

**AVMM “HAPPENINGS”  
JULY 2008**

- Did an oral history on Frank Ashby, a member of Merrill’s Marauders on 1 July.
- AVMM won \$25 Bella Vista gift certificate, a 1<sup>st</sup> Prize ribbon and a certificate for “most Patriotic” in the Chugiak 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade.
- Briefed the Wasilla Rotary meeting 7 July at the Houston Senior Center. Well received, got a volunteer, F. Colleen Peterson who’s a history major at UAA, and also works for the AND Wasilla office. She gave us lots of good contacts. Also met Julie Busch who offered to write us a mini proposal, teach us how to get the word out for small grants, and do oral histories for us from Wasilla northward.
- Collected oral history of Jim Reuter of Wasilla. He was on the design team for the legendary P-51 and the B-25.
- 8 July met with Misty Nesvik, a contact from the Anchorage Chamber, who gave us marketing advice and many new contacts. For example, she suggested a partnership with Jared Dye of the funeral pre-planners. They could, when families come in to pre-arrange a funeral, ask if a veteran and then give our literature and card re oral histories as a lasting tribute. That afternoon, briefed the Seniors FYI Group at the Chugiak Senior Center and picked up an oral history contact, plus the coordinator will show our DVD and talk up the program for us.
- The Bear Paw Spaghetti Feed at Joy Lutheran Church was a raging success on Wed 9 July and we gained \$365.25 for the work 9 of us put forth. Great job all, thank you. A thank you card and letter were sent to Doug Boyer who arranged the event.
- On 10 Jul Barbara Wortman represented AVMM at the Bear Paw Pageant, where our sponsoree, Casey Bridges, was first runner up (and got his picture in the Alaska Star on 17 July).
- The Bear Paw Parade on 12 July featured a full (9 servicemen and –women) float – thank you all, especially John Peck for assembling the float and pulling it too! All had fun.
- Sunday 13 Jul saw Forest Brooks, Diane Fearon, Karen Schuessler, and Suellyn teaching three ANG folks how to do oral histories. Very receptive audience and a good time was had by all.
- Monday 14 Jul an oral history was collected from 98 year old Charlie Allen of his time in the Pacific Theater of Operations.

- The Alaska Scout display at the Anchorage Museum at Rasmuson Center, billed as the final reunion of the Alaska Scouts, opens with a panel discussion by the Scouts and author of *Castner's Cutthroats*, at 2 PM on Sunday 28 September. The Anchorage Museum will handle all publicity and invitations (we provide list) and AVMM gets the top billing on the banners, sings etc.
- The Aleutian Tiger display at the Aviation heritage Museum is tentatively scheduled to open 11 Sep with Sen. Stevens cutting the ribbon, but we've not heard back from his office.
- Work on the DVD of 12 min of Alaska Scouts' oral histories was done by Brian Wotring and Suellyn on 19 July. This DVD will be in a continuous loop for our Anchorage Museum display.
- Two oral histories were collected Mon 21 Jul at King Career Center. The first was Bob Wolf who flew B-29s out of Elmendorf in the post-WW II years. The second was Al Woodard, a WW II Carrier Aviator.