



# Aviation Trail, Inc.

*Experience the Birthplace of Aviation!*

A non-profit corporation in partnership with the National Park Service to promote Aviation Heritage in the Dayton region

Visit the historical sites that tell of man's conquest of the air.

News and Updates from "The Trail"

"The Flight Log" -

**AVIATION TRAIL MAIL**



**"Preserving the Past & Promoting the Future"**

**PRINT VERSION:** this file is a print version of the e-mail newsletter that is sent out on a free subscription basis. To get on the e-mail subscription list go to the Aviation Trail website at [www.aviationtrailinc.org](http://www.aviationtrailinc.org) and subscribe by using the "Subscribe Now" button on the footer of each page. This version is more suited for printing hard copies than the e-mail version and is available on the Aviation Trail website "Newsletters and Brochures" page: <http://www.aviationtrailinc.org/newsletters>.

**Aviation Trail Visitor Center • Wright-Dunbar Interpretive Center • Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park**

Corner of W. Third & S. Williams Sts., • 16 S. Williams St., Dayton, OH 45402 • (937) 225-7705

Print Version

**December 2025 ISSUE**

12/01/2025

This "Flight Log" highlights some of the stories and events featured on the Aviation Trail website: [www.AviationTrailInc.org](http://www.AviationTrailInc.org)

## Free Lecture at Champaign Aviation Museum

**Thursday, December 11 at 11:00am**  
**Aviation Archaeology in Champaign County**

Join us in the CAM library with presenter Frank Drain as he describes the historical events and his experiences searching for WWII aircraft crash sites here in Champaign County.



Also at Champaign Aviation Museum in December:

## Holiday in the Hangar

Champaign Aviation Museum, Saturday, December 20 at 12:00pm - 2:00pm:



Come enjoy a free and festive family-friendly afternoon at the Museum with hot chocolate and cookies, kid's crafts, and a special visit from Mr. and Mrs. Claus!

Champaign Aviation Museum  
1652 N. Main St., Urbana, OH 43078  
937-652-4710  
[ChampaignAviationMuseum.org](http://ChampaignAviationMuseum.org)



Champaign Aviation Museum is Site #13 on the Aviation Trail



## Holidays in the Hangars

**National Museum of the United States Air Force™**  
**November 28 - December 31, 2025**

Celebrate the season with Holidays in the Hangars—a festive display of decorated trees throughout the museum galleries. Local community organizations will bring holiday cheer to the wings of history with creative tree designs set among iconic aircraft. Come explore the sparkle and spirit of the season in a setting like no other.



<https://www.nationalmuseum.af.mil/Upcoming/Events>



**NATIONAL MUSEUM**  
**OF THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE™**



## A Carillon Christmas

**Nov. 25 - Dec. 30, 2025\***

\*Closed Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day

Carillon Historical Park, 1000 Carillon Blvd., Dayton, Ohio 45409

Sunday – Thursday 5 to 9 p.m.

Friday & Saturday 5 to 10 p.m.

**Sparkle, Magic, and Holiday Cheer!**

Join us for A Carillon Christmas to see Carillon Historical Park's 65-acre campus transformed into a winter wonderland of sparkle, magic, and holiday cheer!

All proceeds benefit Dayton History, a privately funded nonprofit organization, in its mission to inspire generations by connecting them with the unique people, places, and events that changed Dayton and the world.

### Featuring

The Carillon Tree of Light  
Santa Claus  
The Carillon Park Railroad  
Gem City Letterpress  
Letters to Santa  
Deeds Carillon  
Christmas Concerts  
Carillon Christmas Café  
Drinks at Culp's Café  
Roundhouse Café in the Transportation Center  
The Tailor of Gloucester  
Puppet Show  
Model Train Displays  
Midnight Express Miniature Train Rides  
Museum Store Shopping  
Walk through our beautiful campus, filled with thousands of lights  
Morris and Hetzel Bakery  
Gristmill Christmas Village and Peppermint Mill  
Carillon Brewing Co.  
And more!



### Admission

\$14 per adult (ages 18-59)  
\$12 per senior (ages 60+)  
\$10 per child (ages 3-17)  
FREE to children 2 and under  
FREE to Dayton History Members!

Tickets: <https://shop.daytonhistory.org/Events.aspx?display=ga>

Become a Member: <https://shop.daytonhistory.org/Memberships.aspx>



Carillon Historical Park  
1000 Carillon Blvd.  
Dayton Ohio 45409  
937-293-2841  
[daytonhistory.org](http://daytonhistory.org)

Carillon Historical Park is Site #4 on the Aviation Trail.



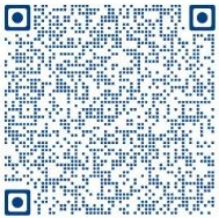
# Cookies with Santa

Butler County Warbirds, December 7, 2025 - 2:00 PM



## Butler County Warbirds Invites you to *Cookies with Santa*

See Santa arrive in his red airplane for a visit, and watch his elves drop in on parachutes! Enjoy cookies and hot cocoa & a gift for the kids.



DEC 7th at 2pm

FREE Event, but requires a ticket. Scan the QR to get yours!

2351 Wedekind at Middletown Regional Airport

Made with PosterMyWall.com

Join us for Cookies with Santa on Dec 7th, 2pm! Santa will fly in for a visit in his red airplane, with a gift for the kids. And his elves will be dropping in on their chutes! Enjoy hot cocoa and cookies, and get some shopping done with My 3 and Me, Craftsby Creations, and check out some books from the MidPointe mobile library. Toys for Tots Butler and Warren County will be here taking donations. Bring a new, unwrapped gift to donate.



Butler County Warbirds  
Middletown Regional Airport (KMWO)  
2351 Wedekind Drive  
Middletown, OH 45042  
(513) 702-3062  
<http://www.bcwarbirds.com>

Butler County Warbirds is Site #16 on the Aviation Trail



# Steam Week at Armstrong Air & Space Museum

December 28 - December 31, 2025, 11 am to 4 pm



### NAME: STEAM Week

START DATE: Sunday, December 28 – Wednesday, December 31, 2025

TIME: 11:00 – 4:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Armstrong Air & Space Museum

ADDRESS: 500 Apollo Dr, Wapakoneta, OH

COST: No additional cost with admission

### ABOUT THE MUSEUM'S STEAM WEEK:

The Armstrong Air & Space Museum invites families to celebrate the wonders of innovation during STEAM Week, December 28–31. Each day will feature an engaging, hands-on lesson exploring a different area of Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, or Math, perfect for curious minds of all ages. After each program, participants can continue their adventure with a guided tour of the museum's inspiring exhibits. All STEAM Week activities are included with regular admission, and no RSVP is required. Guests can join the activity or tours as they choose. Space is limited to 25 persons for each activity or tour time slot. A parent or legal guardian must be with child for the activity and tour.

### DAILY TOPICS:

**Sunday, December 28** – The Sounds of Space: Discover the sounds of the planets and the science behind them, then create your own cosmic tunes using Boom Whackers! Perfect for families and music lovers of all ages. Class times at 11AM, 1PM, and 3PM and take about 1 hour. A 45-minute museum tour is available every top of the hour beginning at 11AM, with the last one at 3PM.

**Monday, December 29** – Galaxy Creation: Explore the beauty of stars and galaxies through stunning space imagery. Then, bring your own cosmic masterpiece to life with watercolor painting. Class times are at 11AM and 2PM and take about 1 1/2 hours. A 45-minute museum tour is available every top of the hour beginning at 11AM, with the last one at 3PM.

**Tuesday, December 30** – Unfolding the Universe: Learn the history and groundbreaking achievements of the James Webb Telescope, then tackle one of the challenges of sending a telescope into space with a hands-on origami activity. Class times at 11AM, 1PM, and 3PM and take about 1 hour. A 45-minute museum tour is available every top of the hour beginning at 11AM, with the last one at 3PM.

**Wednesday, December 31** – Forces of Flight Fun: Discover the science of flight and the forces that make gliders soar. Join a Museum Educator to explore the Bernoulli principle and use the engineering design process to create and test wings that will make your glider take flight! Class times at 11AM, 1PM, and 3PM and take about 1 hour. A 45-minute museum tour is available every top of the hour beginning at 11AM, with the last one at 3PM.

### Also in December at Armstrong Air & Space Museum:

**Holiday Lights** - Friday, November 28, 2025 to Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2026

- see the information at

<https://www.aviationtrailinc.org/post/armstrong-museum-holiday-lights-grand-illumination>



Armstrong Air & Space Museum  
500 Apollo Drive  
Wapakoneta, OH 45895  
(419) 738-8811 or (800) 860-0142  
[www.armstrongmuseum](http://www.armstrongmuseum)

Armstrong Air & Space Museum is site #12 on The Aviation Trail



## Indoor Christmas Village at Harmon Museum

**Dec. 6th and 20th, 2025 from 11-5pm**

Harmon Museum Armstrong Conference Center • (121 S. Broadway, Lebanon, OH)

*"Gather 'round, all ye gentle folk!"*

The season's greetings have arrived at our bustling 1800s town square, and we've decked the halls just for you. Journey back in time and join the celebration as our spirited, costumed villagers and shopkeepers await with unique gifts for the kids and festive cheer for all!

### Admission

Family (Good of 4) | \$12  
Individual (12+) | \$5  
Child (4-11) | \$3  
Children Under 4 | FREE  
Active Military | FREE

Discover a bit of holiday magic that will warm your heart and bring a twinkle to your eye.

Get your tickets online or at the door!

Online at <https://www.wchsmuseum.org/townsquare.html>



Harmon Museum & Armstrong Gallery of Flight  
Warren County Historical Society  
Address: 105 S. Broadway, Lebanon, OH 45036 Phone: 513-932-1817  
<https://www.wchsmuseum.org/armstronggallery.html>  
<https://www.wchsmuseum.org/harmonmuseum.html>

For much more on the Armstrong Gallery of Flight see the blog page on the Harmon Museum website and scroll down to the post of 4/19/24: <https://www.wchsmuseum.org/blog>

*The Harmon Museum Armstrong Gallery of Flight is a site on the Aviation Trail*



## Parachute Museum Interview in The Ohio Newsroom

**Ohio Newsroom reporter Erin Gottsacker interviews Parachute Museum Curator Randv Zuercher in this story.**



### The Ohio Newsroom

**It's a bird! It's a plane! It's a free-fall parachute? The lifesaving device has Ohio roots**

Erin Gottsacker, November 18, 2025

James Floyd Smith and Leslie Irvin tested the first free-fall parachute at McCook Field in Dayton.



The Aviation Trail Parachute Museum in Dayton tells the story of how parachutes evolved over time, from a Leonardo da Vinci sketch to the free-fall parachute skydivers use today.

**See the full article here, with audio and video:**

<https://www.statenews.org/section/the-ohio-newsroom/2025-11-18/its-a-bird-its-a-plane-its-a-free-fall-parachute-the-lifesaving-device-has-ohio-roots>

The Aviation Trail Parachute Museum  
16 South Williams Street  
Dayton, OH 45402  
(937) 225-7705

<https://www.aviationtrailinc.org/parachute-museum>



*The Aviation Trail Parachute Museum is Site #1b on the Aviation Trail*



# Save the Date

**Wednesday, December 17, 2025**

**Aviation Trail, Inc. is sponsoring a special open house, hosted by Heavier Than Air Brewing Company to celebrate the 122nd Anniversary of powered flight.**

## FIRST FLIGHT NIGHT

A SPECIAL OPEN HOUSE AT HEAVIER THAN AIR BREWING CO  
CELEBRATING THE 122<sup>ND</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST FLIGHT



**WEDNESDAY  
DECEMBER 17 2025  
4-9PM**

PRESENTED BY



The celebration event will be held at Heavier Than Air Brewery, 497 Miamisburg Centerville Rd, Dayton, OH 45459 (in Normandy Square Shopping Center). [@HeavierThanAirBrewing](https://heavierthanairbrewing.com)  
<https://heavierthanairbrewing.com>  
(937) 433-1500

*Exciting details to be announced later.*

*Event details will be announced soon. Updates will be posted on the "Aviation Blog" page on the Aviation Trail website*  
<https://www.aviationtrailinc.org/blog>

*and watch for more in a special Aviation Trail newsletter edition.*



### Aviation Trail, Inc.

*Experience the Birthplace of Aviation!*  
A non-profit corporation in partnership with the National Park Service  
to promote aviation heritage in the Dayton region.  
Visit the historical sites that tell of man's conquest of the air.

Aviation Trail, Inc.  
16 South Williams Street  
Dayton, OH 45402  
[www.aviationtrailinc.org](http://www.aviationtrailinc.org)



## Hawthorn Hill Receives Historical Marker

### Marker Honors the Oakwood Home of Aviation Pioneer Orville Wright

DAYTON, OHIO — Oakwood's newest historical marker has been installed at Hawthorn Hill, the Wright family mansion and longtime home of the world's first pilot, Orville Wright. This is the sixth Oakwood historical marker commemorating sites of local and national significance.



In 1912, the Wrights purchased 17 acres in Oakwood to build their new home. Although Wilbur contributed to the planning, he died on May 30, 1912, of typhoid fever. Completed in 1914, Hawthorn Hill became home to Orville, his sister Katharine, and their elderly father, Bishop Milton Wright. Orville lived there until he died on January 30, 1948. The Georgian Revival home was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1974 and designated a National Historic Landmark in 1991.

The Oakwood Historical Society leads the city's historical marker program and partnered with Dayton History and Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park to complete the new Hawthorn Hill marker. Funding for the bronze marker and granite base was generously provided by The Rotary Club of Oakwood, with additional support for masonry work from the National Park Service.

"We are so pleased to have partnered with Dayton History and Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park in bringing this most significant historical marker to completion," said Debra Edwards, who leads the historical marker program for The Oakwood Historical Society. "These markers would not be possible without the generous support of The Rotary Club of Oakwood, the City of Oakwood, and the community."

Hawthorn Hill, a component of Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park, is owned and operated by Dayton History, a privately funded nonprofit.

"Hawthorn Hill stands as a symbol of Dayton's greatest gift to the world," said Alex Heckman, Vice President of Museum Operations at Dayton History. "We're grateful to The Oakwood Historical Society and The Rotary Club of Oakwood for helping honor Orville Wright's home and its lasting place in aviation history." This marker represents the fourth historical marker project funded by The Rotary Club of Oakwood.

"The Rotary Club of Oakwood is proud to reaffirm its dedication to the Oakwood community through a meaningful contribution to The Oakwood Historical Society" said Shawn Miller, President of The Rotary Club of Oakwood. "This gift reflects our enduring commitment to preserving local heritage and supporting organizations that enrich the lives of our neighbors."

Other sites commemorated by The Oakwood Historical Society's marker program include the Town of Oakwood, the First Library, Kramer's Winery & Pleasure Gardens, the Schantz Park Historic District, and the Four Mile Tavern. Oakwood resident Kent Miller has donated his time and artistic talent to the design and artwork for all six historical markers.

#### Hawthorn Hill Tours

Where: Accessed via shuttle van from Carillon Historical Park

When: Wednesdays and Saturdays, 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m., all year long

Admission: \$14 for Dayton History members; \$16 for nonmembers; \$26 for admission to both Hawthorn Hill and Carillon Historical Park. Advance prepaid admission is required.

Tickets: Visit [daytonhistory.org](http://daytonhistory.org) or call 937-293-2841

#### Wright at Home

Held on April 26, 2026, Wright at Home is a Hawthorn Hill open house where visitors join the ranks of Charles Lindbergh, Henry Ford, and Thomas Edison as guests at the first pilot's last home. The event is presented in conjunction with the Oakwood Historical Society and includes guided walking tours of the surrounding neighborhood.

Admission: \$40 per person

Tickets: Visit [daytonhistory.org](http://daytonhistory.org) or call 937-293-2841

## Aviation Trail Membership Reminder



### Membership

- Join
- Renew
- Donate

Help keep the Dayton area in the forefront of the world's aviation history, leadership and preservation.

### Membership Reminder:

All levels of Aviation Trail memberships, except for Life Membership, are annual and are **subject to renewal, at the desired level, by each January**. Aviation Trail is now accepting memberships and renewal orders for 2026.

Online credit card payments may be made from our website. Secure payments are made through PayPal.

To join, renew, or donate to Aviation Trail see the **JOIN/DONATE** menu item on the Aviation Trail website at <https://www.aviationtrailinc.org> or use this QR code.



To print a mail-in membership/donation form use this link:

[file:///E:/Documents/ATI/Membership/membership%20print%20form\\_c.pdf](file:///E:/Documents/ATI/Membership/membership%20print%20form_c.pdf)

**Join, Renew, or Donate Now  
to Help Support Aviation Trail, Inc. and the  
Aviation Trail Parachute Museum**

Donations to Aviation Trail, Inc., a 501(c)3 organization, in partnership with the National Park Service to promote Aviation Heritage in the Dayton region, are fully tax deductible.



## Aviation Trail Gift Shop



All transactions will be purchased from, processed by, and fulfilled by Dayton History, and can either be shipped to the purchaser or held for pick-up at Carillon Historical Park Museum Store at 1000 Carillon Historical Park, Dayton, OH 45409, (937) 293-2841. The products are in stock at the Carillon Historical Park Museum Store.



Gift items include: T-Shirts, Tumblers, Caps, Lapel Pins, Magnets, Art Prints, Note Cards, & McCook Field Book.

See the GIFT SHOP menu item on the ATI website at: <https://www.aviationtrailinc.org/> or scan the QR code.



Dayton History  
1000 Carillon Blvd.  
Dayton, OH 45409  
<https://www.daytonhistory.org>

**Carillon Historical Park is Site #4 on the Aviation Trail  
Hawthorn Hill is Site #7 on the Aviation Trail**