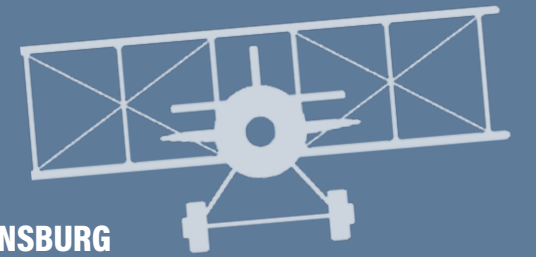


AUGUST TOUR

# THE WESTERN MUSEUM OF FLIGHT AND THE MUCKEL COLLECTION

BY DIANA GINSBURG



On Saturday, August 3, 2019, Members of the Southern California Region toured the Western Museum of Flight and the John and Linda Muckel Car Collection, both located at the Torrance Airport. Paul Ginsburg served as the tourmaster for this event and all who attended enjoyed this day's outing.



## WESTERN MUSEUM OF FLIGHT

Our group was divided into two groups for the tour of the Western Museum of Flight and I was in the first group. Our docent opened the tour with a trip through the gift shop filled with items related to various aspects of aviation. In the same vicinity was a research library, with many books devoted to women in aviation, but, women were not flyers in the past military. Some of the books are very rare and one must be a Museum member to check out books. We then proceeded to explore the main hangar area of the Museum, which primarily focuses on the history of Northrup, founded by Jack Northrup in 1939.

We also learned about the history of the Torrance Airport through displays of

historic photos The airport opened in 1943, one of more than 60 air fields created in haste as a defense tactic. It was originally called the Lomita Flight Strip and was home to the P-38 aircraft for flight training. Until the 1960s, Southern California's production of aircraft was extensive. In 1946, the airfield was renamed Zamperini Field, honoring Louis Zamperini. The 2014 movie "Unbroken" chronicled the life and times of Louis Zamperini.

The Museum includes several exhibits on space, the Hubble and other rare telescopes, and a few aircraft engines, including an engine from Howard Hughes' Spruce Goose. There is also a manned glider from World War II built by Northrup. This was a precursor to the drone. >>>

PHOTOS TOP:  
The various planes from yesteryear at The Western Museum of Flight.

PHOTO LEFT:  
John Milliken back in the cockpit of the F-5A Jet Fighter plane which is located in the museum.





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Our tour became more personal and interesting when we examined the F-5A Jet Fighter plane located in the Museum. Southern California Region Board Member John Milliken is very familiar with the T-38, the training version of the F-5A in Viet Nam. John told our group about his experience with the T-38 and his assignment to train Vietnamese pilots on the F-5A, then climbed into the cockpit, bringing back many memories. The F-5A was a well-armed war machine, and was used by many countries during this period.

We then moved to the second hangar of the Museum, and saw several historic planes, including an SR 71 Blackbird. This plane flew at 90,000 feet at supersonic speeds and could outrun Russian missiles. Not surprisingly, it had to be re-fueled



PHOTOS CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:  
1929 Duesenberg J LeBaron Dual-Cowl Phaeton.

1929 Packard 645 Sport Phaeton, Dietrich.

1927 Bentley 6.5-Litre Tourer, Vanden Plas.

1934 Packard 1101 Convertible Sedan, Gläser.

every hour or so. We also saw a drone from 1984, used to jam radar devices. A beautiful black plane took most of the space in the second hangar, which is on loan from England

### JOHN AND LINDA MUCKEL COLLECTION

We then walked to the John and Linda Muckel Collection, located in a large hangar two rows away from the Museum. Bob Shapiro, a friend of John, who helps John with the cars in the collection, served as our docent. The collection was made up of 25 cars, spanning Brass and Antique cars to modern day super cars. Included were a 1908 Stanley Steamer, a 1911 Locomobile 6-48, several Classic Packards, a 1956 Chevy Bel Air convertible, a 1957 Thunderbird and a 2007 Ferrari 599 GTB Fiorano.

I asked Bob what were the most expensive cars, and he pointed to the beautiful 1929 Duesenberg J-126 Dual- >>>



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Cowl Phaeton by, LeBaron and the 1927 Bentley 6.5-Litre Tourer by Vanden Plas.

All of the cars in the collection were fully restored cars, in excellent condition.

Our group will probably be the last group able to see the full collection as John has arranged for all of the cars to be sold at auction, over several different auction events. We wish him success in the sales, and we thank John and Linda for allowing us to tour this fabulous collection of cars one last time.

After we toured the Muckel Collection we drove to the Red Car Brewery & Restaurant in Old Historic Torrance, for lunch. As in the past, the owners of Red Car were gracious, the servers were friendly and capable, and the food was great and consistent.

New Regional members Jim and Karla Cohen attended the tour and lunch and drove from Glendale in their very nice and racy looking TR6. Karla and Jim, welcome to the Club. And thanks to all who participated in this fun and informative day. ●



PHOTOS FROM  
TOP TO BOTTOM:  
1931 Packard  
845 Convertible  
Victoria, Waterhouse.

1947 Chrysler Town  
& Country Sedan.

1938 Alvis Speed  
25 Touring.



1938  
Alvis Speed 25  
Touring

- Coachwork: Gross and Gills
- Engine: 2011 cc (218 cu. in.)
- Transmission: 3SP
- Transmission: Manual
- Weight: 2660 lbs
- Wheelbase: 120"
- Production: Only 50 Speed 25 Touring
- Source: Public Domain