



AERO MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

Thanks to flight instructor Carl Nepute, Henry Brown can now call himself a tail wheel pilot!



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Port Townsend Aero Museum

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Port Townsend Aero Museum Summer Newsletter 2022



Our new expansion blends seamlessly with the original museum building that first opened in 2008.

Summer is upon us, and along with its fantastic flying weather comes the Port Townsend Aero Museum's summer newsletter. With many of our youth volunteers now finished with school for the year, PTAM is looking forward to a season filled with accomplished goals and finished projects. Museum operations are in full swing, and we're happy to announce new developments and fresh faces this year.

This is the 21st summer for the museum. It began as an idea in 2001, cultivated by Jerry and Peggy Thuotte, that has now grown into a world-class aircraft museum and restoration center with a youth education and mentorship volunteer program. Since its inception, the program has taken in youth volunteers who dedicate a day per week to the museum, and in turn learn how to work on and fly airplanes, including those from the museum's

collection. Along the way, they also learn valuable life lessons that help them transform into their best selves. Although Jerry has since passed away, the museum has a strong foundation in the community and has volunteers from all over western Washington. The core tenets of the program and the goal to create responsible, intelligent young adults has not changed.

This year's work has been dominated by the current building expansion, which is possible through a partnership with the Hanson Family Foundation. Our youth volunteers are currently working on painting the interior of the expansion and preparing for the mezzanine to be fabricated and welded into place by master welder Rick Brenden of the Port Townsend Shipwrights Co-op. This new south wing will allow the addition of many vintage and classic aircraft to the



Photos do not do justice when it comes to showing how expansive our new addition really is.



Henry and Noah working on a Beech Staggerwing D17S.



Sunday afternoon PTAM ground school with instructor Tom Lamanski.

public's view. We expect it to be finished by this fall and are excited to share it with all of you. The project began about three years ago after PTAM received a generous donation of seven display-quality aircraft from the now-closed North Cascades Vintage Aircraft Museum in Concrete, WA, which was founded by Harold Hanson. The Hanson Family Foundation was then generous enough to grant PTAM the necessary funding to expand the building—something we have been looking to do for a long time—to accommodate new aircraft, artwork and displays.

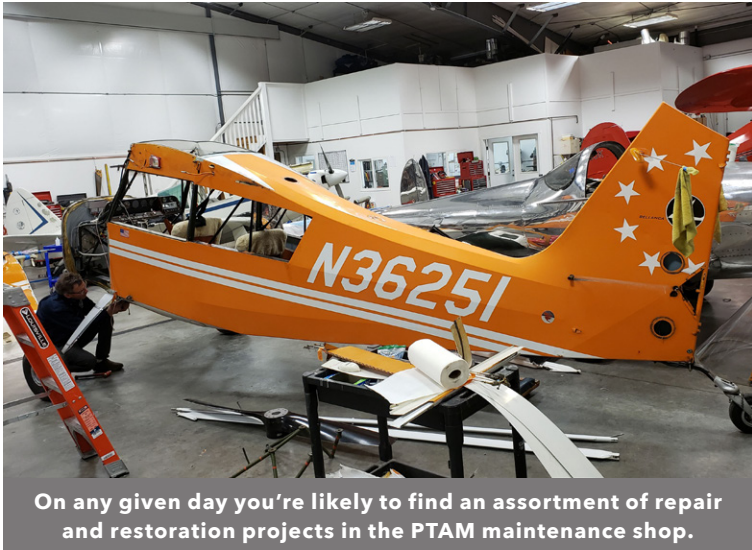
Such expansions and progress could not be possible without the dedicated work of the youth volunteers enrolled in the program. There have been more than 475 volunteers in the museum's history, and the 17 young people currently working are some of the best. Henry Brown, whose first solo was announced in the last edition of this newsletter, has since earned his pilot's certificate, including a coveted tailwheel endorsement, and is now flying with the younger kids in the program. Henry gradu-



ated from Vashon High School this year and will be attending Central Washington University to pursue his professional flying career in the fall. Eighteen-year-old Olivia Nodolf is scheduled to take her Private Pilot License check-ride next month, before she leaves the Port Townsend Aero Museum for the University of Arizona this fall. Brothers Gavin and Gabriel Minor both took their written exams—and both scored a perfect 100%. Noah Lawrence also passed his FAA written exam and is very close to receiving his solo flight endorsement. The museum has welcomed seven new volunteers so far this year: Annika, Gabe, Jenna, James, Amelia, Tristan, and Peyton. Ranging in age from 14 to 17, these new faces are excited about aviation and have been quickly picking up skills around the shop. The museum's youth volunteer program is not publicly advertised, so all these new volunteers sought out this work on their own, demonstrating initiative and responsibility.



Kevin and Jenna getting a donated project aircraft ready to test run.



On any given day you're likely to find an assortment of repair and restoration projects in the PTAM maintenance shop.

These are exactly the type of people that PTAM seeks to work with. It is one of the many joys of this program to see teenagers grow in only a few short months from novices to experienced workers, and then watch as they teach the new volunteers who come through the museum's doors. There is no job too big or small for our volunteers, and they attack each task—be it whacking away blackberry bushes or putting finishing touches on a newly-painted aircraft—with passion and pride for their work.

Successful museum youth volunteers have gone on to many careers, in aviation and outside of it. Just a few of the notable recent past volunteers making their way in the aviation world are Christoph Webber, Jake Kirshbaum, and Seth Mulhausen. Christoph is working at Sky Combat Ace in Nevada, flying an Extra 300L teaching basic and advanced aerobatics, and teaching upset prevention and recovery training in a Super Decathlon. Jake is flying a Cessna 310 for an aerial survey company, photographing the United States from two miles above. Seth is currently flying for Horizon Airlines, and when time allows, he flies with

our advanced students as a certified flight instructor. Another familiar face around the museum is Harrison Shinohara, who is working as this summer's paid intern. The Museum endeavors to hire one former volunteer each year to work over the summer, and Harrison has been a great asset around the shop. Some former volunteers stay connected to the museum for life. Doug Vogel, who moved as a teenager from flying the Museum's Aeronca Champ to piloting EA-18Gs for the United States Navy, recently founded Maxpower Coffee. In an effort to give back to PTAM, where he earned his pilot's certificate, he decided that 50% of the profits from his "Pay it Forward Breakfast Blend" go directly to PTAM! Our youngest ever and longest serving volunteer, Maria Morrison, graduated Duke University with honors and will be pursuing a master's degree at Cambridge University in the UK this fall, followed by Harvard Law School. If you happen to visit the Port Townsend Aero Museum this summer you'll probably find Maria mentoring our younger volunteers, leading by example that no job or task is too menial or too difficult to undertake.



Brody flying home to Sequim after a full day of volunteering at the Port Townsend Aero Museum.



Summer intern Harrison Shinohara working with Ben on recovering an owner's aircraft.



James finishing grinding steel prior to it being installed in the new addition



One time PTAM Board member and long time museum supporter, Bill Shepherd, and his beautiful Yak 3.



Amelia, Gabe, and James ready for flight training at PTAM.



Noah and Peter working to finish the painting of our new addition.



Behind every great paint job is someone like Jenna, working hard to insure the foundation is solid.



Noah receiving a very nice Apple MacBook that was donated by long time volunteer Steve Roberts.



Flight instructor Tom Lamanski with Gavin Minor after his first solo flight.

Now that new space will soon be available, the Museum is looking forward to showing off aircraft and artwork that we simply have not had room to display. Adding to our current collection of displayed aircraft will be a rare Cessna 165 Airmaster; an original Aeronca 7AC; a Fairchild Model 24; an Aeronca C3; a CallAir A2; a beautifully restored Cessna 140; a one-of-a-kind S-22 MacDonald; a Prowler Jaguar; an Ercoupe 415-C; and a sporty little Mooney M-18 Mite. In addition, we will be hanging over fifty new pieces of rare and limited-edition framed aviation art.

In the restoration shop the museum is currently working on recovering a customer's 1973 Citabria, allowing the volunteers to learn every step of the Poly-Fiber covering process, from first stretching out the fabric to adding finishing touches on the paint. We are well along the way to completing a full restoration on a 1940 Waco biplane, with the fabrication of a new custom rear canopy being our last major hurdle to overcome. The museum's 1946 Ercoupe project has been fully polished, and we are just now starting on the engine overhaul

with the wing recovering to follow. Once finished, this unique little aircraft is sure to be a favorite flyer among our cadre of young pilots. When not involved with one of the aforementioned jobs or projects, the museum staff can be found performing routine maintenance on our ever growing flying fleet of antique aircraft.

Everyone at PTAM is excited to show off the new building, and there's no better way to do that than with our dinner dance auction fundraiser. We're happy to announce that the annual tradition will be coming back on October 29th of this year. This event is not only a fun night for members to see the museum's displays and interact with the youth volunteers, but it is our only scheduled fundraising event. Although our museum admission and contract work cover some of the operating costs, it is only through the generous donation of individuals who support our mission that the museum can keep these vintage aircraft flying. This is a special night for all of us, and we're so happy to be able to bring it back.

Looking to the future, the youth volunteers are continuing their flight training

in the Museum's Cessna 172. Several volunteers recently turned 17 or 18 and are eager to take their private pilot checkrides. Every weekend afternoon, our student pilots attend the weekly PTAM ground school taught in the museum library by volunteer instructor Tom Lamansky. With Tom's diverse aviation experiences, the kids have the chance to learn both the facts and nuances of flying. Also augmenting their flight training is a flight simulator that is set up in the library... With all these tools at its disposal, the Museum is hoping to welcome new pilots soon, and the young pilots are all eager to complete both their pilot and mechanic goals.

The goals of the Museum and its volunteers are only achievable through donor support. Through generous donations, we are able to keep the museum's doors open and continue educating these young adults. Any donation, be it monetary or material, helps the museum and the community. If you shop on Amazon and would like to support the aero museum, please go to <https://smile.amazon.com> and select the Port Townsend Aero Museum as

your charity of choice. You'll get the same great Amazon selection, price, and delivery, without costing you anything extra, and with every purchase the aero museum will receive a small donation from Amazon.

Whether this is your first newsletter from PTAM or you've been tracking our progress for a while, thank you for your support of this museum. It is only through your help that we can continue to fulfill the mission that began more than 20 years ago: to inspire the future while preserving the past.

Thank you for your support!

Mike



Eighteen year old Olivia in the pattern at Jefferson County Airport.



Lily Morrison putting on the final touches prior to paint on a customer's recover project.



Twin brothers Gavin and Gabriel both earned perfect scores on their FAA PPL written exams!





Another beautiful sunrise
over the Port Townsend Aero Museum



Payton is updating the pilot
flight status board after his
flight lesson.

Learn more about **PTAM** at ptaeromuseum.com

Open 9-4 Wednesday through Sunday.

Closed Thanksgiving & Christmas Day

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)

Membership Form

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PT Aero Museum, 105 Airport Road, Port Townsend, WA 98368

Thanks for
your donation!

