Fleet Week Returns to the Intrepid Museum

Fleet Week 2009 at the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum kicked off on Wednesday, May 20, with the Parade of Ships ceremony.

This year marked the first time since 2006 that the Intrepid, which returned in November after a two-year refurbishment, hosted Fleet Week and the Memorial Day ceremony onboard the aircraft carrier. This year also was the 22nd annual Fleet Week celebration. Participating vessels proceeded up the Hudson River and past the official reviewing stand at the Museum to officially begin the festivities.

The former USS Growler (SSG 577) reopened to the public for the first time since 2006 after a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Pier 86 on Thursday, May 21. Several former crewmembers of the Growler were joined by visiting marines and sailors to officially reopen the submarine.

The Growler first opened to the public in 1989 as part of the Intrepid Museum. Constructed in 1958 and on active duty through 1964, the Growler carried nuclear missiles and performed deterrent mission patrols in the Pacific Ocean. After being decommissioned, Growler was scheduled to be destroyed as a test target, but became part of the Intrepid Museum due to the efforts of Zachary Fisher. Growler is the only intact strategic, diesel-powered submarine that carried nuclear missiles that is open to the public in the world.

Thursday evening, United States Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates was honored with the 2009 Intrepid Freedom Award at a special Salute to Freedom Gala aboard the Intrepid. Members of the participating ships’ crews and friends of the Intrepid Museum and Fleet Week gathered for a formal dinner and presentation of the award.

The New York Red Bulls paid a visit to the Intrepid to join sailors, marines and coast guardsmen from visiting U.S. Navy and U.S. Coast Guard ships in six on six soccer matches. The Red Bulls celebrated Fleet Week by playing against the U.S. Navy soccer team from the USS Roosevelt, which was stationed in Manhattan.

Friday, May 22, was Marine Day as the Intrepid honored the United States Marine Corps and the soldiers who fought in the Battle of Iwo Jima with a ceremony and wreath laying on the Flight Deck. The casts of Broadway shows Chicago and Wicked were on hand to entertain the crowds, along with several military bands.

The Tug of War competition was held on Saturday, May 23, with the team from Canadian vessel HMCS Fredericton taking the title. The crew from the USS Roosevelt won the Stem-to-Stern relay competition.

Hundreds of veterans, including several Intrepid former crewmembers, joined active members of the armed forces, including visiting marines and sailors in New York City for Fleet Week, at the Intrepid's annual Memorial Day ceremony on Monday, May 25.

With the visiting ship Iwo Jima in the background, Intrepid President Bill White served as emcee for the ceremony, which included a keynote address by Admiral Jonathan W. Greenert, Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command, remarks by Governor David Patterson and Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, a traditional wreath laying, the playing of Taps, a three-volley gun salute, the unfurling of a 100-foot American flag by veterans on the Flight Deck of Intrepid and a military flyover.

The Intrepid Museum saw a record attendance on Memorial Day with 12,217 visitors in a single day.

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Dear Member,

Summer has arrived, launched by none other than Fleet Week. Intrepid continues to make history as the Museum experienced record attendance during the five-day celebration. The Intrepid welcomed the most visitors for a single day in its 27 year history on Sunday, May 24, with 11,065 visitors to the Museum, beating the previous record of 10,800. This new record lasted only one day, when on Monday, May 25, Memorial Day, we hosted 12,217 visitors! It is truly gratifying to continue to see the tremendous results of our two-year restoration. Most importantly, we also welcomed a record number of new members during Fleet Week and to all of you: Welcome Aboard!

Fleet Week saw the opening of our aircraft elevators as well as the reopening of the Growler submarine. We added a new simulator ride to the Pier and are pleased to welcome Au Bon Pain to the Intrepid Museum, now providing food and beverages to our visitors in our Welcome Center, and on our Mess Deck and Pier.

We were so thrilled to see so many of you at our Memorial Day ceremony, when we were privileged to host New York State Senator Kirsten Gillibrand and Governor David Patterson. We hope you enjoyed the member breakfast that morning under the Concorde as well. Memorial Day and remembering the sacrifices of our service men and women are the hallmark of our mission here at Intrepid and we are so grateful to have member support and participation.

The excitement didn’t end with Fleet Week. The Intrepid was honored to have been a stop on the itinerary of His Royal Highness Prince Harry’s visit to New York City on Saturday, May 30. He toured the Museum, spoke about being in the armed forces in the UK, and was incredibly gracious and thankful for all the work the Intrepid and its foundations do for those overseas in Iraq and Afghanistan, both British and American.

The momentum continues to build at Intrepid. With Fleet Week behind us, there remains a jam packed schedule for the summer. Our Summer Salute to Heroes includes Firefighter, Paramedic, Police and Coast Guard appreciation weekends and we’ve already kicked off our Free Movie series on the Flight Deck with Top Gun on June 19 and Jaws on July 17, and are looking forward to Apollo 13 in August. We’ve also celebrated Father’s Day with discounted tickets for Dads, and launched the “CBS this Morning Summer Concert Series” with Lionel Richie. Please check our web site for the most updated details on all that’s happening.

If you haven’t had the chance to come by and experience all that’s new to do here at Intrepid yet, we hope you will this summer.

Best Wishes,

Susan Marenoff
Executive Director
Caring for Our Collections

By Britta K. Arendt, Collections Manager

Like all museums, at the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum, we strive to collect artifacts that are relevant to our mission and scope of exhibits.

While some of our artifact collections are highlighted in exhibits, others are kept in storage for research or education purposes, and a few might even be under consideration for conservation treatment to save them from degradation. In general, most museums around the nation are only capable of publicly displaying between five and 20 percent of their entire artifact collections at a given time. You might be wondering what happens when an artifact is donated to a museum, or how decisions are made whether or not to display an artifact.

At the Intrepid Museum, we collect a wide range of artifacts, from a letter written by a crewmember to his family back home during World War II to a flight suit worn by a pilot in the 1950s, or a flag designed by the crew of the Growler. Regardless of the type of artifact, they are all considered unique treasures within our collections. While we would love to display the thousands of items in our possession, we only have prepared exhibit space to show a small percentage at one time. Items more likely to be exhibited are those that tell a specific story relevant to the Intrepid’s history, or are rare but relate to an exhibit theme. The remaining artifacts, including duplicates or artifacts in poor condition, are kept in a secure space behind the scenes and used by our staff for research purposes or conservation. With our new exhibition design, many items currently on display have the potential to be rotated out periodically for other similar items, allowing Museum visitors a fresh look at our collections.

Unfortunately, artifacts on exhibit have a tendency to deteriorate more rapidly than those in storage. The combination of direct light exposure and the inability to control the environment behind glass cases are both major factors influencing the conditions of artifacts. In fact, the best way to preserve artifacts is to keep them away from light sources and in a space where temperature and humidity can be controlled. The Exhibits Department at the Intrepid meticulously monitors artifacts on display, while the Collections Manager is also responsible for the care and maintenance of the collections in storage. As you can imagine, preserving artifacts inside a ship surrounded by water is a challenging task that requires skill and experience. Over the next year, however, we will be renovating a new state-of-the-art collections space, which will greatly improve artifact accessibility as well as our ability to monitor artifact conditions. Unfortunately, artifacts on exhibit have a tendency to deteriorate more rapidly than those in storage. The combination of direct light exposure and the inability to control the environment behind glass cases are both major factors influencing the conditions of artifacts. In fact, the best way to preserve artifacts is to keep them away from light sources and in a space where temperature and humidity can be controlled. The Exhibits Department at the Intrepid meticulously monitors artifacts on display, while the Collections Manager is also responsible for the care and maintenance of the collections in storage. As you can imagine, preserving artifacts inside a ship surrounded by water is a challenging task that requires skill and experience. Over the next year, however, we will be renovating a new state-of-the-art collections space, which will greatly improve artifact accessibility as well as our ability to monitor artifact conditions.

In order to assure that our artifacts are preserved for future generations, it is also imperative that each item be thoroughly documented. With each donation comes paperwork, including a gift agreement that documents the transfer of ownership of the artifact from the donor to the Museum. The Collections Manager is responsible for managing the paperwork as well as documenting the provenance or history of the donated item. The physical conditions of the artifacts are monitored and the location of the artifacts supervised as they move within and out of the Museum site. Nevertheless, caring for our collections is an ongoing task, and quite rewarding when artifacts are prepared for exhibition or become the topic of education and research initiatives.

My colleagues and I always look forward to new artifact donations to improve our existing collections. If you are interested in donating an artifact or have more questions about collections care, I would be delighted to hear from you at barendt@intrepidmuseum.org

Some of the tools used for the care of our artifacts.

“Our Navy Scrap Book” from the World War II era.

Cloth flight helmet prepared for cleaning.
When the Intrepid Museum returned last November, we continued our mission to “honor our heroes, educate the public, and inspire our youth” through increased community outreach, enhanced educational programs, and greater public access. The Department of Institutional Advancement was assembled to help raise the funds to maintain this level of commitment, providing an unparalleled visitor experience – and plan for the future. It gives me great pleasure to introduce myself, as well as my colleagues: Susan Hannah, Vice President of Institutional Advancement; Ade Omotade, Manager of Foundation and Corporate Relations; and Dorothy Nixon, Manager of Prospect Research.

We are proud to announce the following gifts since our reopening: Motorola Foundation (Camp Goals, $82,000); American Honda Foundation (Science Education, $75,000); Grindstone Foundation (History Education, $50,000); Bodman Foundation (Education, $50,000); TD Banknorth Charitable Foundation (Science/History Education, $33,000); Ambrose Monell Foundation (Education, $25,000); Richmond County Savings Foundation (Education, $10,000); The Atlantic Philanthropies (Education, $10,000); T. Rowe Price Associates Foundation (Unrestricted, $2,500); NAMSB Foundation (Unrestricted, $3,000); and R. Bradford Evans (upcoming “Snoopy as WWI Flying Ace” Exhibit, $10,000). We’ve also launched an Annual Fund with our first direct mail campaign for Camp Intrepid scholarship funding, and are developing Planned Giving and Naming Opportunities programs, while improving our online outreach.

As members, you already have a stake in Intrepid remaining one of New York’s top cultural destinations. We are dedicated to making sure that happens. We hope you can help us through your tax-deductible philanthropy, either by making an outright donation, a gift in memory or honor of someone, a legacy gift, or simply by volunteering your time. All gifts are most welcomed.

If you are interested in learning more about investing in Intrepid’s future, please contact us at 646-381-5272 or e-mail support@intrepidmuseum.org. Thank you!

Conference on New York State History
Revealing the Humanity Behind the Hardware

Three Intrepid Museum staff members, Jessica Williams, Curator of History; Eric Boehm, Aircraft Restoration Manager; and Sheri J. Levinsky, Assistant Vice President of Education, recently participated in the “30th Conference on New York State History,” sponsored by New York State Historical Association, in collaboration with the New York State Archives Partnership Trust and co-sponsored by New York Council for Humanities. These three distinguished individuals spoke on a panel entitled, “Three Approaches to Revealing the Humanity Behind the Hardware.” They each spoke at length about the work done during Intrepid’s restoration and renovation and shared their perspectives on the goal of making history come alive for the visitor.
Fleet Week 2009 has come and gone and I hope that many of you had the opportunity to experience it. The crowds were amazing and interest in the aircraft was quite high.

Kevin, my able assistant, and I were happy to get nothing accomplished that week. Our time was spent with the visitors, explaining our processes and answering questions about all the aircraft. It was an exciting break from the day-in, day-out drudgery of scraping old paint and riveting on new metal. I promised Christine, our Membership Manager, that I would keep this short so that she could squeeze in as many Fleet Week photos as possible, so let’s get to it!

We are now starting to apply new paint to the E-1B Tracer. This project has taken more time and effort than I had originally expected. Not only is it very large, but there were several surprises that needed our attention. As we began preparing the surface for new paint, we realized that this airplane is BIG! At times it felt like we were doing two aircraft at the same time. There were several missing pieces which we were able to find at an aircraft salvage yard in Tucson, Arizona. The crew entry door was the biggest hunk. We had to dismantle the entire latch mechanism of the replacement door and soak it in oil and machine a few parts. Once trimmed to fit and reinstalled it was perfect.

We are shooting for a roll-out sometime in July. The aircraft will be painted in the markings of VAW-121, the squadron that supplied E-1B Tracers to the Atlantic Fleet, including Intrepid, in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Our next issue will include some history and a photo of the completed aircraft.

Past installments of the Fly Zone have been centered on the aircraft refurbishment process and the occasional new arrival. I hope the membership finds these articles interesting and informative. In addition, I would like to open up this forum to all of you. I’m sure you have questions and concerns about the aircraft collection and I would like to answer them. If you have any queries or comments that you feel the membership would enjoy knowing about, please drop me a note or give me a call at eboehm@intrepidmuseum.org or 646-381-5237.

Portside Aircraft Elevator Opens to the Public

On May 19, the day before Fleet Week kicked off, the Intrepid Museum opened its newest exhibit, the portside aircraft elevator, with a ceremony held on the Flight Deck.

The lift of a Beech T-34 airplane and several honored guests marked the first time since 1974 that the portside aircraft elevator transported aircraft between the Hangar Deck and Flight Deck of the former USS Intrepid. The elevator had not been used since the Intrepid became the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum in 1982.

Weather permitting, the elevator will run daily at 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. from the Flight Deck to the Hangar Deck and back to the Flight Deck. Museum guests will be able to stand alongside the aircraft and ride the renovated elevator.

Prior to the inaugural lift, Bill White, President of the Museum, Robert Buckley, Regional General Manager for the Greater New York Region of Otis Elevator Company, Arthur Wilson, National Adjutant of Disabled American Veterans and Richard Marbes, Chairman of Disabled American Veterans Charitable Service Trust, offered remarks at the dedication ceremony. More than 1,200 Museum guests rode the elevator during Fleet Week.
On May 14, the dynamic and powerful Colonel John Boggs spoke to a packed MTF Education Center, Great Hall filled with more than 200 middle school students from IS 230 in Jackson Heights, New York at our sixth Power of One for the school year.

On May 21, we hosted fifth grade classes from the Green Vale School on Long Island. These amazing students enjoyed a Youth Leadership Conference (YLC) with the Intrepid team and had an opportunity to video conference with Vietnam P.O.W. Dave Carey, successfully testing out amazing new technologies with Polycom in the Great Hall.

On May 29, we hosted a massive all-day YLC for Manhattan DOE high school students. The Navy provided seven inspiring volunteers for student mentoring sessions as well as the incredible Captain Cooper, who delivered our keynote address.

On June 17, the Wolf Conservation Center entertained, educated and enlightened a host of elementary students from Englewood, New Jersey, about the importance of maintaining a healthy balance with nature and keeping wolves from becoming further endangered or extinct. Atka, a beautiful arctic grey wolf, stole the show as the center’s youngest ambassador wolf, and first wolf aboard the Intrepid!

This summer the education leadership team will be very busy hosting a special Power of One and Youth Leadership Conference for the Police Athletic League, as well as gearing up for LIFTT (Leadership Institute for Today and Tomorrow), our full-year leadership program for 50 public high school juniors from every borough in New York City. Next year’s LIFTT will incorporate new environmental partners and the opportunity for students to make a “green impact” in their schools and communities.

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The Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund, a national leader in supporting the men and women of the United States Armed Forces and their families, is constructing a new facility to serve our military community: the National Intrepid Center of Excellence (NICoE), a $60 million advanced facility dedicated to research, diagnosis and treatment of military personnel and veterans suffering from traumatic brain injury (TBI).

We are at a crucial point in our fundraising efforts for NICoE. We are within $3 million of our goal to open this center on time in 2010. Construction has begun and it is critical that we make this resource available as soon as possible to the brave men and women who continue to sacrifice for our nation and our freedom. We need your help now to bring us over the finish line and open the doors of NICoE to help them begin their road to recovery.

Please join us in this very special effort to support our military heroes who have sacrificed so much in service to our nation. One hundred percent of donations go directly to construction of NICoE; all administrative costs are paid for by the Fund’s Board of Trustees and from interest on invested funds.

Construction of the Center is well underway.

For more information or to make a donation:
INTREPID FALLEN HEROES FUND
One Intrepid Square
West 46th St & 12th Ave, New York, NY 10036
www.fallenheroesfund.org • 1-800-340-HERO

Questions? Call 646-381-5030.
**Spring/Summer Museum Hours:**
Monday – Friday: 10:00 am – 5:00 pm
Saturday – Sunday: 10:00 am – 6:00 pm, Holidays: 10:00 am – 6:00 pm
For more information and directions, call 1-877-957-SHIP or visit our web site at www.intrepidmuseum.org

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**INTERACTIVITIES**

Complete the cryptogram and learn about the Growler submarine.

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In 1958, the Growler was assigned to become part of the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum.

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**SCUTTLEBUTT**

Q: The crew of the British Airways Concorde saw more than 2.5 million passengers during its time in service, but some of these passengers were repeat travelers. How many times in one year did the most frequent passenger make the transatlantic crossing? Hint: Visit the British Airways web site for the answer.

Enter to win an Intrepid Museum tote bag by sending your answer to membership@intrepidmuseum.org or by mail to: Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum: Membership Department/Scuttlebutt 12th Avenue and 46th Street, New York, NY 10036.

Include your name, address, telephone number and email address with your answer. One (1) winner will be notified. All answers must be received by August 21, 2009, at 9:00 am EST.

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**EVENT LOG**

Join us for these upcoming events:
- August 1 - 2: Coast Guard Appreciation Weekend
- August 15 - 16: Police Appreciation Weekend
- August 16: 66th Anniversary of Intrepid's Commissioning
- August 19: National Aviation Day
- August 21: Summer Movie Series Finale – Apollo 13
- August 25: 33rd Anniversary of Concorde's First Flight
- September 12 - 13: Safety Preparedness Weekend