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 an email to 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
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Gone West
Tom Bedell, 1931 — 2012

On July 21, 2012, the Fellowship Hall of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Corvallis was filled to capacity by those who gathered to honor Thomas E. Bedell. He was remembered for his lifelong love of the land and of flight, and for his kindness and generosity of spirit in all of his endeavors.

Tom was born December 21, 1931, in Santa Cruz, California. He is survived by his fine wife, Gretchen Bencene; and family Shelley Bedell, Kristin Bedell and Vincent DePillis, Robin and Jack McWalters, and eight grandchildren.

He lived on a small poultry farm as a child, and was raised with a deep appreciation for education and dedication to one’s work. His love of the land led to an agricultural and natural resources career. He received his doctorate in 1966 at Oregon State University. During his career, he worked for the Extension Service in California, Oregon, and Wyoming. Tom considered working for the Extension service to be a fine career.

He was very active in his profession, and he served the Society for Range Management in many capacities. He also served on county and state agricultural and conservation boards for many years after his retirement.

Tom’s interests included raising sheep and hay for most of the time since 1966; flying a small plane to many places in the United States with his lovely wife, Gretchen; being active in aviation organizations; and raising both flowers and vegetables for his family on their 17 acres south of Philomath. His thoughtfulness, his dedication, and his attention to detail were all greatly appreciated during his time with the Oregon Aviation Historical Society, and he will be greatly missed. The photo below is of a memorial plaque placed at the OAHS by members of the Oregon Antique and Classic Aircraft Club.

Gretchen penned the following and has graciously allowed us to include it here:

May Tom forever be
Where skies are blue,
Lambs frolic in green pastures
And his airplane is ready to take him skyway.

~ Godspeed Tom.
Random Flight
By President Doug Kindred

The summer is winding down and as I write this we have crossed from Summer to Autumn. It was a busy time around the history center this year. There were two major events to report on. Saturday, July 6th, the history center was the host for the Annual Globe Swift Fly-in. It was a great event with some very beautiful aircraft attending. Then, the first weekend in August, 25 Boeing Stearman flew in for the 34th Annual Jim Wright Memorial Stearman Fly-In. Another event to watch for next year is the Albany Art and Air Fest. It’s held the weekend before Labor Day. If you like hot air balloons, wandering around a beautiful park browsing booths displaying some beautiful jewelry and art for the home, Timberl Inn Park, next to the Albany airport, was the place to be. The History Center was invited to host a booth at the airport and I want to thank the people who graciously volunteered their time to help out. Jan Hedberg met me Friday evening to help set up the canopies, and then Saturday and Sunday, Tim Palmer, Mark Baxter, Dale Schmidt, and Lorraine Gabel spent time with me greeting people and answering questions about Oregon’s aviation history.

To finish off the season, DJ went above and beyond putting together a fantastic display for the Cottage Grove Library. Hats off to her, and to Mike Flint, Wil Heath, and the crew from the city of Cottage Grove who helped carry the displays over and set them up. Once again the biggest problem this summer was finding members to volunteer to open the Center on Saturdays and answer visitor’s questions and guide them through the displays. One of the ways we look for funding to operate and grow is through grants. In order to apply for those grants an organization must be open and available to the public on a regular basis. That’s hard to do without people to spend time at the center. It gets harder when our most active members leave us. Tom Bedell will be missed. He dedicated his last days to the History Center and it’ll be hard to fill his shoes. I met Rick Frigberg during the Stearman Fly-in and convinced him to join us. He was excited to be part of our future and had volunteered to join the board. I had a phone conversation with him one evening and the next day he was gone. The board of directors is the foundation of this organization and we sorely need some folks to help us share Oregon’s rich history of aviation. I hope some of you reading this column will consider joining the board.

Here’s hoping you have a Great Holiday Season and check out our website for the latest info on events in 2013.

Brad Chapman Assumes Secretary Role

After the passing Secretary Tom Bedell, the call went out for someone to take on the role of Secretary for the Board of Directors. Director Brad Chapman volunteered for the remainder of the year. We are confident that Brad can handle the tasks with ease, and hope that come election time, he decides to remain in the position. Let’s have a big round of applause for our new Secretary!

Hidden in this square are the names of all of the OAHS Hall of Fame inductees, along with a handful of other Oregon aviation pioneers. See if you can find them all!
Event Photo Gallery

Many thanks to Ann Wetherell, one of the curators of the *Flying Tigers: Chinese-American Aviators in Oregon, 1918-1945* exhibit at the Multnomah County Library in Portland. She did an excellent job of collecting and organizing information on a part of Oregon aviation history that we knew very little about. The OAHS loaned a blood chit from WW II for the exhibit, and other items came from the Multnomah County Library, Oregon Historical Society, Portland City Archives, Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association, Museum of Chinese in America, and several private collections.

Thanks to Dalton Englund for sharing the photo below with us. Here you see all of the Swift pilots surrounded by their airplanes (with our Stinson off to the right).

And let’s not forget the fly-ins!

This year the fly-ins received a lot of media attention. We’d like to thank all of the media outlets that ran notices or stories about our events: without that support, the fly-ins would never be as successful as they are. We would especially like to thank the television stations for their great video pieces on the fly-ins, particularly Sean Cuellar at KEZI and Chris McKee at KMTR, who have both shown great interest in our endeavors here at the OAHS.

Need stocking stuffers? Look no further!

The OAHS now has a CafePress site for all of your stocking stuffer needs! Travel mugs, shopping bags, hats, tees, hoodies—all the necessary items to complete your holiday shopping list. If you are already using GoodSearch for your online search engine (and of course you are, right?), you can also use their GoodCoupons service when you shop our Cafe Press site. Doing so will earn the OAHS an additional 1.25% donation on your purchase. To visit the site, go to www.cafepress.com/OregonAviationHistoricalSociety
Around the Hangar

as reported by Doug Kindred, President

Over the last year, we've managed to accomplish several necessary tasks at the History Center. The outside siding has been inspected and the remaining loose screws have been tightened or replaced, the cabinets in the kitchen and workshop areas have been painted, we finished painting the beacon tower, and our new signs have been installed. We are working toward getting some heaters donated, which will make working inside the hangar during cold weather much more bearable. We hope to get the mezzanine straightened up and our "Modeler's Workshop" display laid out this winter, and those heaters will sure help!

On the restoration side, the Stinson is almost finished (had a few bumps along the road with the cowling) and the top wing of the Springfield Cadet is almost ready for painting.

Oregon Aviation History Comes Alive at the Cottage Grove Library

Once again, the OAHS has created a display for the Cottage Grove Library. This year, we broke the library into three sections, with a different focus in each. In the back, we focused on Oregonians in Space. Here we highlighted astronauts and other mission critical specialists who have an Oregon connection. We were especially pleased to connect with the Aspire to Inspire program at NASA, which focuses on the many women involved in the space program. Through this program, we were put in contact with Natacha Chough, who is studying to be a NASA flight surgeon and who went to High School in Portland. Other sections of the library highlighted early aviation photos and engines (we displayed the Le Rhône, Continental A-40, and McCulloch drone engines) and the connection between early aviation gear and attire and Steampunk fashion and design. It is always our goal with the library displays to not only inform but inspire. Many young people walk through that space, and we are always looking for ideas on how to catch their attention and illustrate how truly interesting (and cool) Oregon aviation history really is. If you have any ideas, let us know and we’ll consider them for the display next year.

Thank You!

2012 has been a very generous year for the OAHS. Not only did most of our members renew their membership (yay!), we received some large gifts, for which we are all very grateful. The Dimmer Family Foundation and Betty Wright were both instrumental in making our Stearman fly-in the financial success that it was, several long-time members made additional donations throughout the year to help keep our momentum going, the Oregon Flying Farmers made a surprise donation (see below), and a large donation was made in memory of Tom Bedell.

We are also very grateful for the time and effort put forth by our volunteers. We had several events this year and our volunteers certainly stepped up to the task. Along with our volunteer board of directors, we’d like to thank the following folks for their dedication in presenting the OAHS to the public: Hal and Carol Skinner, Mark Baxter, Tim Palmer, Tom and Stella Richardson, Lorraine Gabel, Dale Schmidt, Ben and Morgan Farringer, and Kent Koester. If I’ve left out any names, I sincerely apologize.

Oregon Flying Farmers, Inc. Show Their Support

On Tuesday, October 16th, several members of the Oregon Flying Farmers joined us at the History Center for a tour. Led by the ever-capable Carol and Hal Skinner, our visitors spent an hour learning about the history of Oregon aviation and about the OAHS. After the tour, Lorraine T. Gabel presented the OAHS with a donation of $1,000 to help support our mission. It was a delightful surprise, made even more so by the fact that Lorraine is a distant cousin of our own board president, Doug Kindred.

Our thanks to the Oregon Flying Farmers for their support and friendship.