



The Liberator Newsletter

Mel Harmon Chapter 128 – First Quarter 2006
Pueblo, Colorado

Mel Harmon Chapter Officers

President: Russell Darr 719-251-5751
Vice President: Stephen Csogi 719 947-3734
Secretary: Rob Blake 719-543-2753
Treasurer: R.J. Schultz 719-250-4701
Historian: Robert Blake
VP – Aerospace Education: Jason Unwin
VP – Membership: Boyd Baldauf
VP – Veteran's Affairs: Warren Barter
VP – Education Programs: Jason Unwin
VP – Newsletter: Rob Blake 719-543-2753

personal, escorted and group tours through the museum. As he conducts these tours, he gives vivid details of his combat flight experiences in WWII and the Korean War. Robert Blake works with Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Frank Kase three days a week recording the financial information. Jason Unwin sits in on the PHAS (Pueblo Historical Society) executive board meetings helping to coordinate monthly events. Finally, R. J. Schultz, our chapter's treasurer, is now the President of the PHAS.

President's Report

The first quarter of 2006 begins with a variety of activities for the Mel Harmon chapter. Before I list some of these activities, I want to wish everyone a "Happy New Year".

Moving into the first quarter finds the chapter once again looking at a very active year. Without doubt, hosting the AFA State Conference on August 11 and 12 will be at the top of the list. Other activities for the year include: Valentine Meals to veteran's nursing homes in Pueblo and Florence, our annual awards banquet tentatively scheduled for Friday, April 22, Open Cockpit Day the last Saturday of each month, Model Rocket Building and Flying Days each month, the Veteran's Parade in Pueblo and Avendale, coordinating events with the Civil Air Patrol Pueblo chapter, and rounding out the last month of the year with the Christmas banquet and "Century of Flight + 3.

Also, our members work very closely with the Pueblo Historical Aircraft Society volunteering for numerous duties. Russell Darr puts in countless hours operating the Museum's gift shop, Vince Gorden (A new chapter member) gives

Other chapter members such as Dave Ridge (CAP), Stephen Csogi (Executive chef), Warrant Barter (American Legion), Dave Thomson (Past AFA State President), Jeff Chostner (Pueblo City Council), Teresa Tofoya (Now AFA State Secretary) help contribute to the outstanding work of the chapter. These are the people that made our chapter the Nation's Small Outstanding Chapter for two consecutive years (2004 and 2005). I will ask them once again to continue their commitment so we can continue to maintain the current level of achievement. Let us make it a "Three Peat"

Yes, our chapter is very active in the Pueblo community. As we move forward into 2006, I want to leave you with some fuel for thought: "The spirit, the will to win, and the will to excel are the things that endure. These qualities are so much more important than the events that occur" – Vince Lombardi.

Why not become involved in our chapter's activity? Give me a call or contact other members.

Russell Darr, AFA Mel Harmon Chapter President

Civil Air Patrol
Dave Ridge Pueblo Chapter

Members of the Pueblo chapter helped to support the “Centennial of Flight + 2 on Saturday, December 10. They served as guides for the “Open Cockpit” event. As always the CAP does this volunteer duty the last Saturday of each month. Bring a friend out to the museum and jump into the cockpit of the selected plane on that date. You are sure to enjoy this treasured experience.



Building rockets at “Centennial of Flight + 2”



Centennial of Flight + 2

The chapter sponsored this event on Saturday, December 10. It was, beyond doubt, a great success as some 250 adults and children attended. Jason Unwin and Teresa Tafoya did an outstanding job planning the activity that celebrates the beginning of mans quest to fly. Remember it all started with the Wright brothers in 1903.



Sitting in the cockpit of an F 104
“Centennial of Flight + 2”

Everyone was treated to a variety of aerospace activities that included: fantasy of flight computer flight simulators, model rocket building, aviation model displays, scavenger hunt, paper airplane contest, tabletop landing simulators, sitting in the cockpit of planes, and, of course, refreshments. All of this was available at a reduced admission charge courtesy of our chapter.

This has now become an annual event that attracts many flight enthusiasts. Mark this on your December 2006 calendar as a must see activity.

Veteran’s Affairs – Warren Barter



A flight simulator at “Centennial of Flight + 2”

As a holiday treat, the Mel Harmon chapter delivered pizzas to the Pueblo Veteran’s Nursing Home on Friday, December 16. Our appreciation for their services to the country is regular scheduled activity. Community Partner Dave Feamster, owner of Caesar’s Pizza, provides the food for this event. Thanks Dave. Pizzas were delivers and distributed by Warren Barter and R. J. Schultz.

The next veteran’s activity will be delivering meals to the Florence and Pueblo Veteran’s Nursing Homes in February celebrating Valentine’s Day. Community Partners Bart Hall (Carl’s Junior, Florence) and Dave Feamster (Caesar’s Pizza) sponsor this meal.

Please consider supporting our Community Partners

**Christmas Dinner
Wednesday, December 7**

The chapter was treated to a fantastic Christmas holiday buffet at the Pueblo Country Club. This was attended by twenty seven enthusiastic supporters. Special guest speaker Brigadier General William P. Kane; the commander of the 302nd Airlift Wing, Peterson Air Force Base, gave a presentation on the wings activity, both local and foreign deployments. He went on to explain the importance Pueblo plays in the training C-130 crews. These crews practice both day and night landings at the Pueblo airport sometimes using night vision equipment. This training is essential in preparation for actual landings in Afghanistan and other Middle East countries.



Brigadier General William P. Kane

Veteran's Parade

The chapter entered a float in the November 5 Veteran's Parade in Pueblo. Chapter Treasure R. J. Schultz supplied the float while chapter members pitched in to prepare it for the parade. It appears that they did an outstanding job.



**The 15th Annual
Moonlight Ball**

The Pueblo Historical Aircraft Society is planning for the next Moonlight Ball. The date will be Saturday, April 8, 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Location will be the Pueblo Convention Center. This is a money raiser for the Pueblo Weisbrod Aircraft Museum. Tickets are \$45 each with no refunds. Plan on enjoying a gourmet dinner followed by dancing to the Dwight Shaw Septet. Call the museum at 948-9219 for further information.

**Awards
Banquet**

This years awards banquet is scheduled for Saturday, April 22. Nominations are now taking place for the following: Aerospace Educator, Citizen of the Year, Pioneer, Aerospace Student (K-12), and CAP Cadet. Nominations need to be submitted to the selection committee, Robert Blake 543-2753, Russell Darr 251-5751, and Teresa Tafoya 252-1916. The location and times will be announced at a later date.

**Stop
Look
Read**

Our next chapter meeting will be Monday, February 6 at **6:30** p.m. The AFA state leadership team will be here.

They will be giving us guidance on planning for the August AFA state conference. Because we are hosting this conference, Russell Darr wants to get as many chapter members involved as possible.

The Air Force Magazine's January 2006 edition has an article about us on page 77.

Frontier Business Products

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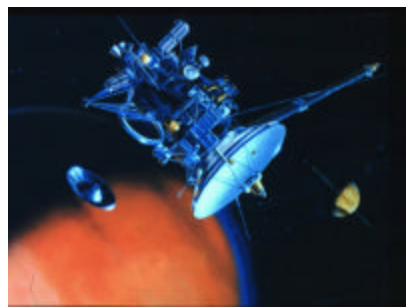
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RICOH

↓ Planning Calendar ↓

2005-06 Calendar Dates

- 6 FEB:** Chapter Meeting
B24 Museum 6:30 p.m.
- 6 MAR:** Chapter Meeting
B24 Museum 7:00 p.m.
- 3 APR:** Chapter Meeting
B24 Museum 7:00 p.m.
- 1 MAY:** Chapter Meeting
B24 Museum 7:00 p.m.
- 1 JUN:** Chapter Meeting
B24 Museum 7:00 p.m.
- 3 JUL:** Chapter Meeting
B24 Museum 7:00 p.m.



**Support
Aerospace Education**

Events

- 13 and 14 February Meals to Vets
- 28 January Open Cockpit Day
- Second Saturday of each month Model Rocket Building Days
- Third Saturday of each month Model Rocket Flying Days
- Awards Banquet 22 April
- 8 April – Moonlight Ball
- Planning for AFA State Conference August 11 and 12 each meeting
- AFA Membership 719-545-6277
- Boyd Baldauf Join Now!!

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