

Museum

1940 Air Terminal Museum at Hobby Airport An AIAA Historic Aerospace Site

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This is a bimonthly column about the 1940 Air Terminal Museum, a 2008 addition to the list of AIAA Historic Aerospace Sites. The museum is restored and operated by the non-profit Houston Aeronautical Heritage Society.

1940 Air Terminal Museum
8325 Travelair Street
Houston, Texas 77061
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From the museum news blog [entry](#) of January 3, 2013, by Blair (McFarlain): Southwest Airlines has retired the original Shamu airframe, N334SW. This 737-300 was the first airplane painted in the now famous whale scheme. It was done as a cross promotion for Sea World of California and the ship entered service in May of 1988. Over the ensuing years 334 was joined by two additional Shamu painted 737-500s: N507SW and N501SW. They were eventually stripped of their Shamu paint and replaced with two new 737-700s which are still in the fleet and proudly painted as Shamu: N713WN and N715WN. The last revenue flight was on December 9th and the ship is currently in Tucson where it is to be dismantled and scrapped. At this time the

airline doesn't know if a third Shamu will join the fleet. But I've got to say that it would be super to see a 737-800 Shamu!

Visit this beautiful and unique museum in person soon! A great opportunity is the monthly Wings & Wheels lunch hour program, 11:00 AM to 3 PM, usually on the third Saturday of

the month. Some of the 2013 Wings & Wheels dates penciled in on the web site are March 16, April 20, May 18, June 15, July 20, August 17, September 21, October 19, November 16, and December 21 ([HoustonSpotters](#) led by Blair McFarlain are celebrated in December, along with all the museum volunteers!)



Above: Southwest Airlines' Boeing 737 Shamu jets were part of the Sea World California promotion. Image credits: Museum web [site](#) (Michael Bludworth).

Above: When teaching people to make balsa wood gliders, we tell them to make them symmetric! Image credits: Museum web [site](#), January 2013.