Join the OAHS!
If you’re not a member, we invite you to join the Society in its efforts to preserve and celebrate Oregon Aviation History. Fill in the blanks and return to:

Oregon Aviation Historical Society, PO Box 553, Cottage Grove, OR 97424

Contributor-$100  Sustaining-$50  Family-$35  Associate-$25

Name ___________________________ Date __________________
Address _________________________ Home Phone _______________________
City _____________________________ State _____  Zip _____________
Occupation ______________________ Email __________________________

I am Interested in Volunteering ____________________________________
Skills and Interests ______________________________________________

Meet the new Administrative Assistant

My name is Davena Amick-Elder and I am the newly-hired Administrative Assistant for the OAHS. Please feel free to call me “DJ” (it’s just easier that way). I’m new to aviation history but I am fascinated by the stories of the people involved and I believe in the Society’s mission. I have a varied background in office administration and recently graduated from the University of Oregon as a non-traditional student with a B.A. in Cultural Anthropology and Folklore. I’m delighted to have this chance to work with a small historical society and to help you get a little more organized, spread the word about the Society and its mission, and to help you pick up new members along the way.

I act as the central point of contact for the History Center, I make sure that the board members get any messages that come to the Center for them, I answer questions that come from our website, and I handle all manner of basic administrative duties as well. I have also accepted the responsibility for the membership logs and for the newsletter, and I recently created a Facebook page for the OAHS as another way to boost our web presence. I am working with our archivist and our web-master to put a listing of the contents of the Hedberg Resource Library on the website. This will allow scholars to get an idea of the materials we have for research purposes and may bring us additional site visits.

I look forward to helping the OAHS in any way that I can, which includes scheduling volunteers to act as docents during our normal open hours or for helping out at events. So don’t be surprised if you get a phone call or an email from me: it’s just your friendly History Center admin asking for your help!
Random Flight
By Doug Kindred

It looks as though summer has sadly reached its end. Weather-wise for the south end of the Willamette valley it has been a strange one. Warmer than usual when it should have been cool and visa versa. Still, there was a lot of activity around the airports after the low clouds and fog lifted and I noticed a lot of airplanes overhead on weekends.

For the second year there has been an exhibit at the library and again it was a great success. If you didn't have a chance to see it you'll have to wait till next year.

As usual the Jim Wright Memorial Stearman fly-in was a roaring success. The weather looked like it wasn't going to cooperate at first but then the Sun Gods prevailed. It was a great weekend to listen to the music of round engines and enjoy the aroma of their exhaust. Something about big hi-planes stirs my soul.

If you have stopped by the center you've had the privilege of meeting DJ, our new Administrative Assistant. One of the best decisions the board made in my opinion. She has turned our operation into a well oiled machine. I can't thank her enough for her help and input during the Stearman Fly-in. Obviously there were other folks who volunteered and I thank them as well but it was a great help behind the scenes to have her picking up the loose ends.

Speaking of weekends, it would be nice if more of our members would step up and volunteer to spend a Saturday as a docent at the History Center. It seems like the same few people are pressed into service and since I'm one of them, it would be nice to see a few new faces around there. I certainly don't mind the time I spend at the History Center, as I always learn something while I'm there. Sometimes I'll spend time with a visitor who has a story to relate about a relative who flew with Tex; sometimes one of the “regulars” will stop by with some tidbit of Oregon Aviation History that is new to me; and sometimes one of the local pilots will come by to chat with news that applies to the OAHS. The History Center is open from April till October so it shouldn't be hard to find at least one Saturday to spend in Cottage Grove (that is only 25 Saturdays for 2012). The Village Green across the street has a super lunch menu: soup and sandwich for only $7.00 (and the soup is home made). That's hard to beat, and I know you'll find it worth your while.

Until next time, may the wind always be at your back.

AROUND THE HANGAR
by Hal Skinner, Facilities Chairman

Our energetic volunteers continue to maintain and improve the Oregon Aviation History Center. With the acquisition of the “annex”, Mike Flint makes space available for many of the Society artifacts that have been gathered from the Grell Ranch and the Heath “Mooseum”. We really owe a debt of gratitude to those fine contributors for housing our belongings these many years. Of course, Mike’s dedication to the visual presentation of our facilities deserves a large “thank you” from us all.

Some of the work at the Center building is able to be seen, and some, not so much. Gary Ludeke has completed the project of west side exterior repair. Along with others, he has overseen either the tightening or replacing all of the screws on the entire face of the building. Additionally, in order to correct a construction oversight, the fiber glass panels at the top have been secured, preventing the southerly winds from lifting them and providing a space for water leaks. In case you didn’t know, it’s a long way up there to the top of a ladder!

For something that you can see, glance at the airway beacon tower when you drive by. All of the white color has been repainted. A super volunteer, who is a professional tower maintenance employee of Charter Communications, finished that Tuesday, October 25th. Gary and Wilbur Heath have painted the entire bottom orange section. The “basket” on the top along with all light fixtures now carry bright orange as well.

If you have noticed the building looking a little undressed as of late, a sign painter is replacing the rotting wooden signs with metal. They are not finished yet, but will be soon – we promise! I would like to mention that we are a volunteer organization with much work to be done. If you would like to join us, a large part of work is to gather together, have coffee and hangar fly. If you qualify for that, join with us on Tuesdays, 10:00 a.m. ’til whatever.

RESTORATION NEWS
By Tim Talen, Vice President

Now that the summer travel season is over, it is time to start thinking about getting back to work on the restoration projects. We have two main projects that we will begin working on again in January. The first is to finish the cowling on the Stinson, which we should be able to finish up fairly quickly. The second project is to work on the Great Lakes. We will be working on the firewall, the side cowling, panels and engine details. This project is a little more involved and will take a little longer, but we are all eager to finish up the airplanes as soon as we can. If you have the expertise, the time, and the interest, we are always looking for able bodies to help with the restorations. Let us know if you can help, and we’ll find something for you to do!
A Tribute to John Patton

By now many of you have visited the Beaverton Outlaws video on YouTube.com. If you haven’t you owe it to yourself to check it out. Just go to the OAHS website, www.oregonaviation.org, and click on the “Beaverton Outlaws Video” link in the left column. It’s a fun way to spend 10 minutes!

The short video is a great introduction to the wonderful work that John Patton has done, and it would be impossible for us to adequately thank him for the time and effort he put into the Beaverton Outlaw collection here at the OAHS. John has collected over 50 hours of audio interviews, wild audio and video of vintage aircraft, and countless still images of the Beaverton Outlaws and their planes, Bernard Field, and a wide variety of documents relating to Oregon aviators of the time. His generosity didn’t stop at the collections, either: he ceded the copyrights to all donated materials to the OAHS. We are truly honored and we deeply appreciate all the work that he has put into the various CDs and DVDs that he has sent to the OAHS, and we encourage you to watch the video. Even if you’ve seen it, it’s worth watching again.

Thank You, John!

Dear Santa,

We’ve been very good this year, and we’ve got our Christmas list all made out:

- End Milling Machine
- A rolling tool box
- A new scanner (tabloid-sized)
- An external hard-drive (for data backups)

For specifics on these items, visit our Amazon.com Wish List. Go to Amazon.com, click on “Gifts and Wish Lists,” and search for Oregon Aviation Historical Society. You’ll find all the info you need to make our holidays extra special this year!

And while we are saying “Thank You…”

We’d like to express our appreciation to Mike Wohrle for the outstanding work he did on the beacon tower. Several members worked on the tower, but Mike isn’t a member of the OAHS; he just wanted to help. He shared his time, his expertise, and his safety equipment with the members of the Facilities Committee who worked on the tower. So, from all of the members of the OAHS, here’s a giant THANK YOU to Mike!

Our Online Presence is Expanding!

By Davena Amick-Elder

As you all know, we’ve had a website for a while now (many thanks to our wonderful webmaster, Milo Skinner!), but a single website isn’t really enough of a web presence to make an impression on a plugged-in generation. With that in mind, the OAHS is proud to announce that we now have a new email address, a Facebook page, an Amazon.com account, a PayPal account, and we will be adding a “Shop the OAHS” page to the website (hence the PayPal account).

When you really want to help out the OAHS but live too far away to volunteer, consider donating something from our Amazon.com Wish List. Just go to Amazon.com, click on “Gifts & Wish Lists” (in blue text along the top of the page), and when the Wish Lists screen opens, type “Oregon Aviation Historical Society” into the search area, with the “wish list” button clicked on.

Want to know how to best contact us? If you visit the OAHS website and fill out the contact form, the email address that receives the message is “oregonaviation.org@gmail.com.” This is also the direct email address to use if you want to reach the OAHS. If you aren’t sure who can best help you, send your email to the above address, and I’ll make sure that the right person gets the information.

And last, but certainly not least, we’ve made it easier than ever for you to make additional donations to the OAHS. Just click on the “Donate” button on the website homepage and you’ll go to our new PayPal page. You can make extra donations or pay for your annual meeting reservation. In time you will be able to purchase merchandise from the website using this feature as well.

Please note that for the time being, we are not accepting membership payments via PayPal.
The OAHS at Oshkosh

Congratulations to our very own Tim Talen for winning the “Antique Reserve Grand Champion—Silver Lindy” at this year’s EAA AirVenture Oshkosh. Tim won the award for the 1936 Rearwin Speedster 6000 that he has been restoring for the last few years. The plane is owned by Eric Rearwin, great-grandson of the designer, Raymond “Rae” Andrew Rearwin. The plane’s a beauty, Tim - great job!

And while we’re on the subject of fly-ins…

The 33rd Annual Jim Wright Memorial Stearman Fly-In was a great success. Between the wonderful weather and 23 planes here at the airfield, we drew quite a crowd of people over the two days. Addison Pemberton joined us again this year with his 1936 Stearman Speedmail. He was joined by his son Ryan and Larry Howard in Howard’s 1931 Laird LCB 300. Having the Laird here was a special treat, as it is the only one still flying anywhere in the world. A big round of applause for all of the volunteers who helped out during the event. Without your help, we could never have pulled it off.

A great story to come out of the fly-in is that of Martin Garren, Jr. of Eugene, who trained on a Stearman during World War II. He was brought to the fly-in by a friend who kept their destination a surprise until the very last minute. Mr. Garren really enjoyed seeing planes and sharing some of the memories that they brought to mind. Luckily, there was a reporter from the Register-Guard at the fly-in while Mr. Garren was here, and his story, along with three photos, made it into the Sunday paper on August 7th. You can’t buy better press than that! Seeing the look on that former cadet’s face as he came face-to-face with his own history really brought home the importance of the work we do here at the museum.

Our Stinson framed by a Staggerwing and a Stearman on the west side of the hangar.

Photo by Tim Talen

Model Display at the History Center

The large display case that was donated to the OAHS by the UO Cultural and Natural History Museum is finished, and what a display it is. LeAndra Matson did a splendid job painting the inside of the cabinet and Hal Skinner has finished the job of hanging the models chosen for display. Two of the models are on loan from Hal, with the rest being part of the model collection crafted and donated by Bob Brown. On the wall next to the display is a schematic and legend, and we’ve created an activity for kids to test their observational skills by comparing the models to printed images of the aircraft. We have certificates of achievement to give them once they complete the activity, with skill levels of Cadet, Wingman, Flight Leader, and Ace, depending on how many they correctly identify. Next time you are at the History Center, test your skills!

Our Stinson framed by a Staggerwing and a Stearman on the west side of the hangar.

Photo by Tim Talen

Annette Whittington graciously loaned us the early airplane license plates collected by her late father, Myron Buswell, and we’ve finally found the perfect place to display them. The next time you visit the History Center, look in the wooden display case next to the “Wimpy” and you’ll see not only the license plates, but also a photo collage of Myron Buswell and the plates he collected. Photos don’t do the display justice, so make sure to come down next time you are in the area. And keep an eye on the Facebook page, as the plates might be highlighted in a post soon.

Right to left:
Addison Pemberton’s 1931 Stearman Speedmail;
John Pike’s “Ghost Ship,” and a beautiful purple Stearman.

Stearman fly-in photos by Mitchell Elder

Speaking of displays, the OAHS once again set up a display at the Cottage Grove Public Library. For five weeks, visitors to the library had the chance to see models and photos of Oregon aviation artifacts, and a companion display by the Cottage Grove Historical Museum had a lovely air-mail display that coordinated well with our items. Probably the most talked-about item was the gyroplane. We printed off information on how a gyro works and how it compares to a helicopter. The kids were particularly interested in this part of the display, and library staff tell us they understood the concepts involved pretty quickly. Since you never know what will spark someone’s interest, let’s keep our fingers crossed that this display planted an aviation seed in some young person’s mind!

Cottage Grove Library Display a Huge Success

The display looks SO much better in color— have you seen it yet?

The gyroplane at the library