



Aviation Trail, Inc.

News and Updates from "The Trail"

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

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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

January 2020 ISSUE

01/27/2020

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

Parachutes in News

Floyd Smith Announced as National Inventors Hall of Fame Inductee

Las Vegas, NV - January 7, 2020

On January 7, twenty-two innovation pioneers were announced as the National Inventors Hall of Fame® (NIHF) 2020 class of Inductees on stage at CES® (the Consumer Electronics Show) in Las Vegas. One of the historical inductees (awarded posthumously), Floyd Smith, developed his invention at historic McCook Field in Dayton, Ohio. The awards will be presented during NIHF ceremonies on May 7 & 8, 2020. See <https://www.invent.org/induction> for event information.

Near the end of WWI the US Army put together a parachute research group that came under the Engineering Division at McCook Field in Dayton. Their job was to develop a practical parachute for in-flight escape from fixed wing aircraft. They drafted requirements and tested all the existing parachutes they could but none met their requirements. At the same time they also were working on their own design, based largely on Floyd Smith's concept for a manually operated free-fall parachute. The pilot would wear the chute, climb out and jump away from the airplane, then manually operate the parachute once safely away from the plane.

Shown in the photo is Floyd Smith wearing the prototype Model A, which was the first practical system for in-flight escape from fixed wing aircraft. The chute was initially live jumped by Leslie Irvin in April of 1919 and was soon standardized and eventually required for use by Army pilots.



Learn more about Floyd Smith:

A trapeze artist turned aviator, Smith's invention of the modern parachute led to the creation of the parachute industry and provided safe landings across the world, saving countless lives.

See the story on the National Inventors Hall of Fame website at <https://www.invent.org/inductees/floyd-smith> and be sure to click on the "10 Things You Need to Know about Floyd Smith" on that page for more details about this fascinating aviation innovator.



Learn more about Parachute History:

Visit the Aviation Trail Parachute Museum page and refer to the download near the bottom of the page for a Speaker Series presentation on the history of the parachute that was produced by the Aviation Trail Parachute Museum team:

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



NAHA Funding Legislation

Legislation Passed Extending Funding for National Aviation Heritage Area

January 18, 2020 - Dayton, Ohio

The National Aviation Heritage Area (NAHA) Board met with Rep. Mike Turner and Sen. Rob Portman in the Aviation Trail Conference room. The discussion



covered the U.S. Senate's passing of extended funding of NAHA through September of 2022. The meeting included TV interviews and a tour of the Aviation Trail and the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park Visitor Center. NAHA's new brochures and map were also distributed. See below for the Senate press release about the passing of the legislation.

United States Senate Press Release

Tuesday, December 19, 2019

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today, U.S. Sens. Rob Portman (R-OH) and Sherrod Brown (D-OH) announced the Senate passage of the final FY2020 funding bill, which includes their legislation to reauthorize funding for Dayton's National Aviation Heritage Area (NAHA) through September 30, 2022. NAHA spans eight counties throughout western Ohio, with a large presence in Dayton, the home of the Wright Brothers. There are a variety of cultural sites within the NAHA, including the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Park, Armstrong Air and Space Museum, Paul Laurence Dunbar State Memorial, Huffman Prairie Flying Field, and Grimes Flying Field, as well as resources related to the Wright Brothers.

"The National Aviation Heritage Area in Dayton is home to our nation's aviation history and I am proud the Senate-passed FY 2020 funding bill includes legislation to help ensure it is preserved and enjoyed by future generations," said Portman. "It tells the story of the Wright Brothers' development of the first airplane, which has led to a strong aviation industry in the region today. This site is a public-private partnership that has also generated economic growth in the region".

"The pioneering spirit of Paul Laurence Dunbar and the Wright Brothers is reflected today in Dayton's National Aviation Heritage Area. It's a privilege to represent a state that has and continues to play such an important role in the aviation sector. I'm proud to stand with Senator Portman in our effort to ensure that federal investment in the National Aviation Heritage Area will continue," said Brown.

As of April 2018, the National Aviation Heritage Area has more than two million visitors annually, generating \$35 million in economic impact and supporting 1,500 jobs in the region.



WACO Receives Gift

Collins Aerospace and WACO Air Museum & Learning Center Partnership

Troy, Ohio January 2, 2020

WACO is pleased to announce a gift of \$32,600 by Collins Aerospace that will support Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education in the community through a new flight simulation lab located inside the new 17,000 square-foot WACO Learning Center. The Collins Aerospace Flight Simulator Lab will immediately house four desktop flight simulators complete with yoke and rudders as well as a certified Elite Flight Simulator that can be used to log hours towards both private and instrument ratings for pilots. The lab will have the potential for additional simulators to be added at a later date.



At a ceremony Tuesday, December 17th, the donation was accepted by WACO Air Museum's Directors, Gretchen Hawk and Nancy Royer, along with the WACO Board of Trustees. Cory May, Vice President of Aftermarket for Landing Systems at Collins Aerospace, made the presentation in front of perhaps the most famous WACO in the world-- the WACO Model ATO Taperwing. This aircraft rolled out of the Troy-based WACO Aircraft Company in 1929 and won the 1936 International Air Games in Paris in 1936. This airplane was donated to the museum in 1996 by the Goodrich Aircraft Wheels & Brakes Division, now part of Collins Aerospace, and is one of the museum's most prized possessions.

Collins Aerospace now manufactures wheels and brakes in a building that was originally built as the WACO Aircraft Company. The WACO Aircraft Company was the number one manufacturer of civil aircraft in the late 1920's and early 1930's.

Sharing a historic building and a famous airplane are not the only thing the two entities have in common. They share a vision to invest in the future of the Troy community. WACO's goal is to "Preserve the Past, and Inspire the Future." Collins Aerospace recently announced its new corporate social responsibility program called Redefining Futures. The company plans to increase its impact locally and globally by aligning volunteer activities, civic leadership and corporate giving around three pillars: 1) inspiring youth to pursue opportunities in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) 2) investing in the industry's current and future workforce and 3) strengthening local communities.

"The combining factors of being in the same community, a shared history, and a shared vision for the future make this a perfect collaboration," commented Learning Center Director Nancy Royer. "WACO has STEM education programming for as young as pre-school and programming that continues all the way through adult education. I believe this donation is a declaration to both the local community and to the aviation industry of our shared vision to inspire the future. Together, we will shape a better future!"

Contacts:

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<https://www.wacoairmuseum.org>

Parachute Museum Highlights

The Aviation Trail Parachute Museum on the second floor of the Aviation Trail building tells the story of the development of the free-fall parachute through interactive exhibits, original artifacts, panels with copies of historic photographs and text, and a timeline around the soffit of the exhibit space. Designed to appeal to both adults and children, one of the museum's most popular exhibits is an interactive display of **Joe Kittinger's** 102,800-foot jump from a balloon gondola that set a world record in 1960.

At that time*, Joseph Kittinger set the highest balloon ascent, highest parachute jump (102,800 feet), longest drogue fall and fastest speed by a human through the atmosphere (614 mph). For a fascinating look back at this historic event, check this link to Kittinger's account of his experience in a National Geographic article published in December of 2012, the 50th anniversary of the feat:

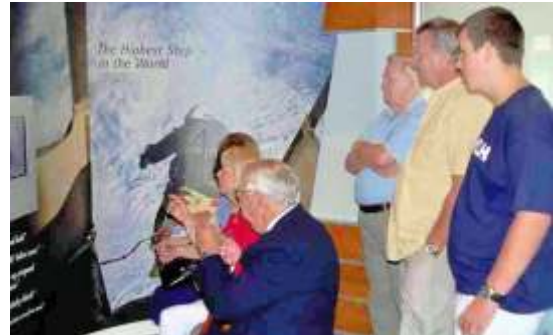


Photo: Joe Kittinger (in the light blue shirt, with arms folded) is pictured at the Parachute Museum looking at the display featuring his 1960 jump.

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/news/2012/10/121008-joseph-kittinger-felix-baumgartner-skydive-science/>

**The pending jump by Felix Baumgartner, referenced in the preface to the article, was accomplished in 2012, with a jump from 128,100 feet, breaking Kittinger's record, and becoming the first skydiver to exceed the speed of sound while in freefall (833.9 mph). The altitude record was again broken in 2014 by Alan Eustace with a jump from 25 mile above the earth.*

For more on parachuting history visit the Aviation Trail Parachute Museum located in the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park Visitor Center at 16 S. Williams St., Dayton, Ohio 45402 and follow @ParachuteMuseum on Twitter. Museum information can be viewed on the Parachute Museum page on this website. 2,800-foot jump from a balloon gondola that set a world record in 1960.

WPAFB Parachute Tour

Parachute Museum Committee Members Tour 445th Parachute Fab Shop at WPAFB

Aviation Trail Parachute Museum Curator Randy Zuercher, along with museum committee members Ann Armstrong, Paul Woodruff, and Andrew Kididis, were treated to an enlightening tour of the 445th Parachute Fab Shop at Wright Patterson Air Force Base on Friday, January 17. They were hosted by Sgt. Ravert, TSgt, USAF, 445th OSS Aircrew Flight Equipment, Aircraft Support NCOIC.



Sgt. Seth Ravert, Randy Zuercher, Andrew Kididis, Paul Woodruff



Display of flotation equipment



Explaining the B22 training rig



Sgt. Seth Ravert

Photos courtesy of Ann Armstrong

Sgt. Ravert introduced them to the newest B30 rigs soon to replace the B22s, along with the 200lb. flotation devices (holding 46 men each) that go in the C-17s on the base. The group also learned how all this equipment is serviced and repaired, from Automatic Activation Device to Beacon locator to Oxygen canister and even G-suits for the pilots.

In the words of curator Zuercher, "Wow, fastest 1-1/2 hours ever. Can't wait to come back and do some rigging and to get on a C-17". He expressed thanks on behalf of the Parachute Museum to Paul Woodruff and Sgt. Ravert for arranging the tour.



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Yes! I want to support Aviation Trail, Inc.

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Membership Levels

I / We wish to remain anonymous.

_____ \$25.00 Senior (age 60+)

_____ \$75 Contributing

_____ \$1000 Patron

_____ \$30 Individual

_____ \$150 Supporting

_____ Other- I am a life member and would like to make an additional contribution

_____ \$40 Family

_____ \$1500 Individual Life Member*

(*May be paid in three annual payments of \$500 per year, mail in only)

_____ Donation - I would like to support Aviation Trail with a **DONATION** of \$ _____ to Aviation Trail

Please apply my donation to:

Membership Fund

Preservation Fund*

Wilbear Fund**

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

** Donations will be designated to promote and preserve the "Wilbear Wright" teddy bear program that promotes the Aviation Trail and its partner sites.

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

Mail to Aviation Trail, Inc. / PO Box 633 / Wright Brothers Station / Dayton, OH 45409

Members and donors receive an online subscription to the Aviation Trail newsletter, *Flight Log*, and advance invitations to Aviation Trail events and programs.

Online credit card payments may be made from our website at 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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