

PIONEERS OF STEALTH®

NEWSLETTER

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings Pioneers,

Welcome to the Spring Edition of the Pioneers of Stealth Newsletter. How many of you noticed what has changed? The Pioneers of Stealth name is now an officially registered trademark with the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) effective March 2025. I do want to recognize a few individuals who helped make this possible. POS member Bob Gilmore provided the research and groundwork in previous years and identified Alonzo & Associates as a potential law firm to represent our efforts. Based on Bob's efforts, Pete Knauth, our POS Treasurer, contacted Arlyn Alonzo, and conducted the preliminary discussions for the trademark registration process. After 13 months of government administrative paperwork that Pete and Arlyn waded through, the USPTO granted our trademark approval. Another example of POS teamwork! On a personal note, I received the email from Arlyn Alonzo congratulating us on our mark being registered with the USPTO on 19 March sitting in a Pub in Edinburgh, Scotland, with a pint of ale...it could not have been a better time.



Speaking of Edinburgh, our family just returned from the visit to England and Scotland. The weather was anything but normal. Days were cool and sunny, nights

chilly, but amazingly dry. It rained the first day we were there and that was it. We stayed at the Luton Hoo and visited the villages of Harpenden and St. Albans in the county of Hertfordshire, all rich in history dating back to the Roman occupation. Next stop was London taking in all its famous sights including a visit to the Tower of London. Finally, we traveled to Edinburgh, which included a walk up the Royal Mile to the Edinburgh Castle, and of course a few shops to sample the single-malt whiskeys.

The trip went smoothly with one exception. As a large group, six adults and three children, I elected to use public transportation, trains, taxis, UBER, in lieu of rental cars. This is not a problem, as long as you recognize that UK and Europe use weekends to accomplish scheduled maintenance on their rail systems. I planned on trains for two weekends to travel from the Midlands to London and Edinburgh to London. What was normally one train for

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Letter From The President - Continued from page 1.

each turned into several exchanges and buses to transit around rail closures. That was predictable, but what was not predictable was the electrical fire at Heathrow Airport on 21 March that shut down the airport and disrupted flights all over the globe. We were scheduled to fly out on the 23rd and thanks to Heathrow recovery operations our flights departed on time. We had a great time and glad to be back to the USA.

In the last newsletter, we mentioned that the POS Leadership team was focused on the planning of the POS Memorial Bench Project. Since then, the Letter of Intent has been submitted and approved, the design and inscription finalized, and the contractor, Morrison Monuments, has receiving funding to proceed. The project chairman, Denny Jarvi's announcement to the POS membership to kickoff the campaign for

donations is included in this edition. Your support and donations are needed, and appreciated, to complete the memorial with the addition of the benches.

By the time you read this newsletter, you should have seen the information on the POS 2025 Reunion to be held in Orlando in October. Registration has begun for both the hotel, Embassy Suites, Lake Buena Vista, and the reunion group events. I would like to encourage everyone to register early. This helps the reunion team in the planning of the resources such as buses, facilities, etc. If you have any questions concerning the plans or resources, contact me by email at jrsummerlot@gmail.com. Reunion updates will be provided by email in the months ahead.

Cheers,
John

United States of America

United States Patent and Trademark Office

PIONEERS OF STEALTH

Reg. No. 7,727,781

Registered Mar. 18, 2025

U.S. Cl.: 200

Collective Membership Mark

Principal Register

Pioneers of Stealth (VIRGINIA UNINCORPORATED ASSOCIATION)
130 S. Church Street
Smithfield, VIRGINIA 23430

CLASS 200: Indicating membership in a nationwide social club organization for persons who worked in certain clearly defined aspects of aviation low observables technology development and exploitation until December 17th, 1993

FIRST USE 7-00-1990; IN COMMERCE 7-00-1990

THE MARK CONSISTS OF STANDARD CHARACTERS WITHOUT CLAIM TO ANY PARTICULAR FONT STYLE, SIZE OR COLOR

SER. NO. 98-396,940, FILED 02-07-2024



“Before the Colors Fade”

Memories of the Stealth Programs

Pioneers of Stealth 2025 Reunion, Orlando Florida

Over the years, we have had formal speakers at our banquet. But this time, we want our members to tell their stories. On one day, we signed up, not only ourselves, but also our loved ones to an adventure “we couldn’t talk about.” All our lives changed that day. We would like to hear about the human interest, scary, and funny stories that happened as we worked and traveled on these classified programs. We especially want to hear the stories from our spouses and families who supported us. The Pioneers have not heard YOUR stories of the things you had to contend with while we were “out saving the world.”

No one knows how much longer we will be together. So, let us tell our stories NOW. THIS WILL BE THE REAL HISTORY OF STEALTH!!

There are ground rules for the stories and program:

1. Do not discuss any of the requirements, tradeoffs, or capabilities of any of the systems, even if the airplanes are presented in literature or in museums. If you are not sure parts of your story are declassified, please do not include them in your speech.
2. We are seeking the humorous and/or human interest stories associated with the Stealth Programs and the people who affected our lives, but please do not make us cry 😭.
3. If you include a person or persons in the telling of a story, be sure it would not embarrass, offend or belittle them in front of the audience, family, or others. This holds even if members of the family are not present. If you include someone in your story, try to coordinate with him/her to ensure it is acceptable.
4. Keep it clean!
5. Please limit the speech to five minutes.
6. Recordings, filming, or recreating any or all parts of “Before the Colors Fade” program content are not permitted, i.e. iPhones off. Reprinting only permitted with the consent of the author.

Please submit your stories to both Skip Hickey and Pete Knauth by 1 July 2025.

Our email addresses are:

Skip Hickey skiphickey@sbcglobal.net

Pete Knauth pgknauth@verizon.net

You can address any questions to Skip Hickey via e-mail or phone:

Cell (937) 271-6452 Home (937) 433-5391

Please include your email address and phone number with your submittal. This allows time to review the responses and contact the sender if there are any questions.

The final selection of five or six stories will be completed by 22 August 2025. The volunteers will be informed they have been selected to tell their story at the dinner. This leaves them about a month and a half to polish their tales. Note: The stories not selected may be included in a future Newsletter, with author’s permission.

Thanks, Skip Hickey and Pete Knauth



POS Memorial Benches

Greetings Pioneers,

As our President, John Summerlot, announced in the Winter 2025 POS Newsletter, the **Pioneers of Stealth** Leadership decided to install two benches on the POS memorial we dedicated in 2023. These benches will honor our families and their many sacrifices during our stealth aircraft developments.

The POS Leadership reactivated me as the memorial chairman.

After considerable discussion, the POS Leadership decided to make each bench exactly the same. Below are 3D view images of the memorial showing the bench placements and a close-up of one bench featuring the chosen text for both benches.

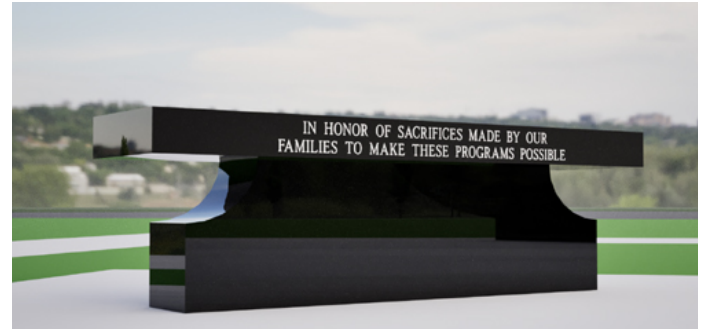
I signed a contract with Morrison Monuments on 21 February. President John Summerlot then sent a letter of intent to the National Museum of the United States Air Force along with a copy of the contract. Our request is now being coordinated among the museum staff.

The total cost is \$12,675 for the two benches. The benches are \$10,000 for both, plus \$675.00 for Ohio taxes and \$2,000 going to the NMUSAF foundation for perpetual care.

We anticipate the benches will be installed in June or July 2025. We intend to

have a dedication ceremony for the benches. Anyone who wishes to attend is very welcome. As we get close to the dedication date, I will ask who wishes to attend and what support you may need.

The benches will be jet black granite with only these words on the benches:



"IN HONOR OF SACRIFICES MADE BY OUR FAMILIES TO MAKE THESE PROGRAMS POSSIBLE"

We are asking you to help fund this addition to the memorial if you are able. Please send your checks directly to Peter Knauth, our POS Treasurer. When you send in your contributions please use the word "benches" in the memo portion on your check. If you decide to include funds for dues, please make sure you indicate how much for benches and how much for dues. The address is:

Peter G. Knauth
130 South Church St
Smithfield, VA 23430

Once again, I thank you for your support. I am honored to serve you.

Dennis W. Jarvi, Chairman
Pioneers of Stealth Memorial Committee
1092 Kenbrook Drive
Beavercreek, OH 45430-1312
Cell: 937.361.6025

(Original POS Letter edited for space constraints.)

Layout



Subject: My Heart Disease Medical Experience and Advice

By Jack Twigg

Dear Pioneers of Stealth Folks,

I had a very serious heart ailment this past Fall. I learned a lot and want to share my experience with you for your future thoughts, plans & benefits!! The most important fact for you to initially need to know is:

HEART AILMENTS, ATRIAL FIBRILLATION (A-FIB) AND VENTRICULAR FIBRILLATION (V-FIB), CAN BE INHERITED!!

THEREFORE, I ASSERT YOU MUST KNOW THE HEART HISTORY OF YOUR FAMILY, ESPECIALLY YOUR ELDERS!! I AM NOT A MEDICAL DOCTOR; BUT, I HAVE TAKEN THE INFORMATION HEREIN FROM MY RECENT AND EARLIER HEART AILMENT RECORDS AND EXPERIENCES... I appreciate the approval of the POS senior management to publish in this unsolicited script....

Atrial Fibrillation (A-Fib)

I had A-Fib 2 times, once 20 years ago and once about 4 years ago. Each time I could sense a rapid heart rate late at night, perhaps 150 to 180 beats per minute (BPM), and a 'whoozy' feeling that something was VERY abnormal. I then went to a hospital where they anesthetized me and then administered a severe shock to my body which, in both incidents, brought my heart back to 'normal' rhythm, returning home the next day

Ventricular Fibrillation (V-Fib)

Again late at night, I had an abnormal heart beat of 200 BPM in Maine this past Fall. V-Fib is an emergency situation that requires IMMEDIATE ATTENTION because one can pass away within minutes!....,,,

During V-Fib the lower heart chambers contract in a very rapid and in an uncoordinated manner, As a result the heart does not efficiently pump blood to the rest of the body!!

In my case, at midnight, at home in Maine, I felt some pain in the lower stomach area. The pain increased until it became unbearable about 5:00 AM! (I was wheezing and making moaning sounds with every breath!) I asked my MaryLou to call an ambulance!

They arrived and two individuals carried me downstairs, as I could not walk! They could sense my condition was extremely serious, but did not have a nurse aboard! They then called for a nurse who arrived quite rapidly from 12 miles away. Upon arrival and checking my heart rate, the male nurse immediately shocked me in the local ambulance! The heart rate improved a bit, and I awoke from unconsciousness.....

I claim that the male nurse on call clearly SAVED MY LIFE. They then took me first to the nearest hospital in Damarscotta, Maine, and then on to Maine Medical hospital in

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My Heart Disease Medical Experience and Advice - Continued from page 5.

Portland to continue treatments. (While in Damariscotta hospital, my wife, MaryLou, was asked, do you have any relatives that you wish to call??) Scary!!!!

After 5-6 days and given further 'choices available' to me from three Maine Medical heart doctors, I chose to have a small Defibrillator device installed under my skin near my heart. This whole operation was NEVER unpleasant and the device will now shock me whenever it senses a heart irregularity and I am remote from any medical care [such as boating, fishing, hunting or hiking in Maine]... Battery lasts for up to 10 years!! I have been truly blessed whereby we attended 5 grandkids weddings over the last calendar year...!

So, I have three very strong recommendations for POS Members that been thru prior job stress, and/or A-Fib in our Stealth team efforts.

[1] Learn all about your family's heart health history, NOW! Go to your nearest ambulance facility, find out if they will receive your 911 call...

[2] Buy a decent heart rate and blood pressure monitoring device. You might then become well aware when you can and need to check your vitals!!

[3] As in my small town in Maine V-Fib case, you might not know that the arriving ambulance will likely not have a nurse aboard for immediate V-Fib treatments... You must know what your actions then SHOULD BE! [I had no clue what was really going on!]. I was blessed that my nurse arrived at our home in time!

I can not adequately explain how great the Defibrillator installation gives me hope to press on living for a while, with no more worries what-so-ever, being remote.. i.e., just great piece-of mind now!!.... GOD bless all my Pioneer Of Stealth friends and their families. What great teams and wonderful friendships!! I suggest this be forwarded to all POS members soon and also be considered for a spot on our website. Any questions, PLEASE call me any day, any time:

Florida Home 772-344-6333 Maine Home 207-529-6615
or maybe best at MaryLou's cell 321-277-5525

Sincerely,

Jack Twigg Colonel USAF [Ret.]

Classified Aeronautical Systems Program Office (SPO) Director

New e-mail: fastsail1st@gmail.com

Blast From the Past Request

Calling all Stealth Pioneers! We are looking for those nostalgic, historic, memorable artifacts from the POS years, especially photos, to publish in future newsletters. So check your old dusty files and send us your treasures...electronically preferred, but snail mail okay. Send them to: John Summerlot at jrsummerlot@gmail.com.



Air Force Flight Test Museum Expansion

Submitted by Don Weiss

The Flight Test Historical Foundation is engaged in a multiphase effort towards an expanded flight test museum facility OUTSIDE THE EDWARDS AFB WEST GATE.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CEGneRK6Qns>

The Flight Test Historical Foundation (FTHF) is a private, nonprofit 501(c)3 organization, whose mission is to raise funds to support the development of the Air Force Flight Test Museum at Edwards AFB, California and the museum's Blackbird Airpark Annex at USAF Plant 42 in Palmdale.

The foundation is in need of significant help and in particular high level sources of support towards completion of this new facility (providing ready access to visitors).

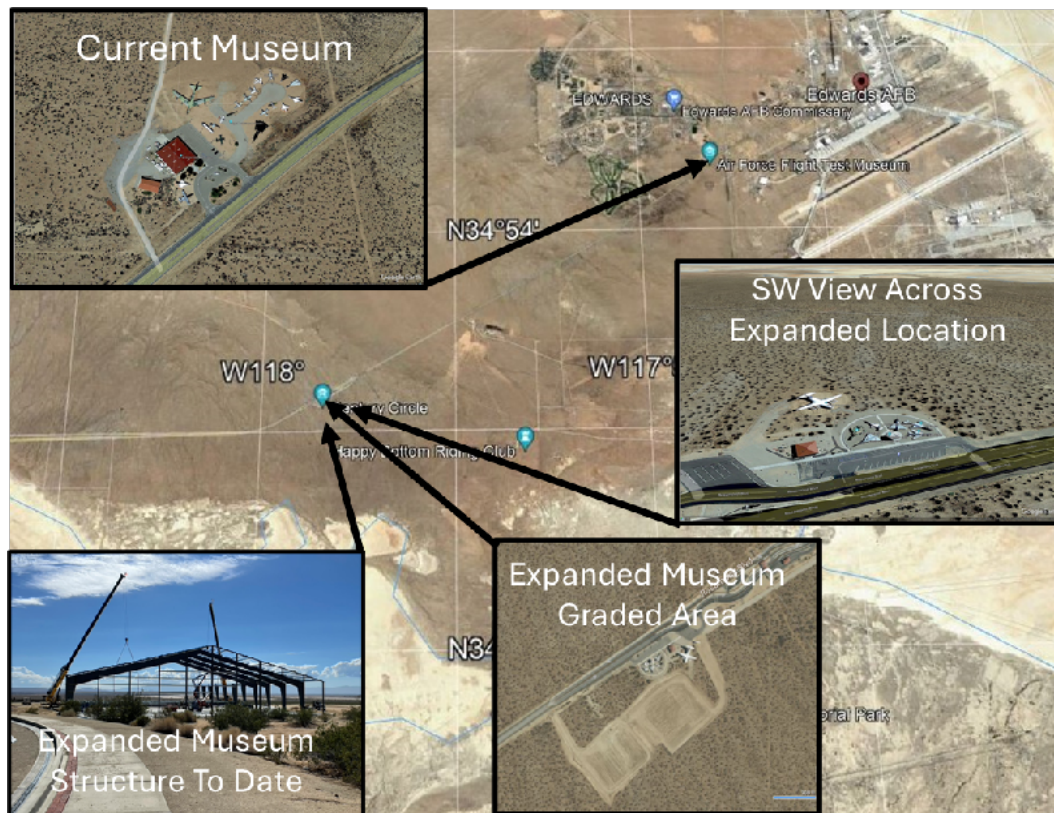


Illustration of current to expanded Flight Test Museum Geography and Layout

'Where the Sky has Never Been the Limit!', this new and expanded location is, perhaps most importantly, a place 'Where Dreams Begin and Futures are Formed' for children ages 3-13 and shows them what's possible FOR THEM if they stay the course with challenging academics.

The foundation funded the July 2000 construction of the current 12,000 square foot museum facility at Edwards Air Force Base. This current facility includes 8500

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Air Force Flight Test Museum Expansion - Continued from Page 7.

square feet of exhibits, a forty-seat theater, research library, gift shop, and administrative offices.



Current Flight Test Museum Layout

The expanded museum's initial 75,000 sq. ft. of Exhibition Hall, STEM classroom, library/ research center and associated support significantly grow the museum's ability to show off 'Heroes, Hardware and History'.

The expanded museum concrete base and building framework are already laid. We are working toward a "soft" opening date in late-2026, and an "open to the public date" just prior to the fall 2027 Edwards AFB Open House honoring the 80th Anniversary of Supersonic Flight. More detail is available through briefings, and at the museum and new museum website. Please see Foundation President Art Thompson's message (earth image under featured videos): <https://flighttestmuseum.org/>

And the expanded museum exterior and interior 'flythroughs':

<https://flighttestmuseum.org/newmuseum/>

Contributions are memorialized at various levels with recognition plaques within the museum: <https://flighttestmuseum.org/become-a-friend/>

For more information contact Art Thompson (President), Matt Higer (BGen, USAF Ret, Board of Directors), or Don Weiss (Col, USMCR Ret, Board of Directors) through the museum at (661) 277-8050.

Excerpt: “The Pioneers of Stealth,” By John M. Griffin**Chapter 7 - Other Stories Thru the Years****Senior Pilot****By Skip Hickey**

While Dick Scofield was PEM on Tacit Blue, Dave Maunder and I were working a Pilot Induced Oscillation (PIO) problem on the TB. Dick Thomas ALWAYS lost control of the airplane when he encountered a 10 FPS gust at landing and sometimes Ken Dyson did too. So one night while Dave and I were working we heard that the PEM was coming down to the simulator to fly TB. We both grinned and decided we would let the PEM fly through a couple of landings, then give him a 15 FPS gust at landing to show him how onerous TB could be. So Dick flew it, and we gave him the gust, and he flew right thru it without a bobble. Dave and I just looked at each other.

World War II Aircraft Identification “Wheel”

By Jim Uphold

Fellow Pioneers,

I need a bit of adult supervision (no surprise that).

A friend here in our retirement village had an uncle who was a WWII B-17 navigator. Before his passing he gave an aircraft identification “wheel” to my friend who showed it to me today. It is a two-sided disk, about 18 inches in diameter, dated 1942 and identifies 64 aircraft of pre- and early WWII. Each aircraft has a “shadow” profile and plan view along with six essential features useful for identification (e.g. number of wings and engines, fixed or retractable landing gear, wing shape, designation, etc.) in a little window as you turn it to the aircraft of interest. It is (was) classified “RESTRICTED.” Aircraft types include USAAF, Navy and leading allied fighters, bombers, trainers, amphibians and cargo aircraft. It appears to be in good condition given that it is at least 83 years old. A photo of each side follows.

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WWII Aircraft Identification "Wheel" - Continued from Page 9.



The uncle, original owner, was in a B-17 damaged in a night attack on Stuttgart. They nursed the injured plane back to the border with France and safely crash-landed in a field; the crew exited the aircraft and scattered. The uncle and another crewman were taken in and hidden from the Germans by a large farming family who helped them get back to England via the French underground organization. Both the uncle, who spoke a little French, and the French sheltering family survived the war and continued their relationship after it ended, a story typical of the air war in the European Theatre that made the aircraft identification "wheel" so necessary.

My friend believes it has value, but like beauty and contact lenses, that is in the eye of the beholder. So the relevant question is who might the "beholder" be. I don't believe my friend wants to sell it but he probably would be willing to give it to a worthy recipient. I immediately assumed that might be the National Museum of the US Air Force but there might be a better place or organization. What do you recommend?

Respectfully,

Jim Uphold, Member
 Pioneers of Stealth
 Phone: 805-241-3334
 Email: jimuphold63@gmail.com



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jrsummerlot@gmail.com

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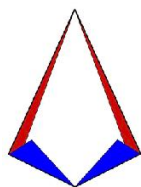
SENIOR ADVISORY GROUP

Rob Bongiovi

Jack Gordon

Dick Scofield

Jack Twigg



www.PioneersofStealth.org

Pioneers of Stealth® Charter

Purpose. The purpose of the Pioneers of Stealth organization is to perpetuate the spirit and achievements of a relatively small number of government and industry people in the early days of low observables technology and development. These "pioneers" believe the bonds created through their sharing of these successful achievements will always be an important part of their life experiences. They are proud of their accomplishments and enjoy being together to visit and revisit with those who all made valuable contributions to these challenging and revolutionary programs. Maintaining this social relationship is extremely important and a primary objective of this organization. The Pioneers of Stealth also believe that their value to the current defense acquisition establishment is best accomplished by using their strong record of achievements to be advocates and mentors for industry-government teamwork, streamlined management procedures, and minimal oversight and reporting requirements – all factors that significantly contributed to the historic successes of the low observables programs.

Next Issue.....

**Progress on POS Memorial Benches
Updates for 2025 Orlando Reunion
Excerpts from "Pioneers of Stealth"**

