

President's Message

Our Annual meeting, held in Orange County (OC), Calif., was a history packed weekend, that highlighted a wide range of early aviation in Southern California, including the 1910 Los Angeles Air Meet, the beginnings of John Wayne Airport (SNA)-the oldest still operating OC airport, and its founder Eddie Martin, the aviation collection of Gen. William Lyon, history of the Santa Ana Air Base and a peek into the second oldest Orange County airport, Fullerton Municipal Airport. The most enjoyable aspect, as always, was visiting with old friends and making new ones. We want to thank the AAHS members that attended, as well as the tireless volunteers that helped organize and manage the three-day event. AAHS would not be able to put on this or other events without such volunteers, nor without donors who generously provide their support in funds and raffle items.

Support for AAHS operations has recently been given a tremendous boost by AAHS member John Turgyan, of New Jersey (not Virginia, as stated previously, in error!). John has provided generous financial donations for the purchase of new office equipment, photo scanning equipment and advertising space in EAA publications. AAHS has always utilized the large majority of its resources to create and publish the *Journal*, using whatever funds remaining to digitize and preserve the aviation collection, maintain office operations and reach out to new audiences. With this situation, many important maintenance tasks get delayed, or dropped altogether, due to lack of funds. An example is the AAHS microfilm reader, necessary for us to read our microfilm archive (which includes 100s of reels of Air Force / Navy Aircraft Record Cards) has been broken for several years, with limited funds to repair or replace it.

In addition, incoming photo donations have far outpaced our digitization efforts, both from sheer volume, and the slow pace of work using outdated equipment and slow PC systems. John recognized AAHS' dilemma and took direct action to help solve our bottleneck with new equipment purchases, as well as providing funds to jump-start our advertising outreach, with a color ad in the *Vintage Aircraft* (VAA) magazine.

John is a founding member of VAA (he joined in 1971, with Member #3), when it was called 'Antiques and Classics' (a division of EAA). The picture is of John, flying one of his favorite antiques, EAA Museum's DC-3, in 1981 (this photo made the cover of *FLYING* magazine, August issue). A Captain for USAir at the time, John volunteered at the EAA Museum to help restore the DC-3 to flying condition; he rewired the DC-3's instrument panel.



John Turgyan at the controls of the EAA DC-3

This, in conjunction with John's support of AAHS' move to the new headquarters at Flabob Airport has given AAHS new energy to meet our mission, and to look forward with enthusiasm, instead of anxiety. We have tons of work ahead of us, but with the right tools to work with, we have a real leg up to getting it done! On behalf of AAHS I say 'thanks' to John and all our AAHS members who have given their support to our shared goal.

Jerri Bergen
AAHS President

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