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Kermit Weeks
Creator and Owner
Fantasy of Flight

POLK CITY, Fla. – From the time he was a child, Kermit Weeks had his head in the clouds, and his hopes pinned to the wing of an airplane. He dreamed of soaring across the skies like famed pilots of aviation’s Golden Age, and he was equally fascinated with aircraft design and construction. It’s no surprise, then, that guests at his Fantasy of Flight attraction in Polk City, Fla. can immerse themselves in an authentic aviation experience, from absorbing the sights and sounds of a World War I aerial dogfight to seeing up close more than 40 restored vintage airplanes.

Fantasy of Flight opened on 300 acres between Tampa and Orlando in 1995, and Weeks plans to expand the attraction with new exhibits and experiences aimed to inspire visitors to pursue their dreams and exceed imagined boundaries.

“Everyone can relate to the metaphor of reaching for the sky and the stars,” Weeks says. “We soar in our imaginations, and we fly in our dreams, and I want to get people to push their boundaries and strive to be all that they can be.”

A former aerobatics champion and aircraft designer, Weeks was born in Salt Lake City, Utah, in 1954 and grew up in Miami. At age 17, Weeks began to design and build his first airplane, which he flew four years later. In 1973, at age 20, he took to the skies in aerobatic flying competitions while pursuing aeronautical engineering studies at Miami-Dade Junior College, then the University of Florida and Purdue University.

By 1977, Weeks had designed and built the “Weeks Special” aerobatic aircraft and qualified for the United States Aerobatics Team. A year later, he was runner-up among 61 competitors worldwide, earning three silver medals and one bronze in the World Aerobatics Championships in Czechoslovakia.



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During the span of a dozen years, he placed as one of top three flyers in the world five times and won 20 medals in World Aerobatics Championships competition. He twice has won the United States National Aerobatics Championship and has won several Invitational Masters Championships in different worldwide competitions.

In the late 1970s, Weeks channeled his passion for aviation into acquiring, restoring and preserving antique aircraft. By 1985, he had a collection worthy of a stand-alone museum – the Weeks Air Museum in Miami. The non-profit facility showcased his private collection plus other antique aircraft owned by the museum. He also began to purchase land in Central Florida, where he wanted to develop Fantasy of Flight and the world’s greatest aircraft collection. In 1992, just as development plans for the Polk City site were coming together, Hurricane Andrew struck the Miami area, demolishing much of the Weeks Air Museum and damaging most of the airplanes inside. The museum was repaired and reopened two years later; many of the planes were restored, as well. Today, Weeks owns more than 140 civilian and military planes including the Martin B-26 Marauder, the Curtis TP-40N and the North American P-51C Mustang.

With the 1995 opening of Fantasy of Flight, Weeks realized one of his dreams and gave visitors a chance to experience something new – an attraction that merged the wonders of flight with aviation history, real-life aircraft displays and real flight experiences. The attraction is the only one in the world that offers daily aerial demonstrations featuring rare, vintage aircraft. It also features daily tours of the restoration shops where craftsmen work to restore and rebuild aircraft to flyable condition. Current projects include an original 1918 DH 4B airmail plane and a rare Seversky P-35, one of only three remaining in the world.

Weeks constantly seeks new ways to share his enthusiasm for aviation and to encourage people to “reach beyond themselves.”



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In 2008, he published his first children’s book in a series featuring colorful airplane characters and “life lessons” that readers can take away. “All of Life is a School” (KWIP Publishing, \$19.95), authored by Weeks with illustrations by Project Firefly, centers on an adventure by Gee Bee Zee, the little monoplane racer and other characters modeled after historic aviators and airplane designers.

As he moves forward to pen the next book and search for more vintage airplanes, Weeks is optimistic about the future of Fantasy of Flight.

“I’m proud of what we’ve created, but I’m more excited about what I know we can be in the future,” he says. “I live this ‘Fantasy of Flight’ concept. I am always going beyond myself and following my own dream.”

Beyond aviation, Weeks’ interests include playing the guitar, banjo, fiddle and piano. He also enjoys water skiing and snow skiing. He is married to Teresa Blazina and has a daughter, Katie.

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