

President's Message

In one corner of our hangar, the Porterfield sits grounded, awaiting an annual inspection. It is a favorite among the pilots in the family, a low-n-slow high wing airplane with just six gages on the panel, no electrical system and a 65-hp engine that transports pilot and passenger in simple, uncomplicated style. We set aside time to finish the annual; we have bought the oil, the grease to pack the bearings, and removed the inspection panels. And the Porterfield patiently waits, as we delay, with life's small trials getting in the way of finishing the project.



The AAHS photo digitization is another worthy project, with a host of tangible positive benefits when completed, that quietly awaits our attention. AAHS members from around the world have submitted and shared aviation photos for over 50 years. These photos document both the significant and minor details of our aviation past, and are sought out by enthusiasts, professional historians, and all kinds of people in between.

How much more valuable a resource AAHS could provide, when, at the touch of a button, AAHS members could pull up high-resolution digitized photographs of most any aircraft type ever built by an American company, and have accurate, detailed information along with those photos? How much better then, could we fulfill our mission, support the preservation of aviation history, and pass it on to our grandchildren?

We have gotten several key projects underway this year that are growing in momentum, that will build a better basis for the AAHS organization. These include a revamp of our financial systems to meet regulatory reporting requirements, an update of our membership database, the creation of a basic strategic plan for moving AAHS forward, the documentation of key in-house processes, and the physical organization of our book/materials library. These projects needed doing, and I thank those volunteers that put in the hard effort to get tasks completed.

In the coming new year, however, we need to get back to what we set out to do 50-plus years ago, preserve and share aviation history through a photographic library.

And like our Porterfield's annual inspection, this is a community endeavor, where the more hours we put to it, the quicker we can be back in the air. There are several ways members can help with this project, both locally at AAHS and remotely.

Members local to the AAHS office can come in and help us organize the photos themselves, by aircraft type, manufacturer, etc. We come across fascinating glimpses into aviation history that any aviation history buff would enjoy. Remote volunteers can help by reviewing photos that have already been scanned and providing identification information about the photo that can be added to our database. All you need is the ability to read a CD, and you get to keep the high resolution photo CD!

Help with this important, ongoing AAHS project, and you'll be helping the future of AAHS tremendously. Contact the office, or email me or the AAHS webmaster for more information.

The weekend is coming up, and I am going to ignore the weeds in the garden, set the TV to 'record' and put the crockpot on; then head to the hangar and begin a project that is long overdue.....

Regards,
Jerri Bergen
AAHS President