



AUTUMN NEWSLETTER

November 2016

Michael Payne
Director,
Port Townsend Aero Museum

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New Faces — High Expectations

The start of this fall season signaled the end of a very busy summer at the Port Townsend Aero Museum. This past summer was the first summer in which our original director and founding couple, Jerry and Peggy Thuotte, were not involved in the day to day operations of our museum. Fortunately, over the past fifteen years, Jerry managed to set a deep path for us to follow, and our mission has not changed in his absence. Our goal is to teach our teenage volunteers what it takes to become a responsible young adult, show the value of education, provide educational experiences, and offer career opportunities they simply would not find anywhere else at this age.

If you received this newsletter in the mail

then chances are you are already a museum member or supporter, and are aware of our youth education program. But for those of you who happen to pick up this newsletter from another source, here is a brief history of the Port Townsend Aero Museum: The Port Townsend Aero Museum is a non-profit, publicly owned 501 (C) 3 organization started by two retired United Airlines employees, Jerry and Peggy Thuotte in 2001. From the start, their goal was to incorporate a love of flying and antique aircraft into a program where young volunteers would be given the chance to experience aviation, and along the way learn how to become successful young adults. Fifteen years and nearly 375 kids later, our museum and its youth program have become a shining example for other youth programs around the country.

With the coming of fall

Christine, Kevin, Ben, and Jake doing contract work. A shop manager, a Boeing Engineer, and two airline pilots. All were teenagers when they first came to PTAM!

each year we are faced with losing our senior youth volunteers to college or career. This year, we had to say a sad goodbye to Miguel Salguero, a young man who was just a boy at the age of eleven, when he first came to work at the aero museum in the summer of 2009. On only his second day of volunteering, this little kid, who wasn't much over four and half feet tall, had made room in his mother's car so he could bring in and show off a freshly restored bicycle frame that he had painted the day before. The frame looked amazing, and



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Miguel receiving his \$10,000 scholarship check from PTAM board members Bill Sleeper and Mike Payne.

right then and there, I knew this young man was going to have a bright future at the Port Townsend Aero Museum and beyond. Miguel worked one to two days a week with us for seven years. Along the way, he earned his Private Pilot's License and logged nearly 150 hours as pilot in command. But more importantly, Miguel became a leader among our younger volunteers, taking on any task that was asked and delegating his authority as necessary to see that the job was done to his satisfaction. This is what the Port Townsend Aero Museum youth education program is all about. Helping to turn today's youth into tomorrow's leaders. As a direct result of Miguel's dedication and hard work during his time at the aero museum, the Port Townsend Aero Museum Board of Directors paid for and awarded Miguel a \$10,000 scholarship to assist in paying for his education at California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo, California, where he will be studying aerospace design with a focus on aerodynamics. We wish Miguel all the best and look forward to seeing him next summer when he has some time off from the University.



Gus Bradford's Saturday Ground School class.

As sad as we were to lose Miguel, we are very excited at the Port Townsend Aero Museum to have accepted **eight** new teenagers into our program this summer. This brings our current youth volunteer roster, the kids who are expected to be at the aero museum at least one day week, to a total of fifteen individuals. Of these fifteen volunteers, we now have a total of ten from Port Townsend, and five others that travel from as far away as Gig Harbor to be involved in our program. I cannot say enough about the dedication of those parents who drive their children many miles, week after week, so that they can have the chance to be a part of this program. It is this kind of dedication that gives each of us a responsibility to insure we make a positive difference in the lives of these kids, and the responsibility to see that the Port Townsend Aero Museum is a place where this can continue to happen for generations to come.



How can you get 100 pounds to move 3,400 pounds up a hill? Just ask Ally and she'll do it.

Often a museum member will stop in to see what we're working on and to ask what our previous museum volunteers have been up to since leaving the aero museum. So for those of you who remember the names and faces..... **Ben M** is a senior at Carroll College in Montana and has just returned from a tour in Romania with his U.S. Army National Guard Company; **Ben P**, one of our very first CFI instructors under the age of 20, is now flying for Alaska Airlines; **Chris B** from Quilcene is currently flying for Horizon Airlines; **Christine T** is currently employed by Boeing as an engineer working in the parts replenishment division. She coincidentally has been happily married to **Jake T** for over three years now; **Christopher H** has earned his Captain's License and is currently running two of his fam-

ily's large whale watching/sightseeing boats on Puget Sound; **Dan T** is flying jets as a U.S. Naval Officer; **Doug V** is based at Whidbey Island where he is flying EA-18 Growlers for the Navy by day, and is now married and flying his vintage Swift aircraft during his off hours; **Evan W**, one of the very first museum Private Pilots, is currently a Process Engineer for PACCAR; **Jake T**, another one of the very first museum Private Pilots, is currently flying for



Casey, Lily, Tyler, Kaiden, and Kevin, working on a couple of customer contract jobs in our paint and fabric shop.

Horizon Airlines and is happily married to **Christine T**; **Kevin V** has been hired as the new Shop Manager at PTAM where he is putting his business degree, A&P mechanic's license, and private pilot's license to good use working with our young volunteers; **Kyle** has recently accepted an engineering position at a very prestigious NW company specializing in the cutting edge science of re-usable rocket technology; **Luke** is finishing up his Doctorate at M.I.T., and currently holds Commercial and C.F.I. pilot ratings; **Michael W** is in his third year at WSU and in the U.S. Army ROTC Officer program; **Paul** is flying U.S. Air Force refueling aircraft and is currently based in England. These are but a few of the volunteers who've passed through our doors. Each one different and amazing in their own way. There have been many more unmentioned here, with whom I've lost contact, but you can be sure as the years go by at the Port Townsend Aero Museum, there will be many new names to add to our list of amazing individuals.

You might be asking yourself about now, "what is it that keeps these young volunteers so committed to spending hours upon hours in a very difficult non-paid work environment?" Most people assume it's the lure of our flight program, which allows those interested to earn a Private Pilot's License at no cost to them. There is probably some truth to this, but in fact we see our flight program as a method of teaching responsibility, accountability, and the importance of being properly prepared for whatever the task. All of which, once mastered, will help to insure their success later in life. In addition to flying, there is the restoration and maintenance work on our fleet of antique aircraft that the kids are involved in on a daily basis. When we complete a restoration project, and roll it out for the first time, I cannot describe the sense of accomplishment that these young people feel, knowing that they were an integral part of a team that made it possible. As a source of funding for the aero museum we also contract with private owners for restoration and repair work on their personal aircraft. For many of our volunteers this is the very first professional business experience they will have. They learn the importance of understanding what is expected by the customer, how to go about meeting these expectations, and keeping track of time and expenses. Lastly, on the weekends, there is the running of our main museum display building that helps to keep our kids interested. This includes everything from public speaking when giving tours, to cleaning the facility each day before we open. This would be a big responsibility for anyone, let alone a teenager, but our amazing young volunteers are more than able to handle it.

We simply could not operate this museum five days a week if it were not for a small army of twenty plus adult volunteers who show up as promised to help run the museum. Some of these adults perform many of the same duties as our teenage volunteers when the kids are in school during the week. This includes running our museum front entry desk where they not only greet the public as they enter, but often engage them in conversations about aviation and our youth education program, insuring that our guests leave with the feeling they have just experienced something special. Another group of adult volunteers who play a key role in our successful youth education program are the Certified Flight Instructors here at PTAM. These are the adults who volunteer their time teaching our museum kids how to safely



Jack Becker, a highly skilled craftsman and instructor, fitting his new door to the museum's Travel Air 4000.



Maria and her Sunday ground school class. Pictured are nine young adults who have decided to spend their day off at PTAM, working, learning, and succeeding.



Caleb and Christoph applying the graphic masks on the museum's Travel Air 4000.

operate a wide variety of aircraft, on their way to earning a Private Pilot's License. This not only includes the time they spend teaching in the aircraft, but also includes hours and hours of ground school spent teaching the knowledge required by the FAA prior to certification. Without the dedication of these amazing individuals we simply would not be able to offer a flight program at the Port Townsend Aero Museum. Speaking of our flight program, I would like to mention one of our exceptional youth volunteers, Maria, whom just turned seventeen years old, has already logged nearly 600 flight hours in her family's aircraft, including a solo flight to Oshkosh, WI, this summer in a Piper Super Cub. Maria has accumulated so much knowledge in her flying experience that she is now teaching ground school each Sunday from 2PM till 4PM to our teenage pilot volunteers.

This last summer saw several changes in our main display building aircraft collection. We added a beautiful 1942 Boeing Stearman PT-17 that is in excellent flying condition. This significant aircraft came to us as a donation from George and Charlene Renquist who restored, owned, and operated the aircraft throughout the Pacific Northwest for over 40 years. Another new addition to the museum collection is a restored 1940 Fairchild Model 24 featuring a 275 HP Jacobs radial engine. This aircraft comes to us as a donation from Chris and Ronda Smith from Tacoma, WA. Chris restored this aircraft twenty years ago and when he decided it was time to find a new home for it, he heard about our museum from a friend, and the rest is history. We are very excited to own, display, and operate both of these aircraft, and thankful to their previous owners for giving the Port Townsend Aero Museum the chance to do so. We are also proud to have two additional biplanes on temporary loan in the building. A 1931 Student Prince, owned by Summer Martell, is one of only three in existence, and the only one completely restored by the staff of young volunteers here at the aero museum. This is an award-winning aircraft with an amazing story behind it and its owner. Our other aircraft on loan is a 1938 de Havilland DH82 Tiger Moth that was restored and is owned by Tim Jacobson of Gig Harbor, WA. This biplane is an excellent example of the English version of our Stearman PT-17, both of which were used as primary training aircraft during the early days of WWII. So, if it's been more than a few months since your last visit to PTAM, you owe it to yourself to come on in and see all that is new.

Lastly, there is the cost involved in making everything you've just read a reality. Just because the Port Townsend Aero Museum is a non-profit 501(C) 3

and licensed by the IRS, it does not mean we are exempt from the cost of maintaining a successful business. On the contrary, as we grow into the future with additional youth and aircraft operations, our monthly bills just keep increasing. Everything from electricity to the cost of insurance has gone up this last year. In addition, we recently purchased a used Cessna 150 training aircraft so that our very low time student pilots would have an easier time honing their flying skills, especially on the windy days, which are so common at the Jefferson County Airport. This purchase alone set our bank account back by \$21,000! And after twelve years of the museum paying only one full time employee, we are now paying two full time employees (Kevin and myself), and one part time office person as a direct result of Jerry and Peggy Thuotte retiring. Kevin, myself, and our museum kids are working hard every day on contract work, online, and outside sales to keep the program alive. But it simply will not be enough without the generous donations from our supporters like you. Supporters like Lisa Painter, who this summer donated \$10,000 to the museum to be used for the continued support of young women in our program, “for encouraging young women in a traditionally male dominated career field”. In addition to this generous donation, we also received corporate donations from companies such as, Boeing, Alaska Airlines, Aircraft Spruce & Specialty, ASA (Aviation Supplies & Academics), and Gleim Publications, and SOS Printing in Port Townsend, for which we are very thankful. Please know, whether individual or corporate, we simply could not exist without your support. Every dollar that you donate is 100% tax deductible, and 100% of every dollar goes directly into supporting our youth education program and the world-class museum here at the Port Townsend Aero Museum.

If you want to get involved and would like to help, please send money! Tell your neighbors, and tell your friends to come and check out our program. Tell your employer, and ask if they have a matching donation policy for non-profit organizations. We are also very happy to accept material donations of all types, and you’ll be happy to know that these too, are 100% tax deductible. In the past, we have received cars, trucks, boats, airplanes, tools, and even household furniture as material donations from individuals who wanted to contribute to our efforts. No matter what the donation, I guarantee we will find a way to use it as a means of supporting our museum. And as we get older, there is always the option of setting up a Port Townsend Aero Museum bequest in your will or living trust to insure our future. Your donations will help



Flash back to 2007, and our crew just finishing a Fairchild Model 71 restoration. Note the two surly teen volunteers on each side of the rudder!



These days, those same two surly teens, Ben Peterson and Jake Thibeault, can be found in the front seats of your local Alaska and Horizon Airline.



Paul's last day after spending his summer at PTAM. He's returning home to Minnesota for high school, but not without his very own copy of the Poly-Fiber Aircraft Recovering Manual. He's already applied for part-time work at a world famous restoration facility in Minnesota!

provide a bright future for the generations of young people who will pass through our door in the years to come. For additional information on our program, or possible donation, please call Mike at 360 670 9297.

Thank you so much for your continued support,

Mike *Mike*



The working side of the PTAM restoration shop.



Larry Peterson Memorial event



Yes, our kids do contract work. And no, they don't care how it arrives!



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 • Learn more about PTAM. Visit our website www.ptaeromuseum.com

• Open 9-4 Wednesday through Sunday. Closed Thanksgiving & Christmas Day
 • Phone 360 379-5244

Membership Program

Individual	\$35.00 (annual)
Family	\$50.00 (annual)
Supporter	\$250.00 (annual)
Sponsor	\$500.00 (annual)
Patron	\$1000.00 (lifetime membership)
Visionary	\$5000.00 (lifetime membership)

Thanks for your donation



Membership Form

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Please return this form to: Port Townsend Aero Museum, 105 Airport Rd, Port Townsend, WA 98368