

AVMM HAPPENINGS APRIL 2008

- AVMM worked with Zlata Lund of the Russian American Colony Singers to create a program “Echoes of World War II” set for 9 May 2008 at the Wildberry Theater (beside the AK Wildberry Story) behind Sourdough Mining Company restaurant. Selected 6 vets from WWII to Vietnam to have posters and stories (from their oral histories) and free admission. Also put together a CD of pictures and sounds to go with the performance and arranged for presentation of the Service flags by Aurora Borealis American Legion Post 21. Also went to AL, AMVETS & VFW posts from Peters Creek and Eagle River to N, S, E, & W Anchorage to advertise. VFW Post 9785 bought 20 veterans tickets. Board is strongly encouraged to attend.
- George Darrow and Suellyn did two oral history sessions with Red Boucher. What a great inspiration and jewel of a person!
- AVMM awarded \$5000 grant from Friends of the NRA to transcribe our oral histories.
- Picked up more Aleutian aircraft photos from the 11th AF history office. AVMM’s part of the AK Aviation Heritage Museum’s display is finished but they need carpenter’s to finish the display area itself. The exhibit may not open until June.
- Suellyn met with MSgt Bob Braley of AK ANG and toured both the Kulis Vehicle Maintenance Building and the Supply Building. Either would make a good museum. The former has a central office area with 2 radiating arms and was built in 2002. One side has a heated floor. It has a paint bay and an exterior fueling bay. The latter has a huge admin area and the majority of the building is a huge warehouse. It was built in the 1990s and has a new roof (HmMMMM, that wonder’s me a bit already).
- Took oral history training booklet to MSgt Braley and they have 3-4 folks interested in learning how to collect oral histories. We’ll train them at a drill this Summer or at the 13 July Family Day at Kulis where we’ll have a table – need volunteers.
- Briefed Eagle River Elks on 15 Apr and the ER Area Rotary on AVMM on 17 Apr. The former wants us to brief at the State Elks Convention in Homer on 15-18 May. Any takers? We could also do the oral histories in Kenai and Soldotna on that trip. Have contact point for Downtown Rotary that we have a grant request with. Also will have contact list of rotaries in the Valley to brief.
- Forest had AVMM materials on Fan Mail for the Troops and on the Oral History Packets for Students and Teachers at the State Home School Conference at Birchwood Community Church & School on 18 & 19 Apr.
- Made contact with the Sleeping Lady Mountain Lions. Awaiting briefing time.

- Received about 12 more possible oral history names. Two gents seemed really interested, so I mailed out packets to them.
- Received letter from Don Retchlag of Alaska Military Veterans organization. I sent him brochures, membership blank, a DVD and newsletters for his members. About 40 of them will gather in Golden CO in Sep. Suellyn talked with him about coming down recruiting and collecting oral histories (it'd add over \$700 to my trip back to PA). They tour the area and have a nightly short meeting; no time to collect oral histories. So sent all the above and joined the organization. He said he's have the secretary send me their membership list so I can get to all members. He said he thought most of them would join; he definitely was.
- Also made contact with Ted Spencer who has 30 years experience in making museum displays. He too will join. When he comes to the "museum" displays he has at Whittier, he and Suellyn will meet. He collected taped oral histories from 1970-1990 and he'll give those to us. He'll also work with us on displays and other issues.
- AVMM made contact with a representative of the so-called "Cold War Museum" effort. They have no plans to do a museum; just preserve the Nike Site Summit area and erect kiosks with information. So they will not be a player in our Joint Venture.
- AVMM will be at the Wasilla Airport 26 Apr for the Vietnam Vets of America Veterans Get Together. Thanks Diane for helping man the table!!
- AVMM will be at the Aviation Trade Show 3-4 May at the FEDEX Hanger at the Airport. **Could use help on Sunday. We'll share a corner of the CAF booth as we've done in the past.** Or maybe CAF can cover for us, if all else fails.
- AVMM at the ER Area Women's Show at McDonald Center on 10 May. **Confirming Karen & Forrest Powell to help?**
- Looking ahead, **need volunteer for Sunday 29 June Arctic Thunder Air Show** at Elmendorf. We'll have a corner of the CAF table again.