



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

July 2021 ISSUE

7/28/2021

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

Special Guest at the Parachute Museum



Research physicist and parachute expert, Dr. Jean Potvin, visited the Aviation Trail Parachute Museum on July 16



Left to Right:
• Andrew Kididis, Parachute Museum Volunteer • Randy Zuercher, Parachute Museum Curator • Dr. Jean Potvin • Steve Brown, Aviation Trail President

As a friend and supporter of the museum, Dr. Jean Potvin, a physicist at St. Louis University, has been a regular contributor to the Aviation Trail Parachute Museum twitter feed. For his first in-person visit to the museum, he drove in from St. Louis with several crates full of parachute related materials from his personal collection to share with the committee. His vast collection includes parachutes, ejection seats, and volumes of documentation on the items. With his impressive academic background, his experience as a test and sport parachutist with over 2600 jumps, plus an enthusiastic presentation, he captivated the committee with details on the materials, parachute history & technology, ejection systems, and many interesting parachuting stories.



The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the possibility of collaboration between Dr. Potvin and the Parachute Museum, allowing some of his parachutes and ejection seats to be stored and displayed at the museum. One of his goals is to make his items more easily available for public view. This will be explored further in the coming months. After the meeting Parachute Museum Curator Randy Zuercher led a tour of the museum, so Dr. Potvin could get a first hand idea of the scope and layout of the museum and its storage areas.

After arriving back home the next day, Dr. Potvin texted back to Randy: "I very much enjoyed my time talking chutes and museum with you, Steve and Andrew. Looking forward to my next trip to Dayton."

For more on Dr. Jean Potvin's academic credentials, publications, and field of studies, see this link: <https://sites.google.com/a/slu.edu/jeanpotvin/>



The Parachute Museum is Site #1b on the Aviation Trail. [@parachutemuseum](https://www.parachutemuseum.org)

See more photos from Dr. Potvin's visit on page 4.

International Harvester Scout Show at WACO

International Harvester Scout Show and Swap Meet
Friday August 13th to Sunday August 15th, 2021
9 am - 4 pm:

WACO Air Museum & Learning Center
WACO Air Museum, 1865 South County Road 25A, Troy, Ohio 45373



We're BACK!!!! The International Harvester Scout Show and Swap Meet will be back at the WACO Air Museum Aug 13 - 15th, 2021. After a two year break, we will finally be pulling up to the grounds around the museum for the Largest Gathering of International Trucks, a huge Vendor/Swap/Sell Area, guest speaker seminars, IH Vehicle Sale Corral, Judged classes for All International Vehicles, IH Auction Special Displays and WACO Bi-Plane Rides! We will also have caravans of IH Vehicles, coming from all over the Country!

Our Display area this year will include Farmall Tractors, Cub Cadets, Collections and IH Memorabilia! There will be an extensive vendor and trade/sell area for new/used parts, toys and collectibles. Outdoor spaces and limited tent spaces are also available. See midnitetstar.org for space sizes and rates. The schedule is: Registration at 10:00 each day. Show and Shine: Friday and Sat 10 - 4 pm and Sunday 10 - 1PM. Reservations are not required but are appreciated. Come on out and see the largest IH Show in existence!



\$8/adult, \$4/child admission fee for parking and entrance per day to the WACO Air Museum at 1865 South County Road 25A in Troy, OH. Additionally, \$10.00 for a three-day pass! The doors open at 9:00 closes daily at 4. Please call the museum at 937-335-9226. We are located at 1865 South County Road 25A, Troy, OH 45373 • www.wacoairmuseum.org

Historic WACO Field and Airplane Museum is Site #11 on the Aviation Trail



Parachute Museum "Theater"



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

#4 in a series of videos presented by the Aviation Trail Parachute Museum

What It Was Like to Parachute into Enemy Fire in WWII



Presented by the Smithsonian Channel

Log in to the Parachute Museum Theater page at:
<https://www.aviationtrailinc.org/parachute-museum-theater>
to view this video, and more.

In video #4, Julian "Bud" Rice, a WWII veteran, recounts the harrowing experience of parachuting out of a C-47 under German fire on the eve of D-Day. (A Smithsonian Channel video).

See the [Parachute Museum](#) page for access to more Parachute Museum Theater videos.

The Aviation Trail Parachute Museum is Site #1b on the Aviation Trail



Trail Sites Opening Status

Updated Status of Aviation Trail sites regarding visitors during the COVID-19 precautions

Most of the Aviation Trail sites are now open, with COVID precautions in place, and some with limited hours. Since conditions at each venue can change quickly, it is suggested that visitors check each site's current status by using the [TRAIL SITES](#) page on the Aviation Trail website to find the contact information (website and phone) of each respective site.

A list of the status of sites on the Aviation Trail is also posted on the the "Aviation Blog" page of the Aviation Trail website. It is updated as changes occur: <https://www.aviationtrailinc.org/post/covid-19-closure-updates-1>. Before traveling to a site on the Aviation Trail, please verify that site's status by contacting that site (see above). For sites that are open, refer to their individual websites for days and hours.



Butler County Warbirds Restoration Projects

One of the goals of Butler County Warbirds is the restoration and preservation of military aircraft. We currently have two aircraft undergoing restoration to flying condition: A 1939 Fairchild XUC-86A and a 1941 Aeronca L-3E.



The L-3E was manufactured at the Aeronca factory in Middletown, Ohio, right across the street from our museum on December 24th, 1941. It originally was sold to a private civilian, until it was purchased by the Defense Plant Corporation on July 23rd, 1942. Under this ownership, it was used as a tandem trainer aircraft with the Army Air Corps until November of 1942 when it was removed from service. After passing through several owners over the years, it ended up in a barn in Peoria, Illinois where it sat for about 30 years. It was purchased in September of 1994 and restored to flying condition.



Butler County Warbirds is proud to have brought this aircraft home, and we are currently in the process of restoring the aircraft to the paint scheme it had when it was in military service. We have recently covered the control surfaces and fuselage of the Aeronca and should have the aircraft complete in the Fall of 2021.

The Fairchild XUC-86A will be a longer project for us, as we expect to have it restored to flying condition within 2 years.

Originally built as a Fairchild 24 with a 175 hp engine, this airframe was assigned to Drew Field (now Tampa International Airport) with the Army Air Corps. It was later given an L-440 C-5 engine of 200 hp and re-designated by the Army Air Corps as an XUC-86A. It is assumed that the aircraft's performance was not enhanced to the desired extent with this modification, and further development was not pursued. This was the only airframe ever given the designation of XUC-86A, which makes it a one-of-a-kind piece of history.

Come check out our restoration progress in person at our hangar, located at 2351 Wedekind Drive, Middletown, Ohio. While visiting, you can take a look in our air conditioned artifact display, containing over 1500 military and aviation artifacts ranging from Civil War to the most recent Gulf War. We are still in the process of archiving our artifacts and labeling all of our displays. Hours are 10AM to 5PM, Saturdays and Sundays. Admission is free. Don't forget to bring your Aviation Trail Passport brochure to get a BCW stamp or grab a stamped brochure from us to get started on your quest to get Wilbear Wright.

If you wish to support our projects, donations are always appreciated and tax-deductible.

You can book a 15 or 30 minute flight experience in our 1943 Fairchild PT-19. Call 513-217-4636 to purchase and book your experience. We sell branded t-shirts, baseball caps, and more. All proceeds from ride and item sales support our aircraft restoration, building maintenance, and artifact displays.



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Butler County Warbirds is Site #16 on the Aviation Trail.



Woodland Cemetery & Arboretum Presents the Hartzell Propeller Story

See the story below as presented by Woodland Cemetery & Arboretum in their July email newsletter. Go to the Woodland website at <https://woodlandcemetery.org> to subscribe to their newsletter.

Story Courtesy of Woodland Cemetery & Arboretum.



Robert N. Hartzell and Hartzell Propeller Inc

The Hartzell Propeller Company began in the 1860s in Greenville, Ohio when John T. Hartzell borrowed \$25 to begin a lightning rod company. By 1875 John turned his business into the The Hartzell Farm Wagon Company and in the 1880s, son George W. Hartzell joined the lumber supply and wagon manufacturing business and renamed the company George W. Hartzell Company. By the early 1900s, the company moved its location to Piqua, Ohio.

In 1917, George's son Robert owned a small airplane and dreamed of being a **barnstormer**. His father encouraged him to focus his efforts on airplane repair and rebuilding. He soon discovered a high failure rate with wood propellers. Robert's friend Orville Wright suggested that the company use walnut wood to manufacture airplane propellers. This marked the beginning of the Hartzell Walnut Propeller Company. During WWI, Hartzell provided Liberty aircraft propellers for warplanes.

In 1923, Hartzell built its first airplane primarily out of plywood – the FC1. It won first place in its class at the International Air Races in St. Louis, MO. Hartzell then built a second all-wood plane, the FC2, which won even more prizes, money and notoriety for the company.

Continued in next column...



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even more prizes, money and notoriety for the company.

In 1926, Hartzell installed wood propellers on the Aeronca C-2 aircraft and then manufactured propellers for the USS Shenandoah, the first ridged airship.

In 1933, Robert became the sole owner of Hartzell Industries and the Hartzell Propeller Company after the death of his father, George. In the late 1930s, Hartzell began the manufacture of metal blades for the Hamilton Standard and Curtiss companies.

By 1942, the Hartzell Company transitioned into making metal aluminum propellers and developed a process for gluing wood to metal for production of gliders. And in 1944, Hartzite, a composite material, was used in manufacturing aircraft propellers.

By the late 1940s, Hartzell's innovation and its ability to create propellers in an expedient manner made them the leading supplier of propellers to the general aviation market.

Robert N. Hartzell died in 1968 and the company continued with several Hartzell family members at the helm until it was sold to James Brown, Jr. in 1987. Today, the company is a leader in the manufacturing of composite propellers for airplanes and unmanned aerial vehicles and continues Robert Hartzell's legacy of innovation – "Built on Honor" – into the future of powered flight.



Woodland Cemetery & Arboretum • 118 Woodland Avenue • Dayton, OH 45409 • 937-228-3221 • <https://woodlandcemetery.org>

Woodland Cemetery & Arboretum is Site# 8 on the Aviation Trail



Grimes Field Fly-In Event

August 21, 2021
Mid Eastern Regional Fly-In
Hosted by Grimes Field Foundation,
Urbana, Ohio



See the Grimes Flying Lab Foundation Facebook post for time and details:
<https://www.facebook.com/events/1823806601106481/?ref=newsfeed>

Grimes Flying Lab* is Site #14 on the Aviation Trail

* Grimes Flying Lab Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization. A portion of the money raised donated to EAA Chapter 421



More photos from the story on page 1, of Dr. Potvin's visit to the Parachute Museum:



See story on page 1.



Aviation Trail Gift Shop

CLICK the image below to visit the Aviation Trail gift shop online store



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.



Aviation Trail Memberships & Donations

Join or Renew Now to Help Support Aviation Trail, Inc. and the Aviation Trail Parachute Museum



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. Thanks for your support! Memberships and donations can be made on-line through secure payment on PayPal, or a Membership/Donor form can be downloaded from the Membership Page for mailing.

See the **JOIN/DONATE** menu item on the Aviation Trail website to join, renew, or donate: <https://www.aviationtrailinc.org/>





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Yes! I want to support Aviation Trail, Inc.

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Address _____

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

E-mail Address (to receive online newsletter) _____

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

All levels of Aviation Trail memberships, except for Life Membership, are annual and are subject to renewal, at the desired level, by each January.

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. Secure payments are made through PayPal. See the **JOIN/DONATE** menu item on the Aviation Trail website to join, renew, or donate: <https://www.aviationtrailinc.org/>. **Or click the membership logo on the right >**



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