MAPS Christmas Party, December 11th

We’re happy to announce plans for our 2010 Christmas party have been finalized. The MAPS Christmas party will be held Saturday, December 11th starting at 6:00pm in the large Hangar. Our meal is being catered by Mr. Mike's Catering from Canton. The menu is chicken, ham, buttered parsley potatoes, green bean almondine, penne pasta with marinara sauce and salad bar, rolls & butter. There will be punch, coffee, and hot water for tea and of course those that would like to indulge in some Christmas cheer it’s BYOB. Dessert will be provided by some of the ladies of MAPS. Cost is $12.50. There is no tax and tip is optional for the servers.

As usual, we’ll be having our Annual Christmas Gift Exchange. Everyone who would like to partake in our crazy exchange, please come with a $10.00 gift (can be nice or something off the wall) wrapped or in a bag. For more information, Pat Schwartz & Linda Lippert are in charge of arrangements.

Annual 99’s Santa Fly-In, December 5th

The annual visit to MAPS from that most famous of all flyers, Santa Claus, is scheduled for Sunday, December 5 from 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. Sponsored by 99s/ Women With Wings and MAPS, Mr. and Mrs. Claus will be arriving at 1:00 via their personal aircraft (they gave the reindeer the day off) where the children can greet them as they exit the airplane.

Once inside the museum, there will be photos with the Clauses, refreshments and coloring activities for the children. There is no charge but donations are gladly accepted. Everyone is welcome! No reservations are required. Mark your calendar for December 6th and bring your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins and neighbors to enjoy a fun afternoon with the Clauses.
Random Volunteer Photos

As always, we’d like to thank the volunteers of MAPS that put their heart and soul into not only keeping this labor of love going, but helping to grow it and make it better every single day. Whether it’s restoring aircraft, renovating space in the hangar, and simple spending time with the volunteers, know that MAPS would be nothing with out your help, and for that we are truly grateful.

We’d like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy Holidays!
MAPS Winter Hours In Effect

Please take note MAPS has put Winter hours into effect. Not only do the winter hours reflect the lower number of visitors we see during the November to February, but also help reduce our very expensive utility costs during these cold months. As always, accommodations can be made for group tours with advanced notice. Winter hours are as follows:

- 10:00am to 4:00pm Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday
- 10:00am to 8:00pm Wednesday
- 11:30am to 4:00pm Sunday

Health Department Training Held at MAPS

In an effort to keep up with ever-changing regulations, and adequately train our Concessions staff, Carol Swain organized a training session for MAPS on November 18th. We brought the Summit County Health Department to discuss the requirements for running a concession stand, as we do for Collings Foundation and other events. 15 MAPS members were able to attend the session. Many thanks to Carol Swain for coordinating this training.

C-47 Dakota Restoration Update

Work is proceeding nicely on the C-47 Dakota restoration. External updates includes attaching the horizontal stabilizers, attaching the tail cone and stripping of the paint on the fuselage. The inside of the fuselage has been cleaned out and work proceeds on fixes to the internal structure.

As many of you know, the C-47 was damaged when a micro-burst broke the tie-down chains, picked up the tail of the C-47, rotated the aircraft and dropped the tail right on the boom of the AH-1 Cobra. With uncertainty of what MARC intended to do with the aircraft, it sat for years. Thanks to Ron Duplain and the rest of the C-47 Restoration Crew for their hard work on this very important bird.
Rosie the Riveter Video Filmed At MAPS

Anne Montague, a MAPS member and Executive Director and Founder of “Thanks! Plain and Simple” a non profit organization in West Virginia with national goals, is creating a model process that communities in America can use to honor "Rosie the Riveters" - women who worked "on the home front" during World War II, often performing critical jobs that, up till then, were "men's work." Anne was accompanied by “Thanks! Plain and simple” videographer Tijah Bumgarner and Mazie Mullins from Charleston, WV. At MAPS they met up with MAPS Member Edith "Whitey" Franks. Curator Jim Cameron and Director Bob Schwartz escorted the group on a tour of the museum.

Mazie Mullins, from near Charleston, WV, moved to Akron during the war years and helped build B-26 wings at Goodyear Aircraft. After the war she moved back to Charleston. Mazie said she was to meet her boyfriend under a tree at a park but he did not return.

Edith "Whitey" Franks, a MAPS member and an Akron resident originally from West Virginia riveted Corsairs and has been active in getting Aeronautical Museums across America to recognize the contribution of "Rosies." It was her efforts that first awakened MAPS to the contribution of “Rosies” and she was instrumental in helping design MAPS’ Rosie display, located in the Gallery of Heroes.

After Mazie mentioned she worked on B-26 wings we showed her the MAPS B-26 wing just out side the hangar, which had been recently painted. Mazie was excited as she ran her hands over the wing, pointing out seams and riveted areas she still remembers after 65 years. Videographer Tijah Bumgarner videoed the tour as the group visited our “Rosie the Riveter” display and inspected the B-26 wing. Mazie and Edith were shown our “cleco” display and relived installing and removing clecos. They also were given a rivet gun and displayed their riveting techniques. Anne Montague said that she hopes to have the “Rosie” video available next June.

Large Hangar Brick Work In Progress

Much progress has been made installing the massive brick wall on the west side of the large Hangar. As many of you recall, the bricks were kindly donated by the Belden Brick Company, but MAPS then run into issues trying to line up masons to build the wall. Several attempts to work with Unions and Apprentice Groups were either non-starters or were put on hold as real-world requirements took their time. As of the November meeting, we needed to purchase roughly 1,000 bricks to finish the job.
Resto Building Roof Drain System Installed

We’re happy to announce the roof drainage system to alleviate the myriad of leaks in the Restoration Building has been installed. As you know, this has been a long-term problem, given the flat roof of the Restoration Building. Thanks to the numerous (and ingenious) “umbrellas” constructed and the hard work of the Curator staff of moving displays and artifacts over to the large hangar, we were quite lucky water never damaged any of our artifacts.

Some work still needs to be done to get the water away from the building, but it appears the system is working as designed, and the water’s no longer coming through the roof. Thanks to our facilities team for coordinating this effort!

Don Block - Youngest Known Marauder Pilot

MAPS member and Tour Guide, Don Block, has been recognized by the B-26 Marauder Historical Society, located in Pima Arizona, as the youngest known WWII B-26 Marauder pilot. Don served with the 387th Bomb group, 558th Bomb Squadron, and flew 65 bombing missions from bases in England and France from June 1944 until April 1945.

The recognition from the B-26 Marauder Historical Society is based on Don’s date of birth and his USAAF Form 5 paperwork certifying he first flew a B-26 Marauder on October 15th 1943. The paperwork supports the fact that Don was 19 years, 3 month, and 24 days old when he first piloted the B-26. This documentation was sufficient for the B-26 MHS to recognize Don as the youngest known B-26 pilot. This recognition will appear on their http://www.b-26mhs.org website. The Society cannot state unequivocally that Don is THE youngest as there were many thousands of WWII B-26 pilots and records of their age when first piloting a Marauder were never kept.

It must be noted Don was still only 19 years old when he flew his first combat mission, on June 20th, 1944.

We are all very proud of Don, his many contributions to MAPS, and are greatly pleased he has received this well deserved recognition.

Don’s Report of Separation showing his full birth date of 22 June 1924. 1st recorded B-26 flight was 15 Oct 1943.

Don and his B-26 Marauder crew. Don proudly wearing his Honor Flight hat on a Honor Flight trip to Washington D.C. flight
Young Eagles Flights Offered At MAPS

Thanks to MAPS members and the local EAA Chapter, MAPS was host to Young Eagles Day in October. For those of you who don’t know, the EAA Young Eagles program offers youth 7 to 17 (or those young-at-heart) the chance to take their first flight in a private aircraft for free. Young Eagle pilots donate their time, expertise, aircraft and even the operating costs for the flights out of their own pocket. Young Eagle flights have been a huge draw for bringing youth and their families to the Museum. Many thanks to all those who volunteered in another successful Young Eagles day!