

SHIP UPDATES

VOLUNTEER ACHIEVEMENTS

NOTABLE EVENTS

HORNETBUZZ

All Hands on Deck: Keeping History Afloat

Hornet: From Apollo To Artemis



(l to r): Jeremy Hansen, Victor Glover, Reid Wiseman, Christina Koch

April 2026: Excited visitors came aboard USS Hornet Sea, Air & Space Museum to watch live coverage of Artemis II's historic splashdown after their journey around the Moon and back. Hornet's legacy was on full display as guests toured our historic vessel's exhibits.

Everyone was riveted as we watched NASA's live feed of the Artemis II crew (including America's first Moon-bound female and African-American astronauts) returning safely to Earth. Everyone shared in the achievement!



Artemis II recovery off San Diego



(l to r): Neil Armstrong CMDR, Michael Collins Pilot, Buzz Aldrin LM Pilot

July 1969: USS Hornet was on duty as the world watched and waited for the splashdown and recovery of the Apollo 11 crew, the first people to walk on our Moon!

Hornet's crew trained tirelessly for this special mission and did not disappoint.

Nearly 200 million people around the world watched as USS Hornet (CVS-12) recovered Armstrong, Aldrin and Collins on live TV.

At 650 million viewers, the first moon landing remains the most watched televised event, ever.



Apollo 11 crew in MQF aboard Hornet

From the Bridge

Laura Fies,
Executive Director
Summer 2026:



Welcome back, Hornet Buzz!

It's an exciting time aboard The USS Hornet Sea, Air & Space Museum with several projects and programs, new spaces opening, new exhibits installing, and people visiting!

We take pride in delivering on our mission, and we are forever grateful for our museum's backbone, our staff and volunteers. We could not do what we do without your hard work and love for sharing Hornet with the public.

I am pleased to write this first *From the Bridge* introducing the return of Hornet Buzz with a modern flair. The editorial team has done good work. It will be fun to see where it goes! Having seen many of Hornet's newsletters from her operating years it's great to see the tradition continue!

This quarterly newsletter will share updates about events, current and upcoming projects, museum training, and feature stories about our amazing volunteers, staff, and friends of the museum.



Hornet Buzz Quarterly to inform, celebrate and engage the USS Hornet Sea, Air & Space Museum community.

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Hornet Team Gets A Boost from AI

By Todd Davis

The Hornet experience is about to get better! Docents, staff, and volunteers will be able to access a variety of curated USS Hornet Sea, Air & Space Museum documents from their phones. I sat with our CIO, Mark Rowell, as he prepares to launch the USS Hornet Docent Notebook later this year.

Powered by AI, the Notebook accesses secure files curated by Hornet Museum staff. Unlike Claude, ChatGPT or Grok that access the internet and are open to the public, our Docent Notebook can only be accessed by us.

It does much more than answer questions. It can be used to help prepare slideshows, infographics, high-quality audio and video content, all in a matter of minutes!

Mark, Chuck Myers and Gerald Bryant started using **Gemini Notebook**, an AI platform for curating libraries, last year.

Mark shared with me that he has, “a sort of ‘Skunkworks’ for projects like this intended to help Hornet thrive.” He explained the Notebook is not open to the public, but if you have a Google account you can be given access for projects.

We put the Notebook to the test and asked about Hornet’s F6F Hellcats. The Notebook replied in natural language (like a person wrote it, not a machine). Next, we tried out “Studio” to make an anime-style video. Within an hour we had a two-minute, narrated video that was accurate and fun!

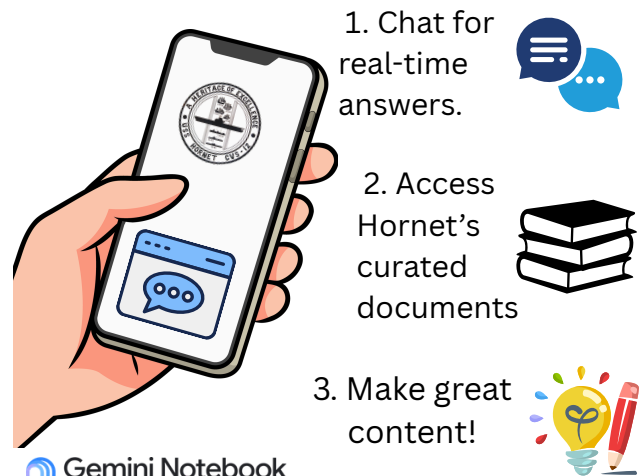
Mark and team put accuracy first. He explained the early days of testing, “We tried adding external documents but found having only USS Hornet content ensured accurate output.”

Vetting data matters and with near 170 files and growing, that means a large time commitment. Mark and team need help from knowledgeable people to vet what goes into, and what comes out of, the Notebook. Future Users will be trained to build queries (tech-speak for questions) so answers are accurate and useful.

It is easy to imagine how this will help our docents answer ‘tough’ questions from visitors and create material to tell our stories.

As we add more curated content, the USS Hornet Docent Notebook will help us all deliver great experiences for our visitors.

How the Notebook Works



News & Updates from Our Departments

Aircraft Restoration

Volunteers completed preparatory work Saturday June 6th ahead of a highly anticipated move of our F-14 Tomcat on June 10th. Additional preparation work on Tuesday, June 9th ensured a smooth and successful move.

Ship Restoration

Work continues on several exciting projects: the crane, forward sonar, and officers' barbershop are all progressing steadily and we look forward to sharing updates as more milestones are reached.

Operations

We extend our sincere gratitude to our neighbors at Power Engineering for their assistance in getting our entry brow back up and running.



Jose Ferreira
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Education

Reports of pale, inhuman shapes, flickering lights and strange disturbances outside EDU offices have staff on edge.

Closed doors opening, papers shuffling and chairs spinning, as if pushed by unseen hands, are regularly reported by the team.

Sightings of forms gliding silently down the halls, only to disappear into the darkness, cannot yet be explained.

A recent eyewitness reported seeing a figure with a face reflected in their computer screen. When they turned to look the figure closed in, looking directly at them, smiling.



Heidi Schave
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SAFETY Committee



Be sure to read our
**SAFETY & SECURITY
MANUAL**

Your department head
must sign off that you
read it!

Collections & Exhibits

See **Closer Look** on
page 4

HARC

July 11, 2026, Technician
Class on Hornet, led by
Rich Harrington KN6FW &
Paul Shinn K6FRC.

Class Fees:

\$ 15 Exam Fee,

\$ 35 FCC license Fee.

NOTE: FCC FRN number is
a prerequisite!

**More Department
Updates Coming Soon!**

**442nd
Security
Docents
... and more!**

A Closer Look

Anthony Wilson & Joe Angiulo tell Hornet Buzz about ...

Collections & Exhibits

What is the mission of Collections & Exhibits?

Our mission is caring for artifacts in order to educate and inform visitors. "Caring for" includes handling, tracking, researching, photographing and collaborating with all of our departments. We go above and beyond as mentors for students and interns, many of whom create and improve our exhibits.

What's In Our Collection?

Actually, we have three collections: the **Permanent** collection with over 17,000 valuable, historically important documents, objects and photographs; a **Use** Collection of 300+ items to be 'used' in outreach and learning; and a **Research Library** with a publicly accessible Book Room with over 1,200 books and ephemera (mostly about our museum) and in-house Log Room with 4000 blueprints and technical drawings for keeping systems like the crane and aircraft elevators working.



Visitors enjoying Splashdown!



Anthony shows our Docents the new *Hornet: Legacy of The Name*.

Do you have favorite artifact or exhibit?

Anthony: Mine is *Hornet*. She has *PastPerfect* database entry #1998.001.0001. Her artifact tag hangs in my office. *Hornet's* an artifact with exhibition, office, storage and event spaces. Millions watched *Hornet* recover Apollo 11 on TV. She's arguably the world's most viewed ship. *Apollo Splashdown* shows our collaboration and *Ready Room 3* is special as my first exhibit after taking over the department.

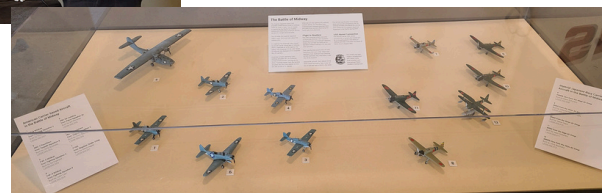
Joe: For me, the refreshed Women in the Military, Apollo Splashdown and *Hornet: Legacy of The Name* are focused with better mounts (exhibit hardware) and graphics.

What Makes A Good Volunteer?

Volunteers, our greatest assets, need a passion for history or museums, a 'can do' attitude, patience, integrity and attention to detail. If you enjoy working with tools, there's lots of fun things to do. Important but unsung work includes cleaning exhibits, demolishing old ones, removing and properly disposing of materials.



← Joe builds the "Battle of Midway Model Aircraft." Exhibits inform and entertain visitors. See the finished exhibit on the hanger deck!



About Anthony & Joe

Anthony's love of naval history led to a museum career and to Hornet. He holds an MA in Museum Studies from SFSU. He interned at the National Museum of the US Navy & Interior Department in Washington, DC.

Joe grew up in Marin with a love for visiting museums. Before joining Hornet in 2022, he was a graphic designer (a skill he puts to great use in our exhibits). He holds an MA in Museum Studies from SF State.

Volunteers!

AIR GROUP WORKS ON ALL LEVELS



UP HIGH ...



Photo: Jazmine M. Livingston

On the Flight Deck with our T-28

... IN BETWEEN ...



Volunteers team up to move our F-14 Tomcat to restoration.
Photo: Jazmine M. Livingston

... AND DOWN BELOW!



Clearing the hold below the restoration area

Photo: Jazmine M. Livingston

It wouldn't be an aircraft carrier without aircraft!

Air Group Volunteers' dedication and teamwork keep Hornet's hive buzzing!

The Ready Room

Upcoming Events Aboard USS Hornet
(Dates subject to change!)

CATCH
WEEKLY
UPDATES IN
THE POD!

2026 JULY						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Day Event

- 1 Naturalization Event
- 3 F-11 Parade prep
- 4 Arts & Crafts Fair /
USA 250th Birthday 
- 11 HARC Licensing Class
- 18 Apollo 11 Splashdown! 

2026 AUGUST						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Day Event

- 8 Volunteer Appreciation! 
- 15 South Seas Swing 

2026 SEPTEMBER						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Day Event

- 14 NTAG Pinning Overnight
- 17 POW/MIA Recognition Day
- 19 Hispanic Heritage
- 23 Truck Pull! 
- 27 Gold Star Mothers' Day 

DOCENT CLASSES SUMMER 2026

Docent/ (noun): a person who leads guided tours especially through museums or galleries

Topic	Presenter	Date	Location
Hornet CV-8's Air Group at Midway	Jon Boucher	6/14/2026	Flight Suit Mess
Battle of the Philippine Sea	Steve Leavell	6/20/2026	Flight Suit Mess
Fire Control /Gunnery	Brian Crisp	6/27/2026	Orientation in HB 1
HUP 1 Retriever	Joe Martinez	7/5/2026	At the HUP 1 in HB 2
Insights into Apollo Hardware Engineering	Bill Miklos	7/11/2026	Flight Suit Mess
Ready Room and Flight Ops Prep	Rich Keefer	7/18/2026	Ready Room 4
Torpedoes	Jon Boucher	7/25/2026	Flight Suit Mess
Aeronautics for Groundlings	Bill Nelson	8/1/2026	Flight Suit Mess
PriFly	John Grice	8/2/2026	Pri Fly
S2 Tracker	Mike Green	8/8/2026	Flight Suit Mess
Special Weapons	Steve Leavell	8/16/2026	Flight Suit Mess
Navigation & Captain's Mast	Bill Woodward	8/23/2026	Navigation
Foc'sle/Unrep	Brian Crisp	8/30/2026	Orientation in HB 1

FUN FACT Hornet Helps AFD Win Face Off

The City of Alameda Fire Department won the Fire Truck Face Off of 2026. AFD's photo bested 31 other California city fire squads, with help from the Hornet as its winning backdrop! AFD won a showcase photo in the sponsor's calendar and \$1,500 prize donation to the Alameda Food Bank.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: TODD DAVIS



Todd is in his 3rd year as a volunteer in Collections & Exhibits. "I love our exhibits. Apollo taps my interest in space, history and astronomy. I also taking out littler visitors to find Gunner in Air Group 11. My wife, Stefanie, and I live in Alameda. I am semi-retired; I consult by day and stargaze by night. I write too, my novel, Beyond the Hills, is a sci-fi thriller featuring Hornet, is available on Amazon."

Know a Volunteer to Spotlight? Tell Todd: todd.davis@uss-hornet.org.