



THE WRIGHT FLYER

Aviation Trail, Inc.

Fall 2013

COL. KITTINGER TO DESCRIBE HIS ROLE IN RED BULL STRATOS BALLOON ASCENT

Col. Joe Kittinger (USAF Ret.) will speak about his role as a member of the ascent-record-setting Red Bull Stratos balloon team led by Felix Baumgartner at this year's Aviation Trail celebration of the Wright brothers first flight, Dec. 17. Baumgartner's ascent in 2012 topped off at 127,852.4 feet—nearly 25,000 feet higher than the record set by Kittinger himself in 1960.

The commemorative dinner and ceremony is scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 17, at the Presidential Banquet Center, 4572 Presidential Way, Kettering, Ohio, and is open to the public. The event marks 110 years since Wilbur and Orville Wright of Dayton made the first successful, powered controlled flight.

To reserve tickets for the Dec. 17th event, which is \$60. per person, you may mail your check to Aviation Trail, Inc., P.O. Box 633, Wright Brothers Branch, Dayton, OH 45409; indicate if you want prime rib, chicken scaloppini or stuffed Italian shells (vegetarian).

As is customary, Kittinger will speak after dinner which will be served at 7:00 p.m. The social hour begins at 6:00 p.m. As part of the evening's program the National Aviation Hall of Fame will announce its choice of aviation pioneer enshrinees for 2014. Also, the National Aviation Heritage Alliance will recognize the winner of its 2013 Mitchel Cary/Don Gum flight scholarship.

Until the Stratos balloon ascent and jump on Oct. 14, 2012, in New Mexico, Kittinger, as a U.S. Air Force captain assigned to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, held the record for human ascent in a high-altitude balloon. His leap into space on Aug. 16, 1960, from the Excelsior III gondola at 102,888 feet began his free fall of 4 minutes 36 seconds before his parachute opened at 12,000 feet.

Because of Kittinger's unique experience, his counsel to the Stratos team was invaluable. As "Capcom"—capsule communications—he was Mission Control's primary point of radio contact with Baumgartner during the ascent.

ATI President Marvin Christian said that Kittinger's presentation should be especially well-received because of his first-person knowledge of the Stratos preparations and team members. "He is shown prominently in photos on the Red Bull web site and from the text it is apparent his counsel was highly respected; we are delighted to have him at this year's flight celebration."



Col. Joe Kittinger (USAF Ret.) left, and Felix Baumgartner

A 1997 National Aviation Hall of Fame inductee, Kittinger's career began in 1949 at the U.S. Air Force Aviation School at Goodfellow AFB, Texas. His early assignments saw him flying fighters and experimental jet fighters. An assignment in aerospace medical research led him to Project Excelsior, managed from Wright-Patterson, which was focused on escape techniques from aircraft at high altitudes, presaging escape systems for astronauts.

During Vietnam, Kittinger flew F-4s, was shot down and spent 11 months as a prisoner of war in Hanoi. His final tour of duty was as vice wing commander of an F-4 fighter wing in England and he retired from the Air Force in 1978 as a colonel.

In his "retirement" Kittinger was associated with the Rosie O'Grady Flying Circus in Orlando, competed in helium and hot air balloon races, barnstormed and became the first person to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean in a helium balloon.

Baumgartner, born in Salzburg, Austria, in 1969 is licensed to pilot gas balloons and private and commercial helicopters. He also is a skydiver and BASE jumper (someone jumping from a fixed object with a parachute) and holds records in those disciplines.

His helium-filled balloon used for the record-setting ascent was 10 times larger than the one used by Kittinger and—besides his two landing chutes—his parachute system included a drogue stabilization chute, the first such one designed for supersonic deployment.

PARACHUTE DRESS EXHIBITS READY FOR VIEWING

These two glass-encased exhibits of dresses sewn from World War II parachutes will be travelling marketing tools for the Aviation Trail Parachute Museum which is located in the ATI building in Dayton. Both were sewn from parachute fabric.

They will first be displayed at the Grimes Flying Lab Museum in Urbana, Ohio, a location on the Aviation Trail. The exhibit was developed by ATI trustees Ann Armstrong Ingoldsby, Steve Brown and Dean Steele.

The cases are among several acquired for ATI by President Marvin Christian from the American Trapshooting Hall of Fame before it moved from Vandalia, Ohio.

The formal gown, below, is from an American nylon parachute brought home by Bill Fry after his time in the U.S. Army Air Corps in the Philippines. Mrs. Lea Fry dyed and sewed the dress and wore it to special occasions she and her husband attended and donated it to the Museum.



American nylon parachute gown

AIR & SPACE MAGAZINE FEATURES MCCOOK FIELD

Check out the November issue of *Air & Space* magazine for an article entitled "The First Test Pilots." They were, of course, the military men who flew from McCook Field in Dayton, Ohio, from 1917 to 1927, until the field truly became too small.

The article credits the engineers and researchers who worked with the pilots to advance aviation after World War I—and catch up with other more aviation-focused

Cont.

The wedding dress in the display case below was sewn from a German silk parachute in Nuremburg, Germany. It was worn for the 1946 wedding—photo on the floor of the exhibit case—of U.S. Army Capt. and Mrs. Joseph R. Lynn, Jr. The couple met on their assignments to the Army hospital at Nuremburg and he obtained the parachute.

A friend of the couple bought the material for the wedding veil in Paris as that fabric wasn't available in Germany. Mrs. Lynn's daughter Martha Lynn McKalip donated the dress to the Parachute Museum.



German silk parachute wedding dress

countries. The installation, managed by the U.S. Army's Signal Corps, was truly the United States' first aviation research and development establishment.

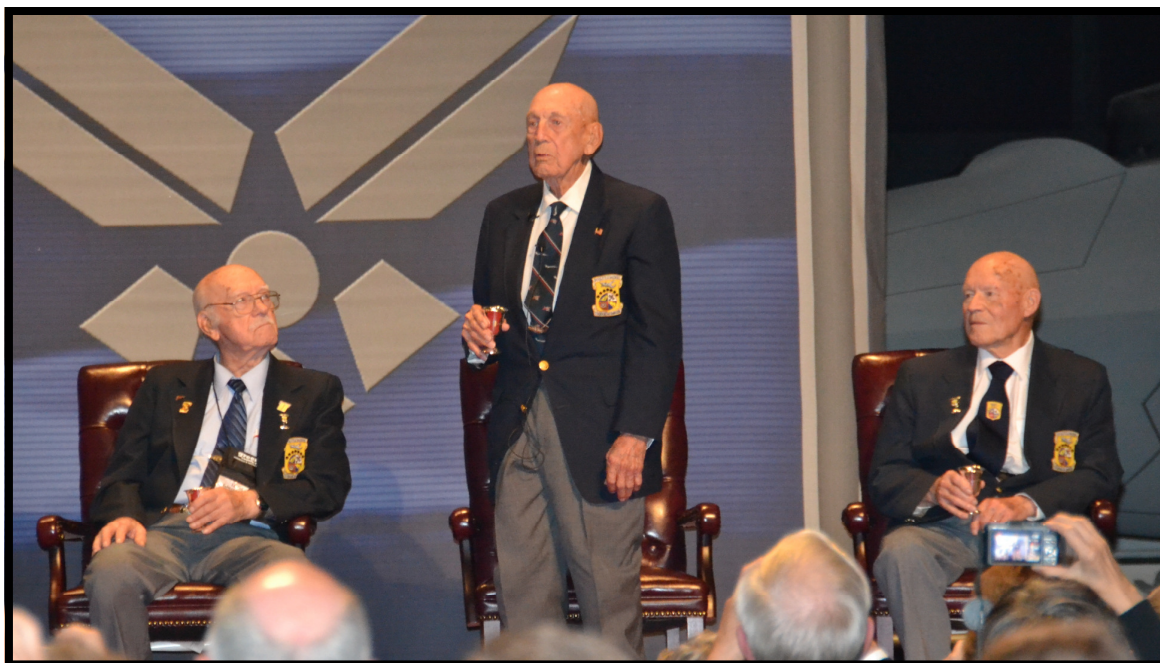
Authored by Stephen Joiner, the *Air & Space* article describes some of the exploits of now memorable early aviators—John Macready for one—and the advances they pushed themselves and their machines to do in test flight: the supercharger for higher altitudes, better parachutes, landing lights and radio navigation to name a few.

The article is accompanied by a group photo of McCook aviators, an aerial of McCook and a video gallery of photos of McCook aviators, airplanes and work spaces.

If the article whets your appetite to learn more about McCook Field, pick up the 390-page book *McCook Field: The Force Behind America's Golden Age of Flight* authored by Mary Ann Johnson, a member of Aviation Trail's Board of Trustees. Published in 2002 the book is filled with facts and personalities from the 2,300-person workforce at McCook.

The book is published by Landfall Press of Dayton and is sold at the bookstore of the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force.

Final Toast to the Doolittle Raiders



Lt. Col. Richard E. Cole, center, raises his goblet in a final toast Nov. 9 to the Doolittle Raiders on the 50th anniversary of the reunion of the surviving Raiders at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force in Dayton. Cole is flanked by Lt. Col. Edward J. Saylor, left, and Staff Sgt. David J. Thatcher; a fourth surviving Raider, Lt. Col. Robert L. Hite, was unable to attend. The U.S. Army retirees were honoring their deceased comrades by raising their goblets a last time—a tradition begun in 1959. The three men were welcomed by crowds lining the museum entrance drive, participated in a wreath-laying ceremony at the Doolittle Raiders Memorial in the museum's Memorial Park, and were saluted by a flyover of B-25 bombers staged from Grimes Field Airport in Urbana, Ohio. The toasting event commemorated Lt. Col. Jimmy Doolittle leading a raid on Tokyo, Japan, in April 1942 with 80 men in 16 B-25 crews who launched from the Navy's Hornet aircraft carrier in the Pacific. (Photo courtesy of Ron Kaplan)

ATI BOARD OF TRUSTEES, ADVISORS

Many people give thousands of volunteer hours to make Aviation Trail a vital organization, now in its 32nd year.

We thought you should know their names since they conduct the business of ATI at its monthly meetings and plan and execute social events and special projects.

They are the Board of Trustees, and the Advisors who offer their counsel as needed. Remember, there's no paid staff for ATI although we greatly appreciate the cooperative services provided by the rangers at the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park.

If you're interested in being part of the ATI family, contact Marvin Christian at mchristianphoto@donet.com

The ATI Trustees are:

Marvin Christian, president; Helen Jones, 1st vice president; Betty Darst, 2nd vice president; Mary Ann Johnson, secretary; Jim Moses, treasurer; Ann Armstrong Ingoldsby; Clark Beck; James Beisner; Steve Brown, Nancy Horlacher; Ralph Korner; Roger McClure; Angie Popovich; Dean Steele; Patty Wagner; Randy Zuercher, museum curator.

The ATI advisors are Jim Bucher, Tony Harker, Andrew Kididis, Floyd Koller, Mary Mathews, Bill McNabb, Gerald Sharkey, Ernest Sheeler, Stephen Wright, Dawne Dewey and Mary K.C. Soter, attorney.

REED MADDEN'S DEATH A LOSS TO THE AVIATION COMMUNITY

Reed Madden, an advisor to Aviation Trail and an enthusiastic supporter of aviation in the Miami Valley and a Greene County (Ohio) commissioner for five consecutive terms (1985-2005), died Oct. 21 in Dayton.

He was a long-time member of ATI, served on the board of the National Aviation Hall of Fame, and supported the Wright "B" Flyer, National Aviation Heritage Area and the Miami Valley Military Affairs Assoc.

Madden was secretary/treasurer of Motive Parts and Equipment, owned the W. Reed Madden Insurance Agency, and over the years belonged to several civic organizations at the local, state and national levels.

He served on the boards of the County Commissioners Association of Ohio and the National Association of Counties where he was active in legislative, economic development, environmental and conservation projects.

Locally Madden also was on several chambers of commerce and boards of directors including the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission, Greene County Historical Society, Beaver Creek Wetlands Assoc., American Red Cross, American Cancer Society and Greene County Community Foundation of which he was a founding member.

A member of the Waynesville Masonic Lodge #163, Scottish Rite Valley of Dayton, and Warren County Shrine Club, he graduated from Kettering Fairmont High School, attended Southern Methodist University and Ohio State University and graduated from Purdue University Life Insurance Marketing Institute and the University of Wisconsin Continuing Education Program in Recycling.

Reed is survived by his wife Judy (Meckley), and two children: Reed and Laura Madden LaDue. A celebration of life service was held Oct. 25 at Schlientz & Moore Funeral Home in Centerville.

NAHA AGAIN THIS YEAR SPONSORS THE CARY/GUM SCHOLARSHIP

Mitchel Cary and Don Gum are again being honored this year by the National Aviation Heritage Alliance with a scholarship worth \$1,500 worth of flying lessons. Deadline for submissions was Nov. 30 and the winner will be announced at Aviation Trail's celebration of flight dinner Dec. 17.

The competition was open to youths who are 15 to 21 years old and would like to learn to fly; the winner will receive \$1,500 worth of flying lessons to earn a Private Pilot or Light Sport Pilot's Certificate.

The scholarship--the Mitchel Cary/Don Gum Memorial Aviation Scholarship—is named to honor the two local pilots who lost their lives in 2011 in the commemoration of the Wright brothers' invention of aviation.

Since it is a competitive scholarship, only one will be awarded this year, but more will be available as funds permit. Winner of the scholarship in 2012, the first year of the award, was Daniel Everett of Xenia, Ohio, and he was recognized at Aviation Trail's 2012 celebration of flight dinner and ceremony.

Competitors for the scholarships had to live in a designated Ohio county-- Montgomery, Auglaize, Champaign, Clark, Greene, Miami, Shelby or Warren—and pass an FAA third-class medical exam or have a valid Ohio driver's license.

FIVE COMPANIES HOPEFUL FOR AIR FORCE MUSEUM CONTRACT

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has down selected five construction companies to bid on the new fourth building for the National Museum of the U. S. Air Force on Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. Those bids were due Oct. 2 and contract award is expected by the end of this year.

They are:

--The Whiting-Turner Contracting Co. of Greenbelt, Md.

--M.A. Mortenson Construction of Minneapolis, Minn.

--Turner Construction Co. of Washington, D.C.

--Hensel Phelps of Chantilly, Va.

--Archer/Western/Butt Construction (JV) of Chicago, Ill.

The Corps of Engineers as well as employees at Wright-Patterson were on the selection evaluation board.

Next year construction would begin with a target date in 2015 for opening the structure to the public. It will house the Presidential, Research and Development, Space, and Global Reach galleries. Currently the presidential and R and D aircraft are in a hanger nearby the museum.

The Air Force Museum Foundation has raised nearly \$40 million of the estimated cost of \$46 million for the new building and fund raising will continue.

The museum has an average of 1.2 million visitors a year, except for 2003 when it topped 1.3 million. Officials are optimistic that the additional structure will again increase attendance.

NAHA LAUDS VOLUNTEERISM AND ONE OF ITS PARTNERS

In August at its annual meeting the National Aviation Heritage Alliance (NAHA) presented three awards: two to individuals and one to a partner, the Wright "B" Flyer, Inc.

Walter S. Hoy received the Ivonette Wright Miller Award for a broad range of volunteerism and his work as founding member and current chair of the Wright Image Group Inc.

The Wick Wright Award went to Phillip L. "Phil" Parker for outstanding support of the National Aviation Hall of Fame in early 2012 when the future of its annual enshrinement ceremony in Dayton was in doubt.

The all-volunteer Wright "B" Flyer organization was presented the PROPS award for supporting a number of NAHA partners, including sending a full-sized replica of a Wright "B" to the International Manufacturing Technology Show in Chicago in September 2012, which promoted the entire heritage area.

Besides his many aviation activities Hoy volunteers for the Gospel Mission, the Good Samaritan Hospital Foundation and the K-12 Gallery for Young People. His Air Force career included combat duty in Vietnam and aeronautical research at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. The two companies he founded were merged to form Fox Lite Inc.

Parker is president and chief executive officer of the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce. He obtained sponsorship and financial support for the 2012 Hall of Fame enshrinement--the "Night of the Aviation Oscars"-- ensuring that it stayed in Dayton.

Also at the meeting NAHA's executive director Tony Sculimbrenne briefed the organization's new strategic planning process. That will take into consideration the Wright Company factory buildings in Dayton. While the U.S. Congress has designated the original two buildings for addition to the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park, NAHA will consider what its role should be in the future use of the buildings and three adjacent, historic factory buildings.

The awards were presented by Tim Gaffney, NAHA communication director and chair of the nominating committee.

Second Annual Runway Fest

There was a lot to do and see at the Second Annual Runway Fest held Aug. 9 at Dayton-Wright Brothers Airport in Miamisburg and Aviation Trail was pleased to be part of the party. The aeronautical-themed gathering in and outside the Commander Aero hangar was held on a balmy August evening and it was a perfect way to mark National Aviation Day and the mutual birthdays of Orville and Katharine Wright in August. Here are some snapshots of the activities.



Annie Slaybaugh takes a pony ride with encouragement from her dad Terry Slaybaugh, director of aviation for Dayton International Airport and Dayton-Wright Brothers Airport.



ATT's Wilbear Wright, AKA Patty Wagner, greeted kids young and old.



The Rat Race inflatable playground was a popular attraction.



Runway Fest attendees stroll among the aviation-themed information booths inside the Commander Aero hangar.



Two hot air balloons delighted the crowd.

**A Good Time
Was Had By All!**

AVIATION PARK BEGINS NEW WINTER HOURS

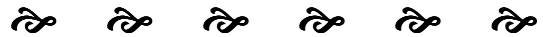
The Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park has announced new hours of operation from Nov. 3 to March 1, 2014.

All sites, including Aviation Trail's Visitor Center & Parachute Museum and the Huffman Prairie Interpretive Center at Wright-Patterson, will be closed on Mondays and Tuesdays. The gate to the Huffman Prairie Flying Field itself will remain open on all days—subject to the needs of the base. On Wednesdays through Sundays, the hours of operation will be 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

These changes do not affect the John W. Berry, Sr. Wright Brothers Aviation Center at Carillon Historical Park managed by Dayton History. Nor do they change the visitor hours to the Paul Laurence Dunbar State Memorial operated by the state of Ohio whose hours are 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays with advance notice.



Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park



KIDS' CORNER

Kids ages 13-18: Would you like to win \$1,500 or \$1,000 or \$500 in scholarship money?

The National Museum of the U.S. Air Force is holding its fourth annual Air Force Heritage and History Writing Competition for students in public, private or homeschools.

Entries must be submitted by U.S. mail or email by Feb. 17, 2014, and only the first 250 entries will be considered.

In their essays writers must consider the following questions:

--July 2014 will mark the anniversary of the start of World War I. How did participation of American pilots in World War I assist in the creation of a U.S. Air Corps and eventually the U.S. Air Force?

--Who were two significant U.S. pilots of this period? Local educators will determine the finalists and those submissions will be sent to the national-level judges to decide on the three winners.

Scholarship money is provided by the Air Force Museum Foundation, Inc. with \$1,500 going to the first prize winner; \$1,000 to the second place winner; and \$500 to the third place winner.

The requirements for this writing competition meet Common Core curriculum English Language Arts writing standards for grades 6-12.

Full details are available on the museum's web site:

www.nationalmuseum.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-101115-043.pdf

AVIATION PARK'S POETRY, PHOTO WINNERS TO BE ANNOUNCED DEC. 17

At the Dec. 17 celebration of flight, winners will be announced for the Aviation Park's 2013 poetry and photo contests.

Both contests had aviation themes and the winning poems and photos will on display for attendees to see.

Color photos in that contest were to be shot at Aviation Trail sites or sites in the National Aviation Heritage Area depicting aircraft, or aviation facilities or events. First and second place winners will be from three age categories: seven-12; 13-19 and 20 plus.

The poetry entries had to demonstrate reflection on the theme of aviation—historical or modern—or the concept of flight. Three winners will be chosen from four grade-school categories: one-three; four-six; seven-nine and 10-12.

Be sure to look at the winning entries the evening of Dec. 17; make your reservations now for a memorable evening.





Dr. Tom Crouch

CROUCH NAMED A 'FELLOW' BY THE AIAA

Tom Crouch Ph.D. of the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum, a native of the greater Miami Valley and an authority on Wilbur and Orville Wright, has been chosen as a 2014 Fellow by the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics.

He is one of only 11 persons to be awarded the honor at an AIAA Gala April 30, 2014, in Washington, when three individuals also will be named Honorary Fellows.

Crouch is known nationally and internationally for his scholarly papers and books, especially *The Bishop's Boys* which details the family and flight experiments of the Wrights.

Aviation Trail, Inc. awarded him its 2001 Trailblazer Award for his work as author, teacher and long-time supporter of the Miami Valley's aviation heritage.

The title of Fellow is among the highest honors that one can earn in the aerospace community. In 1933 Orville Wright became AIAA's first Honorary Fellow.

For more information about the Fellows program, contact Patricia A. Carr triciac@aiaa.org or ph. 703.264.7523. For ticket information for the black-tie gala, contact Merri Scott at merri@aiaa.org or ph. 703.264.7530.

VECTREN DAYTON AIR SHOW 2014 TO FEATURE THE U.S. NAVY'S BLUE ANGELS

Again in summer 2014 the Vectren Dayton Air Show will have a Department of Defense aerial performance team on its program.

The June 28-29 show—the 40th annual such event—has announced that the U.S. Navy's Blue Angels will perform in their F/A-18 Hornets both days of the show—again wowing both young and old in the crowds.

The U.S. government's spending cuts—necessitated by sequestration—cancelled performances at air shows by both the Blue Angels and the U.S. Air Force's Thunderbirds in 2013. Also because of the sequestration no planes or personnel from Wright-Patterson Air Force Base participated in the 2013 show.

Other featured performers at the Kroger-sponsored event will include Hall of Fame enshrinee Patty Wagstaff, the AeroShell Aerobatic Team, Shockwave jet truck and the A-4B Skyhawk jet warbird.

A 45-member Blue Angels team will travel to Dayton from its base at Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Fla. The entire squadron is 110 members strong.

Air Show organizers attributed the smaller crowd last year—23,000 attendance for both days—in part because of the absence of a nationally recognized military performance team.

Tickets details will be announced at a later date. To reach Air Show call 937.898.5901.



U. S. Navy's Blue Angels



Fall 2013

www.aviationtrailinc.org

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

—Tuesday, December 17, Aviation Trail's Celebration of Wilbur and Orville Wright's first flight 110 years ago with Col. Joe Kittinger (USAF Ret.) describing his role as a team member of the Red Bull Stratos Balloon team lead by Felix Baumgartner which broke his record for high altitude balloon ascents. The place is the Presidential Banquet Center, Kettering, Ohio, with a social at 6:00 p.m. and dinner served at 7:00. To be announced then are the 2014 enshrinees for the National Aviation Hall of Fame. The cost is \$60 a person. See the front page story for details. Join us for a very memorable evening.

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