



# WVMSCA NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2011

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## Miss Veedol 80 Anniversary Celebration

From our Association's mission statement: "The Association is dedicated to furthering the historical significance of the first non-stop Trans Pacific flight by Clyde Pangborn and Hugh Herndon in October 1931."

This year is the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of that historic flight. To involve our local students, the Wenatchee Valley Misawa Sister City Association co-sponsored, along with the Misawa Miss Veedol Committee, a collection of drawings of the Miss Veedol made by students in Misawa and Wenatchee Valley schools. We sent

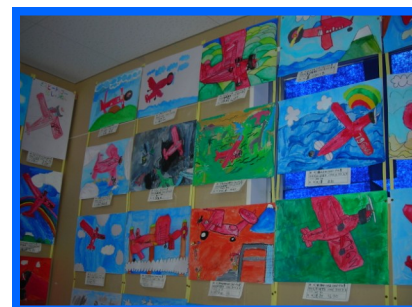
370 drawings to Misawa where they were displayed along with Japanese students' drawings to honor the ceremonies of the Miss Veedol flight reenactment. The drawings were made by



students from kindergarten through middle school. It was a great way to make sure the



students all heard and understood the story of the flight of the Miss Veedol!



## A Message from the WVMSCA President:

As we are planning for the Wings/Wheels visitors from Misawa, it is great to see that our organization works, thanks to our many supporters in the valley. The Wenatchee Valley Misawa Sister City Association has had quite a year! Our drive for Misawa relief was a huge success. We sent 370 children's drawings of Miss Veedol to Misawa in honor of the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the First Flight across the Pacific. We

hosted 18 Misawa delegates for the Apple Blossom Festival. And, we are ready for the Wings/Wheels delegation. Our big disappointment this year was canceling our WVMSCA summer trip to Misawa due to the uncertainties caused by the earthquake/tsunami in Japan. However, we look forward to resuming the trip to Misawa in 2012. We'll be giving students selected for this year's trip another chance to apply in 2012, even if they have passed the cut-off age. Our efforts are all voluntary and our funding is all from memberships and donations. Please renew your memberships when you get notifications this fall or join us if you're not currently a member. We really stretch every dollar as far as it will go. We are pleased to work with you to ensure a continuing sister city relationship with Misawa.

*David Kelts, President*

## Trip to Misawa

The trip to Misawa was a very pleasant one in all aspects, including the weather, which was cool and a bit damp in Misawa. The only possible problem was that it rained on the day the Miss Veedol was to fly and the ceremony was to occur, which kept us in suspense all day as to whether the ceiling was going to be high enough for Jake Lodato to feel it safe to take up the plane. As it turned out the rain did not stop but neither did Jake, and Miss Veedol flew in the rain of Misawa to everyone's delight. After that the weather cleared for the rest of the visit. It must have been an omen.

Another highlight of the trip was the opportunity to see first hand the effects of the tsunami and the earthquake which were still evident five months after those events. We brought back some photos of the seaport, both at the time of the disaster and currently. Also, we visited the previous

site the model Miss Veedol on the beach, seeing the remains of its destruction and the damage to the pier there, which highlighted the great power of the incoming wave.



Then we went to Hachinohe to see its larger, more developed seaport, which has largely been reconstructed already, even though we saw several large, expensive squid trawlers which lie rusting in one spot of port, having been abandoned as too damaged for use. All in all, what we saw spoke to the resiliency of the Japanese to quickly recover and rebuild. They truly are amazing in the way they come together to face adversity. We could and should take a lesson from them in our own country.

Mayor Johnson and I, and our wives, were treated royally, as always. Both mayors were treated to a

round of golf. We were received to a private audience with the Mayor and the press on the first day and were honored at two separate banquets, one of which was interrupted for awhile by some guy in a white suit trying to croon love songs in English. What can I say?

The last highlight of the trip for Deb and I was that our first home stay student, Takahito Kondo, who stayed with us in 1988, had accepted an invitation to return to Misawa from his home in Tokyo, together with other former home stay students, to be there for the farewell dinner. It was great to see Takahito, share in his successes, and discuss with him the lives of our own children, whom he well remembered. It was the perfect cap to a great trip.



We now look forward to hosting Mayor Taneichi and his delegation next month and trying some way to return all the favors.

Miss Veedol flying in the rain of Misawa.

Misawa Relief Fund

Donation

to

Sabishiro nursery center

\$ 1,014.38

3rd May 2011



Luke Johnson (7 years old)

Presented to: Sabishiro City, Misawa-shi, Iwate Prefecture, Japan

Received by: Sabishiro City, Misawa-shi, Iwate Prefecture, Japan

2010/0

Day care center



## Mayor Johnson's letter

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September 1, 2011

Dear Sister City Association:

It was an honor for Sharron and I along with Mayor Steve Lacy and his wife Debra to be invited to our Sister City Misawa for the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the Miss Veedol Flight. August 18<sup>th</sup> the day of the ceremony was overcast and raining but the weather did not dampen the spirit of those attending the ceremony.

There were numerous dignitaries present including the Governor of Aomori Prefecture, the Consul General for the USA stationed in Sapporo, Base Commander of the air base as well as the Wing Commander for Japan, the Commander of the Japan Defense Force and many others.

Both Mayors of East Wenatchee and Wenatchee were asked to say a few words and we were both amazed by the warm reception to our presence at the event.

The highlight of the event was the Miss Veedol fly over at 200 feet over our heads flown by Scott Carter and Jake Ladoto. They were local heroes much like Pangborn and Herndon 80 years prior.

While there we toured a day care center that received funds from the Wenatchee Valley to assist as they



Lost their entire facility. They were able to evacuate timely but the facility was a total loss. It was amazing to tour the damaged facility and then view the temporary facilities and business as usual. They exhibit a strong resiliency and ability to get on with business.

The boat harbor, public beach and Sabisho beach are all progressing with restoration but it is a huge task. While touring the public beach Sharron uncovered a large metal display of Pangborn Herndon which was immediately saved for restoration. A photo is included.

It was a pleasure to once again reunite with our Sister City and the Sister City Association.

Sincerely,

Dennis Johnson, Mayor

### 2011 October Wings and Wheels Festival Delegation Members

No.		Name	Sex	Memo
1	Mayor	Kazumasa Taneichi	M	
2	Secretary of Mayor	Atsuko Koizumi	F	
3	Mayor's interpreter	Yukio Yamahata	M	
4	City Council Member	Tanematsu Kohiruimaki	M	
5	Sister City Board Member	Michiko Miyazaki	F	Executive Director of Social Welfare Council
6	Local citizen (Sports)	Hitoshi Sasaki	M	President of Misawa Security Service company
7	Local citizen	Tsukasa Kohiruimaki	M	President of Terashita Transportation Company
8	Local citizen	Takayasu Tashima	M	President of the waste disposal company "Loop"
9	Officer	Satoshi Minakawa	M	Manager of International Relations Division, Misawa

The mission of the WMSCA is to strengthen the climate of friendship between the cities of Misawa, Wenatchee, and East Wenatchee, by promoting cultural exchange. The Association is dedicated to furthering the historical significance of the first non-stop Trans Pacific flight by Clyde Pangborn and Hugh Herndon in October, 1931.

## WVMSCA NEWS

Wenatchee Valley Misawa Sister City Association

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Wenatchee WA 98807-5385



[www.wenatcheevalleymisawa.org](http://www.wenatcheevalleymisawa.org)

### Special events — mark your calendar

#### 9th Annual Wings and Wheels Festival

Welcome Reception - Dinner	Thursday, September 29th,	4:00 p.m. Executive Flight 6:00 p.m. Olive Garden
Dinner -	Friday, September 30th,	6:30 p.m. La Cabaña
Breakfast at Eastmont Park	Saturday, October 1st.	8:30 a.m.
Hockey Game	October 1st.	7:00 p.m. Town Toyota Center
Trophy Presentation -	Sunday, October 2nd,	2:00 p.m. Eastmont Community Park
Mayor's Lacy Dinner -	Sunday	5:30 p.m. 1018 N Fairview, East Wenatchee



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