

MEETING MINUTES

ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHAPTER

VIETNAM HELICOPTER PILOTS ASSOCIATION

20 AUGUST 2016

Call to Order: President Dale House called the meeting to order at 10:00 at American Legion Post #1, I-25 and Yale Avenue. Dale led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance and introductions.

Those Present:

Dale House, John Cunningham, Phil Lanphier, Cliff Lawson, George Mayl, Jim McNamee, Doug Neil, Terry Olson, Bill Robie and Mike Silva.

Meeting Minutes: The June Meeting Minutes were approved. Motion to approve by Doug, second by George—unanimous approval.

Treasurer's Report: Jim presented Treasurers reports for July 12th and August 10th. Motion to approve July by Dale, second by Phil, motion to approve August by Dale, second by George—unanimous approval for both. John asked what caused the recent increase in Helicopter War Museum (HWM) funds and a discussion ensued. The increase is mostly due to increased donations for museum clothing and increased attendance, plus model sales.

OLD BUSINESS:

AFTER ACTION REPORTS:

Dale submitted reports for Bandimere on 2 July, Golden on 4 July, and the Erie Air Fair on August 13th (all included below). They all were very successful, despite the generator problems at Bandimere and the lack of enough docents at Erie (there were only three docents at Erie, and they had to work all day). Luckily, the new evaporative cooler installed by Bill Bates and Rick Beaver worked great (kudos to them).

Terry mentioned that we need to have more members volunteer to be docents at the HWM venues, or we may need to cancel some events. We should strive to have at least four docents per shift, and they should be committed at least one week before each venue. In addition, we should have alternate volunteers to fill in in case scheduled docents can't make it for some reason. Two docents had to cancel at the last minute for medical reasons for Erie,

which caused the shortage. We aren't getting any younger, and we have to be prepared for unforeseen circumstances.

HELICOPTER WAR MUSEUM IMPROVEMENTS AND SCHEDULE

Evaporative cooler—As mentioned above, the cooler worked great in Erie, despite high temperatures.

Generator—George and others have found some generators that are relatively inexpensive, but they probably won't fit our needs. We need a generator that has sufficient power to supply our needs, is reliable and quiet. The best one George has found is a Honda, but they are expensive. Dale asked him, Terry and Rick to research further. George will coordinate with Rick to determine our power needs, which should be less now that we have replaced the air conditioner with the evaporative cooler.

The tentative scheduled appearances for the HWM are as follows:

Sept. 17, 2016	Broomfield Days
November 11	Longmont Parade and Legion
May 20, 2017	Westcliffe, CO Vietnam 50th Anniversary Commemoration
May 27	Front Range Airport-Wheels and Warbirds (Memorial Day)
May 27-28	Ft Collins Travelling Wall and Gunship Ministry
June ??	Longmont-Vance Brand Airport-EAA Event
June 23-July 4	Greeley Stampede (Bill Bates is researching)
July 2	Bandimere Speedway
July 4	Golden Lions Park 4th of July Celebration
August 13	Erie Air Fair
August ??	Gilpin County Fair, Central City
September 17	Broomfield Days
November 11	Longmont Veterans Day Parade

Obviously, we have some decisions to make because of overlap, distance, etc.

On a related note, we have a possible static display at Regis University sometime during The Regis University Stories from Wartime Annual Series in February or March. The series includes an oral history program. We also may participate in the Colorado Freedom Memorial in Aurora, CO. Details on these events will follow.

Phil mentioned that we should develop a list of our HWM requirements to give to prospective venues (transportation, power, water, tractor access, security, etc.). Dale asked Phil to draft it.

Members wear, Museum sales

Contact Carlo Cavalluzzi for detailed information on in stock items and ordering chapter logo clothing. He has the latest shipment and will have the items at the meetings. If you would like your items before the meeting, he will mail them to you with postage costs. His email address is carlocavalluzzi@q.com.

Dale purchased a few cups with the HWM logo and proposed that we buy some to give away for donations. The members liked the cups, so they will be added to our inventory, donation threshold to be determined.

Additional Old Business

Honor Flight

We will be hosting an Honor Flight Welcome Home Reception on September 12th at the DIA Signature Flight Facility. Carl has put the details on the chat page. If you need further information, contact Carl. Also, the next Honor Flight will be on a day to be determined in May, 2017.

NEW BUSINESS:

Membership

Jim mentioned that our active membership has dropped to less than 30 dues paying members, which is a concern on several levels (docent availability, general fund level, etc.). Many members have moved and some have died, but there are also many members that have just dropped out for some reason. After discussion, we decided to send out postcards to members who have been active in the past 5 years or so but are no longer active and invite them to reup. We will follow up the postcards with phone calls from current members to reinforce the idea that we would like them back as active chapter participants. Dale will design a postcard and Doug will provide mailing labels (Jim will provide Doug with the addresses).

Dale also appointed a membership committee to look into other ways to boost participation. The members are Doug Neil, Phil Lanphier and George Mayl.

Chapter Picnic

Phil offered to host a picnic at his house again this year from 1:00-5:00 on Saturday, 24 September if there is enough interest. He will send out a

message to the chat group to gauge interest. If enough members respond, Phil will provide details a week in advance.

Surplus Huey/Wings over the Rockies

Terry said that we don't qualify to get a surplus Huey from the state, but that he is working with WOR, which does qualify), to see if they would like to get one. Terry says that there appears to be some interest on their part because the Huey basically would be free. Stay tuned.

Also—Last year, WOR was planning to have a celebration in support of the 50th Anniversary of the VN War, but decided to focus on the Air Force instead. However, they now are thinking of having some sort of VN celebration around 5 November and would like us to participate. Terry will get more details about the proposed event and our level of participation.

Chapter Member Photographs

Chapter member Cliff Lawson, a professional portrait photographer, has volunteered to take a portrait of each of our members in his studio at no cost. He is in his busy season now, but would like to start taking our portraits later in October. Keep this in mind and take advantage of his generous offer when the time comes. His studio is in Parker.

Website Development

Candy House, Dale's wife, has done a considerable amount of work on the website and it is now up and running. The website will be rmcvhp.com until October when it becomes rmcvhp.org. Go Daddy is the host. Dale walked us through the website layout, and it is impressive. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Candy and Dale. Take a look and see what you think. If you have any suggestions for improvement or additions, contact Dale at RMC.mailbox@yahoo.com.

Next Meetings: The scheduled 17 September meeting at American Legion Post # 1 has been cancelled because of the Broomfield Event. We will have a short meeting at the picnic if we have one.

The next scheduled meeting will be at 10:00 on 15 October at American Legion Post #1, I-25 and Yale Avenue.

Adjournment: Dale adjourned the meeting at 11:55.

Submitted by Jim McNamee
Acting Secretary

Bandimere After Action Report JULY 2, 2016

Bandimere was a very active event, possibly due to our location. We were, as Doug Neil, pointed out, point zero. Everyone with seats on the west side of the track was dropped off right at the entrance to the Museum (by golf cart from the parking lot). With George's help, by encouraging people to come in prior to getting to their seats, kept a steady flow of guests. Continuous time trials by class A fuelers of all types, and being right next to the pits, and food court, made it pretty exciting.

Despite the doom and gloom weather forecast, the weather was perfect which was good, as we had lost our generator about 4 o'clock. We carried on until about 8PM when we couldn't see anymore. It sprinkled a couple times which brought guests in seeking shelter and nothing else to do while they dried the track off. With Carl Cavalluzzi, Doug Neil, Terry Olson, George Mayl, Al and Dottie Harinck, Phil Lanphier, Bill Robie, and myself, we were able to handle the crowds. Barbara Cavalluzzi kept track of the sales and donations. Al's wife manned the tent with Barbara.

We are looking at another generator repair and George Mayl is on it. We estimate that we had about 700 visitors. We had approximately \$250 in sales plus another \$280 in donations. Not quite as expected, but considering the \$28 per ticket and \$14 for a hot dog and beer, it wasn't too bad. Losing power for the last 4 hours, operating in the dark and without air conditioning didn't help, but all in all, not too shabby. It was a good day, and fun was had by all.

Your Pres

Golden After Action Report JULY 4, 2016

So now two days later in Golden for the 4th of July Celebration we put our docents Carl and Barbara Cavalluzzi, Doug Neil, Terry Olson, Bill Robie, Dale and Candy House, Jim McNamee, and Phil Lanphier back to work in Lyons Park, Golden.

The city provided us with power, unreliable as it were. We could only operate one bank of lights and a fan. No air conditioning and no audio visual. Even with minimum power draw the CB kept popping. The generator was still not working from the Bandimere event being that it was only two days later. As a result the guests didn't stay long in the museum or just turned around and left because of the lack of air movement and lighting. I could hear folks complaining about a claustrophobic feeling associated with the heat.

From the experience at Bandimere and at Golden, I think we can see that a reliable generator is a very important requirement.

Even with the power issues it was a party atmosphere with different bands playing all day long. Another fun event. In comparison, for the same number of visitors approximately 700 each, Bandimere had more sales, but Golden had better donations, not by much though. Golden had proceeds a little over \$300 in donations and \$80 in sales. In my opinion, anytime we have the opportunity to tell our story and educate the public, it is a resounding success. We also, potentially, gained two new members. They are still out there, amazing.

See you at the next event at Erie Airpark on August 13. Terry will be gathering docents. Our next meeting will be Aug 20 at Post 1 American Legion Hall.

Your Pres

ERIE AFTER ACTION REPORT AUGUST 13, 2016

It was a day of firsts for sure! First the trailer showed up more than a half-hour late so we were a little late getting it prepped for opening. Visitors started to come in the door before we were ready as you might expect so we were really rushing. Secondly, there were only 3 of us working so that made matters worse. Once we were ready, it was a steady and heavy stream of visitors (and so many, many kids) from about 9:30am until closing at 4:00pm and even then when we were packing up we still had visitors trying to come in. Dale stated we had \$175 in donations and had \$275 in merchandise.

I have to give a big thank you to Bill B and Rick who spent time getting the new swamp cooler installed last week. This is something we have needed for a long time and it was really a life-saver for us who worked all day. While the outside temperature was approaching 90 degrees we were quite comfortable in the trailer even with it packed with visitors and the door remaining open the whole day. What an improvement! We only had the fan running unto about 11:00am and then turned the water pump on and it ran until we shut it off about 5:00pm. I'm not sure but I estimate it used about 12 to 14 gal. of water minus what Bill drained out when we shut it down?

It was a very successful and rewarding day for all of us. If you have never volunteered for our HWM you have no idea what you are missing out on. It really helps to make up for all the bad memories we have when we returned home from over there. Finally we are getting the thanks and appreciation that we deserved back then! Some visitors would leave the HWM with tears in their eyes after having talked to the docents. I really wish everyone would volunteer at least once just to meet visitors who are curious and want to know more about what we experienced.

There is one discouraging aspect of the Saturday event and one in which we will need to have a serious discussion about at our meeting this Saturday.

One docent had a medical issue the night before so he couldn't be there for the morning shift and a second docent also had a medical issue so he along with his wife could not be there for the afternoon shift. That left Dale and I working all day with Rick working in the morning and Bill B in the afternoon. Three docents are just not enough as we worked without a break the entire day and for guys of our tender years it was tough! We have to expect and plan for the possibility guys of our age to have medical issues and to be prepared for it at future events.

This means we will need to discuss a cancellation policy based on the size of the event, the number of volunteers and the time line. Perhaps if we only have four people volunteer (or fewer) then we need to set a 24-48 hour prior to the start cancellation deadline. With no more than four volunteers we need to have alternates volunteer to stand by in the event of medical problems or no-shows.

This has not happened before that I know of and I only hope it is not the start of a trend for our HWM? I know that we all have plans and lots of things going on in the summer but if we are to continue soliciting and accepting participation in these events then we need to have better turn-out of volunteers.

Terry L. Olson, VHPA
Operations Officer