



# 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**



**"Preserving the Past & Promoting the Future"**

**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](http://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

**November 2025 ISSUE**

11/01/2025

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

## Free Lecture at Champaign Aviation Museum

**Thursday, November 13 at 11:00am**  
**History of the Aviation Cadet Program**

Join us in the CAM library with presenter, Jack Mecham, as he describes the history of the Aviation Cadet Program, beginning in WWI.



Champaign Aviation Museum  
1652 N. Main St., Urbana, OH 43078  
937-652-4710

[ChampaignAviationMuseum.org](http://ChampaignAviationMuseum.org)



*Champaign Aviation Museum is Site #13 on the Aviation Trail*

## Celebrate Veterans Day at Tri-State Warbirds

**November 8, 2025 @ 10:30 am - 12:30 pm:**



**Join us as we celebrate Veterans!**

**10:30A Coffee with Kilroy**

Coffee and Donuts sponsored by Dunkin' Donuts is free for Veterans!

**11:00A - 12:30P Kidz Zone Open**

**12:00P T-6 & P-51 Flight Demo**

2 veterans will win a ride weather depending



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



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

## Ring in the Holidays

**A Carillon Preview Christmas Party**  
**November 22, 2025**

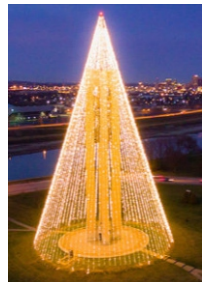


Carillon Historical Park celebrates its 75th anniversary and the 30th anniversary of Ringing in the Holidays—the privately funded nonprofit organization's seasonal fundraiser—by unveiling a fresh, expanded version of the long-loved event. This year, it debuts as the official preview party for A Carillon Christmas, the Park's month-long holiday celebration.

On Nov. 22, 2025, from 5:30 to 9 p.m., guests will enjoy an evening filled with exclusive, one-night-only experiences, including live carolers, bell wagon concerts by carillonneur Alan Bowman, and a special lighting-of-the-Park ceremony featuring the 200-foot-tall Carillon Tree of Light—Ohio's largest. The fundraiser will also feature a silent auction and an array of festive foods and specialty cocktails served throughout the museum's exhibits, including a martini ice luge. Because much of the evening takes place outdoors, guests are encouraged to dress for the weather.

Held the weekend before Thanksgiving, the expanded Ringing in the Holidays will also showcase many of the highlights that make A Carillon Christmas so magical, including Santa Claus, hot cider, hearth-baked gingerbread, fire-roasted chestnuts, thousands of lights, and the Carillon Park Railroad. Together, these beloved traditions capture Dayton's holiday season spirit in a way that feels both familiar and refreshingly new.

Get Tickets at: <https://shop.daytonhistory.org/Events.aspx>



Carillon Historical Park  
1000 Carillon Blvd.  
Dayton Ohio 45409  
937-293-2841  
[daytonhistory.org](http://daytonhistory.org)

*Carillon Historical Park is Site #4 on the Aviation Trail.*

## Armstrong Air & Space Museum Holiday Lights & Grand Illumination

**Friday, November 28 to Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2026**

Viewable nightly after dusk

LOCATION: Armstrong Air & Space Museum, 500 Apollo Dr, Wapakoneta, OH

### ABOUT THE HOLIDAY LIGHTS:

For over ten years now, the Armstrong Air & Space Museum has been inaugurating the holiday season by illuminating their grounds with a vast array of festive and colorful lights known as the Holiday Lights Display. The overall exhibition contains a multitude of aviation and space-themed displays made from tens of thousands of vibrant LED bulbs, with prominent works including a twenty-foot-tall Saturn V rocket and a giant Apollo-era astronaut saluting the American flag.

### TIPS FOR VISITING:

The average guest takes about 15-45 minutes to view the light displays. The entire experience is outside, so plan for winter weather in Ohio! The museum closes at 5:00 pm and is usually not open when the lights are on. There are no outdoor restrooms so plan your visit accordingly. There are no food or beverages sold but a number of restaurants are close by. Guests are asked to refrain from touching the lights and cords. Sign the guestbook located in the museum's entrance, we want to hear your feedback!

If you take any pictures of the lights throughout the holiday season please post them using the hashtag #AASMLights.

### HOLIDAY LIGHTS COST:

The Armstrong Museum Holiday Lights are a FREE public event! The Holiday Lights are made possible through donations from the community. You can help support this annual tradition by donating to the lights onsite or by clicking the link below:

<https://www.armstrongmuseum.org/donate>

### Grand Illumination

DATE: Friday, November 29, 2024

TIME: 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm

LIGHTING STARTS: 7:00 pm

LOCATION: Armstrong Air & Space Museum

ADDRESS: 500 Apollo Dr, Wapakoneta, OH

### ABOUT THE EVENT:

Help inaugurate the holiday season as the Armstrong Air & Space Museum flips the switch on their holiday lights during the Grand Illumination. At 7:00 pm sharp, the museum grounds will be illuminated by over 200,000 LED lights, with over two dozen stunning displays that feature a variety of space and holiday settings. The museum itself will also be open that Friday from 10:00 am to 8:00 pm for guests to visit and shop. The holiday lights will be illuminated nightly afterwards until January 1, 2025.

### EVENT HIGHLIGHTS:

Get a free outdoor picture with Santa Claus, available periodically between 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

Grab a warm complimentary cup of hot chocolate, courtesy of Coffé Amor. Limited quantity.

Create a beautiful keepsake with the museum's holiday photo activity.

Come inside for a little Black Friday holiday shopping, 10% off your purchase from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

Purchase a ticket and explore the museum galleries during our extended holiday hours.

Check out some of the museum's newest displays, including our new lit Apollo 8 patch.

### EVENT COST:

Outdoor viewing of the Armstrong Museum Holiday Lights is always FREE to the Public!



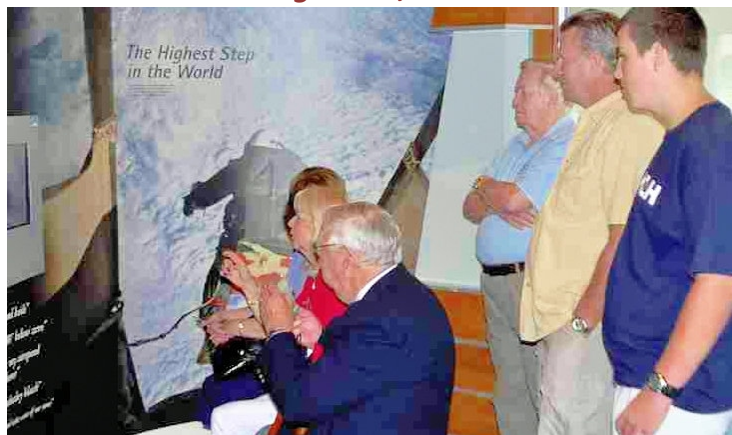
Armstrong Air & Space Museum  
500 Apollo Drive  
Wapakoneta, OH 45895  
(419) 738-8811 or (800) 860-0142  
[www.armstrongmuseum.org](http://www.armstrongmuseum.org)

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



## Highlighting a Parachute Museum Exhibit

**Video of Famous jump from the edge of space  
August 16, 1960**



**Colonel Joseph W. Kittinger, Jr. (1928-2022)**

One of the Parachute Museum's most popular exhibits is an interactive display of Joe Kittinger's 102,800-foot jump from a balloon gondola that set a world record in 1960. Col. Kittinger, a decorated Air Force veteran and aerospace pioneer, was testing a parachute system designed to assist pilots to eject at high altitudes. But his mission also proved that humans could survive and function in near-space conditions and helped advance preparation for human spaceflight. At that time this set the record for the highest balloon ascent, highest parachute jump (102,800 feet), longest drogue fall and fastest speed by a human through the atmosphere (614 mph).

Above, Joe Kittinger (in the light blue shirt, with arms folded) is pictured at the Parachute Museum looking at the display featuring his 1960 jump. (Photo from 2003).

The photo shows museum visitors (including Col. Kittinger himself) watching a video in the museum display.

**The video can be seen on the blog page at this link:**  
<https://www.aviationtrailinc.org/post/highlighting-a-parachute-museum-exhibit>

Col. Kittinger was a 1997 enshrinee in the National Aviation Hall of Fame. Another video of his historic jump can be seen on the Parachute Museum Theater page, video number 3, at: <https://www.aviationtrailinc.org/parachute-museum-theater> (The Felix Baumgartner\* jump that eventually broke his record is also featured on that page in video number 6. Joe Kittinger was in mission control for that 2012 jump and can be seen communicating with Baumgartner in this dramatic video).

\*The referenced jump by Felix Baumgartner was accomplished in 2012, with a jump from 128,100 feet, breaking Kittinger's record, and becoming the first skydiver to exceed the speed of sound while in freefall (833.9 mph). The altitude record was again broken in 2014 by Alan Eustace with a jump from 25 mile above the earth.

Some additional links to learn more about Col. Kittinger:

<https://www.aviationtrailinc.org/post/the-national-aviation-hall-of-fame-reflects-on-the-life-of-joe-kittinger>

<https://airandspace.si.edu/air-and-space-quarterly/summer-2023/space-jumper>

<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/altamonte-springs-fl/joseph-kittinger-11070429>

To experience more exhibits highlighting parachuting history visit the Aviation Trail Parachute Museum located in the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park Visitor Center at 16 S. Williams St., Dayton, Ohio 45402. Museum information can be viewed on the Parachute Museum page on this website.



The Aviation Trail Parachute Museum  
16 South Williams Street  
Dayton, OH 45402  
(937) 225-7705

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





## Lunch & Learn Lecture

**Thursday, Nov. 19, 2025, 11:30 am**

Harmon Museum Armstrong Conference Center, Lebanon, OH

### Harmon Museum's Warren County Connections

Guest speaker, Susan Watts, discusses connections to Warren County and Harmon Museum's collection. We'll look at the challenges faced by ancient peoples globally and settlers in Warren County. How similar we are to people in the past and how their approach has shaped our current world.

COST: \$25 for WCHS members / \$30 for non-members. (Includes lunch, lecture & museum admission)

Program without lunch \$5 for members / \$8 for non-members.



Ticket sales close at midnight the Thursday night prior to the event. If you would like lunch, reservations MUST be made by this time. Tickets for the lecture ONLY option will be available up until the event or may be purchased at the door. There is a small fee associated with the sale of tickets online.

11:00am - Seating/Open Museum | 11:30am - Lunch Served | 12:00pm (noon) - Speaker

ORDER TICKETS at: <https://ticketstripe.com/LunchNov25>



Harmon Museum & Armstrong Gallery of Flight  
Warren County Historical Society  
Address: 105 S. Broadway, Lebanon, OH 45036 Phone: 513-932-1817  
<https://www.wchsmuseum.org/armstronggallery.html>  
<https://www.wchsmuseum.org/harmonmuseum.html>

For much more on the Armstrong Gallery of Flight see the blog page on the Harmon Museum website and scroll down to the post of 4/19/24: <https://www.wchsmuseum.org/blog>

*The Harmon Museum Armstrong Gallery of Flight is a site on the Aviation Trail*



## Tour of Sinclair UAS Facility at NAAMCE in Springfield

### National Air Mobility Center of Excellence



Aviation Trail board members were treated to a tour of the Sinclair UAS facility at the National Advanced Air Mobility Center of Excellence at the Springfield-Beckley Airport.

Use the link below for a video presentation highlighting this important part of Dayton's Aviation Heritage. (Be sure to check "unmute").

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/24406101712426147>

With special thanks to:

• **Host Dr. Andrew Shepherd**, Executive Director & Chief Scientist, Unmanned Aerial Systems, Sinclair Community College

• **Dan Edwards** for video production

Sinclair National UAS Training Center  
Sinclair College  
444 West Third St., Dayton, OH 45402  
<http://uas.sinclair.edu/>

*The Sinclair National UAS Training and Certification Center is Site #17 on the Aviation Trail*



## After Dark: Bombers & Brews National Museum of the United States Air Force™

**November 8, 2025, 6 - 10 PM**



The event takes place on Saturday, November 8 from 6 - 10 p.m. (doors open at 5:30 p.m.) at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force™. Join us in November for a fabulous evening, including:

- NEW this year - local brewery samples included with your ticket price!
- Must-see open aircraft: Legendary Boeing B-52D Stratofortress (cockpit access)
- The Bone" Boeing B-1B Lancer (cockpit access)
- Record-setting Convair B-58 Hustler (look-in)

Plus, enjoy live music from the band 5 and rare artifacts from both the Museum's collection and Wright State University's archives. There will be two rounds of trivia with prizes, a caricature artist, heavy hors d'oeuvres, cash bars, and much more!

Event is for ages 21+.

Tickets are just \$45 per person and support the nonprofit Air Force Museum Foundation.

### Get tickets at:

<https://airforcemuseum.centeredgeonline.com/movie/buyticketswithdate/118>

(Note: If the Museum remains closed because of the shutdown, this event will still be held and hosted entirely by Foundation staff).

### Air Force Museum Foundation

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

<https://www.nationalmuseum.af.mil>

Air Force Museum Events | Air Force Museum Foundation, WPAFB, OH 45433

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



## Save the Date

**Wednesday, December 17, 2025**

**Aviation Trail, Inc. is sponsoring a special open house, hosted by Heavier Than Air Brewing Company to celebrate the 122nd Anniversary of powered flight.**



The celebration event will be held at Heavier Than Air Brewery, 497 Miamisburg Centerville Rd, Dayton, OH 45459 (in Normandy Square Shopping Center). @HeavierThanAirBrewing

<https://heavierthanairbrewing.com> • (937) 433-1500

Event time and details will be announced soon. Check the "Aviation Blog" page at <https://www.aviationtrailinc.org/blog> on the Aviation Trail website for updates.



### Aviation Trail, Inc.

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A non-profit corporation in partnership with the National Park Service  
to preserve America's Heritage in the Dayton region.  
Visit the historical sites that tell of man's conquest of the air.

Aviation Trail, Inc.  
16 South Williams Street  
Dayton, OH 45402  
[www.aviationtrailinc.org](http://www.aviationtrailinc.org)



## The National Aviation Hall of Fame Announces the "Class of 2026"



DAYTON, OHIO – October 13, 2025 - The National Aviation Hall of Fame (NAHF) is proud to announce the outstanding individuals selected for induction into the Hall with the Class of 2026. These trailblazers have made groundbreaking contributions to aviation and aerospace, from breaking barriers and advancing safety standards to pioneering innovative technologies and inspiring future generations. Their induction ceremony will take place on September 24, 2026, in Washington, D.C., underscoring the NAHF's enduring mission to honor America's aerospace legends and inspire future leaders.

Since its founding in 1962, Enshrinement into the NAHF has widely been recognized as the pinnacle of individual achievement in aviation and space exploration, celebrating pioneers who have shaped the industry while inspiring future generations to follow in their groundbreaking footsteps. With 270 notable individuals enshrined to date, it remains the only Congressionally chartered aviation hall of fame in the United States. The inductees are chosen by a distinguished panel of aviation professionals from across the country who serve on the NAHF Board of Nominations, undertaking the challenging task of selecting the most deserving pioneers in air and space each year.

"We are honored to recognize the extraordinary achievements of the Class of 2026," said Aimee Maruyama, President and CEO of the National Aviation Hall of Fame. "From pioneering stealth technology and aerospace education to redefining human spaceflight and aviation safety, this year's class reflects the full spectrum of innovation and leadership in aerospace. Their contributions have shaped history and continue to inspire future generations. We are grateful to the NAHF Board of Nominations for their thoughtful work in selecting such a distinguished group of honorees."

The NAHF Class of 2026 inductees will be celebrated for their enduring impact on the aviation industry and their contributions to its future.

To Meet the Distinguished Class of 2026, including photos see: <https://nationalaviation.org/programs/enshrinement>. The story can also be seen, with the list of nominees on the "Aviation Blog" at <https://www.aviationtrailinc.org/post/the-national-aviation-hall-of-fame-announces-the-class-of-2026>

National Aviation Hall of Fame • 1100 Spaatz St. • Dayton, OH 45433  
(937) 256-0944 | [www.nationalaviation.org](http://www.nationalaviation.org)

## The National Aviation Hall of Fame is Site #6 on the Aviation Trail

### Federal facilities will be closed during the government shutdown.

#### This affects the following Aviation Trail sites:

- Wright-Dunbar Interpretive Center/Aviation Trail Visitor Center ([site 1a](#))
- Aviation Trail Parachute Museum ([site 1b](#)) • Wright Cycle Co. ([site 1c](#))
- Paul Laurence Dunbar House ([site 2](#))
- Wright Brothers Memorial, Huffman Prairie Interpretive Center, and Huffman Prairie Flying Field ([sites 3a, 3b, 3c](#))
- National Museum of the United States Air Force ([site 5](#))
- National Aviation Hall of Fame ([site 6](#))

Please Note: Phone numbers for some of these locations may not be operative during the shutdown. The website for [Aviation Trail, Inc.](http://Aviation Trail, Inc.), will remain in operation with updates posted as available.



## Aviation Trail Membership Reminder



## 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 2026.

Online credit card payments may be made from our website. Secure payments are made through PayPal.

To join, renew, or donate to Aviation Trail see the **JOIN/DONATE** menu item on the Aviation Trail website at <https://www.aviationtrailinc.org> or use this QR code.



To print a mail-in membership/donation form use this link:

[file:///E:/Documents/ATI/Membership/membership%20print%20form\\_c.pdf](file:///E:/Documents/ATI/Membership/membership%20print%20form_c.pdf)

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

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 Gift Shop



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.



Gift items include: T-Shirts, Tumblers, Caps, Lapel Pins, Magnets, Art Prints, Note Cards, & McCook Field Book.

See the GIFT SHOP menu item on the ATI website at: <https://www.aviationtrailinc.org/> or scan the QR code.

