



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

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>.



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

Print Version

December 2018 ISSUE

12/28/2018

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

Aviation Trail Celebration of the 115th Anniversary of Powered Flight



Aviation Trail, Inc. hosted its annual celebration of the anniversary of powered flight on Dec. 17 at the aviation-themed Flyboys Deli, 2729 Fairfield Commons Blvd., Beavercreek, Ohio 45431.

Since the early 1980s Aviation Trail has hosted a celebratory event to mark the Wrights' first, successful flight of a heavier-than-air machine on the sands of Kitty Hawk, N.C., on Dec. 17, 1903.



A group of over sixty aviation enthusiasts enjoyed a great aviation/Dayton themed buffet with entertainment by the "Licorice Stix," (at left) a clarinet ensemble from the University of Dayton's New Horizon Music Program.



(Continued at right)

(Continued from left)

The featured speaker was photographer, writer, aviation historian Dan Patterson (at right) who narrated a new documentary film on the Lafayette Escadrille, the American aviators who flew for France during World War I.



Our program for the evening

Musical entertainment by the "Licorice Stix"
University of Dayton's New Horizon Music Program

Welcome
A Toast to
our Armed Forces
A Toast to the
Wright Brothers

Our Speaker:
Dan Patterson
*photographer, writer,
aviation historian*



The Lafayette Escadrille

A Documentary Film by the Humanus Documentary Film Foundation

To learn more about Dan Patterson and the Lafayette Escadrille documentary film go to this link:
<http://thelafayetteescadrille.org/sample-page/>



Three New Sites Added to the Aviation Trail in 2018

Two popular museums of vintage warbird aircraft and a major UAS educational facility are welcomed to the tour.

These sites are now part of the Aviation Trail, a self-guided tour of selected sites that represent the region's aviation heritage.

Tri-State Warbird Museum:

The Tri-State Warbird Museum is Batavia, Ohio, the county seat of Clermont County. It features nine significant WWII aircraft, such as a P-51D Mustang, B-25 Mitchell Bomber, and a Grumman TBM-3 Avenger. The museum is located at the Clermont County Airport, 62 miles south of the Aviation Trail Visitor Center. It has 24,000 sq. ft. of hangar space and 5,000 sq. ft. of museum display space, and is continuing to grow. See more on the ATI "Trail Sites" page (site #15), or on the Tri-State Warbird Museum website www.tri-statewarbirdmuseum.org.
Tri-State Warbird Museum • 4021 Borman Drive • Batavia, OH 45103
(513) 735-4500



Butler County Warbirds:



Butler County Warbirds, Inc.

Butler County Warbirds, Inc., a not-for-profit corporation, was formed for the purpose of acquiring and maintaining historic aircraft and establishing a series of mobile and permanent historical displays for use in educating and entertaining the public. It is headquartered at Middletown Regional Airport in Middletown, Ohio, just 20 miles Southwest of the Aviation Trail Visitor Center. Rides in WWII trainer are available by reservation. See more on the ATI "Trail Sites" page (site #16), or on the Butler County Warbirds website www.bcwarbirds.com

Butler County Warbirds, Inc. • 1707 Run Way • Middletown, OH 45042
(513) 702-3062

Sinclair National UAS Training and Certification Center:

Butler County Warbirds, Inc., a not-for-profit Located on the Sinclair College Dayton Campus in Building 13, the Sinclair National UAS Training and Certification Center and Aviation Technology facilities lead the nation in Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) and traditional aviation training and education, applied research and development, consulting, and STEM outreach. The site's Wilbear stamp and additional information about the facility and programs are available at a kiosk located in the first-floor lobby and free parking is available in Lot K off Perry Street. Visitors can complete a self-guided tour of the glass-walled facility during normal college hours, which are posted on the primary college website at www.sinclair.edu. UAS website at <http://uas.sinclair.edu/>. Site # 17 on the Aviation Trail.
Sinclair College • 444 West Third Street • Dayton, OH 45402
(927) 512-4900
uascenter@sinclair.edu



Aviation Trail, Inc. welcomes these fine facilities to the family of organizations that promote and contribute to this aviation heritage.



Operation Paperclip Papers Open for Research

Papers of Rudi Berndt, WPAFB Engineer via Operation Paperclip, Now Open for Research

From Blog Posted on Dec.5, 2018 by Lisa Rickey, Wright State University Library Special Collections and Archives.

"We are pleased to announce that MS-632: Rudi Berndt Papers is now open for research.

Rudi Julius Berndt (1921-2004) was a German engineer who came to the United States as part of Operation Paperclip (or Project Paperclip), a secret program of the Joint Intelligence Objectives Agency to recruit leading German scientists, engineers, and technicians at the close of World War II (before the Russians did).

Berndt's particular area of expertise was parachute development. From 1941 to 1946, he was a member of the parachute research and development team at the Graf Zeppelin Research Institute Stuttgart-Ruit, working alongside such leaders in the field as Helmut Heinrich and Theodor Knacke.



Berndt (right) and water tunnel used in parachute development, WPAFB, 1962 (Box 4, File 7)

At age 25, Berndt was one of the youngest recruits for Operation Paperclip. He began his employment with the U.S. Army Air Services in the autumn of 1946, coming to Dayton to start his work at Wright Field in November. Berndt dedicated over 40 years of his life to civilian service at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, retiring in 1990.

The manuscript collection primarily documents Berndt's work in parachute development, in both Germany and the United States, from the WWII era through the Cold War. Educational records, as well as a significant amount of material pertaining to Berndt's arrival in the United States as part of Operation Paperclip, are also included. Of particular note are Berndt's memoirs, which describe his early life in Germany through his retirement".

For more information about the collection, and many more photos, see the Wright State University Libraries' Special Collections and Archives blog at this link:

<https://www.libraries.wright.edu/community/outofthebox/2018/12/05/papers-of-rudi-berndt-wpafb-engineer-via-operation-paperclip-now-open-for-research/>

Contact Wright State Collections and Archives at <https://www.libraries.wright.edu/special/ask/> with any questions!



To subscribe to "The Flight Log" - **AVIATION TRAIL MAIL** monthly newsletter, and to get email announcements and updates, go to the Aviation Trail website at www.aviationtrailinc.org to sign up.

David Tillotson III Appointed As New Director of The National Museum of the U.S. Air Force

Dec. 10, 2018: News Release -Public Affairs Division, National Museum of the USAF

Former Assistant Deputy Chief Management Officer for the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Mr. David Tillotson III, was recently appointed as the director of the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force.



A member of the Senior Executive Service since 2002, Tillotson replaces Mr. Jack Hudson who retired on Oct. 5, 2018, after serving as director for nearly eight years.

At the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force, Tillotson will manage nearly one million square feet of exhibit space with more than 350 aerospace vehicles and missiles, and thousands of other artifacts. He will also provide technical and professional guidance to the U.S. Air Force Heritage Program, which includes more than 2,400 aerospace vehicles and over 46,000 other artifacts, on loan to nearly 780 domestic and international military heritage activities, civilian museums, cities, municipalities, and veterans' organizations.

Tillotson, who began his new assignment on Nov. 25, said he was truly humbled yet extremely excited to lead the Air Force's national museum.

"It is a tremendous honor to be selected as the director of the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force, and a privilege to be able to help guide this great institution," said Tillotson. "As the public's window to the Air Force, the museum is quite a gem and I look forward to working with the staff and volunteers as we carry out our mission to inspire visitors to learn and experience the Air Force story."

Tillotson was commissioned upon graduation from the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1975. His assignments included ground theater air control system units with Tactical Air Command and U.S. Air Forces in Europe.

Following assignments in operations, Tillotson moved to the Air Force acquisition corps, where he initially served as the Deputy Mission Area Director, Information Dominance, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition. Later he was assigned to Electronic Systems Center at Hanscom Air Force Base, Mass., as Chief of Experimentation with the Integrated Command and Control System Program Office, and was responsible for the Air Force's Joint Expeditionary Experiment series. Eventually, he became the System Program Director for the Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Integration Program Office.

After his retirement from active duty, Tillotson served as Director in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Warfighting Integration, and as Deputy Chief Information Officer, HQ U.S. Air Force, before becoming the first Air Force Deputy Chief Management Officer for the Office of the Secretary of the Air Force.

The National Museum of the U.S. Air Force, located at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base near Dayton, Ohio, is the world's largest military aviation museum. With free admission and parking, the museum features more than 350 aerospace vehicles and missiles and thousands of artifacts amid more than 19 acres of indoor exhibit space. Each year about one million visitors from around the world come to the museum. For more information, visit www.nationalmuseum.af.mil.

For more information, contact the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force at (937) 255-3286.



Aviation's Next Great Adventure

In a TEDx Dayton program presented at Victoria Theatre on October 12, 2018, a prominent figure in the world of unmanned aerial systems (UAS) offered his challenge worthy of the Spirit of Flight. Drawing on the rich tradition of achievement in aviation, Dr. Shepherd seeks to inspire the next generation of innovators, entrepreneurs, and adventurers as he describes the role that UAS can play in creating the future.



To view this fascinating TEDx Dayton presentation, see this YouTube link:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j68OqNp84eY>

TEDx Dayton 2018 presentation by Andrew D. Shepherd, PhD
Executive Director and Chief Scientist, Unmanned Aerial Systems; Managing Editor, Journal of Unmanned Aerial Systems
Sinclair College National UAS Training and Certification Center



Aviation Trail Membership Drive

Membership Message from Aviation Trail Board of Trustees

The following letter was mailed out earlier in December, and was also emailed to subscribers on November 30. **Thanks** to all who responded with new memberships, renewals, and donations. If you have yet to join or renew for this year, or if you are a life member and wish to make a further donation, please see the message below for information.

Dear friend of Aviation Trail, Inc.,

We are asking you to consider becoming a member today, or renew or upgrade your membership as ATI approaches its 37th year of promoting (and bragging about) our area's aviation history.

As the new year approaches, Aviation Trail is moving forward with new and exciting ideas and projects. We have new trail sites, a new brochure and the start of turning our newly acquired, empty property adjacent to the Aviation Trail Visitor Center into an aviation learning center for young and old.

Our three new trail sites include two reminiscent of older days of flying and one with the very latest aeronautical technology. Read about these sites in the new Aviation Trail, Inc. brochure.

- Tri-State Warbird Museum in Batavia, Ohio.
- Butler County Warbirds, Inc. in Middletown, Ohio.
- Sinclair Community College National UAS (Unmanned Aerial Systems) Training and Certification Center.

We've also combined our Aviation Trail site brochure with the "Wilbear Wright" passport brochure creating one, easy-to-use publication. The ever popular Wilbear program has distributed over 10,000 free diminutive teddy bears since its inception and we welcome Sinclair Community College as the primary program sponsor.



Significantly, we've begun the design process for our recently acquired Pekin Theater and Fish Market buildings adjacent to our Aviation Trail Visitor Center. Soon after the first of the year we hope to announce plans for filling that 15,000 square feet of space with educational and entertaining exhibits. (See <http://www.aviationtrailinc.org/new-building-plans-for-more-info>).

Your membership support is critical in assisting us with these projects and our promotion of aviation history in our region. See page 4 of this newsletter for a mail-in membership form. Online membership payments can be made via PayPal on the ATI website: <http://www.aviationtrailinc.org/membership-donations-reservations-orders>. Visit the webpage and keep up to date with events and progress on the new properties. A copy of the new ATI brochure is downloadable from the website.



We remain committed to upholding our mission of aviation awareness, education, preservation and restoration in our region. We need your support to be more than "The Birthplace of Aviation," but also the premier locale in the country to "Experience the Birthplace of Aviation."

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

Thank you for your past and present support.

Sincerely,

The Board of Trustees, Aviation Trail, Inc.





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.

www.aviationtrailinc.org

Yes! I want to support Aviation Trail, Inc.

Mr., Mrs., Miss, Ms. _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone (H) _____ (W) _____ (C) _____

E-mail Address (to receive online newsletter) _____

(Name to be used for recognition if different than above) _____

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.

Aviation Trail, Inc. / PO Box 633 // Wright Brothers Branch / Dayton, OH 45409 / www.aviationtrailinc.org