



# FALL NEWSLETTER

November 2018

Michael Payne  
Director,  
Port Townsend Aero Museum

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## What a season it has been...

Once again, we find ourselves waking to darkness outside, which can only mean one thing at the Port Townsend Aero Museum... The seasons are changing and along with the change comes our Fall newsletter in which I will do my best to bring you up to date on what's been happening in and around the Port Townsend Aero Museum these past several months. So pour yourself a cup of coffee or tea, find a comfortable spot, and spend a few minutes reading, because here we go.....

This last summer was one of the busiest I can remember at the Port Townsend Aero

Museum. As you know, the aero museum is a multi-faceted operation, all of which revolve around our youth education program. You may remember from our spring newsletter, we had to say goodbye to four of our senior youth volunteers at the end of last summer, all of whom were 18 years of age, and all of whom were heading off to start their college careers. This left me with several openings in our program and a need for new volunteers to fill the ranks. Thanks to a waiting list of young people who had already taken the initiative to interview for our program, I had a list of teenagers who were waiting on a call from the aero museum. New to our program this season are Alwyn, Logan, Henry, Myles, Owen, and Noah, all ranging from thirteen to fifteen years old. As you might guess from the young ages of these new volunteers, the current teenage volunteers and adult staff have our hands full teaching the day

*We are running out of space to display our aircraft. How many can you spot in this picture?*

to day do's and don'ts of a busy restoration shop, including what it takes to run a public facility. But soon enough the "new help" will turn into the "old hands" and begin the cycle once again.

One of the biggest changes over the last several months has been in our aircraft col-



Mailing Address:  
105 Airport Road  
Port Townsend, WA 98368

Phone 360-379-5244  
[www.ptaeromuseum.com](http://www.ptaeromuseum.com)

Jefferson County  
International Airport





*Ally and Christoph unloading the museum's new Piper Cherokee trainer.*



*Eddie and Ryan removing the interior from the museum's Piper PA-28.*



*Harrison, Tyler, Liam and Ryan at Thun Field getting ready to move the Piper Cherokee back to PT.*

lection. 2018 has been a record year in terms of aircraft donated to the Port Townsend Aero Museum. As of October, we have received 22 aircraft as donations! Many of these donations were project aircraft, something we rely on to help keep our teenage volunteers busy. A few of the donated aircraft were deemed unsuitable for our program, after which they were sold with the donor's understanding the sale would help to raise much needed funding to keep our program moving forward. But many of the recently donated aircraft are pristine examples of rare and unique aircraft from a time gone by, all of which are now on display.

If you haven't stopped in to see us for a couple of months, please do as you will enjoy looking over the new additions including: 1930 Stinson SM-8A, 1933 Fairchild 22, 1940 Fairchild PT19, Rose Parakeet Biplane, 1947 Callair A2, Gee Bee Model E, 1952 Mooney Mite M18LA, 1946 Aeronca 7AC Champ, Taylor Monoplane, Taylorcraft BC12-D float plane, and Boeing P12-C replica. All of us here at the Port Townsend Aero Museum owe a special thank you to the individuals at the recently closed North Cascades Vintage Aircraft Museum founded by Harold Hanson in Concrete Washington who helped to add eleven new aircraft to our collection in Port Townsend. We are bound by responsibly to keep these new aircraft, and each of the other aircraft in our collection, in good working order for the general public to see and enjoy. With so many aircraft to maintain, it's a good thing we have a strong and dedicated work force of teenage and adult volunteers!

In our main display building is where you'll find these new and wonderful aircraft. It is also where you will find the construction crew this December as they are scheduled to start on the installation of our new elevator. For the first time in our history, our elderly and disabled guests will be able to enjoy the artwork and aircraft as can only be seen from the second story mezzanine. Getting the permit to convert our freight elevator into a proper and approved people elevator has been a long process, but now that the paperwork is in place, we are only waiting for the hammers and nails to start flying sometime this December.

This last August 18th, if you happened to stop by the Jefferson County Airport, you would have been able to enjoy our first ever Port Townsend Aero Museum Airport Day. The Miss Veedol, a restored 1931 Bellanca, flew over from Wenatchee and was on display for the day. We had ten teenage volunteers on hand to help our flight instructors and licensed pilots who were offering \$100 donation rides to the public in five of our classic aircraft. The sun came out



as promised, and throughout the day many people had the opportunity to fly in an aircraft they had only dreamt of. It was a great time for our local population to stop in and really get a sense for what we are doing on a daily basis at the Port Townsend Aero Museum. We are already looking forward to hosting the same event next year.

Our restoration and maintenance shops are very busy, with the restoration calendar already into the year 2020. There is certainly no shortage of work, which to us equates as no shortage of learning opportunities for the kids in our program. This work provides us with the raw materials we need to teach the young volunteers about responsibility and accountability. Sure, looking from the outside, the Port Townsend Aero Museum seems like a place where they restore and fly old aircraft, but the reality is, it is much more than that. These same teenagers in our program are the individuals who will become the adults responsible for shaping a better world in the years to come.

Speaking of flying aircraft, this summer three of our teenage volunteers soloed in our Cessna 150! Each of them is now signed off to operate the aircraft without an instructor onboard. Sophie, Liam, and Tyler have all been cleared for solo operations and are well on their way to earning a Private Pilot Certificate. The next step for each of them will be to pass the FAA written exam, followed by cross-country flight training. Yes, cross-country. This is where we put a 16 or 17-year-old in a small aircraft and send them out for 300 plus miles of solo operation. Talk about becoming a responsible young adult!

With all the talk of our expanding aircraft collection, it may or may not be obvious we are facing a very serious problem at the Port Townsend Aero Museum, and that is one of space, or more accurately, our lack of space to display and maintain the aircraft in our collection. Currently we have 26 aircraft on display in our main building all of which are owned by the Port Townsend Aero Museum. This building is full of beautifully restored antique and classic aircraft, parked as close together as we dare without damage, but we are out of space. As of this writing, we have eleven additional museum aircraft that are nearly finished and ready for display, being restored, or are in the queue waiting for restoration, all of which will need display



*Annie and Caleb moving the 1930 Stinson SM-8 that was recently donated by Earl Root.*

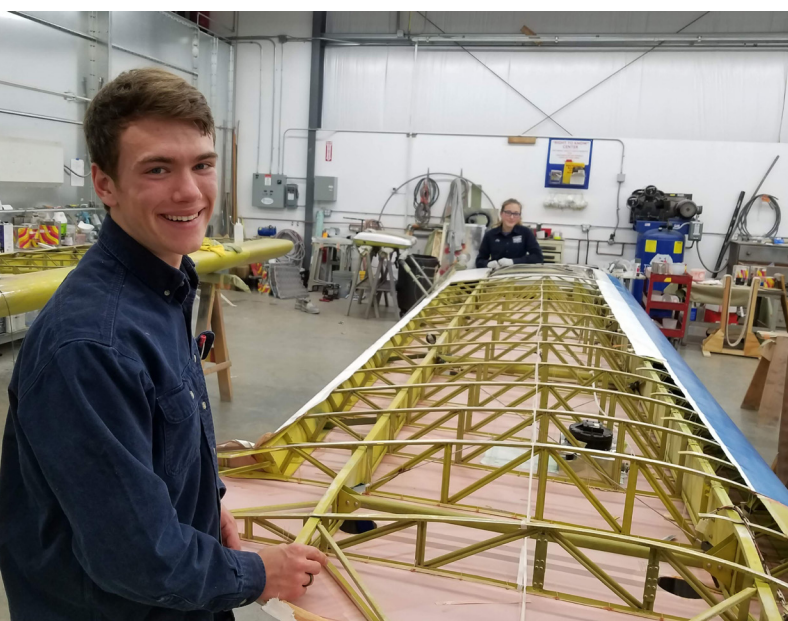


*Annie and Liam working to remove a prop governor on a customer's aircraft.*





*Here we see Eddie disassembling a carburetor prior to rebuilding.*



*Liam and Lily working together to get a super Cub wind ready for new fabric covering.*



*Lily pulling the fabric on a customer's Super Cub overhaul. Lily has been part of the PTAM team for almost 3 years.*

building space once completed. In addition to aircraft, we have received a lot of amazing aviation art work and historic memorabilia over the past couple of years that deserve to be displayed. We need to expand our building! I have met with the architect who originally designed our building, the builder, and the gentleman responsible for the infrastructure required prior to building. I am told the current finished cost for this type of building is around \$300 per square foot, almost twice the amount paid ten years ago. In planning for the future of the Port Townsend Aero Museum and it's youth program, we are looking at expanding the current building by approximately 9600 square feet.

The cost of this expansion is way beyond the scope of our normal day to day 501(c)3 non-profit operations through which we generate the necessary funding for our current program. This expansion of the Port Townsend Aero Museum is going to rely on the support of each and everyone of you who agree with our vision and want to see our program grow into the future for generations to come. No donation could be considered too small in an effort like this, just as no donation could be considered too large. And please remember, all donations whether large or small are 100% tax deductible. Maybe you are not in a position at this time to help with funding our program. But chances are, you know someone who is. Please pass on the good word! The future of the Port Townsend Aero Museum depends on you.

Thank you,

Mike Payne

*Mike*



*Christoph after his first flight in the museum's Callair A2. That smile tell me he must have liked it.*





*Logan getting the Staggerwind stabilizer ready for new fabric.*



*Alwyn, Liam, Lily Sophie and Keven working together to reassemble the Fairchild 22.*



*Maria and Sophie taking a camera break while removing the tail surfaces on our Beech Staggerwing.*



*Maria Morrison checking out on the museum's 1942 Boeing Stearman PT-17.*



*Maria receiving the Jerry and Peggy Thoutte - PTMA scholarship check from Bill Sleeper and Mike Payne.*



*Jefferson Land Trust hosting a speaker discussing the effects of volcanic activity on aviation.*





*This summer PTAM hosted it first ever wedding.  
Congratulations to the new Mr. and Mrs. Van Hoosen.*



*Zack reinstalling and  
torquing spark plugs during  
an Annual Inspection on a  
customer aircraft.*

Learn more about PTAM. Visit our website [www.ptaeromuseum.com](http://www.ptaeromuseum.com)

Open 9-4 Wednesday through Sunday. Closed Thanksgiving & Christmas Day  
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### Membership Program

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*Thanks for  
your donation*



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