



# THE WINGS OF FREEDOM TOUR COMES TO MHT



Photo courtesy of The Collings Foundation

## SEPTEMBER 16, 17 AND 18

### AVIATION HISTORY LANDS AT MANCHESTER-BOSTON REGIONAL AIRPORT

The "Wings of Freedom Tour" has two goals: to honor the sacrifices made by our veterans that allow us

to enjoy our freedom; and to educate the visitors, especially younger Americans, about our national history and heritage. The Foundation encourages people to tour the planes, talk to the veterans who come to visit the aircraft, and participate in a "flight experience". In twenty-one years, the tour has made more than 2,378 visits to airports across the United States.

While the exact number of visitors is difficult to gauge, it is estimated that between 3 and 4 million people see these war birds annually.

The Collings Foundation's 1944 vintage Consolidated B-24J Liberator is painted as "Witchcraft", in honor of an 8<sup>th</sup> AF bomber that flew a record 130 missions over Europe as part of the 467<sup>th</sup> BG. The Boeing B-17G Flying Fortress flies as "Nine-O-Nine", in honor of an 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force, 91<sup>st</sup> BG heavy bomber. The B-17

[Collings Foundation Web Site](#)

*continued on page 3*

# 2013 NHAHS Gala and Fund Raiser

## Lucky 13

Join us for a great time and an equally great cause!

### Lucky 13

Friday, September 13th

The 2013 NHAHS annual Gala and fund-raiser will be held at the Executive Court Banquet Center, 1199 South Mammoth Road in Manchester. A cocktail reception will begin at 5:30 PM with live and silent auctions to follow. Tickets on Southwest Airlines, rides aboard the Collings Foundation airplanes B-24 Liberator "Witchcraft" and B-17G Flying Fortress "9-0-9," great golf

outings, NASCAR tickets, prized artwork and much, much more will be up for bid during the live auction.

A true dining feast will be served at 7:00 PM, with musical entertainment afterward provided by **Richard Allwarden** and **Rich Kumpu**. This duo will perform many classic favorites and will be glad to take your requests.

The gala is the major annual fund-raising effort of the society and the proceeds are the means by which the educational efforts being offered

through the Aviation Museum of New Hampshire are funded. The museum's Virtual Skies program for high school students will see nearly a 400% increase in participation from both the Manchester, Londonderry and Exeter school districts. This increase in the popularity of the aviation education program requires internal funding because the museum receives no funds from local, state or federal agencies. In order to make the Av. Ed. program truly fly, the museum needs the generous support of members, sponsors and donors. ★



Bob Hough—Auctioneer

Continued from page 1



was the companion of the B-24 in thousands of wartime, bombing, and reconnaissance missions. Together they were the backbone of the daylight strategic bombing campaign of WWII. The Foundation's P-51C was named "Betty Jane" to honor Col. Charles M. McCorkle, P-51 pilot who was an "ace" fighter pilot and commander, with 11 confirmed kills under his belt – 6 of them in a P-51 Mustang named "Betty Jane". "Betty Jane" has joined the tour as a representative of the "little friends" that engaged the German fighters as the huge bomber formations flew toward enemy targets, saving countless bomber crew lives.



"Flying Home" by P. Bagley

These airplanes are not mere static exhibits, but true flying machines that offer everyone the opportunity to experience flight. Tours of the airplanes will be offered daily and flights can be arranged in advance by calling 1-978-562-9182. ★

# Jack Ferns Stepping Down



The Aviation Museum of New Hampshire has announced that Executive Director Jack Ferns stepped down from his post at the end of August.

Ferns is the first person to have directed the activities of the museum and he spearheaded the effort to obtain and move the original 1937 Manchester airport terminal building across the field to its present location. The beautifully restored art deco structure is now home to New Hampshire's aviation museum.

In addition to the original terminal structure, under the leadership of Jack Ferns, the Slusser Aviation Learning Center was added to the museum in 2011. This addition provided the space needed for both interactive exhibits and for many of the on-going educational activities that take place there.

Jack Ferns championed the Aviation Education program offered at the museum whereby high school juniors and seniors come to the museum and take courses that give them an in-depth understanding of the many careers available in modern aviation.

"The Av Ed program is how we touch the future of aviation ... by inspiring the next generation of aviation industry leaders," said Ferns. "The sky may be the limit, but the Av Ed program shows these kids that it is a limitless sky."

"Jack Ferns has had a tremendous influence on the development of both the NH Aviation Historical Society and the aviation museum," said NHAHS President Scott Stimpert. "Jack leaves behind a legacy of positive and progressive change, and the entire aviation industry in the Granite State will long-remember the great contributions that he has made." ★

# NHAHS Executive Board Appoints Administrator



The NHAHS Executive Board of Directors has named Paul D. Bagley as the new administrator for the society and the museum.

Paul and his wife Mickey joined the society in early 2011 and he has volunteered as a docent ever since.

Paul also took over editing and publishing duties for the *Aeronaut* (the society's quarterly newsletter), and he is the creator and producer of *Blue Skies* (the museum's new monthly electronic news magazine).

Mr. Bagley brings with him experience in both the public and private sectors. He is a published author, and his duties will include overseeing the day-to-day business affairs of both NHAHS and the museum. He will be assuming the duties previously handled by Paulette Devino who stepped down from the post earlier this summer, and will provide assistance to the executive director as needed.

Paul can be reached through the museum, or via email at:

[pbagley@nhahs.org](mailto:pbagley@nhahs.org)



The Aviation Museum of New Hampshire will open its doors **free of charge** on Saturday September 28, 2013, as part of *Smithsonian magazine's* ninth annual **Museum Day Live!** A nationwide event, Museum Day Live! offers free admission to visitors at a participating museum or cultural institution to emulate the admission policy of the Smithsonian museums in Washington D.C. Last year's event drew over 400,000 participants nationwide, and this year's event expects record-high participation. Included that day will be a special event on "home-built" aircraft. Homebuilt, amateur built, or experimental aircraft all refer to aircraft that are constructed from scratch or kits by aviation enthusiasts using their own abilities and craftsmanship to construct safe and efficient flying machines. The official name in the US is "Experimental Amateur-Built Aircraft". The total number of registered home-builts is nearly 33,000 in the U.S. alone, plus several thousand more internationally.

Visitors will learn what it takes to construct and fly an amateur-built aircraft, see state of the art technology that goes into these aircraft, and get hands-on experience with riveting and other construction techniques. They will see finished aircraft on display and be amazed at the sophistication and capability of these aircraft. This is a chance to see an aspect of aviation that few even know exists! ★

[Click Here](#)



No museum operates by itself. It takes the effort of many people to make things happen, and in the case of the Aviation Museum of NH much of that effort comes from our dedicated volunteers. Some docents conduct guided tours while others focus on sales in the gift shop. There is archival work that goes on constantly behind the scenes to insure that the aviation history of the Granite State is authenticated, and the many and varied events held at the beautiful facility always require watchful eyes and helping hands. There's even room for those who can do expert modeling and restorations.

Volunteer efforts are the very heart of the museum, and new volunteers are needed all the time. By providing a few hours of effort each week, you too can join the elite cadre of members who make our museum possible.

Contact Wendell Berthelsen at the museum to sign up and begin your volunteer efforts. He can be reached at [wberthelsen@nhahs.org](mailto:wberthelsen@nhahs.org), or by calling the museum at (603) 669-4820.



# Coming Attractions

**Friday**

**September 13, 2013**

**NHAHS Annual Gala  
and Fund Raiser**

“It’s a great time and an  
equally great cause.”

**Monday, Tuesday &  
Wednesday**

**September 16, 17 & 18**

**Collings Foundation  
Wings of Freedom Tour**

The museum will be open all  
three days, the airplanes will be  
open to the public for tours, and  
flights can be arranged in ad-  
vance by calling:

1-978--562-9182

[www.collingsfoundation.org](http://www.collingsfoundation.org)

**Saturday, September 28**



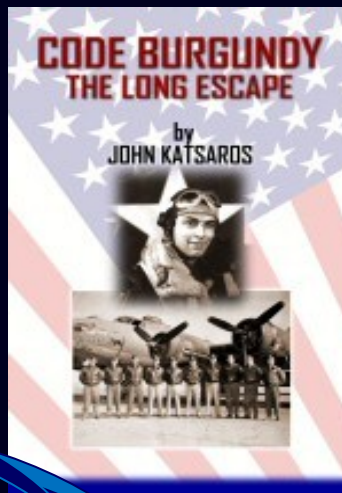
Free Admission for every vis-  
itor to the museum  
regardless of age

[Click Here](#)

**Saturday, October 5, 2013**

World War II veteran John Katsaros  
of Haverhill, MA will be on hand to  
recount his heroic experiences after  
bailing out of his crippled B-17. John  
was captured by the Gestapo and  
managed to escape his captors. He  
joined up with the French under-  
ground and, with their assistance,  
managed to escape back to England  
via a perilous route. John’s story is  
one of courage and of luck, and his  
personal recounting of events will  
keep listeners glued to their seats.  
He will also be on hand to person-  
ally sign his book Code Burgundy—  
The Long Escape.

This special event is being present-  
ed early in October and will replace  
the regular Second Saturday @ Mu-  
seum offering. Regular museum  
admission permits visitors to attend,  
and society members are welcome  
at no extra charge. The museum  
will open at 10:00 AM and the  
presentation by John Katsaros will  
begin at 11:00 with the book signing  
to follow. ★



*Blue Skies* is produced  
monthly and available free  
of charge exclusively  
through electronic medium  
to NHAHS members, muse-  
um volunteers and associ-  
ates.

Any NHAHS member can  
contribute to the news-  
letter. Email editor Paul  
Bagley at:

[pbagley@nhahs.org](mailto:pbagley@nhahs.org)

with articles, photos, event  
announcements or your ide-  
as for articles.

*All rights reserved*

Copyright © NH Aviation Historical  
Society—2013

**“Like” us on Facebook**

**Aviation Museum  
of New Hampshire**

**Museum Hours**

Monday through Thursday  
by appointment

Friday: 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM  
Saturday: 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM  
Sunday: 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Phone: 603-669-4820

[www.nhahs.org](http://www.nhahs.org)