



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 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

Print Version

April 2026 ISSUE

04/01/2026

This "Flight Log" highlights some of the stories and events featured on the Aviation Trail website: www.AviationTrailInc.org

WACO Aviation Lecture Series

Thursday, April 16, 2026

WACO Air Museum – Willis Wing • Doors Open: 6:30 PM
Program: 7:00–8:00 PM
1865 S. County Rd. 25A • Troy, OH 45373

Lecture: Thursday, April 16, 2026, 7 - 8 pm.
Wilbur Wright and the Challenge of Human Flight
Speaker: Maria Cornacchione,
Dayton Aviation History National Historical Park Guide



Aviation lectures are free and open to the public.
All lectures are sponsored in part by Collins Aerospace.
Donations to the WACO Museum appreciated!
For questions, please call 937-335-9226 or visit www.wacoairmuseum.org.



WACO Air Museum & Learning Center
1865 S. County Rd. 25A
Troy, OH 45373
937-335-9226
www.wacoairmuseum.org

WACO Air Museum & Learning Center is Site #11 on the Aviation Trail

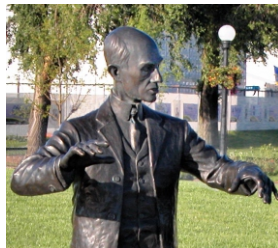


Aviation Trail Salutes Wilbur Wright

April 16, 1867 - Birthday of Wilbur Wright

Wilbur Wright was born to Milton and Susan Wright April 16, 1867, in a three-room house near Millville, Ind., eight miles east of New Castle, Ind. Wilbur was the Wrights' third son and was named for Wilbur Fiske, a clergyman admired by Milton.

It was Wilbur's observations of birds in flight that inspired his concept of wing warping, and his letter to Octave Chanute that helped propel the brothers on their historic venture. (See this Library of Congress story: <https://www.loc.gov/collections/wilbur-and-orville-wright-papers/articles-and-essays/the-belief-that-flight-is-possible-to-man/>).



Although Wilbur's birthplace is commemorated by the Wilbur Wright Birthplace Museum in Hagerstown, Indiana, you can now visit his final resting place at Woodland Cemetery & Arboretum in Dayton, Ohio (Site #8 on the Aviation Trail) where he lies next to his brother Orville.

See links:
<https://wwbirthplace.com>
<https://woodlandcemetery.org>



Moraine Airpark 67th Annual Funday Sunday

May 3, 2026 • 8 am - 4 pm



The 67th year of the event! Sunday, May 3, 2026 - Starts 8 am - 4 pm

1. Breakfast (serving at 9 am) is by donation only
2. Lunch (serving at noon) is donation only
3. Parking is at Wax Park (City of Moraine Park), located at 3800 Main St. Visitors can enter through the back gate, located on the south end of the park; we will mark the gate entrance.
4. Free event, pets are welcome but must be leashed. We will post any updates regarding airplane rides on Moraine Airpark's Facebook page
5. For pilots, we offer full-service 100LL fuel. We accept check, cash and credit cards. Check AirNav for Airpark information. Use caution, as there will be aircraft in the pattern without radios.
6. Seaplane Base Inc. will be set up
7. A history of Moraine Airpark display will be set up in the office/FBO.
8. For any other questions or information, please call 937-866-2489 moraineairpark.com



Moraine Airpark
3800 Clearview Avenue
Moraine, OH 45439
<https://moraineairpark.com>



Wright at Home Opens Doors to Orville Wright's Hawthorn Hill

**Fundraiser offers rare access to the
Wright mansion and guided walking tour
of Oakwood's historic neighborhood - April 26**

DAYTON, Ohio — Visitors will have the opportunity to step inside Hawthorn Hill, Orville Wright's success mansion, during Wright at Home, an open house fundraiser and guided neighborhood walking tour on Sunday, April 26, 2026, from noon to 5 p.m. Amanda Wright Lane, the Wright brothers' great-grandniece, will also make a special appearance at this year's event.



Presented by Dayton History in partnership with The Oakwood Historical Society, the event offers guests a chance to explore the Wright family home while learning about the historic neighborhood that surrounded it, including the homes of Cheez-It inventor J.W. Green; Bill Chryst, a member of Charles Kettering's legendary Barn Gang who helped invent the automobile self-starter; and Harry Schenck, co-founder of Schenck & Williams, the architectural firm that designed Hawthorn Hill, Oakwood High School, Wright Library, and many prominent Oakwood structures.

"Hawthorn Hill is known as a 'success mansion,' a symbol of the Wright brothers' genius," says Ann Febus, President of The Oakwood Historical Society. "The surrounding neighborhood can be described the same way, reflecting the brilliance of Orville's neighbors. The innovation that came from that small Oakwood region is extraordinary."

Over the years, Hawthorn Hill welcomed numerous famous visitors, including Thomas Edison, Henry Ford, Alexander Graham Bell, Ronald Reagan, Charles Lindbergh and James Cash "J.C." Penny.

With its white pillars and twin porches, the mansion has long been synonymous with Orville Wright and the Wright family. After purchasing land at Salem Avenue and Harvard Boulevard in the Dayton View neighborhood, the Wrights' younger sister, Katharine, persuaded her famous brothers to build instead in Oakwood's rolling hills.

Both Orville and Wilbur influenced the home's design, but Wilbur died of typhoid fever on May 30, 1912, at age 45, before construction began. When the house was completed in 1914, Hawthorn Hill became the residence of Orville, Katharine and their elderly father, Bishop Milton Wright.

"After Orville Wright's death on Jan. 30, 1948, Hawthorn Hill was purchased by NCR for use as a corporate guest house," says Alex Heckman, Vice President of Museum Operations at Dayton History. "For the next 58 years, the historic home was carefully preserved but rarely open to the public."

Today, the mansion, a unit of Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park, is owned and operated by Dayton History, a privately funded nonprofit that receives no ongoing federal support. For decades, many Daytonians wondered about the mysterious Wright mansion atop the hill. At Wright at Home, the mystery is revealed, if only in part.

Tickets for Wright at Home are \$40 and include admission to Hawthorn Hill and the guided walking tour of the surrounding Oakwood neighborhood. Advance reservations are required. Tickets can be purchased at daytonhistory.org.

Proceeds benefit Dayton History and The Oakwood Historical Society, two privately funded nonprofits dedicated to preserving and sharing the stories of the Dayton region.

To order tickets see
<https://shop.daytonhistory.org/EventPurchase.aspx?dateselected=4/26/2026>

Call 937-293-2841 x. 127 for more information.



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

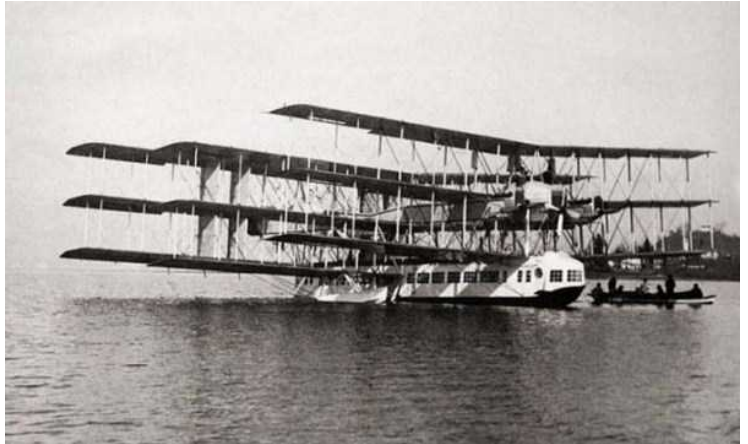
Carillon Historical Park is Site #4 on the Aviation Trail



Lunch & Learn Lecture at Harmon Museum

Aviation: The Strange and Unknown - April 15, 2026 | 11:30am

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



Get ready to look at the skies a little differently! This April, we are thrilled to welcome back fan favorite and long-time Warbird Museum (and Harmon Museum) volunteer, Jim Newport, for a journey into the fringes of flight.

Aviation history is full of household names and iconic silhouettes, but Jim is diving into the folders marked "Top Secret," "Experimental," and "Just Plain Weird." From gravity-defying designs that shouldn't have flown (but did) to the mysterious aerial phenomena that have baffled pilots for decades, this session uncovers the stories that textbooks usually leave behind.

BUY TICKETS: <https://ticketstripe.com/events/9599108734812710>

COST: \$25 for WCHS members / \$30 for non-members.

(Includes lunch, lecture & museum admission)

Program without lunch \$5 for members / \$8 for non-members

Ticket sales close at midnight the Thursday night prior to the event. If you would like lunch, reservations **MUST** be made by this time. Tickets for the lecture **ONLY** option will be available up until the event or may be purchased at the door. There is a small fee associated with the sale of tickets online.

11:00am - Seating/Open Museum | 11:30am - Lunch Served | 12:00pm (noon) - Speaker

Lunch & Learn Lectures are held Every Third Wednesday of the Month | 11:30am - 1:00pm



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**



Champaign Aviation Museum Gala

Saturday, May 2nd, 2026 at 5:30pm | 14th Annual

Gala Tickets on Sale Now!

Join us at the annual fundraising Gala to help support our Museum's mission and aircraft restorations in honor of our Veterans.

Order Tickets Here:

<https://champaignaviation.app.neoncrm.com/np/clients/champaignaviation/eventRegistration.jsp?event=44&mp>

Keynote Speaker: Captain Ronald A. McGee, F-4 Phantom Pilot with the "Night Owl" 497th Tactical Fighter Squadron during the Vietnam War and son of Documented Original Tuskegee Airmen, Brigadier General Charles E. McGee.

CAM Members get a discount on Gala tickets - join or renew today and get an instant ticket discount! Contact Jessica at 937-652-4710 x.106 with any questions or assistance with your ticket purchase.

We look forward to celebrating with you!

<https://www.champaignaviationmuseum.org/gala>



Activities of the Gala evening include complimentary drinks and light appetizers, musical guest saxophonist Ellis Jae Williams, aircraft fly-by (weather permitting), a delicious dinner and dessert, large silent auction throughout the evening, and Keynote speaker presentation that will be informative, humorous, and serious, with unheard stories about the Tuskegee Airmen and aviation.



Champaign Aviation Museum
1652 N. Main St., Urbana, OH 43078 | 937-652-4710
ChampaignAviationMuseum.org

Champaign Aviation Museum is Site #13 on the Aviation Trail



Talk and Tour at Armstrong Air & Space Museum

James Webb Telescope • Thur., April 16 & Sat., April 18, 2026

Talk & Tour

MONTHLY MUSEUM PROGRAM SERIES



Uncover the groundbreaking discoveries made by the James Webb Space Telescope. View stunning images captured by the telescope and learn what they reveal about the early universe.

No RSVP is required. General admission must be paid upon entry to attend the program and tour.

Questions contact: 419-738-8869; programs@armstrongmuseum.org

Armstrong Air & Space Museum • 500 Apollo Dr, Wapakoneta, OH 45895, USA
<https://www.armstrongmuseum.org/talkandtour>



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

Armstrong Air & Space Museum is Site #12 on the Aviation Trail



Tri-State Warbird Museum

Fly Higher: Discovery Days – The Spy Pilot April 14 & 15, 2026, 12:30 - 2:00 pm

The realm of spies exploded during WWII and after. Come learn more about spy missions, reconnaissance, and the famous Cold War spy pilot, Frances Gary Powers, and his mission aboard a U-2 spy plane over USSR territory. Discovery Days include self-guided activities as well as educator-led experiences.



April 14: Register for April 14:

<https://tristatewarbirdmuseum.wildapricot.org/event-6521922%20>

April 15: Register for April 15:

<https://tristatewarbirdmuseum.wildapricot.org/event-6521938%20>

Homeschool FAQs: <https://www.tristatewarbirdmuseum.org/learn/homeschoolers/homeschool-days-faqs/>

Membership info: <https://www.tristatewarbirdmuseum.org/support/membership/>

Program and Event Cancellations & Refund Policy

We regret that we cannot grant refunds for program and event registrations. If we must cancel a program or an event due to low enrollment, you will be given the option to move your registration to another program/event or receive a full refund. We reserve the right to cancel programs and events due to low enrollment or extreme weather. Registrants will be notified via email 24 hours prior if a program or event is cancelled.



Tri-State Warbird Museum
4021 BORMAN DR, BATAVIA, OH 45103
(513) 735-4500
<https://www.tristatewarbirdmuseum.org>

Tri-State Warbird Museum is Site #15 on the Aviation Trail



Newsletter Bonus Event Video Link

Levitt Event hosted at Aviation Trail Visitor Center in February

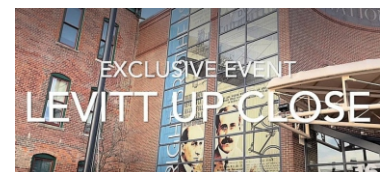
Video on Levitt UpClose Event at Visitor Center:

Levitt UpClose is a series of events provided by Levitt Pavilion for a unique concert experience: "Uncover the mystery: Three artists, one secret location... endless memories!"

(see link below for video page)

The Levitt UpClose February 12, 2026 event was held at the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park's Wright-Dunbar Interpretive Center/Aviation Trail Visitor Center and hosted by the National Park Service and Aviation Trail, Inc. Refreshments were provided by Heavier Than Air Brewery.

Video courtesy of Dan Edwards



See the Aviation Trail website Video Page to view the video at

<https://www.aviationtrailinc.org/video>

Learn more about Levitt Pavilion and Levitt UpClose at: <https://levittdayton.org> and <https://levittdayton.org/upclose/>



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.**

Aviation Trail remains committed to upholding our mission of aviation awareness, education, preservation and restoration in our region. We need your support in order to be more than "The Birthplace of Aviation," but also the premier locale in the country to "Experience the Birthplace of Aviation." Your membership and donation support is critical in helping maintain that mission.

We continue to promote the "Wilbear Wright"® passport program. This program has been extremely popular with youth as it was intended, but frequently with adults as well! We have distributed over 15,000 free, "Wilbear Wright"® teddy bears since the program began, and we are extending the program through Dec. 31, 2026.

We continue to expand the ATI parachute collection (already noted by the Smithsonian Air & Space Museum as one of the largest, if not the largest, in the country) with major donations of ejection seats, and additional parachute equipment, and hope to expand the museum to display more of the collection. We plan to renovate the Pekin Theater and Fish Market buildings which ATI owns immediately adjacent to our Aviation Trail Visitor Center to accommodate the expansion.

We also are about to publish the "Field Guide to Flight" for the third time with significantly increased photos and additional Trail sites added since it's last publication.

Your membership support is critical in assisting us with these projects and our promotion of the aviation heritage of our region. Please visit our website at www.aviationtrailinc.org to keep up to date with events sponsored by ATI and our partners throughout our region.

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

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



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



Shirts



Collectable Art Prints



Caps



Tumblers



Magnets



Pins



New Souvenir Sign 7" x 9" aluminum "Support the Trail"

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.

