2009 Collings Weekend, In Review

Many thanks to all the members who volunteered (or attended) the 2009 Collings Weekend. From August 7th thru August 10th we brought in roughly 1350 paying attendees (this number does not include the large group of World War II veterans who gathered at MAPS on Friday for a group photo). While attendance seemed down compared to the previous two years, consider that we had to contend with the Pro Football Hall Of Fame induction festivities, the NEC Golf Tournament, and very hot weather that weekend, plus the fact that Collings has been here 3 years in a row might have resulted in some “been-there-done-that-itis.” A special thanks to Event Chair Richard With and all the volunteers that pulled this event together.

While final numbers for Concessions, Gift Shop, and Dog Tag sales aren’t available at press time, based on the Admission sales, Membership revenues, and other income, it’s still sure to be our capstone fund raising event for the year. Thanks to all who helped!

Above: on Friday a large group of World War II veterans joined us for a photo in front of the B-17G. Left: Collings used part of the weekend to handle some necessary maintenance on the B-24J and B-17G. Below: looks like it belongs in there! The Collings P-51C nests in the large hangar.
Welcome, Tony McCune

I’d like to welcome Tony McCune, from Canton, who will be heading up the PR / Marketing / Media sections for MAPS, effective immediately. Starting with next month’s Briefing, there will be a new section featuring Member Interviews, with Tony as the first subject. Tony brings to MAPS extensive background in Writing, Marketing and PR, including much needed experience in the ’new media’ areas of the Internet that can only help us attract new visitors, members, and donors to MAPS’ doors. More on Tony in next month’s Member Interview!

Thanks To Briefing Contributors

I’d like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who’s contributed to producing the Briefing newsletter. Whether you provided written content, photos, proofreading skills, were somewhat grudgingly pressed into a folding / sealing / labeling crew, or you were the one to deliver the finished product to the Green Post Office, THANK YOU. While it only takes me 8-10 hours a month to produce this newsletter, I can’t begin to tell you how important your help has been in producing the Briefing on a regular basis. As Tony McCune’s responsibilities cover the website and Briefing newsletter areas, this will be my last issue as the newsletter editor, so I’d like to say thank you to all the contributors and volunteers who’ve helped me produce the Briefing newsletter so regularly. We’ll all still be involved in helping Tony get the newsletter done and out the door. - Jim Kohan

Congratulations, Kovesci Family

If you were looking for Kim Kovesci, our A-7 Corsair II Crew Chief, this past month, and couldn’t find him, chances are he was down in Pensacola for a very special ceremony. Congratulations to the Kovesci family on the recent ‘wring’ of their son, Ben, as a Naval Flight Officer. Fly Navy!

Membership Update

If you recall, in our 2008 Year In Review issue of the Briefing, we stated we wanted to hit 450 active memberships (mind you this is active membership, NOT active bodies, as a Family membership often brings 3 or 4 new bodies to MAPS. Well, as of this August 18th, we’re at 419 active memberships, well on track to meet our goal for this year. Thanks to Bob Schwartz who has helped create the membership paperwork process, Bob Barnett, who’s helped out with making badges, and to Carol Swain and Linda Lippert, who are faced with the often daunting task of reaching out to former members to see if they would like to re-join MAPS, or reaching out to new members to help with the ‘on-boarding’ process to get them actively involved in the day-to-day operations of the Museum.
Fall Hangar Dance - September 26, 2009

Please join us as we step back in time and enjoy an evening of 1940s Swing music during our 2009 Fall Hangar Dance. Swing music will once again be provided by the Gene Fiocca Band. Pre-sale tickets are $20.00 per person / $35.00 per couple, or may be purchased at the door for $25.00 per person / $40.00 per couple. Each ticket includes an appetizer plate (additional plates are available for purchase). Beverages are BYOB. Dress is military, vintage or ‘dressy’ attire, and besides the usual costume and dance contests, there will be a free Swing dance lesson offered to everyone at 7:15! Doors open at 7:00pm, music plays from 8:00pm to 11:00pm. All proceeds will benefit MAPS Air Museum's Operating and Restoration efforts. Help MAPS Air Museum continue our goal of preserving aviation history, while enjoying a nice Saturday evening out with friends and family.

Fall Pancake Breakfast - October 11, 2009

We invite friends and family to join us for our Fall 2009 Pancake Breakfast and Open House, to be held Sunday, October 11, 2009. Breakfast will be served from 8:00am until 1:00pm, and the Museum, Restoration Building and Hangar will be open until 2:00pm for self-guided tour. See the progress on our current restoration projects, including the Cold War F-86D Sabre, Vietnam era F-100 Super Sabre, World War II Martin B-26 Marauder (one of only six remaining in the world), A-7 Corsair II, T-37 Tweet, and World War II PT-19 trainer. Discuss restoration efforts with the crews, or tell ‘war stories’ with one of our veteran Tour Guides. The Gift Shop will also be open throughout the day. Breakfast prices are $5.00 for adults, $3.00 for children (12 and under), and include pancakes (all you can eat), sausage juice, milk, and coffee. All proceeds will benefit MAPS Air Museum's Operating and Restoration efforts. Help MAPS Air Museum continue our goal of preserving aviation history, while enjoying a nice Sunday out with friends and family.

Have You Ridden A Ford lately? - Joe Kohn has!

MAPS Member and Gift Shop volunteer Joe Kohn captured his flight in the EAA’s 1929 Ford Tri-Motor during the three day stop over at MAPS in June. Below are some of the photos that Joe was able to take during his flight.
MUSEUM HOURS

SUN  1100AM–400PM
MON  CLOSED
TUES 900AM–400PM
WEDS 900AM–900PM
THURS 900AM–400PM
FRI 900AM–400PM
SAT 900AM–400PM

ON THE WEB AT http://www.MAPSAirMuseum.org/

More 2009 Collings Weekend Photos...

Above Left: As we’ve come to expect, our orange-shirt Flight Line crew did an excellent job all weekend of keeping both the aircraft, and the visitors, out of harm’s way. Above Right: MAPS visitors inspect the Collings Foundation’s TP-51C at rest on the tarmac. Lower Right: MAPS visitors queuing up to board the Collings’ B-17G. I alluded last month to the tight spaces and scarce protection these aircraft offer only increasing my admiration for their flight crew. I can honestly admit that the aircraft haven’t gotten any bigger, and I haven’t gotten any smaller, since my walk-thru tour last year.