



HERITAGE FLIGHT MUSEUM

Where History Flies in Skagit County

Volunteer/Member Newsletter

Fall 2022

In The Beginning...

By Greg Anders, Executive Director

Over the holiday season of 1968, Apollo 8 took the first humans into Lunar Orbit. Before the trip, the crew was asked to choose an appropriate message for the live broadcast scheduled on Christmas Eve while orbiting the Moon. NASA set no requirements and Frank Borman was allowed to make whatever choice he wanted. He was slightly dumbfounded by the responsibility until Christine Laitin, Frank's friend through her husband, Joseph Laitin, suggested the Apollo 8 crew read the opening lines of the Old Testament.

So it occurred that on Christmas Eve of 1968, more people tuned in than ever before to watch a live television broadcast. The crew of Apollo 8, shortly after being the first humans to see the Earth rise above another celestial body's horizon, began with their junior member, HFM Founder William Anders, broadcasting to the world, "In the beginning..."

I feel that the Heritage Flight Museum has finally gotten to "In the Beginning." The "nest" is almost fully built in the way I had envisioned from our real beginning, and it is time to move beyond our simple aircraft flying roots and tell the story of how a young couple, Valerie and Bill Anders, became so entwined in the story of one of Mankind's greatest trips of exploration.

The effort and focus of thousands of people put together one ship, and three men flew that ship higher, faster and farther than any humans had flown anything before. And we took our first lap of victory in what was one of our Nation's

primary scientific focuses of the Cold War: the Space Race.

As we approach the Holiday Season of 2022, I ask that we reflect on the young couple, Bill & Valerie, as they managed five children through a Christmas Holiday while Bill was accomplishing the riskiest flight he had ever done in his life.

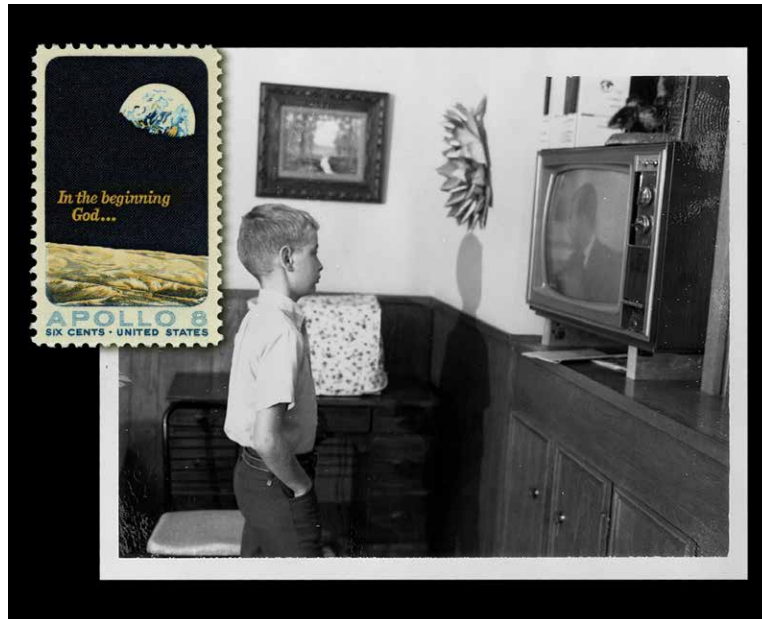
Indeed, it was one of the riskiest adventures mankind had ever embarked upon.

Because of this risk, my memory of my six-year-old days recalls us having essentially three Christmases that year. The first was before Bill left, when we got our first color TV delivered by Santa a few days early. We then had a subdued yet joyful celebration on Christmas morning when we rifled through our stockings for the

treasures of that holiday season. And one more celebration when Bill returned.

Two of our Christmas celebrations were accomplished with joy while trying to minimize the most basic question: Would Bill make it back? I attempt to put myself in my mother's shoes as she managed that fear while trying to have a "Holly, Jolly" Christmas for her five children. I cannot imagine the immensity of that stress. Our third and final Christmas celebration occurred most joyously after Bill came home. I was six, all I really remember is that we finally got to open the presents that had been "saved" for Bill's return.

I wish you all a Holiday Season as joyful as our third Christmas in 1968.



Bill Anders Receives Michael Collins Trophy 2023



Late Breaking News: just as this newsletter was about to go live, we received word that HFM founder Bill Anders has been recognized by the National Air and Space Museum's Michael Collins Trophy for Lifetime Achievement

Stop the presses! Heritage Flight Museum has just been notified that our founder has been selected by the National Air and Space Museum to receive the Michael Collins Trophy for Lifetime Achievement in 2023. According to the venerable institution's press

release, the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum awards its Michael Collins Trophy annually for Lifetime and Current Achievements in aerospace science and technology.

The 2023 recipients are Bill Anders for Lifetime Achievement and the James Webb Space Telescope Team for Current Achievement; they will receive their awards at a ceremony March 23 at the museum's Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center in Chantilly, Virginia. Established in 1985, the award recognizes outstanding achievement in the fields

of aerospace science and technology and their history. Trophy winners receive a miniature version of "The Web of Space," a sculpture by artist John Safer. The award (previously known as the National Air and Space Museum Trophy) was renamed in 2020 to recognize Collins' contributions to aerospace and his service to the museum as director from 1971-1978, a critical time in its evolution.

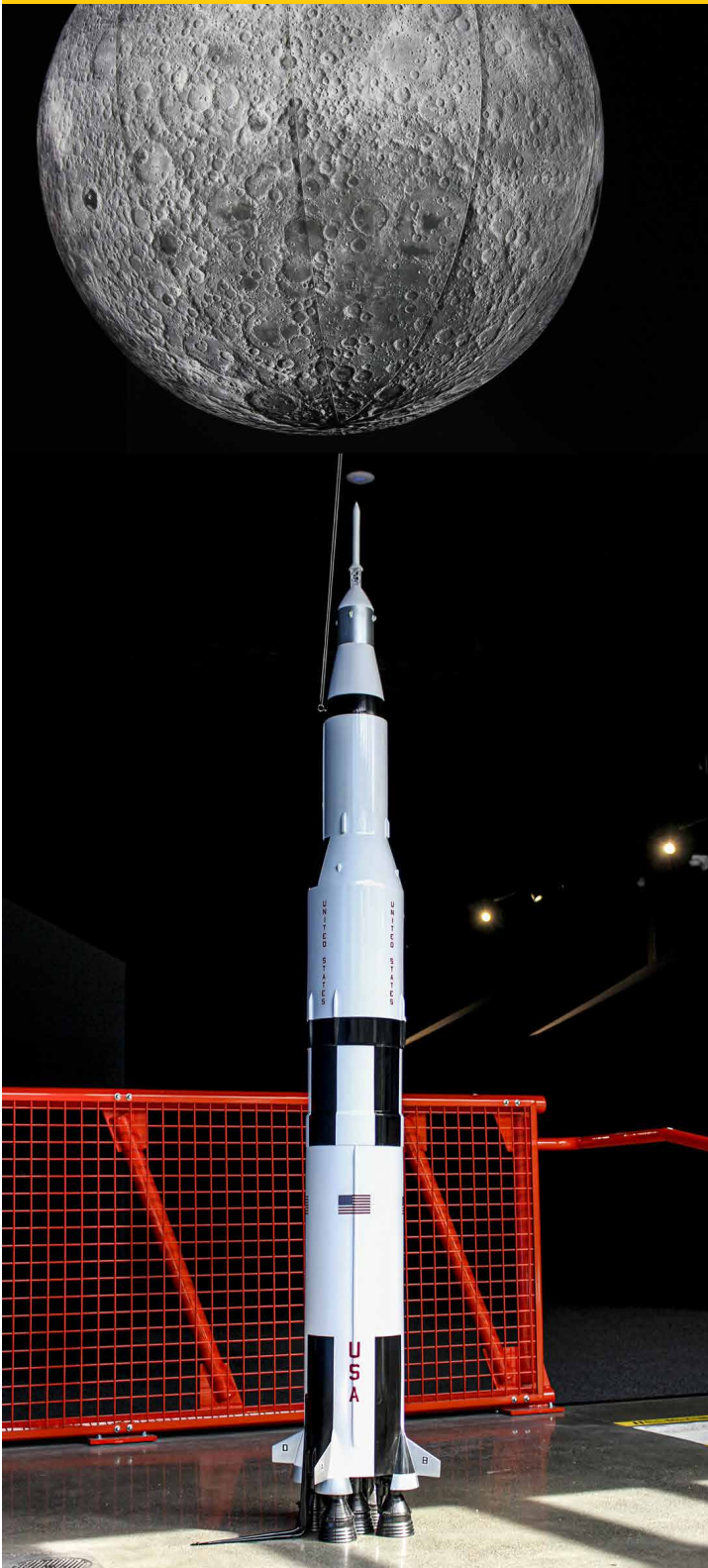
"The 2023 Collins Trophy recipients have helped humans understand their place on this Earth," said Chris Browne,

the John and Adrienne Mars Director of the museum. "Bill Anders not only dedicated his life to aerospace but also took the iconic Earthrise photograph that changed our understanding of this planet forever. The James Webb Telescope has likewise given us new perspectives

on the universe. We're so pleased to present this prestigious award to two most deserving recipients."



A New Resource in the Skagit Community



Made possible by the Anders and Barto families and other generous donors, HFM's new hangar expansion project came in for a landing last May. After the new exhibit galleries and maintenance hangar opened for public viewing, Erik Wilkinson of King 5 News called the exhibits

“a detailed and intimate timeline of the year 1968, from the turbulence of the Vietnam War and the assassination of Martin Luther King to the triumphant [Apollo 8] space mission.” The exhibit was honored in July with a visit by Chris Browne, director of the National Air & Space Museum.

Volunteer Spotlight

Bob Stanley



Perhaps the *most* amazing thing about Bob Stanley is that he was able to slow down enough to volunteer at HFM. The need for speed is hard-wired in Bob's brain. He has raced nearly everything with an engine, unless it also has wings; he prefers to stay on the ground and move at a fast clip. He's a bonafide member of the 180-mph club in motorcycles, Z06 Corvettes and limited hydroplanes.

Bob's father, C-137 pilot/navigator Robert Stanley, Sr. was stationed in Northern England during WWII. He married Teresa O'Connell, the 23rd child out of 24 born to a family of farmers in Kilke, Ireland. Bob was born in Cle Elum. His family moved to Mount Vernon when he was five years old.

Bob played every sport at Mount Vernon High and spent his spare time at a neighbor's garage working on hot rod cars. He planned to become a state patrolman, like his father, or a mechanic, like his neighbor. Dad had other ideas, and sent Bob to play football at the University of Washington.

When it became clear that his role in Husky football would likely be a spot on the "hamburger squad," Bob jumped ship to the crew team under coach Dick Erickson in 1965. One of the "little" guys at six-foot-three and 210 lbs, Bob was placed in the bow, starboard side. Thus began a six-year education in playing to win and using mind over matter to tough it out to the finish. According to Bob, it "puts a fire in your heart that never gets extinguished."

Why the six years? Coach Erickson wanted to get the most out of his recruits. To keep them rowing longer, he encouraged them to enter longer degree programs like pre-med. Bob got a scholarship, mopped the locker room floor to pay his room and board at the crew house, and studied to become a pharmacist while rowing as an alternate in the boat that got invited to the 1968 Olympic Trials. After graduating, Bob went on to work for various pharmaceutical manufacturers. He bought and operated the Stanwood Pharmacy during the 1980s.

Here's where things speed up a notch: an annual weeklong theme party Bob and his friends called "The Guemes Games" took an interesting turn one year. Having exhausted the standard party themes, someone floated the idea of homemade hydroplane races. Entries were supposed to stay under \$200 in costs and 40 horsepower, but the rules were made to be ignored.

Bob moved up from an outboard to progressively larger, faster inboards and raced for years under the following three stipulations: be safe, have fun, win. He got out of hydroplanes in 1995, when open cockpits were banned, but continued racing Corvettes (alongside his daughter) and motorcycles. This went on until the day he found himself waking from a six-hour coma inside a CAT scanner with no idea where he was. Bob thought it was an alien abduction. It was actually a motorcycle crash.

Post-racing, Bob continued pulling 60-hour weeks at the pharmacy until three of his daughters staged an intervention, and he was persuaded to retire. As a "retirement" activity, he volunteered at United General Hospital and was later elected a commissioner. In 2014, Bob began volunteering at HFM. He has loved his time here surrounded by what he calls "real heroes" like the Anders family, Rev Allender, Rick Drury, and so many more.

Heritage Flight Museum depends on volunteers in many areas of operation. If you have a skill, some time to share and a desire to be part of the HFM team, contact volunteer coordinator Mark Carpenter:

volunteer@heritageflight.org

Fond Farewells



Grant Reefer

We don't know if Grant Reefer had a bucket list, but if he did, it's hard to imagine a ride in a B-25 wouldn't have been right at the top. HFM's beloved Volunteer Coordinator passed away last January. Five months earlier, John Sessions of Historic Flight Foundation showed up at HFM offering rides in his twin-engine B-25 bomber, "Grumpy." When an opportunity like this comes up, our volunteers get first chance. A group of them joined Grant on the memorable Grumpy ride; afterward, they described they way he stood on on the seat and yelled in delight for the entire flight.

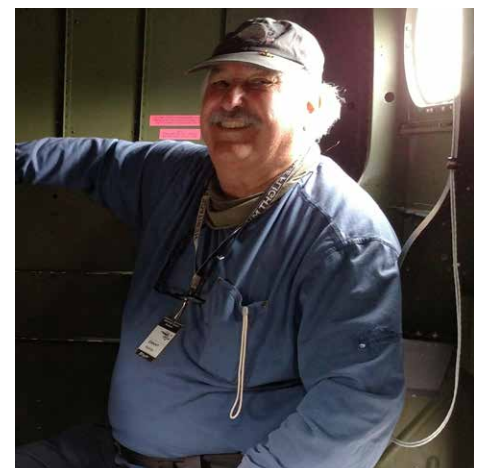
Always positive, Grant was likely to have a smile on his face, even behind his bandit-style covid mask. Jovial, upbeat and witty, he could often be

seen zipping around the museum on a motorized scooter. It might have been a holdover from the days when Grant was a member of the Sports Car Club of America. He used to race a Lotus 7 (that he built himself) facing such competitors as Paul Newman, Emerson Fittipaldi and Steve McQueen.

Grant started volunteering at HFM in 2015 and was promoted to Volunteer Coordinator two years later. He was part of the crew that organized our library, sorting and classifying the books according to the Library of Congress system. He also conducted tours and was known among the docents for dry witticisms like his favorite straight-faced remark to incredulous museum visitors, "I'm the only man on Earth who can land a Scout Car on a carrier."

Grant's fight against cancer made no apparent dent in his congenial attitude and sense of humor. Most of

his coworkers were not aware of his diagnosis until near the end, as he never appeared to be out of sorts. He overcame daunting health obstacles during the pandemic to reunite with his wife, Cheryl, after her move to an assisted living facility. A few days later, he was gone. Grant is greatly missed and will always have a place in the hearts of his Heritage Flight Museum family.



Chris Alker

Volunteer docent Chris Alker worked his last Fly Day on May 21, our Grand Opening event. It's hard to believe he won't be giving any more tours to lucky museum visitors. He was such a great guide that we featured him in our docent training video, which will now serve as a poignant reminder of a true friend.

Chris Alker was one of two docents who could tell you everything about the Bell H13 Sioux (the other being his close friend, Del Chasteen). Chris spent the 1960s as a helicopter mechanic in South Africa, and he famously entertained HFM staff and guests alike with tales of rotorcraft adventures.

His early life unfolded during WWII, as he and his family fled through war-torn Germany barely ahead of the Russian Army, scavenging food as best they could. His father had worked with

the French Resistance and was kept in LeHavre as an asset after the war, and eventually shipped to Canada. A long time elapsed before Chris' family learned that his father was still alive.

Chris joined the German Air Force and became a mechanic when his partially missing finger dashed his dreams

of becoming a pilot. He travelled the world, met his wife, Billie, and eventually turned up in Anacortes. Not long after that, he volunteered at the museum. It has been a true privilege to offer him a place in the Volunteer Corps and to be a part of his life as he has been a part of ours.



Dave Dysart

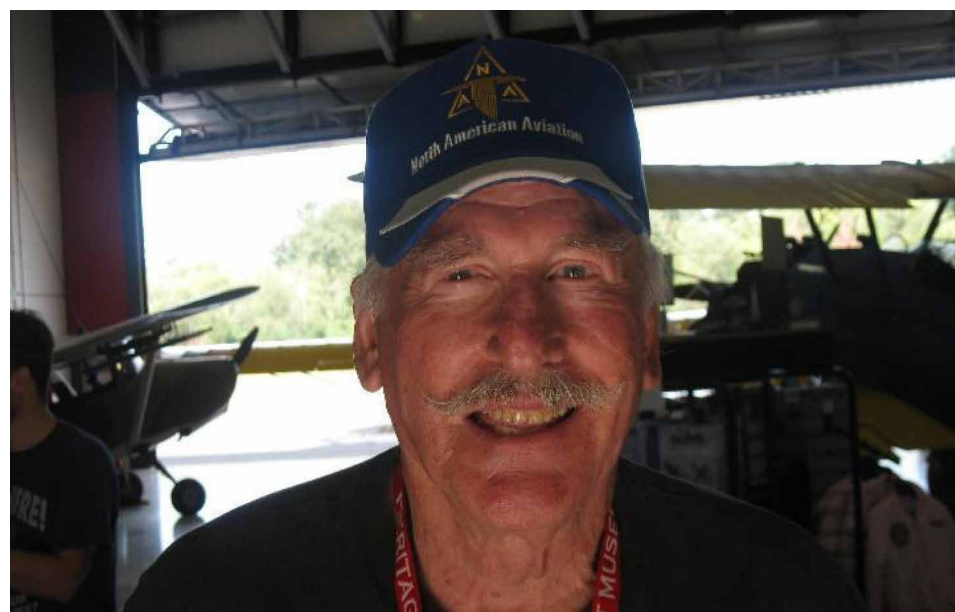
Dave Dysart was an HFM volunteer since 2018 and passed away in the fall of 2021, leaving the staff with many good memories and another large pair of shoes to fill. Dave was born in Ross, California. He graduated from the University of Washington with a degree in aeronautical engineering and served three years in the Air Force.

Dave was a launch operations site director (tower boss) at NASA during the Apollo program and was present on the launch tower at the time of the Apollo 1 fire. In 1969, he received an award for "establishing the Rockwell team that set a program record of five launches in one year." He donated the plaque to HFM.

After the Apollo Program, Dave contributed design work for the

Space Shuttle and the GPS launcher at Vandenberg AFB. He had a busy mind and numerous interests; he belonged to the Northwest Blacksmiths Association and the Corinthian Yacht Club, was a fan of orchestral music and opera, an avid hunter and gun collector and loved

anything mechanical. His retirement was spent raising sheep, goats and the requisite Border Collies that worked on his farms in Friday Harbor and Bow. He loved to solve equations, read, exercise, listen to music and share his Apollo program experience with HFM.



2022 Donor Appreciation



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Donor Spotlight: Don Collen

HFM would like to recognize local Korean War veteran Don Collen, who has made a generous monthly contribution to the museum since January, 2021.

Thanks for Your Support



In addition to our regular volunteer docents and marshallsers, we get help from so many community members in so many ways. A big “shout out” goes to the following, who assisted the museum during 2022:

Research: **Bob Craddock**

Photography: **Deane Crilley, Chris Peterson, Roman Watson**

Exhibits: **Fred Smyth, Diane Danielson, Steve Kessinger, Brian Heiner, Nick DelDuca, Ed Vance, Brent Work, Linda Codlin, Bruce Dietsch, Ralph Peterson, Allan Snowie, Jake Schultz, Jenny Knotts, Myriam Springuel, Kathrin Halpern, The Smithsonian Institution, Boeing, The MIT Museum, MoPop, NASA**

Newsletter: **Fred Smyth**

Grand Opening: **Diane Dietsch**

Spring Exhibits Internship: **Rebecca Fagan**

Fall Collections Internship: **Jace Wittenberg**

Fly Day Pilots: **Craig Nelson, Bill Shephard**

Artifact Loans and Donations: **Ron Karr, Joyce Eastwick, Dennis Cooley, John Sessions, Vickie Maurer, Larry Humes, Gerald Baron, Jim and Michelle Bender, Brent Work, Mark Danielson, Douglas Neff, Chris Leas, Barbara Smart, Iva Metz, Jeff Bloom, Joy Neal, Bill Anders, Ronald Medcalf**

Ronald Medcalf loaned HFM a short Snorter with 31 autographed banknotes, including a U.S. silver certificate, a Hawaii overprint dollar, a \$2 bill and notes from China, Burma, India, France, Belgium, Germany, Italy, Australia, the Philippines, Tripolitania and Iceland.



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Photo: Cassidy Moore

Welcome to the Vault

Lunar Sample, aka Moon Rock

By Tiffany Hamilton

This column is usually titled “Welcome to the Attic,” but HFM has acquired an artifact so significant that, unlike other artifacts featured here, this one doesn’t happen to be in the Heritage Flight Museum’s “attic” (aka the Collections Department). Instead, this item resides in HFM’s new “vault.” It is the pièce de résistance of the Heritage Flight Museum’s Earthrise Gallery: a piece of the Moon preserved inside crystal-clear Lucite and presented to HFM Founder Major General William Anders by NASA.

The acquisition of this amazing piece has been years in the making. In 2005, HFM entered into discussions with NASA representatives about acquiring Bill Anders' award. HFM made plans to meet the requirements but was interrupted by the Museum’s relocation from Bellingham to Burlington in 2014. Efforts were rekindled in 2019, but with new difficulties; the 2005 paperwork was severely outdated, and the names it contained no longer worked at NASA. But the mission remained: bring Bill’s Ambassador of Exploration Award to HFM.

These Awards are acquired through a NASA program meant to honor the astronauts of the Mercury, Gemini, and Apollo programs. Each astronaut

(or his heirs) has the opportunity to be presented with a Lunar sample recognizing the sacrifices and dedication of the individuals who contributed so immensely to the exploration of space during the early NASA programs. Walter Cronkite is the only non-astronaut to earn one of these awards for his dedication to and diligent reporting of the Space Race.

The Awards, each containing a Lunar Sample, remain the permanent



property of NASA. Because of the rarity and value of Lunar samples which have been brought back, NASA has strict requirements about how these samples can be stored, displayed, and who has access to them. Astronauts who wish to claim their award work with NASA and a museum or other educational agency of their choosing, where the award can be properly housed and displayed on behalf of the astronaut for public viewing and education.

As part of a recent facilities

expansion, The Heritage Flight Museum has undertaken significant steps to achieve this feat. Steve Hoard, the architect for the expansion, was instrumental in designing a facility that meets NASA security standards for the storage and display of the Award. Meanwhile, the Collections, Exhibits, and Construction departments at HFM collaborated with a wonderful woman at NASA Headquarters, Ms. Jenny Knotts, to track down the Award and confirm that the Museum had met all of the necessary requirements to safely house it.

With those steps completed, it will be HFM’s duty as a museum to continue to protect, maintain, and care for the Award in ways that continue to meet NASA standards and which will do the Award justice as we continue to display it for public viewing, education and—most notably—to honor our founder.

The Ambassador of Exploration Award presented to William A. Anders contains a Lunar Sample that weighs 1.71 grams, collected near Head Crater. Its inscription reads, "This is a portion of a lunar sample returned by Apollo 12 astronauts in November 1969."

Also on display in the vault are assorted items that flew on board Apollo 8, The Hubbard Medal awarded by the National Geographic Society, a Lunar Globe with Apollo 8's path drawn in by Bill himself, and much more! To view these incredible artifacts for yourself, walk mankind's first journey to the Moon and back via The '68 Experience and Earthrise Gallery.

New to the Crew



Mark Carpenter, Volunteer Coordinator

A lot of new recruits joined the HFM staff roster this year and we'd like to take this opportunity to introduce them: our new Volunteer Coordinator is Mark Carpenter of Arlington. His background is in IT and he's pictured with his personal assistant, Abby.



Judy Grace, Administrative Assistant

Judy Grace of Sedro Woolley joined the Admin Office, manning computer number two and assisting in all things administrative. During the summer racing season, she can also be found at her other favorite hangout, Skagit Speedway.



Grace Stephens, Chief Mechanic

Grace Stephens was promoted in January to head of the HFM maintenance shop, then aced her exam to become an FAA-authorized inspector (IA). She hails from Lansing, MI, where she was employed at WACO Aircraft after earning her A & P license through SMAT.



Lynn Wade, Events Manager

Lynn Wade is a native of San Juan Island living in Bow. She took on the position of events manager after the retirement of Karen Hicks. Like her predecessor, Lynn is a photography enthusiast. She was formerly a school counselor for Sedro Woolley district and divides her free time between her camera, family fishing boat and her two dogs, Katie and Sarah, an English Setter and a German Shorthair Pointer.

Mariah Samora, Events Coordinator

Mariah Samora of Mount Vernon joins HFM after graduating from Brigham Young University (Idaho) with a certificate in hospitality and tourism. Proud owner of a Rotweiler/Pit Bull named Loki, she is teaming up with Lynn and Kerri to run events at HFM. We are thrilled to welcome our newest staff members and we all look forward to enhancing your museum experience as much as possible

News from the Events Office

Lynn Wade, Mariah Samora and Kerri Fraser are the new events managing team at the Heritage Flight Museum. Lynn and Mariah have been well trained by the previous Events manager, Karen Hicks and the long-time events assistant, Kerri Fraser.

This team of women is ready and excited to be a part of the amazing Heritage Flight Museum that many consider a hidden gem in the community. The events crew hopes to inspire people to visit the Heritage Flight Museum as well as work with clients who are looking for a special place to hold an event.

If you see Lynn at the museum, you will quickly learn that her favorite exhibit is the Earthrise gallery where the exhibit highlights the incredibly influential photograph taken by Apollo 8 Astronaut Major General William Anders during his flight around the moon in 1968. This photograph inspired people from all over the world and is considered one of the most influential photographs of all time.

Lynn's favorite planes are the P-51 Mustang Val Halla, the PT-13 Stearman and the T-6's. However, the plane that Lynn thinks has the best story attached to it is the Interstate Cadet "The

Pearl". This Cadet was one of seven civilian planes in the air over Honolulu on December 7, 1941. It managed to survive the attack on Pearl Harbor, thanks to quick evasive action by pilot Cornelia Fort.

Mariah is the Event Coordinator at the Heritage Flight Museum. She has always loved seeing big planes up close so it wasn't a surprise that her favorite aircraft would be the A-1 Skyraider. The way it starts up and just shakes the whole building is fascinating to her. Mariah is excited to take on this role beside Lynn and Kerri and help great events happen at the museum.



Who's Who at Heritage Flight Museum

Bill and Valerie Anders - Founders
Greg Anders - Executive Director
Alan Anders - Maintenance/Operations Director

Julie Shelby - Chief of Staff
Lynn Wade - Events Manager
Mariah Samora - Events Coordinator
Mark Carpenter - Volunteer Coordinator

Grace Stephens - Chief Mechanic
Tiffany Hamilton - Collections/Exhibits
Marne Cohen-Vance - Visual Media
Neal Padbury - Building Maintenance

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