



# 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.*

## "The Flight Log" - **AVIATION TRAIL MAIL**

(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. Both versions are available on the ATI website "Newsletters and Brochures" page: <http://www.aviationtrailinc.org/newsletters>).

**July 23, 2017**

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



**Above: 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

## Aviation Trail Honors Retiring NPS Superintendent

*Dayton, Ohio, July 22, 2017*

On July 21, 2017 Aviation Trail Inc. held a luncheon in honor of Dean Alexander, the just retired Superintendent of the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park. Dean retired after 30 years with the National Park Service. In 2009, He became the third Superintendent at Dayton Aviation Heritage NHP, which was established in 1992 as a series of six noncontiguous sites that bring together Federal and State agencies with private, non-profit organizations (such as Aviation Trail) to preserve and celebrate the history of the Wright brothers, aviation, and Paul Laurence Dunbar. His stewardship of the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park's partnership with Aviation Trail has maintained a mutually beneficial impetus to the goal of preserving



*Supt. Alexander at 2016 Aero Carnival*



*(Above photo: Aviation Trail President Marvin Christian (left) presents Supt. Dean Alexander (right) with a plaque in thanks for his service).*

this history and making it available to the public. For more information on the event, and a slide show with more photos, see the article on the "News" page of the ATI website at <http://www.aviationtrailinc.org/news>



## 2017 Runway Fest

On Friday, August 11, 2017, the 6th Annual Runway Fest will be held from 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM at the Dayton-Wright Brothers Airport at 10550 N. Springboro Pike, Miamisburg, Ohio 45342.



Attractions include music, food booths, fireworks, vendors, inflatables, and the Wright B Flyer. Admission and parking are free. For more information, directions, and many more photos from previous years, see this link:

<http://www.flydayton.com/events/>



## Aero Carnival Helps Celebrate WPAFB's 100th Anniversary

Wright Patterson Air Force Base celebrates its 100th anniversary in 2017. One of the tributes to this anniversary will be the National Park Service's annual Aero Carnival which will be held on Saturday, September 9, 2017 from 10:30 to 5:00. It will take place on the Huffman Prairie Flying Field on Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, the very place where Orville and Wilbur Wright conducted tests and flights as early as 1904. This will be a special year for Aero Carnival in celebrating WPAFB's origins.

The Army Air Service established Wilbur Wright field on May 22, 2017 and then McCook Field in November of that year. McCook was the test field where many

aviation experiments and milestones were established, and Wright Field was a flying field, supply depot, and armorers' school. McCook Field closed in 1927, partly due to space restrictions, and its functions were moved to Wright Field, and in 1931 part of Wright Field was designated as Patterson Field. In 1948 Wright Field and Patterson were merged into Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

The Aero Carnival event is free to all and access is through Gate 16A off of State Route 444.

Updated list of events at 2017 Aero Carnival, **as of July 3, 2017**: For more information, and for the latest list of the many activities that are lined up so far, see the Aero Carnival page on the ATI website at <http://www.aviationtrailinc.org/2017-aero-carnival>, and also see the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Park website at <https://www.nps.gov/daav/learn/news/the-2017-great-wright-brothers-aero-carnival.htm>

**Aero Carnival**  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Dayton Aviation Heritage  
National Historical Park

*The Great  
Wright Brothers  
Aero Carnival*

**Date:** Saturday, September 9, 2017  
**Time:** 10:30 am - 5:00 pm  
**Location:** Huffman Prairie Flying Field  
State Route 444, Gate 16A  
Wright-Patterson AFB

**Admission:** Free to All

*Family fun & activities all day long!*  
◦ Aircraft Displays ◦ Hay Rides ◦ Parachute  
Jumps ◦ Bounce Houses ◦ So Much More!

For more info, visit the park's website at  
[www.nps.gov/daav](http://www.nps.gov/daav) or call us @937-225-7705





# Aviation Trail Parachute Museum Hosts Visiting Groups



## Greene County Skydivers Visit Museum

June 17, 2017, Ann Armstrong-Ingoldsby, Aviation Trail

The Aviation Trail, Inc. Dave Gold Parachute Museum, in the Wright-Dunbar Interpretive Center, Dayton, was the center for visits from some area skydivers. Jim West, owner of Skydive Greene County (SGC), Xenia, Ohio, and some jumper friends, for the first time, toured the Dave Gold Parachute Museum last week.



*Museum Curator Randy Zuercher speaks to the group.  
Photo courtesy of Ann Armstrong-Ingoldsby.  
For more photos of the visit see the Aviation Trail website at  
<http://www.aviationtrailinc.org/photo-page-2>*



Jim has been skydiving from the early days of the sport and has accumulated over 16,000 jumps...at least. He also did tests on ejection seat parachutes for the U.S. Air Force. He noted that he has 70 reserve rides. That is when the parachute doesn't work like one would like and the jumper has to resort to the reserve chute. Scary.

And talk about scary. Lt. Harold Harris of the U.S. Army Air Service was stationed at McCook Field, Dayton, Ohio, and in 1922 had to leap from a disabled airplane using a free fall parachute. He was the first one to do so.

Prior to this, Leslie L. Irvin made the first premeditated free fall parachute jump in 1919. Where? In Dayton, of course. Irvin had joined the Army Air Service parachute research team at McCook Field, following some stunt parachute work he did in movies. He immediately began a parachute equipment company which developed into Airborne Systems today.

McCook Field was located north of downtown Dayton where there are now baseball fields at Island Park. McCook was the beginning of Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, and is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year.

In the meantime, Skydive Greene County became one of the first skydiving clubs, producing many known skydivers today. The skydiver-visitors to the museum last week included Steve Marcum, now airline pilot, originally from Huber Heights; Kelly West, Jim West's daughter and manager; Sam Palumbo, retired, U.S. Treasury; Randy Zuercher, alumni of SGC and curator of the museum; and Ann Armstrong-Ingoldsby, former jumper at SGC

and volunteer at the museum. Casey Huegel, National Park Ranger at the museum, who is also on the Parachute Museum committee, also led the tour.

The Dayton Air Show, June 24-25, will feature other skydiving wonders, Misty Blues all-woman Skydiving Team. One of their jump suits are featured in the Parachute Museum, which the team plans to tour that week.

So the legacy of Harold Harris lives on in people like Jim West...jumping out of perfectly good airplanes. --

### **Misty Blue Team Visits Parachute Museum**

*June 28, 2017, Ann Armstrong-Ingoldsby, Aviation Trail*

The Misty Blues all-women skydiving demonstration team toured the Wright-Dunbar Interpretive Center (WDIC) while the team was in Dayton to perform for the Air Show. The members donated a seat pack to the Parachute Museum which was used to hold flags. From 5,000 feet in the air one of the skydivers jumps out of a plane to unfurl a giant American flag at the beginning of the Air Show. Later on the whole team performs with more flags and banners flying.

The Parachute Museum, on the second floor of WDIC, had already been the recipient of a Misty Blues jump suit and helmet which is on display in the museum.

The ten-member team is based in Ann Arbor, Michigan, although members are from all over the United States. They jump at 10 air shows a year and at other events like football games and special gatherings. The all-women team represents role models for women and girls.

*Photo courtesy of Ann Armstrong-Ingoldsby*



### **Air Camp Students Visit Parachute Museum**

*July 20, 2017, Aviation Trail Parachute Museum Report*



The Parachute Museum had some special visitors, or should we say special students, this past week. Air Camp gives the campers a chance to study not only air craft but decelerator systems as well. The students were tasked with designing their own parachute after visiting the ATI Parachute Museum during their morning session and then in the afternoon session they heard from expert Andrew Kididis on the real science behind it all and were assessed on how well they did, according to Parachute Museum curator Randy Zuercher.

For information on Air Camp see <https://aircampa.com>.  
To see more on the Parachute Museum see the Aviation Trail website at <http://www.aviationtrailinc.org/parachute-museum>





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\_\_\_\_\_ \$30 Family

\_\_\_\_\_ \$500 Individual Life

Members of Aviation Trail, Inc. receive a subscription the the Aviation Trail newsletter, and advance invitations to Aviation Trail events and programs.

Check enclosed. Make payable to: **Aviation Trail, Inc.**

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## Please apply my donation to:

**Membership Fund**

**Preservation Fund\***

\* Donations will be designated to promote and preserve historical aviation sites in the Dayton Region.

Online credit card payments may be made from our website at [www.aviationtrailinc.org](http://www.aviationtrailinc.org).

Select the "Memberships -Donations-Reservations button from the top menu. Secure payments are made through PayPal.

*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.*

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"The Flight Log" - **AVIATION TRAIL MAIL**

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