Great Lakes News

You asked, we delivered! We now have t-shirts and posters with a digital image of John Trtek’s marvelous painting. The posters are $10 and the screen printed t-shirts are $20, with a portion of the proceeds for each going to the Great Lakes restoration project. A big “Thank You” to John Trtek - you've been so generous! The shirts come in men's sizes up to 3XL and women's v-neck shirts in small-XL.

We had some down time on the restoration work due to travel by our work crew members, but everyone is home now and our regular Friday work schedule is back on track. Speaking of our Friday work schedule, we are starting a new thing: if you come down and volunteer on Fridays, we’ll feed you BBQ burgers (or for $5 you can eat and visit with us).

The Oregon Antique and Classic Aircraft Club is now one of the sponsors of the Great Lakes project in order to see it finish in time to act as the flagship for the 2016 OACAC Air Tour. We are very grateful for their donation of $1,500 dedicated to this project. There is plenty of work to do on this ship, the Wumpy, and the Baby Fleet, so don’t be shy!

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 _____________________________________________

If you are already a member and you aren’t sure whether or not you’ve paid your annual membership dues, email us at oregonaviation.org@gmail.com. We’ll check the records and let you know before you send out a potential duplicate payment.

OREGON AVIATION HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

Mayors and Pilots and Photogs, Oh My!

The 2nd Annual Wings & Wheels was a lot of fun (see recap on page 3) and we now turn our eyes to the 37th Annual Jim Wright Memorial Stearman Fly-In. This year the fly-in should be especially fun since the Oregon Conference of Mayors is taking place the same weekend at the Village Green across the street. The mayors were here a few years back and are all looking forward to spending some time at the History Center while in town. Fly in pilots who arrive by lunchtime on Friday can have lunch with the mayors and their significant others (SOS), and the city is planning some interesting events for said SOS that the pilots and/or their family members can take part in. It is possible that we won’t know the details on these things until just before the event, so if you are interested send us an email and we'll pass along any info given to us by the city.

This is always a fun day, so mark your calendars for August 1 (if you are flying in, come on down on Friday July 31).

Award Winning Friends and Sad Goodbyes

As we continue our look back at where we’ve been, what we’ve done, and who has helped out, it is important to note the dedication of the Cottage Grove Airport in honor of Jim Wright. Jim was a Cottage Grove pilot who built a replica of the Howard Hughes H-1 Racer, in which he set a speed record of 304.07 mph in Reno, NV on September 13, 2002. In August of 2003 Jim died while on his way back from Oshkosh. The City of Cottage Grove and the OAHS urged the Oregon State Board of Aviation to dedicate the field to Jim, and in September 2003 the board voted to do just that. On December 17 the field was dedicated to Jim, and new signs were erected with the new name and photos of Jim in the H-1 Racer. Those photos were replaced with updated versions last summer. In 2004 the street on which the OAHS sits was renamed Jim Wright Way in his honor.

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In somewhat happier news, our own Carol Skinner went to Oshkosh in November to accept an award on behalf of the late Dorothy Hester, who was inducted into the International Aerobatic Club Hall of Fame at the Experimental Aircraft Association Museum. Carol had become friends with Dorothy in 1984 and was honored to accept the award on her behalf. At the insistence of Dorothy’s daughter Sabine Ladd, the award is housed at the Oregon Aviation History Center as part of the Dorothy Hester Stenzel Collection.

Speaking of Carol, she made a presentation on Oregon aviation history to the Lane County Historical Society’s annual meeting in December of 2004. At that time there was also a static display of OAHS artifacts, which was just one of the off site temporary displays we participated in that year. We also loaned the Yates geometric fuselage to the Southern Oregon Historical Society in Medford and we provided a photo of Sumner Parker for permanent placement in the office of Sumner Parker Field in Ashland. Finally, 2004 saw the creation of the website and the receipt of $2,400 from the Douglas Wagner Fund through the Oregon Community Foundation.

2005 was a big year for the OAHS. We received our first grant from the Dorothy Hester Stenzel fund, through the Oregon Community Foundation, in the form of a one-time payment of $3,546 and a commitment of approximately $1,100 every year for ten years. That year we were also awarded $265 for our portion of the Oregon Museum grant, the total of which was evenly shared by 94 organizations; another grant from the Douglas Wagner Fund; a gift from Jeanette Hofer; additional documents from Betty Wright regarding Jim’s speed record; and the collection of Eugene Cooper, which is loaded with fascinating photos and other material from the early days of the Oregon Pilots Association.

At the annual meeting, Addison Pemberton spoke of his 1993 Contract Air Mail recreation flight from Reno to Iowa City. It was a fascinating look at the early days of air mail. The History Center saw some changes in 2005 as well: a new display highlighting Jim Wright, including the propeller he used when setting that land speed record in Reno; the installation of the Hall of Fame display along the entry way wall; the donation of the “Wimpy” by Roy Olson; and, as related in the May newsletter, the final installation of the beacon tower and the return of the Anzani Longster. Unfortunately, the same year that we obtained the “Wimpy” was the year that we lost Myron Buswell.

OAHS member Ron Bartley finished his book, “Vern Gorst and the Pacific Air Transport Air Mail” in 2006 and we proudly began carrying it in our gift shop. That same year a short documentary DVD of the OAHS was produced, which you can still view on our YouTube channel by going to the About Us page on the website and clicking the link.

We inducted Les Long, George Bogardus, and Richard VanGrunsven into the Oregon Aviation Hall of Fame in 2006, and board member Ray Costello was inducted into the Oregon Aviation Hall of Honor in McMinnville for his longstanding advocacy for general aviation.

We’ll continue our march through history in September!