



Volume 26, Issue 1

OREGON AVIATION HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

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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.

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Write us at OAHS, PO Box 553,
Cottage Grove, OR 97424

or send us an email at
oregonaviation.org@gmail.com

The Pioneer Spirit is Alive in Cottage Grove!

Many pilots never venture into the realm of building their own plane. But here in Cottage Grove, OR, as in many other small towns across this great state, the passion for home built air craft is still burning strong. We are proud to showcase over our next few newsletters some of our local aviators who have built and fly their own aircraft— whether from scratch or kit. Without those who came before us; those who fought for the ability to engineer, build, and fly aircraft of their own, we would not be where we are today. We here at the museum are proud to share the stories of those who continue in the footsteps of those first Oregon aviators.

Long time Cottage Grove resident Mike Mann has been no stranger to aircraft construction. Particularly float plane construction. Mann has built several pairs of floats for several different planes. Most notably for a Hatze bi-plane, now since crashed. And for his prior plane, a Piper super cub.



His current plane is a Rans S-7 Courier he built in 2007. Mann started construction on the kit plane in Montana, staying in a hangar loft apartment above the workshop. Later he and fellow local aviator Jim Davis brought the kit to Oregon by trailer.

The plane is a steel framed fuselage with a fiberglass cabin and fabric covered tail end. The wings are aluminum construction with fabric covering. It is a two seat tandem craft. The engine is a Rotax 912, cruising speed with floats is about 95 mph.

It took little over a year to reach completion, though Mann chose not to build the current floats himself. They are hydraulic Czech floats built and shipped from Czechoslovakia. Mann has put just over 600 hours on the craft and engine, with a few less on the floats. He usually stays local. Enjoying flights over town and often landing at our local lakes, both Dorena and Cottage Grove. He has been known to make mid lake landings to visit with steamboaters out fishing. Mann also spoke of camping adventures as far off as the Owyhee reservoir in Malheur county, Oregon.

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The Cottage Grove Airport Welcome Center

The Oregon Aviation Historical Society and the Airport Welcome Center Committee are collaborating to bring The Airport Welcome Center to the Cottage Grove Airport. Similar to a tourist information center, the Center is ‘The Aviation Gateway to the City of Cottage Grove.’ This building will encourage pilots from other areas to visit our city. Pilots love to fly to destinations to eat, play & stay. Cottage Grove has a lot to offer these tourists. Our restaurants, shops, museums, and citywide events will bring them back again and again.

At one time Cottage Grove had a Fixed Base Operator (FBO) office that was alive, exciting and supported many events. Fast forward, about 20 years... How do we welcome our fly-in visitors? With little more than a port-a-potty and very little to attract pilots into town. Let alone to our museum! This poor reception discourages pilots and their passengers from visiting our city,



hotels, restaurants, shops, events, museums and more. Cottage Grove has a lot to offer visitors and we want to get the word out to the aviation community. We want to be proud of our city and airport.

The Cottage Grove Airport Welcome Center will consist of a clean bathroom with running water, an office, information and lounge area. The center will have information about hotels, restaurants, shops, museums, events around town, golf courses, lakes, bike paths and of course the covered bridges. A covered outdoor viewing area as well as a patio on the side of the building will be provided. There will also be an outdoor aircraft wash area. The city of Cottage Grove has openly endorsed this project and has generously earmarked a courtesy car for our fly-in visitors to use. The Welcome Center will also offer bicycles as well as taxi and bus service information.

Our advertising plan will assist in creating a broader awareness of the available services. The Oregon Dept. of Aviation has even estimated that gas sales were triple when we had on field services at the airport which is a direct reflection of how many people visited. One example of business lost in Cottage Grove occurred during November 2014. HeliQwest stopped by to check what on field services were available. They had a logging job in the area in the summer of 2015. We lost out on approximately 3 weeks of hotel, restaurant and future business because they stayed in Creswell as Cottage Grove has no bathroom facilities. The same thing happened with fire crews last summer.

Unlike the previous FBO, our plan is to ensure the continuity of our vital resource, the Airport Welcome Center, and keep it open to the public. It was determined that private ownership of the facility could result in instability. Upon completion, the Oregon Aviation Historical Society will donate the building to the Oregon Dept. of Aviation. The Oregon Department of Aviation will be responsible for all maintenance and operating expenses of the Airport Welcome Center. They have agreed and are working with us in support of the Airport Welcome Center. We also have several letters of support from community leaders of Cottage Grove. The Airport Welcome Center will encourage people to visit our city and experience the historic charm we have to offer. It will increase income and visibility for business and events that are offered throughout the year in Cottage Grove.

RANDOM FLIGHT,

So starts the new year! I'm encouraged that each year the Society grows a little and our story is told to more and more people. I thank the internet for that and the dedicated work of our new Administrative Assistant, Cassandra Barong.



The time has come to put the Stinson up for sale. It has been our flagship for the past five years to show visitors what air travel was like in the 30's. Because our mission statement is to preserve Oregon's Aviation history, it doesn't really fit the program. Hopefully it will be on display until Tex Rankin's Great Lakes can replace it.

Wings 'N Wheels 2017 planning is in full swing! If you would like to plan on showing off your aircraft or auto or know of a friend who would like to participate please let Cassie know. We are always on the lookout for volunteers as well, it's a great day with fun for all. After a bit of a hang up with permits, construction should begin on the new Pilots Welcome Center the first week of February. It's a good possibility Wings N Wheels will also celebrate it's inauguration.

Also, mark your calendars for the Society's Annual Meeting which will be held April 8th. Potentially followed up with a Flying season kickoff the following weekend April 15th.

I want to remind everyone that although we are normally only open Saturdays May through September, Cassie is in the library Tuesday through Friday from 10 AM till 3 PM. You are all welcome to stop by for a visit. The coffee is always on.

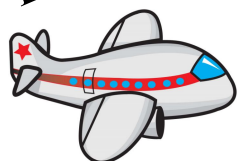
Keep the shiny side up,
Doug Kindred, President

BOOKS!!

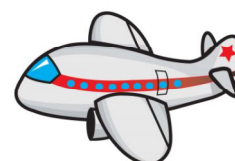
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Restoration Updates!

Even though it has been quite cold, the guys have been very busy! Rib stitching is nearing completion on both bottom wings of the "Springfield Cadet!" The picture at right shows Tim Talen beginning to lay reinforcement tape on the wing that is complete. Volunteer Larry Wickizer can be seen finishing stitching on the second wing. We are hoping to have this plane out on static display for at least the late part of this years flying season. Follow OAHS on Facebook and Instagram for weekly Restoration Friday updates!



Pioneers Cont.

There are also several pilots here in the grove who have built their planes elsewhere, prior to moving to Cottage Grove. One such aviator is Shawn Kelley.

Shawn and his wife Nadine have been part of the Cottage Grove community for the last ten years. They brought with them Shawn's home built Wheeler Express. Kelley built his Wheeler Express Series 90 aircraft over a period of 9 and a half years. At the time he was living in Livermore, CA and working full time.



The aircraft is a kit developed by Express Aircraft Company and features a cantilever low-wing, four seat cabin, fixed tricycle landing gear with wheel pants, and a single engine in tractor configuration. It is full VFR and Kelley runs a Lycoming IO 540 engine which offers a cruising speed of 210 mph. The aircraft features a fiberglass body and wing. It was finished in March of 2005, just months prior to his move north.

Kelley also has a current project in the works here at the Cottage Grove airport. An RV-7 that he has just begun. Plans for that aircraft include a Lycoming IO 360.

Follow more adventurous aviators in our next newsletter as we learn about two more home built craft here in Cottage Grove that just recently received their airworthiness!



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