



*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

## JANUARY 2021 ISSUE

1/30/2021

This "Flight Log" highlights some of the stories and events featured on the Aviation Trail website: [www.AviationTrailInc.org](http://www.AviationTrailInc.org)

### National Museum USAF to host new Space exhibit



NMUSAF release, Jan. 21, 2021:

A new interactive exhibit designed to spark imaginations by igniting the desire for space exploration and discovery, and inspire new generations of explorers to dream of the possibilities that lie

ahead, will be on display at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force from Jan. 28-Sept. 6.

The exhibit, titled "SPACE: A Journey to Our Future," is being provided by Evergreen Exhibitions and allows visitors to experience explorations of the past as well as our future destiny in space. Highlights of the exhibit include touching actual rocks from the lunar surface of the moon and the red planet of Mars; exploring a Mars Base Camp while walking through a full-size habitat and work pod; taking a spin on a centrifuge that is powered like a bicycle; getting an up-close look at a wide range of artifacts from the space program; and looking into future explorations of the universe.

*Note: COVID-19 safety precautions will include issuing gloves to each visitor interacting with the exhibit, as well as cleaning and sanitizing the exhibit throughout each day. Visitors ages three and up are required to wear masks during their visit to the museum.*

The exhibit, which will be located in the museum's fourth building, features content provided by NASA and the National Science Teachers Association, and introduces visitors to generations of dreamers and thinkers who have at times risked their lives to provide a better understanding of who we are and how we fit into the universe around us. Visitors will also meet today's explorers who are on the forefront of the search for answers to questions about the universe including how to protect it and what life exists out there.

*...Continued from previous column*

According to National Museum of the U.S. Air Force Education Chief Mike Brimmer, the exhibit ties in perfectly to the museum's mission of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education, and complements the permanent space exhibits already on display, which include space suits, rockets, a Space Shuttle exhibit, satellites, capsules and many more space related artifacts.

"STEM education and inspiring youth to pursue careers in these fields is the heart of our mission at the museum, and space is a topic that keeps the interest and attention of almost everyone," said Brimmer. "Exhibits such as this provide students and visitors of all ages with an exciting, hands-on way to learn; supports many of the education standards that are being delivered in classrooms; and can even serve as a catalyst for making amazing achievements in their own chosen professions someday."

For additional information on this and other 2021 museum events, visit <https://www.nationalmuseum.af.mil/Upcoming/Events/>.

"SPACE: A Journey to Our Future," was made possible at the museum with support from the Air Force Museum Foundation and Dayton Aerospace, Inc. (Federal endorsement not implied.)

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. For more information, visit [www.nationalmuseum.af.mil](http://www.nationalmuseum.af.mil).

National Museum of the U.S. Air Force is site #5 on the Aviation Trail

### Status of Aviation Trail Sites

As indicated in the "Flight Log" for the last ten months, most of the trail site facilities had posted closings due to the COVID-19 virus threat. Most sites have re-opened at least on a limited basis since summer. This is something that can change daily, so check the websites for the individual trail sites to get the latest information. A list of the status of sites on the Aviation Trail is also posted on the "Aviation Blog" page of the Aviation Trail website. It is updated as changes occur. Since things can change on a day-to-day basis, it is recommended that visitors contact the individual sites directly before making plans to visit. The website and phone information for each site is available on the Aviation Trail website "Trail Sites" page. 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.

## Tours at Woodland Cemetery & Arboretum



Woodland Cemetery is a National and State Historic Landmark, considered to be among the loveliest rural cemeteries as well as a unique cultural resource for the residents of Dayton in addition to the visitors of the area. With close to 200 acres to roam, over 3000 trees to enjoy and a multitude of historic figures to discover. Learning about the history of Dayton, Ohio is truly a discovery of American history and ingenuity.

For opportunities for self guided tours, private group tours, and Woodland bus tours, see the Woodland website "tours-and-events" page at <https://woodlandcemetery.org/tours-and-events/>. A list of various tours is shown on the page, with information for reservations. There is also a link on that page for downloading an app for the self guided tours.

Woodland Cemetery and Arboretum is site #8 on the Aviation Trail

## Tri-State Warbird Museum Super Soarin' Saturdays

Saturday, February 6, 2021; 9:30 - 11:00 AM

**Super Soarin' Saturdays! How Does It Fly? is our next segment.** Come learn about flight! Fun, crafts, and learning activities start at 9:30.



See the Tri-State Museum website for information:  
<http://www.tri-statewarbirdmuseum.org>  
4021 Borman Drive • Batavia OH 45103 • (513) 735-4500

## Aviation Oddities

### The Curtiss-Wright XP-55

One of the interesting prototypes flown in the 1940's was the Curtiss-Wright XP-55 Ascender. In 1939 the US Army Air Corps issued a proposal for aircraft manufacturers to develop unconventional designs for a fighter with improved performance, armament, and pilot visibility. The Curtiss-Wright Corporation (whose evolution traces back via various mergers to aviation pioneers - the Wright brothers, Glenn Martin, and Glenn Curtiss) received an Army contract for preliminary engineering data and a powered wind tunnel model.

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July 1942, the Army issued a contract for three prototypes under the designation XP-55, with an unusual design featuring a rear mounted engine, swept wings, and two vertical tails. (Because of the rear mounted engine, the aircraft "Ascender" name was often jokingly mispronounced by putting the accent on the first syllable). Although an interesting and creative concept, the XP-55 did not get past the prototype stage. The first prototype crashed, with the pilot bailing out, but a crash of the third prototype at a 1945 Wright Field air show in Dayton resulted in fatalities for the pilot and civilians on a highway bordering the field. With the advent of jet fighter development the XP-55 project was terminated.



See more on the XP-55 Ascender on these links:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XC4lnrPRxtg&list=WL&index=12&t=19s>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Curtiss-Wright\\_XP-55\\_Ascender](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Curtiss-Wright_XP-55_Ascender)

[https://airandspace.si.edu/collection-objects/curtiss-xp-55-cs-ascender/nasm\\_A19600289000](https://airandspace.si.edu/collection-objects/curtiss-xp-55-cs-ascender/nasm_A19600289000)

## January in Aviation History

- Jan 30 1916 – The first flight of the German dirigible Zeppelin LZ60 (Lz90).
- Jan 29 1926 – John A. Macready set a U. S. altitude record of 38,704 feet in an XC05 A with Liberty 400-horsepower engines at Dayton, Ohio.
- Jan 27 1928 – The first rigid airship-to-aircraft carrier mooring was achieved when United States Navy (USN) dirigible (steerable airship) 'Los Angeles' moored to the USS Sagatoga at sea.
- Jan 12 1935 – Amelia Earhart, flying her Lockheed Vega, became the first woman pilot to fly solo between Hawaii and the USA. She took off from Wheeler Field, Oahu, Honolulu, and landed in Oakland, California after 18 hours 15 min.
- Jan 14 1936 – Howard Hughes, in a Northrop Gamma 2G, NR13761, set a transcontinental speed record of 9 hours 27 minutes, averaging 417.0 kilometers per hour (259.1 miles per hour).
- Jan 13 1942 – Heinkel test pilot Helmut Schenk became the first person to escape from a stricken aircraft with an ejection seat after the control surfaces of the first prototype Heinkel He 280 V1, DL+AS, iced up and became inoperable.
- Jan 15 1991 – The 'Virgin Pacific Flyer', became the first hot-air balloon to cross the Pacific Ocean. Taking off from Japan to Northern Canada with Per Lindstrand and Richard Branson, flying in the trans-oceanic jet streams, it recorded the highest ground speed for a manned balloon at 245 mph (394 km/h)
- Jan 5 1949 – Charles "Chuck" Yeager using a Bell X-1 carried out the only conventional (runway) take off performed during the X-1 program, reaching 23,000 ft (7,000 m) in 90 seconds.

## Aviation Trail Memberships & Donations

### Help support Aviation Trail, Inc. and the Aviation Trail Parachute Museum

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 2021.



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.

See the **JOIN/DONATE** menu item on the Aviation Trail website to join, renew, or donate.

Continued in next column...



# Aviation Trail, Inc.

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Visit the historical sites that tell of man's conquest of the air.

[www.aviationtrailinc.org](http://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 at**  
<https://www.aviationtrailinc.org/membership-donations-reservations-orders>

**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](http://www.aviationtrailinc.org)