



THE CHINA LAKER

Vol. 8, No. 1 Newsletter of the China Lake Museum Foundation Winter 2002

President's Report

By Burrell Hays,

As you can tell from the various reports and activities discussed in this newsletter, your Board has been very involved and active these last few months. The planning and assisting by several of the Board members and volunteers on the Sidewinder 50th anniversary has taken considerable time. Don Featherston has been heavily involved in the planning of the displays and the volunteers have been assisting in the clean up and repair of the old Officer's club kitchen. This area will be used primarily for the SW display and will become museum exhibit space when the anniversary party is over. The Board voted to commission a painting from Mr. L. Zable for the 50th. It will be complementary to the current Foundation Zabel paintings and from which the selling of prints and tiles has been a good revenue source for the Foundation. Paul Homer has been very busy in obtaining funding from industry to cover the cost of the new painting and prints. The VPs meet monthly in addition to meeting with their respective groups and the monthly Directors meetings. This keeps everyone very busy on Foundation efforts. Mr. Miller's group has worked wonders on the new building plans and in obtaining agreements with the City of Ridgecrest and the Navy. Ms. Campbell's group has pulled the membership data base together and have given membership some sense of sanity for the first time since the membership data base was started. Mr. St. George's group and staff along with the Treasurer, Mr. Doucette, have given us a computerized accounting capability that allows the tracking of the various accounts with high confidence. We all owe a big thanks to all of the VPs and the Directors. Well-Done Guys!

In accordance with the Foundation's by-laws, next May the Board of Directors will hold elections for the management positions on the Board. Each Vice President as well as the President position will be open for election. It is expected that most of the current VPs will be re-elected and continue their fine efforts. According to the by-laws, only Directors are allowed to vote in this election process. However, I encourage all members to make their desires known concerning filling these positions from current directors. Also, suggestions concerning the appointment of new Directors to the Board are very welcome. Send those suggestions to the Foundation office or to myself. Since I have been the Foundations' President for over eight years, I am encouraging the Board to seek a replacement. Your thoughts concerning the right person as the President are most welcomed.

***Annual Membership Meeting
Immanuel Ministry Center, Ridgecrest
May 3, 2002***

China Lake Museum Foundation

P.O. Box 217 • Ridgecrest, CA 93556-0217
760-939-3530 • clmf@ridgenet.net • 760-939-0564 (FAX)

Burrell Hays, *President*

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Barry Lowry, *Museum Manager/Newsletter Editor*
760-939-4740

Terry Bellino, *Business Officer/Volunteer Coordinator*
760-939-3105

Bob Campbell, *NAVAIR-WD Museum Director*

Leroy Doig III, *NAVAIR-WD Museum Curator*

Museum Happenings

by Barry Lowry, *Museum Manager*

It seems that changes are the order of the day at the museum. In the last issue of the *Chinaker*, I introduced both Kelly Mockler and myself who were both new to the museum staff at that time. Now it is my duty to announce Kelly's resignation from the employ of the China Lake Museum Foundation. Kelly's husband Tom was presented a career opportunity in Hawaii that he says he just couldn't refuse! Kelly's last regular day of work was the 4th of January and although she has remained available to answer questions, she and Tom will be packing up the kids and the household for the big move toward the end of February.

In her 5 months with the CLMF Kelly made a tremendous impact on financial operations, record keeping and organization of the gift shop and the foundation. Having inherited a paperwork system that was scattered hither and yon, she managed to get things organized, find all of the pertinent data and create new, computerized systems and procedures that will benefit the foundation for years to come. Her greatest achievement was to implement automated financial, sales and inventory control with Intuit's *Quick Books Pro* software. With this system, gift shop sales receipts are computer generated and financial and inventory records are automatically updated as of the conclusion of the sale. This eliminates double data entry and the errors that are bound to occur as well as eliminating the need for independent inventory tracking. (continued on page 8)

Our Membership Rolls

As of 16 January 2002

Corporate Members**\$1000 Annually**

Hays Engineers and Scientists Inc., Ridgecrest CA
Sverdrup Naval Systems Group, Ridgecrest CA
Raytheon Company, Ridgecrest CA

Business Contributor Members**\$100-\$499 Annually**

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Business Benefactor Members**\$500-\$999 Annually**

SAIC, Ridgecrest CA
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Platinum Donor**\$5000 One Time**

Sverdrup Naval Systems Group, Ridgecrest CA

Lifetime Members (\$1000 One Time)

VADM Frederick L. & Ercy Ashworth, Lincoln NM
Howard & Barbara Auld, Ridgecrest CA
Charlotte Bullard, Ridgecrest CA
Milton & Jane Burford, Ridgecrest CA
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Heather Campbell, San Francisco CA
Jim & Eleanor Campbell, Kernville CA
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Jack Crawford, Ridgecrest CA
William E. & Grethel M. Davis, Ridgecrest CA
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Ralph & Willene Disch, Ridgecrest CA
Alston Dotson, Ridgecrest CA
Wayne Doucette, Ridgecrest CA
Frank A. Federico, Ridgecrest CA
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Burrell & Lesta Hays, Ridgecrest CA
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Mike Kleine, Pacifica CA
Lee & Arlee Lakin, Ridgecrest CA
Robert & Nina Lane, Ridgecrest CA
D. N. Livingston, Ridgecrest CA

Gordon Lowham, Ridgecrest CA
La V McLean, San Diego CA
Gerald & Hazel Miller, Silver Spring MD
Ray & Minnie Miller, Ridgecrest CA
Richard W. & Virginia Murphy, Sparks NV
Charles M. Nilsen, Ridgecrest CA
Shirley Pladson, Ridgecrest CA
Lou & Gerry Pracchia, Ridgecrest CA
Felice Plain Mueller, Ridgecrest CA
William B. & Marilyn Porter, Ridgecrest CA
Leroy & Marilyn Riggs, San Diego CA
Bob & Shelia Rockwell, Ridgecrest CA
Jack & Electa Russell, Ridgecrest CA
Steve & Nancy Sanders, Gardnerville NV
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CAPT Jim & Betty Seaman, Ridgecrest CA
Leonard & Nancy Seeley, Grass Valley CA
James & Betty Simmons, Walnut Creek CA
Dr. Lloyd & Bea Smith, Ridgecrest CA
Representative William Thomas, Bakersfield CA
Larry & Diane Thompson, Ridgecrest CA
John T. Tyler, Mesa AZ
John & Roberta Ward, Ridgecrest CA
Edward & Eleanor Winnemore, Ridgecrest CA
WACOM Thrift Shop, Ridgecrest CA

Benefactor Members (\$500 Annually)

Curt & Gretchen Bryan, Ridgecrest CA

Contributor Members (\$100 Annually)

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Liz Babcock, Ridgecrest CA
CAPT Michael & Iris Bachmann, Ridgecrest CA
Ed & Jane Brooks, Ridgecrest CA
Georgia Cabe-Kletka, Ridgecrest CA
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Craig Cozzens, Ridgecrest CA
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Norma Fritchman, San Diego CA
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RDML Bert & Beverly Johnston, China Lake CA
Franklin H. Knemeyer, Ridgecrest CA
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Joe McDonough, Ridgecrest CA
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www.chinalakemuseum.org

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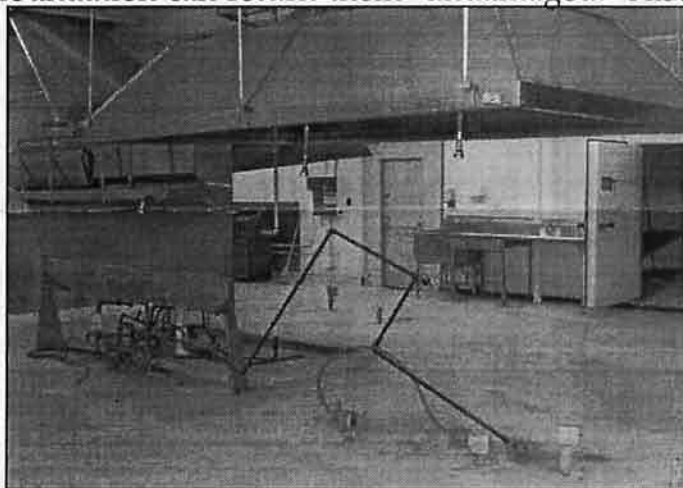
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 Sterling & Von Haaland, Swan Lake MT
 Carlton & Virginia Hamel, Ridgecrest CA
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 Donald Herigstad, Ridgecrest CA
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 Timothy & Janet Hofer, Ridgecrest CA
 B. J. Holden, Ridgecrest CA
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 Michael King, Ridgecrest CA
 Reuben Klammer, Palos Verdes Estates CA
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Membership Dinner-Dance and Auction May 3, 2002

Sidewinder 50th Anniversary

By Bob Campbell, NAVAIR-WD Museum Director

Preparation for the Sidewinder 50th Celebration, scheduled for October 31 thru November 3, 2002, continues to roll along. The old Officer's Club kitchen area has been cleaned out and is being prepared to serve as the Sidewinder Exhibit space, telling the Sidewinder Story at China Lake. The work has been done with many volunteers from the Seabees, VX-9, Public Works, the Command, and Foundation members. We owe them all a big vote of THANKS, as they spent many hours over the holidays donating their time, skills and efforts. The Objectives of the Sidewinder Exhibit are to tell the Sidewinder Story, which will include the McLean era and the Ogive era, and accomplishments. We intend to display hardware, discuss the technologies and threat, which drove the evolution of the hardware, and provide a special focus on the people and their contributions. As such, we need your help--If you have any pictures of yourself or anyone else working on Sidewinder, the Foundation would like to borrow them so they can incorporate into a special collection for the event. Please take the time to search your files for any pictures, and forward them to the CLMF. Place your name and address on the back, so the foundation can return them--undamaged. Also, please include a slip of paper, which names the people in the photograph. The City is working on hosting a reception for Friday night. For Dinner on Saturday night, Hitters has been selected as the caterer. Both the City reception and the Dinner will be held at the Kerr McGee Center. Mark your calendars, as the weekend and events are sure to be a highlight for the year.



The Kitchen Prior to Cleanup



New Books Available in Gift Shop

By Liz Babcock, Book Committee Chairperson

Just in time for you to meet (or make) that New Year's resolution to learn more about China Lake's fascinating people and projects, the museum's gift shop offers several new books.

Bluejacket Admiral. The Naval Career of Chick Hayward, by John T. Hayward and C. W. Borklund, is Vice Adm. Hayward's last book; a posthumous publication based on his diaries and letters. (continued on page 6)

New Books Available in Gift Shop (continued from page 5)

If you were here in the early days, you probably remember the cigar-chomping Hayward, who was NOTS' first experimental officer — and a colorful early advocate of China Lake's "just get it done" philosophy. Several chapters in the book chronicle Hayward's tenure here. I think you'll be fascinated by his unique perceptions of some of the early events shaping the working relationships of China Lake's military-civilian team.

Another new book, *Navy Wings of Gold* by F. Willard (Robbie) Robinson, offers easy-to-read tales of daring-do by the author and his friends, all pilots during World War II. This personal memoir also includes many photos of WWII pilots and aircraft. One chapter in the book deals entertainingly with Robinson's visit here in late 1943 to drop some of the first aerial rockets over the brand-new NOTS ranges.



Improbable Warriors. Women Scientists and the U.S. Navy in World War II is a well-written book by Kathleen Broome Williams that profiles the work of Grace Hopper and three other important women scientists working for the Navy during World War II. Woven around their stories is an overview of how their particular disciplines developed and influenced the war effort. Also described is the groundwork laid during and immediately following the war from which today's military science and technology efforts evolved. During her research for the book, Williams visited here and interviewed former WAVES then still living in the area — Rose Gonzales, Joan Deffes, Ida Rambo, Terry Wiruth, and Hazel (Coleman) Nilsen. She makes her volume especially interesting to local readers by including some of our WAVES' perceptions.



Also recently acquired is *Nuclear Weapons and Aircraft Carriers* by Jerry Miller, a retired admiral with command of the U.S. Second and Sixth Fleets in his background. Miller, who spent most of his 38-year career in the Navy as a fighter pilot, includes many interesting details in his book about the work VX-5 (now VX-9) did at China Lake to develop loft and toss-bomb delivery tactics. Not only does the book contain much information directly pertinent to the history of China Lake, but it also illuminates the personalities of the people who made that history happen. Military historians, including our own Leroy Doig, have given this book rave reviews.



In addition to the new books now available, we have Barry Lowry's excellent Web-surfing skills to thank for a prospective acquisition that you may well want to purchase. Barry was able to locate the British publisher of *Druid's Circle*, a wonderful book by RAF Group Captain Dixi Dean that was temporarily available in the local area a few years ago. After the American publisher went out of business, we despaired of ever being able to get the book. (continued on page 7)

New Books Available in Gift Shop (continued from page 6)

a wonderful book by RAF Group Captain Dixi Dean that was temporarily available in the local area a few years ago. After the American publisher went out of business, we despaired of ever being able to get the book. An order now appears possible, but we need to get some feel for what the interest is. While you're visiting the gift shop to get your new books, why not add your name to a list of prospective buyers? And why do we believe you'll want to add *Druids' Circle* to your collection? Not only is the entire book a rousing good read, but parts of it also pertain directly to China Lake's history. In January 1944 Dean arrived in America as chief of development (armament) at the British Air Commission. The book brings to vibrant life Dean's experiences with aerial rocket work in the United States, including a Tiny Tim firing over NOTS ranges.

Annual Membership and Renewal

By Alice Campbell, VP Membership

You should see in your mailbox either a letter thanking you for your annual membership and a membership card with your expiration date on it, or if your membership has expired you will be receiving a renewal letter. We are finally caught up on Membership Database corrections and enhancements. If you have any questions about your membership, please call Alice Campbell 760-377-0056 or Pat Stroud 760-371-2145. Please be encouraged, when you renew, to upgrade your membership. Your letter will note the benefits of each Membership category. We have a new Sponsor category which involves purchasing a Regular Family Membership for you and your family as well as purchasing an Enlisted Family Membership as a award to one of our Enlisted families for their work on the Museum in the new Sidewinder Room, or other special award. This Sponsor membership is for \$33, the sum of the two types of Memberships. We especially encourage those who have the means to consider a Lifetime Membership, with a one-time payment of \$1000 or after \$500 payments in two consecutive years or \$250 payments in four consecutive years. To date, we have 50 Lifetime Members! A big THANK YOU to all our Lifetime Members!

Membership Dinner-Dance and Auction May 3, 2002

Membership Dinner Dance: The date for the Membership Dinner Dance and Fundraiser is Friday May 3, 2002 at Mesquite Hall at the Desert Empire Fairgrounds. It will be similar to last year's fun and very successful event. Please begin to set aside your semi-valuable items that you no longer need and would like to donate for the auction at this event. Last year we raised almost \$5000 from the auction and we obtained six new life memberships just prior to and at the event, totaling over \$11000 for our operating budget. It's a great chance to renew old friendships and share the good old China Lake stories. Please plan to come to this fun event and share in the joy of the evening.

Museum Happenings (continued from page 2)

Kelly also did much to reorganize gift shop merchandise, respond to customer comments regarding new merchandise ideas, and to find new merchandise and vendors to meet the gift shops needs.

Kelly will be remembered not only for her organizational talents, but also for her tireless work ethic and her desire to help with anything that came her way. Please join me in wishing her and her family well in their Hawaiian adventure.



To replace Kelly we hired Terry Bellino as the new CLMF Business Officer. Although new to the CLMF Terry is no stranger to the Ridgecrest/China Lake community. Terry and her husband Frank have lived in the area for 16 years during Frank's employment in Navy civil service. Terry holds an AS in Business from Cerro Coso College and has held various positions in property management, finance and legal office environments. After training for a few days with Kelly during the Christmas holidays, Terry started her regular work schedule on the 2nd of January and has moved right in to all of the activities

of the museum, the gift shop and the foundation. She also willingly accepted additional duties as the Volunteer Coordinator when the incumbent resigned for personal reasons. Please join me in welcoming Terry to the CLMF family and the museum staff. You can reach Terry daily during normal museum operating hours at 760-939-3105.

Not only are personnel changing but the museum has a new operating schedule as well. After testing an expanded schedule during December by opening on Flex Fridays and Saturdays, the museum operating hours have stabilized at Monday through Friday (including Flex Fridays) 10 am to 4 pm as of the first of the year. The museum will be closed on selected holidays so call the museum at 760-939-3530 to assure it being open if it is a holiday.

Museum Hours

Monday - Friday
1000 - 1600

Closed

Saturday, Sunday
&
Selected Holidays

For Assistance
Phone 939-3530

www.chinalakemuseum.org

Museum Happenings (continued from page 8)

In an effort to expand gift shop merchandise offerings, the CLMF has formed a Gift Shop committee, under the leadership of Frank St. George, to filter and approve new merchandise acquisitions. In addition, a Book committee, under the leadership of Liz Babcock, has been formed to research, review and recommend new book titles for addition to the gift shop inventory. Both of these committees have their work cut out for them with the number of merchandise ideas that have been received from customers, foundation and museum members. In addition, the upcoming Sidewinder 50th Anniversary offers an opportunity to stock additional Sidewinder logoed and related items.

Security, which has been a restrictive burden on visitors to the museum since the events of September 11, 2001, has also undergone some changes recently. Holders of China Lake issued picture passes can now sponsor visitors to MWR and Command sponsored activities in non-restricted portions of the base, such as the museum. This includes people holding employment picture passes (civil service or contractor), green vendor passes, community passes or retirement passes. As long as your visitor has a picture I.D. and is not a foreign national, you can accompany them to the Visitors Center during normal business hours to receive a "guest pass" to visit the museum, golf course, gym, etc. If you prefer, you can collect names and social security numbers from your visitors and telephone (760-939-3005), fax (760-939-3996), e-mail (maxwelljs@navair.navy.mil), or hand-carry the list to the Visitor's Center ahead of time. Pass and ID then will enter the information into the system for quicker issuance of your guest passes when you arrive at the Visitor's Center for your trip to the museum. You can sponsor any individual for a guest pass twice in a 90-day period. This rule change does not include holders of military ID who will still have to use the "Official Visitor Pass" system for their visitors.

"Sidewinder people pictures" are being sought for various projects associated with the Sidewinder 50th Anniversary celebration later this year. If you have personal pictures that you would be willing to allow the museum to computer scan, please contact Frank St. George, Wayne Doucette or the museum staff.



THE CHINA LAKER