



DAKOTA TERRITORY AIR MUSEUM



Spring 2023

Newsletter

Volume 46





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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

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



Cover Photo: Warren Pietsch's Globe Swift.

P-51C Mustang "Thunderbird" Restoration Update

Restoration of this famous Bendix racer is nearing completion! Early in May, the V-1650-7 engine was mounted in preparation for the first engine run which took place near the end of May. For more information on the restoration of this incredible aircraft, please visit aircorpsaviation.com or dakotaterritoryairmuseum.com! These photos are courtesy of Aircorps Aviation.



Photo Above: The engine in the process of being mounted.

Photo Below: Engine mounting is complete and the aircraft is ready for its first run!



Photo Above and Below: Warren sits in the cockpit during Thunderbirds first engine run.



2023 Scholarship Winners Announced!

Since 2017, the Dakota Territory Air Museum's scholarship program has awarded \$150,000 in scholarships for aviation students in North Dakota. Dozens of recipients have utilized this wonderful opportunity to work towards solo certification, private pilot certificate, A&P certification, and more.

Since 2017, the Dakota Territory Air Museum's Education Outreach Program has received \$25,000 in funding used towards programs such as the ACE and PACE Camp programs which introduce the world of aviation to local youth.

None of this would be possible without the generous support of the Farstad Foundation and of Jeff Farstad. A heartfelt thank you goes out to Mr. Farstad for all he has contributed to the local aviation community through these sponsorships.

Congratulations to our 2023 scholarship winners!

Krystalyn Delph

Jose A. Nungaray Lino

Noah Stevens

Antoine Smith

Olivia Peatross

Houston Williams

Ellia Wilson

Hudson Coleman

Ron Major

Cody D. Sanders

Vanessa Albertson

Kayla Maedche

Cooper Fjeld

Audrina Ratajczyk

Jenna Grindberg



P-47D-23RA 42-27609 Takes to the Skies for the First Time in Nearly 80 Years!



A major milestone was reached in May in the restoration of the P-47 Thunderbolt. For the first time in nearly 80 years, this Thunderbolt graced the skies with a nearly flawless series of test flights. After its test flights, the aircraft was flown to Casselton, North Dakota to be painted. The scheme that was chosen is that of Maj. Bill Dunham's "Bonnie" from the PTO. For more information and videos of the aircraft in flight, please visit aircorpsaviation.com or dakotaterritoryairmuseum.com.

We would like to thank Bruce Eames for his unflinching dedication in making sure that history is not forgotten through the restoration and maintenance of not only this aircraft but the entire fleet of warbirds at the DTAM. Each airplane has a story to tell and that story is told as a living piece of history thanks to his support and contributions.

We would also like to thank Aircorps Aviation for their team's incredible talents in helping to make these restorations as accurate as possible ensuring the finished product is as it was when it rolled off the assembly line in 1942.



Photos are Courtesy of Aircorps Aviation. These were all taken during the test flight phase. The profile below is of Maj. Dunham's "Bonnie" from the PTO which is the paint scheme the aircraft will receive. In the bottom picture is Bruce, Bernie, and Warren in front of Miss Kitty III which was the chase plane for the test flights.



School Tour Season Winds Down

This year, the majority of class groups came in April and May. So far, we have had approximately 600 students, educators, scouts, and their leaders visit the museum! We had groups from as far as Devils Lake and Bismarck with the majority coming from within a 50-mile radius of Minot. We have approximately 300 more kids scheduled to come through the museum between June and August through summer programs with the Minot AFB Youth Groups, Minot YMCA and the Bismarck YMCA.



Top Photo: TLM 6th graders at the museum in April.

Bottom Photo: Kenmare 2nd graders at the museum in April.



2023 Community Event Schedule



For more information including admission
prices, please visit dakotaterritoryairmuseum.com

or give us a call at 701-852-8500.



June 17, 2023, 12-4pm: Festival of Flight

-Listen to the stories of the aircraft as told by those who fly them and then watch as the pilot runs-up and flies the aircraft over the museum. Several vintage aircraft from the 1920s, 30s, and 40s are slated to fly throughout the afternoon.*

***Please remember that aircraft flights will be weather-permitting and maintenance-permitting.**

July 12, 2023, 6-9pm: Wings and Wheels

-The museum is once again partnering with the Dakota Cruisers Car Club and showcasing approximately 150 vintage and classic cars, trucks, and motorcycles alongside the museum's vintage aircraft collection. The Hitchin Kitchen and Tim Dandy's BBQ will be set-up on the ramp and The Spot will be selling drinks in the hangar.

August 19, 2023, 2-5pm: Celebration of National Aviation Day and the 27th Annual Sweepstakes Grand Prize Drawing

-Come and celebrate National Aviation Day at the DTAM! At 4pm that day, we will draw for the grand prize of the 27th Annual Sweepstakes, a 1941 Interstate Cadet or \$20,000 cash!

September 23, 2023, 6-8pm: Women, Wine, and Wings

- Light appetizers and drinks are included in the price of this event. This event will feature a guest speaker and presentation that will highlight the contribution of women in the aviation industry. This event is not only for women, it's about women!

October 21, 2023, 7-11pm: Night at the Museum Hangar Dance and Silent Auction

- The final event for the 2023 season, the hangar dance is our most popular event! Dress in your best Golden Age outfit (1920s-1940s-era, not required but recommended!) and dance the night away! There will be food (Tim Dandy's BBQ, not included in the admission price), drinks (also not included in admission) served by The Spot, a silent auction with the proceeds benefiting museum operations, and historical skits. **This event is a 21+ event ONLY.**



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