

President's Message

The year has begun with a great visit with AAHS members from around the U.S. and Australia (thank you, Derek!) at our 2017 Annual Meeting, held this year at AAHS members Bill and Claudia Allen's place, Allen Airways Museum, Gillespie Field, near San Diego, California.

Not only did we have the opportunity to renew friendships, we made new ones, such as AAHS member Gary Fogel, who gave us a fascinating overview of early aviation pioneer John J. Montgomery, and AAHS member Ken Penneck, a



Bill Allen seen giving an overview of some of his displayed aviation movie posters. (Photo by Jerri Bergen)

volunteer at the model shop at SDASM restoration center, who's currently building a 1/5 scale model of the B-17G-25-BO *Outhouse Mouse*, 42-31636, that will go on display in SDASM sometime in the future.

Our Annual Event this year gave us an opportunity to see how aviation buffs, like Bill and Claudia Allen, display their aviation collection, as well as larger institutions, like SDASM. Much of the priorities set by SDASM Head Archivist Katrina Pescador for their library and archive are very similar to AAHS. Katrina even provided AAHS a copy of the SDASM Library Operations Manual from which we can draw some best practices.

Some of our priorities will take more hands on effort, and I encourage you to give some time to our common goal of preserving our members' photos. We have a goal to get 20% more negatives and photos identified and loaded to the website this year than last year, and we can use members' help in correctly labeling file names. Contact our office and we'll show you how to do it, right from your own home office.

Moving forward we have more partnerships than ever to nurture, such as the American Society of Aviation Artists, and the Antique Aircraft Association. We'd enjoy having combined events, so that members from each group can get to know one another.

Speaking of new associations, we are very excited to plan for an AAHS week at Oshkosh 2017! With a table at the Vintage Hangar, we hope to reach out to more aviation enthusiasts and get more people involved. We've reserved an AAHS clubhouse near Whitman field, (walking distance!) for afternoon get togethers and are now working to possibly lead a forum at some point during the week. We're looking for volunteers to help us in this recruiting effort (see page 64). If you can't physically participate, maybe you will consider making a donation to help defray the expenses associated with promoting the Society.

Plan to spend more time with AAHS this year; we'll all benefit!

Jerri Bergen
President