



THE WRIGHT FLYER

Aviation Trail, Inc.

Spring 2010

AIR FORCE RESEARCH LABORATORY NAMED 2010 TRAILBLAZER



The Air Force Research Laboratory at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base has been chosen by Aviation Trail, Inc. for its 2010 Trailblazer Award.

The ATI Board of Trustees, which selects the awardee each year, recognized the world-class quality of the laboratory's aerospace research for the U.S. Air Force; its economic impact on the area, especially with mission consolidation directed by the 2005 Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC); and its many community outreach programs in Southwestern Ohio.

The banquet and ceremonies for presentation of the award will be held Friday, April 23 at the Presidential Banquet Center, 4548 Presidential Dr., in Kettering. Tickets are \$40 per person and the public is welcome. The social begins at 6:00 p.m. with dinner following at 6:45.

Reservations must be received by Monday April 19 at Aviation Trail, Inc., P.O. Box 633, Wright Brothers Branch, Dayton, OH 45409.

The Air Force Research Laboratory is commanded and led by Maj. Gen. Ellen Pawlikowski, with responsibility for 10 technology directorates for research and development (R & D), and testing of air, space and cyberspace systems for the U.S. Air Force. Accepting the award April 23 will be Mr. Joe Sciabica, AFRL executive director. Those directorates are Information, Space Vehicles, Air Vehicles, Propulsion, Directed Energy, Materials and Manufacturing, Munitions, Sensors, the Air Force Office of Scientific Research, and the 711th Human Performance Wing. They are fully described at the laboratory's web site www.wpafb.af.mil/afri.

The laboratory is an element of Air Force Materiel Command which has its headquarters at Wright-Patterson. Employing some 10,800 technical and support personnel, the laboratory has a \$2.2 billion science and technology program, with billions of dollars in research facilities, some of which are

unique in the world. As such, it's one of the largest of the R & D units in Air Force Materiel Command which is headquartered at Wright-Patterson.

In addition to its on-site research, AFRL awards large and smaller contracts to local companies as well as major aerospace industries. In fiscal year 2009, AFRL obligated \$3.25 billion for research and development efforts across all technical directorates. This includes over \$209 million for research and development efforts where the principle place of performance was in the Dayton area. The laboratory has close cooperative research relationships with colleges and universities in the Miami Valley and across the country. Its economic impact on the Dayton area is increasing with nearly 1,200 military and civilian positions, and their work units, moving here because of the 2005 BRAC.

Those work units are in aerospace medicine research, human performance, and sensors research and are generating \$332 million in on-base construction and renovation which will continue into 2011.

The laboratory has been a trailblazer in its formal and informal participation in educational programs focused on furthering young people's interest in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) for young people in grades K-12. Those range from the Wright Scholar program that gives high school students summer work in the laboratory in a technical environment, to SEMEDS (for Scanning Electron Microscope) to Star Base, a Department of Defense program designed to ignite interest in math, science and technology for 5th graders in high-risk schools.

Additionally, AFRL has a vibrant cooperative education program with student researchers from 19 states and 50 universities. Laboratory personnel are strong advocates of STEM education, have supported the Ohio state and national FIRST LEGO League youth robotics competitions, judge science fairs and engage youngsters in technical discussions at its booths at air shows.



UNDER CONSTRUCTION – Final Phase!

Your ATI Trustees and Advisors are hard at it as I write this column. We hope to have the Parachute Museum's final phase completed by Orville and Katharine's birthday, August 19th this year. What a celebration that can be!

Folks are rummaging through bins of Dave Gold materials in our basement storage area, looking at his research materials from our collection at Wright State's archives, viewing old movies and videos from wherever we can find them, and discussing (and arguing occasionally) the plans drawn up by Exhibit Concepts. An unbelievable amount of time is being spent on the telephone, writing letters and burning up the internet. There is so much to show and tell in the remaining space in the museum.

Those of you who have been in this space in the Aviation Trail Visitor Center and the National Park's Wright-Dunbar Interpretive Center will be wondering what else we could possibly add to the information available today. Well, there's the entire, two-sided center section to be completed. Stories to be told about Harold Harris, the Caterpillar Club, Project Paperclip, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, and World War II activities. We'll also feature the fun folks are having today parasailing, skydiving, drag racing and more. NASA's projects would be impossible without parachutes playing such an important part in its success today and into the future.

What will you see? How about colorful, touch-screen monitors featuring all kinds of parachute activities and some history as well. Hands-on projects with artifacts from our collection. There will be something of interest for everyone, including folks who have jumped and floated down from up high, and those of us who have said, "NOT ME!" A great way (at no cost) to spend the afternoon with your family and friends.

Please stop by for a visit soon and then plan on coming back later this year to enjoy ATI's latest efforts in promoting Dayton's aviation heritage.

Marvin Christian
President, ATI, Inc.



The completed Kittinger exhibit space in the ATI, Inc. parachute museum.



These spring flowers are welcoming April and Aviation Trail's first, four-color edition of the Wright Flyer. After a harsh winter, we thought color would lift your spirits and the publication's "look." Siebenthaler South Garden Center is where they were photographed. Happy spring!

VOTE FOR WILBUR AND ORVILLE STATUE

Vote! Vote! Vote!

That's the message from ATI President Marvin Christian who is urging members to vote that a statue of Wilbur and Orville Wright—treated as one entity--be placed in the National Statuary Hall in the U.S. Capitol.

It would replace one of former U.S. senator, congressman and Ohio governor (1874-76) William Allen, who criticized Abraham Lincoln and supported slavery. It would join Ohio's second statue, of President James Garfield.

The search for a more appropriate personage to represent the state of Ohio is being led by state Senator Mark Wagoner, (R-Toledo) who leads a committee of six Ohio House and Senate representatives who are working on the project.

On Feb. 23 the panel announced 10 finalists in the search and Wilbur and Orville were among that number, but not number one. Thomas Edison took that honor with 46 points; the Wrights tallied 22 points.

"That needs to change," Christian said and urges ATI members to cast their votes until June 12. "Certainly the Wrights' world-wide celebrity for their astonishing flight accomplishment makes them worthy of a place in the nation's Capitol," he said.

Ballots for voting are available online at www.legacyforOhio.org or at historic Ohio sites and museums. One of those is the Paul Laurence Dunbar State Memorial, 219 Paul Laurence Dunbar St. in Dayton.

As the slogan goes, "Get out and vote."



Wilbear Wright, aviation teddy bear

MEET WILBEAR WRIGHT, COUSIN TO SMOKEY

Smokey the Bear would like you to meet his cousin, Wilbear Wright, the aviator teddy bear. Wilbear lives at Wright-Dunbar, Inc.— next to Smokey at the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park.

Everyone seems to know Smokey, but not many people know Wilbear. Thanks to a \$70,000 Preserve America grant from First Lady Laura Bush in 2006, more people are getting acquainted with Wilbear. He's such a charming, seven-inch-tall aviator, complete with goggles, brown leather jacket, and white neck scarf.

What's more, he's free to anyone who tours designated aviation-related sites—all of them on the Aviation Trail. Wilbear says to begin at one of the "Bear Headquarters" (See sites in the list below) where a helpful person will give you a "passport" and stamp it—for having toured the first site.

Then you choose five more sites to visit, enjoy, and receive five more stamps. Or, if you like, learn more and tour all nine sites.

Return to the Wright-Dunbar Interpretive to receive your free Wilbear Wright teddy. One per visitor, please. Since distribution of the bear began in October 2009, more than 300 bears have found homes with aviation site visitors. But, there are many more waiting for the visitors and tourists this spring and summer.

Here are the nine sites in the Wilbear Wright "tour." Kids should enjoy all of them and remember, choose just five:

- Wright-Dunbar Interpretive Center/Aviation Trail, Inc. Visitor Center and Museum (Wilbear says, "Don't miss the Parachute Museum on the second floor.")
- Passport Center
- Paul Laurence Dunbar State Memorial
- Huffman Prairie Flying Field Interpretive Center/Huffman Prairie Flying Field, Passport Center
- Carillon Historical Park's John W. Berry, Sr. Wright Brothers Aviation Center, Passport Center
- National Museum of the United States Air Force, Passport Center
- National Aviation Hall of Fame
- Hawthorn Hill
- Historic Woodland Cemetery & Arboretum
- Wright "B" Flyer

Wright-Dunbar, Inc., in receiving the Preserve America grant, represented a collaboration of Dayton area organizations interested in cultural heritage tourism.



Girl Scout Troop 48043 of St. Francis de Sales Church proudly displays their Wilbears for completing the "Race to Dayton's Amazing Aviation Places" in front of the Wright Cycle Company, Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

SUPPORTING

Robert and Kathy Robinson

INDIVIDUAL

Karl Ayers
Don Gum
Robert Ruh
Sally Ruh
Phillip Slusser

ATI DEC. 17 CELEBRATION FEATURED HALL OF FAME ANNOUNCEMENT

At the ATI/Hall of Fame celebration Dec. 17 of 106 years of powered flight, the audience's senses again were treated to an aviation-themed evening.

Airplanes surrounded them in the Modern Flight Gallery, aviation enthusiast Carl Day was the emcee, the United States Air Force Band of Flight entertained them, and film producer Adam White spoke about making movies of airplanes. The National Aviation Hall of Fame announced three aviation pioneers as 2010 enshrinees in the National Aviation Hall of Fame, the event's co-host. The enshrinees named by Hall of Fame President Alan Hoeweler were

—Captain Alan Bean, astronaut and lunar module pilot on Apollo 12, man's second lunar landing,

—Warren G. Grimes, posthumously, father of aircraft lighting, inventor of aircraft navigation instruments, and founder of Grimes Manufacturing Co. of Urbana, Ohio, and

—Noel Wien, posthumously, an arctic flight expert who founded Wien Alaska Airlines, one of the oldest airlines in the United States.

One enshrinee-to-be, Clay Lacy, was announced previously last fall. Lacy is a 50,000-hour pilot, business aviation icon and videographer for many Hollywood pictures including *Top Gun* and *The Right Stuff*.

Also announced Dec. 17 was the winner of the 2010 Milton Caniff Spirit of Flight Award: the National Business Aviation Association, an 8,000-member organization that represents the interests of business aviation. Presentation of the award will occur at the NAHF's President's Reception Friday, July 16, at the National Museum of the United States Air Force.

The awards for Bean, Grimes, Lacy and Wien will be presented at "America's Oscar Night of Aviation," Saturday, July 17, at the Dayton Convention Center. This 49th Annual Enshrinement Dinner & Ceremony will be hosted by comedian Rich Little. Two-hundred-three enshrines are already honored in the NAHF which seeks to honor America's outstanding air and space pioneers, especially in its 17,000 square-foot public Learning Center which is inside the National Museum of the United States Air Force.

For advanced tickets for the Hall of Fame ceremonies July 17, call 937-256-0944 or go to www.nationalaviation.org.

DAYTON AIR SHOW FEATURES LOCAL SKYDIVERS JULY 17, 18

Speaking of parachutes, the Vectren Dayton Air Show July 17, 18 at the Dayton International Airport will feature a local skydiving team, Team Fastrax, among its many airborne attractions. This year those attractions will include the United States Navy Blue Angels.

Team Fastrax will be part of the show's opening ceremonies July 17, then put on a 20-minute show which will include formation jumps. The show will be repeated July 18.

On Air Show weekend Team Fastrax, based in Middletown, Ohio, also will be performing at the MidFirst Ohio Challenge at Smith Park in Middletown. All of its 20 jumpers will perform at both events.

Air Show tickets will go on sale June 7 at area Kroger stores. For more information about the show and ticket prices, go to www.daytonairshow.com.



Aerospace engineer and author, Dr. Squire Brown.

DR. SQUIRE BROWN NEXT SPEAKER IN THE NPS'S AVIATION HERITAGE SERIES

If you missed ATI member Dr. Squire Brown's informative talk at ATI's Aug. 16 picnic, mark your calendar for July 21 at the Engineers Club, 110 Monument Ave. in Dayton at 7 p.m.

On that date he'll reprise his informative talk on McCook and Wright fields as the next presenter in the National Park Service's Aviation Heritage Speaker Series. His slide-enhanced briefing, "Year of the Future," will describe how—thanks to work at McCook and Wright fields—the United States went from a position of aviation inferiority in World War I to one of superiority during the 1920s and 1930s.

Dr. Brown is an aerospace engineer who retired as chief of Flight Mechanics in the Flight Dynamics Laboratory at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. He is the author of *A Genesis Workshop: Five Generations of Engineering Enterprise from the Birthplace of Aviation*.

Oct. 20 is the date for the final speaker in the series: Paul Dye, flight director of the Johnson Space Center in Houston. His NASA experiences include being flight director for numerous shuttle missions, including three of the Shuttle-Mir missions.

Previous speakers in the series included former *Dayton Daily News* editor and columnist Timothy R. Gaffney (March 17) and Walt Hoy and Mitch Cary (Jan. 20) of the 1910/11 Wright "B" Flyer. All are ATI members. All presentations in the speaker series are free and open to the public.

“BIKE WITH A RANGER”



BICYCLE TOURS AND INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS 2010

June 6, July 11, August 8, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
(4 hours) **Orientation meeting starts 10:00 a.m.**

“The Gem City: Cradle of Creativity” **NEW!**

Learn how Dayton became a hotbed of inventiveness, innovation, and creativity. This bicycle ride on flat terrain along quiet urban streets and bike trails visits the Wrights’ bicycle shop; the home of internationally renowned poet, Paul Laurence Dunbar; the invention and transportation exhibits at Carillon Historical Park; and various historic sites in Downtown Dayton. The tour ends where we started--in Wright-Dunbar Village. The Wright Cycle Company Complex is located at the intersection of West Third and South Williams Streets, 22 South Williams Street, Dayton OH 45402, just west of downtown.

June 20, July 25, and August 22, 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (4 hours) **Orientation meeting starts 8:30 a.m.**

“Huffman Prairie and Historic Patterson Field (Wright-Patterson AFB, Areas A & C)” **NEW!**

Discover how one of the largest aviation complexes in the world, Wright-Patterson AFB, began as a humble 84-acre cow pasture just a few miles northeast of Dayton. This moderately difficult bicycle ride down mostly bicycle trails and less-traveled roads will take the trail leading to Huffman Prairie Flying Field and historic old Patterson Field (present day Wright-Patterson AFB, Areas A & C). **Due to Air Force security requirements, all participants must register at least seven days prior to the tour. No exceptions!** The tour will end where we started: at Wright Memorial located close to the intersection of State Route 444 and Kauffman Road, United States Air Force at Huffman Prairie



Mark Dues, a ranger with the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park, leads a group of bike riders along the Great Miami River in summer 2009. The ride was one of several, park-sponsored “Bike with a Ranger” outings around the Miami Valley. New itineraries will be offered this summer.

Photo by volunteer Denny Dutcher.

Flying Field Interpretive Center, 2380 Memorial Rd.,
Wright-Patterson AFB, OH 45433

Other Important Information:

- **Pre-registration is required. (For the Huffman Prairie/Patterson Field tour, all participants must register at least seven days prior to the tour. No exceptions!)** Please register by calling 937-425-0008 and ask for Mark.

- **All participants should be present no later than the times mentioned above for sign-in and orientation.**

- **Bicyclists should be in good physical condition and feel comfortable gearing up and down hills.**

- Inclement weather may cause tour cancellation. Huffman Prairie Flying Field may close without prior notice since it is located on an active military installation.

- Participants are required to bring their own bicycles and personal gear, including snacks and/or lunch. Proper wear of
- helmets is required.
- Bicycles should be in good operating condition and are
- subject to safety inspections. - Call 937-425-0008 for the latest information



This bright red and white, 1929 WACO Model Taperwing (S/N A118) airplane recently was donated to the Waco Historical Society of Troy, Ohio, by The Goodrich Co., also of Troy. ATI member Bob Wagner (at the podium), a pilot with Goodrich for the Taperwing since 1997, spoke during the transfer ceremony Feb. 22 at Historic Waco Field in Troy. Manufacture of the Taperwing was completed in July 1929 and in 1934 Col. Joseph G. Mackey, a stunt pilot and skywriter, bought it and upgraded it by installing a Wright Whirlwind R-975 J6-9 engine. In 1936, the aircraft was completely reworked by the Hill Aircraft of Cincinnati, becoming the only WACO to have its fabric skins replaced with aluminum skins. Mackey flew it out of Findley, Ohio, as Mackey Flying Service, winning many awards including the Grand Prize Trophy of \$10,000 at the 1936 International Air Games in Paris. The Taperwing returned to Troy Sept. 21, 1996, where it resided in the Goodrich facility once operated by WACO.

Photo by Louise Vore

KIDS' CORNER

Hey, kids! There are three aviation- and space-related camps in the Miami Valley for your consideration this summer! Plenty of fun stuff to do during your long summer vacation. Here's some info on them, with points of contact for more details.

Air Camp, July 18-23, is for you if you are a middle school student (entering the 7th to 9th grade in fall 2010) who'd like to take flight training, chart your course as a copilot and visit aviation sites around Dayton. You'll also visit scientists at the Air Force Research Laboratory at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and plan a humanitarian air mission. Doing all this will teach you more about engineering, and the mathematics of aeronautics. Your campus for the week will be the University of Dayton, and Sinclair Community College's aviation school will give you that flying experience.

Only 40 students will be accepted this first year of Air Camp, which has been patterned on NASA's Space Camp in Huntsville, Tenn., so submit your application by April 15. May 1 is the selection announcement date. Apply through www.AirCampUSA.com. Members of the executive committee for Air Camp are Thomas J. Lasley II, Ph.D., president; Vince J. Russo, Ph.D., vice president; Richard V. Reynolds, (Lt. Gen. Ret., USAF), secretary; and R. David Sadlier, treasurer. Donors to Air Camp are the University of Dayton, Sinclair Community College and Wright State University and several foundations support it. Air Camp has applied for 501 (c) 3, non-profit status.

Some limited scholarships are available—based on need. The \$900 tuition includes all amenities on the campus of the University of Dayton.

Aerospace Summer Camp is being offered by the National Museum of the United States Air Force and features hands-on activities for students who have finished grades 2 through 9. There are five camp offerings—based on age groupings—and registration is open now for all of them. All campgrounds are on the museum's property. Apply at www.nationalairmuseum.af.mil/education/camp/index.asp. Here are the five camps:

--"Go for Launch" aerospace camp will take place June 14-18 from 9 a.m. to noon for students who have finished 5th and 6th grades and have no experience building model rockets, airplanes or plastic kits. The emphasis is on rocketry and the cost is \$70 per camper.

--"Liftoff" camp, for students who have completed grades 6-8, is from June 21-25 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The emphasis is on intermediate rocketry and the cost is \$80 per camper.

--"Into the Wild Blue Yonder," for students who have finished grades 4-6, will be held July 19-23 from 9 a.m. until noon. This is a beginning level aerospace camp for those with little or no background knowledge of the principles of flight. Airplanes, kites, hot air balloon, helicopters and rockets will be discussed. The cost is \$40 per camper.

--"Soaring High," for students who have completed grades 6-9, is from July 29-30 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Students will build and fly a variety of gliders, from paper and Styrofoam ones to large balsa and hardwood ones to high-performance, hand-launched gliders. A field trip to the Wright-Patterson Aero Club is included. Cost is \$35 per camper.

--"High Flying Adventure" is for students who have finished grades 2 and 3, is from Aug. 2-6 from 9 a.m. to noon. Campers will be exposed to a series of aviation-oriented books and a variety of hands-on activities. The cost is \$35 per camper.

Veterans Aloft K-12 Education Program, sponsored by two Miami County organizations, will be held at Historic WACO Field in Troy this summer. The program is sponsored by the WACO

Air Museum in Troy and the American Veterans Institute in Tipp City and will feature aviators and role models with connections to Miami County, WACO or Ohio. Student participants are being solicited from Miami and Montgomery counties.

Ohio University personnel and local educators are involved with the program by ensuring the curriculum materials meet state proficiency goals and inserting the course content into lessons.

Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM), social studies and language arts will be emphasized in the program. For more information, go to www.wacoairmuseum.org and www.americanveteransinstitute.org.

AVIATION PARK GOING GREEN, "PAPERLESS"

Gentlemen, and ladies, start your computers!

And speed to the web site for The Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park: www.nps.gov/daav. Click on NEWS.

There you now will find the park's newsletters, annual park newspaper, and news releases relevant to current issues and events—about the park and its partners.

If you'd rather have those items sent to your e-mail account, send your address to daav_info@nps.gov. Don't worry about spam e-mails.; your address will not be shared.

If you do not have a computer or internet access and would like to have a hard copy of the newsletter, the park can still mail you one upon request to 937.225.7705.

While you're at the computer, check out the Aviation Trail website www.aviationtrailinc.org for trail information, links to aviation sites, and past ATI newsletters, in color.

CIRRUS AIRCRAFT OWNERS PLAN A "MIGRATION" TO DAYTON

The 2010 COPA (Cirrus Owners and Pilots Association) Migration 8 is coming to Dayton for its annual gathering June 17-20--the first time the group has held its meeting outside Duluth, Minn.

What makes this visit of special interest to Aviation Trail is the company's use of a parachute--the Cirrus Airframe Parachute System--for the entire airframe. We hope Cirrus members linger in the ATI Parachute Museum as they tour the Wright-Dunbar Interpretive Center, and other sites on the Aviation Trail.

The landing spot for the aviators will be Dayton International Airport and their tours also will take them to many other aviation-related places in the Miami Valley.

ATI Trustee Bill McNabb and ATI member John Bosch are on the planning committee for the "migration" and McNabb estimates that between 450-600 CIRRUS owners are expected.

Cirrus Design Corporation began in 1984 as a kit airplane design and manufacturing company in Baraboo, Wis. Its first airplane was the VK-30 and 10 years later the company moved to Duluth.

Today's its SR20 series aircraft—and its most popular SR22-- incorporate advanced technologies in addition to the parachute system: composite construction; flat-panel, multi-function displays; and advanced aerodynamics.

Welcome, CIRRUS owners, to the Birthplace of Aviation.

NPS DIAL AND DISCOVER ADDS MORE SITES

The National Park Service's Dial and Discover audio phone tour of aviation sites in the Miami Valley is now at 32 sites. Give the system a try on your land line or cell phone.

Park ranger Judi Hart reports that by dialing 937-401-9985 day or night you can listen to the site narratives—some of them recorded by Amanda Wright Lane and Stephen Wright, great-grandniece and nephew of Wilbur and Orville Wright. Phone “visitors” to the sites may leave voice comments for the park staff to review.

While some of the signage for the sites is not yet erected because of the very inclement weather this winter, you'll see more signs as we move into spring.

A brochure with a map and descriptions of the Dial and Discover site stops is available at the Wright-Dunbar Interpretive Center, Huffman Prairie Flying Field Interpretive Center, and Carillon Park's John W. Berry Sr. Wright Brothers Aviation Center.

The Dial and Discover tour program is sponsored by Aviation Trail and the National Park Service.

Here are the prompt numbers for Dial and Discover and their corresponding sites:

1. Wright-Dunbar Interpretive Center
2. Aviation Trail Parachute Museum
3. The Wright Cycle Company 4th bicycle shop
4. Wright Family Home site
5. Lorin Wright's Home
6. The Wright Brothers' 1st bicycle shop
7. The Wright Brothers' 2nd bicycle shop
8. The Wright Brothers' 5th bicycle shop
9. The Wright Brothers' 1st print shop
10. Orville Wright's Laboratory
11. Paul Laurence Dunbar House
12. The Wright Airplane Company factory
13. Woodland Cemetery and Arboretum
14. Paul Laurence Dunbar's 1st Purchased Home
15. Carillon Historical Park
16. 1st Emergency Parachute Landing
17. Wright Memorial library
18. Asahel Wright's Home
19. Home of the Wright “B” Flyer
20. Wright Brothers' Seaplane Base
21. Engineers Club
22. Orville's Funeral
23. Dayton Woman's Club
24. Paul Laurence Dunbar graduation ceremony
25. The Wright Brothers' Bicycle Showroom
26. Paul Laurence Dunbar's 1st Job
27. Paul Laurence Dunbar's Birthplace
28. Wright Brothers Memorial
29. Huffman Prairie Flying Field
30. McCook Field
31. Historic WACO Field and Airplane Museum
32. Samuel Spitzer House – world renown balloonist



Howard DuFour

AVIATION'S FRIEND HOWARD DUFOUR DIES AT AGE 94

Howard R. DuFour, an enthusiastic friend of aviation and an expert on Wilbur and Orville Wright's mechanic Charlie Taylor, died Dec. 13, 2009. His graveside memorial service was held four days later, Dec. 17, the anniversary of the Wrights' first flight.

ATI honored DuFour with its Trailblazer Award in April 2006 for his many contributions to engineering and aviation, especially in the Miami Valley community. His birthplace was Connersville, Ind.

Those contributions included authoring, with Peter Unit, the definitive biography of Taylor, *Charles E. Taylor, The Wright Brothers' Mechanician*, which established him as the authority on Taylor whom he lectured on around the country.

A retired master machinist from Monsanto, DuFour was a designer and equipper of the first instrument shop, named in his honor, at Wright State University's engineering school, which awarded him an Honorary Engineering Certificate.

A natural organizer, DuFour led the volunteers who built a full-sized replica of the Wright's 1903 Flyer that hangs in the atrium of the Paul Laurence Dunbar Library at Wright State, and three Wright gliders.

In his earlier year, DuFour was a contributor in the 1940s to defense projects locally at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Frigidaire Gun Plant, and Mound Laboratories and, in Chicago, to the Manhattan Project. For that project he developed a quartz fiber balance for measuring micro amounts of plutonium.

He is greatly missed.



AVIATION TRAIL, INC.
Post Office Box 633
Wright Brothers Branch
Dayton, OH 45409



Spring 2010

www.aviationtrailinc.org

MARK YOUR SPRING/SUMMER CALENDAR

- April 23, ATI Trailblazer Banquet and Ceremony, Presidential Banquet Center, 4572 Presidential Way, Kettering, Ohio. Social at 6 p.m.; dinner at 6:45.
- June 12, Last day to vote for a Wilbur and Orville statue to represent Ohio in National Statuary Hall in the U.S. Capitol.
- July 17, National Aviation Hall of Fame's Enshrinement Ceremonies, Dayton Convention Center.
- July 17-18, Vectren Dayton Air Show featuring Team Fastrax, skydivers from Middletown, on July 17, at the Dayton International Airport.
- July 21, Dr. Squire Brown speaks on McCook and Wright fields at the Engineers Club, Monument Ave., Dayton, Ohio.

AVIATION TRAIL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

____ Senior Citizen 60 and over \$15	____ Contributing \$50	____ Individual Life \$500
____ Individual \$20	____ Supporting \$100	(May be paid in five annual
____ Family \$30	____ 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