

# Throttle Forward...

## SNOOPY, KSTS, & "SPARKY"

Every so often we receive an email that will strike movement in the gray matter between my ears. A few months ago, I received an email about an airport event from Melinda Gay. Her airport is the Charles M. Schutz (AKA Peanuts cartoon creator) airport in Sonoma County (CA). Interesting, I thought! My discussion with Melinda lead me to contact Gina Huntsinger of the Charles M. Schutz Museum and Craig Schutz (Charles Schutz's son).

With all that being said, we were able to give you a great cover and feature story about a unique individual who certainly entertained the world with his cartoon humor for 50 years. Personally, I have been a fan, as are my children (who are now adults) for years. Again, sometimes it is just a simple email that will produce one nice feature story and cover. If you have suggestions on stories, by all means send them to me. *FLY-LOW* is your magazine....

## FROM BIRD POOP TO BEAUTIFUL

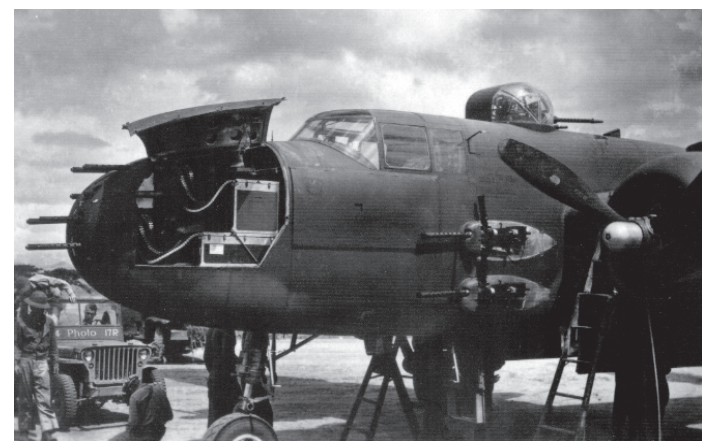
September's cover was a treat and it happened the same way. Dan Cherry of the Aviation Heritage Park in Bowling Green (KY) sent in a simple info email about what the museum was doing. Along with the story, he sent that fantastic photo by John Fleck. Just before we were to use another photo for the cover, someone called the 550 Phantom photo to my attention. WOW!!! I suggested we find a way to use it on the cover.

John Fleck, the photographer, did such a great job. What you may not know and I failed to mention last month is the plane was sitting on the ground with Dan Cherry in it when photographed. The plane was then Photoshop'ed into the clouds. Beautiful work. Even I had questions about the photo/flight. I knew that when the Government gives these planes to be use as static displays, they don't leave the engines. I called Cherry and he confirmed my suspicions. It was in fact it was on the ground when photographed. What a great job

The photo wouldn't fit our front page, so I had to maneuver it around which left some blank space on the upper left and lower right corner... waaalaaaa... The American flag was placed behind it by our staff to get the desired photo and cover. Now you know the rest of the story. As I said, sometimes it only takes an email or an event being sent to our newsroom to end up on the front cover... there are no guarantees... but the last two months are good examples. My thanks to both for sending their event information.

## THE ACTUAL PLANE

After the July issue with the story about "Pappy" Gunn, I received a call from Tom Johnson of Little Rock. Johnson served in WW II in the photographic unit of the Army Air Force. He photographed the modified B-25 (shown on right) during the war and offered it to me for publication. You can see the now heavily fortified nose and sides of the plane. Normally, there would be only one gun in the nose. This is a photo of the "Pappy" Gunn modified B-25 after being converted. It is an original and thanks to Tom Johnson for sharing this rare piece of information and photo. We will publish more of his photos in future issues.



## And They Continue to Crash...

It is hard to watch the continuing crash of aerobatic performers at the Reno Air Races and air shows. There is an inherent risk in performing at air shows or flying in general.

That same risk or perhaps more of a risk is taken when we drive to our local discount center. Since over 3,500 people die on our streets each month and forty percent of them are killed by drunk drivers. Those numbers don't seem to be a upset anyone, but when we loose five or six a year in aerobatic crashes... the media jumps all over it.

I see on the Internet and in newspapers where editorials call for a cease of air shows due to the crashes. I, too, hate to see the crash and death of performers at airshows... especially since many of them are my friends. I would like to see a better safety performance from those who fly in shows and a MUCH BETTER performance of those who are on the ground to protect them if they crash... such as fire fighters and EMTs... We shouldn't try to stop the performance any more than we try to stop NASCAR races or people from driving to KMart....

Throttle Forward and Fly-Low....

