



Greetings for 2014

It was a busy fire season for the Klamath Falls Airtanker Base this year. There were many aircraft to see and many air crews and visitors passing through that had an opportunity to visit the Tanker 61 Memorial. The busy season created less time for Memorial projects overall but still much was happening this year.

Here are some of the highlights....

Lakeview BLM Presentation

The season started out with presentations. In March, Don and Marcia took the Tanker 61 story on the road to the BLM all employees meeting in Lakeview. Some good ideas and connections came from the presentation that would prove a great help in the future.



View From the Tanker 61 Memorial Windows



Civil Air Patrol

Later in March Don and Marcia addressed the Klamath Falls Civil Air Patrol Squadron at the Kinglsey Air Guard base to develop another new partnership for the project. We are hopeful that in the future we may be able to work together.

Klamath Falls Civil Air Patrol Composite Squadron check them out on Facebook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/KlamathFallsSquadron>



Crew 7 Lends a Hand

In May members of the SCOFMP Crew 7 fire crew helped sand and varnish some of the railings at the Memorial. Thanks for their hard work!

Tanker 61 Scale Model

One of our contacts from the BLM meeting was Forrest Waller who works for the Lakeview office. Forrest is an avid model builder and RC flyer. He generously offered to finish a model of Tanker 61 that was started back in the eighties. The model is excellent and has been on display at the airtanker base and at the Klamath County Fair. It will soon move to the Memorial building.



After Forrest finished the model of T61 we gave him another 1/72 model of a P2V Neptune that he worked on through the summer.

He just recently finished it and it too will soon be on display in the Memorial. Great job and many thanks to Forrest!

Shawn and Tom Memorial Run

Once again in May Tanker 61 helped out the Shawn and Tom Memorial Run with a sponsorship. Marcia volunteered at the registration desk while Don did the 5K run.

Held at the Lava Beds National Monument the annual event raises money for the Wildland Firefighter Foundation in memory of Captain Shawn Price and Firefighter Thomas Marovich Jr. Check them out at:

<https://www.facebook.com/shawnandtomrace/timeline>



Siskiyou Smoke Jumper Museum Firefighter Fair

In June the Tanker 61 Memorial went on the road again with a booth at the Siskiyou Smokejumper Museum annual Firefighter Fair and Moon Tree Run.



Despite a real windy day that forced us to take down our canopy a few children enjoyed painting airplanes and we managed to hand out brochures and sell a few t-shirts. The annual fundraiser includes a breakfast for Volunteer Firefighters and takes place in collaboration with 22 local nonprofits and agencies providing a day of youth activities, aircraft displays, remote control airplane demonstrations, museum tours, and more. Find out more about the museum on their website at: <http://www.siskiyouSmokejumpermuseum.org/>

Airtanker Display at Klamath County Fair

August was time for the Klamath County Fair and Don put together an airtanker spotters guide display that was set up in the Klamath Fire Prevention Board Kiosk.

The spotters guide has pictures of airtankers that have worked out of the Klamath Falls base along with information about them.

The display was accompanied by the T61 scale model which was sporting a custom display case.



People in Fire Mannequin

Our "people" in fire mannequin was changed from a ground fire fighter to a lead plane pilot. We haven't named the mannequin but she portrays different positions people hold in the firefighting world.

Fire Prevention and the Memorial

This summer the Tanker 61 Board started conversations with Kelli Kuska and the BLM/ SCOFMP fire prevention program. We have hopes that in the future we can cultivate a new partnership with fire prevention with the goal of finishing the lower part of the Memorial building and dedicating its use to teaching the public about fire prevention and awareness. While Kelli has moved on to another job we still hope to pursue and encourage the use of the ground floor for prevention education.

We are always looking for participants in our goal to create a wildfire learning center and raise public awareness of our project and pursuits. We are a 501c3 nonprofit and donations are deductible. Please contact us at 541-883-6839 or tanker61memorial@gmail.com if you would like to help.