



April 2018

	WHEN:	WHERE:	PROGRAM:
APRIL MEETING	THURSDAY the 12th 7 PM	FISHER COMMUNITY CENTER	VIETNAM PILOTS REUNION

WHAT'S FLYIN' THIS WAY !!!

Our next meeting will feature Joe Latham speaking about the Vietnam Pilots reunion he attended that included pilots from North Vietnam. Joe piloted F-4's and he happens to be a good speaker as well. This should be an interesting meeting to say the least.

Don't forget we will do our Taco Johns get together at 6 pm before the meeting!

WHAT FLEW BY !!!

Ok, so maybe we should stop complaining about the weather. Maybe Spring will get here sooner. The word at the moment states that Thursday may be a good meeting day, however, the past 30 days have not been all that great.

We did have a good meeting March where we learned a bit about the Replica Fighters Association and why there is interest in maintaining some military history with flying aircraft. The originals are getting very expensive to fly and maintain, so many are stepping up with the replicas to help keep the memories flying.

Not much to report from the FOGz because of what we are not going to complain about.

Seven members drove out to Ashland, Nebraska to tour the Strategic Air Command museum. Huge hangars held some very impressive displays including a B-36 and a B-52, both in the same hangar! Of course, the SR-71 hanging in the atrium was the welcoming star of the museum. A lot of history.

The group included Paul Adams, Joaquin Williams, Robert Richtsmeier, Dave McCurry, Corey and Dianna

Butcher, and we picked up Jonathan Walter in Desoto on the way out. Lots of fun. More photos inside.



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CALENDAR

Apr 12 7pm Fisher Community Center Chapter 675 Meeting Joe Latham
Apr 21 7am-11am Ames Municipal Flying Cyclones Breakfast

MAY 5th

Boone Municipal Airport (BNW)
Fly-in breakfast
7 a.m. – 11 a.m.
Pilots-in-command free
515-432-1018 (Dale Farnham)
Email: farnhamaviation@outlook.com
Website: www.farnhamaviation.com

Pella Municipal Airport (PEA)
Tulip Time Flight Breakfast
7 a.m. – 10 a.m.
Shuttle available to Tulip Festival May 2nd, 4th, and 5th
Pilot in command eats free
641-628-9393 (Shane Vande Voort)
Email: shane@flyclassicaviation.com
Website: www.pellatuliptime.com

MAY 6th

Green Castle Aero Club (IA24)
Fly-in Brunch
9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
PIC eats free
319-545-2101 (Erika Smith)
Email: Eka192003@yahoo.com
Website: www.greencastleaeroclub.com/

MAY 12th

Perry Municipal Airport (PRO)
Tailwheel Fly-in
8 a.m. – 11 a.m.
PIC's and under age 5 eat free
515-465-3970 (Walter Aviation)
Website: www.walteraviation.com
Email: office@walteraviation.com

MAY 15th

Boone Municipal Airport (BNW)
Potluck and movie night
6 p.m. – 9 p.m.
515-432-1018 (Dale Farnham)
Email: farnhamaviation@outlook.com
Website: www.farnhamaviation.com

JUNE 3rd

Audubon Municipal Airport (ADU)
Flight Breakfast
6:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
Fly-ins eat free
712-563-3780 (Barbara Smith)
Email: audchmbr@iowatelecom.net



The B-36 of the SAC Museum. The wing span was 230 ft. The wing span of the B-25 just behind it is a measly 68', just over half of one side of the 36!



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Guadalcanal - Skipper Caldwell

Meet the next member of my series on Guadalcanal Navy pilots, the skipper Turner Caldwell. In the air the boys called him "Stinky".

Above is "Stinky", a name given to the skipper of the Scouting "5" pilots as they fought on Guadalcanal.

This series I've been writing about got its start from reading a book about the first year of WWII and the carrier Enterprise. As I read about Stinky and his commitment to his men and the country and its principles he fought for I remembered someone else who was also a leader of men, Robin Olds. Robin Olds sacrificed personal advancement, was committed to the mission, was a champion for his men and creative in battle. As I read of skipper Caldwell I saw those same traits. To understand what Stinky and his men faced is impossible. It can be somewhat told but not felt. I attempt to merely tell some facts. First many on Guadalcanal felt they had been abandoned, although they not only never quit fighting, they fought relentlessly against an overwhelming force. They lacked food, in fact they ate worm infested Japanese leftovers. Many lost an extreme amount of weight. The cause not only the food but sicknesses like dysentery and malaria. They learned to make loin clothes for underwear from their enemy, the Japanese. Yet they fought on. They were short on supplies.

The pilots did their own maintenance and munitions loading. Parts were taken from derelicts that were spread over Henderson Fields runway. Yes I said runway. When taking off and landing they not only had to avoid the hazards presented by the many derelict planes, but also many bomb craters. In fact planes were lost due to these very obstacles.



A major emotional strain was the bombing by the nightly and occasionally daily off shore naval battleships and destroyers. Added to this was the bombing from aerial attacks. Death was all around. One story was told about a late evening naval bombardment. Slit trenches had been dug and that evening were full with the navy pilots, one atop the other. What amazed me was the commits about the large shells from the battleships. As the 16 inch shells passed overhead they could not only be seen, but also heard and the movement of the air felt. I can't imagine the emotional strain on the flyers. Yet they fought effectively and as a team.



Above is one of the Japanese battleships that bombed Henderson Field and our eleven Enterprise pilots. Many Marines were killed during these air raids, thus death was all around.

The Japanese bomber known as the Val.

Below is the Betty Bomber also used by the Japanese over Guadalcanal.



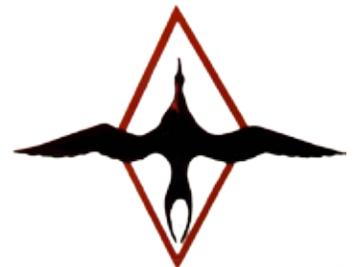
In order to keep eleven men working together in this constantly dangerous environment and meet their

commitments effectively in the air took a special leader. This leader was "Stinky". He could talk to the men on a personal basis and discuss family. He lead in the air, as he did not ask them to fly a mission he wouldn't fly himself. In order to maintain focus on the mission and not personalities he never recommended a flyer for a decoration. This was not about them, it was about something much greater than them. As one flyer stated, "he made us feel it was a privilege to be there." Another testimony to his leadership was all eleven crews came through this ordeal alive! Perhaps a little God intervention might have been on our side and with them also. The battle for Guadalcanal was a pivotal battle in WWII. If lost, Japan had a clear shot at Australia. Australia was the US major point of assembly of all military strength in the southern Pacific.



Thus to the eleven on Guadalcanal from the Enterprise along with all others that fought to hold the island and Henderson Field, we salute you Scouting 5's planes aboard the Enterprise. The eleven pilots on Guadalcanal didn't know they had it so good on board ship. Maintenance and bomb loading done by others and a clear take off and landing path.

The Scouting 5's emblem.



A Field Trip to the Strategic Air Command Museum



This B-29 "Lucky Lady", was the first airplane to circumnavigate the globe non-stop. It was refueled by another B-29 while in flight.

There were these two helicopters, as well as a U2, a P-33, an F-84 and F-86 hanging from the ceiling.

There was a 9-11 memorial sculpture made of dress ties, and a tribute to a Nebraska native astronaut named Clayton Anderson. He also attended Iowa State.



Corey taking a photo of Paul sitting in a B-52 co-pilot training simulator.

*Corey's photo is below.
(Doesn't Paul look like he belongs there?)*

