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# HANGAR 1

The official e-newsletter of the  
Illinois Aviation Museum

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# MERRY CHRISTMAS



## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN DECEMBER

**IAM Board Meeting**  
12/7 | 6:30pm-7:30pm

Check out our [calendar](#)  
for more details on  
monthly events.



# Top Gun Maverick Flies to IAM

• IAM's movie night was a huge success! Top Gun Maverick raced across the screen while a friendly trivia competition followed. Those who answered the Top Gun trivia questions correctly won aviation-themed hats and shirts. The two winners of the challenge trivia questions were given either a free discovery flight or free flight simulator time donated by JW Aviation. More movie nights to come in the future!



## We've Got Christmas Gifts!

Stop by our gift shop to get unique aviation gifts. We have your holiday shopping covered, from die-cast models to ornaments, inflatable airplanes and so much more! The best part is shopping with us means you are helping out your local non-profit aviation museum. Find the perfect gift for the aviation enthusiast in your life!





# The Pilot Interview Project

The Illinois Aviation Museum is moving along with our new exhibit. The Pilot Interview Project aims to preserve aviation's past by documenting oral and written testimonies from Illinois pilots and veterans. IAM will share these exciting stories through interactive displays, which will be in our museum. The interviews are professionally recorded and edited with the help of Blink of an Eye Productions. Reflection Software will then integrate the videos into the hardware and software of the display. Interviews and filming began and ended in November. We are excited to share this new exhibit with our community members in 2023.



## Make Way for the Pedal Planes!

By: Dan Christine

If you've visited the Illinois Aviation Museum during the summer months, you've undoubtedly seen smiling children piloting pedal planes built by our volunteer docent John Weiss. John brings the excitement of aviation to the youngest of kids when they step into a pedal plane and watch the propeller whirl around while they pedal and steer their aircraft with a control stick, just like a real airplane. Nothing could be more exciting for young children visiting the airport as it allows them to be part of aviation regardless of their age. John has two completed rideable models for the kids to enjoy: the famous WWII P-51 and the Christen Eagle. Seeing children's excitement for pedal planes inspired John to offer a new model, the AT6/SNJ/Harvard.

The AT6/SNJ/Harvard pedal plane is an all-wood, aluminum, and steel construction kit offered by Pedal Planes by Aviation Products. These kits are complete with pre-cut, pre-drilled wood, aluminum, and all prefabricated steel parts. There are many models to choose from, and the kits are relatively easy to assemble with basic hand tools.

This plane is currently under construction by IAM volunteer Allison Dziak. It will be completed by the end of the year and ready for John's spring 2023 flight line. Allison joined our restoration team in the summer of 2022. She assisted us in our Fokker Triplane project, working with fabric and paint. When the pedal plane project is complete, she plans to volunteer with IAM on future projects.



WWII P-51



The Christen Eagle





# Interview with Volunteer Allison Dziak

## How did you start volunteering with IAM?

My boyfriend and I live close to Clow Int'l airport and were looking for a place to go out to breakfast. That is when we found Charlie's Restaurant at the airport and noticed there was an aviation museum. Aviation has been on my mind recently as I have been looking for a career change. I competed in a fitness competition, and the winner listed their occupation as an aircraft mechanic. The job sounded interesting to me as I am sick of sitting in an office. I started doing more research about aircraft maintenance and realized it is a career that sounds fun with lots of opportunities. I decided to stop by IAM to ask questions about the field before jumping headfirst into a career switch. My boyfriend and I stopped by the museum and talked with John Wiess. I explained how I was interested in becoming an A&P and wondered if I could shadow someone or ask someone questions. John told me that Dan Christine was in the middle of restoring a Fokker DR-1 and brought me over to meet him. Dan showed me how he was restoring and reconstructing the plane and invited me to help him finish it. After we finished the Fokker, John asked if we could build his AT6/SNJ/Harvard pedal plane.

## What do you like about IAM?

I come from a small town in Ohio, and I like the small-town feel. I grew up around fishermen who had a salt-of-the-earth personality. I feel that aviation has the same personality and, to me, are the fishermen of the sky. This is my kind of crowd because it is made up of people who share a passion, hang out and tell stories, and do hands-on jobs. I feel at home here.

## Why do you like volunteering with IAM?

I have learned so many new skills here. I advanced my tool knowledge and expanded my woodworking skills. It also helps that I can do these projects, solve problems, and learn as I go. Being at the museum is helping me learn mechanic skills before starting school. I was accepted to Lewis University's A&P program and will begin in Spring 2023. I want to get as much hands-on experience as possible and would even like to learn how to fly. Everyone can benefit from volunteering at the museum and asking questions. The people here are the best!



# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

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## ZOOK WILLIAMS VICE PRESIDENT



### **How long have you been a part of IAM, and how did you get involved?**

I have been a volunteer since 2005. I got involved because I wanted to get back into aviation and flying. I obtained my Private Pilot's License in December 1998, and life happened. I figured volunteering at the museum would help me get motivated back into flying. I joined at the time of the T2 rollout, which was great to see. One of my first volunteer projects was sanding all the rust out of the rivet heads of the T33.

### **What are your responsibilities at the museum?**

I am the Vice President. Which means no one knows what I do. But I assist the president with the museum's operations and run the PSI testing program we offer. Students can take all required FAA written tests at our facility.

### **Why do you like volunteering at IAM?**

The people. Not just the volunteers but the public. Having the chance to see the faces of the people who stop by and the expression of wow you see when they look at our exhibits. It is also rewarding to show the youth that there is a whole world of aviation full of opportunities that are open to them.

### **Do you have any favorite memories at the museum?**

There are so many favorite memories. Having people come in and tell their stories about their experience in aviation. The most recent was Brigitte Ellis, who set the National Aeronautic Association Record for the youngest person to solo. I also enjoy learning the history of the artifacts we have. It is rewarding to know that I have a small part in the legacy of preserving aviation history.

### **What is your favorite aircraft, and why?**

Hands down, the Beech-18 is my favorite. I had an unexpected chance to fly it. It is a big and heavy aircraft with two massive radial engines. I thought I would have to fly it like a semi-truck, but surprisingly, it was so light on the controls. I could fly it with just two fingers; it was that nimble.

### **How did you become interested in the field of aviation?**

I was introduced to aviation when I was 14. My uncle, a career Air Force pilot, gave me my first airplane ride. I did not want to become a pilot for a career, but I knew I wanted to learn how to fly.