

Stafford Air & Space Museum Receives \$15,000 Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission Grant

The new computer lab, located in the Rose and Tom Luczo Educational Center



The number of flight simulation computers available for aspiring pilots of all ages at the Stafford Air & Space Museum has recently doubled thanks to a \$15,000 grant from the Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission.

The grant has allowed the purchase and installation of sixteen new computers stations with Microsoft X Flight Simulator software to be added to the museum's new Rose and Tom Luczo Educational Center. According to Stafford Air & Space Museum Co-Director Chuck Dougherty, "This OAC grant will allow the museum to serve twice as many students at one time who are interested in flight simulation. Our existing lab is one of our most popular activities and often has a waiting line. This generous funding will alleviate that problem." The museum's flight simulation computer labs are also used by

Southwestern Oklahoma State University for ground school instruction classes.

Former astronaut Lt. General Thomas P. Stafford stated, "I am grateful for this fantastic support by the Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission. This project will hopefully motivate school children from all over Oklahoma to consider careers in flight, engineering, and possibly even space exploration."

Victor Bird, Director of the Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission added, "In a rather difficult time for American industry, the U.S. Aerospace Industry was, once again, the star in 2008, leading all American industries with a \$61 billion trade surplus. Oklahoma is one of the seven centers in the world for the maintenance, repair and overhaul of aircraft.

There is one reason for our success. Our products and services are better because the people who make and provide them are smarter. Our success is due to having the workforce required to maintain and expand this critical industry. Having a quality workforce starts in places like Weatherford's Stafford Air & Space Museum, where an interest may be sparked that will lead a young person to a career in aerospace and aviation. The Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission is privileged to award this grant to the Stafford Museum, as it does its part to make sure we have the next generation of aerospace workers."

The Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission's mission is to promote aviation, which includes fostering the growth of the aerospace industry and ensuring that the needs of commerce and communities across Oklahoma are met by the state's 114 public airports that comprise the state's air transportation system. The OAC also has the responsibility for encouraging the development of aviation education programs within the state.

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New Additions to Coming to the Museum!

- F-35 Simulator
- Rocket Cases
- Rare flight book library
- Interactive Kiosks

Summer 2009 Events Scheduled



The museum doesn't seem to slow down. Right now, they have school tours or senior group tours almost every weekday.

The summer is developing into a ceaseless busy schedule as well. During the last weeks of schools, there

will be a NASA exhibit May 4-5. The exhibit is free to anyone who can attend. The exhibit will include a touchable moon rock from the Apollo 17 mission.

To promote health, Miss SWOSU is doing a Spacewalk on May 17 at the museum. The

spacewalk will start with a stroll down Cobb Road and back. Following, is a museum visit with limited planetarium showings.

Following this 2 days later is the anniversary of the Apollo X mission exclusive event on May 19. The event will

include astronauts and crew members from Apollo missions. The event will have an Educational Center grand opening, a VIP reception, and a dinner. For information on pricing, please call the museum.

For parents looking for fun and educational things for their children to do there will be three weeks of Air & Space Camps. First week is 3rd and 4th, 2nd week is 5th and 6th, and last is 7th and 8th. The 1/2 day camp last four days.

The Thomas P. Stafford Airport will host their 11th Annual Okie Dust Devil during July 9-11. For anyone who watches the plane acrobatics, there is a discounted price to view museum.

For more information on any of these activities contact the museum at 580-772-5871.

Coming Soon!

Apollo X 40th Anniversary

The third and final step of the space race was to land a man on the moon. In order to safely do this, NASA needed to practice first. On May 18, 1969 General Thomas Stafford, Gene Cernan, and John Young launched from Kennedy Space Center to conduct the "dress rehearsal" for landing on the moon.

Through the Apollo X mission, NASA was ready to land a man on the moon.

To commemorate this historical dress rehearsal, the Stafford Air & Space Museum is hosting an Apollo X 40th Anniversary Event.

The event is to be held on May 19. The event will start off with an

exclusive invitation only 3 PM Grand opening of the Rose and Tom Luczo Educational Center. At 6:30, there will be a VIP reception for Stafford Museum members only. At 7 pm is the dinner and question forum.

Over a dozen Apollo astronauts are scheduled to attend this event.

Pricing for the event is a reduced price for members of the Stafford Air & Space Museum. Invitations and information is available now.

Membership information can be found at the Stafford Air & Space Museum website or by calling 580-772-5871.

2nd Annual Air & Space Camp Planned



2009 Air & Space Camp
Contact

Enrollment and Payment:
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Weatherford, OK 73096

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The Stafford Air & Space Museum will host another year of the Air & Space Camp. Last year the camps focused more on aviation projects. This year, though, the air & space cadets will focus more space information.

The camps will be 4 half

days, Monday–Thursday, 8-12. Cadets qualify if they are entering 3rd– 8th grade in August 2009.

Campers will get to do many projects that they will be able to take home. They also will receive a t-shirt and a CD-R with an individual

and a group shot. During the camp the campers will also get a snack everyday.

Cadets will take turns flying using the museum's flight simulation computer lab. Also, they will take a look at the stars using the museum's newest

addition, The Sarkeys Digital Planetarium.

For the flyer and enrollment form, please go to www.staffordmuseum.com/downloads/A&SCamp09.pdf.

What's Happening...

Volunteer Projects

From sorting books to building artifact cases, there are many volunteering opportunities for anyone wanting to help improve the museum.

Jim Friesen, volunteer of the year 2008, is working on an extensive project. He is building cases for the "Rockets of the World" collection. The project began in the beginning of 2008 by drawing out specific plans. Now, the plans are taking form as the

cases are being put together and should be ready for display by the middle of May.

Our volunteers from Oklahoma City have quite a few projects going. They are refurbishing some of the models that need some special care. The group has also taken on the project of sorting through aviation books.

The university students are also volunteering at

the museum. NASA Scholarship students are to complete 10 hours of volunteer work either at the Stafford Air & Space Museum or another approved place. The students have done a wide array of projects.

The Capstone class has also helped to incorporate technology into displays.

Anyone is welcome to volunteer. For more information please contact the museum.



Bill Hines and Alan Liebler fixing a model.

More Vol Pics on pg 4.

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staffordmuseum.com

Survey

We want to hear from you! Now available on the Stafford Museum website, www.staffordmuseum.com, is a survey to help the museum grow and become a better place for all to experience. Please take a moment to fill this out and e-mail it to our staff!

Let Your Imagination Take Flight!



Lt. Gen. Stafford

**Chuck Dougherty
Lynne Thurman
Executive Directors**

**Katie Yeager
Museum Coordinator**

**Kay Tautfest
Chairman of the Board**

Direct Link: www.staffordmuseum.com/downloads/InvolvementSurvey.pdf

Volunteers Red Carpet

