President's Message

by Bob Campbell

As I take the helm as President, I want to thank Laura for her dedicated leadership of the CLMF as President. She and Art are transitioning to their new home in Gardnerville, NV, and thankfully, they have generously volunteered to continue as valued members of the Board.

I am optimistic that we are on the cusp of achieving the next step of our vision in the transition of our Museum into Ridgecrest. Briefly, our plans are to build an expanded 60' x 120' x 16' metal building (Phase 2a) using our current building budget which hopefully will be sufficient to accomplish the task. We may find that we will have to complete some “self-help” increments, but I hope not. The need to leverage our inventory of exhibits, which currently reside on the Base, drove this decision to build a simpler building, rather than waiting for a larger Phase 2b iconic hanger concept.

The COVID pandemic has definitely impacted us, along with everyone else. We hope you find the time to visit our gift shop which has a donated item section for sale in lieu of the annual dinner auction sales, while COVID restrictions are in force. We are continually sanitizing and following guidelines for safe distancing at this time.

We have continued to focus on expanding our outdoor exhibit suite which will be temporarily displayed away from the construction zone, on the drive next to the current Museum. The most recent addition is a set of Bowen Cameras that were key to recording early missile shots on the ranges. Tom Miller is working to make at least one of the cameras into presentable condition for display. We want to thank T & T Alignment, for generously donating and mounting tires to facilitate our ability to move the cameras.

That's it for now. I look forward to any input you may have.

Happy Birthday

Wishing a very Happy 100th Birthday to Eleanor Campbell. She is a China Lake Museum Foundation Founder, Life Member, and a China Lake/NOTS Pioneer. We are glad you're here!
Meet the new members of our Board of Directors!

Meet Russ Bates

After four years in the Air Force during the Viet Nam war, 37 years working for Naval Aviation while concurrently serving 25 years of Naval Reserve duty as an Aeronautical Engineering Duty Officer, I feel like it is time to give back to China Lake. My wife and I both had great careers at China Lake. My father worked at China Lake for many years, and my son now works at China Lake. We all love this place. China Lake is unique and I feel blessed to have had a career here. I pledge to do my best to promote the China Lake Museum and to make it a great representation of the organization that we all love.

Meet Tom Miller

Tom Miller, NWC-NAWC range rat from 1978 to 2014. I graduated from Chico State with a degree in Mechanical Engineering in 1978 and China Lake was my first full time engineering job. I hired on in the Engineering Support Branch supporting AIM 9L production of wings and fins. But an opening arose on the ranges in the Optical Instrumentation Branch where I had toured. I loved the range instrumentation and testing world so I stayed there until I retired. I worked with engineers on the modification, design, development and operational implementation of several tracking instruments, including Askanias, M-45s, laser trackers and KTMs. These systems used cameras including the first stop action video to high speed digital cameras. My wife Betty also worked on the base in wellness and professional recruiting so we both have a strong connection to China Lake. I have always enjoyed history, museums and construction so the opportunity to join the China Lake museum board is an ideal retirement opportunity, or adventure, as I like to say.

How did China Lake get its name?

In 1863 the Carson and Colorado narrow-gauge railroad was completed from Keeler in the Owens Valley to Carson City, Nevada. Ores from the White Mountains could now be shipped north on the train to Carson City smelters, and vegetables and farm products from the Owens Valley had a better means of transport to markets north and south. China Lake was named for the Chinese railroad workers who migrated south after building the railroad. They mined borax on the north shore of the playa (dry lake bed) for a short time. The operation was known locally as “The Little Chinese Borax Works.” Chinese talents were also used to build the freight wagon roads. Remains of Chinese rockwork can be seen at the Slate Range Pass on the old wagon road, which went from Red Mountain to Ballarat in the Panamint Valley to the east of the Indian Wells Valley.

In 1920 the U.S. Geographical Board gave the name Indian Wells Valley to our area, consolidating what had been the Brown, Salt Wells, and Inyokern Valleys.
Notes from the Annual Membership Meeting

The 2020 China Lake Museum Foundation Membership Meeting was held on December 3 via ZOOM. This was a first for us, and maybe for you as well!

We appreciate everyone that was able to log on or call in. For those that were not able to join us, we wanted to share a quick recap:

1. The meeting began at 5:15 pm, and Laura Hickle, the then-President of the China Lake Museum Foundation led the meeting.
2. There was a brief discussion of the various types of membership and associated benefits.
3. Alice Campbell and Megan Rawson teamed up to make a great video of our China Lake Museum campus in Ridgecrest that was shared.
4. Laura conducted a Holiday Trivia contest. Jenny McLaughlin was the winner, with Dave Cobbel a close second.
5. Laura read short bios of the newest Board Members, Tom Miller and Russ Bates.
6. There were questions from the audience regarding the current number of CLMF members.
7. There were several other questions from attendees.
8. Dr. Bob Smith provided an overview of the CLMF interactions with NAWCWD Command Artifacts.
9. Finally, it was announced that Laura would be stepping down as President of the CLMF, and Bob Campbell would become the CLMF President for Fiscal Year 21. Bob spoke briefly prior to the end of the meeting.

News From the Gift Shop

Happy New Year!!! We hope that everyone has been happy and healthy throughout the Christmas Season! Here in the Gift Shop things are going strong!! The Gift Shop remains OPEN. We would like to thank everyone that has come into the Gift Shop, placed an on-line order, or made a donation over the last few months. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!!

As we move into the new year, there are new things coming into the Gift Shop. We have a new F-35 patch, new ornaments that make amazing sun catchers, shirts, puzzles, and so much more. If you are in the area, you should come stop by and see what we have. We are practicing all social distance regulations and have plenty of hand sanitizer available. Masks are required for entry.

If you are more comfortable shopping on-line, new items on our website are tagged “New Items” for fast reference. Our website is www.chinalakemuseum.org and then scroll down to “Gift Shop”. You will be able to see everything we have available from there. Email Jenn @ chinalakemuseumstoremanager@gmail.com if you have any questions about the Gift Shop goodies.
Things Are Happening!

The VLA has been Mounted!

On the bright and chilly morning of December 18, with the generous assistance of Ken Blades Trucking operating the heavy machinery, the Vertical Launch ASROC was placed on her mount. The VLA is located in the Southwest corner of the Museum complex near the West gate. Come by to admire her beauty!

A HUGE Thank You to the following people for making this happen:

- Russ Bates
- Ken Blades
- Bob Campbell
- Art Hickle
- Tom Miller

Memorial Funds Making a Difference

New signs have been placed in the Cargo Container Structure to commemorate those whose memorial funds made the concrete floor possible.

THE CONCRETE FLOOR IN THIS STRUCTURE WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY MEMORIAL DONATIONS MADE IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE

- Frank St. George
- Edna Fujiwara
- Virginia Boyd
- Robert A. Wilson
- Lee Lakin
- Ed Brooks
- La V McLean
- David N. Livingston
- Ivar Highbeg
- Allyn “Owl” Berryman
Things Are Happening!

Bowen Cameras

The CZR-1, Bowen, camera is an example of the ballistic or acceleration camera used on the China Lake Ranges to capture high speed images of rockets in flight. The camera’s invention is credited to Dr. Ira Bowen from CalTech who was the first head of the photographic section for China Lake rocket testing (see article by Jack Latimer in The China Laker of 28 Feb. 2015). This camera is a second generation camera to the RC-2 and was built by the Navy in Philadelphia, PA. It was in use from the early days of China Lake through the 1990s.

The Bowen Cameras are currently being re-paired in the Cargo Container Structure area.

A special thank you to T & T Alignment for donating tires and mounting them on the cameras!

“In one of the most critical phases of air weapons development at the Naval Weapons Center, test firing and data acquisition on the instrument-studded G-Ranges, two women make a significant contribution to the Center’s mission. The two women are Estaline Cottingham and Mrs. Marie McArtor, the two most experienced and capable missile trackers on the Center’s ranges, according to their supervisors in Code 30’s Optical Instrumentation Branch, Instrument Operations Division.”

-Rocketeer, Vol. XXII, No. 31
August 4, 1967

Pictured is Marie McArtor, 93, who paid us a visit at the Museum to check out our Bowen Cameras and tell us stories of her time working with them. Thank you, Marie!
Thank You to our Supporters!
The following individuals have made donations since the November 2020 Newsletter:

George & Jean Anderson
Bruce & Ann Auld
Herb & Carol Barry
Russ & Linda Bates
Steve & Mary Boster
Al Benton & Mary Brown
Kenwood Benton
Henry Blecha
Karen Bruno
William Burns
Bob & Alice Campbell
Eleanor Campbell
Fred & Marianna Camphausen
Mike Cash
Leroy Corlett
Ken & Rose Davis
Dolores Di Pol
Alston Dotson
Wayne & Pat Doucette
Barry & Cathy Douglas
David Eastham
Hank & Linda Eberhart
Shirley Fisher
Jan & Cornelia Flora
Robert & Norine Fojt
Monte & Tina Frisbee
James & Lilian Gross
Sterling & LaVonne Haaland
Alan Hampton
Pam Hay
Don & Lela Herigstad
Tim & Dr. Karen Higgins
John M. Holden
John M. Johnson Jr.
Denny & Mary Jane Kline
Evelyn Knierim
Daniel T. Kus, D.D.S.
Ron & Sandra Lane
Jack & Joanne Latimer
Ethel Lee Lawson
Edith Maiole
Frank & Joyce Markarian
Charles May & Nancy Aigner
Don & Patricia McLean
Tom & Betty Miller
David & Therese Moore
Naomi Norris
Lee & Karrie Olmsted
RDML Robert & Martha Owens, USN (Ret.)
William & Marilyn Porter
Ronald & Nancy Rossi
Jack Russell
Carol Schneider
Samuel R. Schoenhals
Joseph & Joyce Seibold
James Simmons
Don Snyder
Richard Stokes
CAPT Mark & Deb Storch, USN (Ret.)
Larry Violette
John & Judith Ward
Raymond & Louise Wetzel
David Wirtz
RDML Robert & Martha Owens, USN (Ret.)
In Honor of Jack and Joanne Latimer:
Kristin Launder
In Memory of RD Corette:
Donald McLean
In Memory of Bill Dykema:
Pat Berry-Brown
In Memory of Duane Fojt:
Bob & Alice Campbell
In Memory of Werner Hueber:
Pat Berry-Brown
Matching Donations:
Anonymous matching Dee Di Pol
Anonymous matching Jack Latimer

Businesses and Non-Profit Organizations
Please support these businesses and organizations that support the China Lake Museum:

Alta One Federal Credit Union
Boeing
C. Martin Co.
CLC Construction, Inc.
Coso Operating Plant
DCS Corporation
Desert Valleys Federal Credit Union
Eastern Sierra Custom Picture Framing
Electric Motor Works, Inc.
Guns 4 Us
Hockett’s Building Supply
Jacobs—Naval Systems Group
Ken Blades Trucking
Leidos Employees
Lockheed Martin Services, Inc.
Maturango Museum

McDonald’s
NDTI
Northrop Grumman
Raytheon
Ridgecrest Regional Hospital
S & M Coins and Collectibles
Spring Hill Suites / Hampton Inn
T & T Alignment
The Swap Sheet
TOSS, Inc.
United Way of IWV
Vincent Avalos—Edward Jones Investments
WACOM
Warren’s Automotive
Windows, Walls ‘N Floors
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CLMF OFFICERS

President
Bob Campbell

Treasurer
Suzette Caufield

Secretary
Dr. Bob Smith

First Vice President

Co-VP Operations
Wayne Doucette
Pat Doucette

VP Facilities (Building)
Art Hickle

Co-VP Membership
Megan Rawson
Alice Campbell

VP Fundraising
Laura Hickle

VP Curation/Exhibits
Dr. Bob Smith

VP Public Relations

CLMF DIRECTORS

Russ Bates
Mallory Boyd

Dennis Cott
Tom Miller

Wayne Willhite
Charlie White

CLMF DIRECTORS EMERITUS

Milton Burford
Pat Connell
Burrell Hays
Paul Homer - Historian
Jack Latimer - History Committee Chairman
Dr. Craig Porter
William B. Porter
Jack Russell

TRUSTEES

RADM Michael Bachmann, USN (Ret.)
MajGen Jon Gallinetti, USMC (Ret.)
Dr. Karen Higgins, ED (Ret.)
CAPT Dave Janiec, USN (Ret.)
RADM Bert Johnston, USN (Ret.)
RADM Mike Mathis, USN (Ret.)
Don McLean
VADM David Nichols, USN (Ret.)
Scott O’Neil, Executive Director (Ret.)
VADM Mark Skinner, USN (Ret.)
CAPT Glenn Tierney, USN (Ret.)
CDR Stu Witt, Test Pilot, USN (Ret.)

Welcome to our new China Lake Museum Foundation Members

David and Robin Bare
Rick and Peg McCormack
Teri Cleveland
Rebecca McCourt
Gene and Jeri Gibson
Carolyn McCourt
Ken Koch
Aimee Zeller

Thank you to the following people for helping us prepare for our Members and Volunteers Discount Shopping Day:

Alice Campbell
Mary Ann Clodt
Jenn Cobbel
Heather Davis
Pat Doucette
Cathy Foraker

December 2020 Winner’s Choice Art Raffle

Congratulations to Bob Campbell, winner of the December 2020 Winner’s Choice Art Raffle.

Our next Winner’s Choice Art Raffle will be held on Friday, February 26 at noon.

Come in to the gift shop to purchase your raffle tickets, or call us at (760) 677-2866 to buy them over the phone. You do not have to be present to win!
ELECTRONIC ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Card Number: ______________________________
Expiration Date: ________ / ________
CVC: ________________________________
Billing Zip Code: __________________
Signature: ______________________________

For checks intended for the Phase 2 Building Project, please note on your check “Phase 2”