Les Long, of Cornelius, Oregon, was an innovator of early home built aviation. His goal throughout the 1930’s was to bring aviation to the average American. Due to the scarcity of power plants (aircraft engines) at the time, Long developed engines that converted motorcycle engines for aircraft use. One of these engines in particular was known as the Long Harlequin.

Plans for Long’s high wing parasol, the Harlequin Longster, were published in the 1933 Flying & Gliding Manual, along with the plans for the Long Harlequin conversion of a 1929 JD Harley into a two cylinder opposing power plant. The crank case and shaft would have been made of wood and then cast at a local foundry. The Long Harlequin also used Continental connecting rods, which were as readily available at the time as the JD Harley. The engine produced roughly 30hp and could easily get the backyard pilot off the ground in no time.

Throughout the years these engines have become rare artifacts. With innovation in kit built aircraft and low horsepower engines becoming more readily available, the homebuilt engines slowly died out. The pieces and parts used have become harder to track down, and there just aren’t many left. At this time there are four known Long Harlequin engines in the United States. Two are on public display on the east coast, one is privately owned, and the fourth is now on loan for display here at the Oregon Aviation Historical Society!

This engine is a true testament to the ingenuity and bravery of the aviators who kept the home building movement alive in a time of uncertainty. While many builders across the country were essentially grounded due to new federal regulations during this time period, innovators in Oregon continued to design, build, and fly under state licensing.

The current owner of the Long Harlequin is collecting parts and pieces in order to restore this engine to working condition. Until the time of restoration however, we are proud to house the engine here at the hangar and we encourage you to stop by anytime to enjoy it!
The Cottage Grove Welcome Center!

The Welcome Center is complete! At least it will be by the time you have this newsletter in hand. Nadine and Shawn Kelley have been working tirelessly in order to bring this new building to life, and it has already proven itself a great asset to the Cottage Grove community.

The addition of this new welcome center and pilot’s lounge, complete with courtesy car and bicycles, has exponentially increased air traffic into the Cottage Grove area just in the last few weeks alone. We here at the museum have already seen the benefits of added visibility and more visitors through our doors.

The official ribbon cutting and grand opening will be Tuesday August 15th at noon here at the Cottage Grove airport. Lunch will be served following the event. We would be honored to have pilots and friends of the museum join us for this celebration! Please RSVP as soon as possible with Cassandra at the museum office - 541-767-0244

Buster’s Main Street Café Gift Certificates are also still available. $25 certificates for only $12! Buster’s features an eclectic menu with something for everyone. Located right here in Cottage Grove they are open for breakfast and lunch 7 days a week, 8am-2pm.

All proceeds from the sales will go directly to the continued maintenance of the Welcome Center. If you would like to purchase one or more of these, please send a self addressed, stamped envelope to:

The Cottage Grove Welcome Center
2475 Jim Wright Way
Cottage Grove, OR 97424

You may also use the paypal donation button on our website at Oregonaviation.org, and write gift certificates in the note portion of the sale.

Thank you to all who have supported this ongoing project. This has already become a great asset to our community and with it we will continue to thrive and grow.
Although this year’s event was marked by outside temperatures of over 100 degrees, over 400 visitors still came out to see vintage aircraft, automobiles, motorcycles and bicycles from all different eras! Throughout the day we had over 25 aircraft, including Tim Lunceford’s Oregon homebuilt, the Story Mark 7, People’s choice winner Mike Danielle and his 1996 Great Lakes biplane, as well as a special feature- Jimmy Beranek’s 1947 Luscombe 8E featuring an early McKenzie conversion (a high horse power engine conversion completed & FAA approved, in the early 1950’s at McKenzie Aviation in Springfield, OR). There were also 35 automobiles ranging from a 1930’s freight truck, a 1941 Shark Nose Graham, up to a 1966 Nova which took people’s choice!

This year we were privileged to also have several local motorcycle owners join us for a vintage display that included a recently fully restored 1929 JD Harley, which not only took the People’s choice award for motorcycles, but is the very engine Les Long used to create the Harlequin aircraft engine!

Joe Buress from Drain, OR was also able to join us again this year with his vintage bicycle display, which is always a crowd favorite. We were also joined by several different organizations including the Cottage Grove Museum, The 99’s Chapter of the Pines, The Cottonwood Rodeo Queens Court, as well as Cruise for a cause. Big Bites Food truck was on site, as well as Wonderlust Gourmet Snowcones. Maj. Mike Carpentiero brought “Stanley” the 1930 New Standard biplane and was available on site giving rides for the day. Overall it was a wonderful day with great success both in reaching out to our local community, as well as raising money to continue our efforts here at the museum. Thank you to all who participated, volunteered or came to visit, we couldn’t do it without you and we hope to see everyone again next year!
Restoration Corner:

Nevada Silver has come to the Baby Fleet! After much anticipation we are finally getting down to the wire on the completion of the Springfield Cadet—AKA the Baby Fleet. Just prior to Wings & Wheels the fuselage made the big jump from the museum hangar down to the restoration shop in order to prepare for reassembly. In the meantime the guys have been busy wet sanding the silver poly brush and preparing the wings for the final sprays of Nevada Silver paint. We are hoping to have this display back up in the main hangar very soon!

Though the main focus at the moment has been the Springfield Cadet, Tim is still moving along on some of the small tasks for the Wimpy as he has time. The aileron brackets have been cut out and the pulleys have been mocked up to ensure safe passage through the wing ribs. As soon as the Cadet is marked complete, full attention will be turned back to this ongoing project.

Our volunteers are in the restoration shop on Fridays from about 10:30 to 1. If this sounds like something that might interest you please feel free to stop by Tues-Saturday 10-3, shoot us an email at Oregonaviation.org@gmail.com, or call the museum office at 541-767-0244, we’d love to see you!

We have also put the Stinson SR5E back on the market. The fully restored aircraft will be used as a fundraiser to continue the mission of the museum and allow us to make space for several new additions that have been donated. If you know anyone in the market for a vintage aircraft with a beautiful 9 cylinder Lycoming engine, send them our way!
RANDOM FLIGHT

Here we are halfway through summer! Wings ‘N’ Wheels was a great success with nearly twice as many participants and we raised twice as much money in past year! A HUGE THANK YOU is in order to all our volunteers and board members that were able to participate.

Our next event will be the Stearman Fly-in the weekend of August 5th. We have officially assumed the responsibility of managing the event because so that the Stearman pilots will be able to relax and enjoy the weekend. There will be some good looking bi planes and Mike Carpentiero will be here all weekend selling rides in “Stanley” the New Standard.

Saturday, September 23rd, the museum will host a ceremony to unveil the “Long Harlequin” engine. This is the engine designed by Les Long using Harley Davidson cylinders. It produced approximately 30 horses for the light airplanes of the day. Once again I’m looking ahead to the upcoming fall and thinking about creating educational programs for elementary and middle school students. Also, now that we have a big screen TV, a movie night with popcorn and sodas. I look forward to some input from the membership. Post on the website or drop a note by email.

As noted, the museum is open Saturdays till October first, Cassie is here Tuesday through Friday, but if in doubt, call ahead and let her know you’re coming.

Enjoy the rest of the summer, Tail winds and clear skies.

Doug Kindred, President

Stearman US Tour 2017

On July 16, 2017 a man and his Stearman took off from the beaches of San Diego to make an adventurous trip of landing in all 48 states in the lower continental US. OAHS was proud to welcome Yori Meerovitch and his friend Moshe the following Tuesday for coffee and a snack after a chilly flight from Ashland, OR.

Yori is a commercial pilot for Israeli Air and, “was born with an obsession for Stearman!” His energy and kindness are contagious, second only to his love of this beautiful country. The planned route moves in three stages, and should take 35 days. But of course, Yori has allowed for up to 80 days– as with traveling in vintage style, you never know what might happen. Most recently he had a repair stop in Arizona to fix a cracked generator step up drive, and as I type, is currently on his way through Texas to meet up with his son who will join him for 6 days of this journey.

Yori is also passing out Stearman patches along the way– his trip motto being “Alis Volat Propiis,” also the state motto of Oregon– She flies with her own wings.

If you would like to follow Yori’s adventures (of which he’s already had many) he updates his Facebook– Stearman U.S. tour 2017 or on the blog at n67119.blogspot.com.
The 39th Annual Jim Wright Memorial

Come see the Warbirds!!
August 5 & 6 here at OAHS!
FREE ADMISSION

Biplane rides available all weekend- $80 per person

Pancake breakfast
Sat: 7am-10am
Food truck on site for lunch!

Be a part of a Cottage Grove tradition and meet the pilots who bring history to life!