



The Old Fliers' Group

Attached to the Royal Aero Club of WA (Inc).

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Last Meeting

The August meeting on the 26th of last month saw Steve Rogers as Mini Speaker. Steve was part of the “Oshkosh and the USA Aviation Tour” arranged by Torii Tours of Sydney. The following is a brief summary of the highlights of his trip.

Early in the tour they visited the Boeing Aircraft Factory in Seattle where the 747, 767, 777 and 787 are produced. While there, they went through the *Future of Flight Exhibition* and visited the *Boeing Museum of Flight*. All very interesting and impressive.

Next it was New York and a visit to the Old Rhinebeck Airfield for historic aircraft and then the Smithsonian where they saw the “Enola Gay”, etc. Next, it was on to Oshkosh AirVenture 2011 for three days before travelling down to Dayton, the home of the Wright Brothers and to visit the US Air Force Museum and Huffman Prairie.

Steve was in the company of OFG member Ron Griffin, and others, and a great time was had by all. We will hear stories for some time to come.

Another three OFG members, Delis Parker, Richard Ewing and yours truly visited Dayton to see the US Air Force Museum and then to Huffman Prairie – the field where the Wright Brothers developed the art of flying in 1904 and 1905. During that period they learned to fly in large circles, in figures-of-eight and cross country journeys for over half an hour. They were streets ahead of the pioneer aviators in Europe. After Dayton we returned to Chicago and on up to Oshkosh for the AirVenture 2011 show. At Oshkosh we joined with Harry O’Neil and his wife Pat. As a group of five, we enjoyed all the Oshkosh had to offer. A selection of photos was shown at the last meeting.

The scale of the Oshkosh show is enormous. Some of the numbers were:

Attendance (7days)540,000
Helpers4,800
Visiting aircraft10,000
Trade displays	740
Injection into the Oshkosh community	\$100,000,000

Food for Thought

The following article came to me from Harry Smeulders, now retired and back in Western Australia:

Retired Pilots Once the wings go on, they never come off, whether they can be seen, or not. It fuses

to the soul through adversity, fear and adrenaline and no one who has ever worn them with pride, integrity and guts, can ever sleep through the ‘ call of the wild ‘ that wafts through bedroom windows in the deep of the night.

When a good pilot leaves the ‘job’ and retires, many are jealous, some are pleased and yet others, who may have already retired, wonder. We wonder if he knows what he is leaving behind, because we already know. We know, for example, that after a lifetime of camaraderie that few experience, it will remain as a longing for those past times. We know in the world of flying, there is a fellowship which lasts long after the flight suits are hung up in the back of the closet. We know even if he throws them away, they will be on him with every step and breath that remains in his life. We also know how the very bearing of the man speaks of what he was and in his heart still is.

Because we fly, we envy no man on earth.

Author Unknown

Tour

Margaret Murray is organising another tour to Egypt. The details are set out below. Margaret is currently on a tour of Egypt and will be back in a few weeks. If you are interested, contact her when she returns.

Cleopatra Trail

12 days 11 nights

Departs Cairo 1st May 2012

Cost \$3179 per person
(Airfares to be added)

The tour allows add-on opportunities, possibly the Greek Islands, maybe Europe or the UK. Even a trip to South Africa en route to Egypt - the choice is endless.

See Margaret Murray for details.

Happy Birthday

The Boeing 747 type is soon to have another birthday. The first came off the assembly line on 30 September 1968.

Next Meeting

The next OFG meeting will be held on this coming Friday, 30th September, at the Royal Aero Club. Lunch gets under way at noon. Following that, Les Jubbs will talk on Gallipoli.

Hope to see you there.

Brian Hernan