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.

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, send email to oregonaviation.org@gmail.com. We’ll check the records and let you know before you send out a potential duplicate payment.

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See Your Facility
At the 2013 Annual Meeting!

This year we will hold the Annual Meeting at the Oregon Aviation History Center. We are not inducting anyone into the Oregon Aviation Hall of Fame this year, so we want to keep it simple. Holding the annual meeting at the History Center will provide the attendees to really explore the facility: the archive room, the library, the main display area, and the annex building (don’t worry—we’ll drive you down there!).

We will have a short presentation on the events and exhibits that we have had over the last year, and a general overview of the health of the organization, followed by a tour of the facility. Lunch will be a simple affair of sandwiches and sides, with water, coffee, and sodas. If you’d like to join us for lunch, the cost is $6.00 per person.

You will find RSVP cards in your newsletter, and we hope to see many of you at the meeting.

The OAHS has joined Travel Lane County!

We are always looking for new ways to get the word out about the “best kept secret in Oregon,” and partnering with Eugene Cascades & Coast—Travel Lane County seems like a natural way to do that. With the connections that they have and the skills that they are willing to share with us, we expect this to be a long-term relationship that benefits us all. DJ had the opportunity to speak to the TLC staff and share some information about our mission and our collections. We are really looking forward to working with them to boost attendance at the fly-ins and our new summer programs.
A UFO Visit to the OAHS

On March 15th, 17 members of the United Flying Octogenarians (UFO) met at the Oregon Aviation History Center for their first meeting of 2013. The group had a great time meeting around our conference table, followed by lunch at the Village Green. Thanks to Warren Glaze for coordinating the meeting!


A photo of the shop and ground school for the Rankin School of Flying, located at Union Ave. and Lombard St. in Portland, during the late 1920s and early 1930s. The airport was two miles north on Union.

Aero Femme scholarships awarded to academy graduates

Anchorage, AK – Aero Femme Non-Profit Organization & Scholarship Fund announced its first two scholarship recipients earlier this month at the Alaska Military Youth Academy graduation ceremony. Mrs. Alaska United America and Aero Femme founder Ariel Talen-Keller awarded the two $250 aviation scholarships to Alaska Military Youth Academy graduates Riley Kelderman (on right) and Rachel Brewer (on left).

The Alaska Military Youth Academy had received $500 from Aero Femme for two aviation scholarships in December 2012. These two scholarships were the first in a series of new aviation scholarships offered to academy graduates.

Aero Femme was founded in 2010 to encourage and educate women of all ages to be involved in all types of aviation. Educating women will help keep the aviation community strong, not only for general aviation but also in our military. Aero Femme is proud to work with national aviation organizations like the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA), Aircraft Owners & Pilot Association (AOPA), and Women in Aviation International (WAI). Locally, Aero Femme works with EAA Chapter 42, Alaska Military Youth Academy, Alaska Civil Air Patrol and the Alaska Aviation Museum.

Additional Aero Femme scholarships are offered through Women in Aviation International scholarship listings. Visit wai.org for more information.
The year is getting off to a very busy start with the United Flying Octogenarians meeting here on March 15th (see photo), the early set up date for the Cottage Grove Library display (page 4) and the Annual Meeting just around the corner. Plus we put together a collection of scanned photos and other artifacts to loan out to the Poplar Grove Vintage Wings & Wheels Museum in Poplar Grove, Illinois for their exhibits on Tex Rankin and Barnstormers (photos forthcoming).

Summer programs are in the works, and we are adding something new this year to our regular Saturdays. On the third Saturday of June, July, and August, we will have a free talk in the library about a different aspect of Oregon aviation history. On June 15th, we’ll talk about the Pilots and Planes of Bernard Field; on July 20th, Early Aviation in Oregon; and on August 17th we round out the summer talks with Oregon’s Role in the Experimental and Homebuilt Aircraft Movement. These talks are open to the public and we’d love to have as many of our members as possible join us for what we hope will be lively and informative discussions.

We also hope to include some Movie Nights in the Hangar as part of our community outreach. Once we nail down the details, we’ll post that information on the website. Anytime we have events here at the History Center, we can always use extra help to make sure that our visitors needs are met, so if you live in the area and have thought about spending a little more time here (or just want to watch an old movie with friends), please consider volunteering a couple of hours of your time to help out. If you are computer savvy and have an interest in the documents and photos we have upstairs, we could really use your help in scanning and cataloging the archives.

On the next page, you’ll find a short article showing how one of our members, Ariel Talen-Keller, is making modern aviation history through her Aero Femme scholarship program. If you know of other members who are engaged in “air worthy” activities that should be highlighted in these pages, we’d love to include them. Send us the information and we’ll let the rest of the Society know about it.

If you have any ideas on other programs or topics of discussion to consider please let us know. This is your Historical Society, and we value your input.

While the big volunteer-season is just beginning, I’d like to give a big shout-out to Annette Buswell Whittington for helping to gather and organize information on airports, important dates, and other such items.

Your Administrative Assistant, DJ
Board of Directors Elections

This year we have two Board members who are up for re-election. We do have seats available on the Board; please contact us if you are interested.

Doug Kindred - Doug has been on the Board since 2000, and has been President since 2011. He is a 4th generation Oregonian with a deep appreciation for the history of aviation and Oregon's role in that history. He is our resident tech-guru and keeps the computers, phones, and other gadgets working smoothly.

Tim Talen - Tim is an award-winning historically correct restorer of early aircraft. He is the founder of the Oregon Antique & Classic Aircraft Club and the Oregon Aviation Historical Society, and was inducted into the Oregon Aviation Hall of Fame in 2010. Tim currently serves as our Vice-President and is in charge of our aircraft restorations.

Ballots for all voting members are enclosed with their newsletter. If your ballot is missing, or if you would just like to vote online, you may send us an email with your vote. The names of those members voting cast via email will be checked against the membership list to guarantee voting privileges.

Ken Jernstedt, 1917—2013

Originally published in The Oregonian, Feb. 6, 2013

Ken Jernstedt, famed World War II aviator, two-time mayor of Hood River, longtime Oregon legislator and successful businessman, died Tuesday morning at the age of 95. "He was really, genuinely a fine human being," said former Gov. Vic Atiyeh, a longtime friend. "He was the perfect guy for his district. Actually, for Oregon."

Ken Jernstedt Airfield in Hood River is named for him, as is the main gate at the Portland Air National Guard Base. A replica P-40, the Flying Tiger, with his name on it is on display at the Evergreen Aviation Museum in McMinnville.

His fame as an aviator came from his time flying for the Chinese government before the United States entered World War II. He resigned his commission in the Marines in order to join the American Volunteer Group, which fought for Chinese ruler Chiang Kai-Shek against the Japanese. He was a flight leader for the famed Flying Tigers and is credited with destroying 10.5 Japanese aircraft — three in the air and 7.5 on the ground. The Chinese government paid him $500 a plane.

Only decades later did the U.S. government acknowledge that it helped organize the squadron on behalf of the Chinese. In 1996, Jernstedt was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

"We knew of Japanese atrocities and had great empathy for China," Jernstedt told The Oregonian in 1995. "We were young, well-trained and hungry for adventure. I went with two buddies, and we kind of talked each other into it."

For all his wartime exploits, people who knew Jernstedt say he wasn't one to boast.

"I didn't even know he was in the Flying Tigers until I was in my 30s," said Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs public affairs officer Mike Allegre, who knew him as a child in Hood River, where he went to school with Jernstedt's children. Allegre has written an account of Jernstedt's career for the state-published book "150 Years of Oregon Veterans."

After the war, Jernstedt owned and operated the Coca-Cola plant in Hood River. He was elected to the Oregon House in 1946, then served five terms in the state Senate.

Yet, said his son, Ken E. Jernstedt of Lake Oswego, "he was always a father first."

"My favorite life lesson from my dad was that he could never understand prejudice or intolerance," said the younger Jernstedt. "He'd say 'There wasn't one person who has ever walked on this earth who had a single thing to do with the fact they were here. Nobody chooses his parents.'"

Even people who disagreed with his politics, said Ken E. Jernstedt, "always appreciated that they got a fair hearing from him."

Later in life, Jernstedt lived in a senior facility in Wilsonville. His vision had deteriorated and his seeing-eye dog and constant companion, his yellow Lab Driscoll, died seven years ago.

Yet "he remained a thoughtful citizen of the world" to the end, his son said.

Kenneth A. Jernstedt and his wife Gen had seven children, 22 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren, said his daughter, Greta Sheppard of West Linn.

"It's an honor to be his child," she said. "He was a man of service, to his family, friends, community, state and country."

Sheppard said the family plans a memorial service for Feb. 16 at 2 p.m. at Hood River Valley Christian Church. Disposition was by cremation.

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