



photo by Cindy Weeldreyer

The Oregon Aviation History Center Board Executive Committee, from left: Tim Talen (Vice President), Annette Buswell Whittington (Director), Davena Amick-Elder (Admin Asst), Doug Kindred (President), Brad Chapman (Secretary), Wilbur Heath (Director), and Eric Baldwin (Director).

OAHS: A portal to Oregon's early aviation history

BY CINDY WEELDREYER
For The Sentinel

Flight... a dream of mankind throughout recorded history, became a reality in the 20th century. Oregonians have been involved in all facets of aviation: from historic flights and famous pilots (of both genders) to technological advances. From fledgling flights and innovations in early design and construction to space-faring astronauts, Oregonians have pursued their dreams of flight.

Not everyone is aware that Cottage Grove is home to a statewide museum. The Oregon Aviation History Center is located between the Village Green Resort and the Cottage Theatre at 2475 Jim Wright Way.

Aviation historians first organized in 1983 and sought a central location just off Interstate 5 between the state borders to establish a physical presence. In 1998, they broke ground on the western end of the Cottage Grove airport and dedicated the building in 2000.

While the group has had several names through the years (the Oregon Aviation Museum, the Oregon Aviation and Space Museum, and the Oregon Aviation Historical Society), its mission has remained unchanged.

OAHS members are committed to collecting, preserving and restoring Oregon-related aviation artifacts for interpretive and educational display to insure the pres-

ervation of Oregon's rich aviation heritage for future generations.

Inside the metal building the Hedberg Aviation Resource Library contains artifacts that chronicle the early days of flight in the Beaver State, such as books, videos and magazines related to aviation in general and historic aviation in particular.

Archived materials such as photos, newspaper articles, oral histories, letters and other data are also available for examination and research at the History Center. There is also a large hanger where aviation buffs gather year-round to restore antique planes.

The building is home to the Oregon Aviation Historical Society [OAHS]. Davena "DJ" Amick-Elder serves as the part-time museum curator, librarian and tour guide and provides administrative support for the OAHS board meetings.

For the last three years she has helped organize summertime fly-ins of antique aircraft, such as the Stearman and Swift planes. The group's newest annual event, Cottage Grove Wings and Wheels, started last year and was quite popular.

"We want people to know about the museum and library, even if they can't visit in person," Amick-Elder said. "We need help in obtaining magazines articles, obituaries and biographical information of pilots to expand our files on Oregon's early aviators. For those who can visit us, they will learn about our airplane restoration proj-

ects and be invited to join in the fun."

A unique aspect of the Oregon Aviation History Center is the number and variety of homebuilt aircraft built in the 1930s. The group has five antique aircraft from this era in its hanger. They include a completely restored 1934 Stinson SR-5E; a 1930 Rupert Special; a 1935 "Wimpy"; and a 1931 Springfield Cadet. They hope to finish a 1931 Great Lakes plane to serve as the OAHS flagship for the 2016 Air Tour. The Great Lakes was flown in the movie "Men with Wings" and was used as an air show plane for many years.

"We are continually growing our research library that is open for public use by appointment," Amick-Elder said. "Since you can't check out material, our goal is to digitize much of our information so all interested parties can access it online. To accomplish our ambitious goal we need volunteer 'indexers' who will scan in new material and create a list of search terms."

Those interested in volunteering a few hours a week or a month to assist in this archival effort are asked to contact DJ at 541-767-0244 or via the OAHS website at www.oregonaviation.org. The center's hours are 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Fridays and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays from May through September. She is happy to accommodate tours at other times by appointment.

New guide outlines 65 key fishing spots in Lane County

Information includes type and number of fish stocked, etc.

Anglers in Lane County now have a new guide to more than five dozen fishing spots, from the Oregon Coast to the Cascade Mountains.

In a partnership between the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Travel Lane County, the guide "65 Places to go Fishing in Lane County" aims to offer key details to help novice to expert anglers navigate their way to the region's lakes, rivers and streams.

"We are excited to offer local and visiting anglers a piece that shows the diversity and extent of fishing in our area," said Samara Phelps, Director of Visitor Services, at the Eugene, Cascades and Coast Adventure Center. "Whether it's fishing on the Oregon Coast or on the McKenzie River, we hope to inspire new and experienced anglers to explore locations across the county."

The guide outlines the types of fish found or stocked in each locale, as well as key amenities such as boat launches, picnic areas, camping facilities, disabled access and restrooms. Listings also include whether parking, day-use or other fees apply.

A map inside pinpoints the 65 fishing spots located in and

around Eugene, Springfield, Cottage Grove, Dexter, Leaburg, Blue River, Oakridge, Florence, Veneta, Junction City and Cheshire. A QR code can be scanned for easy mobile map access.

"We know there are many popular fisheries here but realize that we have some locations that don't get the attention they merit," said Shannon Richardson, Fisheries Biologist, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. "Partnering with Travel Lane County allows us to get the word out about the angling opportunities in Lane County and empower people to get outdoors and get fishing."

The guide features full-color illustrations of common fish found in Lane County waters to help anglers identify everything from Chinook salmon and largemouth bass to rainbow trout and crappie.

A total of 10,000 guides have been printed and will be distributed at key locations through the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and information centers. Those interested in more details about the new guide and other fishing information on Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations, licenses, recreation reports and stocking schedules can contact the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife or the Eugene, Cascades and Coast Adventure Center.

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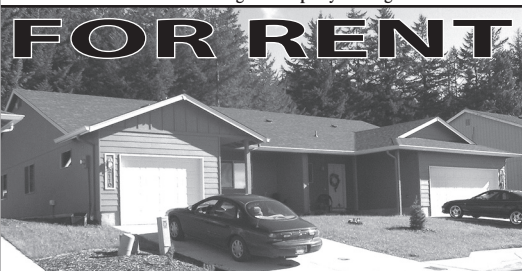
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