



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.

"The Flight Log" - **AVIATION TRAIL MAIL**

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June 23, 2017

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



Above: 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

Air Force Thunderbirds Visit Aviation Trail Sites

The Thunderbirds, the air demonstration squadron of the United States Air Force, arrived in Dayton a few days prior to their performance at the Dayton Air Show for a chance to tour some of the sites on the Aviation Trail. They began on Tuesday morning, June 20 with the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park at the Wright-Dunbar Interpretive Center and Aviation Trail Visitors Center, along with the Parachute Museum and the Wright Cycle Company.

The eight pilots (and one young daughter) were absorbed in all of the varied aspects of the museum, and enjoyed discussing many of the displays with tour guide NPS Ranger Ryan Qualls. They spent some extra time in the Parachute Museum with Curator Randy Zuercher, offering interesting input on the ejection seat display. Aviation Trail President Marvin Christian, and NPS Park Superintendent Dean Alexander presented the pilots with mementos of their visit, and Lt. Col. Jason Heard, Commander of the group, presented President Marvin with a signed Thunderbirds lithograph.



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...Air Force Thunderbirds Visit Aviation Trail Sites, continued



Photos copyright 2017 Aviation Trail, Inc.

After leaving the downtown museum, the Thunderbirds were headed to more sites on the Aviation Trail over a two day period, including Dayton History, the Wright B Flyer, Hawthorn Hill, the National Aviation Hall of Fame, the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force, and the Champaign Aviation Museum at Grimes Field in Urbana. While at Grimes Field they were treated to rides on the Champaign Museum's restored B-25, the Champaign Gal (see the news release on the National Aviation Heritage Area website for a report on the B-25 flights - aviationheritagearea.org/wwii-bomber-flies-thunderbirds-back-in-time).

Follow these additional links for more on the Thunderbirds and the Vectren Dayton Air Show Presented by Kroger, and the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Park
aforthunderbirds.com/site/
<https://www.daytonairshow.com>
<https://www.nps.gov/daav/index.htm>

For more photos see the "News" page on the Aviation Trail Website: <http://www.aviationtrailinc.org/news>



Celebrate the life and legacy of Paul Laurence Dunbar, June 27



Paul Laurence Dunbar was born on June 27, 1872. One hundred forty five years later on June 27, 2017 there will be a dinner to celebrate his birth and to honor his legacy. Hosted by the Dunbar House Historic Site and Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park, the dinner will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel located at 33 E. Fifth Street across from the Dayton Convention Center. Beginning at 6:30p.m., participants will have an opportunity to celebrate Dunbar's life and to raise A Toast to Dayton. To help celebrate Dunbar's work there will be a presentation by Mitchell Capel, nationally known for his portrayals of Dunbar's works.

For ticket information, contact information, pricing, etc., see the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park website at <https://www.nps.gov/daav/learn/news/2017-dunbar-dinner.htm>



Aviation Trail Parachute Museum's Presentation at AIAA Conference



Aerodynamic Decelerator Systems Technology Conference

The American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) is a professional society for the field of aerospace engineering. AIAA is the largest professional society devoted to the progress of engineering and science in aviation, space, and defense. Its mission is to advance the arts, sciences, and technology of aeronautics and astronautics, and to promote the professionalism of those engaged in these pursuits. AIAA has more than 30,000 members among aerospace professionals worldwide, although the majority are American and/or live in the United States.

Aviation Trail, Inc. was invited to make a presentation at the 24th AIAA Aerodynamic Decelerator Systems Technology Conference, which is part of the AIAA Aviation and Aeronautics Forum and Exposition that was held on 5 – 9 June, 2017 in Denver, Colorado. The title of the ATI presentation was “Parachute Related History and Preservation”, authored by ATI Parachute Museum Curator Randy Zuercher. The presentation was made on June 8 by Aviation Trail Vice President Steve Brown.

The presentation covered some of the history of Aviation Trail, Inc. in general, and the ATI Parachute Museum in particular. It included a virtual tour of the museum in addition to background and description of the museum's parachute archives. The purpose of the presentation was to demonstrate the relevance of the museum's collection to the deceleration industry, and the availability of its extensive archival resources for research to support the decelerator industry as well. A Q & A session followed the presentation.

According to Curator Randy Zuercher, *“We are excited to have been invited to present to this prestigious group. Participation in the decelerator industry gives us both greater visibility and opportunity to widen our vision and pursue support for the Parachute Museum beyond our local market. We expect to be able to establish relationships that will develop into a wider mission and more comprehensive basis for the entire history of the parachute and the decelerator industry.”*

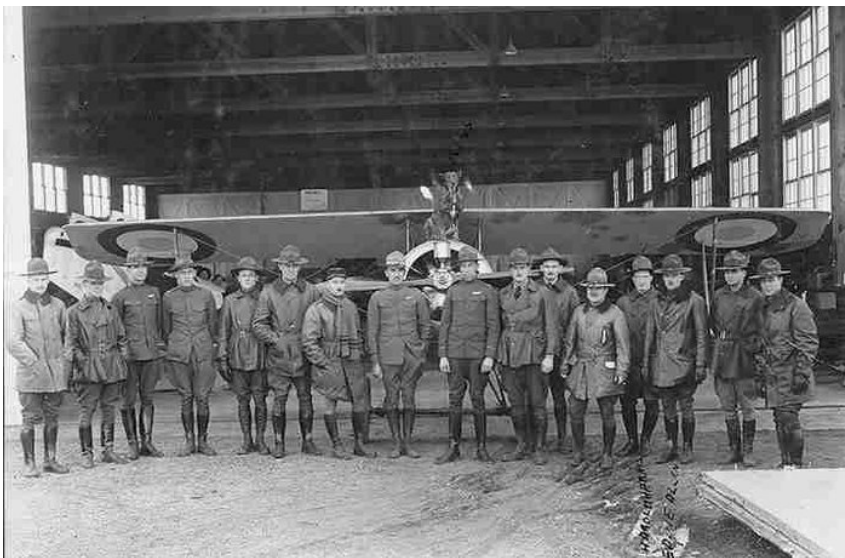
Watch for more follow-up information on the event in the next "Flight Log".

The AIAA website can be viewed at <https://www.aiaa.org>



2017 Aero Carnival Updates

Wright Patterson Air Force Base celebrates its 100th anniversary in 2017. One of the tributes to this anniversary will be the National Park Service's annual Aero Carnival which will be held on Saturday, September 9, 2017 from 10:30 to 5:00. It will take place on the Huffman Prairie Flying Field on Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, the very place where Orville and Wilbur Wright conducted tests and flights as early as 1904. This will be a special year for Aero Carnival in celebrating WPAFB's origins. The Army Air Service established Wilbur Wright field on May 22, 2017 and then McCook Field in November of that year. McCook was the test field where many aviation experiments and milestones were established, and Wright Field was a flying field, supply depot, and armorers' school.



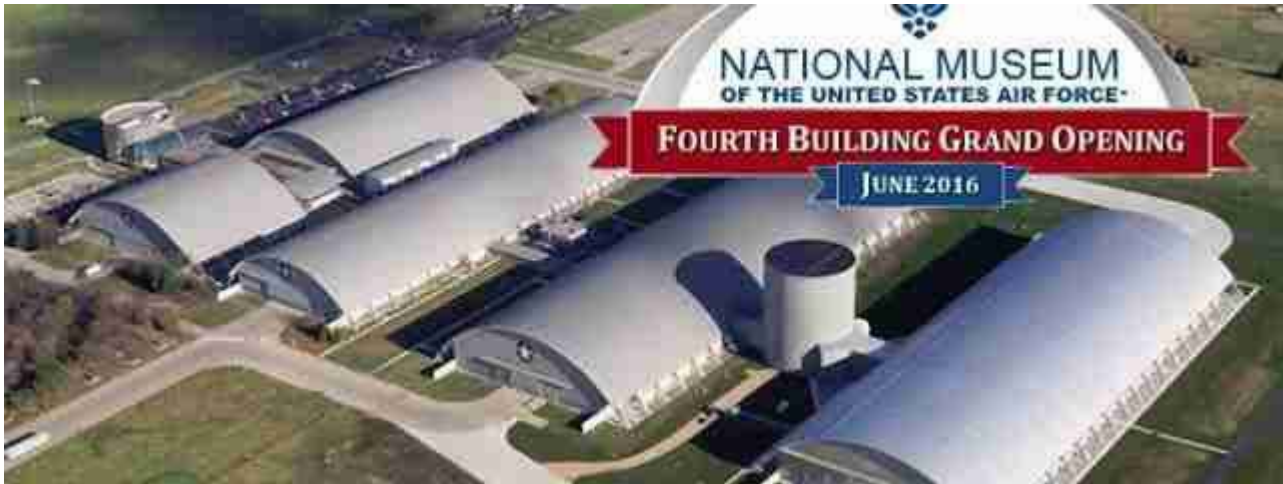
McCook Field closed in 1927, partly due to space restrictions, and its functions were moved to Wright Field, and in 1931 part of Wright Field was designated as Patterson Field. In 1948 Wright Field and Patterson were merged into Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. The Aero Carnival event is free to all and access is through Gate 16A off of State Route 444. For more information, and list of the many activities that are lined up so far.

The list of activities lined up so far has been updated as of April 21, and can be seen on the 2017 Aero Carnival page on the Aviation Trail website. Even more events are expected to be added as the date approaches, so check back frequently for more announcements. A slideshow of photos from last year's event may also be seen on that page.

For more information see the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Park website at this link: <https://www.nps.gov/daav/learn/news/the-2017-great-wright-brothers-aero-carnival.htm>



Museum's Fourth Building Selected for Air Force Heritage Award



DAYTON, Ohio — The National Museum of the U.S. Air Force was recently selected by the U.S. Air Force History and Museums Program as the recipient of the 2017 Air Force Heritage Award for the “Fourth Building Gallery Project.”

The award recognizes outstanding achievements by Air Force History and Museums personnel that foster a better understanding and appreciation of the Air Force, its history and accomplishments.

The \$40.8 million, 224,000 square foot fourth building, which was privately financed by the Air Force Museum Foundation, opened in June 2016, and houses four galleries – Presidential, Research and Development, Space and Global Reach, along with three science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) Learning Nodes.

Included among the stories found inside the fourth building are the VC-137C Air Force One (SAM 26000), which was used by eight presidents - Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan, George H.W. Bush and Clinton; the only remaining XB-70 Valkyrie; the C-141C Hanoi Taxi, which airlifted the first American prisoners of war out of North Vietnam in February 1973; the Space Shuttle Exhibit featuring NASA’s first Crew Compartment Trainer; and a massive Titan IVB space launch vehicle that weighs 96 tons.

Museum Director, Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Jack Hudson said receiving the 2017 Air Force Heritage Award for the fourth building is a significant honor for the museum.

“We take great pride in telling the Air Force story to a global audience and inspiring our youth toward an Air Force or STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) career, and this award is a noteworthy recognition of those efforts,” said Hudson. “The galleries in the fourth building provide visitors with the unique opportunity to follow in the footsteps of presidents, astronauts, test pilots, test engineers, and those who flew and supported Global Reach missions.”

More information about the fourth building galleries is available at:
<http://www.nationalmuseum.af.mil/Expansion.aspx>.

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 360 aerospace vehicles and missiles and thousands of artifacts amid more than 19 acres of indoor exhibit space. Each year about one million visitors from around the world come to the museum. For more information, visit nationalmuseum.af.mil.



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Please apply my donation to:

Membership Fund

Preservation Fund*

* Donations will be designated to promote and preserve historical aviation sites in the Dayton Region.

Online credit card payments may be made from our website at www.aviationtrailinc.org.

Select the "Memberships -Donations-Reservations button from the top menu. 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.

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