

# **“COWTOWN”**

**EA-3B SKYWARRIOR MEMORIAL FOUNDATION**

**Fort Worth, Texas**



**MAKING A HOME FOR THE “WHALE” AT THE VINTAGE FLYING MUSEUM**

# "The A-3 Skywarrior"

**On Oct 28 1952 the first A-3 Skywarrior flew and yet until June 30, 2011 was operational with Raytheon Flight Test Operations. The A-3 Skywarrior was originally designed to deliver an atomic bomb from Essex and Forrestal class aircraft carriers to combat the Soviet threat during the cold war. As that mission was taken over by the Poseidon class submarines, the Skywarrior evolved into a conventional bomber, airborne tanker, electronic and photographic reconnaissance, electronic jammer, trainer, VIP transport and airborne test bed. Douglas Aircraft Company designed, tested, and built 283 A-3 "Skywarriors" for the US Navy and 296 B-66 "Destroyers" for the US Air Force. The A-3 Skywarrior was the last tactical jet aircraft to operate from an aircraft carrier without ejection seats.**

# "EA-3B Skywarrior"

**U.S. Navy EA-3B Skywarrior, Buno 146453 a Vietnam, Cold War and Desert Storm Veteran, operated by Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron TWO [VQ-2] from 1960 until 1991. VQ-2 was based at the Naval Station in Rota, Spain.**



# "The Mission"

**Recently, the A-3 Skywarrior Association was notified by Raytheon that A-3 flight operations have ended. The remaining aircraft at Aerospace Maintenance And Regeneration Center (AMARC), Davis-Monthan AFB in Tucson, Arizona are now re-allocated to museums that have the money to move, restore, and display them. Our present day mission is to acquire one of the remaining Whales and relocate her to the Vintage Flying Museum at Meacham Field in Fort Worth ([www.vintageflyingmuseum.org/](http://www.vintageflyingmuseum.org/)).**

**To accomplish this noble endeavor, we need a substantial amount of funds to relocate the aircraft from the military storage facility and place EA-3B Skywarrior Aircraft Bureau Number 146453 on static display at the Vintage Flying Museum, at Meacham International Airport, Fort Worth, Texas. The purpose of this version of the A-3 Skywarrior aircraft was to preserve peace during the Cold War era, to provide electronic reconnaissance support during the Vietnam War and the Gulf War.**

# "The Mission" (cont'd)

**This display will become a fitting memorial to those who flew this aircraft, to those who perished, and those who provided the maintenance support for the crews and their mission. Furthermore, this honors the numerous service members who either flew as aircrew members or as maintenance personnel or both and now reside in the North Texas area.**

**Throughout several decades, numerous A-3 Skywarrior squadrons operated out of military airfields here in Fort Worth (Carswell Air Force Base), Grand Prairie (Naval Air Station Dallas), Love Field, and ESI/ Chrysler in Waco, Texas whose facilities provided support for a multitude of Naval Aviation operations. Additionally, access to display will help to educate the public on Naval Aviation History. This fitting memorial will ensure that this aircraft and its crews shall not be forgotten.**

# "The Mission" (cont'd)

**This museum is conveniently located off major highways I-30, I-820, and I-35 and only 30 minutes away from DFW airport. Fort Worth is rich in aviation history with NAS JRB Fort Worth and Lockheed Martin just a few miles from Meacham Field.**

**This home will be a great show place for "her", and as a benefactor, it will become a great museum that the Metroplex can truly take a tremendous amount of pride in. In order to make the aircraft presentable for display, numerous volunteers will be needed with restoration activities. Our most pressing need is securing sponsorships & pledges for financial donations and display equipment.**

# "The Organization"

**The "Cowtown EA-3B Skywarrior Memorial Foundation" is currently comprised of the following members:**

- **Bill Mego – Executive Director of Fort Worth project**
- **Mark Swisher – Treasurer – Deposit funds and pay expenses**
- **Alan Smith – Museum Docent in charge of Fort Worth Operations**
- **Charlyn, "Chuckie", Hospers - Owner & CEO of Vintage Flying Museum**
- **Bill Gorin – Chief Mechanic - Vintage Flying Museum point of contact in charge of facility coordination**
- **John Herndon – Fund /Resource Chairman & restoration lead**
- **Gary Meyers – A-3 Museum Chairman –**
- **Mike Glenn – Pima Operations Lead – In charge of disassembling aircraft for transportation to Fort Worth**

**Bill Mego, Mark Swisher, Alan Smith, John Herndon, Gary Meyers, & Mike Glenn are all current members of the A-3 Skywarrior Association (<http://www.a3skywarrior.com/>). The A-3 Skywarrior Association is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization. IRS EIN 43-1906260.**

# "Vintage Flying Museum"



**The primary mission of the Vintage Flying Museum, a Texas 501C(3) Non-Profit, is to preserve America's flying heritage in Word, Deed and Action (<http://www.vintageflyingmuseum.org/>). Over 200 members now support these efforts. Twenty aircraft are on exhibit including several which are extremely rare and historic. Additional displays include a dedicated reciprocal and jet engine room, an FAA Aviation Education Resource Center, WWII memorabilia and artifact exhibits, a unique aircraft model exhibit and gift shop. One of our greatest achievements and contributions to the community is the development of our aviation education programs. Since 1993, the Vintage Flying Museum, in collaboration with the Federal Aviation Administration, has been offering the Dallas/Fort Worth Community a broad-based series of educational programs.**

# "The Plan"

## **A-3 Skywarrior Association (South Central USA - membership)**

- **Provide all necessary funding for disassembly, transportation, restoration and display expenses.**
- **Upon receipt of asset availability notification, organize, manage & coordinate the preparation & logistics for transportation.**
- **Organize, manage & coordinate the transportation & placement of the EA-3B Skywarrior at the Vintage Flying Museum.**
- **Provide funding for the installation of a concrete parking & display pad for the EA-3B Skywarrior.**
- **Provide funding for the installation of a pavilion to cover the EA-3B Skywarrior for protection of the asset against the elements.**
- **Provide a placard to be displayed in front of the EA-3B Skywarrior listing its aircraft statistics, history and to honor all benefactors.**
- **Provide both monetary and manpower resources for restoration of the EA-3B Skywarrior.**
- **Provide for the upkeep and cleanliness of the EA-3B Skywarrior on a routine basis.**

## **Vintage Flying Museum (VFM)**

- **Submit a form letter to Helen Watson at AMARC requesting the VFM be place on the list for acquiring EA-3B BUNO 146453 as a museum asset at the VFM, Fort Worth, Texas.**
- **Provide an outdoor location at the VFM to park & display the EA-3B Skywarrior.**
- **Provide for necessary infrastructure utilities (electrical, etc.) enhancing the display of the EA-3B Skywarrior.**

**"The Plan" is designed to be implemented in four (4) phases**

# **"Four Phase Plan"**

**Phase One: By June 2012 raise \$81,000 to ensure that we have the funds needed to acquire and restore this A-3.**

**Phase Two: Secure National Museum of Naval Aviation (NMNA) assignment of 146453 to Fort Worth**

**Phase Three: Move the aircraft from AMARC at Davis-Monthan AFB to Pima Air & Space Museum holding area, remove empennage, and ship overland to Fort Worth**

**Phase Four: Restore 146453 to Desert Storm livery and display at Vintage Flying Museum**

# "Phase One"

**Raise \$81,000 by June 2012 to ensure that we have the funds needed to acquire, disassemble, relocate and restore this EA-3B Skywarrior.**

<b><u>Task</u></b>	<b><u>Cost Forecast</u></b>
<b>Secure Aircraft from NAVICP/NMNA</b>	<b>\$12,000</b>
<b>Prep A/C for shipment in Tucson</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>
<b>Transport A/C from Pima to Fort worth</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>
<b>Replace wing fasteners at Fort Worth</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>
<b>Crane services in Fort Worth</b>	<b>\$3,000</b>
<b>Misc restoration expense (sanding, etc)</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>
<b>Paint aircraft</b>	<b>\$8,000</b>
<b>Stencils and decal for aircraft</b>	<b>\$2,000</b>
<b>Display site prep</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>
<b>Aircraft Pavilion Cover</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>
<b>Aircraft Dedication Ceremony</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$81,000</b>

**The campaign is to solicit donations and contributions from both private and corporate sponsors. This includes engaging the assistance and guidance of experienced local philanthropic persons and/or foundations.**

## "Phase Two"

**Near the end of July 2011, Charlyn, "Chuckie", Hospers (VFM) contacted Helen Watson at AMARC by phone and also sent the formal request letter requesting the Vintage Flying Museum be place on the list for acquiring EA-3B BUNO 146453 as a museum asset.**

# "Phase Three"

**Prepare the aircraft to be relocated from AMARC at Davis-Monthan AFB to Pima Air & Space Museum holding area. Major process is to remove wings & empennage, and ship overland to Fort Worth.**



# "Phase Four"

**Restore 146453 to Desert Storm livery and display at Vintage Flying Museum. Below are pictures of 146453 last major heavy rework during a Standard Depot Level Maintenance (SDLM) at the Aeronavli facility in Venice, Italy in September 1987.**



# “Recent Rescue”

**A ceremony was held 15 April at Charleston, South Carolina aboard the the aircraft carrier USS Yorktown to showcase EA-3B 146457 rescued & restored from Naval Station Rota, Spain.**



Bill & Marilyn Mego



RADM Flatley, Ed "Ziggy" Vladish, Susan and Mark Swisher (on the right)



EA-3B Inauguration ceremony on Flight Deck



USS Yorktown

# **“Sponsorship”**

**North Texas has a rich history of patriotism, devotion and honor to our nation’s military campaigns and endeavors. We are asking one more time for your support in a “Hometown” project to memorialize one of the greatest aircraft in the United States Navy’s Aviation history.**

**You will be able to follow along as this project progresses, with routine updates and reports called “HOWGOZIT” (How goes it). We will email these reports with narratives and photos and post these on the foundation website (<http://www.wherndon.com/vq2sandeman/Cowtown%20A-3%20Memorial.htm>).**

**As we have previously indicated, both the VFM & the A-3 Skywarrior Association are 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations. Your pledge of donations/ contributions will be tax-deductible.**

**In closing, we veterans so deeply thank you for giving our present & future generations a monument to their heritage.**