

Fargo Air Museum

Education • Preservation • Restoration

Upcoming Events

The American Fighter Ace Exhibit

Now on display honoring North Dakota's Fighter Aces

Veteran's Coffee

Wed. Nov. 8, 2017

Coffee & donut social

Aviation Composites Youth Camp

Sat. Nov. 11, 2017

Tailored for ages 6-10 & 11-18

Veteran's Day

Sat. Nov. 11, 2017

Free admission for veterans and immediate family

Movie Night

Fri. Nov. 17, 2017

Watch The Way Back, about Sławomir Rawicz's WWII journey

Santa Fly In

Sat. Dec. 16, 2017

Santa will arrive at noon to visit with the children

See current event listing by visiting: fargoairmuseum.org



Annual Golf Tournament

Shooting for Good Times

On Monday, September 11th, we hosted 72 golfers who formed 18 teams and took to the Maple River Golf Course for our annual fundraising tournament.

Team Thermo King won the round for net score and Team Choice Financial won the round for gross score.

We want to thank Tharaldson Ethanol, Goldmark Property Management, Jim & Sherry Heyer, Fargo Jet Center, Greater Fargo-Moorhead Convention & Visitor's Bureau, and Rick Berg for making this a great event. Kelly Perhus treated everyone to a fly-over in his T-6 Texan to kick off the event. Everyone enjoyed a beautiful day on the course and a fantastic meal at the clubhouse following. The event raised over \$15,000 to further the mission of the Fargo Air Museum.

Next year's event is planned for Monday, May 21, 2018.



Fighter Aces of North Dakota

Honoring Local Heroes

A new exhibit is now complete at the Museum, thanks to designer and artist John Valo (not pictured) and the efforts of Matt Bartelt, Leo Ostendorf, Osborne (Ozzie) Groethe, and Dennis Larson.

This new display is an update (a huge change and improvement) over the previous Aces display, done 17 years ago, by Ozzie Groethe and John Valo. It is bringing a different medium to Museum displays of historical nature by combining dynamic, exciting, and colorful information to the existing plaques... no longer just something to read, but a display to enjoy!

The American Fighter Ace stands alone as an extraordinary man who has distinguished himself among the elite in aerial combat; always the hunter instead of the hunted. Throughout aviation history, during WW1, WW2, Korea, and Vietnam, these heroic pilots displayed the skills, fortitude, and courage to not only survive combat missions, but achieve the required five “kills” or victories.

Of the many pilots who reached Aces status (approx. 1400) less than 50 are surviving. In a few short years, their historic lives will be a memory - a footnote to our nations rich aviation heritage. Now is the time to enshrine these aviators so that their legacy shall live on.

The Fargo Air Museum is also near completion of another project involving Aces. Ozzie Groethe began the project months ago, added the artistic skills of John Valo, and it truly will be a spectacular display; only the second in the country, outside of the Smithsonian. This will be showcasing the Congressional Gold Medal, awarded to all Aces two years ago by Congress and signed by the President. The display, although not large in size, is very significant, and for North Dakotans to share in this award, is indeed an honor.



Education Grant

North Dakota Aeronautics Commission

The Fargo Air Museum celebrated the approval of the North Dakota Aeronautics Commission educational grant for \$13,883.

These funds make it possible to promote and provide aviation education opportunities through our monthly youth programs.

Youth Camps

Second Saturday of Each Month

Our free and educational camps for ages 6-10 and 11-18 are great ways to pique the interest of future aviators.

Topics for the upcoming year include Exploration, Astronomy, Aviation Medicine, Search and Rescue, Inventing the Airplane, Entrepreneurship, Geo-caching, Airplane Energy, Welding, Museum Collections, and Metalwork.

Watch our website for schedules and enrollment dates.



Refreshed Website Takes Flight

More tools and more information.

Over the past month the Fargo Air Museum website has undergone a complete refresh. The new landing page features highlights of upcoming events, illustrates our mission and vision, and brings new attention to our exhibits, education programs, and the event center.

Visit us online at www.fargoairmuseum.org

Movie Nights

A Unique Venue for Classic Movies

We kicked off our Fargo Air Museum Movie Night Friday, September 22nd. We were excited to host dozens of people who came out to enjoy the classic aviation movie, **Top Gun**. On Friday, October 20th, **Pearl Harbor** was shown amongst the historic aircraft in the museum. Popcorn and snacks were available and we look forward to creating a new tradition with the following titles to come: **The Way Back; Tropic Thunder; Forrest Gump; Platoon; Good Morning Vietnam; Hamburger Hill; The Green Berets; Uncommon Valor**. Visit fargoairmuseum.com for dates and times.



Celebrate!

The Fargo Air Museum was recently awarded the 2017 Certificate of Excellence by TripAdvisor for the consistent achievement of high ratings from travelers; now that is something to celebrate!



Did you know?

When you #StartWithaSmile, Amazon donates 0.5% of the purchase price to Fargo Air Museum. Bookmark this link and support us every time you shop.



Maid in the Midwest Visit

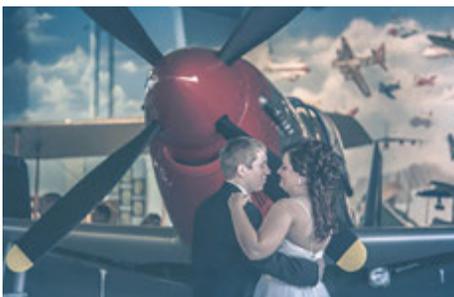
Flying Legends of Victory Tour September 5-17 Tours and Rides

The versatile B-25J Maid in the Shade was delivered to the U.S. Army Air Force on June 9, 1944. The medium-sized bomber departed Morrison Field in Florida on July 7, 1944, and followed the southern route through Brazil, then across the Atlantic to Africa where it was delivered to the 3rd Air Facility Depot. Later that fall it was picked up by the 319th Bomb Group, 437th Squadron at Serraggia Airbase, Corsica where it was assigned Battle Number 18. The plane proceeded to fly 15 combat missions over Italy between Nov. 4 and Dec. 31, 1944. The majority of the targets were railroad bridges.

In 1981, the B-25 made its way into the hands of an eager group of volunteers in Arizona, the members of CAF Airbase Arizona. It took the group nearly 28 years to fully restore the aircraft.

Every summer the Arizona Commemorative Air Force tours the United States and Canada to bring their mission of educating others about the incredible machines and heroes in combat aviation history.

The Flying Legends of Victory Tour made a two-week visit to the Fargo Air Museum and offered tours and rides. Patrons were able to strap into the gunner position for the ride of a lifetime.



More than a museum.

Dine and dance among historic legends of the sky!

Learn more by visiting:
fargoairmuseum.org/weddings

Charitable Giving

Did you know that North Dakota allows a 40% Tax Credit for Charitable Giving?

Here are 10 reasons to support Fargo Air Museum by simply contributing to the Fargo-Moorhead Area Foundation Endowment Fund:

- Personalized service tailored to each individual's charitable and financial goals
- Professional staff with expertise regarding community issues and needs
- Local organization with deep roots right here in the Cass-Clay community
- Offers a variety of giving options
- Partners with professional advisors to create effective giving strategies
- Benefit the community forever and help create personal legacies through permanent, endowed funds
- Maximum tax advantage for most gifts under federal law
- Accepts wide variety of assets, and can facilitate even the most complex forms of giving
- Multiply the impact of gift dollars by pooling them with other gifts and grants
- Community convener, catalyst and funder for positive change

To contribute directly to the Fargo-Moorhead Area Foundation's Fargo Air Museum Endowment Fund, call (701) 234-0756 to learn more.



*Pictured L-R: Jackie Williams, Kelly Perhus, Barry Batcheller, Jim Miller, Dick Walstad, Catherine Stine, Dick Springer, Darrol Schroeder, Dennis Larson, Sherry Heyer, Jim Sweeney, Kim Kenville Ph.D., John Scrapper, Marilyn Doeden, Steve Blazek, Bob Miller, Alex Macdonald. **Not pictured** Jim Heyer, Paul Bernabucci, Shawn Anderson, Brewer Doran Ph.D., and Brett Brudvik*



Strategic Vision and Planning

Improvements, Expansion, and the Future

The Fargo Air Museum hired the Stine Group for a two day strategic planning session, in order to establish long-term outcomes based on our role, goal, and mission. Leaders and strategic thinkers in our community were invited to join.

Input received on day one of the two-day event allowed us to take valuable input and feedback to our board meeting on day two to create a map for our future. Breakout sessions were productive and allowed us to have clear discussion on direction, milestones, and the definition of success. All of this will guide us through our expansion and allow us to create a solid plan for the future.

Meetings took place at Fargo Jet Center; we thank Jim Sweeney for hosting the conclave. Special thanks to all that gave of their time. Participants will be kept up to date on progress and outcomes.

Recent Events

ACAF B-25 'Maid in the Shade'

Sept. 5th - Sept. 17th

Visiting exhibit and flights

Aviation Camp

Sat. Sept. 9th

Nearly 50 youth attended to learn more about aviation

Annual Golf Tournament

Mon. Sept. 11th

18 teams participated and raised more than \$15,000

Veteran's Coffee Hour

Wed. Sept. 13th

32 joined us for a coffee and donut social

Top Gun Movie Night

Fri. Sept. 22nd

Veterans' Coffee Hour

Wed. Oct. 11th

21 stopped in for coffee and donuts

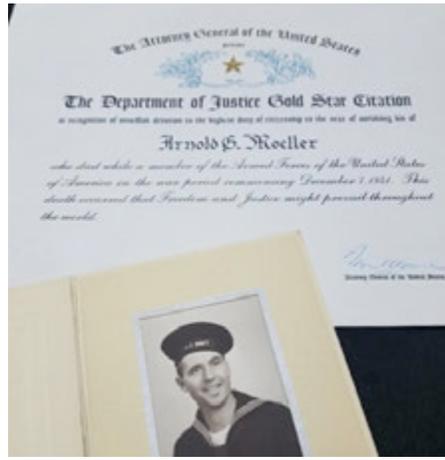
Space Exploration Camp

Sat. Oct. 14, 2017

Tailored for ages 6-10 & 11-18

Pearl Harbor Movie Night

Fri. Oct. 20th



From the Collection

Gustaf Arnold Moeller

Archives and Collection Management staff at the Fargo Air Museum have undertaken a project to update the collection inventory. During this project, we have come across many interesting collections items that have not yet been displayed at the museum. In the upcoming newsletters, we will highlight these seldom seen collections to share even more of our wonderful artifacts with the public. This article features archival material from the Gustaf Arnold Moeller Collection of World War II papers.

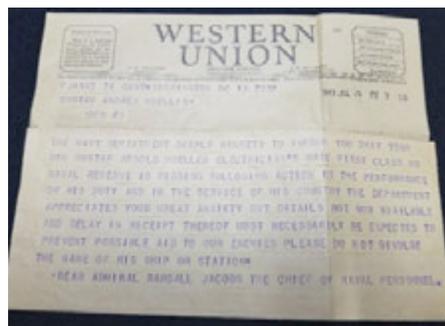
Gustaf Arnold Moeller, called Arnold, was born in North Dakota on February 6, 1912, to Swedish immigrants Gustaf Andrew and Anna Moeller. Arnold graduated from Webster High School

in 1931 and went on to attend the University of North Dakota, where he was a member of the Alpha Psi Delta fraternity. Arnold joined the United States Navy Reserve in 1942 and completed his training at the Naval Training School at Purdue University in LaFayette, Indiana on October 23rd of that year. He left his training as an Electrician's Mate Third Class and worked in electrical engineering.

The first letter in our collection is written from Arnold to his parents on March 23, 1943. The letter outlined some of the work he was doing aboard the USS Maddox. His next letter, to his sister Ethel, was written while the Maddox was in port in New York City for repairs and restocking

of supplies. This letter is written on stationery from the USO and bears the stamps "Idle gossip sinks ships." This letter to Ethel talks about the food on board the Maddox, his job as an electrician's mate, their long voyage to New York, and asks about friends and relatives back home.

Arnold wrote to Ethel on May 31, 1943. Arnold talked about firing "the big guns" and says he feels that they are "preparing for something big." This letter was sent from Virginia during their last training session before sailing overseas. On June 23, Arnold wrote to his parents that he was onboard the Maddox and they had left the United States. The ship was subject to blackouts and he wrote that he was unsure when they would receive this letter. On July 18, Ethel writes to Arnold that they have been watching the news and think they know where he is. She says it has been weeks since they heard from him and hope all is well. This letter was returned to Ethel unopened and stamped with the words "Re-



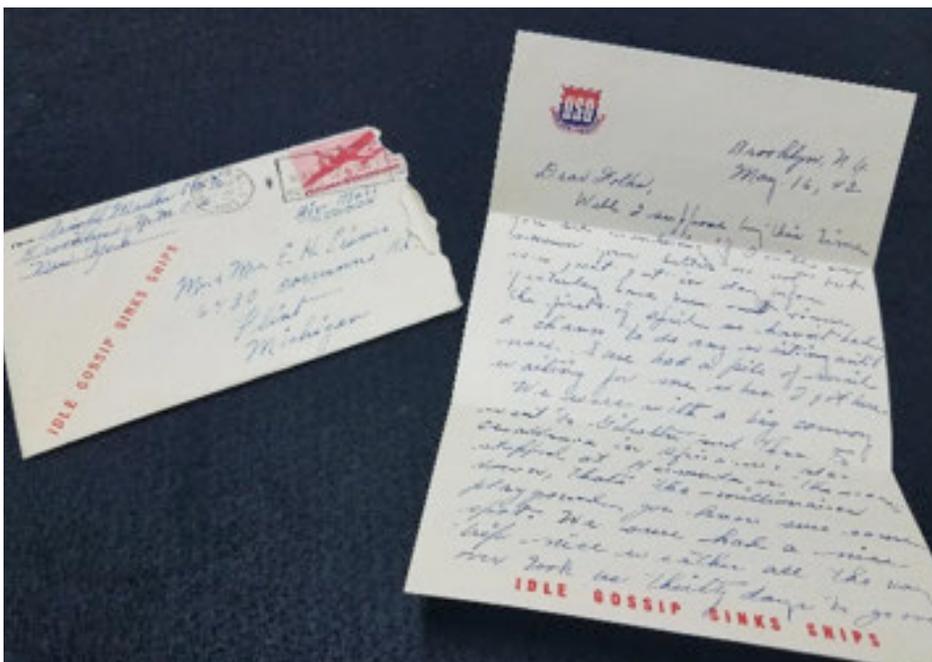
turn to Sender, Unclaimed. No record of receiver at barracks.”

On July 19, a telegram arrived at the home of Andrew Moeller. It informed the family that Arnold was missing in action. No further details were released to them. The papers that follow are nothing short of heartbreaking. There are several letters from his parents and Ethel to Navy friends of Arnolds, to Senators, and to anyone else that might be able to tell them what happened to him. Eventually, they learned that on July 10, 1943 the USS Maddox was sunk off the coast of Sicily, ten full days before they were notified. Survivors from the wreck indicated that the ship sank in under 90 seconds. None of the few survivors, 74 out of 284, had been working below decks, where Arnold would have been stationed as an electrician. The survivors believed he had gone down with the ship. His parents asked about the possibility of him being taken prisoner, but were discouraged to learn that in the event he had escaped the

ship and washed up on shore, that beach was held by American forces, so he would not have been taken prisoner.

One year after the sinking, Arnold was officially declared dead. His parents received his Purple Heart and a Gold Star Family certificate. Over the course of that year, numerous friends of Arnolds had written them to offer condolences. Ethel corresponded with many of them and even ordered colorized photos of Arnold after a friend requested one. The file also includes newspaper clippings of the sinking of the Maddox and clippings of poems and other war memorials. Clearly, the family was greatly impacted by the loss of their son and brother. The family graciously shared these records with us to preserve and to keep alive the memory of the sacrifice made by Arnold and thousands of other young people during World War II.

Letter from Lt. Paul Jones to the Moeller Family



Be part of our team!

The Fargo Air Museum is a non-profit organization promoting aviation education through restoration and preservation. We carry our mission to the local community and to traveling aviation enthusiast. We are currently looking for volunteers who are as excited about aviation and military history as we are.

Contact us for more opportunities.

(701) 293-8043
jackie@fargoairmuseum.org

A Historic Gift

A gift of Membership is a great all-access pass to the Fargo Air Museum. They are perfect holiday gifts for families, and make a unique stocking stuffer.

Memberships are the lifeblood of the museum. Each membership helps to offset regular operating expenses.

Call (701) 293-8043 or visit us online for more fargoairmuseum.org

Fargo Air Museum

Education • Preservation • Restoration

1609 19th Avenue North
Fargo, North Dakota 58102



**Preserving history.
Inspiring a new generation.**



The primary mission of the Fargo Air Museum is to inspire new generations of aviators.

We are a nonprofit organization that serves to promote interest in aviation through education, preservation and restoration.

Our education program is filled with exciting opportunities designed to rev the engines of future pilots, aircraft mechanics, air traffic controllers and more. Our aviation camps and school partnerships offer a variety of hands-on learning for school age flight enthusiasts.

Your support is what makes it all possible.

To learn more about how you can make your tax-deductible donation, please go to fargoairmuseum.org or call (701) 293-8043.

Hours: Sunday: 10 am - 1 pm, Monday: Closed, Tuesday: 10 am - 7pm, Wed-Sat: 10 am - 5 pm.