



Newsletter

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Flying High: The Boeing 307 Stratoliner

Mike Lavelle

Despite the worldwide depression of the 1930's and the many negative impacts it had on the nations economies it still was an exciting time period for aeronautical engineering invocations. It was the decade that AIAA member and author Dr. John Anderson describes in his wonderful book, "The Airplane – A History of Its Technology" as the decade of the first design revolution of the mature propeller driven airplane. It was the decade of transition from wood and fabric to metal construction, more advanced radial engines with supercharging and aircraft capable of making a profit while carrying passengers. However, with the hand writing and lines on the drawing boards if commercial air travel was to advance to the next bold design revolution phase it would have to break out of the conventional altitudes and go higher to realize its full potential.

Most of us in Seattle know about the Boeing 307 Stratoliner "Flying Cloud" and the beautifully accurate detailed restoration done by dedicated volunteers. However, some folks don't know the history of the innovative design of the first pressurized commercial aircraft, which was part of the 1930's airplane design revolution Dr John Anderson described in his book.

Aviation Historian Mike Lavelle will present an historic account about how a team of Boeing Engineers working with limited recourses create a normal cabin environment about 8,000 feet without individual oxygen equipment. The presentation will also discuss the other engineering

challenges, construction process, flight testing, aircraft systems and the technology breakthroughs that the high flying Boeing 307 introduced when they were delivered to TWA and Pam Am in 1940.

Presenter Mike Lavelle has over 42 years of aviation



industry experience in aircraft flight and maintenance operations. Eleven of those years were with the Cessna Aircraft Company of Wichita Kansas. The last 23 years Mike has worked with The Boeing Company, where today he is the MMA Training Manager. Mike is a

flight and ground instructor, as well as a certified Airframe & Powerplant Mechanic. His over 7000 hours flying time include several hundred hours in his restored 1946 Cessna 140.

A long time interest in aviation history Mike has given his talks to groups from around the world

Mike and his wife live in Issaquah, Washington they have two sons both former Army Ranger, now both working in industry.

Joint AIAA/SFTE Lecture - Dinner Meeting

Date: **Tuesday April 19, 2005**
Place: Old Spaghetti Factory 2801 Elliott Ave, Seattle, WA 98121
Time: 6:00 PM Social, No-Host Bar
6:30 PM Dinner (lasagna, spaghetti, or chicken Caesar salad)
7:00 PM Program

Dinner Price:

\$15 AIAA/SFTE Members and Guests

\$18 Non-Members

\$5 Students and Educator Associates

Program Only: **\$5** (Free for persons 17 and under)

Please Note: New Signup Options via our new website

AIAA Sign up online at <http://www.pnwaiaa.org> -> reservations
Or send email to reservations@pnwaiaa.org (including meal choice)
You will receive a confirmation e-mail.

Or call **David Lednicer** at (425) 643-9090

SFTE Mike Bartlett – michael.f.bartlett@boeing.com

Please make reservations by Friday, April 15

A reservation is a commitment to pay

Section website: <http://www.pnwaiaa.org/>
 National website: <http://www.aiaa.org>

Please submit newsletter materials to the editor by the 22nd of April for the May Newsletter.

Outstanding Section Awards	Membership Award
1972-1973	1997-1998
1977-1978	Young Member
1978-1979	Activity Awards
1991-1992	1990-1991
1993-1994	1991-1992
1994-1995	1994-1995
1994-1995	1995-1996
Section Special Event Awards	Career Enhancement Award
1976-1977	1997-1998
1977-1987	Newsletter Awards
1978-1979	1994-1995
1982-1983	1995-1996
1987-1988	1996-1997

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