



# Flight Lines

The newsletter of the Eighth Air Force Historical Society

Summer 2023

## MISSION STATEMENT

**Our mission is to support the Eighth Air Force Historical Society (8AFHS) in perpetuating the history of The Mighty Eighth Air Force from 1942 to the present; to honor the memory of lost comrades; and to provide social events for 8thAFHS members living in Oregon and southern Washington.**

The organization is open to anyone who has an interest in WWII aviation. It is dedicated to preserving and passing on the knowledge of those who served in air combat and ground support over Europe, the Balkans, North Africa, India, Japan and the Pacific theater, and Russia during the Second World War.

The Oregon Chapter of the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force Historical Society holds public meetings every winter (February); spring (May); summer (August) and winter (November).

The Oregon Chapter of the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force Historical Society is a private non-profit corporation. Donations to this organization are tax deductible. State of Oregon corporate registry number **1996184**

### From the Editor

If you have any comments or stories to contribute, please email them to me at [dwrightg600@gmail.com](mailto:dwrightg600@gmail.com), or send them to:

*Editor, Flight Lines*

*2180 S.W. 78<sup>th</sup> Ave.*

*Portland, OR 97225*

### Treasury/Roster

The Oregon Chapter currently has a bank balance of \$2,607.90. As of this writing there are 63 members on the roster, of which 42 dues paying members or life members.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Bert Campbell .....President**  
**Tom Davis.....Vice-President**  
**Pat Keating.....Treasurer/Secretary**  
**Bob Dean.....at large**  
**Joe Burger.....at large**  
**John Kupsick.....at large**  
**Joani Hamilton.....at large**  
**Dwight Gruber.....at large**  
**Don Keller.....at large**  
.....(open)  
.....(open)

### **Oregon Chapter Ground Crew**

**Chapter Chaplain.....Sophia Kennedy**  
**8AFHS HQ Liaison .....Joani Hamilton**  
**Roster Manager..... Pat Keating**  
**Programs Chairman. ....Don Keller**  
**Evergreen Museum Representative...Bob Dean**  
**Flight Lines Editor.....Dwight Gruber**

*email [dwrightg600@gmail.com](mailto:dwrightg600@gmail.com)*

There are 10 WWII veterans on the roster.

Future obligations include:

Cost of stamps and envelopes for mailing announcements, dues requests, and other communications to the members;

Cost of stamps and printing for *Flight Lines*;

Final payment for rebuilding the 8thAF Oregon Chapter website

Meeting expenses are largely covered by the sale of lunches and other donations. The Elks Club charges \$150 for the use of the room.

### Folded Wings

There have been no reports of Folded Wings.

*8th Air Force Historical Society, Oregon Chapter website*

---

After nearly a year of hard work our website has been completely rebuilt. It can be accessed at this link <https://www.8thafhsoregon.us/>. We contracted with a Vancouver web designer and friend of the organization, Garry Stasiuk, to accomplish the work <https://uofgts.com/>

Originally we thought we only needed to update much of the website information and eliminate errors, but we found that the website code was too obsolete to be functional with current web protocols or compatible with tablets and smart phones. We were denied editing access by the web host due to the unfortunate passing of staunch Chapter supporter and website designer Tom Philo. This required that we find a new web host, obtain a new domain name, and completely redesign and re-code the website from the ground up.

If you go to the website and navigate around it we think you will agree that it is an extraordinary success.

## General Meeting Program August 26, 2023

On October 8th, 1952, the Korean War was in full swing and the U.S. was practicing for possible airstrikes on U.S. soil by Russian Tu-4 bombers. A B-29A enroute from Travis A.F.B. in California was sent to make a mock bombing attack on Portland, and it was to be intercepted by na F-94A Starfire. This would give the B-29 and F-94 crews practice in interception, defense, and mission tactics.



*Photo credits: Wikimedia Commons*

Between Tualatin and Wilsonville, the two aircraft collided. The F-94A made a safe landing at Aurora State Airport, but the B-29 crashed with the loss of the crew and the death of a P.G.E. lineman on the ground.

The incident was witnessed from the ground by many people, and the Tualatin Valley Fire Department was called out to the crash. Yvonne Addington, an historian for Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue, and her father was among the firemen who responded. She will make a presentation about this incident at our upcoming August meeting. We plan to have several other people from the area there, with pieces of the B-29 wreckage, personal effects and photos taken at the time. This will be a rare opportunity to find out about a local aviation tragedy and honor those who were lost.



## Briefings

by Donald L. Keller

### **B-17 warbirds fleet update**

The recent F.A.A. Advisory on the B-17 wing attach fittings has finally been released. There are three B-17s which have shown compliance and will remain flying: they are "Sentimental Journey," "Yankee Lady," and "Ye Olde Pub". "Sally B" in the U.K. will also remain flying. There are several other B-17s to be inspected, including "Thunderbird" and "Aluminum Overcast", but these two are currently undergoing extensive repairs to return to flight readiness.

"Ye Olde Pub" was seen recently at the JBLM McChord Field Airshow and Warrior Expo. She flew twice on Saturday and Sunday, accompanied by a P-51 Mustang and the Me-09 who put on a great show. Even though "Ye Olde Pub" is a Vega-built ship, it was great to see a B-17 flying by Boeing's private mountain again.

Additionally, the C.A.F. had a 10-plane contingent putting on their "Tora Tora Tora" reenactment.

The C.A.F. Arizona Wing will have their B-17 "Sentimental Journey" and B-25 "Maid in the Shade" in the northern Washington area. Check their website, and that of the Museum of Flight, for details <https://www.azcaf.org/tour/>.

Check the B-17 Alliance website for upcoming Special Events this summer, they have some exciting plans <https://b17alliance.com/>



## Ericson Air Group 2013 Activities

The Erickson Air Group will be busy this summer. They will appear in two Oregon shows this year, at the Air Show of the Cascades in Madras, and the Oregon Air Show in McMinnville. Check their website <http://www.ericksoncollection.com/airshow> and make your plans now.

Earlier this year, two of Ericson's warbirds took part in the upcoming film "Devotion," a true story about aerial combat in America's "forgotten war" in Korea. You can see the trailer for the movie here <https://www.facebook.com/hashtag/devotionmovie>. The movie features the Erickson Aircraft Collection's F4U Corsair, piloted by Mike Oliver, and AD-4 Skyraider, piloted by Jim Martinelli.



*Two of the Erickson Air group aircraft which took part in the filming, at the 2023 Hillsboro Oregon International. Airshow.*

## Lockheed Constellation "Bataan"

In July of this year, the Texas Flying Legends C-121A Constellation "Bataan", landed at the Aurora State Airport, in Aurora, Oregon. It was the personal transport of General Douglas MacArthur. The aircraft was there for some interior work, after which it will appear at the E.A.A. AirVenture Aviation Event in Oskosh, Wisconsin. It will return later to Aurora for the winter, to have AeroMetal Intl. install a complete interior. We will attempt to keep you posted about future flights.





It was a delight to see such a historic and beautiful aircraft flying again. A tradition was upheld when Oregon Chapter, 8th AFHS member Donald Keller helped wipe her down, although Jerry Ritter was unable to attend.

I had the opportunity to visit The Evergreen Air and Space Museum and the Tillamook Air Museum earlier this year. The Media, including Social Media, has been spewing Doom and Gloom regarding both Museums. They talk about bankruptcy and huge empty spaces. I do not know about their financial standings, but the large empty space stories are unfounded. Both Museums have expanded their displays greatly. Their facilities are clean, well lit, and filled with interesting aviation displays. Be sure to include visits to them in your future plans. Let's support our local museums, and help preserve our aviation history and heritage!

Harold (last name redacted to protect the not-so-innocent!) was a crew chief in the 493rd Bomb Group, 8th Air Force stationed in Debach, England. He started out with the group's B-24 Liberators, and transitioned to B-17 Flying Fortresses when they were assigned those aircraft. (The B-24 which he had been in charge of, was taken over by the crew of Earl Wasson, the author of "The Parson's Chariot" in the 8th A.F. News.)

Harold had a good time "putting on" the other members of his Group. He befriended the Boeing factory representative, and would spend time getting to know him when he visited to the 493rd. They used to talk to the combat crews about their exploits.

One day Harold one day told the Boeing representative, "You know, you hold the honorary rank of Major in the Air Corps, and that gives you the same privileges and opportunities that the GIs enjoy. If you can convince a crew to let you go along on a milk run, and you get five missions to your credit, they will award you the Air Medal."

The Boeing Rep. had street smarts, but he trusted Harold. That was his mistake. Harold never thought the man would go through with it. He proudly confronted Harold after his fifth mission as a gunner, and Harold had to 'fess up about the deception.

I knew the Boeing representative for many years, but I never knew why he had an extremely skeptical streak. Until I talked with Harold.

*Don Keller*

# Next Meeting: Saturday August 26

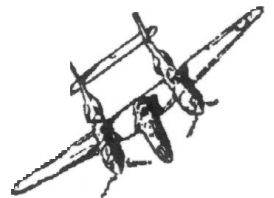
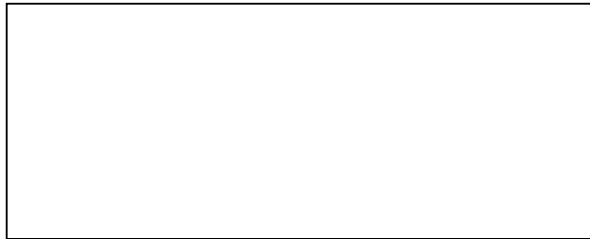
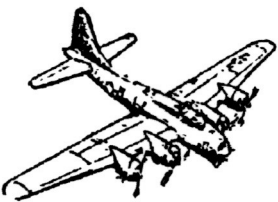
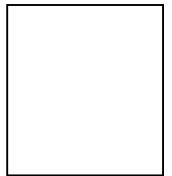
**Beaverton Elks Lodge**  
**3464 S.W. 106<sup>th</sup> Ave.**  
**Beaverton OR 97005**

<http://www.beavertonelks.or>

**Social hour 10:00am**  
**Meeting starts 11:15am**  
**Meeting ends 2:00pm**



Oregon Chapter  
8<sup>th</sup> AF Historical Society  
Editor  
2180 SW 78th Ave.  
Portland, OR 97225



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

