

THE WRIGHT FLYER



Aviation Trail, Inc. Summer 2013

ATI JOINS RUNWAY FEST FOR NATIONAL AVIATION DAY

Aviation Trail will join the family friendly, free-to-the-public, Second Annual Runway Fest Friday, Aug. 9, at Dayton-Wright Brothers Airport for its annual dual celebration of National Aviation Day and the mutual birthdays of Orville and Wilbur Wright in August.

You ask: What is a Runway Fest?

Answer: An aeronautical-themed gathering for aviation enthusiasts. Copying its successful format in 2012, the Fest will feature some 30 military and civilian aircraft on display, airplane and helicopter rides, picnic-style food vendors, live music, and informational booths—all ATI sites have been invited to participate.



Folks gather for 2012 Runway Fest at Commander Aero.

Sponsored by Miami Townships and vendors, the Fest begins at 5:30 p.m. and is centered at the Commander Aero hangar at the airport, 10570 Springboro Pike (Rt. 741), Miamisburg, Ohio. At 7 p.m. there will be a balloon rally; at dusk Bill Leff, air show pilot, will fly his T-6 with wing-tip fireworks; and high-in-the-sky fireworks are scheduled to begin at 10 p.m.

"At the invitation of the townships, ATI decided to join forces with the other community-wide aviation groups that made this a successful event last year,"

ATI President Marvin Christian said. "We're pleased to offer our members an outing appropriate for kids to grandparents—no alcoholic beverages or smoking."

Mike Williams of Commander Aero calls Runway Fest "a thank you to our neighbors." With overflow parking anticipated, Williams has made arrangements for free shuttle bus service from the area of the I-75/ Austin Blvd. exchange (Exit 41), with local city and township officers providing traffic directions.

Aircraft on static display and for walk-through will include WACOs, homebuilt planes, corporate jets, Civil Air Patrol aircraft, the B-24, B-17, P-51 Mustang, Lear 55, and Citation II. The Wright "B" Flyer will make demonstration flights.

Many thanks go out to John Bosch, president of Commander Aero, for the use of his facility; and Walt Hoy, a major food caterer; and the cities of Miamisburg and Dayton.

August 19 is the day both Orville and Katharine Wright were born—Orville in 1871 and Katharine in 1874. In 1939 President Franklin Roosevelt proclaimed Aug. 19 as National Aviation Day—to celebrate the history and development of aviation.

ATI TO MARK 110th FLIGHT ANNIVERSARY AT PRESIDENTIAL BANQUET CENTER

Mark your calendars now for Tuesday, Dec. 17--the 110th anniversary of powered flight—and another enjoyable evening and dinner at the Presidential Banquet Center in Kettering.

Time flies. It seems as though we just celebrated the centennial of flight and indeed another 10 years have been added to that milestone: Wilbur and Orville's first flight in a heavier-than-air, controlled, powered vehicle.

The ATI board of trustees is planning an evening worthy of the accomplishment and hope you will join us. Details will follow in the December newsletter and a special mailing.

STEPHEN WRIGHT WELCOMES SOLAR IMPULSE PILOTS

Stephen Wright, great-grandnephew of the Wright brothers, welcomed Solar Impulse pilots Bertrand Piccard and Andre Borschberg who flew their solar-powered plane into Lunken Airport in Cincinnati June 16—its only Ohio landing. Wright presented the men with a photo of The Wright Company factory which is under renewal in Dayton, Ohio. Solar Impulse was on its west coast to east coast journey when it landed at Lunken. Solar Impulse completed its cross-country flight in early July, arriving at New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport. Both Stephen Wright and his sister Amanda Wright Lane had spoken to the pilots while they were airborne. The Solar Impulse project goal is to fly around the world in 2015 with a second-generation solar aircraft.



Stephen Wright (middle) presents a photo of The Wright Company factory to pilots Bertrand Piccard (left) and André Borschberg.

(NAHA photo by Timothy R. Gaffney)

HALL OF FAME HANGAR PARTY OCT. 5--On the night of Oct. 5 the National Aviation Hall of Fame will host a hangar party at Dayton-Wright Brothers Airport, Miamisburg, which is open to the public. The evening will feature a silent auction and presentation of the Scott Crossfield Aerospace Education Teacher of the Year Award. Crossfield, who was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1983, was a test pilot for the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (predecessor to NASA) and throughout his career advocated for advanced aerospace education and was a strong supporter of the Civil Air Patrol (USAF auxiliary)--in particular, CAP's aerospace education program. Cost for the hangar party is \$35; for ticket purchase and details, call the National Aviation Hall of Fame, 937.256.0944.

HALL OF FAME ENSHRINEMENT DINNER SLATED FOR OCT. 4

The National Aviation Hall of Fame's 51st Annual Enshrinement Dinner and Ceremony is scheduled to begin Friday, Oct. 4, at the Hall of Fame Learning Center adjacent to the National Museum of the United States Air Force.

The four air and space inductees were announced at ATI's Dec. 2012, anniversary of flight dinner. They are:

C. Alfred "Chief" Anderson, posthumously, father of African-American aviation, developer of a civilian pilot training program for blacks, and chief instructor for the Tuskegee Airmen,

Maj. Gen. Patrick H. Brady, USA (Ret.), developer of foul weather and tactical techniques for helicopter ambulance rescue in combat, recipient of the Medal of Honor and Distinguished Flying Cross,

Capt. Robert "Hoot" Gibson, USN (Ret.), fighter pilot in Vietnam, astronaut for five shuttle missions (four as commander) and record-setting pilot and air racer, and

Dwane L. Wallace, posthumously, retired chairman and CEO of Cessna Aircraft Co., and founder and first chairman of the General Aviation Manufacturers Association.

The evening begins at 5:30 with a private VIP Photo Reception in the NAHF Learning Center followed by a reception at 6 p.m. in the museum's Kettering Hall and then dinner in the museum's Modern Flight Gallery. Seating is limited to 600 by advance registration: \$150 for patron seats and \$300 for premium seats; \$50 for the VIP Photo Reception. For reservations or full details, call 937.256.0944 or go to

www.nationalaviation.org.



MONTGOMERY, ALA., DEDICATES WRIGHT BROTHERS PARK

At the July 2 ceremony in Wright Brothers Park in Montgomery, Ala., Amanda Wright Lane accepted a framed photograph of the full-sized steel sculpture/ monument of a 1903 Wright Flyer dedicated that day in the park. The great-grandniece of Wilbur and Orville Wright, Amanda represented her famous family at the ceremony, accepting the photograph from Montgomery Mayor Todd Strange; looking on was Lt. Gen. David Fadok, president and commandant of Air University at Maxwell Air Force Base at Montgomery. The park commemorates the first civilian flight school in the United States which the Wrights opened in 1910, marking the start of civil aviation. Following their excursion in Montgomery, the Wrights focused their training efforts at Huffman Prairie near Dayton, Ohio, their home location.



Amanda Wright Lane in Montgomery, Ala., receiving commemorative photograph of the 1903 Flyer sculpture/monument dedicated July 2.

ATI PART OF NAHA EXHIBIT AT PARIS AIR SHOW

Thanks to the National Aviation Heritage Alliance, ATI was represented at the Paris Air Show held June 17 through 23 in France. Amanda Wright Lane, great-grandniece of Wilbur and Orville Wright and a NAHA trustee, served as an unofficial ambassador from the area at the show.

The NAHA display featured the eight-county area's heritage partners, sites, and literature including ATI's iconic red, yellow and blue brochures. The biannual show included major U.S. aerospace companies: in all 250 organizations from 34 U.S. states and the District of Columbia exhibited in the U.S. International Pavilion.



DAYTON HISTORY NOW OWNS HAWTHORN HILL

Ownership of Hawthorn Hill, the Wrights' mansion in Oakwood, Ohio, was transferred in late June from The Dayton Foundation to Dayton History.

The change of ownership was announced publicly in a press conference at Hawthorn Hill with principals Colleen Ryan of The Dayton Foundation board and Brady Kress, president and CEO of Dayton History, officiating.

The Wright Family Foundation, an element of The Dayton Foundation; the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park--and a new, \$1 million endowment fund entitled Friends of Hawthorn Hill--will continue supporting the mansion, which also will continue to be part of the park.

Lead gifts for the new foundation came from the Jack and Sally Eichelberger Foundation and the Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation.

While Wilbur Wright was a partner to the planning of the mansion, his untimely death in 1912 meant his brother Orville, sister Katharine, and father Bishop Milton Wright were the only family members to live there. NCR purchased the house shortly after Orville's death in 1948 and donated it to The Wright Family Foundation in 2006.

In 1991 the National Park Service designated the home a National Historic Landmark and the U.S. Congress added it to the DAHNHP in 2009.

According to Kress, Dayton History will aim to restore the home to its appearance when the Wrights lived there.

Tours are offered through Dayton History.

HARVEY DUNN GEYER INDUCTED INTO WRIGHT-DUNBAR WALK OF FAME

This September 26th, Harvey Dunn Geyer, whose inventiveness and engineering skill were recognized by Wilbur and Orville Wright, will be one of six notables inducted into the Walk of Fame in Dayton, Ohio.

His accomplishments touched early aviation and aviation production as well as manufacturing and the military.

The Walk of Fame recognizes and celebrates the lives and accomplishments of individuals from the Miami Valley. The concrete recognition slabs are installed in the sidewalk on either side of West Third Street between Shannon and Broadway Streets in the historic Wright-Dunbar neighborhood.

Born into a West Side Dayton family on Sept. 12, 1891, Geyer was largely self-educated and his curiosity led him into exploration of aviation and his work for the Wright brothers from 1910 to 1912 in manufacturing airplanes at The Wright Company in Dayton.

During the years of World War I when the Dayton-Wright Airplane Company was manufacturing airplanes for the war effort, Geyer was superintendent of the company's assembly plant at Moraine City.

After the war Geyer eventually joined General Motors Inland Division as chief engineer over 225 people where he invented many new rubber, rubber-on-metal and plastic products. When World War II began, he again put his inventiveness to use as chief--and Lieutenant Colonel--of the Chemical Engineering Branch of Edgewood Arsenal in Maryland.

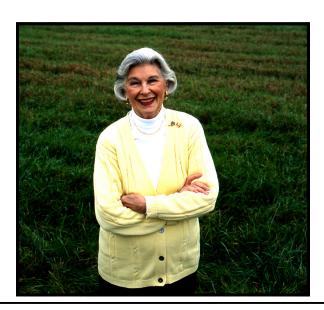
The National Association of Manufacturers recognized him as one of America's Modern Pioneers and he was awarded the military's Distinguished Service Medal. He was awarded 146 patents after 1924—patents mostly related to automotive and refrigeration products.

Toward the end of 1947 Geyer was retained by Edward Deeds to oversee the reconstruction of the Wright Flyer III which is today housed in Wright Hall in Dayton History's Carillon Historical Park.

Geyer died Dec. 21, 1962, at the age of 61, leaving his curious and inventive mark on aviation, invention, science, business and the military.



Courtesy of Wright State University Special Collections & Archives



Marion Davis Wright

MARION WRIGHT, WIDOW OF "WICK" WRIGHT

Marion Davis Wright, aviation enthusiast, supporter of the Wright family heritage, and widow of Wilkinson "Wick" Wright, died May 16, 2013, in Toledo, Ohio. She is remembered fondly by the Dayton area community for her unwavering support of Wright-related endeavors around the Miami Valley.

ATI President Marvin Christian said, "She lit up the room with her smile and her quick wit. Marion represented her family and the aviation community with dignity and a charming personality." Born Marion Lane Davis on Jan. 2, 1928, in Durham, S. Ca., she graduated from Duke University with a B.A. in English and after her arrival in Dayton taught at The Miami Valley School.

Through the school's associates she was introduced to "Wick" Wright, the great nephew of Wilbur and Orville Wright. They married in 1974 and she became the stepmother of Amanda and Stephen Wright. Her volunteerism included serving as a docent at the Dayton Art Institute and a leader with the Girl Scouts.

After "Wick" died in 1999, Marion continued to support aviation-related events and projects around the community. She was a long-time member of Aviation Trail, Inc., and held board positions at Wright State University's Paul Laurence Dunbar Library, the Dayton Literary Club, National Aviation Hall of Fame and the San Francisco International Airport Museum.

She also was a member of the Duke University Alumni Association, Dayton Women's Club, Engineer Club, and First Baptist Church.

A memorial service for Marion was held May 25 at Hawthorn Hill, the Oakwood home of the Wright family, preceded by a private interment at Woodland Cemetery, Dayton.

Her civic involvement and presence at many aviationrelated events will be greatly missed by the Dayton area aviation community.

FIRST ATI PRESIDENT JOHN DUSSAULT

John C. Dussault, one of the founders and the first president of Aviation Trail, Inc., died May 12 at his home in California. A lifetime member of ATI, Dussault kept in touch with ATI activities through reading the *Wright Flyer* and correspondence with ATI trustee emeritus Floyd Koller.

In an e mail Dec. 21, 2010, to Koller, Dussault said he had finished reading the fall issue of the newsletter—which featured the grand opening of the Aviation Trail Parachute Museum—and "It makes me feel proud of the early work that Jerry Meyer and I did with Dave Gold, and prouder still with the way all of you have followed through in bringing the parachute museum to the state it is today."

He continued "I visit the ATI facilities each year when I am in Dayton to see my daughter, and each year I marvel at what all of you have accomplished. Keep up the good work and accept my thanks for a wonderful accomplishment."

During his ATI presidency from 1980-83, Dussault initiated very many activities that put the organization on firm footing. He saw it incorporated as a non-profit with by laws, election of officers, a board of advisors and regular meetings. He also began negotiations on The Wright Cycle Co. and the Hoover Block Bldg., and saw to the acquisition of both.

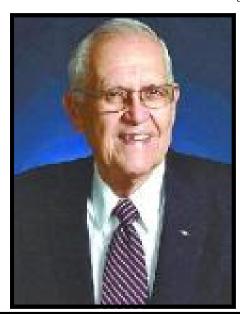
In addition to solicitation of funds, Dussault, initiated the ATI Trailblazer as a fundraiser and began publicity and "branding" activities to raise awareness of local historical aviation sites: place markers, brochures and a historical guide covering points of interest in aviation.

In another of Dussault's endeavors he was instrumental in starting the Dayton Air Fair at Montgomery County Airport, an event that grew into the Dayton Air Show now held annually at the Dayton International Airport.

Dussault was born in Atchison, Kan., and when he was 13 his parents took him to an airport and paid \$5 to give him a ride in a Ryan aircraft and—at no extra charge—a Ford Tri-Motor. That "hooked" him on flying. After serving in the U.S. Navy in the South Pacific during World War II he earned college degrees in mathematics and physics and also studied aeronautical engineering and business management.

Joining Cessna Aircraft in Wichita in 1953, Dussault specialized in aircraft structure and joined McCauley Propeller, a division of Cessna in Dayton, Ohio. He became vice president of Cessna in 1972 and retired after 30 years. Dussault was a licensed pilot with commercial multi-engine and instrument ratings, a member and past governor of the Quiet Birdmen organization—celebrating 50 years with the group in 2005—and executive director of the National Aviation Hall of Fame.

Dussault was known throughout the aviation industry and volunteered in several organizations. He is survived by his wife Helen of 65 years, four children and their families. Funeral services were in California.



John C. Dussault

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ATI ICONIC SIGNS DISPLAYED AT THREE NEW SITES

Enthusiastic personnel at the three new sites on the Aviation Trail quickly displayed the blue and white signs marking their initiation to the trail. In case you've forgotten, they are the Armstrong Air & Space Museum in Wapakoneta, Ohio; and the Champaign Aviation Museum, and Grimes Flying Lab—both in Urbana, Ohio. The iconic logo—designed by Read Viemeister, now deceased, who lived in Yellow Springs, Ohio--features a likeness of the Wrights' 1903 Flyer I. Try to visit the three new sites—and be sure to get your Wilbear brochure stamped for the site—and mention that you're glad to see the signs proudly displayed.

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TRAGIC AIR SHOW CRASH TAKES LIVES OF TWO PERFORMERS

The tragic crash of a 450 HP Stearman biplane as it performed during the first day of the Vectren Dayton Air Show took the lives of its pilot Charlie Schwenker, 64, and wing walker Jane Wicker, 46. No spectators were hurt as the plane dove into the ground about 12:45 p.m. on the show's first day, Saturday, June 22; the show was then closed but re-opened on Sunday. Both Wicker and Schwenker were professionals when it came to flying and aerobatics. Wicker, who was sitting on the higher wing of the upside down plane at the time of the crash, had been wing walking since 1990. She also was an aerobatics pilot and in her non-flying hours she was an FAA budget analyst.

Schwenker had been an aerobatics pilot since 1990 and had won the Canadian National Aerobatic Championship. Like Wicker, he was associated with the Flying Circus in Bealeton, Va.

Wicker is survived by children and had plans to marry her fiancé-pilot at an unnamed air show next year.

An investigation into the crash by the National Transportation Safety Board is expected to take 6-12 months. Both the NTSB and the Ohio State Highway Patrol issued preliminary crash assessments. The only other fatal crash during a Dayton Air Show was in 2007 when aerobatic pilot Jim LeRoy was killed during a performance.

COMING AVIATION EVENTS

There are several aviation events to watch in the air or attend on the ground for the remainder of summer and this fall. ATI asks you consider supporting one of the following:

- -- Aug. 9, ATI joins Miami Township at Commander Aero, Dayton-Wright Brothers Airport, to mark National Aviation Day. Come at 5:30 and stay 'til after the fireworks. For details, call 937.885.5580, EXT.13. See front page story for details.
- --Sunday, Sept. 13-15, WACO Fly-In, Historic WACO Field, Troy, Ohio, for details, call 937.335.9226.
- --Oct. 4, evening, National Aviation Hall of Fame Enshrinement Dinner and Ceremony, at the Hall of Fame Learning Center. For tickets, call 937.256.0944.
- --Saturday, Oct. 5,10 a.m.--4 p.m. The Great Wright Brothers Aero Carnival at Huffman Prairie Flying Field, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Rt. 444, Gate 16A, for details, call 937.255.2725
- --Saturday, Oct. 5, evening, Hangar Party, Dayton-Wright Brothers Airport, hosted by the National Aviation Hall of Fame which will present the Teacher of the Year Award. For more information,

HUFFMAN PRAIRIE AVIATION HISTORY SOCIETY SCHEDULES MEETINGS

If you're a fan of historical aviation, consider taking in a talk hosted by the Huffman Prairie Aviation History Society. The group meets monthly, shares announcements of interest to those gathered, and has guest speakers on aviation history.

Meetings are scheduled for the first Monday evening of the month (except for holidays) at 7:30 p.m. at the Huffman Prairie Flying Field Interpretive Center in Area B of Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. Visitors are welcome.

Speakers scheduled for Aug. 5 were Timothy R. Gaffney, director of communications for the National Aviation Heritage Area, who will speak on the history of the Dayton Air Show. Gaffney and Ty Greenlees, staff photographer at the *Dayton Daily News*, collaborated on a book *Dayton Air Show: A Photographic Celebration*, which was published in 2008 by Frazer Press in Wilmington, Ohio.

Other scheduled speakers are:

- --Sept. 9, Dan Patterson, aviation photographer, on aviation in film, literature and art,
- --Oct. 7, Mike Jackson and Tara Dixon Engel, authors of *Naked in Da Nang*, a novel based on Jackson's experiences as a U.S. forward air controller in Vietnam, and
- --Nov. 4, Brett Stolle and Christina Douglass on the archives of the National Museum of the United States Air Force.



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



www.aviationtrailinc.org

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

On Friday, Aug. 9, ATI will participate in a Runway Fest hosted by Miami Township and the cities of Miamisburg and Dayton to celebrate National Aviation Day and the mutual birthdays of Orville and Katharine Wright (Aug. 19) at Commander Aero, 10570 Springboro Pike (Rt. 741), Miamisburg. Come for picnic foods, (pay as you go), exhibits, and lots of military and civilian airplanes—including the Wright "B" Flyer. Come at 5:30 and stay for the hot air balloon rally at 7 p.m. and fireworks at 10. See front page story for details.

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