

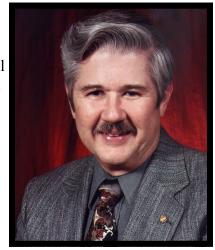
THE WRIGHT FLYER



Aviation Trail, Inc. Spring 2011

2011 TRAILBLAZER IS ATI TRUSTEE STEVE BROWN

The 2011 Aviation Trail Trailblazer is Stephen P. Brown who, as a professional architect and aviation enthusiast, has been key to the development and completion of the Aviation Trail Parachute Museum and many other aviation-related projects in the Miami Valley.



As selector of the

award, the ATI Board of Trustees is pleased to recognize one of its own who has served voluntarily for many years, giving of his time and talents to further the group's parachute-related, and other, projects.

The Presidential Banquet Center, 4572 Presidential Way, Kettering, Ohio, will be the site of the Trail-blazer presentation on Saturday, April 16, the birth date of Wilbur Wright. Tickets are \$45 per person and the public is welcome. The social begins at 6 p.m. with dinner following at 6:45.

Reservations for the event must be received by Monday, April 11, at Aviation Trail, Inc. P.O. Box 633, Dayton, OH 45409.

Steve's work on the Parachute Museum began with receipt and storage of the Dave Gold Parachute Collection in the 1980s and was recently completed in 2010. He worked with Wright State University, Special Collections and Archives, in cataloging the collection, and in repacking and securing storage for it. During the many years of design and fabrication, Steve has been ATI's technical consultant to the project's exhibit builder/contractor.

In fact, Steve's involvement with ATI predates plans for the Parachute Museum. As an architect in his father's firm Brown & Head Architects, he was a leader in the historic preservation of the Hoover Block and the design and construction of the ATI building--both in the Wright-Dunbar Village--and maintains an archi-

tectural guardianship for the care of both the original and new sections of the ATI structure.

Steve has devoted many hours to other aviation endeavors besides ATI, including the 1905 Wright Flyer III sculpture alongside the Engineers Club in Dayton, the 1909 Wright B Flyer Monument nearby Gate 1B at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, the proposed Wright Flyer Monument project at the intersection of I-70 and I-75, and in helping to establish a permanent home for the Wright "B" Flyer at Dayton-Wright Brothers Airport.

Steve's generosity in volunteer hours extends to numerous community projects. He is preparing designs to update the National Aviation Hall of Fame Learning Center and currently serves on the Dayton Masonic Center Foundation, the Antioch Shrine Center Foundation and the National Association of Hospital Hospitality Houses. He served on the Ronald McDonald House Board of Trustees and led the strategic planning process that resulted in Dayton's Ronald McDonald House at 555 Valley St.

During the Centennial of Flight Steve served as president of the Woodland Cemetery & Arboretum Foundation and led an effort to restore and highlight the Wright family gravesite at Woodland in time for the celebration. A memorial service at the Wright family site featured aviation notables Neil Armstrong and John Glenn.

Steve began his involvement in aviation as a 14-year-old student pilot in gliders, along with his father Paul, mother Doris and brothers Stan and Greg. He earned his pilot's license before his driver's license and went on to a commercial rating in gliders and hot air balloons and a private, single-engine land rating. As a teenager he piloted a glider to 25,500 feet over Pike's Peak, Colorado. Steve is a partner in a Cessna Cardinal, and assists in the Experimental Aircraft Association's (EAA) Young Eagles program, introducing young people to aviation.

As a leader in the hot air balloon community, Steve worked with his father Paul as a key organizer for hot air balloon events at the Dayton International Air Show for eight years and he presents ballooning-related sessions

Continued on Page 2

for teachers. He is training his daughter Michelle to fly hot air balloons.

Steve's professional services also have contributed to the restoration of the Engineers Club of Dayton, restoration and preservation of the Dayton Masonic Center, and preservation of Dayton's Antioch Shrine Center.

A native of Dayton, Steve earned a bachelor of architecture degree at the University of Cincinnati in 1975, and has since spent his entire professional career in Dayton, following his father into architecture, as well as his activities in the aviation community, including Aviation Trail. Besides Michelle, he and his wife Eileen have a son Tim who is a student at DeVry University in Dayton.

PARACHUTE MAKES LOVELY WEDDING DRESS

In this 1946 wedding photo the bride wears a gown made from a German parachute, now part of the Aviation Trail Parachute Museum collection. The bride and groom are U.S. Army Capt. and Mrs. Joseph R. Lynn Jr. who were both assigned to Germany during World War II--she in the U.S. Army Nursing corps at the Army hospital at Nur-

emburg where she met her husband-to-be. The silk dress was sewn by the owner of a little tailoring shop in the hospital where the GIs could get their uniforms altered and stripes sewn on. The bride designed the gown which resembles her sketch. A friend of the couple picked up the material for the veil in Paris as that fabric wasn't available in Germany. After 55 years of marriage and four children, Joseph Lynn passed away in



2001; Mrs. Lynn (Olga) is 89 and lives in North Carolina. Her daughter Martha Lynn McKalip donated the dress to the ATI Parachute Museum.

ATI President Marvin Christian displays the dress in this photo.





To spread the word about the Aviation Trail Parachute Museum, we've published this new, six-panel, color brochure. It was completed in time for the museum's re-opening and ample numbers are in the brochure rack to the right of the doorway into the museum. Don't be shy about asking for copies for large groups planning on visiting: we have 4,000. The text includes summaries of some of the new exhibits and a short biography of Dave Gold whose parachute collection is the core of the museum.

ATI IS 30 YEARS AND COUNTING

Congratulate yourselves! Aviation Trail, Inc. is 30 years old in 2011.

Few all-volunteer groups reach the 30 mark. But due to the superb dedication of its members and boards of trustees, it has accomplished much.

A little history. The Dayton Aviation Trail grew out of a regional economic development conference held at the University of Dayton on Nov. 18-19, 1980. The meeting was co-sponsored by the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission and the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce.

One of the ideas that came out of the conference was to use the area's aviation heritage to market the region by establishing two trails: a tourist trail to attract visitors to the Miami Valley and a business trail to attract businesses.

First priorities of the committee were to develop the tourist Aviation Trail and to publish a brochure promoting the trail. An inaugural tour of the trail was held July 13, 1981, for 175 guests and it was underwritten by the Dayton-Montgomery County Convention and Visitors Bureau.

The success of the project led to the committee's decision to incorporate as a not-for-profit which was finalized on Aug. 3, 1981. You'll find the names of two of the 18 incorporating trustees in this newsletter: Mary Ann Johnson, secretary for the current board of trustees, and Paul Brown, trustee *emeritus*.

Mary Ann has written a personality feature on Paul who, until a few years ago, also was an active board member. Despite Paul's absence from meetings, we have his son, Steve Brown, who is this year's Trailblazer for his professional guidance in developing the ATI Parachute Museum.

Many of you will recognize others of the incorporating trustees who gave of their talents 30 years ago. Luckily for the Miami Valley they launched an aviation historical preservation effort that continues today, especially memorializing the achievements of Wilbur and Orville Wright. Listed below are all the original trustees.

Jim Alexander
Paul P. Brown
Dick Baughman
John C. Dussault
E. George Ferguson
Ed Hamlyn
Jim Jacobs
Harold Johnson
Mary Ann Johnson

J.H. Meyer, M.D.
Amy Salaverria
Doris Scott
Gerald Sharkey
Marian S. Simmons
Colonel Richard Uppstrom
Read Viemeister
George J. Wedekind Jr.
Mel Weinberg



Setzer Building

This is the façade of the Setzer building which, with the Hoover Block, is part of the ATI building and Wright-Dunbar Interpretive Center. While the structures were opened to the public in June 2003, the storefront windows on the front façade were never fully rehabilitated. A project undertaken in mid March will complete the rehab of this historic façade and ATI will install new exhibits in the storefront area. The current windows and blocked doors give the appearance that the Wright-Dunbar Interpretive Center is unoccupied. The project's completion will help promote the park as open for business and complement the Wright-Dunbar streetscape program. WILCON construction was awarded the work contract.





This new interstate highway sign announces to drivers that they are entering the National Aviation Heritage Area. It is alongside I-75 southbound near Wapakoneta, Ohio. Identical signs are at I-70 eastbound, east of the Preble/Montgomery county line; I-70 westbound in Clark county; and I-75 northbound near the Butler/Warren county line.

ATI MOURNS THREE TRUSTEES

Aviation Trail is extremely saddened by the recent deaths within three months of three members of the Board of Trustees: Joe C. Sonderman. Harold L. Johnson and James L. Custer (emeritus).

All are mourned and will be missed as friends and for the major contributions they made to ATI.



Joe Sonderman

Joe was the ATI treasurer for several years and dutifully gave the treasurer's report at ATI monthly meetings. He was conscientious and thorough in his reporting and attention to the ATI finances. Temporarily, Bill McNabb is filling the treasurer's position.

At age 48, Joe died November 20 after some weeks in the hospital. He was employed by WinWholesale Inc. of Dayton. He is survived by his fiancée Sandra Sawyer of Dayton, and two brothers, Mark and his wife and Vincent—all of St. Louis. His memorial service was held at Baker-Hazel & Snider Funeral Home

Harold, who died at 85 January 12 in Florida, was an ATI incorporating trustee in 1981 and one of the organizers of the first Dayton Air Show. He was well known in the area as the Flying Mayor of Moraine, a position he held from 1976 to 1993.

For several years he delighted crowds at Kings Island Amusement Park by simulating the comic character Snoopy's aerial combat with the Red Baron. He was the Red Baron flying his WACO UMF-3. In fact, last year Harold donated to the ATI Parachute Museum the parachute pack he wore in the mock aerial battles.



Harold Johnson

Besides ATI, he was on the board of the Wright Seaplane Base, Inc. which commemorates the location on the Great Miami River where the Wrights tested

their hydroplanes, and Moraine's Community Improvement Corp. He organized South Dayton Airport, now Moraine Air Park, and managed it for 30 years and was past president of the National Aviation Hall of Fame. He had served in the U. S. Navy.

Harold is survived by his wife Thelma and two daughters, Patricia Harlow and Annette Johnson and a brother Edward and his wife. Funeral services were held at Miami Shores Baptist Church in Moraine.

Jim, age 88, died February 3 in Dayton after a long illness. He was retired from Monarch Marking as vice president of marketing and had served in both the U. S. Army Air Forces during World War II, where he flew B-22 aircraft, and the Korean War

A long-time ATI member,



advisor, and trustee, Custer was involved with fund raising for the group, having given many luncheon talks and distributed ATI brochures, thus gaining new members. He often spoke about his father, L. Luzern Custer, manufacturer of the Custer mini car and amusement park rides, and an accomplished ballooning pilot.

Jim was associated with several other aviation-related and other organizations including the Wright-B Flyer, Engineering & Science Hall of Fame, Engineers Club, Oakwood Kiwanis, Arabic Club, Criterion Club, Sigma Chi and Kentucky Colonels. He was heavily involved with Masonic activities: Mystic Lodge #405, Scottish Rite, Supreme Counsel, 33rd degree, York Rite, Antioch Temple.

As a young boy Jim could recall watching planes at the Vandalia airport—now Dayton International Airport—and hearing pilots such as Orville Wright, Jimmy Doolittle, Roscoe Turner, Hugh Herndon, and John Macready talk about flying. On one occasion there he shared popcorn with an aviatrix flying an Autogyro to advertise Beechnut Gum: Amelia Earhart.

Jim is survived by his wife Patricia and daughters Deborah Lakins and Cathrine Morter. His funeral service was at Westminster Presbyterian Church.

MEMBER PROFILE

By Mary Ann Johnson

Paul Brown



Paul Brown, now an Adviser Emeritus, is one of the longest serving members of the Aviation Trail, Inc. Board of Trustees, starting as a founding member of the not-for-profit corporation in August, 1981, and actively participating in its projects until he switched to Adviser Emeritus status in December 2005.

Paul became involved with Aviation Trail after the two-day economic development conference at the University of Dayton in November, 1980, when John Dussault asked him to join a committee which John was organizing to work on the Aviation Trail idea which was proposed by the participants at the conference. Paul knew John Dussault through serving with him on the Board of Trustees of the National Aviation Hall of Fame. The committee held its first meeting on February 25, 1981, in the Dayton Convention Center Aero Lounge.

As an Aviation Trail Trustee, Paul became a member of the Restoration Committee, where he used his professional training as an architect in overseeing the acquisition, preservation and restoration of the two still-standing Wright brothers buildings in the Dayton West Side neighborhood where Wilbur and Orville lived, worked and invented the airplane: The Hoover Block and the Wright Cycle Company.

Paul earned his architect degree from the Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio, after the end of World War II. He first practiced as Brown Associates, then formed a partnership with a friend from his class at Ohio State, Brown and Head, and reverted back to Brown and Associates after his partner retired in 1981. Then when Paul retired in 1991, he turned the firm over to his eldest son, Steve, who had been with the company since earning his architect degree from the University of Cincinnati, in Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1975. Some examples of Paul's projects are the early phase of Bethany Village retirement community, the Montgomery County office building and the Red Fox, once a prominent restaurant in downtown Dayton.

In addition to his professional career as an architect, Paul also gave back to the community in personal service and volunteer activities, including eight years as a Harrison Township Trustee and volunteer chairman of the Miami Valley Boy Scout Council.

During World War II, Paul attended the United States Merchant Academy, then served as an engineering officer on a ship sailing into the South Pacific in 1945. The ship carried 2,100 soldiers, who were dropped off as invaders in New Guinea and other islands. For Paul, however, it was a more pleasurable experience, where he had an opportunity to enjoy his private cabin and get acquainted with headliners such as Bob Hope, who headed troupes of entertainers sent along to amuse the soldiers who were to be dropped off.

When the war ended, Paul returned to Dayton, with a major interest in watercraft. After deciding that was not a good fit for the Dayton area, he switched to anything "flying." He joined the flying committee of the Dayton-Montgomery Chamber of Commerce and other aviation groups and eventually embraced hot-air ballooning as a family activity for his wife, three sons and himself. That way, he said he, "always knew where his sons where every weekend" as they flew their balloon at meets in Dayton and other locations.

Later, he became acquainted with many prominent people in the field of aviation through his national Aviation Hall of Fame activities. Among these was Walter (Wally) Schirra, one of the seven original astronauts. In planning a trip to Hawaii with his wife to celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary, he remembered Wally had a place on the island of Hawaii and called him to see if he might happen to be there at the same time. However, Wally's answer was "No." But as it turned out, Wally was invited to speak at a December 7 ceremony in Hawaii and gave them a surprise call, and then Wally and his wife spent several days showing them around the island.

About a year ago, Paul and his wife Doris moved from the house where they had lived most of their married life, and which Paul had designed, to a retirement community called Brookhaven in Brookville, Ohio.



ATI CONFERENCE ROOM NEWLY UPGRADED

A new audio-visual projector and upgraded sound system have been installed in the Conference Room on the second floor of the Aviation Trail building at 16 S. Williams St.

The two systems were combined to provide a theatersetting atmosphere and the sound system can be controlled independently for the two sides of the room. Thus, two independent meetings can take place simultaneously without sound from one side interfering with the other side.

Additionally, conferences and meetings will be enhanced with the new, state-of-the-art sound system that doesn't compete with the heating and cooling systems in the building.

The room is available for public meetings; call 937 225-7705 for scheduling. Work was performed by Ohio Valley Audio-visual and funded by the National Park Service.

WILBEAR BEAR HAS FACEBOOK FRIENDS

The cuddly stuffed animal named Wilbear Wright, an aviator teddy bear given as a "reward" to visitors to local aviation-related sites, is on Facebook!

Most people know that children or adults who visit six aviation-related sites around the Miami Valley can claim a Wilbear.

But did you know he has his own group of more than 170 internet friends? Many are other mascots who represent their organizations just as Wilbear personifies—or Bearifies—Dayton's aviation heritage.

If you're a Facebook member, check him out. Just type in Wilbear.Dayton and the leather-jacket, goggleoutfitted teddy will appear.

Wilbear is a program managed by the folks at Wright-Dunbar Inc. with support from the DAHNHP. They report that to date they have given out 1,700 bears. Aviation Trail, Inc. is a monetary supporter of the Wilbear Wright program, as are several other Dayton-area organizations.

KIDS' CORNER

Again this summer there are interesting, fun, aviation- and spacerelated activities in the area for kids of all ages. The locations for the programs are the National Museum of the U. S. Air Force, Dayton, and the WACO Learning Center in Troy, Ohio. Here are the highlights.

Air Camp Air Camp returns for its second year offering not one but two camps: Air Camp I June 26-July 1 and Air Camp II July 10-15. Structured for middle school students, the camp will expose the campers to the wonders of flight as they study the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) of aviation. Home base will be the campus of the University of Dayton. Air Camp students' activities will include training and flying as an aircraft copilot, and meeting scientists at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. Information on both camp sessions is available at www.AirCampUSA.com.

National Museum of the U.S. Air Force The museum plans expanded Space Day activities in early May to include a presentation by astronauts, a star-gazing party (weather permitting), space-related science demonstration stations, guided tours of the museum's Missile & Space Gallery and reduced prices for IMAX films.. Special after-hours activities will take place May 5 on Space Night. The museum also will feature Aerospace Camp that teaches STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics). The week-long program is structured for students in grades 2-9 with a focus on different topics for different age groups. For additional information, contact the museum 937.904.9881 or view its website at www.nationalmuseum.af.mil

WACO Learning Center The WACO Learning Center program will include workshops on rockets, radio controlled model aircraft, robotics and an aviation summer camp. It is structured for both youth and adults at its Historic WACO Field location. Check the WACO website for details: www.wacoairmuseum.org or call 937.335.9226. The program's contact is at LCDir@wacoairmuseum.org





Bike with a Ranger

June 5, July 10, August 7, 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (4 hours) "Creative People – Creative City: Innovative Dayton's Historic Roots"

This tour stops at locations that tell the story of Dayton's creative roots in the early 20th century. Homes include Orville Wright's mansion, Hawthorn Hill; and Patterson Homestead, birthplace of NCR founder, John H. Patterson. Carillon Historical Park is also part of the tour, and tells the story of Edward Deeds and Charles F. Kettering, two of Dayton's most creative people. The tour begins and ends at Riverscape Metro Park Bicycle Hub in downtown Dayton, 111 E. Monument Avenue, across from the Engineers Club. (NOTE: This bike ride can be challenging to some since it is along urban streets and crosses hilly terrain.)

June 19, July 17, and August 21, 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (4 hours)

"Huffman Prairie and Historic Patterson Field (Wright-Patterson AFB, Areas A and C)"

Discover how one of the largest aviation complexes in the world.

Wright-Patterson AFB, began as a humble, 84-acre cow pasture just

a few miles northeast of Dayton. This moderately difficult bicycle ride down mostly bicycle trails and less-traveled roads will take the trail leading to Huffman Prairie Flying Field and historic old Patterson Field (present day Wright-Patterson AFB, Areas A and C).

Due to Air Force security requirements, all participants must register at least seven days prior to the tour. No exceptions! The tour will end where we started--at Wright Memorial Hill. Wright Memorial Hill is located close to the intersection of State Route 444 and Kauffman Road, just 1.5 miles east of the National Museum of the United States Air Force at Huffman Prairie Flying Field Interpretive Center, 2380 Memorial Rd., Wright-Patterson AFB, OH 45433



On the street in Dayton where Paul Laurence Dunbar lived,
Mark Dues leads a group of bicyclists participating in a
Bike with a Ranger program in 2010. The ride was one of several sponsored by the Dayton Aviation
Heritage National
Historical Park

where Dues is a park ranger. This summer the bike rides will feature places associated with Dayton's historic, creative people, and Huffman Prairie Flying Field and Wright-Patterson AFB.

HALL OF FAME ENSHRINEES ANNOUNCED AT DEC. 17 EVENT

When Aviation Trail held its traditional Anniversary of Powered Flight dinner Dec. 17 there really were three "events" to celebrate.

Foremost was the 107th anniversary of the first powered, heavierthan-air, controlled flights by Daytonians Wilbur and Orville Wright at Kitty Hawk, N.C.

Then there were the announcements by the National Aviation Hall of Fame of its inductees into the Class of 2011and, third, the recent naming of guest speak Lt. Gen. John L. "Jack" Hudson, USAF (Ret.) as new director of the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force. It was General Hudson's first speaking engagement since the announcement

The event at the Engineers Club in Dayton was attended by some 90 persons who toasted the Wrights and all military members, dined on turkey dinner and then heard General Hudson describe some of his plans for the museum, including the possibility of receiving a Space Shuttle from NASA.

The announced NAHF Class of 2011 will be inducted at the 50th annual enshrinement dinner and ceremony July 16 at the Dayton Convention Center. The enshrinees are: Ivan Carl Kincheloe Jr., Charles E. McGee, S. Harry Robertson, and Thomas D. White. The ceremony falls on the second day of the Vectren Dayton Air Show which headlines the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds. The inductees are:

The late Capt. Iven Carl Kincheloe Jr, USAF, a Korean double ace and record-setting Jet Age test pilot hailed as the "first man in space,"; Col. Charles Edward McGee, USAF (Ret.), Tuskegee Airman and fighter pilot with 409 combat missions flown while serving in three wars; S. Harry Robertson, pilot, engineer, entrepreneur, and aviation safety pioneer recognized as the father of the crashworthy fuel system; and the late Gen. Thomas D. White, USAF, former chief of staff and key Cold War architect of integrating space technology into modern defense systems

Additionally, the NAHF will present the Milton Caniff Spirit of Flight Award to the U.S. Navy Blue Angels Flight Demonstration Team on the 100th anniversary of Naval aviation July 15 at the NAHF Learning Center and the adjacent National Museum of the U.S. Air Force.

For advanced reservations for the NAHF events, call 937 256 0944 ext. 10; more information is available at www.national aviation.org.



MICHAEL REYNOLDS NAMED MIDWEST REGIONAL DIRECTOR WILL LEAD 13-STATE REGION

The National Park Service's Midwest region has a new regional director: Michael T. Reynolds. He'll begin his new duties this May and he replaces



Ernest Quintana who served as Midwest regional director from 2003-2011. Reynolds previously was deputy regional director of the Northeast region since 2008. Prior to that position, he was superintendent of Fire Island National Seashore where he was credited with innovative ways to

the recently retired

Michael Reynolds

work with the local community and park partners. Reynolds' earlier assignments include resource manager, planner, legislative staffer, and a division chief in three parks. The territory of his new assignment covers 13 states, including Ohio, with 58 national parks which are visited by some 20 million visitors annually.

Reynolds is the third generation of his family to work for the NPS and grew up in Yosemite National Park. He has degrees from the University of California, Santa Barbara, and an MBA from Regis University in Denver.



Welcome New Members

Dave and Diane Cornelisse

Heather Ivers

Steve Teske



AVIATION TRAIL, INC. Post Office Box 633 Wright Brothers Branch Dayton, OH 45409 Phone: 937.443.0793



Spring 2011

www.aviationtrailinc.org

REMINDERS

- --Saturday, April 16, ATI's Trailblazer Banquet and Ceremony, Presidential Banquet Center, 4572 Presidential Way, Kettering, Ohio. Social at 6; dinner at 6:45. Trailblazer Award to Stephen P. Brown.
- --May 18, "Wright Exhibition Team," Paul Glenshaw, Wright Experience, Engineers Club, 7-8 p.m., a National Park Service event.
- --July 15, National Aviation Hall of Fame Spirit of Flight Award to the U.S. Navy Blue Angels Flight Demonstration Team, NAHF, details at 937.256.0944
- --July 16, NAHF's Class of 2011 Enshrinement, Dayton Convention Center, details at 937.256.0944.
- --July 20, "Cal Rodgers and Hap Arnold," Tom Crouch, Curator, National Air and Space Museum, Engineers Club, 7-8 p.m., a National Park Service event.

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