation anonymous.

I, \_\_\_\_\_(initial) wish to make this pledge and subsequent donation in the name of: \_\_\_\_\_

I, \_\_\_\_\_(initial) wish to fulfill my pledge with annual installments of \$\_\_\_\_\_ over a period of \_\_\_\_\_ years (three (3) years or less preferred) and authorize the CLMF to bill me each year on the anniversary of the call for payment of pledges.

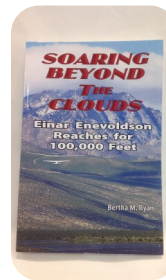
Please submit signed pledge form to CLMF, PO Box 217, Ridgecrest, CA 93556.

Thank you for your support in preserving the heritage of China Lake and especially those individuals who over the past seven decades have contributed to the defense and freedom of our great Nation.



# Gift Shop Excitement!

**Members get 20% off  
during  
December!  
We are co-  
located at  
Red Rock Books!**



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206 W. Ridgecrest Blvd.

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# Thank You!

## You help put the pieces together!

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**CLMF**  
**P.O. Box 217**  
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**I want to help support a the Museum!**

**YES!**

**Please accept my payment of:**

- \$100     \$200     \$500  
 \$1,000     \$5,000     \_\_\_\_\_

Checks noted "New Building" will be placed in a special fund, monies to be returned if new building is not purchased.

Enclosed is my Check     Visa     MasterCard     Other \_\_\_\_\_  
 Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ CVC: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Or call (760) 939-3530 to make your credit card donation.



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