

Pioneer Air Museum

September 2017 Newsletter



FALL

Letter from the Curator

Hello all,

The summer season has ended! The last day of our season was September 10. We had approximately 9,400 paid visitors over the summer with a number of kids and school groups that we don't charge for. We also had 92 space camp/aviation history kids.

Compared to 2016, visitor numbers we were about equal. Nicer weather in early summer helped out. The Tanana Valley Fair had excellent weather

this year which hurt us and helped them. Better than rain I guess!

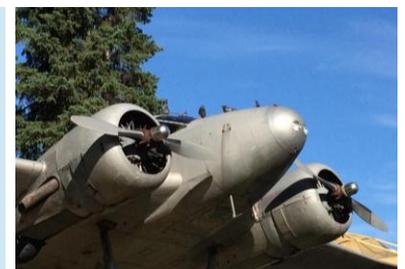
We had a good crew this summer with Erin Kirchner leading collections with Lynn Walker. Counter crew was also good with Peggy, Kendall, and Maddie. Della continues to help out when she can from her job as Executive Director at Museums Alaska. Another bright spot is Leanna Prax Williams who is volunteering as a media person for the Facebook and Blog among other

things. We have had a number of nice comments about her efforts in these fields. Thank you Leanna!

In terms of ongoing events, we are still trying to find funding for some of the expansion efforts (Restoration Area, Restrooms, and the new entryway/gift shop). We really need the restrooms/restoration area. Included in the restoration area is an area for archiving and storing the collections. We will need your help as we get closer to the start.

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From Our Blog

World War II in Alaska: 75 Years Later

This year we observe historical anniversaries of several major events relating to Alaska aviation history: the construction of the Alaska Highway, Lend-Lease, and the bombardment of Dutch Harbor and subsequent occupation of the Aleutians by the Japanese.

Today the Alaska Highway is the route that many of our visitors take to come to Alaska; however, its original purpose was one of national defense, as there was no road connecting Alaska to the "Lower 48" contiguous states at the outbreak of WWII.

Construction of the highway connected the airfields of the Northwest Staging Route, which was series of airfields used to ferry planes as part of the Lend-Lease agreement with the (then) Soviet Union. Here in Fairbanks, Soviet airmen took the controls and flew Lend-Lease aircraft west to Nome and then across the Bering Strait to Siberia, and on to the Eastern front of the European theatre of WWII.

Lend-Lease may have transformed Alaska, but we cannot overlook what has been called "The Forgotten War": the Aleutian campaign of WWII which began with the bombardment of Dutch Harbor by the Japanese, the occupation of Adak and Kiska islands, and the year-long effort to liberate those islands.

Blog Post by Leanna Prax Williams



Letter from the Curator, Continued

Future Events:

On September 28th at 5:30 p.m. we are having an Open House at the museum with some refreshments and some light food. One must be 21 to attend as there will be some adult refreshments. Come on in and see the changes and future plans. Mingle with old friends and new folks.

On October 10, there is a Boy Scout aviation merit badge session. We will have a number of things for them. We plan on taking the Swallow over to try and entice a few good youth to volunteer some time and effort to help out on the restoration. It will be in the evening down at the fire/badge area. I will keep you posted.

On November 7th at 11:30 a.m. the Alaska Civil Military Aviation Council (ACMAC) will be holding a meeting. Items of interest can be added to the agenda by me and even by other interested parties. See me and I will try and add them. More to follow.

Volunteers:

Erin at the museum is calling for volunteers for this winter. Please read her note in this newsletter. She is willing to do the training. Come in and help out!

Pete Haggland, Curator

Watch the Facebook Page and Blog for updates through the winter!



Fred Meyer Community Rewards

If you have a Fred Meyer Rewards Card, you can be helping the museum just by shopping! All you have to do is link your card to the Pioneer Air Museum through the Community Rewards Program.

Through this program Fred Meyer will donate a percentage of funds to the museum, quarterly, depending on how many people have signed up.

You can do this by logging on to your account online, and choosing the Pioneer Air Museum under Community Rewards. If you need help doing this, please contact Erin directly at collectionsmanager@pioneerairmuseum.org.

Letter from the Collections Manager

We at the Pioneer Air Museum are looking to strengthen our community ties through establishing a committed volunteer program. By joining the volunteer team, you will not only help the Museum achieve its mission, but you will also have the opportunity to meet fellow aviation and history lovers, get a behind-the-scenes perspective of the museum field, and become a part of a dedicated community!

What do volunteers do?

Currently, the Pioneer Air Museum is undertaking a long-term project to catalog the museum's collection. Interested volunteers will assist the Collections Manager to document, photograph, and research a variety of objects in the collection. In the process, volunteers will have the opportunity to learn more about the different kinds of work that go into caring for museum collections.

How much time do I need to spend?

Museum volunteers have a variety of commitment levels according to each person's individual schedule. If you have an hour or a day, we appreciate any time that you wish to donate to the museum.

If you have any questions or are interested in becoming a museum volunteer, please email collectionsmanager@pioneerairmuseum.org with the following information: Name, Phone, Email, preferred days to volunteer and any other comments.



We want your feedback!

What kinds of events would you like to see?
How often would you like to meet?
What can we be doing to better serve you?
Please send your responses by email or by mail to:

Pete Haggland
curator@pioneerairmuseum.org

Erin Kirchner
collectionsmanager@pioneerairmuseum.org

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The Pioneer Air Museum is a 501(C)(3) Non-profit Organization. It is our mission to collect, protect, and preserve for the public objects pertaining to the history of Alaska aviation history.

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Thank you for your support!