



# THE WRIGHT FLYER

Aviation Trail, Inc.

Fall 2015

## DEC. 17 EVENT TO LAND AT CARILLON PARK

ATI's celebratory evening Dec. 17 to mark the Wright brothers first flight will land this year at Carillon Historical Park in Dayton with a turn-of-the 20th century theme.

To mark the 112<sup>th</sup> flight anniversary, Aviation Trail has planned a casual event with holiday fare, historical interpreters, and speaker Greg Herrick, owner of a private collection of more than 35 historic, restored aircraft.

The evening will begin in Dayton History's Carillon Park's Kettering Family Education Center for hot mulled wine and cider.

There you'll chat with costumed interpreters of Katharine Wright (Betty Darst) and Carrie Grumbach (NPS Ranger Karen Rosga), the Wrights' housekeeper, while enjoying heavy hors d'oeuvres—"approved" by Carrie.

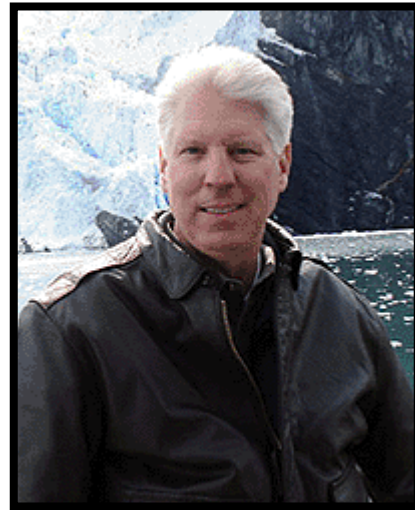
We'll chat, eat, toast the Wright brothers, and enjoy speaker Greg Herrick's presentation, *Saving Airplanes and Telling Their Stories*.

The evening concludes with Wright family holiday desserts, coffee and seasonal background music. Plus, a special, limited-edition souvenir will be given to the guests.

Cost for the evening is \$65 a person and your reservation should arrive no later than Tues., Dec. 15. Now you can make your reservation and pay via PayPal on the Aviation Trail web page, [www.aviationtrailinc.org](http://www.aviationtrailinc.org), or mail your check to ATI, P.O. Box 633, Wright Brothers Branch, Dayton, Ohio 45409.

ATI President Marvin Christian anticipates that the membership will support the evening's innovative program. "Dayton History has been most generous in cooperating with Aviation Trail's plans for the evening," he said, "so I'm optimistic that ATI members will support this new, enjoyable venture. We're also most grateful to our interpreters who will give the evening a special, early twentieth century flavor."

Guest speaker Herrick's private, historic aircraft collection includes one-of-a-kind aircraft from America's



**Greg Herrick**

golden age of aviation (1920s-1930s). The collection is housed in a modern hangar at the Anoka County Airport in Blaine, Minn.

Rarities in his collection include NASA's first aircraft, a stainless steel amphibian, the first airplane in which a pope ever flew, and a 1927 Ford Trimotor.

A young licensed pilot, Herrick earned his private pilot's license as a high school graduation present from his parents after growing up in Ottumwa, Iowa, home of the Antique Airplane Association.

For some time Herrick has been involved with the acquisition, restoration and preservation of airplanes after purchasing his first vintage aircraft, a 1943 Fairchild PT-23. Currently his interest is in rescuing a 1931 Sikorsky S-39 from the bottom of a lakebed in Alaska.

Herrick is president of the Aviation Federation of America whose efforts include re-creating historic flights like the National Air Tour in 2003. He also is involved with airport preservation projects and educational programs.

To learn more about Herrick's collection, go to [www.goldenwingsflying](http://www.goldenwingsflying)



## **SHARKEY INDUCTED POSTHMOUSLY IN DAYTON WALK OF FAME**

Gerald (Jerry) Sharkey, an educator and early advocate for preservation of Dayton's aviation heritage, especially places linked to the Wright brothers, was inducted posthumously in Dayton's Walk of Fame Sept. 24.

The celebratory event took place during a luncheon at Sinclair Community College.

Sharkey's son Jeff, in accepting the award for his father, commented on his father's "perseverance" in saving historic structures. Those efforts, in turn, led to the local Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park and what is now the Wright-Dunbar Village.

Sharkey worked diligently with early supporters of historical preservation for an aviation trail in Dayton and served as president for several years of Aviation Trail, Inc.

He, along with other Dayton enthusiasts, can be thanked for their foresight in saving what were crumbling, soon-to-be-demolished structures: the Wright Cycle Co. and Hoover Block building on South Williams Street.

Four other notables were inducted with Sharkey in the Walk of Fame: Keith D. Harrison, Zoe Dell Nutter, Robert (Bob) Keyser Schul, and Eugene Edward "Snooky" Young Jr.

Wright-Dunbar, Inc. manages the Dayton Region's Walk of Fame which today has 155 stones on the sidewalks of West Third Street and South Williams Street that highlight outstanding individuals and groups from the area.

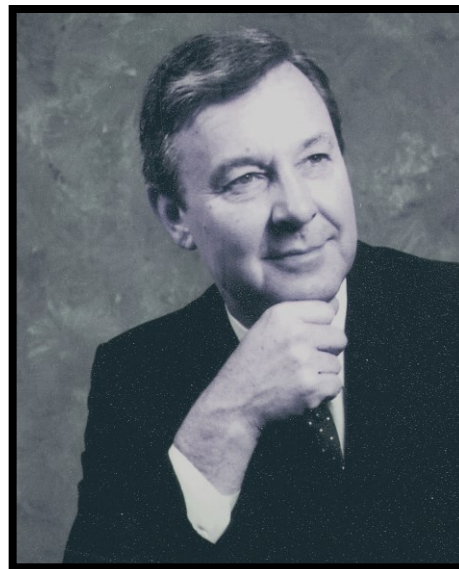
### **PAY FOR ATI EVENTS AND MEMBERSHIP WITH PAY PAL**

Thanks to Tod Brining, ATI trustee and our web site manager, now you can use PAY PAL to pay for ATI events or membership.

Just go to the ATI web page, [www.aviationtrailinc.org](http://www.aviationtrailinc.org) and at the top of the page click on Membership-Donations-Reservations. Membership and donation options are always "active"; once an event is announced, a Pay Pal option will be available for your use.

While you're at the site, browse through the News and Aviation Blog options—also just a click away at the top of the Web site home page. There are a lot of interesting items about aviation events and history—all free for perusal.

ATI has activated the Pay Pal option in the last year, so do let us know if you like it or not. Call us, 937. 443. 0793, or e mail to [avtrailinc@gmail.com](mailto:avtrailinc@gmail.com).



**FLOYD KOLLER**

### **FLOYD KOLLER, ATI TRUSTEE EMERITUS**

Floyd Koller, a long-time ATI Trustee and, more recently, a Trustee Emeritus, who donated years-long support of the ATI parachute collection and the Aviation Trail Parachute Museum, died Aug. 12 in Kettering.

Both a pilot and boat enthusiast, Koller lent assistance to the collection when it was housed in various locations around Dayton, built shelving for it, sorted its many objects and--more lately--helped maintain displays in the Parachute Museum.

In 1989, ATI named Koller a Trailblazer for his work with aircraft fuel drain valve design at his company Auto-Valve, Inc. He had joined Auto-Valve upon coming to Dayton in 1966, served as its president from 1975-1991, and holds five U.S. aerospace patents related to aircraft valve design.

A native of Glen Rock, Pa., Koller graduated from Glen Rock High School in 1948. Before joining Auto-Valve he worked at NCR as a traveling trouble shooter for cash registers in large hotels.

Koller was a member of the Navy reserves and the Coast Guard Auxiliary and taught classes for the Coast Guard, receiving a service citation for his teaching.

An accomplished pilot, Koller owned several planes, including a Cessna 150, 172, 182 and 210 and also loved boating and owned several boats including a Harbor Master and Hatteras.

He was a member of the AOPA (Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association), the Quiet Birdman, the Society of Automotive Engineers, and the Masons.

Koller is survived by his wife of 48 years Joyce Mary (Barcus) Koller. His services were at Tobias Funeral Home on Far Hills Ave.



## FIRST WRITERS' SUMMIT HOSTED 12 AVIATION SCRIBES

Twelve writers from aviation-focused publications came, saw, and applauded the Dayton area's treasure of aviation-related people, places and things this fall.

From Sept. 30 to Oct. 2 the dozen scribes participated in the inaugural gathering-- officially called the NAHA Aviation Writers Summit Presented by Dayton International Airport—and were duly impressed with the area's aviation offerings.

Since early 2015 Susan Richardson, chair of the NAHA Communications Council, led the many planning meetings required for the event. She said that eight of the 12 writers had never been to Dayton and they were truly overwhelmed by the aviation assets they toured.

Richardson also thanks the NAHA partners for their generous support of the Summit and looks forward to working with the partners again in 2016 for the second Aviation Writers' Summit.

The writers began their visit began at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force where more than 60 state and local elected officials, community leaders and representative of aviation heritage organizations greeted them.

Keynote speaker there was Tom Crouch, Ph.D., senior curator of aviation for the Smithsonian Institution's National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C., and a NAHA trustee.

The next two days the writers toured 12 sites—from Urbana and the Champaign Aviation Museum and Grimes Flying Lab to the restored Wright Cycle Co. and Carillon Park in Dayton for a look at the Wrights' 1905 Flyer, to Miamisburg for a Wright "B" Flyer ride. A reception at Hawthorn Hill, the Wrights' home in Oakwood, concluded their visit.

Writers who attended represented the Smithsonian's "Air & Space," "AOPA Pilot," "Aviation International News," Experimental Aircraft Association publications, "General Aviation News," "Kitplanes," "Aviation for Women," the blog Jetwhine.com and several nationally published freelance writers and photographers.



This X-15 experimental jet was one of several, unique aircraft viewed by attendees at the Writers' Summit when they toured the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force. Here, on the left, is Zach Rosenberg, assistant editor of Air & Space Smithsonian magazine, and, on the right, Hal Bryan, senior editor of EAA (Experimental Aircraft Association) publications. To the left of Bryan—but barely seen—is Scott Spangler, editor of the blog Jetwhine.com. (Photo courtesy of Timothy R. Gaffney)

## ATI TRUSTEES AT SINCLAIR'S NATIONAL UAS CENTER

ATI trustees Andrew Shepherd, PhD. and Angie Popovich check out the wing of a "drone" exhibit at the Open House and ribbon cutting for the National UAS (Unmanned Aerial System) Training and Certification Center at Sinclair Community College Aug. 24. The board of trustees was invited to the Center's ribbon cutting which was an open house and display of the UAS Simulation Lab; the Sensors, Avionics & Maintenance Lab; the UAS Manufacturing Lab; the Manned Aviation Programs; and the Wind Tunnel Lab. Nearby and nearing completion—but not open—was the UAS Indoor Flying Pavilion which will be the second of its kind at the college. The UAS shown is a Lewk, which was a Department of Defense



This Lewk, an unmanned aerial vehicle which was a Department of Defense research system, is observed by Andrew Shepherd, Ph.D. and Angie Popovich—both ATI trustees. The Lewk was just one of many exhibits at the ribbon cutting for Sinclair Community College's UAS Training and Certification Center where Shepherd goes to work every day.

## WRIGHT "B" FLIES AT OSHKOSH

The Wright "B" Flyer, Dayton's flying reminder of its aviation heritage, took to the sky at the EAA AirVenture air show in Oshkosh, Wisc., July 23. It was the plane's maiden appearance at the show where it flew again July 26. Wright "B" Flyer Chief Pilot Rich Stepler was at the controls with Danny Clisham, air show announcer in the co-pilot's seat. Clisham narrated the history of the "B" as he rode, reminding attendees that the Wright brothers' success led to their building the first airplane production factory in the United States in 1910 in Dayton. The Wright "B" was on display all week in the Vintage Area of the show.

## HOF FIRST ARMSTRONG AWARD TO LOVELL

At its 53<sup>rd</sup> Enshrinement Ceremony Oct. 2 in Dayton, the National Aviation Hall of Fame awarded its first Neil Armstrong Outstanding Achievement Award to James A. Lovell, USN (Ret.).

Lovell was selected for the inaugural award “for his courage, leadership and skill in bringing Apollo 13 safely home,” according to William R. Harris, NAHF board chairman. “His actions, though 45 years ago and not on the surface of the moon, continue to inspire us today as much as those of the award’s namesake,” Harris said.

A 1998 enshrinee in the Hall of Fame, Lovell accepted the award at the same evening event when four other aviation personalities were taken into the 2015 Hall of Fame.

A native of Cleveland, Ohio, Lovell began his flying career with the U.S. Navy where he was a test pilot. After joining NASA he made space flights on Gemini 7 and 12, was command pilot of Apollo 8 and backup commander on Apollo 11.

Lovell is the recipient of the Congressional Space Medal of Honor and the Presidential Medal of Freedom. In the movie “Apollo 13” he was portrayed by Tom Hanks and he retired from the space program in 1973.

### 2016 HOF ENSHRINEES ANNOUNCED NOV. 18

Four aviation notables, one deceased, will be inducted into the National Aviation Hall of Fame in 2016. That ceremony will be Oct. 1, 2016, at the 54<sup>th</sup> Annual Enshrinement Dinner and Ceremony in Dayton.

Those to be enshrined are:

--Capt. Robert L. Crippen, USN (Ret.), pilot for the first NASA Space Shuttle mission plus three others, and Shuttle mission director,

--The late Col. George “Bud” Day, USAF (Ret.), World War II Marine Corps combat veteran, Air Force fighter pilot in Korea and Southeast Asia, Vietnam War POW for 67 months and Medal of Honor winner,

--Christopher “Chris” Kraft, Jr., a NACA aeronautical engineer and then NASA’s first flight director for manned space flight programs from Mission Control Center,

--Tom Poberezny, former aircraft aerobatic champion, who later served as president, chairman and CEO of the Experimental Aircraft Association, and founder of the EAA Young Eagles program.

The enshrinee announcement was made at the National Business Aviation Convention and Exhibition at the Las Vegas Convention Center, Las Vegas, Nev.



The new, fourth building, far right, nearing completion at the NMUSAF

### TWENTY PLUS AIRCRAFT MOVED INTO MUSEUM’S FOURTH BUILDING

On Oct. 2 an X-15 A-2 aircraft became the first of many to move into the new fourth building of the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force.

Retired Maj. Gen. Joe Engle, one of two test pilots to fly the X-15, was there as crews maneuvered the research rocket into its new home. When asked his favorite airplane, he said, “This one right here.”

Engle flew the X-15 to an altitude of 280,600 feet and became the youngest pilot to qualify as an astronaut; three of his 16 F-15 flights exceeded the 50-mile altitude required for an astronaut rating.

The next aircraft to enter its new home after the X-15 was the XB-70 Valkyrie, followed by more than 20 others. The new, fourth building is scheduled for opening to the public in June 2016.

### DAHNP WINTER HOURS SET FOR 2015-16

Winter hours are underway at Dayton’s National Park Visitor Centers: beginning Nov. 2 they are closed on Mondays and Tuesdays but open the rest of the week from 9 a.m. to 5p.m.

The winter hours are applicable for the Wright-Dunbar Interpretive Center and the Huffman Prairie Flying Field Interpretive Center.

Seven-day operations will resume on Wednesday, March 2, 2016. For more information, call 937.225.7705.

As a reminder, the Paul Laurence Dunbar House Historic Site continues to be open on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. with the last tour beginning at 3:30 p.m.



## **PRESIDENTS CLUB OF DAYTON RECOGNIZES CLARK BECK**

ATI Trustee Clark Beck, Sr., Sc.D., was honored this fall by the prestigious Presidents Club of Dayton for his life-long activities of “caring and sharing” in the Dayton community.

In large part Beck’s award stemmed from his establishment in 1987 at Wright State University of STEPP—a Service, Technology and Engineering Preparatory Program.

STEPP is a pre-college academic intervention program designed to increase the number of minority Dayton Public Schools graduates who are academically prepared and motivated to successfully complete a math- or science-based four-year college curriculum. The program also offers college scholarships.

Beck, who has an honorary doctorate, has served on many Boards and has distinguished himself numerous times as one of the first African-Americans in leadership positions. In 1990, for example, he became the first black President of the Engineers Club of Dayton.

A native of Indiana whose education there was in one-room schools in Radley and Weaver, Beck received his engineering training at the University of Cincinnati as its first African-American co-op student. He went on to work at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base for 32 years.

Beck has taught part time at local universities and in 1987 became the assistant dean of the College of Engineering and Computer Science at Wright State University. During those years he also served on over 40 organizations and committees, focusing on education and human services issues.

With the award Beck joins a roster of previous recipients noted for their professional achievements, philanthropic work and community commitments.

## **HONORARY DOCTORATE TO MCCULLOUGH BY AIR UNIVERSITY**

Acclaimed author of *The Wright Brothers* David McCullough was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters degree Nov. 16 by Air University at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala. The ceremony took place in the Air Force Squadron Officers School’s Polifka Auditorium.

McCullough, who spoke in Dayton last spring about Orville and Wilbur Wright, their Dayton community, and their accomplishments in powered flight, now adds the honorary doctorate to his many other awards including two Pulitzer prizes for his biographies of presidents Harry S. Truman and John Adams.

*The Wright Brothers* remained at the top of the New York Times bestseller list for several weeks.

Air University at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., is the U.S. Air Force’s center for professional military education of officers, enlisted personnel and civilians.

## **GLIDER THEATRE INSTALLED AT WACO AIR MUSEUM**

WACO Air Museum has “launched” its new glider theatre at its museum in Troy, Ohio.

The one-of-a-kind theatre is a scale replica of the original WACO CG-4A glider that was designed at the WACO Factory and chosen by the military for use in World War II.

The glider theatre experience is included in the admission price and visitors can sit inside the glider—as troops did during the war—and watch the performance of the glider in the European and Asian theaters of conflict.

Visitors also can watch a video of the gliders’ manufacturing process. The WACO factory in Troy produced over 1,000 CG-4A gliders while additional gliders were manufactured at locations all over the country. (See WACO box)

WACO Air Museum is located at 1865 S Co. Rd. 25A in Troy. Hours are Mon.-Fri. from 9 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday the hours are noon to 5 p.m.



This is the new WACO glider theatre at the WACO museum in Troy, Ohio. Visitors sit inside this scale replica of a CG-4A glider and view video of the vehicle’s operational use during World War II.

## **WACO HISTORY**

The Weaver Aircraft Company (WACO for short), founded in Ohio in 1920, was a collaboration among George E. “Buck” Weaver, Clayton Brukner and James Elwood. As a World War II requirement, engineers at Wright Field issued a request for a glider capable of carrying a fully loaded, one-quarter-ton truck with three crewmen or a maximum of 15 troops. The Aircraft Laboratory’s Glider Branch (at Wright Field) tested all submissions, and the WACO-designed model XCG-4 best satisfied the requirements for an air-transportable jeep with a nose section that could be hoisted upward, allowing a fully loaded truck to be driven into the fuselage. By the end of World War II, 13,909 gliders—designated CG-4A’s—were purchased. Newsreel footage of the D-Day invasion of France showed hundreds of WACO-designed CG-4A’s delivering thousands of Allied troops to the Normandy coastline.



Fall 2015

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

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## MARK YOUR HOLIDAY CALENDAR

**Thursday, Dec. 17, 2015**—Follow our imaginative flight to an early 20<sup>th</sup> century--themed evening at Carillon Historical Park to commemorate the Wright brothers' historic first flight. There we will celebrate casually with holiday fare, historical interpreters, and historic aircraft collector Greg Herrick as speaker. The evening is being facilitated by Dayton History's Carillon Historical Park generous cooperation. See the complete story on page 1.

### 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