



# THE WRIGHT FLYER



Aviation Trail, Inc.

Spring 2013

## Roger E. McClure Col. USAF (Ret.) Chosen as ATI Trailblazer



**Roger E. McClure Col. USAF (Ret.)**

Roger E. McClure, an Aviation Trail Trustee since 1985, whose early work on The Wright Cycle Company and the Hoover Block buildings and the Dave Gold parachute collection ensured their current high quality of preservation, is the ATI 2013 Trailblazer.

The award will be presented Tuesday, April 16, during a luncheon at the Dayton, Marriott, 1414 S. Patterson Blvd., Dayton. The public is welcome and, as is customary, the event also celebrates the birthday of Wilbur Wright born in 1864 near Millville, Ind. (See box for Trailblazer ticket ordering details.)

This is the 30<sup>th</sup> year for presentation of the Trailblazer award—to an individual, organization or company who has advanced some aspect of aviation in the Miami Valley. The first awardee was Thomas H. Davis, founder and then retired CEO of Piedmont Airlines.

In 2012 Wilbur Wright was named the Trailblazer posthumously to mark 100 years since his death. The award this April will be presented by Steve Brown, Trailblazer awardee in 2011.

Aviation Trail President Marvin Christian said of McClure that “without his intellectual and physical work over the years, we wouldn’t have many precious, aviation-related artifacts from Wilbur and Orville—or the well-catalogued and stored Gold parachutes.

“Roger quietly and humbly as chairman of the Bike Shop Committee, starting in 1988, began filling and converting ATI’s empty building at 22 S. Williams St. into a Wright Brothers bike shop,” he said.

In the 1980s McClure, with Howard De Four (now deceased and also a Trailblazer awardee), located and refurbished old machinery, bikes, and office equipment from the Wrights’ time period, and obtained authentic artifacts from the brothers for display in the shop.

The work sometimes meant unscheduled, nighttime trips to the “bike shop” or Hoover Block after alarms sounded and the integrity of the buildings needed checking. None of those incidents was of a serious nature.

In the 1990s, McClure and George “J R” Wedekind (another Trailblazer awardee), finished the second floor of The Wright Cycle Co. and began work on the Hoover Block Building—physical work to clean out an abundance of discarded items.

Also in the 1990s McClure assisted with inventorying parachutes and related items that arrived in 139 boxes—giving “house space” in his basement to 61 boxes of books, papers, films and photos. In all, the collection—hardware and “papers”—moved five times before the non-hardware items went to Wright State University’s Special Collections and Archives.

McClure’s interest in the parachute collection continues with his involvement in maintenance and upgrades in the Aviation Trail Parachute Museum. His interest in historical aviation grew naturally from his career: an Air Force pilot.

A native of Springfield, Ohio, McClure earned a bachelor of science degree in 1955 from Ohio State University and began a 30-year Air Force career, retiring with the rank of colonel.

During tours including one in Germany and two in Southeast Asia, McClure flew the F-84, F-100, F-102, C-45, C-47, C-123, AC-130, T-34, T-28, TF-28, T-33, T-37, and the T-38 in flight test, and B-52 as a unit commander. His final assignment was to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in the National Air & Space Intelligence Center, Aircraft Division.

McClure’s aviation-related affiliations include the Quiet Birdmen, and Daedalians. His interests, in addition to aviation, include stamp and coin collecting, and—most importantly--spelunking.

He is a member of the National Speleological Society which focuses on cave organization, sport and scientific endeavors, and received its highest award in 2012; for 10 years he was president of the National Speleological Foundation. McClure was a founding member of the Cave Research Foundation (in 1957) and currently is facility/land manager of the Hamilton Valley Research Station, Mammoth Cave, Ky.

McClure performs research in caves in both the United States and foreign countries; is publisher and business manager of Cave/Karst-related books; and is owner/partner in Diamond Cavers, a commercial show cave in Park City, Ky.

### To Order Tickets for Trailblazer:

Presentation of the 30<sup>th</sup> annual Trailblazer Award will take place following lunch at the Dayton Marriott. The social hour for the event begins at 11:15 a.m. with lunch served at 12 noon.

The luncheon menu is a complete meal: Chicken Marsala or roasted pork loin with salad, green beans, mashed potatoes and deep dish caramel apple pie for dessert; a vegetarian meal is available upon request. Please have your check arrive no later than Thursday, April 11.

## WILBEAR WRIGHT VISITS CHILDREN'S MEDICAL CENTER



Wilbear Wright waves to passers-by in the lobby of Dayton Children's Medical Center on January 10 before beginning visits to rooms of patients.

Aviation Trail's Wilbear Wright brought a little post-holiday cheer to patients in Dayton Children's Medical Center in January.

A costumed Carol McClure, aka Wilbear Wright, helped present the small teddy bears—usually an incentive for visiting sites on the Aviation Trail—to about a dozen children in the hospital. Carol's husband Roger was Wilbear's assistant and one of the donors who made the gifts possible.

Other bear donors were Ralph Korner and Steve Brown whose largess made possible donations of 50 bears, originally envisioned as Christmas gifts.

But staff in the hospital's Child Life office, suggested the bear give-away would be better appreciated away from the abundance of gifts donated at Christmas time. Thus, the visit to Children's in January which did bring smiles.

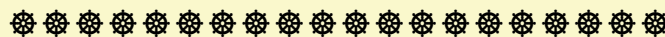


Twelve-year-old Deborah Lowry, with Wilbear standing by, received the teddy near her pillow.

Since many of the 50 bears remain, Wilbear has been invited to return in a few months to visit and again distribute bears. Aviation Trail has indeed promised to do so—thus acquainting a group of kids with Wilbear who may—or may not—have ever met him. Our thanks to Carol McClure for donning the costume and being such a good sport.



Carmen Osenbaugh, age 10, smiles a big smile after receiving a Wilbear Wright teddy.



## REEL STUFF FESTIVAL OF AVIATION LANDING AT THE AIR FORCE MUSEUM

The inaugural Reel Stuff Film Festival of Aviation at the Air Force Museum Theatre is slated for April 11-14 marking the grand re-opening of the Museum's 400-seat, giant screen theatre. The Theatre is part of the National Museum of the United States Air Force on Springfield Pike, near Dayton.

The theatre has undergone an \$800,000 renovation with a new digital image projection system, 7.1 surround sound system with 20 speakers, a new six-story screen, new seats, carpeting and a presentation stage.

With diverse offerings, attendees to the Festival can view feature films, documentaries, and broadcast programming each presented by a filmmaker or historian closely associated with the production and an audience question and answer period.

Among the 10 screenings on the Festival program are:

--*First in Flight*, on the Wright brothers

--*Wings*, a 1927 silent film that was the first to win a Best Picture Oscar

--*Top Gun 3D*, presented by Clay Lacy and Barry Sandrew

--*The Memphis Belle*, both the feature film and the documentary

For a full schedule of films, filmmakers and schedules, go to [WWW.airforcemuseum.com/reelstuff](http://WWW.airforcemuseum.com/reelstuff)

Tickets and passes are on sale by contacting [theatre@afmuseum.com](mailto:theatre@afmuseum.com) or by calling 937.253.4629. General admission tickets for individual daytime screenings are \$8 per person and \$15 per person for evening shows, but there are many combination tickets, so refer to the website.

The Air Force Museum Theatre, a 501 (c) (3) is operated by the Air Force Museum Foundation, Inc. and proceeds from the Festival will help support educational programs and entertainment for patrons throughout the year.

Reel Stuff founder and director Ron Kaplan is past executive director of the National Aviation Hall of Fame, a columnist for *Pilot Magazine* and *Warbird Digest Magazine*.



## THREE NEW SITES ADDED TO THE AVIATION TRAIL

Three new sites now enhance the Aviation Trail in the greater Miami Valley: the Grimes Flying Laboratory, and the Champaign Aviation Museum, both in Urbana; and the Armstrong Air & Space Museum in Wapakoneta.

The ATI Board of Trustees accepted the three sites' applications for inclusion on the Trail at its February meeting.

"These sites continue the saga of aviation development and industry in Ohio and we are delighted to welcome them to 'membership' in that community," ATI President Marvin Christian said.

"Each is different in its focus, but each is marking and preserving aviation—and space—advancements for the public to learn and enjoy. We hope that any ATI members who have not visited these sites will put them on their 'must see' lists. The iconic Aviation Trail signs will be erected at each site soon," he added.

Below is a thumbnail sketch of each site to help you appreciate their value to aviation's grand story.



The Armstrong Air & Space Museum, shown here, was designed to accommodate the Astro Theater for multimedia film and sound presentations. The central sphere dominates the entire complex which has earth mounded around the steel-reinforced concrete building. The dome, 560-foot-wide, enhances the futuristic, moon-base design.

### ARMSTRONG AIR & SPACE MUSEUM

The museum shares the story of Wapakoneta native Neil Armstrong, first man to walk on the moon July 20, 1969, during the Apollo 11 mission. Not a static museum, it features seven interactive exhibits, 10 audio/visual elements and three simulators. There are also the Gemini VIII spacecraft, Armstrong's Gemini and Apollo spacesuits, an Apollo 11 moon rock, and two aircraft flown by Armstrong—one a yellow Aeronca Champion. In the Astro Theater, visitors can watch a 25-minute documentary about Apollo 11's lunar landing. Armstrong is an inductee in the National Aviation Hall of Fame. The museum is owned by the state of Ohio. Call 419.738.8811 for seasonal hours; for more information, go to [www.armstrongmuseum.org](http://www.armstrongmuseum.org)



Visitors to Grimes Field in Urbana, Ohio, check out the Grimes Flying Lab, a Beech 18 modified to a C-45H flying test bed for aircraft nighttime lighting systems. Memorabilia from Warren G. Grimes' life and historical and modern aircraft lighting products also are displayed in a nearby hangar.

### GRIMES FLYING LABORATORY

Located at Grimes Field in Urbana the "lab" is a Beech 18 modified as a C-45H, a test bed for aircraft nighttime lighting systems. The aircraft was a valuable tool for engineers who worked for Warren G. Grimes before and during World War II to advance developments in aircraft lighting to make flight safer at night. Grimes, who is an enshrinee in the National Aviation Hall of Fame, founded Grimes Manufacturing Company—today Grimes (Honeywell). Besides memorabilia from Grimes' life, historical and modern aircraft lighting products are displayed. Call 877.873.5764 or (weekends) 937.652.4319 for hours; for more information, go to

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



The Champaign Aviation Museum, shown above, in Urbana, Ohio, is where restoration work takes place on World War II-era aircraft. Work currently is under way on a B-17G, with a B-25, C-47, A-26, T-6 and Wright Flyer replica also on display.

### CHAMPAIGN AVIATION MUSEUM

This museum—also located at Grimes Field—gives you a close-up look at World War II-era aircraft being restored to fly again. Currently being restored is a B-17G Flying Fortress Champaign Lady which was used by the Curtiss-Wright Corporation as a test bed for experimental turbo-prop and turbojet engines, and propeller research. Other aircraft on display include a B-25 Mitchell, a C-47 Skytrain, an A-26 Invader, a T-6 Texan and a replica of a 1910 Wright Flyer. On the B-17 will be a section from another B-17 used in filming "Twelve O'clock High" with Gregory Peck. Call 877.873.5764 or, (weekends) 937.652.4319 for hours; for more information, go to [www.champaignaviationmuseum.org](http://www.champaignaviationmuseum.org).

## 2012 DEC. 17 EVENT DREW NEARLY 200 ATTENDEES

The Aviation Trail-hosted 109<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Wrights' powered flight on Dec. 17 was a resounding success with nearly 200 attendees at the Presidential Banquet Center, Kettering, Ohio.

The event marked the first time that the National Aviation Hall of Fame joined forces with ATI to make both of its premier annual announcements. As usual for the past few years, the NAHF named its class of inductees, for 2013.

But this year it also chose the occasion to present its Milton Caniff "Spirit of Flight" Award, which went to the Honor Flight Network for its work in transporting American veterans to Washington, D.C., to visit memorials there dedicated to their services and sacrifices.

The third recognition of the evening event was to William Daniel Everett of Xenia, Ohio, winner of the first National Aviation Heritage Area's flight scholarship, the Mitchell Cary-Don Gum Memorial Aviation Scholarship. The NAHF enshrinement awards will be presented Oct. 4 of this year to four men of notable aviation accomplishments. They are:

The late **Charles Alfred Anderson**, the father of African-American aviation, who helped develop a civilian-pilot training program for blacks and who served as chief instructor for the Tuskegee Airmen.

**Maj. Gen. Patrick H. Brady, USA (Ret.)** who, developed foul weather and tactical techniques for helicopter ambulance rescue in combat, and earned the Medal of Honor and Distinguished Flying Cross during his 2,500 flying missions in Vietnam and rescue of over 5,000 wounded.

**Capt. Robert L. "Hoot" Gibson, USN (Ret.)** who flew combat as a Navy fighter pilot in Vietnam, then joined

NASA's astronaut corps and flew five shuttle missions—four as commander—and also was a record-setting pilot and air racer. He has logged over 14,000 hours in over 130 types of aircraft.

The late **Dwane L. Wallace**, who retired as chairman and CEO of the Cessna Aircraft Co. in 1975. His dedication to Cessna saw the company's development and growth in aviation product lines and he was a founder and first chairman of the General Aviation Manufacturers Association.

The "Spirit of Flight" award to the non-profit Honor Flight was accepted by Earl Morse, who originated the concept of the Honor Flight, and Diane Gresse, executive director of the organization. Morse, a native of Enon, Ohio, and retired Air Force captain and private pilot, introduced men who had taken the Honor Flight and they, in turn, attested to a memorable day which otherwise would not have been possible.



Nancy Horlacher, ATI trustee, pins a carnation on Honor Flight Veteran Robert "Doc" Crerar of Seattle, one of three HF veterans who spoke at the ATI Dec. 17 dinner.

## A WRIGHT LITTLE STORY ABOUT THE BIG FLOOD

This reminiscence about the Wrights during the Dayton flood by Justina Lorenz Showers whose family lived across the street from the Wrights was told to ATI Trustee Betty Darst.

Although Susan Wright, wife of Bishop Milton Wright, had died in 1889, some of her household habits lived on in the family. She always had the family prepare for breakfast the night before. The table was set and a bowl of oranges, a favorite of her husband and son Orville Wright, was in the center of the table.

With the waters rising on March 25, Katharine, Orville and Bishop Wright left the home before 8 a.m. that morning. When they returned three days later the table, prepared for breakfast, had risen to the ceiling and then returned to the floor as the flood water retreated. There was mud around the tablecloth, but the table was set just as it was the night of March 24-- one could have sat down for breakfast.



Principals involved with the "Spirit of Flight" award presentation to Honor Flight at ATI's Dec. 17 anniversary of flight dinner gather around the framed award. They are, l. to r. Dr. Vince Russo, chair of the HF awards committee; Diane Gesse, HF executive director; Earl Morse, originator of HF; and Dr. Phil Roberts, chair, Hall of Fame Board of Directors. The "Spirit of Flight" award is given annually by the National Aviation Hall of Fame.



This spring marks 100 years since the Miami Valley was inundated with torrential rain that flooded Dayton, took hundreds of lives and devastated property. It was the worst natural disaster ever for the community and disrupted the lives of many.

And, yes, the 1913 Dayton Flood also affected the Wright family—Orville, Katharine, and their father Bishop Milton Wright--and priceless aviation artifacts then in Orville's care. Like many Daytonians, the waters touched many aspects of their lives.

The rain began on Easter Sunday, March 23, after three storms converged over the Miami Valley. Within three days, 8-11 inches of rain fell and on March 25 the levees containing the Great Miami River began to fail.

Water poured into the area north of downtown Dayton, eventually submerging the downtown in as much as 20 feet of water.

Here is a summary of how the Wrights and Wright artifacts fared, as narrated mostly by Tom Crouch, senior curator of the Division of Aeronautics at the Smithsonian Institution, in his seminal book *The Bishop's Boys*.

#### THE WRIGHTS

When Orville and Katharine left their Hawthorne Street home on the west side of the river for an appointment on March 25, they were unable to return as waters approached eight feet and they spent the night with a friend.

The whereabouts of their father Bishop Milton Wright, who had "apprehended" a flood on March 24—"Felt the danger of it"--was unknown, causing them to post notices seeking his whereabouts. Milton, it seems, had been rescued by canoe and spent the night on Williams Street in the William Hartzell house. In his diary Bishop Milton Wright wrote about the rescue.

"Russell Hartzell comes with a canoe after Mrs. Wagner, and takes me in. We glide down Hawthorne and on Williams Street to William Hartzell's & they receive us most Christianly."



This photo was taken looking west on West Third Street during the 1913 Dayton flood.

Photo courtesy of Matthew L. Toohey

#### THE PHOTO NEGATIVES

The priceless negatives were not destroyed.

"...negatives of the flying-machine experiments of 1900-1905 were in the old shed at the rear of the house. Letters, diaries, and other records of the invention of the airplane were stored in his (Orville's) second-floor office at the bicycle shop on Third Street, where the water was said to be over twelve feet deep."

"The things that had remained downstairs at 7 Hawthorn Street and the bicycle shop were a total loss. Fortunately, the materials relating to the invention of the airplane survived with little damage. Rummaging through the shed, Orville found that some of the emulsion had begun to peel from a few of the glass plate negatives, but none was a total loss. The most important photo—the plate John Daniels exposed just after the machine lifted off the rail for the first time on December 17, 1903--had lost only a small bit of emulsion in one corner. The image was undamaged."

#### WRIGHT RECORDS

"The records of their experiments were safe as well. The water had not reached the second-floor office, and the fire that swept through other buildings on West Third left the bicycle shop untouched. Even the remnants of the 1903 airplane, stored in the low shed at the back, survived unharmed. The precious bits of wood and fabric, submerged beneath twelve feet of water, were protected from damage by a thick layer of mud."

Crouch continues, "Orville cleaned the mud off the top of the crates as best he could, and put them back in the shed."

#### THE WRIGHT COMPANY

The factory where the Wrights had begun producing their flying machines was untouched by the flood waters since it was on higher land. However, the lives of the workmen were disrupted. They were recalled back to work on April 10, but only five returned. Orville estimated that his personal losses were between \$3,000-\$5,000 yet he donated money to the Relief Committee headed by John H. Patterson of NCR.

In his personal papers Orville highly complimented Patterson in that effort.

"Dayton was very fortunate in having a man with the ability of Patterson to take this work in hand. We probably did not have another man in the city that could have done it so well."

The tally from the Great Flood was horrendous: more than 360 lives were lost with property damage of about \$100 million. To ensure the city would never again be struck by such ravaging water, a flood-prevention fund was begun propelled by such slogans as "Remember the promises you made in the attic."

It worked. Pledges topped \$2.15 million and the Miami Conservancy District was founded to effect and maintain a flood control system for the Miami Valley. The five dams that were built did the job; Dayton has stayed secure from another disastrous flood.

## WRIGHT SEAPLANE BASE TO KICK OFF FUND RAISER

On Sunday, May 5, the Wright Seaplane Base Inc. will join with two other aviation groups to begin fund raising for a sculpture of a Model G Aeroboat lifting off the Great Miami River south of Dayton.

The event will take place at the Moraine Air Park in conjunction with the Park's trustees and the Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 48's 54<sup>th</sup> annual Funday Sunday Fly-in and pancake breakfast.

The date coincides roughly with the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first public demonstration by Orville Wright of the model CH Hydroboat on the Great Miami River in Dayton.

Because of Wilbur Wright's tragic death from typhoid fever on May 30, 1912, almost all of The Wright Company's work with hydroplanes was spearheaded by Orville.

Don Ferguson, secretary of the Wright Seaplane Base Inc., said that the organization's plans call for a full-sized metal Model G Aeroboat sculpture rising off the bend of the Great Miami River at the site where Orville Wright and his company tested four versions of seaplanes.

The organization's long-range plans also call for a museum to preserve the nearly forgotten history of the Wright hydro-aeroplanes and aeroboats through exhibits and educational programs.

The Seaplane Base already owns part of a hull from a model G hydroboat and half of a wing which currently are on display inside the Moraine Recreation Park building. They would be included in the proposed museum.

The group also hopes to have the bend of the Great Miami River established as a certified seaplane base so that future aviators can land and take off a seaplane in the same area used by the Wrights.

Toward that end on May 5 there will be a raffle to include a color painting by local aviation artist Mike Williams depicting a Model G aeroboat flying over the area at dusk. Raffle tickets will cost \$1 each or six for \$5.

As many as 100 airplanes will be on display for the fly-in: home-builts, experimentals, antiques, ultra lights, gyrocopters, and general aviation. Food and drink will be served; breakfast from 8 to 11 a.m. and lunch from 11 to 3.

In 2010 the Wright Seaplane Base placed an Ohio Historical Society marker at the Miami & Erie Canal Park in West Carrollton on Marina Dr.

For more information on the event May 5, visit the web site [www.wrightseaplanebase.org](http://www.wrightseaplanebase.org) or call Ferguson at 937.859.0289.

## SAVE THESE DATES FOR AVIATION EVENTS

The calendar for spring, summer and fall is filling up fast with aviation events around the Miami Valley.

There's a variety of activities from fly-ins to airplane rides, to dinners and air shows.

Here's a thumbnail list of what to watch for.

**April 11-14, Reel Stuff Film Festival of Aviation**, National Museum of the U.S. Air Force Theatre

**April 16**, Trailblazer Lunch and Award Ceremony, Dayton's Marriott

**May 5**, Wright Seaplane Base fund-raising kickoff in conjunction with the **Funday Sunday Fly-in** at Moraine Air Park

**June 22, 23, Vectren Dayton Air Show**, Dayton International Airport

## WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Maj. William McMillen (USA Ret.)

## CHAMPAIGN AVIATION MUSEUM GALA TO FEATURE RETIRED ASTRONAUT GIBSON

A gala/dinner fundraiser for the Champaign Aviation Museum in Urbana, Ohio, is set for Saturday, April 13, in the museum hangar among the museum's historic aircraft.

There--near the restoration work on a B-17 Flying Fortress named Champaign Lady the event will begin with a social at 5:30 and dinner at 6:30 followed by an address by retired Astronaut Robert "Hoot" Gibson.

On Dec. 17 it was announced at the Aviation Trail's anniversary of flight dinner that Gibson will be one of four inductees into the 2013 National Aviation Hall of Fame.

Proceeds from the event will support the museum's aircraft and operations and tickets can be purchased on the museum's website [www.ChampaignAviationMuseum.org](http://www.ChampaignAviationMuseum.org); click on the Museum Store.

Gibson has flown on five of NASA's Space Shuttle missions, four of them as commander. He participated in the Space Shuttle Challenger investigation and the subsequent redesign of the solid rocket booster.

A native of Cooperstown, New York, Gibson considers Lakewood, Calif., his home and is a graduate of the Naval Fighter Weapons School, better known as Top Gun. He began his career as a Navy fighter pilot flying combat missions in Southeast Asia.

Following his career with NASA, Gibson was a pilot for Southeast Airlines, test pilot for Benson Space Company, and demonstration pilot for Hawker Beechcraft Corp. He's flown in 100 different types of aircraft and his awards include induction in the U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame.

Currently he is active in model aircraft and has been named an ambassador to promote radio-controlled and hobby aircraft.

## KID'S CORNER

### 2013 Aero Carnival Poetry Contest Deadline: July 31, 2013

Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park announces the first annual aviation poetry contest to be held in conjunction with the Great Wright Brothers Aero Carnival.

Poetry has always had the ability to fire the human spirit, to create pictures in our minds and to take us to places and feelings unknown. Here is your opportunity to create poetic scenes and launch the imagination of others.

The poetry contest is open to students -- grades 1 through 12. Contest entries must capture the theme of aviation — either historical, modern, or the concept of flight.

Winners will be announced at the Aero Carnival, Huffman Prairie Flying Field, Saturday, October 5 in a ceremony at 3:00 in the afternoon.

For complete contest rules, deadlines, and an entry form, go to [www.aerocarnival.com](http://www.aerocarnival.com).

For more information about the Aero Carnival or this year's photo contest, please go to the event web site or call the national park at 937-225-7705.

To learn more about Dayton Aviation Heritage NHP go to [www.nps.gov/daav](http://www.nps.gov/daav).

### Dreams

What dreams we have and how they fly  
Like rosy clouds across the sky;  
Of wealth, of fame, of sure success,  
Of love that comes to cheer and bless;  
And how they wither, how they fade,  
The waning wealth, the jilting jade-  
The fame that for a moment gleams,  
Then flies forever,- dreams, ah - dreams!

*-Paul Laurence Dunbar*

## CATCH A BIPLANE RIDE THIS SUMMER AT WACO FIELD

The public will have four opportunities this summer and fall to fly in an open cockpit biplane at Historic WACO Airfield and Museum south of Troy, Ohio.

During the annual Strawberry Festival, slated for June 1-2, rides will be available both days at the Field. The festival is an annual event celebrating everything strawberry—ice cream to waffles.

On June 17 during the 25<sup>th</sup> Great Ohio Bicycle Adventure (June 15-22) biplane rides will be offered at WACO Field as just one of a variety of activities as the riders cycle through Miami County. Details of the Adventure are at [www.GOBA.com](http://www.GOBA.com) and for information about the rides call 937.335.9226.

Then in August when WACO hosts the 24<sup>th</sup> annual International Harvester Scout and Light Truck Nationals, Aug. 9-11, biplane rides will be offered. The Nationals event will feature over 200 show vehicles, parts swaps, automotive vendors and vehicle prizes and events—a “Super Bowl” of International Harvester vehicle events. For more information go to [www.midnitetar.org](http://www.midnitetar.org) or call 937.525.9781.

On Sept. 13-15 WACO will host its annual fly in and again offer biplane rides.

All rides will be weather permitting and are \$90 a person.

WACO Field is located south of Troy, Ohio, at 1865 S. County Rd. 25A, Troy, Ohio, 45373. For information on WACO Field or the biplane rides, go to [www.wacoairmuseum.org](http://www.wacoairmuseum.org) or call 937.335.9226.

## NPS RELEASES ECONOMIC IMPACT FIGURES FOR 2011

The National Park Service has released its findings of the 2011 economic impact of its parks on the communities surrounding them.

For the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park the impact of 68,048 visitors was \$3,687,000; this spending supported 67 jobs in the Dayton area.

Those statistics are part of the park system's \$30 billion impact that supported 252,000 jobs nationwide.

Dayton's aviation park is one of seven national parks in Ohio: Cuyahoga Valley National Park, First Ladies National Historic Site, Hopewell Culture National Historic Park, James A. Garfield National Historic Site, Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial, and William Howard Taft National Historic Site.

The economic impact data is part of a peer-reviewed spending analysis of national park visitors across the country conducted by the NPS and Michigan State University. For 2011 that report also shows \$13 billion of direct spending by 279 million park visitors in communities within 60 miles of a national park.

Most visitor spending supports jobs in lodging, food and beverage service followed by recreation and entertainment, other retail, transportation and fuel, and wholesale and manufacturing.

To download the full NPS economic report, go to <http://www.nature.nps.gov/socialscience/products.cfm#MGM> and click on Economic Benefits to Local Communities from National Park Visitation and Payroll, 2011.





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

PRSRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
DAYTON OHIO  
PERMIT NO. 722

Spring 2013

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

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

--**THE 30th ANNIVERSARY OF AVIATION TRAIL'S TRAILBLAZER AWARD**, Tuesday, April 16. The annual award marks a milestone this year, at the Dayton Marriott, 1414 S. Patterson Blvd., Dayton. The social begins at 11:15 with lunch served at 12:00. Check out the two photos at the hotel's entrance of Wilbur and Orville Wright at the controls of a Wright plane. See front page story for details.

#### 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