



THE WRIGHT FLYER



Aviation Trail, Inc.

Summer 2009

ATI PICNIC PLANNED FOR SUNDAY, AUGUST 16, AT WRIGHT BROTHERS HILL

We're packing your picnic baskets for you and heading outside.

It's time to again make our August ATI social an *al fresco* event --this year at Wright Brothers Hill and the National Park Service's Huffman Prairie Flying Field Interpretive Center on Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

The date is Sunday, Aug. 16--three days before National Aviation Day and Orville Wright and his sister Katharine's mutual birthdays on August 19th. Activities are planned to please young and old.

Lunch will include sandwiches, chips, dessert, and drink and the baskets will be ready at 12 noon on the plaza in front of the Wright Memorial. If there's rain, we'll take the picnic inside.

The price stays the same as last year: \$15 per adult and \$40 for a family of up to five persons. Make your reservations no later than Wednesday, Aug. 12, to ATI, P.O. Box 633, Wright Brothers Branch, Dayton, OH 45409. Parking can be either on the street leading to the Wright Memorial or in the parking lots for the HPFFIC.



The "program" this year is three-pronged. The local McCook Field Squadron of the Flying Aces Club will fly their scale, free-flight model aircraft for the delight of all age groups. "Powered" by rubber bands--not engines--the small wonders should amaze all for their endurance and maneuverability.

After lunch Dr. Squire Brown will speak in the HPFFIC auditorium on Dayton's McCook Field. The theme of Dr. Brown's presentation will be the contributions McCook Field made to aviation development and the emergence of America as the world's leader of a new generation of military aircraft.

And at Wright State University, Dawne Dewey of Special Collections and Archives, has invited the picnickers to stop at the library before heading home to view a special exhibit of the medals presented to Wilbur and Orville Wright. They'll be on display near the front desk in the lobby area of the archives.

Dr. Brown has many publications to his credit, but one focuses on the McCook Field/aviation engineering theme: *A Genesis Workshop: Five Generations of Engineering Enterprise from the Birthplace of Aviation*, published by the Aeronautical Systems Center History Office at Wright-Patterson.

An aerospace engineer, Dr. Brown retired from federal service at Wright-Patterson in 1999 as chief of Flight Mechanics. During his career there most of his projects concerned aircraft design and flight performance and he served on the AIAA Aircraft Design Committee. Since retirement, Dr. Brown has served as a volunteer at the National Museum of the United States Air Force in the archives of the Research Division. He is a member of the Huffman Prairie Aviation History Society, The Society for the History of Technology, and the Society for Industrial Archeology.

Dr. Brown received his Ph.D. in aerospace engineering from the University of Texas at Austin. From 1987 through 1995 he was a member of the adjunct faculty for the Department of Engineering Management, University of Dayton.

For information on the McCook Field Squadron--which flies mostly in Huber Heights and at Historic WACO Field in Troy--and photos of their planes, go to www.mccookfieldfac.com.

Good food and fun make a day on the Hill a picnic for ATI members and their guests.

Jeff Horlacher (left) and Mark Begley pour lemonade.



ATI'S PARACHUTE MUSEUM'S McCOOK FIELD EXHIBIT

By Mary Ann Johnson

The McCook Field exhibit, in the middle of the east wall, is the newest exhibit in the Aviation Trail Parachute Museum.

The Army's McCook Field (1917-1927) was established next to a North Dayton residential neighborhood near downtown Dayton during World War I, to serve as the nation's first military research and development center. It became known as the "Cradle of Aviation" because of its many pioneering research projects that brought the United States from 14th place when World War I started in Europe in 1914, to world leader in the post-war years.

The main focus of the McCook Field exhibit is a large graphic delineating the timeline of the Field's achievements during its ten-year existence. One of these was the development of the freefall parachute, which made Dayton the "Birthplace of the Freefall Parachute" as well as the "Birthplace of Aviation."

The "Notebook" part of the exhibit will explain how each of the pioneering projects on the timeline contributed to the future of that technology.



McCook Field's motto runs across this hangar.

These are:

- 1918: McCook Field Assumes Responsibility for the First Guided Missile

The technology behind the McCook Field "Bug", apparently discovered by the Germans after the patent was granted in 1927, seems to have been the basis of the "Buzz Bombs" that rained down on England by the Germans near the end of World War I.

- 1919: First Live Test of the McCook Field Type A Parachute

The McCook Field parachute was developed specifically to save lives: that is, as a means of escape from a disabled airplane. The same elements found in the original McCook model also supported later models, as new uses for the parachute were found, including the delivery of personnel, like the paratroopers of World War II; delivery of supplies, such as in the Berlin Airlift during the Cold War; safely landing manned spacecraft back on Earth during early space experiments; and landing unmanned spacecraft on other planets, such as Mars.

- 1919: First Flight Tests of the Airplane Engine Supercharger

The engine supercharger enabled airplane engines to operate at high altitudes without losing power in the thinner air. The technology supported the mission of the "Spy in the Sky" by making it possible to fly above enemy gunfire.

- 1923: First Non-Stop Flight Across the United States

The flight from New York to California by two McCook Field pilots paved the way for the many cross-country flights of today.

- 1923: World's First Night Airway

The McCook Field experimental airway between Dayton and Columbus, Ohio, demonstrated how airport lighting and a series of rotating, lighted beacons could make around-the-clock flying a reality. The McCook system was copied by the United States Post Office when it established the world's first scheduled night air mail service in 1924.

- 1924: McCook Field Photographer Sets a High-Altitude Photographic Record

The photograph, taken at an altitude of 31,540 feet, covered 19 square miles of the city of Dayton. The combination of the engine supercharger and a special film developed in conjunction with Eastman Kodak laid the groundwork for the high-altitude surveillance systems used by countries around the world.

- 1924: The First Flight Around the World

America beat at least five other countries to become the first to fly around the world. As the Logistics Center for the six-month-long trek, McCook set up and stocked supply bases at strategic points along the route, which covered weather conditions ranging from the snow and ice of Alaska to the sandstorms of Asian deserts. The experience provided pathways for the overseas, international flights of commercial carriers that soon followed.

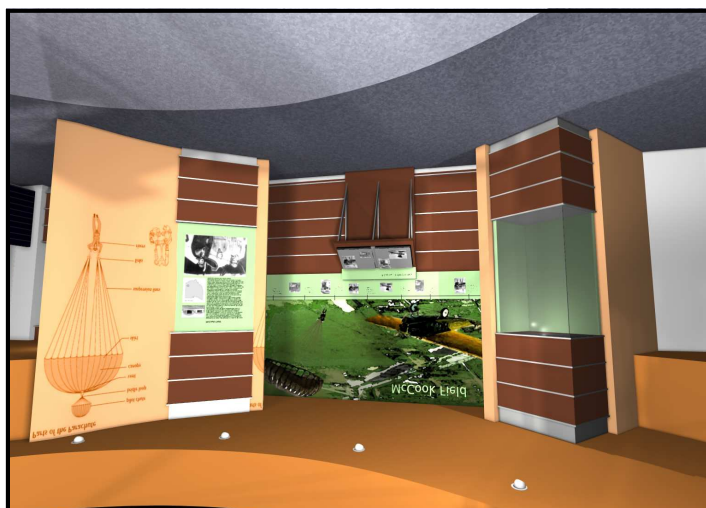


Exhibit designer's rendering of McCook Field exhibit.



AVIATION PARK'S ANN HONIOUS GOES WEST TO THE ST. LOUIS "ARCH"

Come September another "pioneer" of the National Park Service's presence in Dayton will be leaving us. Ann Honious, chief of Education and Resources Management, who arrived in August 1994, is headed west for the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial--better known as the Arch--in St. Louis.



During her 15 year in Dayton she's been an invaluable asset to the growth of the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park. She'll be sorely missed. In St. Louis Ann will be chief of Museum Services and Interpretation.

Ann has transitioned from park historian to the chief of Education and Resources Management at the Dayton park. She has identified needed staffing and hired the staff to operate the new park's Interpretive Center.

During her first several years she spent time researching the Wright brothers, Paul Laurence Dunbar and Dayton for information to guide the development of the significant and interpretive themes of the park. The result of the project was a book, *What Dreams We Have and How They Fly: the Wright Brothers and their Hometown of Dayton, Ohio*.

As development of the park began, Ann participated as a subject-matter expert and coordinator in the plans for construction and design of exhibits. She worked closely with the exhibit designers to identify exhibit content, artifacts for display, use of interactive devices, selection of exhibit components and, ultimately, their fabrication.

In addition, Ann was the project manager for development of the park's orientation film "*On Great White Wings*" which is shown in the George "J R" Wedekind Theater in the Wright-Dunbar Interpretive Center.

Much of Ann's time at the park has been focused on defining and developing park partnerships. She has worked closely with the legislated park partners to develop interpretive programming and media that benefits all sites.

Recently she worked with Aviation Trail to develop a Dial and Discover Cell Phone Tour of sites on the Aviation Trail, and at other significant, local aviation landmarks. A small-scale portion of the tour currently is operating, with the full tour stops slated for operation by the end of this summer.

A native of Portland, Oregon, Ann received her B.A. in history/political science from The Colorado College, Colorado Springs, Colo.; M.A. in American studies from The George Washington University, Washington, D.C.; and M.S. in education from the University of Dayton, Dayton, Ohio.

She is a member of the Engineers Club in Dayton and the Landmarks Commission for the City of Dayton.

ATI wishes her Godspeed and good luck along the Mississippi.

CELEBRATION FOR THE 104TH YEAR OF PRACTICAL FLIGHT

Come on out to Huffman Prairie Flying Field on Oct. 5 and watch the *Wright Flyer III* fly again.

It's the 104th anniversary of Wilbur and Orville Wright's first practical flights and the activities begin at 9:30 a.m. at the prairie, a site in the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park.

It was on this day in 1905 that Wilbur Wright took off from the prairie and flew for more than 24 miles in 39 minutes. This proved to the world that the Wrights' airplane could repeatedly take off, turn, land and stay in the air until the gas ran out.

Some 2,500 people attended the previous celebration in 2007 and Aviation Park officials are optimistic that the crowd this year will match or exceed the previous number. Ranger Bob Peterson said plans have been made for any number.

A brief ceremony will kick off the activities at 9:30 to include a flight of a replica 1905 *Wright Flyer III* by builder and licensed private pilot Mark Dusenberry. His historically correct replica, which took 11 years to construct, also flew at the event in 2007.

Besides Dusenberry's plane there will be static-display aircraft adjacent to the Flying Field and hands-on activities for grades 1-6 from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Call Karen Rosga at 937 225 7705 (e-mail karen_rosga@nps.gov) to register your class or child.

The general public can enter the prairie through Gate 16-A at Wight-Patterson Air Force Base. No pass is required.





Ranger Maribeth Kambitsch demonstrates the printing press at the West Interpretive Center during the 100th anniversary of the Wright Home Days Celebration held June 20, 2009.

ATI BOOTH PART OF DAYTON AIR SHOW

We were there!

Maybe not drawing quite as many crowds as the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds. But getting attention nevertheless.

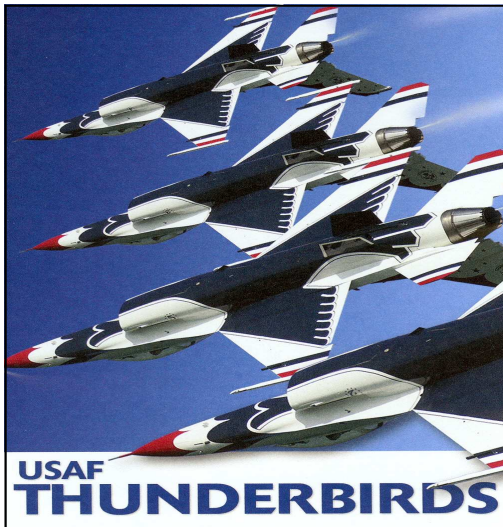
Where else but the Vectren Dayton Air Show July 18-19.

Aviation Trail joined other groups with booths in a large, air-conditioned tent--provided by the National Aviation Heritage Alliance--to promote trail sites and encourage membership.

Member volunteers handed out the new ATI brochures and answered questions from young and old about the Wright brothers and early aviation in the Dayton area..

Besides Air Show, the July weekend also headlined the National Aviation Hall of Fame enshrinement ceremonies which enrolled four inductees--first announced at the December 17th anniversary of powered flight celebration hosted by ATI and Hall of Fame.

Since the Hall of Fame's "Spirit of Flight" award went to the Apollo astronaut crews, a strong gathering of astronauts attended the festivities--often called America's Oscar Night of Aviation--held at the Dayton Convention Center July 17.



CARILLON HISTORICAL PARK GAINS HERITAGE CENTER FUNDS/BUILDINGS

Dayton History's Carillon Historical Park is on the move this year--literally and figuratively.

The 65-acre park has assumed the assets of the Kettering-Moraine Museum and four of its seven buildings were moved to the park in July, including the original Deeds barn. The barn was the "workshop"--at 319 Central Ave. in Dayton--of Charles Kettering, Edward Deeds and others was where the two inventors perfected the automobile's self-starter among other inventions.



The original Deed's Barn is on the move from the Kettering-Moraine Museum to Carillon Historical Park.

The Kettering- Moraine Historical Society Board voted for the transfer at its meeting on Nov. 17, 2008.

This spring there was a groundbreaking at Carillon Historical Park for a unique, 27,000 square-foot Heritage Center focusing on Dayton's inventions--thanks to a \$2.3 million State of Ohio grant and \$3 million from private contributors. In addition to the center and funding the move of the buildings, the money will create a trail system around the park.

Construction of the center will take one year in this first phase of the park's master campus plan. Besides the Deeds barn, the center will display the polonium triggers used in atomic weapons that ended World War II, liquid crystal displays, the first electronic calculator and artifacts from the tool and die industry.

Brady Kress, executive director of Dayton History which oversees the park, announced the park's master plan in early February.

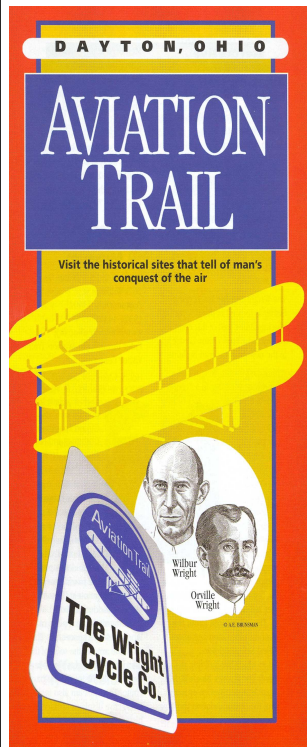
Dayton History employees also have taken on the interpretation of Hawthorn Hill, the home of the Wrights in Oakwood, and the Dunbar house in the Paul Laurence Dunbar State Memorial in Dayton and are staffing NCR's 33-acre Old River Park, which was closed in 1998 and re-opened in July.

Carillon Historical Park celebrates the history of invention, transportation and pioneer life in Dayton and the Miami Valley. It was founded by Col. Edward Deeds and opened in 1950.

REVISED ATI BROCHURES READY FOR DISTRIBUTION

The Aviation Trail brochure has been revised and updated and is ready for distribution.

Describing 13 sites around greater Dayton connected to early aviation and Wilbur and Orville Wright, the brochure is a "must have" for visitors or natives who want to explore our aviation gems.



The brochure lists full addresses, phone numbers, web sites and descriptions for each site; includes maps of the areas where the sites are located; and briefly tells the history of Aviation Trail, Inc. The updated pamphlet also gives the prompts for each site in the brochure in the National Park Service's Dial and Discover program, a cell-phone aid to touring the sites.

Hats off to Mary Ann Johnson, ATI Board of Trustees member, who revised and edited the new brochure. It was printed by Progressive Printers of Dayton.

If you need brochures for personnel use or a group that's coming to town, call the ATI office 937 443-0793 or contact Ralph Korner who is in charge of distribution: 937 298 1626, or e-mail ralphkorn9@aol.com.

KIDS' CORNER

--Aug. 12-15, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Puzzling Out a Poem

Participants choose from a grab bag full of words to craft a poem as they complete a puzzle. Location: the Wright-Dunbar Interpretive Center, 16 S. Williams St., Dayton.

--Nov. 28--Dec. 27 How Santa Gets Around

This educational, family-oriented show features 15 different modes of transportation presented in various scales that Santa has used in the past 150 years. Location: WACO Museum/Learning Center, 1865 S. County Rd. 25A, Troy, Ohio.

--Dec. 5--Invention Station

Using common items, participants will design inventions (to take home), learn problem-solving techniques, and show off their inventiveness--just as the Wright brothers did. Location: Wright-Dunbar Interpretive Center, 16 S. Williams St., Dayton.

WACO FLY-IN TO HIGHLIGHT NEW MUSEUM/LEARNING CENTER

There will be a special treat for participants at the annual WACO Fly-in this Sept. 18-19 at Historic WACO Field in Troy, Ohio.

It's the grand opening of the new Museum/Learning Center building begun ceremonially April 7.

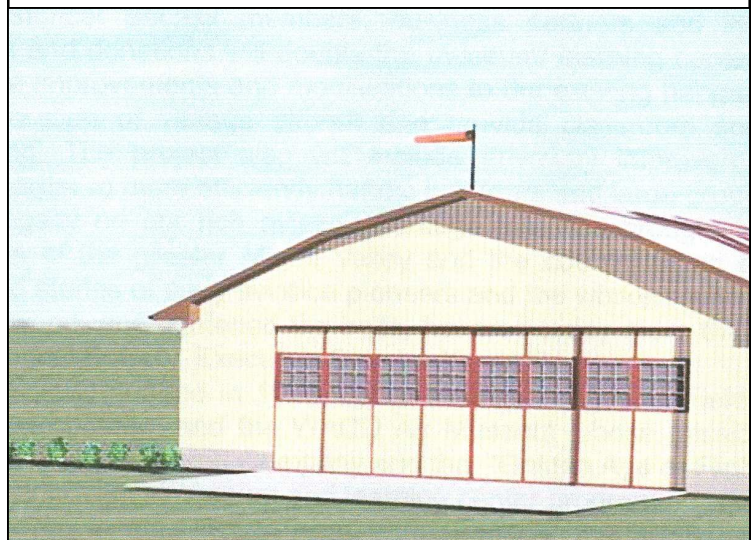
On that date some 80 attendees watched as dignitaries participated in a ceremonial ground breaking for the new center. They included Otto M. Budig Jr., chairman of the Ohio Cultural Facilities Commission; Richard Adams, 79th District, Ohio House of Representatives; John W. O'Brian, Miami County Commissioner; and Michael Beamish, mayor of the City of Troy, Ohio.

The new building is being constructed by Bruns General Contracting Inc., located in nearby Tipp City, Ohio, which is general contractor for the total project which should not interfere with WACO's events program throughout the summer, according to Karen Purke, WACO Historical Society's executive director.

The building, a replica of the original WACO Aircraft Company service hangar, will allow expanded displays and showcase new collections, including a collection of artifacts from the Hartzell Propeller Company, also located in Miami Country, Ohio.

The majority of the funding for the project came from the Ohio Cultural Facilities Commission which released \$530,000 in state funds for the project. The existing hangar at the WACO location also is being improved and modified, as are driveways at the site.

For information on the variety of activities at this year's Fly-in, go to www.wacoairmuseum.org or call 937 335-9226.



Drawing of the new WACO Air Museum Learning Center hangar.

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KEN BURNS DOCUMENTARY ON NATIONAL PARKS TO AIR ON PBS THIS FALL

If you love the national parks and admire the work of documentary filmmaker Ken Burns, then you're in for a treat this fall.

PBS will air Burns' *The National Parks: America's Best Idea*, a six-part, 12-hour series developed by Burns and Dayton Duncan. The film reveals compelling stories of the parks, the National Park Service, and the individuals who shaped them.

According to Duncan, "When we set out 10 years ago to make a PBS documentary on the history of the national parks, we were surprised at what we discovered. ... We knew that we might come across magnificent species of animals--bears and buffalo, wolves and trumpeter swans --that would have vanished forever without parks as their refuge.

"...What surprised us were the remarkable stories of the people who made each park possible. We discovered people from every conceivable background...who have been part of the national park idea from the very beginning."

Our local national park--the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park interprets the stories of the Wright brothers and poet Paul Laurence Dunbar. Watch your local television listings for dates and times of broadcast.



Bill Yandle
Courtesy of Dan Patterson

Long-time seasonal Park Guide Bill Yandle passed away on June 27, 2009. Bill joined the staff of Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park in June 2002. As a previous employee at Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial, Bill presented living history presentations for the National Park Service.

Bill Yandle was a former teacher who touched the lives of students. He went above and beyond the call of duty, especially when working with the "Kids Voting" program. He took the students to the voting stations and worked with them for a positive learning experience. He was a student of the Wright brothers, continually learning and working to improve his presentations on Huffman Prairie.



Summer 2009

www.aviationtrailinc.org

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Wright Brothers Branch
Dayton, OH 45409
Phone: 937.443.0793



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Aug. 16--ATI's Summer Picnic marking National Aviation Day and the mutual birthdays of Orville and Katharine Wright. Wright Brothers Hill on Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. Picnic baskets will be ready at 12 noon. The McCook Field Flyers and a talk about McCook Field will highlight the activities.

Sept. 18-19--WACO Fly-in and grand opening of the new Museum/Learning Center at Historic WACO Field in Troy, Ohio.

Oct. 5--Celebration of the Wrights' first practical flights 104 years ago, on Huffman Prairie Flying Field, part of Wright-Patterson AFB. Public access. Kids are welcome and a Wright Flyer III replica will fly.

Dec. 17--Anniversary of Wrights' first flight in 1903 is celebrated at the National Museum of the United States Air Force with a dinner and entertainment by the U.S. Air Force Band of Flight. The Hall of Fame announces its Class of 2010.

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