

Meet Our New Society President

We would like our AAHS members to meet Tyson Smith, our new AAHS President! Tyson has a BS degree in Mass Communications, from Middle Tennessee State University. Tyson has worked as a 3D Spacial and Graphic Designer at several design agencies, with such clients as Disney, Netflix, Dior and Coachella. He worked also with the National Football League in developing museum-grade displays to highlight the history of football during the Superbowl.

Tyson has, with the help of his talented wife Klara (who provides AAHS' bookkeeping support), developed his own apparel brand, 'Maiden Voyage Clothing Co.', that sells primarily through social media outlets such as Instagram, Facebook, and their website. Tyson has also developed events exclusively for Facebook and Instagram, and plans to bring this valuable expertise to the branding of AAHS.

AAHS is sorely in need of expertise that reaches outlets more often used by younger generations, and Tyson has just the experience (and interest), to kickstart AAHS in this direction. Tyson gives us his introduction to aviation history, below. Welcome, Tyson, from all of us, we're so glad to have you!

Jerri Bergen

Tyson Further Explains

As far back as I can remember, the romance of flight has always been in my peripheral. The earliest vivid memory I recall was my dad and I flying a kite together. Once he got it airborne, I remember him tucking the spool handle through one of the belt loops on his blue jeans and inviting me to layback on a blanket in the park to enjoy watching it dance in the air. The green grass, warmth of the sun and big, blue sky live on in my mind. Perhaps this memory has woven itself into my subconscious and why I have and always will be fascinated with flight.

During that time, my dad was serving in the U.S. Air Force. We lived on base and I enjoyed playing with the other children of the families stationed alongside ours. After the service, my dad found a job in Nashville, Tennessee as a machinist at, what was at that time, Avco (in the former Vultee plant built for WWII) and we settled in Smyrna, TN. I grew up hearing about all of the aeronautical and aerospace projects my dad was working on and recall once getting to visit the factory.

As I got older, I began to take an interest in film and being a child of the Eighties, I feel fortunate to have grown up with such films as Indiana Jones and *The Rocketeer* (two of my favorites) as well as a multitude of other classics. It was the influence of these films where my interest in history was cultivated and I gravitated to anything set in the early twentieth century.

Countless nights in high school were spent with worn out VHS tapes replaying my beloved cinematic tales, while I built plastic scale models of what I saw on screen. During college, life's responsibilities became my priority and those childhood interests, while not forgotten, were merely packed away mentally for safe keeping.

After college, it was "California or Bust!" and I moved to Los Angeles with my now wife, Klara Smith. That move to the West Coast fulfilled a dream of mine to travel Route 66 and discover America for myself in the process. Vintage motels, diners, National Parks, roadside attractions and the open road became our home as we chased the sun in my '73 Charger all the way to the Pacific Ocean.

It was here where I was able to start slowly reassembling those childhood memories and explore those interests again. As part of that rediscovery, I started an apparel line called Maiden Voyage Clothing Co., and also began dealing in vintage and antiques for the fun of it. Along the way, aviation relics and the like were added to the mix. Over the years, I've had the honor of assisting in the acquisition of historic items that, as Indy would say, "belong in a museum" and now are.

I'm an aviation and history enthusiast who enjoys learning and look forward to assisting AAHS in growing to meet the challenges of what lies beyond the horizon.



Klara and Tyson Smith

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