



THE WRIGHT FLYER



Aviation Trail, Inc.

Summer 2008

PICNIC TIME AGAIN FOR ATI AUGUST EVENT



The re-done plaza and entrance to the ATI building at 16 S. Williams St. sports an airfoil-shaped overhang to accentuate the entryway. The brick frieze of Wilbur and Orville Wright and Paul Laurence Dunbar remains in its original location. The large vertical mural of the three men, to the left, also focuses visitors' attention to the entrance and attractions inside. On the Hoover Block south wall, not shown, is a large graphic of the poster that welcomed home the Wrights after their successes flying in Europe in 1909.

It's picnic time once more on the Aviation Trail on Sunday, Aug. 17.

This year the annual ATI August event again is going *al fresco*--in the Wright-Dunbar plaza in front of the Aviation Trail building, 16 S. Williams St. We're showcasing two recently completed projects: the Kittinger exhibit in ATI's Parachute Museum inside and the re-done plaza and entrance to our building and the National Park Service's Wright-Dunbar Interpretive Center.

We'll take time at 12 noon to join with our partner, the NPS's Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park, in cutting a just-for-fun, ceremonial ribbon on the plaza. There might even be some balloons poised to ascend as the ribbon falls.

As always, we'll remember the mutual birthdays of Orville and Katharine Wright on Aug. 19, also National Aviation Day.

Since last year's outdoor venue at Wright Brothers Hill on Wright-Patterson Air Force Base was a hit with youngsters and oldsters, we hope to repeat that success. The menu again will be picnic food in picnic baskets. And look for a historical memento and parachute toy tucked into every basket.

Lunch baskets will be available between 12 noon and 1:30 p.m. Gather on the plaza or the shaded backyard of The Wright Cycle Company next door. In case of rain, the picnic will move inside the ATI building to the conference room on the second floor.

The price is \$15 per adult and \$40 for a family of up to five persons. Make your reservations no later than Wednesday, Aug. 13, to ATI, P.O. Box 633, Wright Brothers Branch, Dayton, Ohio 45409. Parking will be available in the parking lots for the DAHNHP or on the street (no parking meters).

Activities will be available for the kids and grandkids, courtesy of the DAHNHP and walking tours of the historic neighborhood will be offered at 10:30 and 1:30. Available anytime is a self-guided Walk of Fame, commemorative markers in the sidewalks around the Wright-Dunbar neighborhood that honor individuals from the area who have made outstanding contributions in a variety of endeavors.

A repeat treat for the kids will be the opportunity to launch air-propelled WACO rockets nearby the Wrights' bike shop--courtesy of volunteers from the Aviation Learning Center at Historic WACO Field., Troy, Ohio.

But the main attractions will be the plaza, developed under DAHNHP's guidance and the new exhibit on Col. Joseph Kittinger Jr., (U.S. Air Force Ret.), balloonist and test pilot. Kittinger, who previewed the exhibit in mid July, was pleased with its presentation and content; we think you will be, too.

The colonel had previously recorded a lengthy interview for ATI focused primarily on his famous "leap into space" from a gondola on Aug. 16, 1960. That interview was edited into an interactive, question-and-answer display in which the colonel is heard replying to recorded questions.



Paul Brown (left) and Col. Joe Kittinger (right) view the new exhibit at the Dave Gold Parachute Museum highlighting Col. Kittinger's 1960 "leap into space" from 12,000 feet.

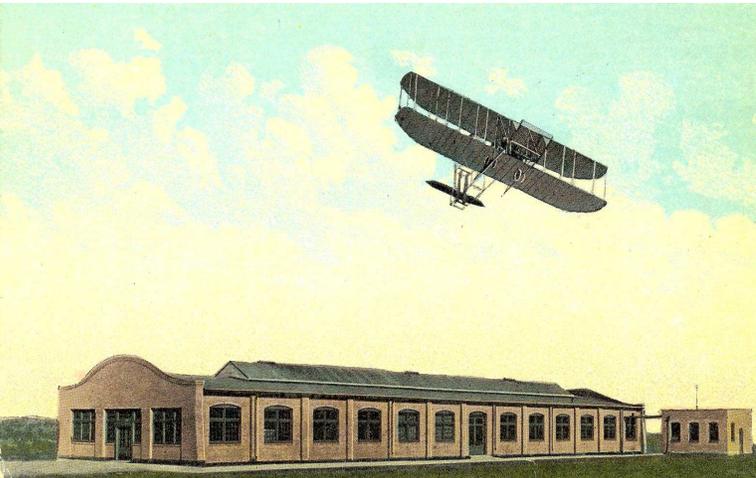
WRIGHT FACTORY/HAWTHORNE HILL POSSIBLE ADDITIONS TO DAHNHP

The Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park, headquartered in Dayton, is closer to acquiring new real estate--and a new name.

A bill in the U.S. House of Representatives--introduced by U.S. Rep. Mike Turner, R-Centerville--and passed by the House July 8 would significantly enhance to the park's footprint.

Once introduced in and passed by the Senate and signed by the President, the bill would become law.

As amended, the bill, H.R. 4199, would add the Wrights' home, Hawthorne Hill in Oakwood, and The Wright Company structures in Dayton, now owned by Delphi Corp., to the DAHNHP; Delphi currently is in bankruptcy. It also would change the park's name to the Wright Brothers-Dunbar National Historical Park and give the park the authority to grant money to its partners: Aviation Trail, Inc., the National Aviation Heritage Alliance, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and the Ohio Historical Society.



The Wright Company factory

ATI President Marvin Christian said his organization fully supports the bill and would work with the National Park Service in whatever way needed to make the properties meaningful elements of the park. Both the factory and Hawthorne Hill are on the Aviation Trail.

Hawthorne Hill is currently owned by The Wright Family Foundation and Amanda Wright Lane, great-grandniece to the Wright brothers, and Representative Turner both



Hawthorn Hill

spoke on June 5 to a House panel in support of the original bill.

Orville Wright, his father, and Katharine all lived in the house for periods of time. When Orville Wright died in 1948 it was purchased by NCR Corp. and used as a guest house. Since Sept. 1, 2007, The Wright Family Foundation in conjunction with Carillon Historical Park has allowed limited, by reservation, touring of the home.

The Wright airplane factory structures include what were two assembly buildings (Buildings 1 and 2 off West Third Street) for Wright airplanes--making them the first buildings designed and used for airplane manufacturing.

Representative Turner's bill was supported by Dayton Mayor Rhine McLin, the three members of the Montgomery County Commission, the Dayton Development Coalition, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

The current sites in the DAHNHP are The Wright Cycle Company; the house lived in by poet Paul Laurence Dunbar for his final years in Dayton; the 1905 Wright Flyer III at Carillon Historical Park; and Huffman Prairie Flying Field on Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. The three aviation sites are on the Aviation Trail.



1929 FORD TRI-MOTOR WOWS SPECTATORS/ PASSENGERS DURING MIAMI VALLEY VISIT

Aviation enthusiasts Col. Edward R. Deeds and Charles Kettering must have been around in spirit when EAA's (Experimental Aircraft Association) 1929 Ford Tri-Motor--affectionately called the "Tim Goose"-- came to town for a four-day visit in June.

The restored antique aircraft would have reminded Deeds of his own "Goose" named "SkyBird" which he flew from his private airstrip at his Moraine Farm south of Dayton--the first CEO to use an airplane for business. Kettering built the hangar at Dayton-Wright Brothers Airport where the aircraft lodged for its visit.



EAA's 1929 Ford Tri-Motor in front of the Commander Aero hangar at Dayton-Wright Brothers Airport. Young and old aviation enthusiasts turned out in June to view and/or ride the antique aircraft which was flown by EAA volunteer pilots.

The public was offered rides June 27-29 after its arrival there June 23 and young and old took advantage of flying in the Tri-Motor: \$40 for passengers and \$100 for the copilot's seat.

Some 625 passengers took the 15-minute ride in the "Goose" at a 1,000-foot altitude over the sun-bathed Miami Valley landscape. All support efforts for the plane were accomplished by volunteers, almost all local members of EAA's Chapter 48.

Pilots for the flights were EAA member-volunteers Colin Soucy and Tom Leahy, who has flown with

Island Airlines from Port Clinton, Ohio, to the Lake Erie islands.

The Ford Tri-Motor's lodging for its visit was the Commander Aero hangar, courtesy of John Bosch who hosted an Open House for the plane and its admirers June 26.

ATI Board of Trustees member Harold L. Johnson spoke to the guests about the plane's history and interesting facts. Guest speaker was Bob Angostino, vice president of Operations for L.J. Aviation, and, previously, director of Flight Operations for Bombardier Aerospace.

Betty Darst, also an ATI Board member, says that EAA was extremely pleased with the turnout given the "Tin Goose."

Ford Motor Co. built 199 Tri-Motors from 1927 into the 1930s, making the company the largest manufacturer of commercial aircraft. The Dayton-Wright Brothers Airport is a stop on the Aviation Trail since it's home to the Wright "B" Flyer, a flyable look-alike of the world's first mass-produced airplane.



ATI board member Harold L. Johnson speaks to invited guests at the reception for the EAA's 1929 Ford Tri-Motor June 26 in the Commander Aero hangar. The historical aircraft, lovingly called the "Tin Goose" by its fans, ushered in the Golden Age of air transport.

WALK OF FAME TO ADD AIRPLANE INSTRUMENT INVENTOR LOUIS POLK

Louis Polk, former president of Sheffield Corp. of Dayton in the 1940s and an inventor of aviation instruments, will be added to the Walk of Fame in Dayton's Wright-Dunbar neighborhood Sept. 25.

The Walk of Fame is a series of plaques in the sidewalks in the Wright-Dunbar neighborhood which name the people or organizations from the Miami Valley who have made contributions in any one of several areas.

It is managed by Wright-Dunbar, Inc.



Louis F. Polk

Polk is best known for the development of the column-type Precisionaire dimensional comparator--an earlier name and version of an aircraft altimeter--which played an important role in airplane production during World War II. That gage also was widely applied to machine tools.



Just in time for the Vectren Dayton Air Show: a new book by aviation writer Timothy R. Gaffney and photographer Ty Greenlees hit the bookstores shortly before this year's air show July 19-20. It's *Dayton Air Show: A Photographic Celebration* published by Orange Frazer Press in Wilmington (Ohio). With 159 full-color pages, it's a treat for the eye as well as a "good read." Comments on the show--and previous shows--are welcome at www.daytonairshowbook.com, a web site with more Greenlees photos.

RESTORED GRIMES FLYING LAB MAKES FIRST FLIGHT



Restored Grimes Flying Laboratory at grimes Field in Urbana, Ohio

The restored Grimes Flying Laboratory, (a former Air Force C-45H) which had tested aircraft lighting systems for the U.S. military in its prime, made its "first" flight from Grimes Field, Urbana, Ohio, northeast of Dayton on May 31.

The aircraft had undergone a five-year year restoration after being acquired by the Grimes Flying Laboratory Foundation from Honeywell in January 2003. It is housed at Grimes Field where it will be used to educate the public about the history of aircraft lighting and the role of the Grimes Co. in that history.

A museum is being developed at the field and donations of items related to the flying lab, lighting products, the factory's customers and community activities are being solicited. For some years the lab made spectacular Fourth of July flights during Urbana's holiday celebrations.

Warren G. Grimes, the father of aircraft lighting and a native of Montgomery County, Ohio, made his first ir-plane lights in his garage in 1933. By World War II the Grimes Manufacturing Co., in Urbana, was producing lighting for military aviation. Today it continues to design, develop and manufacture lighting systems for the aviation, aerospace and transportation industries.

The restored lab was produced as a Beech 18, served the Air Force as the C-45H, and was modified to serve the needs of engineers who needed to test exterior lighting systems in flight. The aircraft is actually the fourth in a series of different airplanes that were used to test the photometric properties of aviation lighting under flight conditions. The first fully experimental Grimes plane was a North American T-28.

SUMMER PROGRAMS BY DAHNHP AT WEST AND EAST LOCATIONS CONTINUE

Before summer ends, don't forget to attend the three informative talks by rangers with the National Park Service: one at 10:30 a.m. at Huffman Prairie Flying Field, one at the Wright-Dunbar neighborhood also at 10:30, and one at the HPFF Interpretive Center at 1 p.m. All are offered daily (except Wednesdays for the HPFF) by rangers from the NPS's Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park.

The Wright-Dunbar tour highlights locations of historical significance in the lives of Wilbur and Orville Wright and their friend Paul Laurence Dunbar and showcases the neighborhood's rebuilding efforts. It begins at the Wright-Dunbar Interpretive Center, 16 S. Williams St. in Dayton.

The Flying Field walk helps you explore the pasture where the Wright brothers continued their work after Kitty Hawk as they developed the world's first practical airplane, the 1905 Wright Flyer III, and taught 119 men and women how to fly. HPFF is on Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. Use Gate 16A and Pylon Road.

At the HPFF Interpretive Center, a ranger talks about the hilltop area, named Wright Brothers Hill, that was designed by the famous Olmsted Brothers landscaping company which also planned other parks in the greater Dayton area. Topics included are the area's ancient past, the history of the Wright Memorial, the founding of the Miami Conservancy District and the development of Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

The HPFF Interpretive Center is across from the Wright Memorial at 2380 Memorial Rd. on Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Area B. Note that the center is subject to closure based on the needs of the U.S. Air Force. Before visiting, call (937) 425-0008 to verify operating hours.

Walks on the Prairie and the East Interpretive Center cease after Labor Day; the Wright-Dunbar neighborhood tours continue through September on Saturdays and Sundays, according to park Ranger Julia Frasure. All three locations include sites on the Aviation Trail.

TRAILBLAZER DINNER 2008 SNAPSHOTS



Mary Ann Johnson displays the Aviation Trail Trailblazer plaque presented to her June 16 by Nicholas Georgeff of the National Park Service's Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park at the Presidential Banquet Cen-



Aviation Trail's 2008 Trailblazer awardee Mary Ann Johnson rode to the party in limo style with her husband, Richard Johnson, fifth from left, and son Craig Johnson, fourth from right, and seven members of the ATI Board of Trustees. The surprise ride, arranged by ATI President Marvin Christian, began a celebratory evening marking Mary Ann's accomplishments in writing about historical aviation people, places and things. Her acceptance speech narrated some of her experiences in researching two aviation books and her involvement with ATI.

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NBAA THANKS ATI MEMBERS FOR CONVENTION HELP

The National Business Aviation Association thanks the Aviation Trail members who volunteered during its first-ever convention in Dayton, June 26, at the Expo Center, Dayton International Airport.

Two ATI authors were on hand at the trail's display booth with their books for signing, according to ATI board member Betty Darst. They were photographer-author Dan Patterson and author Sarah Rickman.

The convention, with its 600-plus attendees, was an opportunity for Dayton to showcase to the NBAA its many aviation assets, according to Darst, who organized the ATI display. About two dozen companies and organizations filled the display floor for viewing by the NBAA attendees.



Progress is being made on the new Wright "B" Flyer look-alike. Its bare bones, open-air "cockpit" seen here was on display in early July in its hangar at Dayton-Wright Brothers Airport. A wing section is to the right of the photo. The new "B" sat next door to the Experimental Aircraft Association's 1929 Ford Tri-Motor--in town courtesy of EAA's Chapter 48--to give rides over south Dayton. The original Wright "B" look-alike was out flying.



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Summer 2008

www.aviationtrailinc.org

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

--**Sunday, Aug. 17** is the ATI picnic on the new plaza at 16 S. Williams St. between The Wright Cycle Company and the ATI building/Wright-Dunbar Interpretive Center. Make your reservation by Wednesday, Aug. 13. Bring the kids and grandkids. Enjoy the new plaza space and view/listen to the Kittinger exhibit in ATI's Parachute Museum.

--**Saturday, Sunday, Sept. 27-28** The National Museum of the United States Air Force hosts the Vintage Liaison Aircraft Gathering. This biennial event features fly-bys of liaison aircraft which were used by all branches of the U.S. military from the late 1930s until the early 1970s.

--**Wednesday, Dec. 17** is the annual, anniversary-of-flight wreath-laying at the Wright Memorial, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base; the base is your host at 10 a.m. That evening, ATI and the National Aviation Hall of Fame host a celebratory evening at the National Museum of the United States Air Force. Guest speaker is Phil Boyer, president of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association. Make your reservations early.

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