



Pioneer Air Museum

November-December 2022

From the Museum...

Membership Renewal and Its Benefit

As we are on final approach to the New Year, it is time to renew our membership in the organization. The Interior and Arctic Alaska Aeronautical Foundation, operator of the Pioneer Air Museum, was founded for the purpose of protecting and preserving the history of aviation in Northern Alaska. We are nearing the 100th anniversary of general aviation here and you have an opportunity to be part of the celebration. What better way to participate than through membership in this association?

Our museum is blessed with many items of historic significance. Some large, like the Norseman and the Stinsons. Some small, like photos and newspaper clippings. All have a connection to the rich history of flying here in Alaska. As a member you will have a chance to help tell the stories that these objects in our collection represent. Your involvement can be something simple if there is a particular person or event that you have an interest in. Or you may want to become active in the future of the Museum itself. As many of you know we are considering options for long term improvements in our overall operations.

Few places in the world have benefited from the advancements in aviation to the degree that Alaska has. Your participation is vital to successful efforts to Preserve and Protect artifacts that connect us to those achievements. And to bring the history to current and future generations. Join us. It's interesting and it's fun!

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Museum Gets a Minor Facelift!

As we go through the slow winter season here at the Pioneer Air Museum, it allows us to address some of our displays and other items that need to be updated or changed. This winter season, that's exactly what we are doing. We will be updating our display cases with some newer ones, as well as updating our artifacts throughout the museum. This will also include new signs and some new paint. Everything will be ready by the opening of the summer 2023 season. Please come by and see what we've been doing!

Welcome to the New Museum Newsletter!

Well, not really a new newsletter; Wes Potter is still creating this wonderful resource for us all. But we're now sending out the newsletter using an email service, MailChimp. This way, it will be easier for anyone to subscribe to the newsletter, as well as unsubscribe if you're no longer interested in hearing from us.

We've added everyone who was on our previous email list. Feel free to invite others! And soon people will be able to subscribe on our updated website.

Thanks for your interest in the Pioneer Air Museum, and Interior and Arctic aviation history!

If you have any questions or comments about the newsletter, please email Don at don@pioneerair.museum.

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Alaska Aviation History...

We are nearing the 100th anniversary of an important event, or series of events, in the history of Alaska aviation. In the summer of 1923 Ben Eielson and several Fairbanks businessmen brought the beginnings of practical air travel to Interior Alaska. On July 3rd of that year Eielson flew with a passenger from Fairbanks to Nenana, and later returned to Fairbanks.

In the early 1920's travel options were limited. Dog teams in Winter and river boats in Summer were the predominant means of getting places. The Richardson Trail was in use more or less year round, although it is unlikely that anyone would have thought of it as a "Highway" in those days. And the new Alaska Railroad was connecting Fairbanks with the outside world via Seward and steamships South. Going places at speeds of over a mile a minute was just a futuristic idea.

The 1923- 1924 era saw the real start of flying in Alaska. Ben Eielson, Noel Wien, and a handful of others were truly pioneers. So many of their flights were over routes never before flown and in conditions never before attempted. They learned, they practiced, they created the art and science of aviation as we now know it. We have an opportunity to commemorate their achievements on the centennial of those first flights. How should we do that is the question. For starters, how about a July fly-in to Nenana? Maybe some special events here at the Pioneer Air Museum? Bring out your ideas and suggestions and we can start putting together a proper celebration.

Upcoming Events...

17 Jan 2023 Pioneer Air Museum Board Meeting

18:30 – 20:00: Pioneer Air Museum, 2300 Airport Way, Fairbanks

All members are welcome to attend!

<https://www.pioneerair.museum/calendar.html>

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21 Feb 2023 Pioneer Air Museum Board Meeting

18:30 – 20:00: Pioneer Air Museum, 2300 Airport Way, Fairbanks

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Appointments for group visits during the off season: Please call (907) 451-0037 or email visit@pioneerair.museum to arrange your visit in advance.

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*Information for the newsletter? Send me the electrons!
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