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Mercedes-Benz of Fort Lauderdale
Come Fly With Me Gala held on October 3, 2009 raised nearly \$200,000 to benefit the Museum of Discovery & Science

Kim L. Cavendish, President/CEO of Museum of Discovery and Science, announced November 19, 2009 that the Mercedes-Benz of Fort Lauderdale Come Fly With Me Gala held on Saturday, October 3, 2009 raised nearly \$200,000 to benefit the Museum. Cavendish said, "We are grateful that even in a difficult economy, the community extends its resources to support the Museum and to acknowledge the value and importance of the science education that we deliver. We are especially grateful to our dynamic event co-chairs and generous sponsors."

The aviation themed gala coincided with the opening of the Museum's newly expanded exhibit, Aviation Station Phase Two, which opened to the public on October 10, 2009. The expanded exhibit features three cockpit replicas with flight simulators, real aircraft engines and a MaxFlight Simulator with full motion, 360 degree pitch, roll and spin that will immerse guests in the world of aviation. The Aviation Station Phase Two opening is a major milestone in the Museum's \$25 million expansion project.

Nearly 500 guests reveled in an elegant evening of fine dining, aviation exhibit interaction and Las Vegas style casino games. The event included both silent and live auctions that featured first-class prizes including: roundtrip airfare on a private jet and four tickets to the University of Florida vs. Florida State University football game; a six-day, Mediterranean cruise aboard The Yachts of Seabourn; an African photo safari; and a day of driving at the Palm Beach International Raceway, just to name a few

Inspired by the song Come Fly With Me made famous by Frank Sinatra, this year's gala brought back the trend of the quintessential black-tie and vintage 50's dress. The evening commenced with the Wachovia Admiral's Club Cocktail Reception set amidst the Museum's new expanded exhibit, Aviation Station Phase Two. Southern Wine & Spirits, the exclusive beverage sponsor for the event, served up four signature cocktails including: the Ultimate Blueberry Freeze, Patron Pineapple Martini, Pyrat Reserve Cosmo and the Ultimate Espresso Martini.



Event co-chairs Dara and Jarett Levan stop for a photo in front of a classic Mercedes-Benz at the Mercedes-Benz of Fort Lauderdale Come Fly With Me Gala.



(left to right) Paul Sallarulo, Johanna Marcoux and Rebecca & Steven Stoll at the Mercedes-Benz of Fort Lauderdale Come Fly With Me Gala.



(left to right) George Weaver, Emil Buehler Perpetual Trust Trustee, and Louis Aguirre, anchor of FOX WSVN Channel 7's Deco Drive and emcee of the event, take a ride on the MaxFlight Full Motion Simulator at the Mercedes-Benz of Fort Lauderdale Come Fly With Me Gala.



Fort Lauderdale Museum of Discovery ...

Thierry's Catering impressed guests with an unforgettable menu that included: Anjou pear and duck confit with baby mixed greens and frisee garnished with Roquefort and pecans, followed by seared filet mignon with melted leek, pinot essence and Chanterelle fontina Potatoes and a chocolate trio to end the meal. A highlight of the evening took place after the live auction when guests were invited to spend the rest of the evening trying their luck at Las Vegas style casino games.

Kim Cavendish, Museum President/CEO (left), and Jonathan Ferrando, Museum Board Chairman (right), present Anthony Giordano, General Manager of Mercedes-Benz of Fort Lauderdale an award for the title sponsorship of the Come Fly With Me Gala.

The host for this year's gala was award winning journalist Louis Aguirre of WSVN Channel 7. The Come Fly With Me Gala co-chairs included: Dara and Jarett Levan, and Rebecca and Steven Stoll. Sponsors for tables at the \$10,000 level were AutoNation; the Stoll and Tanner Families; Law offices of Richard A. Ivers, P.A. and Kirschbaum, Birnbaum, Lippman & Gregoire, PLLC; Stearns Weaver Miller Weissler Alhadeff & Sitterson, PA; Crowe Horwath; and Tenet, South Florida.

Sponsors for the Mercedes-Benz of Fort Lauderdale Come Fly With Me Gala included: Mercedes-Benz of Fort Lauderdale (presenting sponsor); Wachovia (cocktail reception sponsor); Southern Wine & Spirits (exclusive beverage sponsor); Lochrie & Chakas (Amelia Earhart auction sponsor); BankAtlantic (Charles Lindbergh gift bag sponsor); Nova Southeastern University (Tuskegee Airmen program sponsor); R.I.C. Corporation (Captain Sully animal encounter sponsor); and Cundy, Inc. (Chuck Yeager valet sponsor).



(L R)
George Weaver (Trustee with the Emil Buehler Perpetual Trust); Jim Baiter (Wachovia Commercial Bank Director/Senior Vice President); Katy Ferrando (Gala Co-Chair); Jim Ellis (MODS Board of Trustees and Gala Co-Chair); Ralph Mesa (General Manager Mercedes Benz of Fort Lauderdale)
Credit: Dave Decoteau/Downtown Photo Fort Lauderdale

About the Museum of Discovery and Science

The mission of the Museum of Discovery and Science is to provide experiential pathway to lifelong learning in science for children and adults through exhibits, program and films. Founded in 1976 as The Discovery Center, the nonprofit facility serves over 400,000 visitors annually. Major operational support for the Museum is provided through generous support by Leadership Guild members including City Furniture, JM Family Enterprises, Inc., Sun-Sentinel and Wachovia. The Museum of Discovery and Science is located downtown at 401 SW Second Street, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33312. For more information about the Museum, visitors should call 954-467.MODS (6637) or visit our web site at www.mods.org



(L R)
Jim Baiter (Wachovia Commercial Bank Director/Senior Vice President); and Ralph Mesa (General Manager Mercedes Benz of Fort Lauderdale).
Credit: Dave Decoteau/Downtown Photo Fort Lauderdale

About the AutoNation IMAX Theater

The AutoNation IMAX Theater, owned and operated by the Museum of Discovery and Science, opened in 1992. The 300-seat theater is a showcase of state-of-the-art motion picture technology. The AutoNation IMAX Theater features a 60ft X 80ft screen and a 15,000 watt digital sound system that delivers six discrete channels of clear sound through 42 speakers. The IMAX projector's 15,000 watt Xenon bulb projects images of unsurpassed brilliance and clarity onto the five-story-high screen. Both 2D and 3D films are shown in the theater. 3D films are viewed using our lightweight XR 3D glasses, the latest technology in 3D film viewing. The IMAX experience is an unparalleled fusion of sight and sound. For show times, call 954-463-IMAX (4629) or visit www.mods.org



(From L to R)
Tom Angelo (Chairman of MODS Board of Trustees); Walker Duvall (Wachovia Wealth Management); George Weaver (Trustee with the Emil

Buehler Perpetual Trust);
Barbara Payne
(widow of former Emil
Buehler Perpetual Trust
Trustee John Payne);
Armando Leighton
(CRS Jet Spares);
Kim Cavendish
(MODS President/CEO);
Glenn Woodward
(MODS Chief Exhibit
Designer)
cut the ribbon to officially
open the new exhibit
AVIATION STATION.
*Credit: Dave
Decoteau/Downtown Photo
Fort Lauderdale*



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MUSEUM of DISCOVERY and SCIENCE FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA



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MUSEUM'S NEW AVIATION EXHIBIT TAKES OFF

Posted on Monday, October 19, 2009 @ 00:00:00 MST by iheart707

The Museum of Discovery and Science opened Aviation Station Phase Two, a \$500,000 addition to its permanent exhibit devoted to flight.

BY JULIE LANDRY LAVIOLETTE

The young pilot carefully lifted the fighter jet off the runway and soared over the mountain range before gently descending once again on the landing strip.

Or at least it seemed that way.

Andrija Stanic, 12, of Deerfield Beach was one of the first museum visitors to test the new flight simulator at the Museum of Discovery and Science in Fort Lauderdale. It's part of Aviation Station Phase Two, which opened Oct. 10. The \$500,000 addition is part of the museum's 4,000-square-foot permanent aviation exhibit, established in 2006 in the Runways to Rockets: Our Place in Aerospace Hall. Both the original exhibit and the expansion were funded by the Emil Buehler Perpetual Trust.

The expanded exhibit has added four flight simulators and other interactive stations to the display. It has been two years in the making, said museum designer Glenn Woodward. "I knew I wanted to take the simulators to the next level," he said.

In the MaxFlight Motion Simulator, two riders strap themselves into a cockpit for a combat flight experience with a 360-degree roll and spin capability to mimic aerial races and stunt flying. Riders use joysticks to control the simulator's movement, making it as tame or as wild as they want. The two-minute ride is the only one in the new exhibit with an extra charge: \$3 for museum members and \$5 for nonmembers. Riders must be at least 48 inches tall.

With shrieks of joy -- and sometimes terror -- coming from the spinning cockpit, the simulator drew a crowd of curious onlookers on opening day.

Riders Stewart Shapiro and his son, Michael, 11, of Hollywood emerged all smiles.

For tamer experiences, try the other new simulators, where you can pretend to fly in a stationary seat while enjoying a "flight" experience via video screen.

Andrija lowered himself into the replica cockpit of a Lockheed Martin F/35 Joint Strike fighter, the

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OPTIONS

Printer

Museum's new aviation exhibit takes of...

newest jet fighter now being developed by the military, Woodward said. What Andrija didn't expect was that a real aviator, Capt. Stephen Schaffer, chief pilot with United Parcel Service Airlines, would happen along and assist him on his flight.

Schaffer and other area pilots were on hand to promote the aviation industry on opening day.

"It's amazing the reality built into these devices, besides being a lot of fun," said Schaffer, a former Navy pilot. "Before I leave here, I will try every simulator."

Woodward said the other two simulators are vastly different from the fighter jet. "We wanted to do a good cross-section, things that would be kid-friendly but would be a challenge," he said.

The Edge 540 is an aerobatic single engine aircraft used to maneuver tightly choreographed flight patterns through obstacle courses.

"The gravitational pull in the real aircraft is more than what the astronauts felt in the shuttle," Woodward said.

The Vought F4U Corsair, considered one of the finest aircrafts of World War II, simulates a flight along with a squadron of vintage Mustang fighter aircraft.

"The pilot can either link up with the Mustangs and fly in formation or just fly on their own," Woodward said.

The replica cockpits were made by scanning in small, three-dimensional models of each aircraft, then digitally enlarging them, he said. Each aircraft was then built in Styrofoam before being covered in fiberglass to make a child-friendly exhibit piece.

The exhibit also includes a radio-controlled model helicopter and airplane, and two aircraft engines, a Pratt & Whitney 985 Bushwacker radial engine and an F/14 Tomcat Jet Fighter engine.

"This exhibit really showcases the aviation industry," said Kim Cavendish, president and chief executive officer of the museum. "It gives people some of the thrill of the flight industry and a sense of its history."



JULIE LANDRY / FOR THE MIAMI HERALD [Miami Herald](#)

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