



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>.

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 2024 ISSUE

01/01/2024

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

Aviation Trail Parachute Museum Receives New Donation

B-1A Ejection Capsule Design Drawing & Artifacts

Brother and sister Todd and Sarah Panning were at the Aviation Trail Parachute Museum on October 26, 2023, to present a donation of artifacts relating to the B-1A bomber on behalf of their late father, engineer Don Panning. The donation was arranged by Dick Trapp, Lt Col (ret) USAF, a retired WPAFB engineer and representative of Aerospace Social Group. On hand to receive the items were Aviation Trail President Steve Brown, Parachute Museum Curator Randy Zuercher, plus Parachute Museum Committee members Andrew Kididis and Marty Andries.



Left to Right: • Randy Zuercher, Parachute Museum Curator • Sarah Panning, Donor • Todd Panning, Donor • Steve Brown, President of Aviation Trail

Photos above courtesy of Dick Trapp

The items donated were a B-1A ejection capsule design drawing, an emergency locator radio used by pilots who would have ejected in the capsule, and a pair of pilot's gloves. The crew escape capsule was designed to eject as a unit to improve crew survivability if the crew had to abandon the aircraft at high speed (Mach 2.2). The first three B-1As featured the escape capsule. Only four B-1A prototypes were built, and no production units were manufactured. (It was replaced by the B-1B). A video of a capsule test can be seen in the link below.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pXGmpq_vV0g



(Photos: USAF)

Parachute Museum Curator Randy Zuercher says of the donation: *"We are delighted to receive these donations that serve more than the purpose of permanent archiving and display. They also go to helping preserve the memory of their father and his work. Many thanks to the Panning family."*

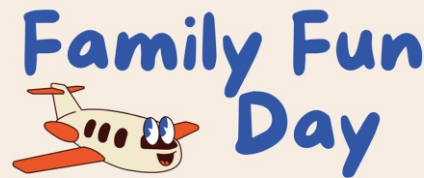


The Aviation Trail Parachute Museum
16 South Williams Street
Dayton, OH 45402 • (937) 225-7705
<https://www.aviationtrailinc.org/parachute-museum>

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

Family Fun Day Tri-State Warbird Museum

January 20, 2024 @ 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm



BRING YOUR FAMILY FOR A DAY FULL OF
FUN AND DISCOVERY!

Learn and create together during TSWM's interactive day for families!

- Games • Crafts • Paper Airplanes • Scavenger Hunt • STEM discovery time • Cockpit climb-ins

\$20 per family • 50% for Members • 20% for Veterans

For membership information, frequently asked questions, and tickets see:

<https://www.tri-statewarbirdmuseum.org/event/family-fun-day-24/>



Tri-State Warbird Museum
4021 Borman Dr.
Batavia, OH 45103
(513) 735-4500
<https://www.tri-statewarbirdmuseum.org>

Tri-State Warbird Museum is Site#15 on the Aviation Trail

Armstrong Air & Space Museum Renovation

**Closed to public Jan. 2 to Jan. 12, 2024
(Open on New Years Eve and New Years Day)**

Closed Tue, 01/02/2024 - 09:00 to Fri, 01/12/2024 - 17:00

The museum will be closed to the public while we renovate our front lobby and museum store. The museum will be open for MLK Day weekend starting January 13th.

<https://www.armstrongmuseum.org/events/closed-construction>

The museum will be open Sunday, 12/31/2023 and Monday
01/01/2024 10:00 am to 5:00 pm



Armstrong Air & Space Museum
500 Apollo Drive
Wapakoneta, OH 45895
(419) 738-8811 or (800) 860-0142
<https://www.armstrongmuseum.org>

Armstrong Air & Space Museum is Site#12 on the Aviation Trail

Wright State University Libraries Special Collection and Archives

Winter Break / Holiday Hours
Archives Closed Dec. 22, 2023 – Jan. 9, 2024



Winter Break / Holiday Hours:

Friday, December 22, 2023, through Monday, January 1, 2024: Archives closed for Wright State University's winter break.

Tuesday, January 2, 2024, through Friday, January 5, 2024: Archives closed to the public.

Monday, January 8, 2024: closed to the public on Mondays as usual.

Tuesday, January 9, 2024: Archives re-opens for in-person researchers and visitors.

For the most up-to-date listing of our closures and open hours, please check the University Libraries' Hours calendar, and make sure to look at the line for Special Collections & Archives.

While the office may be closed, the web site, blog, collection guides, and digital collections on CORE Scholar are always available.

SC&A wishes everyone a happy and safe holiday season!

<https://blogs.libraries.wright.edu/news/outofthebox/2023/12/20/archives-closed-dec-22-2023-jan-9-2024/>



Wright State University
3640 Colonel Glenn Highway
Dayton, Ohio 45435
Special Collections and Archives
Paul Laurence Dunbar Library
(937) 775-2092
www.libraries.wright.edu/special/

The Special Collections and Archives in the Paul Laurence Dunbar Library at Wright State University is Site #10 on the Aviation Trail



Tri-State Warbird Museum Lecture Series

War And Chaos
January 27, 2024 @ 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm



The next segment in our Lecture Series is 'War And Chaos'. Join us as presenter and author Roger Braden discusses his book "War And Chaos". REGISTER at <https://form.jotform.com/TSWM/war-and-chaos---lecture-series>



Tri-State Warbird Museum
4021 Borman Dr. • Batavia, OH 45103
(513) 735-4500
<http://www.tri-statewarbirdmuseum.org>

Tri-State Warbird Museum is Site #15 on the Aviation Trail



Additional sites on the Aviation Trail*

*The 17 sites listed on the website "Trail Sites" page make up the "Wilbear Trail" and are part of the passport system where visitors can collect stamps to earn a Wilbear Wright teddy bear. But there are **many other area locations** that are officially designated as Aviation Trail sites by Aviation Trail, Inc. These other sites are notable for interesting connections and contributions to the development of aviation in Dayton and the surrounding area. Even though there is no "visitor stamp" involved, they offer a chance to learn more about the rich aviation history of the area. A few of them are listed under "additional trail sites" on the Aviation Trail website.

The story below is about one of these.

Look for more of these additional sites to be featured in upcoming newsletters.

Wright Seaplane Base, Inc.

Represented by an Historical Marker located at the site of the "Wright Seaplane Base" at the bend of the Great Miami River in West Carrollton, Ohio off I-75 exit 47.
<http://www.wrightseaplanebaseinc.org/>

One of the least known aspects of the Wright Brothers' research work was the development of a hydro-aeroplane. Wilbur died in 1912, but Orville and Co.



continued to test several versions of a Wright seaplane. Starting with pontoons added to versions of the Wright "B" Flyer, the company went on to develop an entirely new seaplane with a hull like a boat - the Model "G" Aeroboat. The Aeroat had a solid hull or fuselage with an enclosed cockpit, twin pusher propellers, and the engine in the rear. The Aeroboat was 28 feet long, had a

wingspan of 38 feet, and weighed 1,250 pounds. It was powered by a 60 horsepower engine and could attain a maximum speed of 60mph. The Model G "Aeroat" was their most successful seaplane. Test flights took place between 1912 and 1914 on the "S" bends in the Great Miami River, south of Dayton, between two current cities of West Carrollton and Moraine, Ohio. A historical marker has been erected in West Carrollton at the Miami & Erie Canal Park in the area where these flights took place, the home of the Wright Seaplane Base. Orville flew the varied seaplanes in and out of the Miami River between Moraine and West Carrollton over 100 times.

Wright Seaplane Base, Inc.'s primary mission is preserving and sharing the Wright Brothers' philosophy of flight and Orville's efforts that contributed to the development of Hydro-aeroplane technology. Wright Seaplane Base, Inc. is an educational non-profit 501(c)(3) organization founded in 2007 to preserve the memory of aviation activities contributed by Orville and Wilbur Wright. Wright Seaplane Base, Inc. is dedicated to recovering this lost piece of Americana in aviation history, the Wright Model "G" Aeroat.



photo: public domain

Explore their website to for fascinating history, vintage photos, and an interesting blog, to learn more about Orville's contribution to hydro-aeroplane technology:

<http://www.wrightseaplanebaseinc.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/wrightseaplanebase/>

The Wright Seaplane Base, Inc. is on the Aviation Trail



Aviation Trail Memberships & Donations

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



Membership

- Join
- Renew
- Donate

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

Membership Reminder:

All levels of Aviation Trail memberships, except for Life Membership, are annual and are **subject to renewal, at the desired level, by each January**. Aviation Trail is now accepting memberships and renewal orders for 2024.

Aviation Trail Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

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

Below is the
2024 Membership Letter
from the Aviation Trail Board of Trustees

Dear friend of Aviation Trail:

We are asking you to consider becoming a member today, or to renew or upgrade your membership.

This year ATI is in its 41st year of promoting (and bragging about) our region's phenomenal aviation heritage, and continues to move forward with new and exciting ideas and projects.

Please note on our brochure that we continue to promote the "Wilbear Wright" passport program.* This program has been extremely popular with youth as it was intended, but frequently with adults as well! We have distributed nearly 15,000 free, "Wilbear Wright" teddy bears since the program began, and we are extending the program through July 1, 2024 when a new brochure will detail the program changes for the future.

We continue to expand the ATI parachute collection (already noted by the Smithsonian Air & Space Museum as one of the largest, if not the largest, in the country). We have received a donation of 22 ejection seats, and additional parachute equipment, and hope to expand the museum to display more of the collection. We plan to renovate the Pekin Theater and Fish Market buildings which ATI owns immediately adjacent to our Aviation Trail Visitor Center to accommodate the expansion.

We also are about to publish the "Field Guide to Flight" for the third time with significantly increased photos and additional Trail sites added since it's last publication.

Your membership support is critical in assisting us with these projects and our promotion of the aviation heritage of our region. Enclosed is a copy of the new ATI brochure and a membership/donation card. This information is also available on our website, www.aviationtrailinc.org where you can keep up to date with events sponsored by ATI & our partners throughout our region.

We remain committed to upholding our mission of aviation awareness, documentation 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 aviation history and ongoing development. 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.

* Get out on the Trail and earn your own bear!

Sincerely,

Aviation Trail, Inc.
Board of Trustees

Aviation Trail Gift Shop



See the **GIFT SHOP** menu item on the ATI website at:

<https://www.aviationtrailinc.org/> or click or scan the QR code.



Shirts



Collectable Art Prints



Caps



Tumblers

Magnets



Pins



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.





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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) _____

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 >**



Membership
• **Join**
• **Renew**
• **Donate**
Help keep the Dayton area in the forefront of the world's aviation history, leadership and preservation.

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