

President's Message

How does an organization, formed when computers were the size of supermarkets, phones were fixtures, books held the predominance of recorded knowledge and cameras needed film to record images, adapt to a world where your computer, phone and camera all reside on one device, provide data instantaneously, and is carried in your hip pocket?

The tools and methods we use to record and share aviation history have changed, but our mission remains the same. Aviation is still a key driver of technology innovation and our record of that progress and the people who made it happen generate fascinating history. Adapting to change, and crafting our product to suit the interests of today's audience is definitely harder, and we realize that partnering with other organizations with similar goals can improve our chances of long-term success.

In the 60+ years of the AAHS Society, we have been headquartered apart from the aviation community, existing in small office areas or strip malls, which have given rise to the long standing joke that AAHS is 'the best kept secret in aviation.' In recent years we have reached out to partner with groups like the American Society of Aviation Artists and The Antique Aircraft Association, to better spread our message, and we need to continue this movement toward other aviation groups.

One of the decisions AAHS has recently made involves relocating the AAHS headquarters office out of its current month-to-month light-industrial, strip-mall environment to an aviation community that supports a long-term view of our mission. AAHS is planning a move to Flabob Airport, of Rubideaux, Calif., approximately 60 miles east of our current location in central Orange County.

We are excited at the prospect of housing the AAHS archives and Library at Flabob Airport, a private, not-for-profit entity that not only operates an active airport but is primarily dedicated to aviation education, promoting the next generation of aviation professionals and enthusiasts.

Flabob Airport is home to the Replica Racers museum and is currently erecting facilities for a second museum, both of which will be supported by AAHS archive material. Flabob is also home to the Quiet Birdmen Headquarters and their historical archive material. Two different aviation education organizations, one an airframe and powerplant school, another a charter aviation high school, use Flabob as a base of operations and provide more opportunities for AAHS to interact with the next generation of aviation readers. And, last but not least, we believe operations at Flabob will cost less than our current Orange County facility.

AAHS has to thank long time member John Turgyan, of Virginia, for providing a generous donation that will fund much of the relocation. It is John's donation, along with a positive relationship with Flabob Airport that has made this type of move possible for AAHS. We will not make this move quickly or without study to our needs and issues, but it is a step towards our long-term aviation future.

Jerri Bergen
AAHS President

(More discussion about our upcoming move will be featured in future issues.)