

# Genesee Warbirds

[www.geneseewarbirds.org](http://www.geneseewarbirds.org)

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## Newsletter February 2010

The 2010 flying season is just around the corner and the Board of Trustees would like to inform you of the recent museum activities and the plans for 2010.

2009 ended on a good note for the museum. Genesee Warbirds was very fortunate to receive a donation of a Spanish Air Force Hispano Aviacion HA-200 jet, more commonly referred to as a Casa Jet. The jet was donated to the museum by Dr. and Mrs. John Beaman of Richton, Mississippi. We are very grateful to the Beamans for this very generous donation. With this Casa jet, Genesee Warbirds is now the largest operator of flying Casa jets, totaling four jets. We also have a fifth aircraft, which will be restored to flying status in the future.

With this additional Casa jet, we are now able to fly a four-ship formation of Casa jets at air shows and other events. The jet is in excellent condition and it will also be used for experience flights and pilot training. If you would like to participate in the flying of this unique aircraft, please become a sponsor. Each jet requires a team of volunteers who are dedicated to maintaining the aircraft in flying condition and displaying it at air shows. Go to the museum webpage and download the Genesee Warbirds sponsorship program for more details.

As many of you may know, our Mig-15uti is a rare factory build two seat trainer version of the single seat fighter. The aircraft was built in Poland under license and flew with the Polish Air Force. It arrived on a trailer in Batavia via Reno, Nevada. The re-assembly of the Mig is ongoing under the direction of the aircraft Crew Chief Kevin Rose. Last year, museum volunteers worked on the aircraft and were able to get the wings and tail installed. It is really nice to see the Mig standing on its gear.

The plan this year is to complete the re-assembly of the Mig and to conduct taxi tests and possibly flight tests. Once all system checks are complete, a total restoration will commence ending with a Soviet Union Air Force paint scheme. We hope to add a T-33 to the museum collection so that it can be displayed alongside the Mig 15 at air shows, thereby representing the Korean War era. Kevin's restoration team meets every Saturday from 12:00 noon until 5:00 p.m. The Mig team will start meeting again on Saturday as soon as the warm weather returns. Please join as a sponsor or just become part of the Mig team. The aircraft will eventually become a center piece of our collection.

Last year the de Havilland Vampire arrived. This unique British fighter is a two seat trainer version in British Air Force colors. Whenever possible the museum seeks out two seat versions of jet fighters as they allow the museum to conduct pilot training and experience flights. Museum volunteers spent nine days working on the aircraft in order to get it ready for its flight back to Batavia. It was really fantastic to see the aircraft arrive. It is such an unusual design and

the engine has its own unique sound. Because of its unique qualities, we believe that there will be great interest by air shows to have the Vampire attend their events.

In mid-April the Vampire will undergo electrical system upgrades and its annual condition inspection and should be flying shortly thereafter. The museum is looking for sponsors for the Vampire and you are encouraged to join the team. Please help keep this aircraft flying and attending air shows. The museum currently has plans to train new pilots on the Vampire this year. If you are interested in becoming a museum pilot, please review the sponsorship program. If you are interested in getting a flight in any of the museum aircraft, please call the museum. The museum is looking to add a de Havilland Venom to the collection and is currently negotiating in this regard.

The Fouga Magister jet was the first aircraft donation received by the museum in 2007. It flew last year and will fly again this year. As with all museum aircraft, we are looking for sponsors and team volunteers to help keep the airplane maintained and displayed in flying condition. The Fouga jet, like the Casa jet, is an excellent jet trainer and an entry level aircraft for new jet warbird pilots. The Fouga is painted in the colors of the Finnish Air Force and we hope to refurbish the paint this year. Please help us keep this wonderful aircraft flying by joining as a sponsor or member of the Fouga team.

The museum's primary goal in 2010 is to obtain a land lease at the Batavia airport and to build the first of two aircraft hangars. Right now the museum operates out of several T-hangars which are not convenient or well suited to our operation. We need to grow our facility. As such, 2010 will kick off our hangar construction fund raising efforts. Our goal is to raise \$65,000 to fund the construction of hangar number one. Hangar one will be of sufficient size to hold three of the museum's aircraft, along with restoration equipment, machines, tools and storage shelving. It will function as the restoration and maintenance facility. Please help us in our fund raising efforts. Every donation is welcome and you will receive a receipt for tax deduction purposes. You will receive fund raising information in the mail soon.

Trustee and museum Treasurer Carl McQuillen's term on the Board ended in December of 2009. The Board of Trustees would like to extend a sincere thank you to Carl and his wife Susan for all of their efforts during Carl's term on the Board. We are truly grateful and very appreciative of all they have done. Carl will remain active in the museum as he is type rated in several jet warbirds and is the museum's helicopter pilot.

The Board is pleased to announce that there will be an open house and flying day this Spring to kick off the flying season. The date has not yet been selected but it will be sometime in late May. You will receive an announcement once the date is confirmed. The museum will be open to the public and all of the aircraft will be on display. Throughout the day each of the classic jet warbirds will fly. Refreshments will be available and flights can be arranged for those who are interested. Come out with the family and join the fun.

The museum is forming an air show marketing committee this year. Members of the committee will market and handle bookings for the museum jets to attend air shows and events. Committee members will attend air shows and participate in the annual International Counsel of

Air Shows convention held in Las Vegas each December. If you would be interested in volunteering for this committee please call the museum.

Each member of the museum will be receiving a 2010 membership renewal in the mail shortly. The Board of Trustees had previously decided to waive the renewal fee for the 2009 due to delays in museum activities that were beyond our control. When you receive your renewal notice please renew your membership, as we need everyone's support. The museum also sends email notices and e-newsletters. It is very important that you update your email with the museum. This will insure that you receive prompt notices about events and activities.

The Board of Trustees would like to thank all of the members for their continued support. We again extend our sincere appreciation and thanks to all those people who have donated aircraft, equipment, money and time to the museum. Now it is time to get ready for the 2010 flying season and to build upon our success. Please join us as a volunteer and help keep these classic jets flying.

Sincerely yours,

The Board of Trustees  
Karl Kunze, President  
Robert Williams  
George Kunze  
Kay Eckardt  
Steven Lucia