



OREGON AVIATION HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 553, Cottage Grove, OR 97424

March 2012

Volume 21, Issue 1

Our Mission

The Oregon Aviation Historical Society was incorporated in June 1983 through the efforts of a group of aviation enthusiasts who recognized the need to preserve Oregon's rich aviation heritage for the benefit and enjoyment of future generations.

Its purposes are to collect, preserve, restore and exhibit aviation artifacts; to develop facilities for the restoration and preservation of artifacts, public viewing and exhibition of the collection; to establish and maintain an Oregon Aviation Hall of Fame; establish a resource center for Oregon aviation historical research and to disseminate information about Oregon aviation history.

What's Inside

Annual Meeting	Page 1
Hall of Fame	Page 1
Random Flight	Page 2
Hall of Fame (cont)	Page 3
Renewal Reminder	Page 4
Board Elections	Page 4
UO Nonprofit Clinic	Page 5
Volunteering	Page 5

Annual Meeting April 21, 2012

Once again we'll meet at the Village Green Hotel and Resort's Cascade Room, 725 Row Road, Cottage Grove. The doors open at 11:30 and the no-host luncheon begins at noon. There will be a short business meeting followed by the 2012 Oregon Aviation Hall of Fame presentation.

This year we'll dine on a 5oz bacon-wrapped filet, green salad, rice pilaf, seasonal vegetable, apple crisp, and coffee/tea/lemonade. The cost is \$18 per person and we need your reservation by the 18th of April. *Pre-registration is required.* You can pay by check, VISA or MC, or PayPal via www.oregonaviation.org. Click the "Donate" button and note in the "special instructions to seller" section what the payment is for.

2012 Oregon Aviation Hall of Fame Inductee: Henry "Hank" Troh

By Lorraine Troh Gable and John Sedey

Henry Troh was a well known pioneer aviation enthusiast, instructor and aviation business man in the Portland, Oregon area from 1934 until his death in 1968. His tenure as pilot, airport owner and manager spanned



the years of 1931 to 1968 on three airports he developed and operated west of Gresham. With his wife Viola (Ruth) as partner, he started his career barnstorming in his 1931 CK Bird bi-plane giving rides to thousands during his 35 year career and making a record of 160 passengers carried in one day on July 4, 1937 from a field near the Molalla Rodeo. Hank, as his friends called him, was born in 1911 in the little town of Glenwood (north of Hood River) to a pioneer family whose parents had traveled the Oregon Trail in 1844. He spent his adult life as a resident of Portland crafting his dream for general aviation through example. He promoted aviation with his flight school, aircraft sales and service, and innovative applications of aircraft in our northwest community life.

Continued on Page 3



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The OAHS Newsletter is published by the Society (PO Box 553, Cottage Grove, OR 97424) and edited by Davena Amick-Elder for the benefit of the members. Member contributions are encouraged but should relate to Oregon Aviation history. Contents © 2012 OAHS

Random Flight

By Doug Kindred

Well, here it is, a new year. Things are moving along at the History Center and I hope you will make it a plan to visit us this year. The Stinson is nearing completion. Tim is finishing up work on the cowling so she'll be deemed airworthy. Then it's a matter of finding the funding for fuel and planning some destinations to show her off. She is a grand lady in every sense of the word. Stop by and visit. You can usually find us at the History Center most Tuesdays from 10 AM till 3:30 PM and as usual, starting in April, Saturdays from 10 AM till 4 PM as well.



The Annual Meeting is fast approaching. It will be April 21st and we will be inducting Henry (Hank) Troh into The Oregon Aviation Hall of Fame. I grew up in Portland and was amazed to learn that I used to ride my bike past his airport to go strawberry picking in the summer. Of course it was usually 5:00 AM in the morning when I went by and after picking strawberries several of us would ride north towards the Columbia to our favorite swimming hole. I spent most of my time at the Portland Airport in those days.

Once again it's time to ask for volunteers to spend time at the History Center on Saturdays as greeters and docents. If folks would sign up for one Saturday from April through October it would be very helpful. Ten in the morning till four in the afternoon is a very small commitment. We have an excellent training program and I always learn something new each time I spend a Saturday there.

I'd like to take a moment to thank the members for their support and hope it will continue in the future. We are planning some great things for the Society and I look forward to your help and participation.

Your President, Doug Kindred



We fired up the Stinson on December 13th and she sounded great. What a treat to see her out in the sun and hear that engine purr. She's a real beauty, and you really should stop by and see for yourself!

Hank Troh, continued

Hank was respected as an accomplished and skilled pilot and was credited with training hundred of pilots. Those he trained prior to WWII became significant contributors to the war effort as members of the first wave of Air Force pilots defending our nation's purpose. Just prior to war, he served as a Captain in one of the first Civil Air Patrol Squadrons in the Portland vicinity, which was stationed at his airport at 181st and Division Street. When airspace west of the Cascade Mountains was declared a National Defense Zone and closed to civil aviation, he became a Private in the Army Air Corps Enlisted Reserve to serve as Primary Flight Instructor at the Tex Rankin Aeronautical Academy in Tulare, California from 1942 to August 1944. During that time he trained at least fifty cadets. He became their mentor and respected correspondent during their service and even after the war, as demonstrated in the hundreds of letters he received from them and dutifully answered. He actively pursued an appointment to the Air Transport Command while serving at Rankin. Certainly he was more valuable to the war effort in the primary training position; he fondly referred to that time as "the happiest years of his life."

Upon returning to Portland in 1944, he reopened his airfield and partnered with Harold Wagner in building and developing Troh's Skyport on 156th and Division Street. Troh's Air Taxi services included a G.I. Bill flight school, Piper aircraft sales, aerial photography, advertising with lighted aircraft and banner towing, ambulance flights, charter flights, and flight training as a purchase benefit or on business trips six years before aircraft companies offered the same benefit. He invented equipment to be used in aircraft applications and adapted others to the needs of his business plus those of Fish and Wildlife Commission and Forest Service contracts.

Many of Hank's students attained advanced ratings leading to Commercial and Instructor status, commercial airlines, military, and general aviation careers. He had his own method of instilling safe practices of operation that his students applaud contributing to an outstanding safety record. He was particularly protective of the public image private aviation projected.

In 1953, Hank was awarded a plaque in the "Commemoration of his 20th year of Operation and Service to Commercial and Private flying; Instructing, Barnstorming, and Charter Flying, from his many students and friends." The award testimony credited him with more than 10,000 hours in the air, of which 7,000 were as a flight instructor. His career lasted another 15 years, an estimated air time totaling more than 25,000 logged hours, and countless more pilots and aircraft owners later. In 1958 he built "Troh's Nest," his airport in the sky on the east side of Scouter's Mountain. It was his dream to develop an airfield where pilots could live at their airport home. That dream was interrupted by his untimely death at the age of 57 from a brain tumor.

For more than 35 years Hank served the future of aviation in the Northwest and the Portland area, seven days a week, dawn-to-dark, with very few vacations. He was the first to land on the completed surface of Portland International Airport, in his 1931 Bird bi-plane. He made his mark on the future giving rides to thousands of passengers, lessons to hundred of pilots, and aircraft ownership to scores. Hank was recognized as the Guru of Flight by his students and friends. He forged the future of general aviation with a strong hand and an unusual sense of pleasure and humor, thus communicating his passion for flight.

Just a friendly reminder....

Those of you who have not yet sent in your membership renewals need to do so as soon as possible. We'd sure hate to lose any of you, but members who have not renewed by May 1st will be dropped from the membership. In order to make it as easy as possible, you can now renew via PayPal. Just go to the website and click on any of the "Donate" buttons. When you enter your donation, you can note in the "special instructions for seller" area that the funds are for a membership renewal.

Board of Directors Elections

It's that time of year again, folks, and the following information is presented for your consideration. You can vote for as many candidates as you like. Just remember that if you want to vote for a write-in candidate, they must have given their permission prior to the election.



Dorothy Austin – Dorothy has been a member of the board since 2007. She is active with the Oregon Antique and Classic Aircraft Club (OACAC) and the EAA in Roseburg. She has been affiliated with the OAHS for many years.



Jan Hedberg – Jan is a horticulturalist with the Oregon Department of Agriculture. He is a Past President of OACAC (1998-1999) and a Lifetime member of the OAHS. He flies and owns a 1946 Fairchild 24 W and a Corben Baby Ace.



Annette Buswell Whittington – Annette is a former office administrator with the Creswell Chamber of Commerce. She currently substitutes as an educational assistant for Creswell and Bethel school districts. While not a pilot herself, she is the daughter of Myron "Buz" Buswell, Oregon Aviation Pioneer and Beaverton Outlaw. She enjoys preserving Oregon's rich aviation heritage and sharing it with others. She is the Chair of the Public Outreach Committee for the OAHS.



Brad Chapman – Brad is a retired electronics engineer living in Drain. He is a Past President of the McMinnville Chapter of the OPA and was a Technical Counselor with the EAA, where he assisted members with their aircraft projects. He has completed and flown a Thorp T-18 and was appointed to the board in October 2011. He is an active member of the Aircraft Operations Committee here at the OAHS.



Mike Flint – Mike lives in Cottage Grove and has a strong mechanical background. He is a USMC veteran and a member of the American Legion. He was appointed to the board in October 2011 and is an active member of the Facilities Committee and also participates on the Aircraft Operations Committee.

Thank You, UO Nonprofit Clinic Team!

Your Board of Directors is actively looking for ways to make the OAHS a more vibrant organization, and they found that participating in the University of Oregon Nonprofit Clinic was an excellent way to pursue that very goal. The clinic is a new interdisciplinary program that pulls graduate students in law, conflict and dispute resolution, and planning, public policy, and management programs together to work with small nonprofits under the guidance of a professional nonprofit consultant. After reviewing the self-assessment forms that the directors completed, the clinic team helped us to see what our strengths and weaknesses are as a board and as an organization, and provided resources and ideas to help us move forward.

Some of the directors are taking the clinic process one step further and are planning to attend a free workshop at the UO Law School to learn how to create effective policies that are deemed critical (but are often not in written form at small nonprofits). We are in the process of reviewing our policies to determine which need to be updated, something that all nonprofits do from time to time.

We cannot say “Thank You” enough to Zac Harris, Becky Megersa, Elaine Snowhill, and Heidi Henry for their hard work on our behalf.

So Many Ways to Help—Which One is for You?

As President Kindred mentioned in this issue’s “Random Flight,” we have an excellent Docent training program and we would love to see many of you take advantage of it this year. There is always room for one more tour guide here at the History Center. What better way to really get to know all the goodies we have here than to show them off to others? Don’t worry that you might not “know enough” to show people around the History Center: we’ll make sure you have everything you need to be comfortable in your role as tour guide and have a great time doing it!

If that doesn’t tickle your fancy, we have plenty of other ways that the at-large members can be of service here at the History Center. Consider joining one of the committees that help keep the OAHS going. Your expertise and dedication to the OAHS mission is always welcome!

Committees and contact information:

Public Outreach: Annette Buswell Whittington, 541-895-3910

Aircraft Operations: Tim Talen, 541-746-6572

Facilities: Hal Skinner, 541-767-0244

Finance: Roger Starr, 503-266-4282

Collections: Doug Kindred, 541-687-9490

In connection with the Collections committee, we have a need for someone to help out with digitizing the collections. If you have experience with scanning documents and are comfortable working with computers, contact DJ at the History Center (oregonaviation.org@gmail.com).



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 _____

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**Oregon Aviation Historical Society
PO Box 553
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