

# Dakota Territory Air Museum

Summer 2022

Volume 43



DAKOTA TERRITORY  
AIR MUSEUM





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Samantha Blessum

Austin Greenheck

Rod Loken

## **About the Museum**

When it was founded in 1986, the museum became a place of honoring our past heroes. The men, women and machines that shaped the history are all exhibited here.

The founders of the air museum wanted it to be a place where one could appreciate the blood, sweat and tears put forth in the past. Not only that, but to see how rich with aviation North Dakota truly is.

Displaying vintage aircraft, war memorabilia, dedications to fallen soldiers, or even restoration projects, the Dakota Territory Air Museum has something to please all. Not only that, but the air museum has hosted many local school tours.

In recent years, partnering with the Farstad Foundation, the museum has been able to present scholarships to help those interested in aviation expand their horizon.

To figure out how YOU can help the Dakota Territory Air Museum continue to expand, either stop in or visit our website:  
[www.dakotaterritoryairmuseum.com](http://www.dakotaterritoryairmuseum.com)

Dakota Territory Air Museum P.O. Box 195 100 34th Ave. NE  
Minot, North Dakota 58702 701-852-8500



**Cover Photo:** P-51C Lope's Hope 3<sup>rd</sup> of the Bruce Eames Collection.  
Photo credit: Ed Cromwell



# Warbird News



## P-47 Thunderbolt Restoration Update From Aircorps Aviation

Here is a brief update on the restoration of the P-47D Thunderbolt. For the full article, please visit the museum's website, [www.dakotaterritoryairmuseum.com](http://www.dakotaterritoryairmuseum.com)

The fitting of the eight Browning M2 machine gun replicas began this month. Control surfaces are getting nearer to completion. Access panels for the gun and ammunition bays also received attention and the finished turbosupercharger has been mounted.



The fuselage, cockpit enclosure and left wing are in the photo below.



## P-40 Warhawk Returns to DTAM

After nearly two years, the museum's P-40E Warhawk has returned from an extended stay in Winnemucca, Nevada with a new engine! Come see it this summer in the warbird hangar!



**Above:** P-40 taxiing into the museum grounds.

**Below:** P-40 cleaned up and ready for viewing.



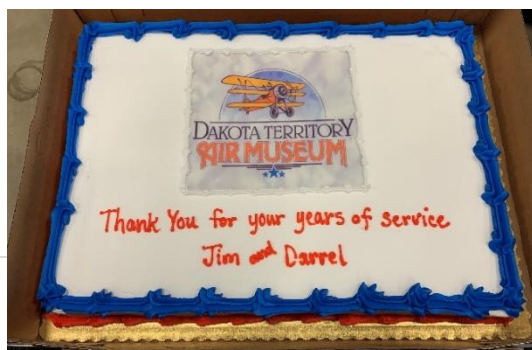
# Dakota Territory Air Museum Annual Meeting

## Held April 29, 2022

The DTAM Annual Meeting was held April 29, 2022. Minutes of the previous annual meeting were read by secretary of the board, Jonathan Rued. President Don Larson spoke about the happenings at the museum over the past year. Treasurer Mike Chilson presented the treasurer's report and financial statements and museum director Jenna Grindberg spoke on winter projects, school tours, summer education programs, and briefly on sweepstakes.

Jim Keller retired from the Board of Directors after 33 dedicated years of service. Darrel Kerzmann retired from the Board of Directors after 23 years of dedicated service. Thank you both for your years of support and work to help grow the museum to where it is today. You will both be sorely missed.

We would like welcome the three newest members to the Board of Directors: Samantha Blessum, Austin Greenheck, and Rod Loken. Congratulations on being elected to the Board!



**Above:** Museum members attending the annual meeting.



**Above:** Don Larson presents Jim Keller with a plaque commemorating his years of service.

**Below:** Don Larson presents Darrel Kerzmann with a plaque commemorating his years of service.





# DTAM Hosts School Groups



This spring, the Dakota Territory Air Museum hosted 22 school groups from around Western and Central North Dakota for educational tours. That adds up to 635 students and educators ranging in age from kindergarten up through 12<sup>th</sup> grade!

## ACE and PACE Camps



Our summer camps are filling up quick! Our first ACE camp session had 29 participants!

### ACE Camp dates:

June 3, 2022

June 7, 2022

June 28, 2022



### PACE Camp dates:

June 13-17, 2022

You can sign your 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> grader up for ACE and your 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grader up for PACE at [www.dakotaterritoryairmuseum.com](http://www.dakotaterritoryairmuseum.com)



# Featured Artifact

Did you know?

The Dakota Territory Air Museum features hundreds of artifacts on display in the showroom dating back to World War I.

## Oswin H. "Moose" Elker's Leather Flight Jacket and Ike Jacket



Oswin Elker, a Surrey, North Dakota native, flew with the 75<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron (Flying Tiger Sharks) of the Flying Tigers in the 14<sup>th</sup> Air Force which served in the China-Burma-India Theater. Oswin flew P-40 Warhawk's and P-51 Mustang's during his time with the 75<sup>th</sup>. He served with the U.S. Army Air Force from May 1941 until August 1945. He was awarded the Air Medal, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star, two Purple Hearts, several Campaign Decorations, a Chinese Medal, and a Jade Carving presented to him to Madame Chaing Kai-shek. Following his discharge, Oswin returned to the United States where he was employed by various heating and air conditioning contractors throughout the U.S. and Greenland. He eventually settled in Rochester, Minnesota where he lived until his passing in 1997. Oswin donated these two jackets along with many other pieces of memorabilia from his time in the war. Oswin left the DTAM a substantial monetary donation after his passing in 1997 which allowed the museum to build the Oswin H. Elker Memorial Wing.



# Volunteer Spotlight



**Above:** Dave Smith



**Above:** Arv Pomeroy

Dave Smith and Arvid Pomeroy have been volunteering at the Dakota Territory Air Museum since 2013. In their time as volunteer's, they have helped with many large and small projects around the museum including all of the static display aircraft outside (F-15 Eagle, F-106 Delta Dart, T-33 Shooting Star, A-7 Corsair II, and C-47 Skytrain). Today, they are working to complete restoration work on the C-47 (R4-D) nose cone in the Restoration Hangar and to complete the C-47 outside with a walk-through exhibit showing the three configurations used in World War II. Thank you, Dave and Arv, for all of your hard work and dedication!

**If you are interested in volunteer opportunities at the DTAM, please contact the museum at 701-852-8500 or email us at [airmuseum@minot.com](mailto:airmuseum@minot.com)!**



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