



Official newsletter of the:  
**Pioneer Valley Military & Transportation Museum, Inc.**  
A 501(c)3 Non-Profit Educational Organization

Volume 10, Issue 1

# Propulsion

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

Newsletter Date: Spring 2009

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## WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE ON OUR BOARD?

Let us know! We are looking to fill several positions.



## Message from the President

Hello Members,

We had a financially successful 2008! Unfortunately, due to certain setbacks, we did not accomplish as much on our site as we had hoped, but we plan to make it up in 2009. There were several notable accomplishments last year. As I mentioned in our last newsletter, we sold the Antonov AN-2. In late September, several of our members helped prepare it for a ferry flight to South Carolina. It was very interesting work and it was a wonderful sight to see it fly away! The ferry pilot, Stan Boyer, did a fantastic job and flew an incident free flight to its new home. We hope the new owners get good use of the airplane. Also, we have recently sold several aircraft parts that were given to us. Even though we are not a parts dealer, we have profited very well from these sales which make the efforts of a few, well worth the sweat. I am very pleased to report our bank account has grown substantially. It is my goal to do whatever it takes to accumulate as

much seed money as we can in order to begin our capital campaign and we are moving forward nicely.

Our Annual Benefit Dance, which was held last September at the East Mountain Country Club, was well attended. We danced to great music performed by Cory and The Knightsmen. The food was delicious as it always is at EMCC. Many raffle prizes, donated by several local businesses, were given away to our guests. Mark Perez of EMCC put together an awesome display of aircraft parts that have been found on the golf course property over the years. The parts are from the crash of two F86E's in 1952 that were performing at Westfield Barnes Airport for a dedication and air show.



Pilot Stan Boyer checks the fuel in the Antonov

## Message from the President (continued)

We will be holding our 2009 Annual Meeting on March 28th at the Westwood Pub in Westfield. Dinner will be primarily for board members with limited availability if other PVMTM members are interested in joining us. Please call Dorothy at 455-8678 for information. The main purpose of this meeting is to re-assign our board with a quick vote and to discuss some of our 2009 plans. We opted for a small meeting this time to save money and to focus our efforts on other larger events later in the year.

We are looking forward to the warmer spring weather! We plan to continue working on clearing the property, preparing for future construction. If you are interested in volunteering, we are always looking for help Saturday mornings between 9:00 and noon. Also, keep an eye out for our 2009 events. So far, we have tentative dates for several outings. Please keep August 29<sup>th</sup> open for our Annual Hangar Dance at the airport! We are preparing for another good time.

Leo Dube

President PVMTM



Antonov ferry flight preparation crew

Leo, Stan, Harland and Al.

## Events in 2008



Harland gets an award for his PT23 at the Simsbury Air Show in late September



A Half Track is parked next to our PVMTM tent at the Veterans celebration at Brainerd Airport

Carol gets a ride home from Simsbury to Westfield



Thunderbirds at Westover ARB in early September



Check out [www.pvmtm.org](http://www.pvmtm.org) for the latest information on events!

## Help Us Out!

This spring and summer the members of the board as well as other volunteers will be at the museum site working on several projects. Stop by the museum site on Airport Road Saturday mornings from 9am until 12pm to help out. We have breakfast at The Runway Restaurant at the Airport Terminal on Saturdays at 8am. Stop in for a coffee or breakfast before we get to work.

**In the event of inclement weather, call Leo (529-9296) for confirmation of whether we are at the site or if other plans have been made!**

We plan to continue working throughout the summer and fall every Saturday.

There will be plenty to do!

***We will begin as soon as the snow is gone!***

## Souvenirs keep turning up at East Mountain Country Club in Westfield. by Susan Taylor

Mark Perez of East Mountain Country Club says "Every time I go out with my metal detector, I come up with something." Perez was referring to a crash that involved two F-86 Sabrejets on October 19, 1952. The crash occurred just minutes before the end of an air show at Barnes Airport and happened over the Country Club property. The air show was part of a dedication exercise of the 131st Fighter-Interceptor Squadron of the Massachusetts Air National Guard.

PVMTM member Bob Seher informed Perez that his father Al Seher had actual photographs he took while the planes were in the air. They actually show the fireball upon impact and the smokey trails of falling wreckage. Two pilots lost their lives in that crash, Capt. Fred Stevens of Salem, Virginia and Lt. Robert Danell of Wakefield, Massachusetts.

The latest debris found was a USAF Bomb Target Wind Scale that has been positively identified as belonging on a F-86E. Also found were 50 caliber rounds, some still intact. Perez says that eventually he would like to erect a monument for the two pilots somewhere on the Country Club.

## This Month In History By Susan Taylor

March 2009 marks the 64th anniversary of the Battle For Iwo Jima. Everyone is familiar with the picture of the U.S. Marines raising the flag atop Mt. Suribachi, but the cost in human life was staggering. The Japanese had been using Iwo Jima (the Sulphur Island) for months, creating an intricate system of tunnels that afforded them near-perfect cover. Within these tunnels, the Japanese had fashioned dormitories, kitchens, a complete hospital, armory and machine shops. Fighting began with air and surface bombardment on February 16th and the final victorious U.S. Marines left Iwo Jima on April 18th. The Battle for Iwo Jima was the costliest battle in lives lost to date. There were approximately 24,053 American casualties with 6,140 dead. Japanese losses were approximately 22,000. One-quarter of all Medal Of Honor recipients fought on Iwo Jima. Total medals given out: 27.

March 1942: A steamship was torpedoed and sunk by German Sub U-160 off Cape Hatteras, North Carolina.

March 1943: The War Production Board began rationing Fat (for munitions), Meat, and Cheese.

March 1944: P-40s attack German gun positions on the Anzio battle lines and targets of opportunity in the Cassino area.

March 1945: Gen. Mark Clark races to beat British forces to be the first to capture Rome.

### 2008 Board of Directors:

President

Leo Dube 529-9296

Vice President

Harland Avezzie 562-2565

Treasurer

Carol Dube 529-9296

Secretary

Dorothy Foley 455-8678

### Directors:

Don Chouinard

Jim Curran

Peter Howe

Norman Mullings

Cal Pixley

Bill Howard

Susanne Chase

Ed Phillips

## Calendar of Events!

- **March 28th** ~ PVMTM Annual Meeting / Dinner ~ Westwood Pub ~ Westfield, MA ~ Please call Dorothy at 455-8678 for information
- **May 2nd** ~ Intrepid Museum ~ New York City, NY ~ PVMTM field trip
- **June 13th** ~ Old Rhinebeck Aerodrome ~ Rhinebeck, NY ~ PVMTM field trip
- **June 27th** ~ EAA fly-in ~ Museum Site ~ Westfield – Barnes Airport
- **August 29th** ~ Annual PVMTM Hangar Dance and Cruise-In ~ Westfield Barnes Airport

***\*All the above are tentative dates and pending approvals\****

Confirmation of the dates and more info to come ~ Stay Tuned!

**Check [www.pvmtm.org](http://www.pvmtm.org) for the latest information on special events!**

**Please let us know if you can help at the events (distribute flyers, provide sponsorship, attend as a volunteer, etc.)**

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

Transportation Education



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