



# 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

**January 2025 ISSUE**

01/01/2025

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

### Open Flight Simulator Sessions ("Open Sim") at WACO

*New STEM program*

Monday, December 30, 2024, AND Friday, January 3rd, 2025 (2 days only)  
First Session each day: 09:00 to 10:30 AM  
Second Session each day: 10:30 to Noon



#### Open Flight Simulator Sessions ("Open Sim")

A new education program will be offered over the upcoming school Christmas break at the WACO Education Center called "Open Sim" using desktop computers and the popular Microsoft Flight Simulator application. Pilot mentors will be available to instruct attendees on using this computer program, introduce basic flying skills, and explain how to use Microsoft Flight Simulator's special features, such as Top Gun Maverick and Landing Challenges. Attendees can choose to use the software program's guided teaching modules, obtain assistance from pilot mentors on flying skills, or operate in a "free play" mode using the normal and special features of the simulator application.

Each session (2 each day) will have seats for 5 attendees, age 13 to adult. A minimum of 3 seats must be filled to run each session.

The charge for each 1.5-hour session is \$25, Payment will be accepted only by check or cash upon check-in.

This new program will be held in the Museum Building at the WACO Air Museum at 1865 South County Road 25A in Troy, OH. Doors open at 8:50 and finish on schedule.

This STEM program is sponsored by Collins Aerospace.

Please call 937-335-9226 to schedule a time to fly our simulators.

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

### Butler County Warbirds Fundraiser

*Benefitting the  
Betty Stagg-Turner Memorial Scholarship Fund*

**2024 CHRISTMAS BOURBON RAFFLE IS LIVE!**

Attention bourbon lovers and collectors...you're going to want to check out our Bourbon Raffle! Some incredible bourbon is up for grabs! 15 year Pappy, a Weller grouping, an 8 bottle Blanton's collection



and a lot more! All proceeds benefit our Betty Stagg-Turner Memorial Scholarship fund, supporting females in aviation. This scholarship fund is now a permanent endowment with the Middletown Community Foundation, and is open for eligible high school seniors to apply (<https://mcfoundation.org/>).

Tickets are \$50 each, with a total of 300 tickets to be sold. Tickets will be sold until 2/28/25 or until they are sold out. 22 total winners will be drawn, and all winners MUST pick up. Nothing will be shipped. Must be 21 or older to purchase ticket. See raffle site for all rules/regulations.

Please see our website for more info and to purchase your tickets!  
<https://www.bcwarbirds.com/bourbon-affle.html>

**The Raffle drawing will take place live on the Butler County Warbirds Facebook group once all 300 tickets have been sold, on or before 28 FEB 2025.**



Butler County Warbirds  
Middletown Regional Airport (KMWO)  
2351 Wedekind Drive  
Middletown, OH 45042  
(513) 702-3062  
<http://www.bcwarbirds.com>

Butler County Warbirds is Site #16 on the Aviation Trail



## 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 2025**.

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.

We continue to promote the "Wilbear Wright"® passport program. This program has been extremely popular with youth as it was intended, but frequently with adults as well! We have distributed over 15,000 free, "Wilbear Wright"® teddy bears since the program began, and we are extending the program through July 1, 2025.

We continue to expand the ATI parachute collection (already noted by the Smithsonian Air & Space Museum as one of the largest, if not the largest, in the country) with major donations of ejection seats, and additional parachute equipment, and hope to expand the museum to display more of the collection. We plan to renovate the Pekin Theater and Fish Market buildings which ATI owns immediately adjacent to our Aviation Trail Visitor Center to accommodate the expansion.

We also are about to publish the "Field Guide to Flight" for the third time with significantly increased photos and additional Trail sites added since it's last publication.

Your membership support is critical in assisting us with these projects and our promotion of the aviation heritage of our region. Please visit our website at [www.aviationtrailinc.org](http://www.aviationtrailinc.org) to keep up to date with events sponsored by ATI and our partners throughout our region.

**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.



## Champaign Aviation Museum Free Lecture

Thursday, January 9th, 2025 at 11:00am

### Tactical Airlift in Desert Storm

Presented by Brigadier General Paul R. Cooper (Ret.)



Operation Desert Storm was the first major war of the Total Force era rather than relying on the draft. On August 2, 1990, the Iraqi army invaded and occupied Kuwait. Paul Cooper was the commander of the C-130 equipped Air Force Reserve 914th Tactical Airlift Group at Niagara Falls, New York. On August 7, 1990 President Bush made the decision to deploy forces for a defensive build up in Saudi Arabia known as Operation Desert Shield. This presentation in the CAM Library is a first-person account of when Paul deployed to the Middle East for 7 months between 1990 – 1991, flying the C-130 through the oil fires in Kuwait and other missions. He also highlights what it was like to live in a tent city in the active combat zone and the experiences of his unit during the war. In September 1992, the 914th Tactical Airlift Group received the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award.



**About our Speaker:** Brigadier General Paul R. Cooper retired in 2002 as commander of the Air Force Reserve's 445th Airlift Wing, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. He completed almost 35 years of military service with the United States Air Force and the Air Force Reserve. He has been a base commander at three different bases and held a variety of key staff positions including chief of staff at two numbered air forces. Eight times the unit that he led received the Air Force Distinguished Unit Award as a result of his creative mentorship, innovative

team building, and inspirational leadership. He is a command pilot with over 12,000 flying hours in jet aircraft. His numerous decorations include: the Air Force Distinguished Service Medal, 3 Legions of Merit, the Bronze Star, and 3 Air Medals.



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



# Armstrong Air & Space Museum Talk and Tour

**Moon Landing Conspiracies - Jan. 16, 2025**

## ABOUT TALK & TOUR:

At a time when quality information is accessible easier than ever before to humanity, unfounded conspiracy theories are also on the rise and thriving. A growing number of people, including some from today's youth, believe that the United States never landed on the Moon. This presentation evaluates some of the popular claims against the lunar landings and provides convincing support for the official account. Join the Museum Educator in the STEM Inspiration Center to learn about these claims and seek answers to questions. Following the presentation take a guided tour with the museum educator.



## EVENT COST:

The Talk & Tour is included in that day's admission with no additional cost. Children 5 and under are free.

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



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



# Super Soarin' Saturdays at Tri-State Warbirds

**Valentine, Be Mine, February 1, 2025**  
11:00 am - 12:30 pm



Come discover how people communicated during WWII with their Valentine!

Super Soarin' Saturdays happens in the Kids Zone area between 11am - 12:30pm. Kids can take part in fun, educational activities!

Super Soarin' Saturdays is included with museum admission and is always free to TSWM members.

## Program and Event Cancellations & Refund Policy

*We regret that we cannot grant refunds for program and event registrations. If we must cancel a program or an event due to low enrollment, you will be given the option to move your registration to another program/event or receive a full refund. We reserve the right to cancel programs and events due to low enrollment or extreme weather. Registrants will be notified via email 24 hours prior if a program or event is cancelled.*

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*



# Aviation Trail Gift Shop



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



## Shirts



## Collectable Art Prints



## Caps

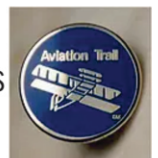


## Tumblers

## Magnets



## Pins



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.





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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 or use the QR code on the right >



### Membership

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- Donate

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Aviation Trail, Inc. / PO Box 633 // Wright Brothers Branch / Dayton, OH 45409 / [www.aviationtrailinc.org](http://www.aviationtrailinc.org)