



# Aviation Trail, Inc.

News and Updates from "The Trail"

*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**

**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

**March 2023 ISSUE**

03/01/2023

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

## The WACO Cootie The First WACO Aircraft

**March 16, - WACO Historical Society Aviation Lecture Series**  
**WACO Air Museum, 1865 South County Road 25A, Troy, Ohio 45373**  
**Thursday, March 16, 2023. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., lecture starts at 7 p.m.**



## WACO Historical Society Aviation Lecture Series

### The WACO Cootie

As WACO leads up to the 100th Anniversary Celebration of coming to Troy, OH, the Aviation Lecture Series will focus on topics specific to the history of WACO. On Thursday, March 16th, at 7 pm, Brian Meyer will discuss the first flyable WACO Aircraft, known as "The Cootie." Brian both designed, constructed, and flew the full-size replica that now hangs in the WACO Air Museum. His presentation will cover a brief history of the Cootie, the design and construction process, the first flight in the replica, and subsequent flight testing of the airplane that he donated to the museum.

Brian has over forty years of aeronautical engineering and management experience with major airplane, helicopter, turbine-engine, and propeller manufacturers. He holds a B.S. in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Michigan, and a Master's degree for Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. His engineering specialties include aerodynamics, performance, ground test, flight test, design, icing, vibration, program management and FAA certification. He is a former FAA Designated Engineering Representative (DER) and a registered Professional Engineer (PE) in the state of Ohio. Brian has received two patents and authored a number of technical papers and magazine articles on various aviation subjects.

He is also an airplane and glider pilot with over 4,400 landings, previously held a low-altitude FAA aerobatic competency (airshow) card, and holds FAA Airframe and Powerplant Mechanic certificates. Brian has over 18,000 hours of aircraft construction experience and has built and test-flown six airplanes including three airplanes that he designed. These include the WACO Cootie replica.

All aviation lectures are free and open to the public and are scheduled to last one hour, beginning at 7 pm, with questions to follow. The lecture is held in the Willis Wing of the WACO Air Museum at 1865 South County Road 25A in Troy, OH. Doors will open at 6:30. Donations to the WACO Air Museum are gratefully accepted. All lectures are sponsored in part by Collins Wheels and Brakes. For questions, please call 937-335-9226 or visit [www.wacoairmuseum.org](http://www.wacoairmuseum.org).

WACO Air Museum & Learning Center  
1865 S. County Rd. 25A • Troy, OH 45373  
937-335-9226  
[www.wacoairmuseum.org](http://www.wacoairmuseum.org)

WACO Air Museum & Learning Center is Site #11 on the Aviation Trail



## AIR CAMP SUMMER PROGRAMS 2023

**Enrollment for 2023 Summer Programs Will Be Open on the Air Camp Website through April 15**

Air Camp is a hands-on, educational adventure in aviation and aeronautics. We inspire students at the intermediate, middle school, and high school levels, as well as teachers and educational leaders across all grades, to learn more about science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) using aviation and aerospace as our medium while promoting the values of scholarship, leadership, and citizenship.



Air Camp is the vision of Dayton-area leaders who want to help young people nationwide achieve their potential, develop critical-thinking and problem-solving skills, and pursue further education and future careers in STEM-related fields, aviation, and aeronautics.

- Elementary Day Camps
- Middle School Camps
- High School Camps
- Teachers Air Camp
- High School Camp for Military Families

See more at [aircampa.org](http://aircampa.org)

Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#)

Air Camp • PO Box 752332 • Dayton, Ohio 45475-2332 • 937.304.5264  
[info@aircampa.org](mailto:info@aircampa.org)



# Tri-State Warbird Museum

## March 2023 Events

### Lecture Series

#### Military Mapping Maidens

The Tri-State Warbird Museum's Military Mapping Maidens continues with these March events in 2023. See the [Tri-State Warbird events page](#) for further details.

Wednesday, March 1 @ 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm  
Saturday, March 4 @ 10:00 am - 3:00 pm  
Wednesday, March 8 @ 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm  
Saturday, March 11 @ 10:00 am - 3:00 pm  
Wednesday, March 15 @ 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm  
Saturday, March 18 @ 10:00 am - 3:00 pm  
Wednesday, March 22 @ 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm  
Saturday, March 25 @ 10:00 am - 3:00 pm  
Wednesday, March 29 @ 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm  
Military Mapping Maidens Exhibit- Included in with general admission.



### Lecture Series

#### History of McCook Field

March 4 @ 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm



The next segment in our Lecture Series is the History of McCook Field. Don Gray will present about the history of McCook Field. Don will explore the historical significance of McCook Field and how it was profoundly shaped the development of aviation.

Presenter: Don Gray

Sign up at:  
<https://form.jotform.com/TSWM/3-4-23-mccook-field-lecture-series>

## Super Soarin' Saturdays Hello Helicopters

March 4 at 10:00 am - 11:00 am

Super Soarin' Saturdays is our children's program! This segment is about the science of helicopters. Super Soarin' Saturdays is targeted to children ages 6-11.

Student admission is \$7  
This program is FREE to members  
Yearly family memberships are \$50

Register for Super Soarin' Saturdays here:  
<https://form.jotform.com/TSWM/hello-super-soarin-saturdays>



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



# Champaign Aviation Museum Gala

11th Annual Gala: Saturday, April 29th, 2023  
Tickets are on-sale now!



#### Keynote Speaker: Col. Mark Tillman

Our Nation's 12th Presidential Pilot, Col. Mark Tillman (ret.) served as Pilot and Commander of Air Force One from 2001-2009. Col. Tillman was at the controls of Air Force One through numerous national events, most notably during the terrorist attacks of September 11th, 2001.

Col. Tillman's distinguished career spans 30 years in the United States Air Force. His flying experience includes time as a T-37 Instructor Pilot, C-130 Transport Pilot, VIP Airlift, and Presidential Pilot and Commander of Air Force One (a modified Boeing 747).

Col. Mark W. Tillman (ret.) served as the Pilot of Air Force One from 2001-2009 and he flew President Bush on the day of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. During 9/11, Air Force One made flights into the U.S. heartland to evade a possible attack on the President. Additionally, Col. Tillman planned and flew the President into Bagdad, Iraq which was the first time in history that a sitting U.S. President had entered an active war zone. The Champaign Aviation Museum is honored to have such a distinguished speaker to our 2023 Gala.



Tickets are available for purchase [online](#) or at the Museum.

CAM Members get a discount on tickets - [join or renew](#) today and get an instant ticket discount!

Contact Jessica Henry at [jessica.henry@champaignaviationmuseum.org](mailto:jessica.henry@champaignaviationmuseum.org) or 937-652-4710 with any questions or if you need assistance logging into your CAM Member account.

Gala tickets are available for purchase online or at CAM.

CAM Members get a discount on tickets - [join or renew](#) today!



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





# The National Aviation Hall of Fame Announces the "Class of 2023"

*Two iconic history-making pilots, two groundbreakers in aviation policy, and two NASA astronauts, are all included in this remarkable group.*

**DAYTON, OHIO – February 21, 2023** - The National Aviation Hall of Fame (NAHF) is excited to announce plans for its 2023 Enshrinement ceremonies. The following individuals who have been selected for the **Class of 2023 will be enshrined at the annual ceremony to be held at the National Building Museum in Washington, D.C., on September 22, 2023.**

Each year, the NAHF Board of Nominations, a voting body comprised of over 130 aviation professionals nationwide, selects from a prestigious group of nominated air and space pioneers to be recognized for their achievements with induction into the NAHF. Since its founding in 1962, 254 people have been honored with induction into the *only* Congressionally-chartered aviation hall of fame in the United States.

"We believe this is an excellent class, and we are already looking forward to their induction in Washington, DC," NAHF Board of Nominations Chair Tom Lodge said. "From pioneers Benn and Coffey to visionaries Gittens and Stimpson and to aerospace heroes Haise and Sullivan, the NAHF's Class of 2023 represents the best in aviation. We applaud the Board of Nominations for their challenging and thorough work."

The NAHF Class of 2023 is a diverse group representing a broad range of enduring contributions to both the advancement of flight and human exploration of space:



**Kathryn Sullivan**- Geologist, oceanographer, NASA astronaut, US Navy officer, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration administrator. The first American woman to walk in space, veteran of three shuttle missions. First woman to visit the deepest spot in the oceans, the Challenger Deep.



**Angela Gittens**- Ground breaking leader who shaped airport security and policy as the CEO of multiple large-hub airports, including ATL, and Director General of ACI-World.



**Fred Haise**- US Marine, fighter pilot, test pilot, Apollo astronaut, Space Shuttle astronaut, aerospace executive, and advocate. Vast influence and experience in US aerospace history. Best selling author.



**(The late) Velta Benn**- Aviation pioneer who began as a WASP and went on to fly for over 63 years, amassing 55,000 flying hours as a CFI, FAA Examiner, and safety expert.



**(The Late) Ed Stimpson**- Business aviation legend. Over 40 years, served in multiple leadership roles and drove policy in key areas such as fuel, education, and essential in the General Aviation.



**(The late) Cornelius Coffey** Aviation pioneer who, despite many racial barriers, became a pilot and mechanic who opened a flight school that trained over 1,500 students, including hundreds of Tuskegee Airmen.

Partnerships, sponsorships, and ticket sales will be available Spring 2023. Please contact the NAHF and watch [www.nationalaviation.org](http://www.nationalaviation.org) for more Enshrinement details.

*National Aviation Hall of Fame continued in next column: . . .*

*. . . National Aviation Hall of Fame continued from previous column:*

About The National Aviation Hall of Fame- Formed through an Act of Congress in 1964, the National Aviation Hall of Fame (NAHF) is dedicated to honoring America's aerospace pioneers. Considered by many to be a true national treasure, the NAHF serves as the only Congressionally-chartered aviation hall of fame and works tirelessly to confidently promote the vision, innovation, skill, and courage of the national heroes who lent their genius to further our nation's aerospace legacy.

Founded and based in Dayton, OH, the NAHF is committed to informing the public of American aviation heroes, their accomplishments, and their impact on advances in aviation from Early Flight to Space Travel. The NAHF strives to create a distinctive educational resource that will inspire future generations to appreciate our nation's extraordinary aviation heritage and the men and women who created it.



National Aviation Hall of Fame  
1100 Spaatz Street, Dayton, OH 45433  
<https://www.nationalaviation.org>  
937-256-0944

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



## Aviation Trail Gift Shop

See the **GIFT SHOP** menu item on the **Aviation Trail website at:**

<https://www.aviationtrailinc.or>

*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/>





# 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.*

[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)