



THE CHINA LAKER

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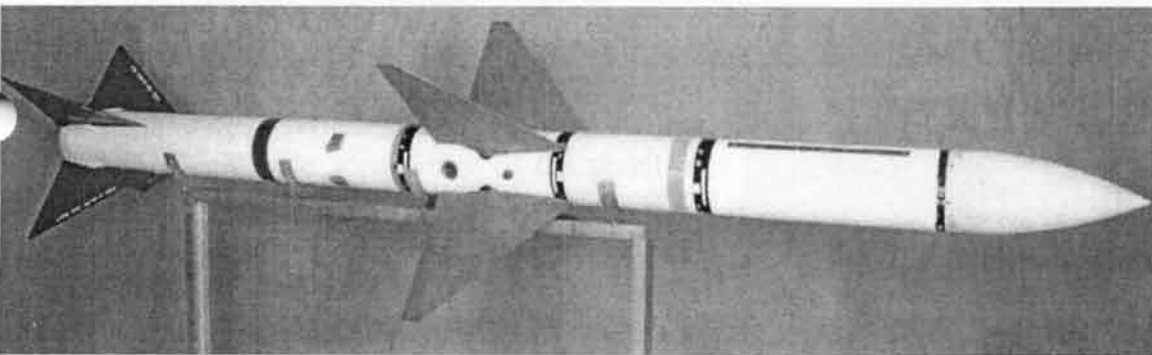
Newsletter of the China Lake Museum Foundation

Spring 2003

SPARROW AIM-7F COMES TO CHINA LAKE

By Burrell Hays, Director

In the late 1960s the Air War in Viet Nam was in full swing and U. S. air-to-air missiles were not performing to expectations. The Navy formed a blue-ribbon review board, later to become known as the Ault Committee, named for its leader Capt. Frank Ault, to determine the causes and to recommend corrective action.



In the case of the Sparrow, the popular belief was that the AIM-7E's poor performance was caused by the fact that it had been designed primarily for bomber targets and was not optimized for high-g maneuvering targets encountered in the war. An upgrade, designated the -7E2, was to correct this problem, but it was not proving to be any more successful. The Navy was also designing a new all-solid-state Sparrow, the AIM-7F, which was expected to correct all deficiencies and significantly increase operational reliability. Unfortunately, the -7F program had failed developmental testing and early operational test and the program was being stretched out by the Navy to accommodate re-design by the contractor.

The Ault Committee determined that a

large contributor to the -7E performance was unacceptable hardware quality and production product assurance. The Ault Committee was of the opinion that the best course of action would be to cancel the Sparrow program and develop a new missile. However, some senior people in NAVAIR believed that if the same production

requirements and controls were placed on the Sparrow AIM-7F as were concurrently in production on the Sidewinder AIM-9L, the air-to-air opera-

tional requirements could be obtained for less money and time than would be required to start-up a new missile program.

CNO accepted the NAVAIR concept and in early 1971 NAVAIR requested the Naval Weapons Center to provide a program, a plan, and commitment to support the AIM-7F in the same way in which NWC was providing production support to the AIM-9L. That new program would include development of an alternate source for -7F production.

The NWC Laboratory Director, Dr. Walter B. La Berge, had a stated goal for NWC to be actively involved in all of the Navy's air-to-air weapon programs. He saw the new program as an excellent avenue for NWC to become involved in Sparrow and radar-guided systems.

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President's Report — April 2003

By Paul Homer, *President*

This month marks the 10th anniversary of the formation of the China Lake Museum Foundation, and much has been accomplished in support of the U. S. Naval Museum of Armament and Technology. Among the recent highlights are that the Foundation has received a grant from the Kern Board of Trade to display a sign on a large billboard on the southbound-side of the Route 395, not far north of the intersection with California Route 14. We expect this advertising will benefit the Museum by increasing the number of visitors and general support.

The recent Membership Dinner and Auction resulted in a 30% increase in funds raised as compared to last year, and likewise the number of life and regular members has increased by a similar amount in only one year. Thanks to everyone for your continued support.

May 9, 2003 marks the annual China Lake Museum Foundation Members Meeting. This

meeting reports on the status and plans of the Foundation, with reports from each of the functional areas of operations, fund raising, membership, public relations, and facilities. This year, the meeting will be held in the Museum at 1:00 PM on Friday, May 9, 2003. All CLMF members are invited to attend.



Board members contribute to the "piggy bank" which was auctioned off at the 3rd Annual CLMF Dinner/Auction

WUZWINDER

By Shirley Pladson

What a wonderful tribute the Wuzwinder Party on October 31, 2002, was to the original Wuzwinder parties. The Sidewinder family was back together again.

We had close to 300 young and old enjoying each other's company. The young were there out of curiosity from all the stories they heard of the "good old days." The retirees were there to reminisce and talk about enjoying retirement and, of course, how great their grandchildren are. Who would believe it was 20 years ago?

We also talked about our days in Sidewinder when we worked together and played together - the things we thought up to do to have that togetherness and relaxation from the dedication and the many extra hours we gave to Sidewinder, which we were all proud to give. You know work and play are an artificial pair of opposites because the best kind of play contains an element of work, and the most productive kind of work must include something of the spirit of play. The Sidewinder family definitely had both.

It is amazing how many of the Wuzwinder gang are Ridgecrest residents. What was extra special was that 98 percent of the living Sidewinder Program Managers at China Lake were in attendance. It was great to have retired Captain Jesse Stewart, Sidewinder Program Manager from NAVAIR PMA 259, join us plus the many other out-of-towners who were there:

Tom Amlie, in his red buck shoes.

Virginia Cozzens, still vivacious as ever.

Harold Cook, and his new bride.

Cork Otis, who I don't think ever missed a Wuzwinder party.

Ralph Schwarzbach and his wife Jena from Washington state, happy and enjoying life.

Don and Kitty Lockwood from Morro Bay. Kitty still looks like a teenager.

John Crossley, now from the other sunshine state, Florida.

Allen and Nancy Gates, who are moving

from Minnesota to Nevada as Allen is teaching at the University in Reno.

Tom Hampton, who is retired, and his lovely wife Laura from San Diego.

CeCe Cramer, our secretary during AIM-9G, H and early L days. She and her husband Mark are transcontinental truckers.

The old Ford Aerospace group represented by Murray and Lil Corwin and Paul Siconolfi.

And the Raytheon Lowell Co., represented by very special people Dick and Carol King and Norma Slater.

John and Eileen Jacobsen, originally from Pt. Mugu, now retired and living in the Gold Country and spending a lot of quality time in their RV.

Crill and Theresa Maples from Sparks, Nevada.

(continued on page 9)



Shirley Pladson with Wuzwinder logo.

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Annual Membership Meeting

Friday May 9, 2003, 1:00 pm

at

U.S. Naval Museum of Armament and Technology

If you are interested in attending this meeting and need a pass to get on base please contact the museum staff no later than Wednesday May 7, 2003 and they will make the appropriate arrangements.

3rd Annual CLMF Dinner/Auction a Great Success

by Tex Hoppus, Director

Friday night, March 28, was a resounding success – and a lot of fun – for those attending the annual fundraising dinner and auction for the Foundation, held at the Kerr McGee Center. The Foundation is responsible for operating and expanding the U.S. Naval Museum of Armament and Technology.

With a live and a silent auction and a variety of raffles, the Foundation took in over \$12,000 toward operating the Museum.

Among items donated for auction were a weekend stay at a bed & breakfast inn, donated by Lenore Lemon, two weekend stays at a condo in Mammoth donated by Bob and Alice Campbell, an historical set of books authored by Teddy Roosevelt and donated by John DiPol, various historical maps and documents of note related to China Lake, works of art from various local artists, and a guitar signed by all members of the rock band blink 182, donated by Ridgecrest native and band member Mark Hoppus.

Paul Homer, president of the Foundation, pre-

sided over the event. Chuck Newmyer led the live auction, and Tex Hoppus presented the vision of the Foundation and made an appeal to citizens and businesses of the valley to join in the success of the Museum.

“This night is great for having fun and raising funds for the Navy museum,” said Hoppus, “but the future of our newest museum really depends on the deep and continued financial commitment of our citizens and our businesses. We want our children to know and to understand what was accomplished here, for the preservation of freedom.”

The event was attended by over 150 people, including Navy leaders Rear Admiral Dave Venlet and his wife Bunny, Captain Randy Jackson and his wife Sonja, Marine Colonel Bill Cronin and his wife Dotsy, and Betty Seaman, wife of Captain Jim Seaman. Current and former civilian members of the technical workforce at China Lake, as well as local businesses such as Jacobs Sverdrup and Carriage Inn, were also well represented.



Mark Hoppus, of *blink 182*, autographing the guitar that he generously donated to this year's auction.

SPARROW AIM-7F COMES TO CHINA LAKE (continued from page 1)

He requested the Engineering Department to organize a program and submit a proposed plan to NAVAIR.

Allen Beggs was designated China Lake's AIM-7F program manager and the plan, which had been coordinated with the NAVAIR Sparrow Program Manager, had the following five key requirements:

- 1) The contractor had delivered a -7F documentation package and the government had accepted that package. The planners considered it necessary to validate the correctness of the package by comparison of the documentation to a delivered -7F guidance-and-control unit. This comparison would be accomplished by a complete disassembly of the G&C to the lowest possible level. A detailed inspection and test of the hardware and electrical functions for conformance to the documentation would also be performed.
- 2) The contractor was to be funded to develop classroom-training material and train the NWC engineers in every detail of the -7F system and subsystem design and test facilities design and operation.
- 3) The contractor was to be funded to establish a full production test capability at China Lake.
- 4) Within the following year, NAVAIR was to award the contractor a limited production contract. This contract would contain all the production product assurance requirements with complete oversight during production by NWC as practiced on the Sidewinder production.
- 5) By competitive process four or five potential second-source contractors were to be selected and each provided with a -7F documentation package, a -7F G&C and funding to study both and become knowledgeable to bid on a -7F production contract. The end result would be down-

selecting to a single second-source contractor based on that bid process.

NAVAIR accepted the plan and tasked NWC in June 1971 to support the AIM-7F second-source production plan.

Along with in-house effort, NWC tasked NAFI and NAC to provide teardown and inspection of a -7F G&C for comparison to the documentation package. NAVAIR contracted with the -7F contractor to provide classroom training to the Navy's engineering team. Several weeklong classes were provided at China Lake. Through a competitive process, NAVAIR selected and funded five contractors to become capable of competing for a second-source contract.

The -7F contractor installed a full-production test capability at China Lake and a team led by Henry Blecha validated correctness of that capability and assumed responsibility for its operation.

And NAVAIR placed full product assurance requirements in the contractor's limited production contract and assigned technical-direction-agent responsibility to China Lake.

The documentation validation effort revealed that not one of the to the Navy represented the delivered hardware that had been torn down and inspected. A China Lake team led by Jim Barry worked closely with the contractor to correct the documentation. As a result every drawing and specification had to be changed by the formal ECP (Engineering Change Proposal) to make the package accurately conform to the design the contractor stated was the baseline.

In addition, more than 100 additional subsystem specifications had to be added to allow proper production test and control. The application of the product assurance requirements to the new production contract forced the contractor to essentially refurbish his entire facility and retrain the production employees before he could achieve compliance.

(continued on page 9)

SPARROW AIM-7F COMES TO CHINA LAKE (continued from page 8)

The AIM-7F G&Cs produced with the correct documentation baseline, configuration control, and product assurance requirements enjoyed an increase in reliability (MTBF – Mean Time Between Failure) of over 3000 percent and first time final production yield raised to over 93 percent. At the same time, because of the second-source competition along with the increased yields, fixed-price G&C costs dropped by 45 percent.

From start to finish of the program many influences tried to derail the program or parts of the plan's activities. Many times the NAVAIR Program Manager, Capt. Bill Brandel, put his career on the line to allow the program to continue and to be spectacularly successful. The country and the free world owe Capt. Brandel a large debt of gratitude and respect.

WUZWINDER (continued from page 3)

Charlotte Bullard, who lives in Tennessee, restoring an old house but still spends time in Ridgecrest.

Mike and Janie Hall from Colorado - Our "General," who now teaches at the Air Force Academy.

Roland Hipper, from Uberlingen, Germany, who was a BGT representative here at China Lake during the -9L co-production. We missed having his lovely wife Gaby here.

Dieter Neumann from Koblen, Germany, a 30 year Sidewinder man, currently the European Sidewinder program manager.

Sterling and Von Haaland who spend their summers in Montana and their winters in Nevada.

Additional comments by Peggy Johnson:

Half the fun of the Wuzwinder Party for me was the pre-planning! Several of us had pictures, mementos, and Sidewinder/Wuzwinder paraphernalia from years gone by and thought it would be fun to make displays for the party. It was great looking through the old pictures and trying to recognize and remember the faces of so long ago. We would start, "Remember when ..." and "That party was so much fun!" It brought back super memories for those of us preparing the poster boards. I think they were a big hit at

the party. EVERYONE could look at the pictures and bring up special remembrances of the fun we had – in spite of how hard we worked!

There were pictures from parties, retirement gatherings, picnics, softball games, tricycle races, and every other crazy kind of thing that Sidewinder/Wuzwinder folks have done over the years. There were several "buttons" of different versions of the Sidewinder missile, coasters, pens, cups, etc. that helped define the Sidewinder mystique and were displayed to remind people of the part each of them had played in its special history.

The pictures also reminded us of how many of our old friends were gone: Maggie Pladson, Glen Hollar, Dillard Bullard, Kathy Doucette, and many, many more. I think everyone who attended the party was reminded of some of our 'Winders who are no longer with us, but who were remembered with humorous stories and great fondness thanks to the pictures that were on display.

It was a great evening. A Big Thank You to Tommy Mather of Tommy T's who was our host and very accommodating. We are also happy to announce that we are donating our leftover money to the China Lake Museum Foundation in the amount of \$1009.08

Sidewinder 50th Videos/Photographs

The China Lake Museum Foundation recently received master video tapes of various events during the Sidewinder 50th Anniversary Celebration in November 2002.

These include the Shooter's Forum, the Technical Legacy Forum, the Ridgecrest City Reception and the Salute to Sidewinder dinner.

If there is sufficient interest, we will have these reproduced as VHS video tapes and will make them available for sale through the foundation's museum store.

We have also gathered a few hundred still photos from the event from a number of sources and are considering assembling a selection of these into a CD for sale through the museum store.

If you are interested in either or both of these opportunities please let the museum staff know at:

760-939-3530

by e-mail at
clmf @ ridgenet.net

or by postal mail at
CLMF
P.O. Box 217
Ridgecrest, CA 93556-0217

and we will pass your interest on to the foundation board for a decision about reproduction.

Museum Happenings

by Barry Lowry, Museum Manager

Here it is mid April and the year is nearly a third over already! It has probably gone by so fast because the museum staff remains quite busy for a number of reasons.

Already this year, the museum has been the backdrop for quite a bit of television video. We have hosted an NBC News crew doing a segment in support of Dateline NBC. We acted as background for an interview with the Tomahawk Program Manager for CBS News from the San Diego CBS affiliate. And, we toured Rod Bernson of Sky Fox fame and a Fox 11-news crew through the museum in support of a story they were shooting here at China Lake.

A story about the museum recently appeared on the web-based Navy News Stand (http://www.news.navy.mil/search/display.asp?story_id=5910) and more recently we were mentioned in another story about Navy museums (http://www.news.navy.mil/search/display.asp?story_id=6927).

When the museum staff hasn't been busy entertaining reporters and videographers, we have had myriad administrative projects to keep us busy. After approval by the board in the FY03 work plan, we enrolled the foundation in a number of professional museum organizations for the museum networking and current awareness opportunities that this brings. These include the American Association of Museums, the California Association of Museums and the Museum Store Association.

Pat Brokke in the museum store has been working diligently to reorganize the store stock numbering system. The original system was growing cumbersome as the inventory grows and becomes more diverse. The old system also was not capable of supporting future plans for conducting museum store e-commerce on the Internet.

The museum staff also recently executed a project to identify and purchase a portable display funded by a grant from the City of Ridgecrest. This will allow us to be more responsive to

community outreach opportunities now that we don't have to rely on borrowed equipment.

One of the larger administrative projects in-process is the creation of a Policy and Procedure Manual to document all of our operating activities. The need to become more organized and repeatable in our business processes is becoming more apparent as the foundation grows, activity increases and more money flows through our books. The foundation formed a Finance Committee in the fall of 2002, which subsequently undertook the task of documenting all of our business processes with the eventual hope of producing an audited financial statement for the foundation. This is necessary to satisfy major funders as we seek support for our capital projects.

Also as a part of the policy and procedures project, the museum staff working in consonance with the foundation secretary, has undertaken a project to formalize our filing and file archiving system. As the foundation is celebrating its 10th anniversary since incorporation this year, it has become necessary to organize and preserve 10 years of our corporate history.

Other recently completed administrative projects include applications to participate in both the 2003 United Way Campaign and the 2003 Combined Federal Campaign. So, for those of you who like to support your favorite organization through payroll deductions look for our name during the fall campaign signups!

One other recent project was to create a volunteer time-keeping system, again to satisfy funder requirements. Many grant-makers want you to show a community commitment to your organization through volunteer hours donated. Others look at volunteer time as a matching donation to the money they are giving you. Even United Way requires a quarterly report of volunteer hours expended.

Well, I seem to be out of space for now. Until next time.....