



THE WRIGHT FLYER



Aviation Trail, Inc.

Fall 2012

ANNIVERSARY OF WRIGHTS' FIRST FLIGHT TO HONOR "HONOR FLIGHT"

On Dec., 17, the 109th anniversary of Wilbur and Orville Wrights' first flight, Aviation Trail, Inc. will host a traditional dinner and ceremony honoring the Dayton brothers' achievement.

This year the National Aviation Hall of Fame will mark the occasion with two award announcements: its 2013 enshrinees in the Hall of Fame and its 2012 Milton Caniff Spirit of Flight Award to the Honor Flight Program.

The double-header event at the Presidential Banquet Center, 4548 Presidential Dr., Kettering, is open to the public and will begin with a social at 6 p.m. with dinner served at 7. The cost is \$50 per person.

"Aviation Trail is pleased to be the platform for the Hall of Fame's 2012 Spirit of Flight Award to recognize Honor Flight which is intimately tied to aviation, service to country and service to veterans," said Marvin Christian, ATI president. "It is a 'homegrown' program which deserves great recognition."

The non-profit Honor Flight program transports American veterans, men and women, to Washington, D.C.,--mostly by plane—from 119 "hubs" around the country to visit the memorials there dedicated to their service and sacrifices. There is no cost to the veterans. Top priority is given to America's most senior heroes—those who served in World War II. Southwest Airlines is its official carrier and has donated thousands of free tickets for the flights, totaling nearly \$3 million.

The concept of Honor Flight was the brainchild of Earl Morse of Enon, Ohio, a physician assistant, retired Air Force captain, and private pilot. The inaugural flight occurred in May 2005 with six small planes flying out of Springfield with 12 veterans. By the end of the 2011 flying season in November, Honor Flight Network had become a national program that had transported more than 81,000 veterans to their memorials.

Following a video of Honor Flight, Morse will speak at the program Dec. 17 with a review of the early days of the program. Then Doug Barbour will show a video introduction to Honor Flight and introduce 91-year-old Jim Martin, who will describe his personal Honor Flight. (See accompanying fact sheet for more Honor Flight details.)

The Spirit of Flight Award will be presented by Dr. Phil Roberts, chair, Hall of Fame Board of Directors; and Dr. Vince Russo, chair of the HF awards committee. Accepting will be Diane Gesse, Honor Flight executive director, and Morse. Several veterans who took Honor Flights are expected to attend.

The Hall of Fame enshrinees for 2013 will be announced by Ron Kaplan, enshrinement director. Traditionally the Hall of Fame selects three to five aviation/space related pioneers for the annual award. The ceremony date for the enshrinement—which has become known as the Oscars of Aviation--will be announced at a later date by the Hall of Fame.

To make a reservation for the Dec. 17th dinner, send your check to Aviation Trail, Inc., P.O. Box 633, Wright Brothers Branch, Dayton, Ohio. State your preference for prime rib, chicken or a vegetarian meal.



ABOUT HONOR FLIGHT

Honor Flight, a non-profit organization, transports America's veterans to Washington, D.C., to visit those memorials dedicated to honor their service and sacrifices. Top priority is given to America's most senior heroes—those who served in World War II. The program is open to all men and women who served state-side or overseas.

The inaugural Honor Flight took place in May of 2005. Six small planes flew out of Springfield, Ohio, taking 12 World War II veterans on a visit to their memorial. By August the waiting list of veterans had expanded and led to the use of commercial airline carriers. Honor Flight Network was formed from the partnering of Honor Flight and HonorAir in Hendersonville, N.C.

The concept of Honor Flight was the brainchild of Earl Morse, a physician assistant, retired Air Force captain, and private pilot who lived in Enon. Morse wanted to honor the veterans he had taken care of for 27 years.

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ABOUT HONOR FLIGHT

After retiring from the Air Force in 1998, Morse was hired by the Department of Veterans Affairs to work in a small clinic in Springfield, Ohio.

When Morse asked many of his patients about visiting the World War II memorial, most felt that eventually, somehow, they would make it to D. C. At follow-up visits however, Morse learned that the majority of veterans had given up all hope of ever visiting the memorial because of financial or physical difficulties. To right that situation, Morse arranged the flights to begin, at no expense to the veterans. By 2006 commercial flights were used exclusively. Similarly, in Hendersonville, N.C., Jeff Miller expanded the program into areas not serviced by commercial flights—thus launching HonorAir using chartered flights.

The official commercial carrier for Honor Flight Network is Southwest Airlines, which has donated thousands of free tickets to the program totaling nearly \$3 million. This allowed an amazing number of veterans to visit their memorials in Washington—those commemorating warriors in World War II, the Korean War. By the end of the 2011 flying season in November, Honor Flight Network had transported more than 81,000 veterans.

KITTINGER'S LEAP FROM SPACE STILL ASTOUNDS

ATI's Parachute Museum interactive exhibit on skydiver Capt. Joe Kittinger had a footnote added to it recently. As the world now knows, Kittinger's free-fall record of 102,800 feet in 1960 has been surpassed by Felix Baumgartner who, on Oct. 14, successfully jumped from an unofficial height of 128,100 feet.

Baumgartner, who received coaching and support from Kittinger, fell from approximately 24 miles in space—surpassing the speed of sound.

"While Baumgartner's jump is undeniably a huge achievement," according to ATI board member Randy Zuercher, curator for the ATI museum, "it does not dwarf Kittinger's record. His record has remained for 52 years—no one can deny what a gigantic accomplishment that was," he said. "It will remain an important



In early 2012 this full sized replica of the Wrights' 1902 glider was installed in the lobby of the Wright-Dunbar Interpretive Center/Aviation Trail Visitor Center. It was constructed several years earlier by a team of four: Jerry Beech, Howard Dufour, Jay Phipps and Jack Ohmart. The wingspan is 32 feet; length, 16 feet one inch; height, 8 feet; with ash rib material. The original Wrights' glider of this model was constructed in their store at 1127 W. Third St. in Dayton and flown at Kitty Hawk, N.C.

first because it established the basis of understanding whether man could actually safely survive such a deliberate jump for the future sake of pilots and astronauts."

Kittinger was an active duty Air Force captain when he jumped and had the full support of the Air Force which sought to determine how a man in space might survive a catastrophic accident by bailing out. Baumgartner's jump was sponsored by the energy drink Red Bull, but undoubtedly it also will shed light on high-altitude jumps for survival.

"In both jumps, parachutes played critical rolls in safely landing the men to the New Mexican desert—that's why, in particular, we developed the Kittinger presentation," Zuercher said.

If you haven't yet viewed the interactive Kittinger exhibit in the Parachute Museum, try to do so. It has become one of our most popular. You can choose what questions you want Kittinger to answer by simply touching the interactive video screen.

After the exhibit was completed Kittinger viewed the results and was pleased with the presentation. For more Kittinger information go to the National Museum of the United States Air Force where there is an exhibit on Kittinger.

NPS'S AVIATION PARK CELEBRATES 20 YEARS

Twenty years!

The week of Oct. 14, the local community joined the National Park Service in celebrating 20 years in Dayton for the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park.

Events were scheduled throughout the week to make it inclusive for all groups and ages and the Miami Valley responded.

On Oct. 16 Aviation Trail, Inc., the National Aviation Heritage Area, and Wright-Dunbar, Inc. hosted a ceremony on the park plaza to recognize the many individuals and groups that made the park possible.

With Judge Walter H. Rice as master of ceremonies, 15 speakers took the podium in the morning sunlight--after the Wright "B" Flyer flyover--to tell their piece of the story. ATI President Marvin Christian entitled his comments "Dreams" (See the accompanying text of his message.) and re-told how the founders of Aviation Trail, Inc. saved The Wright Cycle Co. building and the Hoover Block from the wrecking ball, thus stimulating development in the Wright-Dunbar Village.

At the Engineers Club Oct. 17 an audience hosted by the park heard commercial pilot Connie Tobias depict the life of aviatrix Harriet Quimby (1875-1912) and the following evening there was a Night at the Museum--geared to kids who were treated to a scavenger hunt--with a Halloween focus.

The week concluded on Oct. 18 with a Park Family Day with special programs on bicycles, line dancing based on Paul Laurence Dunbar's poetry, ranger tours, printing demos and a paper kite workshop. Also available for anyone to pilot was the 1911 Wright "B" flight simulator.

The next really big event on the park's calendar is the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service in 2016. Mark your calendars for another red-letter commemoration.

Listed below are the speakers at the ceremony on the plaza at the Wright-Dunbar Interpretive Center, Oct. 16:

Anthony J. Perfilio, chair, National Aviation Heritage Alliance

Rev. Cory J. Pruitt, pastor, Mt. Enon Baptist Church

Mayor Gary Leitzell, City of Dayton

Jim Loach, associate regional director, Park Operations & Education, Midwest Region, NPS

Colonel Cassie Barlow, commander, 88th Air Base Wing, W-PAFB

George Kane, director of Historic Sites & Facilities, Ohio Historical Society

Brady Kress, president and CEO, Dayton History

Amanda Wright Lane, great-grandniece of the Wright brothers

Dean Alexander, superintendent, Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park

Michael Gessel, vice president, Dayton Development Coalition

Jerry Sharkey, community advocate

Idotha "Bootsie" Neal, president, Wright-Dunbar, Inc.

Valerie Lemmie, district director for U.S. Representative Michael Turner, Ohio 3rd District

Mike DeWine, Ohio attorney general

Dave Hobson, former U.S. representative, Ohio 7th District..



ATI President Marvin Christian on the plaza of the Wright-Dunbar Interpretive Center addresses invitees to the celebration of the National Park Service's 20 years in Dayton. His remarks to representatives of the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park and its guests were entitled "Dreams" and are reprinted below. The anniversary was celebrated with a variety of aviation-related events the week of Oct. 14.

Photograph by Randy Zuercher

Dreams

Even though we are celebrating a 20th anniversary today I'd like to start by taking us back 31 years to the very beginning. After an Economic Conference, and the creation of the Aviation Trail, ATI's goals were to help preserve our aviation history, create promotional and educational events to create awareness of our place in aviation history, and to help stimulate economic development in the area.

There was no great master plan at the time, but we knew the Wright Cycle Shop and the Hoover Block were too important to lose to the wrecking ball. Funds were raised by those volunteers led by Jerry Sharkey's inspiration, the buildings were saved, and the dream began to have a National Park established here to help tell our story to the world.

No one could have imagined at the time we would someday have this magnificent facility and a full staff of National Park Service Rangers on hand to tell that story.

A combination of citizen volunteers, regional politicians and the Federal Government all working together would bring those goals forward.

A decade later ATI was sharing the 2nd floor of the Wright Cycle Shop with the National Park Service. On any given Saturday, an ATI trustee or volunteer would be minding the store while Ranger Bob Petersen was leading a walking tour through the weeds and broken glass with crumbling buildings as a background. These streets were the same ones the Wright brothers and Paul Laurence Dunbar had traversed over 80 years earlier.

Now, 20 years later, the weeds and trash are long gone, and as anyone who has walked through those doors to the Aviation Trail Visitor Center knows, you will be greeted by a warm smile and a big welcome from a Park Ranger, proudly representing our history, our town and our country.

I do not have a Dunbar poem, but I would like to paraphrase another famous individual...Rick, Humphrey Bogart, at the end of "Casablanca"...

"Rangers, That day in 1992, was the beginning of a beautiful friendship!"

Thank you for what you do.

Marvin Christian, president of Aviation Trail, Inc.

**THREE ITEMS DONATED TO
PARACHUTE MUSEUM**

The Aviation Trail Parachute Museum recently added three objects to its collection, thanks to Andrew Kididis of Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. The developmental items came from Ralph Speelman, a retiree who was involved with research into gliding chutes in the Parachute Branch of the Flight Dynamics Laboratory at the base in the 1970s.

One item, the Rogallo Wing or para-wing, was made by Irvin “Para-Space Center” and dated June 1966. It is kite-sized at 36 inches by 64 inches. Patented in the late 1940s, the Rogallo Wing has been in use all around the world. It became popular as a hang glider for some time and was even considered and tested as a landing method on land for the NASA Gemini program and other spacecraft, but was dropped in favor of more dependable parachutes. Like so many developments in aviation the Rogallo Wing has a place in time, with some application and use even today.

Additionally, two Jalbert parafoil models or kites—with ram air configurations-- were donated. Domina Jalbert invented the parafoil and initially sold it as a kite design until it caught on as a parachute for skydivers. The basic design of a ram air parachute is widely used in a refined form today. Wright-Patterson also tested the parafoil, particularly for cargo parachutes. Those have evolved into what the Army is now using in a program called the Joint Precision Air Drop System or JPADS.



This triangular shaped model of a parachute—called a Rogallo Wing —has been donated to the Aviation Trail Parachute Museum.

**AERO CLUB AWARDS
TROPHY TO HALL OF FAME**

On Nov. 14 in Washington, D.C., the Aero Club of Washington presented its Donald D. Engen Aero Club Trophy for Aviation Excellence to the National Aviation Hall of Fame with Dr. Phil Roberts, NAHF Board chairman accepting.

ATI Vice President Betty Darst and 10 other Hall of Fame Board of Trustee members represented the organization at the award ceremony at the Capital Hilton Hotel during the Aero Club’s annual meeting. The trophy resides in the National Air & Space Museum where the National Aviation Hall of Fame will be listed as the 2012 recipient.

The award recognizes an individual or organization that has demonstrated a contribution of enduring value to the nation in the aviation field. Founded in 1909, the Aero Club of Washington is a professional organization of individuals interested in the promotion of an array of aviation and aerospace issues.

The full complement of Hall of Fame representatives attending from Dayton was: Kerisa Citro, Cee John, Ron Kaplan, Zoe Dell Nutter, Dr. Vince Russo, and Don Vanderkarr. Other trustees attending were Michael Quiello, Atlanta; George Saling, Florida, and Jim Cooling, Kansas City, Mo.



Ram air parachute kite model designed by Jalbert

GOOD WEATHER, FOOD, AND PROGRAM TOPPED OFF ATI PICNIC

This year's August picnic had three things going for it.

Good weather. Good food. Good program.

As for the last several years, ATI returned to Wright Memorial on Aug. 19 to celebrate National Aviation Day and the mutual birthdays of Orville and Katharine Wright.

No rain was in sight this year.

The picnic baskets were again plentiful and lunch was topped off with Young's Dairy ice cream.

Terri and Bill Stockman filled the auditorium in the National Park Service's Interpretive Center with an engaging program on the Women Airforce Service Pilots of World War II. It included a 23-minute film featuring two avia-trixes who filmed their interviews in the Stockman's home.

The WACO Learning Center in Troy and ATI's own parachute collection provided divertissement for the kids who—if they chose—could also have participated in the Aero Carnival on Huffman Prairie Flying Field on Saturday.



Picnickers line up for lunch baskets.



Moraine Airpark picnickers enjoy the shade at Wright Brothers Hill.



Picnickers use the Wright Memorial wall as a lunch table.



ATI member Jim Beisner instructs Isabella, left, and Ava Whilding; and Stefan Creager in the art of paper rockets.



ATI member Randy Zuercher shows his daughter Christine a prototype rem-air parachute from ATI's parachute collection.

SHUTTLE CONTRACT AWARDED TO LOCAL DESIGN FIRM

Display Dynamics Inc. of Clayton, Ohio, has been awarded the contract to build the additional sections of the Space Shuttle crew compartment trainer (CCT) now at Wright-Patterson AFB.

The trainer section, which arrived Wednesday, August 22, as cargo on NASA's Super Guppy, was put on display at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force while a mock-up of its payload bay and tail section are under construction via the \$1.5 million contract.

Plans call for the completed Shuttle to be ready for display in about a year. By 2014 the museum hopes to have completed a fourth building to the museum complex and the Shuttle would then move into it.

The CCT is a high-fidelity representation of the Space Shuttle Orbiter crew station that was used primarily for on-orbit crew training and engineering evaluations. In it astronauts learned how to operate many of the orbiter sub-systems in more than 20 different classes.

All Air Force astronauts in NASA's Shuttle Program trained in the CCT between 1981 and 2011. It was built by Rockwell International Corp. in 1979.

The cost of the fourth museum building which will house the Shuttle simulator is \$48 million and it is the responsibility of the Air Force Museum Foundation to raise those funds. To date, more than \$38 million has been donated.



Engineer, test pilot, astronaut Neil Armstrong, Aug. 5, 1930--Aug. 25, 2012, the first man to walk on the moon. The Miami Valley, his native Wapakoneta, Ohio, and the world mourned his passing. This photo was taken in 1979 upon his enshrinement in the National Aviation Hall of Fame.

Photo by the NAHF's Mike Ullery

CONTRATULATIONS TO DAYTON'S VA CENTER

Aviation Trail, Inc. congratulates the Dayton Veterans Administration for being named a National Historic Landmark. The Department of the Interior announced the designation, with 26 other sites, on Wednesday, Oct. 17.

While the designation increases the VA's status, it also gives it weight when requesting grants and boosts its chances to become the center for VA archives. It is one of only three centers so designated by President Abraham Lincoln in 1865 and it opened in 1867. The other two sites were in Milwaukee, Wis., and Togus, Maine.

The Dayton VA Center has 51 buildings on 266 acres which include the Dayton National Cemetery and a renovated chapel built by Civil War veterans. Besides giving care and training to those veterans, the VA has continued servicing former military personnel from the United States' other wars including Iraq and Afghanistan.

A REMINDER: DAYTON AIR SHOW DATE MOVING

Because of the extreme heat during the Vectren Dayton Air Show this year, officials are moving the date for the 2013 show to June. Mark your calendars for June 22-23 at the same location: Dayton International Airport.

Air Show officials reported that attendance was down and the show lost money. The earlier date also should be an incentive for aerial acts as they will not be performing so close to the EAA show at Oshkosh, Wisc.

Watch the media for details of the aircraft to be displayed and the aerial acts to be performed. Either the Air Force Thunderbirds or the Navy's Blue Angels will headline the show.

KIDS CORNER

"BEST IDEA" PARK GRANT ALLOWS KIDS TO DIG IN THE DIRT

Like to dig in the dirt to find "treasures"?

If you're in the fourth to sixth grade in a Title 1 school, you could become an amateur archeologist and do just that. You'd go on a field trip hosted by the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park and learn a little about archeology where Wilbur and Orville Wright flew their airplanes and native American Indians once roamed.

The National Park Foundation has chosen the Dayton park—one of 49 nationwide—to receive money from its "Best Idea" grant program for field trips exactly like that. Along the way the students also will learn about the Aviation Park, said Ranger Judi Hart, education specialist.

A goal of the project is to instill in students the need for historic and prehistoric preservation and an appreciation of the fragility of the archeological record and make them aware of their own roles as potential stewards of the past.

Some of the activities for the kids include making a pinch pot, or uncovering a mock excavation pit, but the program does incorporate math, science, social studies, art and language arts standards, while generating a kind of excitement.

Teachers interested in the program should call Hart at 937.225.7705 for reservations for the spring program. The park will pay for bus transportation.



Ranger Julia Frasure gets young archeologists started on their archeological dig.

LEGACY CENTER IN WEST DAYTON; TROUTMAN STATUE COMPLETED

Renovation of the Hoerstring-Holtman Building on West Third St. in Dayton is on schedule for completion in December followed by a public opening of the Legacy Center in it in January or February.

According to Carol Sampson, director of Community Development for Wright-Dunbar Inc., exhibits and artifacts will be moved into place as soon as work on the building is completed. Those exhibits will include a wide range of topics and personages from Dayton's West Side neighborhood, including "funk" music. That musical genre—a fusion of jazz, rhythm, blues and rock—was a musical trend in the 1970s and early 1980s. It gave rise to several acclaimed bands and musicians from the state. One funk musician whose name is still recognized in Dayton is Roger Troutman who had a recording studio in North Dayton.

That studio was razed and on Nov. 20 a statue to Troutman was slated to be dedicated on the studio site. Dayton metalworking artist Michael Bashaw executed the sculpture entitled "I Can Make You Dance"—which includes 27 triangles.

Other personalities who will be recognized in the Legacy Center include Jeraldne Blunden, founder of the Dayton Contemporary Dance Company and Raymond McGuire, Global Investment Banker.



Students participating in the "Digging into History" program unearth interesting discoveries.

STORY CORRECTED

Dear ATI Members,

A story on page 4 of the Summer 2012 newsletter—Speakers to focus on aviation themes—was partially in error. Sarah Byrn Rickman and Amanda Wright Lane did not speak at the WACO Air Museum in Troy Sept. 21 and Oct. 12 respectively. Connie Tobias spoke, as announced, at the Engineers Club in Dayton on Oct. 17, hosted by the National Park Service. We regret the error.



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Fall 2012

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Monday, Dec. 17, Anniversary of Flight dinner and awards presentation, Presidential Banquet Center, Kettering, Ohio, 6 p.m. for social and 7 p.m. for dinner. Announcement of the 2013 National Aviation Hall of Fame inductees and the 2012 Spirit of Flight Award to the Honor Flight Program. See page 1 story for details.

The public, especially veterans, is welcome. Additionally, ATI will recognize its long-term member Bill McNabb who is moving from the Board of Trustees to Trustee Emeritus status.

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