



THE WRIGHT FLYER



Aviation Trail, Inc.

Spring 2008

2008 TRAILBLAZER AWARD TO MARY ANN JOHNSON

Mary Ann Johnson, aviation historian and author who has supported aviation-related projects in the Dayton-Miami Valley area for over 25 years, is the recipient of the 2008 Trailblazer Award presented annually by Aviation Trail, Inc.

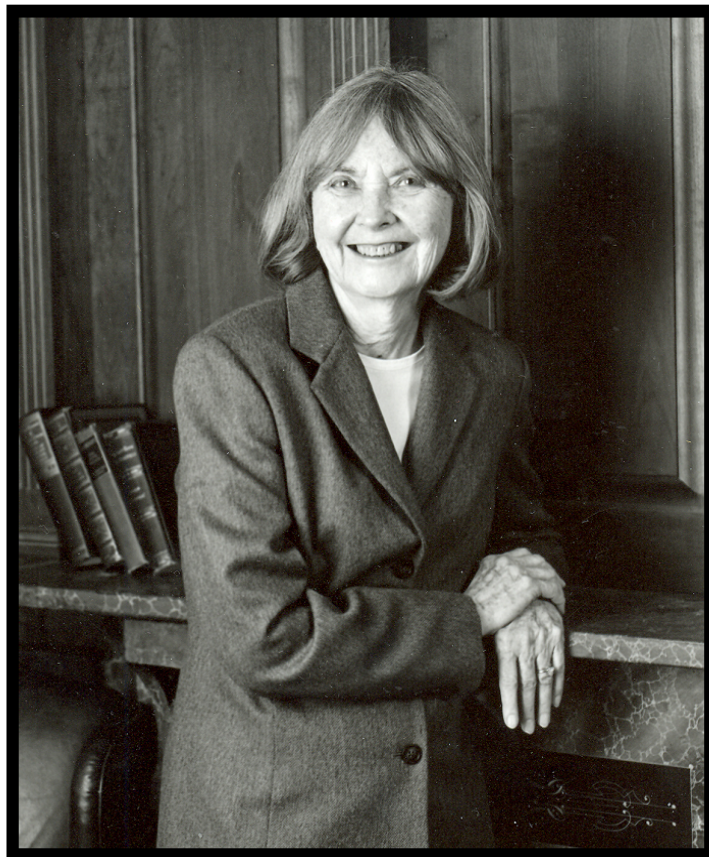
The award banquet and ceremonies will be Wednesday, April 16, at the Presidential Banquet Center, 4548 Presidential Dr., Kettering, Ohio. The event begins with a social at 6:30 p.m. followed by dinner at 6:45 p.m. and, at about 7:30, the Trailblazer ceremony and Ms. Johnson's speech. The public is welcome.

Ms. Johnson's published work includes *A Field Guide to Flight: On the Aviation Trail in Dayton, Ohio* which tells the stories behind the more than 40 designated sites on the Dayton area's Aviation Trail.

Her more recent book, *McCook Field 1917-1927: The Force Behind America's Golden Age of Flight*, describes the field's numerous pioneering research projects that underlie today's modern aerospace technology. Both are published by Landfall Press of Dayton, Ohio.

Currently secretary on the Aviation Trail Board of Trustees, Ms. Johnson is a founding member of the Trail and a board member since its incorporation as a nonprofit corporation in 1981. Her speech will tell about some of her experiences in writing the two books, which will bring in some of the story of Aviation Trail's history.

A native Daytonian and resident of Washington Township, Ms. Johnson was a stay-at-home mother until her and her husband Rich's four children were grown. She then returned to school to obtain a Master's degree in economics from Wright State University, Fairborn, Ohio. Her Bachelor's degree in sociology--earned before her marriage--is from Miami University, Oxford, Ohio.



Ms. Johnson became interested in local aviation history after helping to plan a regional economic development conference at the University of Dayton in 1980 while she was an economic planner on the staff of the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission. She also has served as a part-time instructor in economics at Sinclair Community College, Dayton, and worked on various local and national survey research projects.

The Trailblazer banquet and award ceremony commemorates Wilbur Wright's April birthday (April 16, 1867) and has been held annually since 1983. Reservations are \$40 a person and should be mailed to the following address by Friday, April 11: Aviation Trail, Inc., P.O. Box 633, Wright Brothers Branch, Dayton, Ohio, 45409. Please indicate your choice of entrée (beef, chicken or vegetarian).

AVIATION TRAIL RECEIVES \$10,000 GRANT FROM THE DAYTON FOUNDATION



Background mural will feature the colonel's famous August 16, 1960, parachute freefall

Aviation Trail, Inc. is pleased to announce its receipt of a \$10,000 grant from The Dayton Foundation toward completion of its Parachute Museum in Dayton, Ohio.

The grant is from the Foundation's Mary E. Gundersen Endowment Fund established in 1994 to improve the community by providing discretionary funds to the Foundation's Governing Board. Mary E. Gundersen was the first employee of the Huffy Corporation, where she worked for 49 years.

Marvin Christian, president of Aviation Trail, said that the Trail's Board of Trustees is extremely appreciative to the Foundation. "We are so pleased that an organization of the stature of The Dayton Foundation has chosen to show confidence in our efforts to tell the story of parachute development--much of which happened in Dayton's backyard--in museum exhibits. We thank them and will use the money wisely."

The Parachute Museum--a work in progress since its opening in 2003--is on the second floor of the Aviation Trail building at West Third and Williams streets in Dayton. Its exhibits and displays tell the story of the development of the freefall parachute from its invention at Dayton's McCook Field after World War I to the vital role it plays in safely landing today's spacecraft.

The museum's displayed artifacts are primarily from the parachute collection of Dave Gold, now deceased, who was fascinated with chutes and began collecting them in 1922 when he worked in Dayton. He collected items from both McCook Field and its successor Wright Field, now part of Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

Since there is museum space for only a small part of the Dave Gold collection, the remainder is in secure storage and its papers and films are with Wright State University's Paul Laurence Dunbar Library, Special Collections and Archives, where they were catalogued and made available on-line at www.libraries.wright.edu/special/

Money from The Dayton Foundation will be applied toward the museum's ongoing exhibit development program, specifically, an exhibit on Col. Joe Kittinger (USAF Ret.), balloonist and test pilot. Paul P. Brown, emeritus member of the board of trustees and one of Aviation Trail's 18 incorporating trustees, is another donor for the exhibit.

Contractor for the Kittinger exhibit is Exhibit Concepts, Vandalia, Ohio, with Mainsail Production Services of Dayton providing design support. Target completion date for completion of their work is this summer.

The focus of Colonel Kittinger's exhibit will be an interactive, question-and-answer display in which the colonel's pre-recorded voice is heard in reply to recorded questions. A background mural will feature the colonel's famous Aug. 16, 1960, gondola ascent in *Excelsior III* to 102,800 feet and a freefall before his parachute opened at 12,000 feet. Project Excelsior proved the human capability to survive high-altitude aircraft ejections and contributed to potential escape methods for astronauts.



The Dayton Foundation, established in 1921, is the regional community foundation that serves the multi-county Greater Miami Valley. The Foundation helps donors find the best and most tax-wise ways to achieve their charitable objectives, invests and manages donors' charitable funds, and provides grants and leadership to grow philanthropy and help meet present and future community needs. Information about The Dayton Foundation and its services is available at www.daytonfoundation.org.

Aviation Trail, Inc. was established in 1981 as an all volunteer, not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization to preserve and promote the Dayton area's unique aviation heritage, starting with the invention of the airplane by Wilbur and Orville Wright. Its web site is www.aviationtrailinc.org





President George W. Bush visited the Dayton area March 27 and spoke to 1,100 invited guests at the National Museum of the United States Air Force. He focused on The Global War on Terror and staying the course in Iraq and said that Airmen are adding to the tradition of the great aviators honored by the museum. "When the history of this era is written," he said, "it will show that the Air Force--and all of Americans' Armed Forces--performed with unfailing skill and courage. It will show that the United States of America prevailed, freedom advanced, and so did peace." U.S. Air Force
photo by Ben Strasser

WRIGHT SITES POSSIBLY WORLD HERITAGE SITES

We made the cut!

Four sites related to the Wright brothers in the Dayton area might find themselves--some day--in the same prestigious U.S. "club" with the Grand Canyon and Independence Hall in Philadelphia.

The "club" members are cultural or natural places and things in the United States selected by the United Nations UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) as U.S. World Heritage Sites.

Recently, the Wrights' sites made the "cut" to a list of 14 chosen by Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne from 35 sites nominated to the Interior Department. Aviation Trail supported the nomination of the Wright sites in a letter signed by President Marvin Christian.

The chosen local sites are The Wright Cycle Co. and Wright Printing in Dayton, Hawthorne Hill in Oakwood, the Wright Flyer III airplane in Carillon Historical Park, and Huffman Prairie Flying Field on Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. The Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks in southern Ohio also made the revised list.

Except for Hawthorne Hill, which is owned by the Wright Family Foundation, the sites are part of the National Park Service's Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park. All four sites are on the Aviation Trail.

Next the U.S. government--after a one-year waiting period--can nominate two sites a year to UNESCO for final consideration for the World Heritage list. Will the Wright sites one day make the prestigious list? It's trite but true: only time will tell.

NAHF ENSHRINEMENT SET FOR JULY 19 AT THE DAYTON CONVENTION CENTER

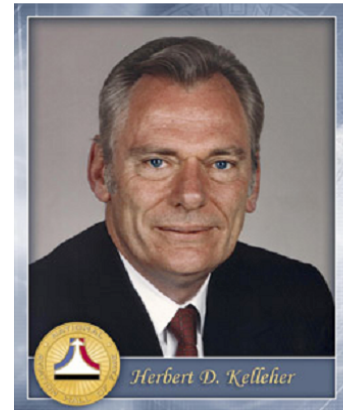
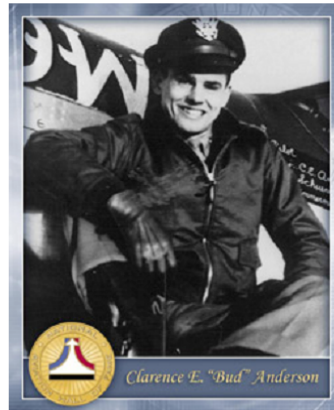
The National Aviation Hall of Fame is holding its 47th Annual Enshrinement Dinner & Ceremony July 19 at the Dayton Convention Center.

As announced at Aviation Trail's Anniversary of Powered Flight Dinner in December, the enshrines are:

- Col. Clarence E. "Bud" Anderson, USAF (Ret.), a veteran World War I triple ace and experimental test pilot
- Herbert D. Kelleher, co-founder, former CEO, and executive chairman of Southwest Airlines
- William A. Moffett, architect of naval military aviation, and
- Sean D. Tucker, champion aerobatic air show performer and instructor.

The Hall of Fame has been adding up to five inductees each year since 1962. Its Learning and Research Center contains exhibits focused on American aviation history, with emphasis on the people who made that history.

The public is welcome to the enshrinement. Tickets (\$1500 per person) can be purchased online at www.nationalaviation.com or by calling (937) 256-0944 ext. 10.





WORK UNDER WAY ON WRIGHT-DUNBAR PLAZA AND NEW ENTRANCE TO AVIATION TRAIL BLDG.

Wilcon Corp., Dayton, Ohio, has begun work under contract to the National Park Service on a new, main entrance to the Aviation Trail Visitor Center, Wright-Dunbar Interpretive Center, and the Wright-Dunbar plaza at West Third and Williams streets in Dayton.

Design for the work, which was requested by the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park, was accomplished by Ratio Architects, Inc. of Indianapolis. The project, to be completed in late summer, will provide more space for exterior exhibits and interpretive displays, better link the buildings at West Third and Williams streets and The Wright Cycle Co. (located to the south side of the plaza), and more fully communicate the story of the neighborhood.

The new design will make the entrance more obvious to visitors who sometimes overlook the current entry. The brick frieze depicting Wilbur and Orville Wright and Paul Laurence Dunbar will remain in its current position.

The Aviation Trail Board of Trustees supports this construction program and anticipates that visitors will enjoy the enhanced exhibit and display space. "This is yet another step forward--far forward--from the space's first use as a parking lot," said Marvin Christian, Aviation Trail president.

During construction, the park buildings and Aviation Trail building will remain open and operate during normal hours seven days a week: 8:30 a.m.-5: p.m.

All three buildings affected by the new plaza/entrance are sites on the Aviation Trail.

NAHF SLATES AVIATION FILM FESTIVAL FOR APRIL 24-26

Dayton doesn't have the mountain scenery that surrounds the annual Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah.

But there'll be an aviation ambience for its inaugural film event--the "Reel Stuff" Film Festival--from April 24-26. And Academy Award-winning actor and NAHF enshrinee Cliff Robertson will be there to introduce "633 Squadron," which he starred in in 1964.

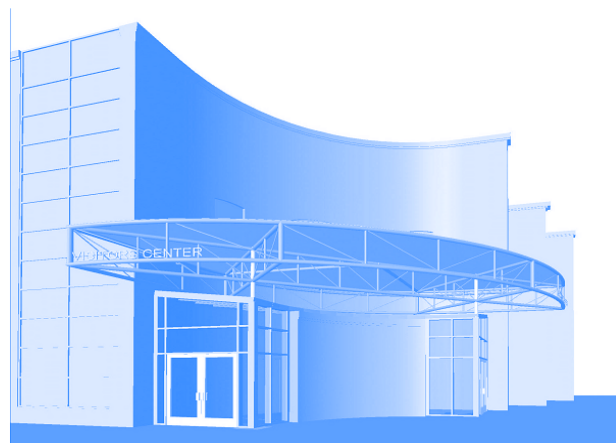
The National Aviation Hall of Fame is hosting the public festival and the festival's founder Ron Kaplan, also NAHF executive director, promises both feature films and independent documentaries focused on aviation. Each will be introduced by someone who worked on the film: an actor, producer, aerial coordinator or cinematographer.

Proceeds from the festival's ticket and merchandise sales, according to Kaplan, will benefit the NAHF's Learning and Research Center. Tickets are \$10 per film with a full-day ticket priced at \$25-\$55 and a three-day ticket at \$100. Tickets can be ordered from the web site www.reelstuffilmfest.com or by phone at (937) 256-0944.

Locations for the film presentations will be Sinclair Community College Smith Auditorium, the Dayton Convention Center Theater and the IMAX Theatre in the National Museum of the United States Air Force.

Films to be screened are "Top Gun" to be introduced by aerial cinematographer Clay Lacy; "Battle of Britain," by stunt pilot Wilson "Connie" Edwards; and "One Six Right," by producer Brian J. Terwilliger.

Other films are "Battle Hymn," "Fighter Pilot: Operation Red Flag," "Pancho Barnes," and "Speed and Angels."



Artist's sketch of new entrance



SNAPSHOTS FROM DECEMBER 2007 ATI FIRST FLIGHT DINNER



Aviation Trail, Inc. board members surround guest speaker, Suzanna Darcy-Hennemann.



Keynote speaker Suzanne Darcy-Hennemann addresses guests at December First Flight Dinner.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Life

Mary Mathews

Contributing

Ernest and Karen Sheeler

Family

Lois and Don Bigler

Individual

Thomas C. Cecil

E. Katherine Cohen

WRIGHT SEAPLANE BASE MOVES TOWARD INCORPORATION

Supporters of a monument commemorating the first seaplane base in America—on a bend of the Great Miami River near Dayton—are filing papers incorporating their group as a 501 (c)3 non-profit organization.

President is Harold Robinson; other officers are John Grumbles, vice-president; Donald Ferguson, secretary; and George R. Bockerstette, treasurer. Entities represented on the Board of Trustees are the city of West Carrollton, West Carrollton Historical Society, and the city of Moraine.

According to Ferguson, the monument most likely will be located in the Miami and Erie Canal Park which belongs to the city of West Carrollton.

The first seaplane site was used by the Wright Company between 1911 and 1913. The location was chosen because of a Hydraulic Low Dam which backed up a pool of water; there were no overhead wires or bridges; the bend of the river gave them different directions to take off into the wind; and Orville Wright could drive down the west side of the river to the base.

Airplane models tested there were the modified Model B's, the Model CH hydroplane, and the Model G aeroboat. Another local aviation group, the "Wright "B" Flyer, Inc. owns a replica wing section and outrigger of the Model G.

Anyone interested in participating in the seaplane base monument project should contact Donald Ferguson at (937) 609-0925.



*Model B hydroplane in flight over Great Miami River, May 1913
Photographer, William Preston Mayfield*

WOODLAND CEMETERY HOSTS HEROES OF AVIATION VIRTUAL TOUR

Woodland Cemetery and Arboretum is hosting its first "Heroes of Aviation Virtual Tour" Saturday, May 3, from 1-3 p.m.

The event will begin in the mausoleum off Woodland Avenue with a talk by volunteer Sherry Pecut, and then offer attendees the opportunity to walk to the gravesites, weather permitting.

Some lesser-known heroes to be featured include Ralph A. Von Derau, a flyer in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War I and II; Dale White, a Tuskegee Airman; and Stephen W. Thompson, the first U.S. military man--who flew with the French--to shoot down an enemy aircraft in World War I.

More familiar names also will be featured: Wilbur and Orville Wright, Paul Laurence Dunbar and John H. Patterson, founder of the National Cash Register Co.

KIDS' CORNER

April 19--Cub Scout Marble Tournament, hosted by the National Park Service, Aviation Trail Bldg., Conference Room, 2nd floor, West Third and Williams streets, Dayton. There is a \$10 entrance fee which includes a glass marble set for each entrant.

May 17 Kites at the Hill

Stop in any time from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. This workshop teaches fliers of all ages how to make a sled kite to keep. At Wright Brothers Hill (across from Huffman Prairie Flying Field Interpretive Center) No personal kites will be allowed to fly. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

June 7 Mound Builders

Begins 10 a.m.-noon Children six years old or older can learn about the Adena Culture, play a game and make a craft at Wright Brothers Hill. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

June 21 and August 9, 2-3 p.m. *Goop Tales*

Goop Tales, by Gelett Burgess, was one of the children's books that Wilbur and Orville Wright read to their nieces, nephews and neighborhood children. By listening and "acting out" *Goop Tales*, children learn accepted behavior whether in a museum, classroom or home.

June 28 2-3 p.m. Let's Go Fly a Kite! Famous Kite Flyers through History

Find out how scientists and experimenters have used kites throughout history to further advance the science of machine-powered flight. Children of all ages, come and learn how the Wright brothers first learned to fly using one of the oldest man-made flying devices: kites.

July 12, 19 and 26 Art in the Park

Begins 10 a.m.-noon Children in grades K-6 will get a chance to create sculptures, paintings/drawings and collages at the Wright-Dunbar Interpretive Center. Sponsored in part by The K-12 Gallery. Registration is required. Parents must sign children in and out each Saturday.

July 26 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. It's in the Details: Wil and Orv as Printers. Printing demonstration. Wil and Orv were first printers and it took a keen eye and attention to details to get this job done Wright. Watch a ranger demonstrate the tedious process of printing in 1890 in the room the Wright brothers used.

2008 BIKE WITH A RANGER TOURS AND INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS

Tour 1: First Sundays of June, July, and August

Location: Huffman Prairie Flying Field Interpretive Center
2380 Memorial Rd., Wright-Patterson AFB, OH 45433

Dates & Times: June 1, July 6, August 3, 2008, 9:00-11:00 a.m. (2 hours)

Program: "A Living Legacy: Huffman Prairie to Wright-Patterson AFB" Discover how one of the largest aviation complexes in the world, Wright Patterson AFB, began as a humble 84-acre cow pasture just a few miles northeast of Dayton.

Tour 2: Third Sundays of June, July and August

Location: The Wright Cycle Company, 22 South Williams Street, Dayton, Ohio 45402

Dates & Time: June 15, July 20, & August 17, 2008, 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. (4 hours)

Program: "The Gem City: Historic Homes & Sites of Dayton" This moderately difficult bicycle ride will stop at locations that tell the story of Dayton in the early 20th century.

Registration and Other Information:

- Please register by calling 937-425-0008, ask for Mark. All participants should be present no later than 8:30 a.m. the day of the program for tour and safety orientation.
- Participants are required to bring their own bicycles, which should be in good condition and safe to ride. All should wear a properly fitting helmet. Bicycles are subject to safety inspections.
- Bring personal gear, including water, snacks and/or lunch.
- Tours may be cancelled due to inclement weather.
- Huffman Prairie Flying Field is located on an active military installation and may be closed without prior notice.



Wright family graves in Woodland Cemetery and Arboretum.



A new Wright "B" Flyer--more portable and lighter weight than the current, beloved model--is taking shape at Dayton-Wright Brothers Airport south of the Dayton Mall. Here Walt Hoy, in foreground, head of the project, and Les Dunning, one of the many volunteers, check progress on the wing. In the upper right corner sits the original Wright "B" Flyer which has become a flying icon for the greater Miami Valley. The first international debut of the new "B" in a Box--as Hoy has dubbed it--is targeted for July this year in Le Mans, France, where 100 years ago Wilbur Wright astonished the French with the plane's maneuverability and it became a flying sensation. (Photo by Ed Kienle)



Volunteers Bob Jones, foreground, and Richard Holt, apply a moisture-protective paint to the bottom wing section of the new Wright "B" Flyer. The newer model was designed to fit into a sea-land container and its first major shipment is scheduled for this summer when it goes to Le Mans, France. The Wright "B" Flyer and its home at Dayton-Wright Brothers Airport is a stop on the Aviation Trail.



LOCAL CONFERENCE TO CELEBRATE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF WRIGHTS' EUROPEAN FLIGHTS

To celebrate the 100th anniversary of Wilbur and Orville Wright's successful demonstration flights in Europe, a conference is being held locally May 8-10 at Wright State University.

The meeting will bring together scholars from around the world to discuss the international nature of the history and development of flight.

It is being sponsored by the Wright Family Foundation, the National Aviation Heritage Alliance, the University of Dayton, CFM (manufacturer of aircraft engines), and Wright State University.

The three-day event will take place at the Dunbar Library on the Wright State main campus and registration is \$50. For the conference program and registration information, go to <http://ww.libraries.wright.edu/about/events/> or call (937) 775-2092.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

April 16 (Wednesday)--Trailblazer Award Ceremony and Banquet, Presidential Banquet Center, Kettering

May 3--Heroes of Aviation Virtual Tour, Woodland Cemetery and Arboretum

May 4--Funday Sunday, Moraine Airpark; longest running fly-in in the country. Begins with a pancake breakfast

May 8-10--International Community of Flight Conference, a centennial celebration of the Wrights' successful demo flights in Europe, Dunbar Library, Wright State University

June 25-27--National Business Aviation Association Forum comes to Dayton. Aviation Trail authors are featured. Expo Center, Dayton International Airport

June 26-29--1929 Ford Tri-Motor "Tin Goose," sponsored by National EAA, gives flight tours at Dayton International Airport

July 19-20--Vectren Dayton Air Show, Dayton International Airport

July 19--National Aviation Hall of Fame 47th Annual Enshrinement Dinner & Ceremony, Dayton Convention Center

Aug. 19--National Aviation Day/Orville and Katharine Wright's mutual birthdays



Spring 2008

www.aviationtrailinc.org

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



**HAPPY 85TH ANNIVERSARY FROM ATI TO THE
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE**

Always located in the Miami Valley, the museum began in 1923 in the corner of an aircraft hangar at McCook Field near downtown Dayton. From that informal showing of World War I planes and equipment of both the United States and foreign governments, the collection has grown to more than 400 aerospace vehicles, plus thousands of aviation artifacts and more than one million visitors a year.

Today an Air Force Museum Foundation--and its Friends of the Air Force Museum--operate an IMAX Theatre, Morphis MovieRide Theatre, souvenir shop and cafeteria that make this museum experience truly First Class.

The ATI Board of Trustees wish this site on the Aviation Trail 85 more years of success and expansion.

AVIATION TRAIL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I would like to become a member of Aviation Trail, Inc., at the following level:

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Citizen 60 and over \$15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Contributing \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Life \$500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$20 | <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting \$100 | (May be paid in five annual |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$30 | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron \$1,000/year | installments of \$100 each) |

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Please make check payable to: **AVIATION TRAIL, INC.** and mail it together with this form to:

Aviation Trail, Inc., P. O. Box 633, Wright Brothers Branch, Dayton, OH 45409