



THE WRIGHT FLYER

Aviation Trail, Inc.

Summer 2015

ATI PICNIC, WITH BUZZ, SLATED FOR AUG. 16, WRIGHT BROTHERS HILL

There's much buzz about ATI's Aug. 16 picnic this year.

Joining us will be NPS Ranger Craig Campbell to discuss preservation of Ohio's native bee colonies of 30,000-40,000 diminutive "flyers" on Wright-Patterson AFB.

Expect a honey treat in your picnic lunch along with Jersey Mike's sandwiches, fruit, and cookies. The lunch and cool drinks will be served at 12 noon in front of the Huffman Prairie Interpretive Center on Wright Brothers Hill.

If it rains, lunch and the bee presentation will be in the auditorium of the center.

Cost for the picnic lunch remains the same: \$14 for an adult and \$39 for a family of up to five persons.

If you please, make your reservations a new way. You may now use the Aviation Trail website, www.aviationtrailinc.org, for ticket purchases with a credit card. After accessing the web site, click on "Membership-Donations-Reservation Orders."

Or, you may send a check to Aviation Trail, Inc., P.O. Box 633, Wright Brothers Branch, Dayton, OH 45409.

Reservations deadline is Friday, Aug. 14.

ATI President Marvin Christian remarked how the Wrights' flying on Huffman Prairie had a "bee link." "In 1904 Amos I. Root, Ohio owner of a beekeeping supply house and publisher of *Gleanings in Bee Culture*, keenly observed the Wrights' trial flights and penned several articles about the endeavors for his periodical.

"Ironically his very accurate observations were written for beekeepers, not experimenters in manned flight. That is one of the interesting facts about early narrations of what the Wrights were accomplishing on the prairie," he said.



Wright Memorial on Wright-Patterson AFB

Campbell's power point bee talk will discuss the one-year-old, volunteer Propolis Project to promote bee pollinator health and sustain locally acclimated bees. Recently four small bee colonies of 10,000 bees each have been introduced to the Huffman Prairie area as part of the project.

A local native, Campbell has a degree in evolutionary biology from Antioch University in Yellow Springs, Ohio. He previously led wilderness tours and served with the Park Service at the Grand Canyon.

ATI traditionally hosts a social event for all its members near Aug. 19, the mutual birthdays of Orville and Katharine Wright. Orville was born in 1871 on Hawthorn Street in Dayton and Katharine in 1874, also on Hawthorn Street.

Kid activities scheduled for the 16th are bottle rockets with Jim Beisner, a member of ATI's board of trustees and the WACO Learning Center in Troy, Ohio, and parachute backpack "fittings" by members of ATI's Parachute Museum committee.



ATI PARACHUTE MUSEUM MARKS FIVE YEARS



Guests celebrating completion of the Aviation Trail Parachute Museum five years ago Oct. 2 cut the ceremonial ribbon in front of the museum. Participants were family members of Dave Gold, whose extensive collection of parachute artifacts and papers were willed to ATI, and National Park Service and ATI personnel.

The Aviation Trail Parachute Museum soon will celebrate its fifth year of being completed and open to the public as part of the Wright-Dunbar Interpretive Center, Third and Williams Streets in Dayton, Ohio.

Five years ago on Oct. 2, 2000, members of the Dave Gold family, the National Park Service and others joined Aviation Trail, Inc. in a ribbon-cutting ceremony to present the Gold collection.

Prior to this special event, the Parachute Museum was open to the public in time for the centenary celebration in 2003 of the Wrights' first powered flight. However, the museum then was incomplete, but elements from the Gold collection were added and enhanced it, although additions and changes continue.

The David Gold Parachute Collection is considered one of the most comprehensive private parachute collections in the world. Upon Gold's death in 1985 his estate donated his collection to Aviation Trail, Inc.

The books, papers, reports, photographs and films were sent to nearby Wright State University Special Collections and Archives of the university's Paul Laurence Dunbar Library where their inventory can be accessed on line.

The museum with interactive exhibits covers the history and development of parachutes, especially in Dayton. Visitors can virtually experience ejecting from an F-16 fighter jet, parachuting from the world's highest altitude, feeling the physics of air that makes a parachute work, and seeing and feeling the resistance of air in free fall.

Another video display allows the visitor to "go along" with the first pilot to make an emergency free fall from his failing aircraft. Many more exhibits and interactive

displays, and a timeline along the soffit of the room, tell the storied history of the parachute invention from Leonardo Da Vinci to modern, parachute-assisted space craft landings on Mars

Dayton's McCook Field (1917-1927) was the flight test center for the U.S. Army Air Service and did research and development on parachutes among other aeronautical equipment. Lt. Harold R. Harris, who was assigned there was the first person to save himself by freefalling from a disabled airplane.

Harris was also the first person inducted into the Caterpillar Club for aviators who save themselves from a disabled airplane by parachuting out of it. Visitors to the Parachute Museum can watch a video demonstrating his historic jump.

Caterpillar Club is named for the insects that spun the silk fiber used in parachutes at the time. Members now include Charles Lindbergh, General Jimmy Doolittle, President George H.W. Bush, Col. John Glenn and many other pilots.

The Parachute Museum has several interactive exhibits and videos of parachute research and development which continued at Wright Field—where the R and D function moved in 1927—and is now part of Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

WHO'S WHO ON THE ATI PARACHUTE MUSEUM COMMITTEE

No museum "keeps" itself.

Listed below are the members of the ATI Parachute Museum Committee who meet regularly and tend to the lighting updates, maintain the interactive displays, and plan new exhibits.

Randy Zuercher, curator, has been on the Committee for three years. He is a business owner, and former skydiver.

Steve Brown has long-term museum involvement. He is an Architect, balloonist, a designer of the museum, and evaluator of the parachute collection.

Ann Armstrong-Ingoldsby, two years on the committee, is a former marketing designer and a former skydiver.

Casey Huegel, one year on the committee, is a National Park Service museum technician and a Wright State University Public History Program graduate.

Andrew Kididis, a 10-year committee member, is a Wright-Patterson AFB, and a Parachute & Escape Systems Engineering expert.

Roger McClure, also a 10-year member of the committee, is a former B-52 pilot, a discoverer of the bicycle shop on Williams Street, also a spelunker.

PARACHUTE MUSEUM VISITORS HAIL FROM FAR AND WIDE

All the visitors to the Parachute Museum in the Wright-Dunbar Interpretive Center (WDIC) find there is a sign-in guest book that many visitors take time to fill in. Many visitors just happened upon the parachute museum and didn't know about it before visiting WDIC.

Eye-opening information found in the book is how many states are represented---at least one from 37 different states! This includes visitors from Hawaii on several occasions. And, of course, many are from the Dayton vicinity and areas around the state.

Foreign countries represented include Australia, Netherlands, Canada, Malaysia, Japan, Scotland, Nepal, Venezuela, and New Zealand. A donation case located at the door shows some of our visitors in terms of Euros and Pence.

Then there is the one visitor who was "from Earth."

How did they hear about the museum? Interesting ways include mom and dad, and an aviation history course. Comments about the exhibit say it all---awesome and wonderful!



SINCLAIR TRAILBLAZER CELEBRANTS APRIL 15

Following presentation of ATI's Trailblazer award April 15 to the Aviation Technology Department of Sinclair Community College, celebrants gathered for a photo op. Second from right is Clay Pittman, department chairman, flanked, from left to right: Eric Lester, Ben Webber, Corrine Barnes, Alex Jan-ning, Phillip Payne, Samanth Jenkins, Bruce Snyder, Pittman, and Larry Unger. Barnes and Unger are flight students and the others are studying various aviation-related courses. The Trailblazer event was held at the Sinclair Conference Center in Dayton.

BROWN & BILLS SELECTED FOR WRIGHT FACTORY BUILDING 3 WORK

The architectural firm of Brown & Bills has been chosen by the National Aviation Heritage Alliance (NAHA) to begin preliminary work on the 10,000-square-foot Bldg. 3 of the Wright Company factory complex in Dayton.

The structure is attached to the two buildings constructed by the Wrights in 1910-11 for aircraft manufacturing and the National Park Service has identified those buildings as the first in America built for aircraft production.

Bldg. 3 is envisioned as the location for construction of a Wright brothers replica airplane by the Wright "B" Flyer, Inc. and the Experimental Aircraft Association; however, the adjoining structure---where the original Wright B was built-- needs much preliminary work for that project to move forward.

In January NAHA's executive director was authorized by its Board of Trustees to enter into the Brown & Bills contract for \$18,700 for the planning and design work; \$2,000 for pre-construction and bid packages; and \$15,600 for the building and construction management work.

The building and construction management work will not proceed until such time that all documents have been approved by the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission for reimbursement, an acceptable lease with Home Avenue Redevelopment (HAR)---its current owner-- is in place, and available funds match the project estimate. Details of the HAR lease are being worked out.

The committed monies are part of a State of Ohio capital grant of \$250,000 to NAHA for the renovation of the Wright Company factory site Bldg. 3.

Tony Sculimbrene, NAHA executive director, has said the renovation of Bldg. 3 is critical to the efforts to see the Wright Company factory site fully developed. In all, there are two, single-story brick buildings expressly constructed by the Wrights for aircraft production, and three architecturally similar buildings added later.

He added the hope that the National Park Service could eventually operate Bldgs. 1 and 2 as interpretive centers.

The EAA is an organization of 185,000 aviation enthusiasts who could assemble parts of the new B Wright plane at chapters in Dayton or elsewhere, then ship them to Dayton. The Wright "B" flying now at airshows and for rides was built in 1982.

Buildings 4, and 5 of the Wright factory complex are envisioned as future sites for manufacturing aerospace components for new aircraft.

THE GREAT WRIGHT BROTHERS AERO CARNIVAL RETURNS

Hear ye, hear ye. The free carnival is coming to town.
The Great Wright Brothers Aero Carnival that is.

Again this year on Saturday, Sept. 12, there will be activities and exhibits for kids of all ages from 10:30-4:30. The place is Huffman Prairie Flying Field on Wright-Patterson AFB with entrance through Gate 16A off State Rte. 444.

On display will be a number of airplanes, a glider, and hot air balloons. Also planned is a hay ride and a parachute landing, a flight simulator, silent era movies on flight, bouncy houses, and a sheep herding demonstration.

Aviation Trail members once more will be managing the silent movie area and offering free popcorn. A number of other local organizations and historical societies also will be present as well as the Bicycle Museum of America and the Academy of Model Aeronautics.

While the Aero Carnival celebrates the work of the Wrights on the prairie in 1904-05, this year it also will serve as the kick-off of celebrations in Dayton marking the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the National Park Service in 1916. In 1992 the NPS arrived in Dayton, establishing the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park.

The prairie is where the Wrights learned to control their powered machine and established one of the first permanent schools to teach others how to fly.

For more information on the Aero Carnival contact the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park at 937.225.7705.



1993 YMF-5 WACO Classic owned by Steve Koch.

AIR CAMP COMPLETES ITS 2015 SESSION

In July, Air Camp USA wrapped up its third weeklong summer session of 2015 for middle school students who want to learn about the science, technology, engineering and mathematics of aviation and aeronautics.

The residential camp has now “graduated” several hundred students who explore aviation sites around Dayton, Ohio, while lodging at Wright State University.

One of the highlights of the students’ schedule is touring the Air Force Research Laboratory at Wright-Patterson AFB where their behind-the-scenes time spent with engineers and scientists presents opportunities to explore the possibilities of their future STEM studies and careers.

The latter part of the week is capped off by the students’ piloting a general aviation aircraft and using their five-and-a-half days together as a team to tackle the planning problems of conducting a humanitarian air mission. Air Camp accepts a maximum of 132 students annually and applications are being taken for the Air Camp USA 2016.



2015 Air Campers at the loading ramp of a C-17 at Wright-Patterson AFB.
Photo courtesy of Air Camp USA

SAVE THSES DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR

Sunday, Aug. 16, 12 noon, ATI’s picnic on Wright Brothers Hill with a talk by NPS Ranger Craig Campbell on the preservation of bee colonies on Huffman Prairie

Saturday, Sept. 12, 10:30-4:30 the Great Wright Brothers Aero Carnival, Huffman Prairie Flying Field; use Wright-Patterson gate 16A off St. Rte. 444

Friday-Sunday, Sept. 18-20, WACO Fly In at Historic WACO Field, Troy, Ohio

Friday, Oct. 2, evening, the National Aviation Hall of Fame Enshrinement ceremonies and presentation of the first Neil Armstrong Outstanding Achievement Award at the NAHF Learning Center and the adjacent National Museum of the U.S. Air Force.

WRIGHT RELATIVE, MARIANNE MILLER HUDEC



Marianne Miller Hudec, grandniece of Wilbur and Orville Wright, who was the last family member to have known Orville, died March 5 of this year.

In the photo above, she visited a statue of Orville, with propeller, at the site of his laboratory in West Dayton. As grandniece of the Wrights, Hudec's grandfather was Lorin Wright (Wilbur and Orville's brother) and her parents were Ivonette Wright Miller and Harold Miller.

As a 5-year-old child Hudec was present at the ceremony for the unveiling of the Wright Memorial on Wright-Patterson AFB Aug. 19, 1940, on Orville's 69th birthday.

Her museum donations of Wright artifacts were made to the Smithsonian Institution, Wright State University and Carillon Historical Park. To the park she donated a 1904 Wright propeller—the original of the sculptured one—and checks signed by the brothers.

Hudec, who was a family reference source for information on the Wright brothers, made her home in Newton, Mass. Her husband Robert Hudec preceded her in death and she is survived by two children and five grandchildren.

NEW SIGNAGE ON HUFFMAN PRAIRIE

The Huffman Prairie State Natural Landmark —adjacent to Huffman Prairie Flying Field—now has new interpretive signs and plant identification markers.

The improved signage was a project funded by a grant of \$11,717 from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Education Fund). The grant was awarded to the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park and Five Rivers MetroParks.

The prairie is located on Wright-Patterson AFB and was once an abundant native habitat; it has undergone conservation for several years. A new brochure also assists visitors with interpretation of the prairie which is reached through Gate 16A of Wright-Patterson.

Besides signage, the funded project includes prairie walks, bird watching events and botanical programs that are estimated to reach more than 5,000 people.

BREITLING FLIES IN DAYTON

The French Breitling Jet Team shared the program with the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds at the Dayton Air Show this summer. From Dijon, France, Breitling made its debut at the show this year flying in Czech-built Aero L-39 Albatross jets. Founded in 2003 the Breitling team is the largest civilian acrobatic display team in Europe. The seven-member team is touring in both the U.S. and Canada for the first time this air show season.



USAF MUSEUM FOURTH BLDG. WELL UNDERWAY

Despite the wet spring, by fall the new fourth hangar for the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force should be completed.

Then begins two huge tasks: readying its interior and moving aircraft into the structure that's a football field wide and more than twice as long as the museum itself.

A spring 2016 opening is slated and the 224,000-foot added exhibit space is expected to tip the museum's annual visitor count well beyond the one million head count.

The privately financed \$46 million fourth hangar is being funded by the Air Force Museum Foundation and the cost includes more than the structure itself—e.g., overhead such as utilities and teaching nodes.

By later fall the planes, missile and spacecraft should begin filling the hangar. In particular, experimental jets and historic presidential planes will make the move from a remote hangar in Area B of Wright-Patterson which currently can only be reached by shuttle. (Those shuttle rides will cease Oct. 1.)

Additionally, three cargo planes now sitting outside will move inside for better preservation: C-82, C-130 and C-141.

For progress reports, go to the museum web site:

www.nationalmuseum.af.mil





Summer 2015

www.aviationtrailinc.org

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REMINDER

Sunday, Aug. 16, Wright Brothers Hill—Join the buzz for the ATI picnic on Wright Brothers Hill at Wright-Patterson AFB. Picnic lunch boxes will be served at noon, followed by an informative ranger talk on re-supplying Huffman Prairie with 40,000 bees for pollination of area flowers, fruits and vegetables. See page 1 for the complete story.

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