



Flight Lines

The newsletter of the Eighth Air Force Historical Society

Spring 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 8th Air Force Historical Society holds public meetings every winter (February); spring (May); summer (August) and winter (November).

The Oregon Chapter of the 8th 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, or send them to:

Editor, Flight Lines

2180 S.W. 78th Ave.

Portland, OR 97225

Treasury/Roster

The Oregon Chapter currently has a bank balance of \$2,446.75. 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 LiaisonJoani Hamilton
Roster Manager..... Pat Keating
Programs Chairman.....Don Keller
Evergreen Museum Representative...Bob Dean
Flight Lines Editor.....Dwight Gruber

email 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*;

Annual registration fee with the State of Oregon;

Web site maintenance.

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.

IRS Non-Profit Status

In the last issue of *Flight Lines* an error was made in the announcement of IRS non-profit status.

The Oregon Chapter completed its IRS non-profit status request, and was granted Non-profit Status 501(c)3, effective Nov. 5, 2022. Dues, donations, bequests, devises, transfers, and gifts to the 8thAFHS are now federal tax deductible. In 2022 there were \$904 in donations, ranging from a few dollars in excess from dues and lunch payments to \$100 and \$200. These donations are gratefully appreciated and materially aid the ongoing life of our organization.

Our EIN is 93-1097944

General Meeting Program February 11, 2023

Our May Speaker will be the return of Frank Heyl. Frank entered combat in the Pacific, shortly before the end of WW II. He was a B-25 pilot in the 5th Air Force, with approx. 400 hours flight time, in the B-25 Mitchell. He entered the Reserves after the war and flew Medevac missions between Japan and Korea. He flew C-46s and C-119s, with the Chinooks at Portland Air National Guard Base. While there, he flew or worked with many of the members of our 8th A.F.H.S., Oregon Chapter. After serving with the Air Force at the P.A.N.G. Base, he retired, and joined the Army National Guard. During his 40 yearlong military careers, he attended, taught, and developed Survival and Medevac Programs. He taught Medevac and Survival courses during the Vietnam war, and he served as the Air Ground Safety Consultant on the Alyeska Pipeline.

During the Vietnam War Frank became a helicopter pilot and was involved in pilot training. This month Frank will tell of his experiences at the Portland Air National Guard base, and his helicopter experiences as a pilot for the Chief Investigator for the F.B.I. in the D.B. Cooper investigation.

This will be a chance to learn about the investigation and search for D.B. Cooper from a first-hand source.

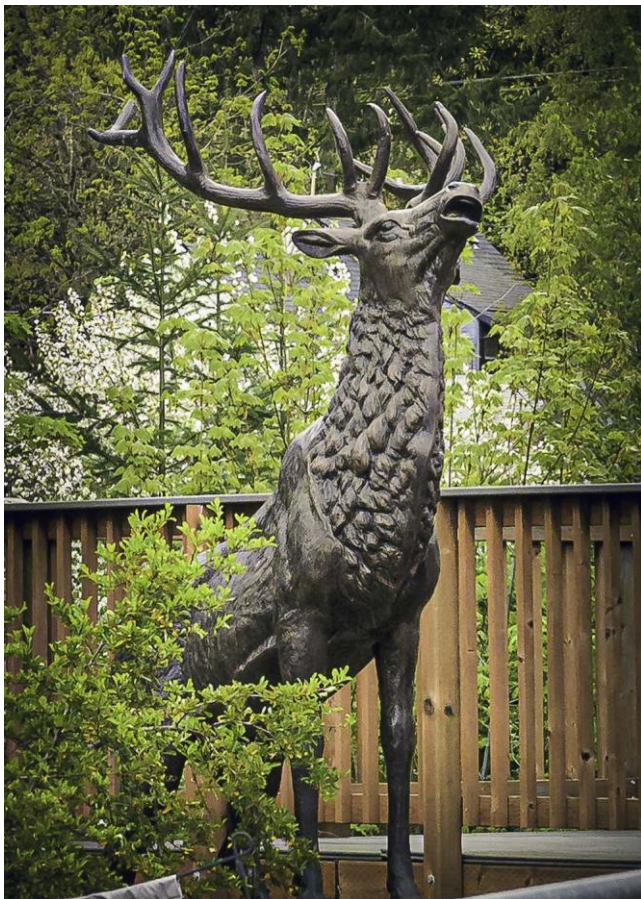


Elks Appreciation

by Donald L. Keller



The Oregon Chapter of the 8th Air Force Historical Society meets in the Beaverton Lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the U.S.A.



Our Chapter's association with the Beaverton Elks Lodge Number 1989 began in 1992, when Andy Brown and several others of our founding members began meeting in their family's homes. They were laying the foundations of our organization.

The first official meeting was held in the old Beaverton Elks Lodge in February 1993. This building is now a charter school, located across the parking lot from the current Lodge. Attendance would range from 125 to 175 people. We would fill the Main Hall, the Guests Bar, and the Card Room.

The Elks maintained a full kitchen and offered a meeting meal, which was always excellent. The Elks Staff were always accommodating and helpful.

Hats were not to be worn in the Lodge, out of respect for the Elks and veterans (not to mention proper etiquette!). The only requirement was that one of our members had to be an Elk. In the tradition of service to others that they observed that number was never in question.

We have met in several rooms in the old Lodge and the new one, and the Elks have always made room for us for over 30 years. Over the years many of the rules have changed, mostly for the better. We have occasionally explored other venues due to construction or location, but none have extended the courtesy, quality, service, and affordability of the Elks.

We sincerely appreciate the long-term support the Elks have provided for our group. When you see one of the Elks, especially Faye who is our main liaison, please extend a greeting and a hearty thank you.

Briefings

by Donald L. Keller

B-17 warbirds fleet *not* grounded

There are many rumors circulating speculating grounding of the U.S.-based air worthy B-17 warbirds. This has come about in response to the announcement that the Yankee Air Museum in Michigan has recently voluntarily grounded their B-17 "Yankee Lady."

The rumors concern an F.A.A. Airworthiness Directive (A.D.) regarding B-17 wing spars. The most recent A.D. about wing spars was issued in 2001. Many of the B-17 fleet have already complied with this A.D. or have been inspected, regarding this A.D. "Aluminum Overcast" and "Thunderbird" are currently undergoing maintenance to be in compliance. The other B-17s are being inspected or are undergoing repairs or restoration.

Yankee Air Museum is being proactive in their Safety and Maintenance program. There are concerns about the spars, but it is the wing attach spar points that are drawing scrutiny. Some aircraft have spotted corrosion or cracking in these areas.

There is no new A.D. concerning this, nor is there an order grounding the B-17s. Several owners are investigating repairs or replacements for safety's sake, in anticipation of a possible A.D. As always, safety is and should be the first priority. There are several B-17s undergoing restoration to flight airworthiness, so there are many minds working on this problem.

Oregon International Air Show

The Oregon International Air Show has announced that the Erickson Air Collection will have their AD4W Skyraider, F8F Bearcat, and the F4U-7 Corsair performing the "Deliverance" Revue. Planes of Fame will also be bringing their P-38J Lightning and F4U-1A Corsair.

The show will be at the Hillsboro Airport, on May 19th, 20th, and 21st. There will also be an air show in McMinnville later this summer. The Hillsboro show will also feature current fighter jet demonstrations.

Flying Heritage and Combat Armor Museum

The Flying Heritage and Combat Armor Museum in Everett, Washington will be re-opening on May 27th. It will be open on Saturdays and Sundays. On June 14th, the schedule will be extended to Wednesdays through Sundays.

Civilian Quilt of Honor



For several years the Oregon Chapter of the 8thAF Historical Society has awarded donated Quilts of Valor to serving veterans. Alice Miller, collector and speaker about women's service uniforms and attire, has been an annual presenter at our General Meetings, and has proved to be our most popular speaker.

In recognition of her constant support of our Chapter's goals, the Civilian Quilt of Honor was established, and was awarded to Alice at her Winter 2023 presentation with our heartfelt thanks.

Next Meeting: Saturday May 13

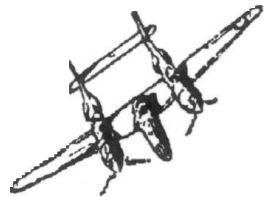
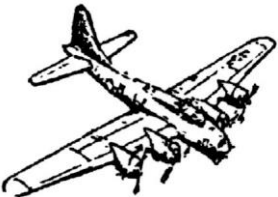
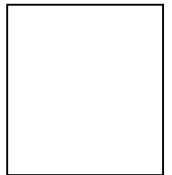
**Beaverton Elks Lodge
3464 S.W. 106th Ave.
Beaverton OR 97005**

<http://www.beavertonelks.or>

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



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



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

