



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

February 2023 ISSUE

02/01/2023

This "Flight Log" highlights some of the stories and events featured on the Aviation Trail website: www.AviationTrailInc.org

Fearless Freddie Lund, WACO Test Pilot

Feb. 9, - WACO Historical Society Aviation Lecture Series



WACO Historical Society
Aviation Lecture Series

Fearless Freddie Lund

Thursday, February 9th, at 7 pm, as part of the 2022-23 Aviation Lecture Series, Eric Combs will share the amazing feats of WACO test pilot, Freddie Lund. Although Freddie was WACO's Chief Test Pilot from the late '20s to early '30s, it is the stories of his exploits with the Gates Flying Circus and his dogged determination to put the WACO Taperwing Aircraft on the map that will have you on the edge of your seat. Combs will also explore his life from his days on a Minnesota farm to his enlistment into the 4th Pursuit Group in France and beyond.

Eric Combs is currently WACO Air Museum's Director of Operations. He is also the owner and keynote speaker of Eric Combs Consulting, as well as a professional development instructor with the Center for Teacher Effectiveness. Eric holds a master's degree in Social Studies Education and Educational Leadership, Bachelor's Degree in Anthropology, and an associate's Degree in Anthropology, Emergency Medical Services, and Industrial Security. While a history teacher at Fairborn High School, Eric received the Teacher of the year award from the State of Ohio in 2006.

Combs is also a retired Senior Master Sergeant from the 88th Security Forces Squadron, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio where his last position was the Force Protection Operations Superintendent. During his 20-year career, Sergeant Combs has been stationed in South Korea, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Germany, Wyoming, and England and has been on numerous deployments in the Middle East, North Africa, and Europe.

Eric is married to Elizabeth and they have one daughter, Olivia, and two granddaughters, Sophia and Kaylee. In his free time, Eric enjoys diving.

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.

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WACO Air Museum & Learning Center • 1865 S. County Rd. 25A • Troy, OH
45373 • 937-335-9226
www.wacoairmuseum.org

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



Parachute Museum Announces New Acquisition

Major Donation of Aircraft Ejection Seats

The Aviation Trail Parachute Museum is in the process of acquiring a large collection of Aircraft Ejection Seats to add to the museum's permanent collections. Parachute expert and ejection seat collector **Dr. Jean Potvin**, a research physicist at St. Louis University and accomplished skydiver and parachute rigger, is in the process of



Dr. Jean Potvin with ejection seat for an F-102

Ejection seat for A-7D

donating his large collection of ejection seats to the museum, along with all the parachutes and accessories and documentations on the objects. The Parachute Museum has been working with Dr. Potvin for some time and has been since July of 2021 fully detailing and assessing his ejection seat collection. The final decision of accessioning of the collection was made in the summer of 2022 and acquiring the assets began shortly after. We expect to house the collection planning for and initiating our Museum expansion which will include curated ejection seat exhibits.

Randy Zuercher, the Aviation Trail, Inc. Parachute Museum Curator, speaks of the gift. *"We are excited to announce receipt of the first six Ejection Seats of the full Dr. Jean Potvin Collection. This collection is a total of 22 seats and support materials including parachutes. What's the big deal about so many ejection seats? Early in their development ejection seats had numerous designs and methodologies to accomplish what today has become standardized across different aircraft models. Early on in the 50s-70's and into the 80s each aircraft model had its own ejection seat design for the most part. Imagine being a pilot and learning a new ejection routine for each aircraft that you piloted with no real-world practice and then only used in the most extreme circumstance of split-second decision making. Today the variety of seats is just a few major ones adapted to all the different aircraft. We will have all these different approaches to safely ejecting/saving the pilot/crew in one place as an historical reference and aviation first - perhaps unlike any other and will show the world what these advancements have been in numerous different curated exhibits across our expanding Parachute Museum."*

For some additional photos and stories of Dr. Potvin's visits to the Parachute Museum, see these stories on the Aviation Trail website: <https://www.aviationtrailinc.org/post/special-guest-at-the-parachute-museum> and <https://www.aviationtrailinc.org/events-and-projects-c4lp> (scroll down to the second story on the events page)



The Aviation Trail Parachute Museum
16 South Williams Street
Dayton, OH 45402
(937) 225-7705
aviationtrailinc.org/parachute-museum

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



Tri-State Warbird Museum

February 2023

Lecture Series Military Mapping Maidens

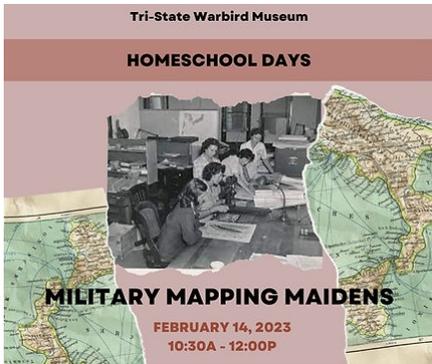
The Tri-State Warbird Museum's Military Mapping Maidens continues with more dates in February 2023. See the Tri-State Warbird events page for further details.

February 1 @ 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm
February 4 @ 10:00 am - 3:00 pm
February 8 @ 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm
February 11 @ 10:00 am - 3:00 pm
February 15 @ 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm
February 18 @ 10:00 am - 3:00 pm



Military Mapping Maidens Exhibit- Included in with general admission.

Homeschool Days 2023 February 14 @ 10:30 am - 12:00 pm



Military Mapping Maidens is our next segment in our 2022 – 2023 Homeschool Days Program. Students will explore the role that cartography played in WWII. Students will learn about the true stories of young women who were recruited by the US Army Map Service to research and draw maps by hand for the Allied war effort.

February 14, 2023
10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Sign up at:
<https://form.jotform.com/TSWM/military-mapping-homeschool-days>

Super Soarin' Saturdays Taking Flight

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

Super Soarin' Saturdays is our children's program! Our next segment is called Taking Flight! Kids will learn all about the forces of flight and have the opportunity to climb in a plane.



Register for Super Soarin' Saturdays here:
<https://form.jotform.com/TSWM-taking-flight-2-4-23>



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

National Museum of the USAF

ON THE RADAR | WINTER 2023



NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE™

Upcoming Events

Fitness Under the Wings | every Saturday in January
Ohio Plein Air Society Paint-In | Jan. 21-22
Reds Caravan | Jan. 28
First Lego League Competition | Feb. 4-5
Survival: The Exhibition Special Exhibit Opens | Feb. 18
Micro Drone Races | Feb. 24-26

For more information about all upcoming events see:
<https://www.nationalmuseum.af.mil/Upcoming/Events/>

Follow us on our website for the latest event updates. www.nationalmuseum.af.mil

Time "Flies" When You Are Having Fun!

In 2023 we celebrate a major milestone: our 100th Anniversary!

Since 1923 the museum has grown from a small engineering study collection to the world's largest military aviation museum, and is a world-renowned center for air and space power technology and culture preservation. The museum is home to countless one-of-a-kind objects. Our once small engine collection now includes more than 350 aerospace vehicles and missiles, thousands of artifacts, and spans 20 indoor acres with additional outdoor Air and Memorial Parks that continue to grow every year.



Join us throughout 2023 as we celebrate our storied history with special events, exhibits and special tours for visitors of all ages. Follow us throughout the year on our website and across our social media platforms for updates and information on all of our upcoming events and celebrations.

Learn More at: <https://www.nationalmuseum.af.mil>

Air Force Museum Foundation



The Air Force Museum Foundation encourages you to join the Friends of the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force and help support the museum. To learn more see: <https://www.afmuseum.com/friendsprogram>.

The Air Force Museum Foundation, Inc. is a Section 501(c)(3) private, non-profit organization. It is not part of the Department of Defense or any of its components, and has no governmental status.

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.

National Museum of the U.S. Force | 1100 Spaatz St, Wright-Patterson AFB, OH 45433
www.nationalmuseum.af.mil

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



The National Aviation Hall of Fame Reflects on the life of R. Walter "Walt" Cunningham

For his lifelong dedication to flight as a pioneering astronaut, fighter pilot, physicist, and entrepreneur Cunningham has left a legacy of determination.

DAYTON, Ohio / January 4, 2023 /

It is with much sadness and admiration that the National Aviation Hall of Fame (NAHF) reflects on the passing of 2018 Enshrinee Walt Cunningham. His family reported through a spokesperson that Cunningham passed away Tuesday, January 3rd, 2023, in Houston "after a full and complete life." In a statement, Cunningham's family said, "the world has lost another true hero, and we will miss him dearly."

Walt Cunningham will be missed by many, including fellow Enshrinees, Members, Board of Trustees, Volunteers, and Staff of the National Aviation Hall of Fame.

"With unmatched drive and determination, Walt Cunningham leaves a legacy as a true pioneer of space exploration", said NAHF Board Chair Jim Cooling. "We will always honor and celebrate his contributions to our nation's aviation and aerospace programs and send our deepest condolences to the Cunningham family."

Ronnie Walter "Walt" Cunningham was born on March 16, 1932, growing up in southern California. Cunningham, the oldest of five, was driven from a young age. He got his first job delivering newspapers and, inspired by the World War II movie, "Navy Hell Divers", he immediately joined the Navy after graduating high school. In 1952, he passed a two-year college equivalency test and earned a NavCad in Pensacola, FL. The next year, Cunningham was commissioned as a United States Marine Corp Aviator and was one of the first 2nd Lieutenants assigned to All-Weather Jet Night Fighters (F3D). In 1954, Cunningham was sent to Korea and VMF-513, the last missioned Marine Squadron. Cunningham flew 54 missions with VMF-513, over 60 percent of which were at night and in bad weather.

On return to the U.S., Cunningham moved into traditional squadrons flying a variety of fighters, including the T-33, F9F6, F9F8, A4D, FJ-4, and C-45. In 1956, he transferred into the Marine Reserve squadron to attend college at UCLA. Cunningham received his B.S. with honors in 1960 and his M.A. with distinction in 1961, both in physics.

While flying with the reserves, he worked multiple jobs and completed all requirements for a Ph.D. in physics except his thesis. For three years, he worked as a scientist for the RAND Corporation focusing on defense against submarine-launched ballistic missiles and problems with the magnetosphere. In 1963, Walt Cunningham was selected by NASA in the third group of astronauts. He served on the Apollo 1 mission's backup crew. After Apollo 1's tragic pad fire, Cunningham served on the Fire Investigation Board.

Twenty-one months after the tragedy, Cunningham flew the first manned Apollo mission, Apollo 7, where he became the second Marine Corps Pilot to fly in space. In October 1968, Apollo 7 orbited the earth for 11 days, simulating lunar orbit rendezvous, and tested the performance of all spacecraft systems, including the life support, propulsion, guidance, and control systems. Apollo 7 was the first 3-man spacecraft, the first manned Saturn rocket flight, and set a record for the largest payload ever placed in orbit. They also received an Emmy for the first live television from space.

Following Apollo 7, Cunningham was made Chief of the Skylab Branch of the Astronaut Office, working on the design and development of five manned space modules, two different launch vehicles, and 65 major onboard scientific experiments. All the while, Cunningham maintained currency in jet aircraft and helicopters and served in the Marine Corps Reserve as Air Liaison Officer with the local infantry battalion. In 1976, after 23 years in active and reserve assignments, Cunningham retired as Colonel, USMCR.

Walt Cunningham continued in next column . . .

. . . Walt Cunningham continued from previous column:

Following NASA, Cunningham fulfilled an appointment by the Texas governor as the Chairman of the Texas Aerospace Commission. Cunningham also served for eight years with the Advisory Panel for the National Space Biomedical Research Institute, reviewing and approving medical experiments to be flown on the International Space Station.

Cunningham also authored many books, including "The All-American Boys," considered one of the best books ever written on the space program.

During his career, Cunningham received numerous awards and recognitions, including the NASA Exceptional Service Medal, NASA Distinguished Service Medal, Navy Astronaut Wings, Member of the Society of Experimental Test Pilots, and Haley Astronautics Award. He has been inducted into five halls of fame, including the only Congressionally-chartered National Aviation Hall of Fame (NAHF) in 2018.

Walt Cunningham was 90 years old.

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

Yes! I want to support Aviation Trail, Inc.

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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