



WASSUP??

January 2009

VOLUNTEER AWARD WINNERS

Jim Koglin was selected as our Volunteer of the Quarter for October thru December 2008. Jim has assumed responsibility for the monumental task of digitizing and cataloguing the thousands of photos we have in our historical files so we can not only respond to the many requests for photos but also to create an easily retrievable permanent record for posterity. This project will literally take years to complete and Jim, aka "Kog", is progressing at an ever increasing pace. Thanks Jim...this is one of our long-standing projects and the progress you're making is extraordinary.

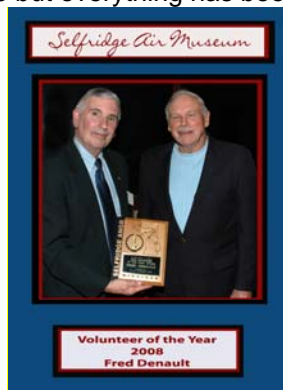
Team Chiefs are reminded that nominations for the Volunteer of the Quarter award for January thru March 2009 are due in Lou Nigro's office no later than 15 March 2009.

And at our 2008 Volunteers Appreciation Dinner, the following volunteers were recognized:

- **Dick Soules received our 2008 Special Achievement Award** for his dedicated focus, personal involvement and professional efforts on our behalf. Dick is certainly our go-to guy when the aesthetics of our Museum and Air Park are under discussion and thanks to his efforts we have one of the more visually appealing private Museums in the Midwest.



- **Fred DeNault received our 2008 Volunteer of the Year Award** for extraordinary efforts to inventory and preserve the large uniform collection that we have in our care. Thanks to Fred, chaos has been replaced by order and we now know not only what we have but everything has been preserved.



NEW VOLUNTEERS

We continue to be blessed with new people volunteering their time to help us here at the Museum. Since the last issue of the WASSUP, we've added the following:

Gerry Ridener: Gerry is a retired Air Reserve Technician from right here at Selfridge, lives in Clinton Township, officially joined us on October 14, 2008, and has become part of Bob Kozloff's Air Park Displays Team. *Thanks for joining us Gerry although why someone would want to work with Bob Kozloff and Ray Carpenter escapes me. Just kidding...Bob's Team has a large and never-ending responsibility to maintain our outdoor displays to the standards expected of us and you'll be a welcome addition to that team.*

Jerry Dressig: Jerry is a retired member of the Michigan ANG (we used to work together), a retired elementary/secondary school teacher, lives in Warren, officially joined us on October 15, 2008, and has become part of Fred DeNault's Uniform Team. *Welcome aboard Jerry. You and Fred are both retired teachers and both share an interest in uniforms so it's a perfect match. And no fair sharing "Lou Nigro in his wild misguided youth" stories... I've spent too much time convincing the volunteers that I've always been serious and level headed!*

2009 GOALS

It never ends...

- SPAD display: The SPAD Hangar is complete and the display was moved from Bldg 1008 to its new Hangar earlier this year. The SPAD Team is in the final stages of completing it and we hope to have everything up and running so guests can view this display in early 2009.
- Repaint the F-102 in Selfridge-specific markings. We received the decals we need courtesy of our friends at the Kl Sawyer Museum and the repainting efforts began but had to be cut short because of temperatures. (**old project**).
- Purge our storage areas of assets that are excess to our current and future needs, a long-term and ongoing effort (**old project**).
- Developing and installing an Air Traffic Control display (**old project but underway, I think**).
- Finish ongoing organization efforts in Bldg 1007. The stuff we're storing for STARBASE will hopefully be moved out eventually (**old project**).
- Motorize the R-2800 engine (**old project but underway**).
- Training more of our "full-time" volunteers on aircraft corrosion control (**old project**).
- Cataloguing, digitizing, and filing historic photos (**old project but underway**).
- Transformation of Bldg 1008 into a Library/Research and storage area. Once Bldg 1008 has been modified, we'll move the Library/Research area from Bldg 1011 into Bldg 1008, freeing up the space they occupied in Bldg 1011 for new displays.

2009 Selfridge Air Show Date Change

Selfridge officials have moved the dates of the 2009 Air Show and Open House from 13-14 June to 22-23 August to allow the USAF Thunderbirds to be on the schedule.

2008 Volunteer Appreciation Dinner Photos

A disk with the photos taken at our 2008 Volunteer Appreciation dinner is available in my office. If you would like a copy of the disk or just peruse what's on it, see me.

Change in Email Address

Due to circumstances beyond our control, the Museum's Government email address has been changed **from** air.museum@miself.ang.af.mil **to** 127airmuseum@miself.ang.af.mil. My personal Government email address (louis.nigro@miself.ang.af.mil) and home email address (freighterpilot@comcast.net) have not changed.

AN EDITORIAL

I need a place to vent. Please don't take these ramblings personally...

- Please help us save some money and make my job a little less frustrating:
 - The brown paper towels in the dispensers in the bathrooms are a lot less expensive than the white paper towels on the roll. Please use the brown ones out of the dispenser instead of the white ones off the roll unless your soft hands require the white ones.
 - If you take the last roll of toilet paper, brown paper towels, or white paper towels out of the janitor's closet locker in Bldg 1011, please tell me so I can get some more on order. There's nothing worse than looking for a roll of toilet paper only to find out that our supply has been exhausted.
- You guys (and girls) are killing me! We've spent hundreds of hours developing and updating an inventory of both our historic artifacts and our Museum assets and folks continue to bring things in/take things out and move things from one location to another without notifying me. Kinda makes it hard when we go looking for something that we're supposed to have! Please, keep me in the loop if you bring something in, take something out, or move something from one location to another.

VISITORS PASS RENEWAL

All of those who use the AF Form 75 Visitors Pass to gain access to the Base need to renew their pass to show an expiration date of 30 June 2009!

I sent an updated list of all volunteers to Security in mid November 2008 so your name should be at Pass & ID in the new Visitor's Center (Bldg 901) at the intersection of Hall Road and Jefferson by the end of November. The Pass & ID section is open from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm (closed from 12:00 noon to 1:00 pm for lunch) from Tuesday thru Saturday, but closed on Federal holidays. The good news is that Security Police has advised me that the Visitors Pass (AF Form 75) is acceptable for entry to the Base thru the Golf Gate on North River Road! If they don't accept the Visitors Pass (AF Form 75) at the Golf Gate and tell you that you have to go thru the Main Gate, please advise me so I can square away what the real rules are.

To insure that all of our passes expire on the same day and to insure that the information I provide to our Security folks is as accurate as it can be, an updated list of Museum volunteers will be sent to Security again in April 2009 for the period 1 July 2009 to 31 December 2009.

2008 Museum Attendance

Although we took a hit in June because the Michigan Transit Museum had some issues with Clinton Township and again in early October when they had issues with Base Security, our attendance continues on an upward vector. Please don't ask me why our attendance went down in 2005 as I don't remember. I'm just glad we're going up again. An attendance graph is on the reverse.

Initiatives and Challenges

Two BIG items came up for discussion with Base officials a few weeks ago, the future of the Michigan Transit Museum (MTM) train rides to our Museum and access to our Museum.

- For security reasons, the future of MTM train ride visits to our Museum is in serious jeopardy for 2009. Although we're exploring "creative" options to allow them to continue, I'm not optimistic. The days of the MTM bringing visitors to our Museum may be over.
- Base officials are exploring the possibility of sequestering the Museum from the rest of the base with a fence and creating our own access from Hall Road. While this would make us more accessible to the public and eliminate the need for guests to register at the Main Gate, it will make the drive to Mulligan's for lunch a little longer. This is a complex and expensive proposal that probably won't see fruition for a number of years. Hopefully the increase in accessibility will give us more guests and offset the loss of guests from the MTM.

AIR MUSEUM ATTENDANCE

