

A.M.H.F.

**Dedicated to preserving, in flying condition, a vintage PV-2 Harpoon in memory of all who fought in the air on behalf of the United States of America**

**News Letter August 2015**



Greetings to members & friends of the AMHF,

**“The one thing all famous authors, world-class athletes, business tycoons, singers, actors, and celebrated achievers in any field have in common is that they all began their journeys when they were none of these things.”**

*Mike Dooley,  
American author*

July has now slid past us at the usual rapid pace. It is hard to realize that school will be starting the first week of August and in sixty days we will be talking about cold weather coming and how we dread it. However, I am sure school will start and the change of season will take place right on time whether we are ready or not.

The work on tank installation is not progressing anywhere close to the speed we would like to see. We were in hopes of having the first six in before the rest of them were shipped. However, I think they just may get here before we are ready. Yes, I understand it is a Harpoon and one must figure extra time on each job.

However, one time it would be nice to have something go quicker than it was figured. We have both left aft tanks in place with part of the plumbing installed. We have one tank in the right aft bay and the left front is ready for tanks. This work is already to go just as soon as we can get weather and man power to come together at the same time.

Even with what I see as slow progress things are still moving forward. The tires are now back so we have a new set of main gear tires ready for installation along with a tail wheel tire.

Along with the work that is going on with the plane we met with the Airport Authority to get their input on the current hanger design. We met with them in the conference room at Indy Jet. Our consultants presented the plans and proposed location to them. It was very well received and they had several positive comments for us on things that they thought could work out better for us than what was presented. Their indication was we were on a good path and were currently ahead of anyone else with similar projects.

We met with our consultants again on July 27. They presented three different proposals on where we should try to locate the new facility. After reviewing all of them and going over pros and cons, it was decided that an area west of the north south taxi strip that leads back to the barrel hanger seemed to present the best visibility, keep us closer to any future fly in events, and would require the least amount of trouble providing access to the facility. Our next meeting is scheduled August 17 at which time we should have a cost, a final drawing, and start our fund-raising program.

I would like to welcome our newest member Mr. Richard Russell. He joined us this past month after helping us with some of the tube bending we needed for our tank installation.

This brings up another point that I mentioned last month. If we want this next step to succeed, we are all going to have to pull in the same direction or it will not work. **It would be great if each of you could take a few minutes to send an e-mail updating your information. An updated and accurate membership list would be a wonderful thing.** If you have times you could help work please let us know what days and times you would be available so we could better schedule

crews to accomplish the necessary jobs. If you are not available to work but could contribute financially that would also be great.

With all of the preceding ramblings I believe we can find a job for anyone that is willing to help out. We as an organization need to help each other bring each individual to their greatest potential, thereby bringing AMHF to a new level of excellence. Just read the quote below and think about it:

**“Never give up on a dream just because of the time it will take to accomplish it. The time will pass anyway.”**

*Earl Nightingale,  
radio personality and motivational speaker*

I do not have a veteran’s story, as such, for you this month. However, as we go through life it can have many twists and turns along with things we wished we had done and didn’t and those we did that we wished we hadn’t and could forget. I recently lost my last uncle only to find out at the funeral home he was a WWII veteran. At the visitation I talked with his brother for a short period of time and I will need to revisit him at some point. Here is what really bothers me. During my teenage years, long! Long! ago, this uncle and I were very close. We went fishing together, rabbit hunting, explored a family cave in another state, and he was the first one to ride with me after I received my private pilot license. Now that takes courage. Through all of this not once did he ever mention being in the military nor did I have a clue he was. He is now gone so is his story. Recently my wife and I were sitting in the eye doctor’s office and there was an elderly couple setting across the room from us and he was wearing a WWII cap. Finally the chair opened up beside him so I went over and thanked him for his service and took the seat beside him and started asking about his service. He opened up and told me some of his story. He wanted to enlist but was only 17 and his parents wouldn’t sign for him. Not a big problem. He came up with a different date of birth to fit the time frame and enlisted anyway. By the time his parents found out the government said it didn’t make any difference because he was closer to 18 than 17. He ended up in the medical corps in a field hospital. During the invasion of Normandy he was setting off shore in an LST waiting until they could be taken in to set up the field hospital. His comment to me was he was very thankful that he survived and made it home. From his position he was able to watch the tragedy taking place on the beach. He really didn’t know why he made it out ok but was

thankful he had. At that point his friend was called in and he left. I thanked him for his service again and he walked off with a smile. I do not know this gentleman's name or where he was from. However, I did learn something of his life and service to his country and perhaps made his day just a bit brighter. So what is the point of this? If we see someone just how hard is it to smile say hello and see what they might say. Probably the worst thing that can happen is they may ignore you. However, you made the effort to be friendly and it could go the other way and you might learn something you never knew. Sometimes all we need to do is be a good listener and you might be amazed what other people have done.

*Keep a smile on your face and do some good,*

*Gaylon*