1996 Annual Meeting

Featuring John Donnelly, Executive Director, Pearson Field and Mason Armstrong, Spitfire pilot with the American Beagle Squadron

By Royce Beatty

The 1996 Annual Meeting of the Museum Corporation will be held in the Map Room of the Village Green Inn in Cottage Grove starting at 1 PM on Saturday, March 16. A business meeting will be held concerning the election of four members of the board who were appointed during 1995 and any other matters that may be presented at that time. There will be an update on the status of the museum's plans to build a storage and restoration hangar on the Cottage Grove Airport, and the site (just across the road from the Village Green) will be marked for those who wish to visit it. Some of the displays that the museum had at the Oregon Air Fair in December will also be available for inspection.

Following the business meeting, two programs will be presented. The first will be by John Donnelly, Executive Director of Pearson Field. This airfield, directly across the Columbia River from Portland, has a rich aviation history and Mr. Donnelly's program will include a slide show highlighting this heritage with historical photos. He will also discuss efforts underway to preserve that unique aviation history in a new museum by recreating the Army Air Corps field that existed there in the 1920's and 1930's.

Mason Armstrong, a resident of Roseburg, will then take the rostrum. He flew Spitfires in the Mediterranean Theater with a U. S. Army Air Forces squadron during World War II and will tell some of the interesting history of this unit. Mr. Armstrong was responsible for the name, American Beagle Squadron.

Light refreshments will be served.

The museum is on the threshold of a major step forward in its development and all of you are encouraged to attend this event and show your support for continued expansion of the museum's facilities and activities.
Random Flight
By Roger Starr

As can be seen from the pictures elsewhere in this newsletter, we did show up at the 1995 Oregon Air Fair in December despite the weather’s best efforts to keep us away. The overnight ice storm did prevent many from attending the event on Saturday. In addition to the Yates aircraft, we again had our airway beacon light in operation along with a 1945 chart and explanation of the use of the airway beacon navigation system. We also presented to the public for the first time, through a display board and brochures, our plans for the hangar facility at Cottage Grove.

I would like to thank the following members for their help in making our presence at the Air Fair possible: Art Armstrong, Royce Beatty, Ray Costello, Rosemarie Dunfen, Walt Dunfen, Al Grell, Dee Grell, Wil Heath, Elwood Hedberg, Art Lumley, Carol Skinner, Hal Skinner, William Villani, Larry Well, Annette Whittington, and Doug Yarbrough.

Our annual meeting at Cottage Grove on March 16 should prove to be of interest to all of our members. We will bring everyone up to date regarding the hangar project and kick off our fundraising drive for the facility. Thanks to the efforts of Vice- President Royce Beatty, the program section of the meeting will make a trip to Cottage Grove worth your time. You are encouraged to bring guests.

Following time-tested advice, we started our fundraising campaign for the hangar building by asking each director to make a pledge. It is gratifying to announce that the response was nothing short of outstanding. Some sources tell us that the directors of an organization such as OAM should account for approximately twenty-five percent of the total pledges in order to ensure a successful fund drive. Your Board of Directors exceeded that target. We certainly are not over the hump yet.

Your support will be solicited shortly. Please keep in mind, as your directors have, that this facility is key to the continued growth of OAM and the meeting of its goals.

Air Fair Contest Winners
Visitors to the 1995 Oregon Air Fair were encouraged to enter a contest involving the estimation of certain data regarding the Yates wing and fuselage on display. Enticed by the prize of a one-year free membership in the museum, many people made their best guess. The winners are: wing weight - Mat McLaun of Olympia guessed 75 pounds (correct answer is 79 pounds); fuselage weight - Fritz Reinbold of Portland guessed 215 pounds (correct answer is 202 pounds); number of nails in the entire wing - Tim Shannon of Portland guessed 5,225 (correct answer approximately 5,000). Congratulations to the winners and thanks to all who entered.
OAM AROUND THE STATE

(Below) OAM’s Super V was one of many interesting aircraft on display at the 1995 Oregon Antique and Classic Aircraft Club fly-in July 21-23 at Cottage Grove. Thanks to the efforts of Board Member Doug Yarbrough, volunteers Bill Robinet, Veneta, and Mike Davis, Eugene, this rare aircraft was licensed and then flown from Eugene to Cottage Grove for the weekend event. Jan Hedberg constructed a very handsome stand to display the information sheets.

(Above) Pilot Bill Robinet and crewman Mike Davis enjoyed the flight to Tillamook where the Super V is shown inside the Tillamook Naval Air Station hangar. The Super V is on long-term loan to the Tillamook Museum for display.

(Below) Many found the OAM exhibits at the Oregon Air Fair informative and entertaining.

(Above) The Museum’s airway beacon light exhibit is shown here at the September 9, 1995 Vintage Festival in Newberg. Thanks to Elwood and Jan Hedberg for coordinating this fine display.
The Yates 'Geodetic' was displayed at the 1995 Oregon Air Fair December 9 and 10 and drew many interested persons to the museum's exhibit area. Thanks again to Joe Bello of Salem for allowing us to share this important artifact with the people of Oregon. (See the December newsletter for Bill McKinley's fascinating article on George Yates and his airplanes.)