

2023 Rocky Mountain Airport Car Show and Swap Meet

We were invited to attend the Collector Car Council of Colorado fund raiser this past Saturday to display our Museum.

We started early at 0630 when Doug Perin arrived with the Museum. As soon as we positioned the Museum I called up Rich Norloff to bring his helicopter over. He soon arrived and we pushed it into position with the help of his Son Jonathan, who spent the day with us. While we were pushing the helicopter over, Doug Neil was busy in the Museum setting up our displays. Bill and Rick tended to the Swamp cooler and Generator.

By 0900 everything was set up and guests began to arrive. It was a steady crowd, although no line formed, it was steady until the car show was over. Awards were given out for the various categories and then the cars began to leave at 1400. By 1500 the ramp was clear and we rolled the helicopter out for departure. At 1545, the driver, Doug, returned to pick up the Museum.

In order of appearance, Myself, Doug Neil, Rich Norloff and his Son, Jonathan, Bill Bates, Rick Beaver, Ben Prieb, and Chris Towne. Carl and Barbara Cavalluzzi couldn't come. Barbara texted about 0730 and notified me that Carl had taken ill. At this printing I haven't been able to find out how he's doing but wishing him well and a speedy recovery.



Some of the uniqueness's of this event were:

Member Rich Norloff brought his Bell 47 (OH-13) over to display with us. It was a big hit. As a result of the OH-13 on display a veteran of the Los Angeles Police Department, (Mike Hooper) came over to talk to Rich about it. Mike was with the LAPD Air Support in the 70's and 80's. The LAPD Heliport was named after His brother, Stephan Hooper, who had been a career police officer and had died from medical issues. Many of you know I am from California. I knew many of the Police pilots as we were stationed together at Los Alamitos AFRC, while in the Reserves. While working for National Helicopter Services in Van Nuys, CA, I had trained and flew with many of those same guys. For Me, A blast from the past.



Several visitors asked if they could sit in the helicopter. Rich assisted and explained the controls to them. I attached a picture of Aimi and Kelly enjoying one such adventure. Kelly kept putting her hands up to cover her face from the sun so I didn't get a clear picture of her. She complained she couldn't see me.

One 'customer' as he called himself, spent a great deal of time looking at our exhibits and I notice he was having quite a time with his emotions. He introduced himself as Fred and said he was an 11B10 with the 52nd Infantry, 1st Cavalry (if I'm not mistaken). Anyway, we had a long chat. This had been his third trip to our Museum at the Airport. He has spoken to several other members, and refers to us as his emotional support group. Good going guys! This is one of the reasons we are out there, to support other members of our unique club of Vietnam Veterans.

The Day went fast and fun was had by all, though we were all exhausted by the end of the day. It really takes more people to make this whole thing work well and give each other respite. The visitors that come to us are very inquisitive, appreciative, and generous patrons of us veterans. I encourage more members to help out and volunteer for these outings. It is a very rewarding experience, and it only takes a few hours of your time to make it easy on everyone.





Rich Norloff standing with his Bell 47 (OH-13-T)



A view of our display with a visitor wondering why I'm taking his picture.