



# 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**

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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

**April 2022 ISSUE**

4/18/2022

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

## Aviation Trail Sites Meeting

**Introduction of 2022-2023 "Wilbear Wright" program & distribution of new brochures • Apr. 13, 2022**



Representatives from fourteen Aviation Trail sites were present on April 13, 2022 for a site meeting hosted by ATI at the Aviation Trail Visitor Center. ATI president Steve Brown welcomed the group and opened discussion so that representatives could share news and updates about their sites.



The meeting was used to introduce updates to the popular "Wilbear" program for 2022-2023. The program has been in place for several years to encourage visits to the trail sites. Visitors to the sites can receive a stamp in a passport brochure, and by accumulating stamps from at least eight different sites, can qualify for a FREE "Wilbear" aviation teddy bear. (See the "Trail Sites" page on the website for the full details and requirements).

ATI's Marvin Christian (shown below) explained the changes and new policies for the program. One of the new features of the program is that there will now be seven sites where visitors who complete the eight stamps can pick up their bear.

These distribution/pick up sites are:

- #4 Dayton History (Carillon Park)
- #9 Wright "B" Flyer
- #11 WACO Air Museum
- #12 Armstrong Air & Space Museum
- #13 Champaign Aviation Museum
- #15 Tri-State Warbird Museum
- #16 Butler County Warbirds



A new update of the Aviation Trail brochure was also introduced, and cartons were provided to the site representatives. The brochure contains the "passport" page for receiving the stamps and includes the updated policies to the program. Visitors can pick up the new brochure at the sites and it can also be download from the ATI website. Supplies of the bears were also provided to the distribution sites.

...Aviation Trail Site Meeting continued from previous column



After the meeting, the attendees all celebrated Wilbur Wright's April 16 birthday (155th) with cake and refreshments:

Aviation Trail thanks the site representatives for attending and helping to kickoff the "new" Wilbear program. Thanks to:

- |                    |   |  |
|--------------------|---|--|
| Sites 1a, 1c, 2, 3 | Dayton Aviation Heritage National Park    | Supt. Kendell Thompson                   |
| Site 1b            | Aviation Trail Parachute Museum           | Randy Zuercher                           |
| Sites 4 & 7        | Carillon Historical Park/Hawthorn Hill    | Alex Heckman, Emily Teters               |
| Site 5             | National Museum of USAF                   | Lisa Riley                               |
| Site 9             | Wright "B" Flyer                          | Don Adams                                |
| Site 10            | WSU Special Coll. & Archives              | Jane Wildermuth                          |
| Site 11            | WACO Air Museum                           | Patty Wagner, Rachel Currie, Dawn Currie |
| Site 12            | Armstrong Air & Space Museum              | Deanna Kindell                           |
| Site 13            | Champaign Aviation Museum                 | Jessica Henry                            |
| Site 15            | Tri-State Warbird Museum                  | Noah Stegman Rechin                      |
| Site 16            | Butler County Warbirds                    | Tim Epperhart, Michelle Smith            |
| Site 17            | Sinclair National UAS Training & Cert Ctr | Dr. Andrew Shepherd                      |

Attendees included 14 members of the Aviation Trail board of trustees.

THANKS TO ALL!



Aviation Trail Site Meeting continued in next column...

## Open Aircraft Days at NMUSAF



**NATIONAL MUSEUM  
OF THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE™**

**Saturday, April 23, 2022**

On Open Aircraft days, visitors will have the unique opportunity to look inside one of the museum's aircraft from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. unless otherwise noted. (The list of aircraft is updated quarterly). Saturday, April 23 - Look inside the cockpit of the [F-94C Starfire](#) (Lockheed) AND [F-86D Sabre](#) (North American)



Pictured on the left: F-94C Starfire

Pictured on the right: F-86D Sabre

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. Each year thousands of visitors from around the world come to the museum. For more information, visit [www.nationalmuseum.af.mil](http://www.nationalmuseum.af.mil).

Check for other NMUSAF events at <https://www.nationalmuseum.af.mil/Upcoming/Events/>

The National Museum of the U.S. Air Force 1100 Spatz Street Wright-Patterson AFB OH 45433

**The National Museum of the United States Air Force  
is Site #5 on the Aviation Trail.**



## First Responder Day at WACO

**May 13th, 2022, 10AM – 2PM**

**WACO Air Museum, 1865 South County Road 25A, Troy, Ohio 45373**

**Attention All Police, Fire, EMS!**

An invitation for all first responders. All first responders get free admission to the museum, entry into hourly drawings and a final special drawing where we will be giving away a ride certificate for a biplane ride! Additionally, first responders get a free meal from Chick-fil-A, samplers from Texas Roadhouse, an aerial demonstration from our Barnstormer RC group, and much more!

Family members, encourage your first responder to come and enjoy the day! We will start at 10AM with the posting of our Flag. There will be guided tours through the museum during the day.

*Eric A. Combs, Museum Director*  
WACO Air Museum, 1865 S. County Rd. 25A, Troy, OH 45373 937-335-9226  
[www.wacoairmuseum.org](http://www.wacoairmuseum.org)

**WACO Air Museum is Site #11 on the Aviation Trail**



## Inventor of Modern Parachute to be Inducted

### Floyd Smith in 2022 National Inventors Hall of Fame



A former trapeze artist turned aviator and test pilot, Floyd Smith holds US Patent Nos. 1,340,423; 1,462,456 for the first successful free-fall parachute.

Near the end of WWI the US Army put together a parachute research group that came under the Engineering Division at McCook Field in Dayton.

Their job was to develop a practical parachute for in-flight escape from fixed wing aircraft. They drafted requirements and

tested all the existing parachutes they could but none met their requirements. At the same time they also were working on their own design, based largely on Floyd Smith's concept for a manually operated free-fall parachute. The pilot would wear the chute, climb out and jump away from the airplane, then manually operate the parachute once safely away from the plane.

Shown in the above photo is Floyd Smith wearing the prototype Model A, which was the first practical system for in-flight escape from fixed wing aircraft. The chute was initially live jumped by [Leslie Irvin](#) in April of 1919 and was soon standardized and eventually required for use by Army pilots.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James\\_Floyd\\_Smith](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Floyd_Smith)  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leslie\\_L.\\_Irvin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leslie_L._Irvin)



**National Inventors  
Hall of Fame™**

**Learn more about Floyd Smith:** A trapeze artist turned aviator, Smith's invention of the modern parachute led to the creation of the parachute industry and provided safe landings across the world, saving countless lives.

See the story on the National Inventors Hall of Fame website at <https://www.invent.org/inductees/floyd-smith> and be sure to click on the "10 Things You Need to Know about Floyd Smith" on that page for more details about this fascinating aviation innovator. The induction ceremony will be held on Thursday, May 5, 2022 in Washington D.C. • <https://www.invent.org/induction>

Also [CLICK HERE](#) to see the Parachute Museum Theater featuring an excellent Smithsonian Channel video about **Floyd Smith**, Leslie Irvin, and the McCook Field team. When in the theater, scroll down to #2 in the Parachute Museum Theater series.

Learn more about Parachute History: [CLICK HERE](#) to download a copy of a Speaker Series presentation on the history of the parachute that was produced by the Aviation Trail Parachute Museum team. And be sure to explore the Parachute Museum page on this ATI website.



Aviation Trail, Inc. Parachute Museum  
16 South Williams Street Dayton, OH 45402  
<https://www.aviationtrailinc.org/parachute-museum>

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



## The Cold War, The Berlin Airlift, and the Candy Bomber

**Wednesday, May 18th, 2022:**



WACO Historical Society  
Aviation Lecture Series

WACO will conclude the Lecture Series with a talk that is sure to interest ALL ages. On Wednesday, May 18th, John Jannazo will

present a program titled "The Cold War, The Berlin Airlift and the Candy Bomber." This interactive presentation will weave the story of Col Gail Halvorsen, and his story as part of the Berlin Airlift, June 1948 to May 1949. Jannazo will review and discuss one key event in the chronology of the Cold War, and how no matter the war, cold or hot, it is not about the many factors involved; it is all about people the war affects. Based on the true story and children's book "Mercedes and the Chocolate Pilot" by Margot Raven, the speaker will review how one man's bold idea helped those most affected--the kids of Berlin. The talk is suitable for all ages and will involve an optional, but fun, audience participation activity (hint: it involves chocolate).

... WACO Lecture continued from previous page



### The Cold War, The Berlin Airlift, and the Candy Bomber - continued

John "Jazz" Jannazo, served 21 years in the USAF, with over 3400 hours in multiple fighter aircraft with world-wide assignments, to include the F-106 Delta Dart and the F-15C Eagle, and combat tours in the Southwest Asia theater. In addition to his time as a fighter pilot and squadron commander, Jannazo also had extensive experience in development of new fighter technologies prior to transitioning to industry. He has a master's degree in Modern US History, has been an adjunct professor for Embry Riddle Aeronautical University with their Aviation History section, and is currently a consultant to several major defense based corporations.

This lecture is free and open to the public; donations to WACO Air Museum are gladly accepted. Lectures are held in the Willis Wing of the WACO Air Museum at 1865 South County Road 25A in Troy, OH. **Doors open at 6:30 and the program begins at 7 p.m.** Programs are scheduled to last one hour with questions to follow. For questions, please call 937-335-9226 or visit [www.wacoairmuseum.org](http://www.wacoairmuseum.org). This program is sponsored by Collins Aerospace.

WACO Air Museum is Site #11 on the Aviation Trail



## Woodland Tours & Events

### Woodland Cemetery & Arboretum

The 2022 Tour and Event season at Woodland is taking shape and we have several early Spring tours for you to join in on. All of the tours listed below are guided tours by seasoned volunteers. They will walk you through the cemetery telling you the stories of our most famous and infamous residents.

All tours require a reservation and there is a suggested \$5 donation. All donations support the Woodland Arboretum Foundation which focuses on the restoration, preservation, horticultural and educational projects needed to keep Woodland a cultural resource for Dayton and Ohio.

Please note that these are not the only tours that we have available. We are adding more dates weekly and you can find all of the tours and dates by visiting our tour page on our website.

- Woodland Arboretum Spring Tree I.D. Tour
- Headstone Cleaning & Restoration Beginners Class
- Arboretum Tree Tour
- History, Mystery, Mayhem & Murder Tour
- Luminaries of Dayton Tour
- Woodland Historic Tour
- Woodland Indoor Mausoleum Tour
- Cemetery Symbols Tour
- Military Tour
- Street Names of Dayton
- Dayton's Walk of Fame Tour
- Women of Woodland
- History, Mystery, Mayhem & Murder Lantern Tour

For descriptions and dates for the tours, and to make your reservations for any of the above, please [click here](#) or copy and paste this link into your browser: <https://bit.ly/WoodlandTours22>

As Spring comes upon us, you can take your own walking tour at the cemetery or a virtual tour from the comfort of your couch by visiting our website at: [woodlandcemetery.org/tours](http://woodlandcemetery.org/tours).

From your phone you will be prompted to download our app. Take one of 12 walking tours we have available for your enjoyment at the cemetery. If you are on your desktop, laptop or tablet, you can take the tour right from the tour page. We will be adding more tours so come back often to learn about the men and women who made it Great in Dayton.

Download the mobile app for your phone by [clicking here](#).

Woodland Cemetery and Arboretum • 118 Woodland Avenue • Dayton, Ohio 45409  
[www.woodlandcemetery.org](http://www.woodlandcemetery.org)

Woodland Cemetery and Arboretum is Site 8 on the Aviation Trail



## April 16, 1867 Birthday of Wilbur Wright

### Aviation Trail salutes Wilbur Wright



Wilbur Wright was born to Milton and Susan Wright April 16, 1867, in a three-room house near Millville, Ind., eight miles east of New Castle, Ind. Wilbur was the Wrights' third son and was named for Wilbur Fiske, a clergyman admired by Milton.



It was Wilbur's observations of birds in flight that inspired his concept of wing warping, and his letter to Octave Chanute that helped propel the brothers on their historic venture.

(See this Library of Congress story: <https://www.loc.gov/collections/wilbur-and-orville-wright-papers/articles-and-essays/the-belief-that-flight-is-possible-to-man/>).

Although Wilbur's birthplace is commemorated by the [Wilbur Wright Birthplace Museum](#) in Hagerstown, Indiana, you can now visit his final resting place at [Woodland Cemetery & Arboretum](#) in Dayton, Ohio (Site #8 on the Aviation Trail) where he lies next to his brother Orville.



## Aviation Trail Gift Shop

See the GIFT SHOP menu item on the Aviation Trail website at: <https://www.aviationtrailinc.org/> or **CLICK HERE.**



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



### 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 2022.

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

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