



# THE WRIGHT FLYER



Aviation Trail, Inc.

Fall 2008

## AOPA PRESIDENT PHIL BOYER TO SPEAK DEC. 17TH AT FLIGHT ANNIVERSARY DINNER

Phil Boyer, president of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA), will be the featured speaker at the celebration Dec. 17 in Dayton, Ohio, of the 105<sup>th</sup> anniversary of powered flight first achieved by Daytonians Wilbur and Orville Wright.

The dinner event, hosted by Aviation Trail, Inc. and the National Aviation Hall of Fame, will again be held in the National Museum of the United States Air Force on Springfield Pike. Tickets are available to the public.

Boyer's speech, entitled the "Past, Present and Future of General Aviation," will follow a Wright-family-style dinner and entertainment by musicians from the United States Air Force Band of Flight. Capping the evening will be the NAHF's announcement of its class of 2009 honorees to be formally enshrined in July.

The evening's social hour begins at 6 p.m. in the NAHF's Learning Center. Dinner in the Modern Flight Gallery follows at 7 p.m.

Tickets for the flight anniversary event are \$60 a person. Requests for reservations should arrive at ATI no later than Friday, Dec. 13. Mail your check to ATI, P.O. Box 633, Wright Brothers Branch, Dayton, OH 45409.

ATI President Marvin Christian said that with the many commercial and private pilots in the greater Miami Valley, he anticipates a large and warm audience for Boyer. "He is coming to an interested, receptive group which I'm sure is attuned to the focus of his organization," he said. "With 13,411 AOPA members in Ohio, we anticipate a large turn-out of the association's membership."

AOPA is an organization with 415,000 members, representing two-thirds of all certificated pilots in the United States. Its headquarters is in Frederick, Md. Boyer, who has been AOPA's president since



Jan. 1, 1991, and whose tenure concludes at the end of this year, increased its membership during that time by 33 percent. He is a 8,500-hour-plus, instrument- and multiengine-rated pilot who has flown for more than 40 years--15 of those as an aircraft owner.

A general aviation advocate, he has two decades in major corporation executive positions prior to his AOPA post, including senior vice president/Development for Capital Cities/ABC Video Enterprises, Inc. During his tenure with ABC he created ABC's "Wide World of Flying," a quarterly, subscription-based video magazine and served ABC in top management positions in Chicago and New York.

Boyer's considerable accomplishments while leading AOPA include:

- Advocating for the federal government's 1994 General Aviation Revitalization Act regarding tort law,
- Persuading the Federal Aviation Administration that the Global Positioning System should be endorsed, developed and certified for use in general aviation flight operations,
- Creating a sophisticated AOPA web site for pilot use for flying and medical certification and offering "AOPA ePilot," a weekly newsletter e-mailed to members, and
- Creating the Airport Watch program to increase vigilance and security at the nation's 19,000 landing facilities, and inserting general aviation considerations into the 2003 FAA reauthorization bill.

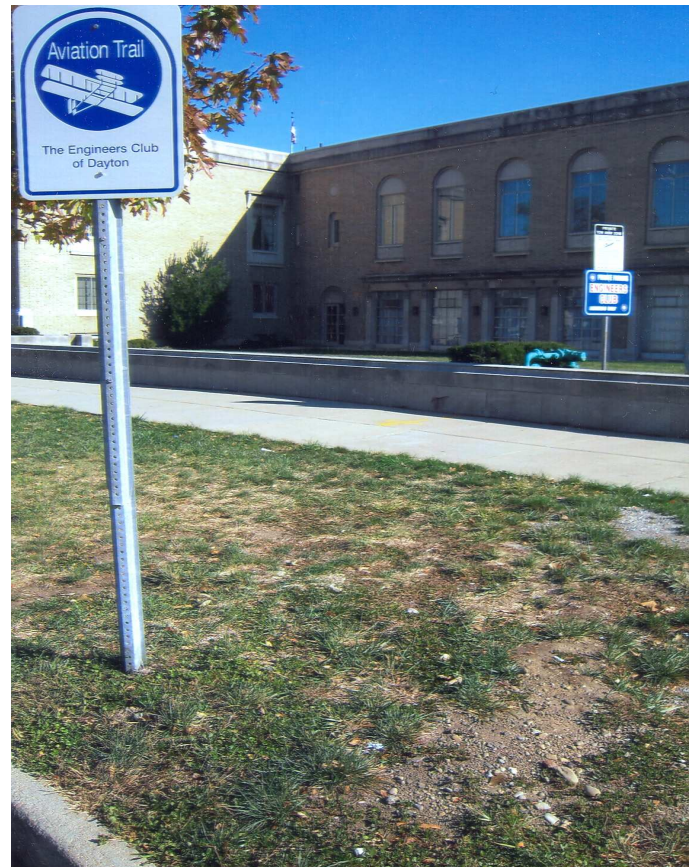
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Boyer has been president of the American Bonanza Society and president of the Sacramento Pilots Association. He was honored by the FAA for guiding a fellow pilot in distress and has flown over the Atlantic twice as pilot in command of a general aviation aircraft.

In 1992 he was elected president of the International Council of Aircraft Owner and Pilot Associations, which represents 66 national AOPA organizations with more than 70,000 pilot members around the world.

Aviation Trail was organized in 1981 as a non-profit group of aviation professionals and enthusiasts who seek to foster the local area's aviation heritage. It is developing a Parachute Museum in its headquarters, West Third and South Williams streets, to especially recognize parachute advancements at McCook Field and Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

The non-profit NAHF was founded in 1962 to honor individuals and organizations who have contributed uniquely to America's rich legacy of aviation achievement. Its annual enshrinement ceremony, held in Dayton each July, has been dubbed the Oscar night of aviation.



*New sign marks Aviation Trail site at Engineers Club.*

## NEW SIGNS FOR ATI SITES

Aviation Trail, Inc. has purchased new site signs to replace those that are missing, faded, damaged or need revision to the lettering. The new ones are reflective, making them more visible at night, according to Mary Ann Johnson who is spearheading the effort with Ralph Korner, both members of ATI's Board of Trustees. All 13 public-access sites on the Aviation Trail are marked with signs--as well as many other sites that are aviation-related but not available to the public.

Thumbnail sketches of the public sites are described in the Aviation Trail brochure and all the sites are described in detail in Ms. Johnson's book *A Field Guide to Flight: On the Aviation Trail* in Dayton, Ohio. The logo on the signs is of the Wrights' 1903 Flyer I and was designed by Read Viemeister, now deceased, who was a nationally known graphics designer from Yellow Springs, Ohio. Viemeister also designed the huge, tile mural of the Wrights' first flight at Kitty Hawk, N.C., which is installed in the National Museum of the United States Air Force in Dayton.



Official logo of the Wright Seaplane Base, Inc. The all-volunteer group is working to establish its headquarters in West Carrollton, Ohio, across the river from the Wright brothers' original seaplane dock in Moraine, Ohio. The week of Sept. 21st a seaplane landed there for the first time in 12 years--a Cessna 120 with a Lycoming O-290G engine that was part of the Cessna 120/140 convention held locally. Orville Wright tested Wright Company seaplanes at the seaplane base from 1911-1913, but the brothers had experimented with seaplanes as early as 1907.



## DAHNP SUPERINTENDENT LARRY BLAKE RETIRES WITH 33 YEARS FEDERAL SERVICE

The National Park Service's Larry Blake, superintendent of Dayton's aviation park and a friend of Aviation Trail, Inc., is retiring Dec. 1.

Blake, who was appointed to the position in the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park in January 1999, is a 33-year NPS veteran. His career began in Virginia as a park technician at the George Washington Memorial Parkway in Virginia.

Since the Dayton park was one of the first, public-private, multi-agency parks established and based on the principle of partnerships, Blake's challenge has been to continue and cement bonds with other local aviation and civic groups. This he has done while increasing park personnel and expanding its programs and real estate beyond its founding footprint in 1992.

The park's staff grew, for example, from four permanent employees (including himself) in 1999 to 16 permanent employees currently, not counting seasonal and student help.

Similarly, Blake has overseen several major construction projects during his tenure at the park: restoration of the Hoover Block building and two residences on South Williams Street, rebuilding of the Setzer building (ATI headquarters), construction of the East Interpretive Center on Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, remodeling of the interior of the historic Wright Bicycle Co. to interpret the bicycle fad of 1890s, and design and redesign of the Wright-Dunbar plaza and entrance to the Interpretive Center.

During his nine years with the DAHNHP, Blake also provided leadership for several celebratory aviation milestones, e.g., the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Daytonians Wilbur and Orville Wright's--and the world's--first heavier-than-air, powered flight in 1903.



Larry Blake with first lady Laura Bush



Larry Blake admires the new exhibit in the Wright Cycle Shop.

To show its appreciation to Blake for these accomplishments, the Dayton area community honored him Nov. 7 at a retirement dinner at Sinclair Community College. The event was hosted by the National Park Service and the National Aviation Heritage Alliance. Aviation Trail held its own farewell luncheon event for Blake and his staff Nov. 24 at its facility on South Williams Street.

A native of Garden City, New York, Blake's assignment before coming to Dayton was as deputy superintendent and chief of Operation at Lincoln Home National Historic Site in Springfield, Ill., from 1987-98. There he managed restoration of the Lincoln home and numerous other structures located with the historic site.

Blake has also had prior assignments as chief ranger at George Washington Carver National Monument in Diamond, Mo., and as a park ranger at Scotts Bluff National Monument in Scotts Bluff, Neb.

His numerous achievements and awards throughout his career include, in January 2000, the Department of the Interior's Superior Service Award for outstanding contributions to the preservation and operation of the Lincoln Home National Historic Site during his tenure there.

Blake is a graduate from Union College, Schenectady, N.Y., in 1972 with a bachelor of arts degree in history. He taught fifth through eighth grade history and geography at Highland School in Warrenton, Va., for three years.

In retirement, he and his wife, the former Joan Moore of Oyster Bay, N.Y., will make their home in Springfield, Ill. They have two grown children, Jonathan and Patrick.

## HAROLD JOHNSON CONTRIBUTES HIS PERSONAL PARACHUTE TO ATI MUSEUM



Harold Johnson, wearing his Security Safety Chute 150, climbs aboard "The Red Baron" WACO Classic.

Harold Johnson, a member of ATI's first Board of Trustees in 1982, continues his support by contributing his own personal parachute to Aviation Trail, Inc's. Parachute Museum. Harold, also known as the "Flying Mayor" relied on this Security Safety Chute 150 for eight years while flying his WACO Classic in the Kings Island air show. His plane known then as "The Red Baron" fought "Snoopy" in the skies daily, weather permitting, over the popular amusement park in southwestern Ohio.

Purchased for \$900 to \$1,000 in 1972, this form-fitting, seat-pack-style chute with its white canopy, has never been deployed. But Harold said he would trust it today if needed. An inner pocket contains the original annual official inspection and approval log.

This blue parachute, used by one of our founders, is a privileged addition to Aviation Trail's world's largest collection of parachute memorabilia.

## HAWTHORN HILL VISITS TOP 2,500 IN JUST TWO YEARS

With the welcome mat out, they came.

More than 2,500 visitors have toured Hawthorn Hill since the Wrights' mansion was re-opened to the public in Sept. 2007.

Included in those number are 500 Oakwood staffers who saw the home in July and August as part of the city's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, according to Alex Heckman of Carillon Historical Park which manages the visitation program.

The tours continue to be conducted twice on Wednesdays and twice on Saturdays, Heckman said, and they are already booked, with some openings, into the new year.

Hawthorn Hill, now owned by the Wright Family Foundation, is part of a bill now moving through the U.S. Congress that would make it part of the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park.

Current sites in the park are The Wright Cycle Co., the Paul Laurence Dunbar house, the 1905 Wright Flyer III at Carillon Historical Park, and Huffman Prairie Flying Field on Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

Wilbur and Orville Wright purchased the property (17 acres) in February 1912. Unfortunately, Wilbur died (May 30, 1912) before construction began and when the Wrights' father, Bishop Milton Wright, died in 1917, his funeral services were held there.

Upon Orville's death in 1948, NCR Corp. purchased Hawthorn Hill and used it as a guest house until Sept. 2007.

To make a reservation to tour the home, call (937) 293-2841.



Hawthorn Hill



## DIAL AND DISCOVER, A NEW WAY TO "TOUR" THE NATIONAL PARK SITES

Did you ever use an audio guide to tour a museum? If "yes," you probably learned a lot by listening.

Now the National Park Service has introduced that same interpretive aide to sites in--and linked to--the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park.

The program is called Dial and Discover and it lets you use your cell phone to listen to a short narration about eight locations.

The access number is 585 627 4164

After an introduction by park Superintendent Larry Blake, prompts--of numbers one through eight--will lead to narratives about eight specific sites; all but one are on the Aviation Trail.

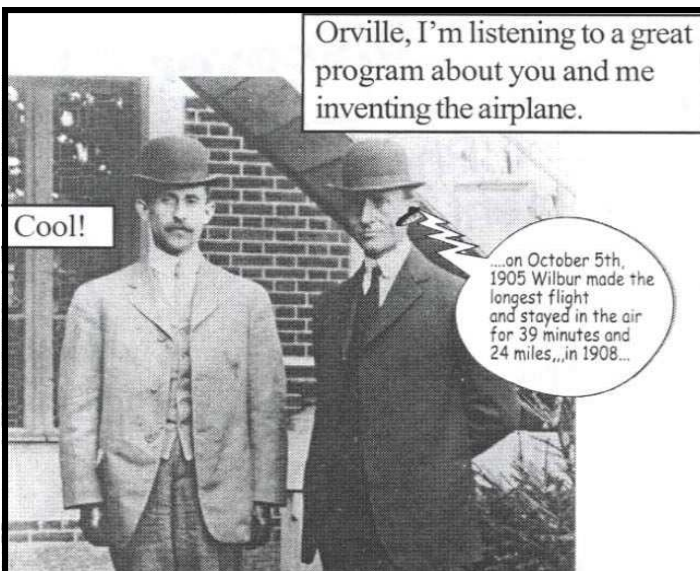
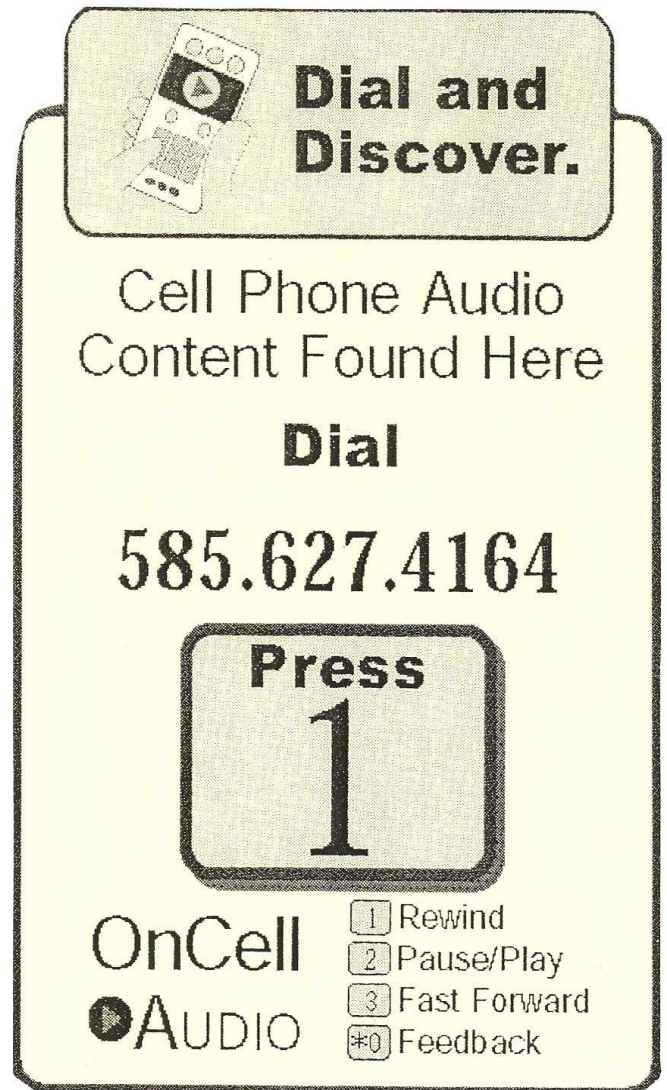
There are no costs to use the service--other than the usual charges for service and minutes on your cell phone.

An information sign at each site alerts you that it's included in the Dial and Discover program. The sites are:

1. Wright-Dunbar Interpretive Center
2. 7 Hawthorne St.
3. 1127 W. Third St.
4. Paul Laurence Dunbar House
5. Wright Brothers Aviation Center at Carillon Historical Park
6. Wright Memorial
7. Huffman Prairie Flying Field
8. The Seaplane Base

According to Judi Hart, the Dial and Discover feature is also useful if someone has limited time for touring the sites and would like to preview each, by audio, to help plan a visit. The program also can be accessed from a land-line phone.

The program began in early October and Aviation Trail, which plans to add the ATI Parachute Museum to the sites on Dial and Discover, is sharing the cost of the program with the NPS.





## ATI MEMBERS JOURNEY TO FRANCE, TO COMMEMORATE WRIGHTS' FLIGHTS



Dayton delegation at Pau (France) City Hall with framed cartoon.

ATI members Jack and Betty Darst, Dan and Ceryl Patterson, Ernie and Karen Sheeler and Toni Sprinkel represented Aviation Trail, Inc. in France in August to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Wilbur Wright's first flight in Le Mans Aug. 8.

His flight there occurred at the Hunaudieres race course near Le Mans, France, so the celebration was centered in Le Mans. A featured event--courtesy of the LeMans-Sarthe Centennial Committee--was an air show of vintage Wright aircraft replicas, an Airbus 380, the planes of the Wrights' contemporaries in Europe, and a French aerobatic team.

In July at the Epau Abbey, at a museum nearby Le Mans, a major exhibition entitled "Pioneers of Aviation" was opened and the Wright family of the Dayton area loaned artifacts from its collection for the exhibit. Amanda Wright Lane, great-grandniece of the Wright brothers, who was accompanied by several ATI members, spoke during the opening ceremonies.

Wilbur's flights in Le Mans established, without a doubt, the Wright's credibility as having achieved controlled, sustained flight of a heavier-than-air machine. According to Tom Crouch in *The Bishop's Boys*, "Between Aug. 8, 1908, and Jan. 2, 1909, he completed 129 flights--nine from Les Hunaudieres, the rest from Camp d'Auvours. During those five months he established nine world records."

Some ATI members also visited Pau, France--a popular resort area in southern France--where Wilbur Wright flew in early 1909 and the Wrights opened the world's first flying school. (Wilbur's last flight there was March 23.) There the group presented the Pau mayor Maritime Lignieres-Cassour with a framed cartoon, carried with them from the ATI artifacts collection.

According to Ms. Darst, the mayor was especially pleased with this friendly memento from the United States. The sketch shows Wilbur on a throne suffering the entreaties of the royalty of Europe where he was hailed a hero. A plaque at the bottom of the cartoon reads: Presented by Aviation Trail, Inc., Dayton, Ohio, USA, August 2008.

Pau plans its own Wright celebration next summer, she said, and it was after the Wrights' spectacular European flying and celebrity status that Dayton, Ohio, welcomed them home with its own celebration June 17-18, 1909.



A framed copy of this cartoon was presented Aug. 8 to M. Jean-Claude Boulard, mayor of Le Mans, France, and Marc Denoueix, head of the Le Mans centennial celebration, by a delegation of ATI members who traveled there to celebrate Wilbur Wright's flights there. Wilbur, sitting on the wingtip of a Wright Flyer, is besieged by the monarchy of Europe for introductions and his autograph. Indeed, his stunning European flights brought out royal observers who showered him with accolades--sometimes to his annoyance. The hand-written words on the cartoon say: The triumph of Wilbur Wright. "These Kings are getting to be a nuisance." The plaque at the bottom reads: Presented by Aviation Trail, Inc., Dayton, Ohio, USA. August 2008. Another copy of the cartoon was presented in Pau, France.



French postcard commemorating the 100th anniversary of Wilbur Wright's flights in Le Mans, in 1908.

## **DLM GOOD NEIGHBOR PROGRAM CAN BENEFIT ATI TREASURY IN 2009**

Dorothy Lane Market's "Good Neighbor" program can be good to ATI next year.

If you shop at any--or all--of the three Dorothy Lane Markets, ATI can receive a rebate of up to 1 per cent of the purchases you make in 2009.

All you have to do is sign up once and your total purchases will accumulate from the sign-up date forward. At the end of the year, ATI, as a non-profit organization, will receive a check for 1 per cent of all purchases.

Ask for the sign up form at any DLM office--it's easy to fill out--just designate ATI as your favorite charity--and the store's computers do the rest. Dorothy Lane Market provides a status report to its charities in March, June and October to let each know how much has been purchased in its name. Names of customers enrolled are not divulged.

ATI has received checks from DLM's Good Neighbor program for the last couple years, but we'd appreciate your help in making next year's check even larger.

So, be a good neighbor. Sign up for the DLM 2009 Good Neighbor program the next time you shop in one of the DLM stores: 2710 Far Hills Ave., Oakwood; 6177 Far Hills Ave., Centerville; and 740 N. Main St., Springboro.

## ***WELCOME NEW AVIATION TRAIL MEMBERS***

### **CONTRIBUTING**

Ben and Maribeth Graham

### **FAMILY**

Carl and Martha Beasley

Don and Eva Ferguson

Bob and Toni Sprinkel

### **INDIVIDUAL**

Debra Mescher

Joe Sonderman

## **MCCOOK FIELD EXHIBIT IN PLACE IN ATI PARACHUTE MUSEUM**

An exhibit on McCook Field is now installed in the ATI Parachute Museum on the second floor of the ATI building at West Third and South Williams streets.

It is the second new exhibit this year for the museum. Earlier in 2008 ATI debuted an interactive exhibit on the balloonist and test pilot Col. Joe Kittinger (USAF Ret.).

McCook Field--often referred to as the Cradle of Aviation--existed from 1917 to 1927 northeast of downtown Dayton. It was the first military research and development center of the fledging aviation service.

Much of the research for the exhibit was based on the book *McCook Field: The Force Behind America's Golden Age of Flight* by Mary Ann Johnson, a member of the ATI Board of Trustees. Steve Brown, also an ATI board member, was liaison with the exhibit's contractors.

While highlighting advances made in parachute technology at McCook, the exhibit also focuses on some of the many, other contributions its military and civilian work force made to early aviation systems.

The field was named for the "Fighting McCooks," a family that had owned the land for over one hundred years. The family--often spoken of as one--consisted of the collective sons (15 in number) of two brothers --all of whom (except one) had served as commissioned officers during the Civil War.

In the next *Wright Flyer* we'll give you a detailed

## **KIDS' CORNER**

Dec. 6 and 13--Holiday Craft-making will be under way in the Wright-Dunbar Interpretive Center from 1-3 p.m. There'll be an opportunity to learn about the traditions of Christmas, Chanukah, and Kwanzaa and prepare for the holiday season. You can make and take home crafts to share for the holidays. Children must be accompanied by an adult.



AVIATION TRAIL, INC.  
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Wright Brothers Branch  
Dayton, OH 45409



Fall 2008

[www.aviationtrailinc.org](http://www.aviationtrailinc.org)  
937 443-0793

### REMINDERS FOR DECEMBER

**Wednesday Dec. 17--**The 105<sup>th</sup> anniversary-of-flight celebration at the National Museum of the United States Air Force. Phil Boyer, president, Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA), is the featured speaker with entertainment by a group from the United States Air Force Band of Flight and announcement by the National Aviation Hall of Fame of its 2009 enshrines. ATI and NAHF are your hosts. Reserve your seat early. The traditional wreath-laying at the Wright Memorial on Wright-Patterson Air Force Base occurs that morning beginning at 10 a.m. The base is your host.

#### AVIATION TRAIL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I would like to become a member of Aviation Trail, Inc., at the following level:

<input type="checkbox"/> Senior Citizen 60 and over \$15	<input type="checkbox"/> Contributing \$50	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual Life \$500
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$20	<input type="checkbox"/> Supporting \$100	(May be paid in five annual
<input type="checkbox"/> Family \$30	<input type="checkbox"/> Patron \$1,000/year	installments of \$100 each)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to: **AVIATION TRAIL, INC.** and mail it together with this form to:

Aviation Trail, Inc., P. O. Box 633, Wright Brothers Branch, Dayton, OH 45409