



# 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

**July 2022 ISSUE**

7/05/2022

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

## Open Cockpit Day at Tri-State

July 9, 2022 • 1 to 3 pm  
Tri-State Warbird Museum



COME, IMAGINE,  
AND DISCOVER WITH US!

- HOKIE POKIE THE C45
- TWEETY THE T6

July 9, 2022  
1-3 p.m.



[www.tswm.org](http://www.tswm.org)

## A fun day at TSWM!

Cockpit climb-ins •  
FREE to Members

Yearly family memberships are \$50!

Also upcoming at Tri-State Warbird Museum:

Lecture Series – Spy Pilot

July 23 @ 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

The next segment in our Lecture Series. Presenter: Gary Powers, Jr

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

## Parachute Museum to Display at Wapakoneta Event

Sat. July 16 & Sun. July 17, 2022 • 10 am to 5 pm at  
Armstrong Air & Space Museum

The Armstrong Air & Space Museum celebrates its 50th Anniversary in conjunction with the Wapakoneta Summer Moon Festival community event.



The Aviation Trail Parachute Museum will be one of the featured attractions on the weekend of the event.

Among the features that will be presented at the Parachute Museum booth:

- Presentations on parachute history
- Try on a parachute
- Demonstrations of parachute aerodynamics
- Learn about the Caterpillar Club
- Demonstrations on different types of parachutes
- Learn about air resistance and freefall
- **and more**



The Wapakoneta Summer Moon Festival community event is being held from July 12 through 17 in the hometown of Neil Armstrong. For more on the event, and more activities, [CLICK HERE](#).

Learn more about the Parachute Museum at

<https://www.aviationtrailinc.org/parachute-museum>



Armstrong Air & Space Museum

500 Apollo Drive

Wapakoneta, OH 45895

(419) 738-8811 or (800) 860-0142

<https://www.armstrongmuseum.org>



The Aviation Trail Parachute Museum

16 South Williams Street

Dayton, OH 45402

(937) 225-7705

[www.aviationtrailinc.org](http://www.aviationtrailinc.org)

The Armstrong Air & Space Museum is Site #12 on the Aviation Trail  
The Aviation Trail Parachute Museum is Site #1b on the Aviation Trail

# Armstrong Air & Space Museum

## Community Event

### The Wapakoneta Summer Moon Festival

Tue, 07/12/2022 - 10:00 - Sun, 07/17/2022 - 17:00

The Wapakoneta Summer Moon Festival is the place to be to celebrate the anniversary of the Apollo 11 Moon landing!



#### EVENTS:

**New 50th Anniversary Exhibition:** During this year's Summer Moon Festival, the museum will have new displays and artifacts from the museum's opening 50 years ago for the public to enjoy and learn about!

**Costumed Astronaut Photograph Opportunities:** Periodically throughout the day on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, a costumed astronaut will be walking around the galleries for individuals and families to take pictures with.

**Gemini VIII "Capsule Chat:"** On Friday from 12:00-12:30, a member of the museum staff will be giving a 30 minute in-depth talk at the Gemini VIII capsule, discussing the exciting details of Neil Armstrong's first space mission.

**Learjet 28 "Talk & Tour:"** On Wednesday and Thursday from 12:00-12:30, a member of the museum staff will be giving a 30 minute in-depth talk at the Learjet 28 outdoor exhibit area, discussing the details and history of this record-breaking aircraft.

**Astronaut/Frogmen Meet & Greet:** While in the museum, guests have the opportunity to have a meet and greet session with the astronauts and Apollo 11 frogmen. The NASA astronauts will only be available for the meet & greet session on Saturday while the Apollo 11 frogmen will be available on both Saturday and Sunday. Exact times will be released closer to the event date.

**Inflatable Rides:** Kids can put their skills to the test in our free inflatable rides located on the museum's south lawn from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm on Saturday and Sunday.

**Education Tent:** Our STEM education tent will have fun, science-based, activities for kids to test out. These activities include stomp rockets, water rocket demos, Mentos-geyser demos, circuit-building, energy sticks, static-electricity and bubble demos, balloon twisting, face-painting, and Plus Plus creative activities.

**Lima Astronomical Society:** The Lima Astronomical Society will be set up on the museum's north lawn and will have fun star map and telescope activities, along with educating guests on their services and events in the community. The astronomical society will be available only on Saturday and Sunday.

**Wright Stuff Rocketeers:** Truly a fan favorite, this group of rocket builders will be giving periodic rocket demonstrations throughout the day. Be the group's countdown clock as they lift-off your rocket! The rocketeers will be available only on Saturday and Sunday and will be found on the museum's southwest lawn.

**Lunar Rover Demonstrations:** Just in time for the Apollo 15 50th anniversary, check out the museum's drivable lunar rover replica! Learn about the complexity of driving a vehicle on the lunar surface and explore the interesting history of the museum's replica, perhaps even catch a driving demo too! The rover will be available only for Saturday and Sunday located on the museum's north lawn.

... Wapakoneta Summer Moon Festival continued from previous column

**Kona Ice Truck:** Cool off from the mid-July heat with a tasty frozen snack from the Kona Ice truck! The vehicle will be parked in the middle of the museum's southwest lawn and will be available for treats on Saturday and Sunday.

**Parachute Museum:** Visit with the Parachute Museum booth as they sit on the North Lawn and show off some of their amazing items and share the impressive history of JUMPING OUT OF PLANES!

**50th Anniversary Gala:** Located at the Armstrong Museum on Wednesday, July 20th at 7:00 pm, purchase a ticket and have the opportunity to mingle with Axiom-1 astronaut Larry Connor, our most recently inducted Ohio astronaut! a link to purchase tickets can be found [HERE](#).

Also during the events on Saturday and Sunday, Mercy Health will be out in a first-aid tent in case any guests need medical attention.

FOR THE SUMMER MOON FESTIVAL WEBSITE, PLEASE [CLICK HERE!](#)



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



## Aviation Stories: Troy, Ohio Astronaut

### Nancy Currie-Gregg

Story by James Beisner



Most successful people tend to not seek recognition for themselves. This is especially true for those in the aviation community. Their life stories however, need to be told as an inspiration to future generations. This is notably true for Nancy Decker Currie-Gregg for the many challenges that she managed to overcome.

From her beginning Nancy Jane Decker ( born in Delaware and raised in Troy, Ohio) faced what some would consider as negative situations, but for her they were made into positive character-building opportunities. She was born into a family that had low to moderate financial status, however that was more than compensated for by their continual encouragement and support of school enrollment.

Being short in stature (the smallest in her class) Nancy was often overlooked except for her academic achievements. A number of her high school classes counted for college credits. She graduated from Troy High School in Troy, Ohio, in 1977. She attended college summer classes while living at home, which qualified her as a sophomore at The Ohio State University in the fall.

As a little girl, she wanted to be a military aviator. Nancy reminisced, "No one ever told me that was not a possibility because there were no female aviators at that time." She was accepted into the Army ROTC Program as the shortest candidate. "I was too short for other services," Nancy said. The program was also helpful for her financial status. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree, with honors, in biological science from The Ohio State University in 1980.

Upon graduation, she applied for the Army Aviation Section (helicopter training.). Her initial application was rejected due to the minimum height requirement. The Army, at this time, was in the process of converting to the metric system. In the process of converting, and some possible mathematical error, it was determined that she was qualified. At last, her dream of being a military aviator was about to become true.

Nancy's concerted effort was rewarded with not only as a helicopter pilot rating, but it evolved into a helicopter instructor position. It was announced at this time that a few new NASA astronaut candidate positions were coming available in the near future. She was encouraged by some friends to apply. Nancy did apply and was invited for an interview. She was not accepted at the interview, but was offered a job with NASA at Houston, Texas. She accepted the offer and was told by friends at NASA that submitting an additional astronaut application would not be unusual. She re-applied and received another interview. No answer was received. Minutes seemed to turn into hours, and the next day her phone rang; SHE WAS ACCEPTED!

Rigorous training continued for months and years. All of this activity was performed while she was completing her PhD and was a single parent. Nancy was not available for a space mission due to the fact that there was not a space-suit available for her small size. Another small female astronaut was brought into the program and then a suit was manufactured that would fit the two of them.

In 1978, NASA selected the first group of female astronauts. "I remember in my late twenties thinking that all those changes occurred and doors were opened for me in the nick of time. The selection rate for astronauts is 0.08," evoked Nancy. Fueled by her passions, she continued her dream, and weathered several setbacks along the way.

She was selected as a flight engineer crew member that would take the Space Shuttle Endeavor on the mission STS 57. Endeavor was launched 21 June, 1993, from Kennedy Space Center, Florida, for a ten day mission. The mission was to the International Space Station (ISS) where they would connect the aft berthing port of the Utility Module – the first American component of the ISS- with the forward hatch of the already orbiting Zarya Module.

THE SHUTTLE LAUNCHES AND BUILDING THE ISS.

Comments recalled by Nancy: "You walk down the same ramp that Neil Armstrong walked down when he started his day on his mission to the moon." "You are so well-trained and all you are thinking about is your job, but you are aware of the history and those that have proceeded you."



"As a night launch, it seemed that you are flying into a fireball. It was a pretty dynamic event." Once the shuttle arrived at the ISS, the excitement did not end. As she put her hands on the controllers, everything slowed down. "All my training kicked in." The plus/minus 2 inches and 2-degree variance was maintained in the docking. "When we finally made that call to ground, 'Houston, this is the International Space Station,' that finalized the mission for me. It was an honor for me to be there."

(NOTE: As a US Army Officer, Nancy was awarded hazardous duty pay for the eight days spent in space, which amounted to about twenty dollars.)



The thirtieth anniversary of the historic STS 57 Endeavour mission will be in 2023. Nancy flew three more missions: STS 70 Discovery, STS 88 Endeavour (which completed the first additional module to the ISS), and the STS 109 Columbia launched March 2nd, 2002 (which was the repair mission to the Hubble telescope, and was Columbia's last successful mission.)

(Above: Crew of STS-109 Columbia)

Currie-Gregg has participated in four space shuttle missions: STS-57, STS-70, STS-88, and STS-109, accruing 1,000 hours in space.

In interviews with students, Currie-Gregg has commented, "I would not be where I am today and would not have had the career that I did, if it were not for the teachers that I had in my life, especially in high school. Neither of my parents graduated from high school, so they could not talk to me about careers in math, science, or engineering. That was completely foreign to them. So, it was my high school math, chemistry, and biology teachers... they took an interest in me; they pointed me in the direction of academic scholarships, without I would have never been able to go to college."

Due to the previous shuttle catastrophes, NASA established the policy that no more than four shuttle missions are to be permitted to any astronaut. Following her astronaut career, she stayed with NASA as a Senior Engineer and Safety Consultant until her retirement as a US Army Colonel. At the present time Currie-Gregg is passing her knowledge on to students as a Professor of Practice, in Industrial and Systems Engineering at Texas A&M University.



James Beisner, 2022

Editor's note: A bronze statue honoring Nancy Currie-Gregg, Ph.D. stands as one of three statues in Troy's "Pioneers of Aviation Statue Pavilion" celebrating the city's rich aviation history (shown on the right of the photo at the top of this page). The pavilion, located at 134 N. Market St., Troy, Ohio, also includes statues of Clayton Brukner and Robert Hartzell. The sculptures were designed by artist Mike Major of Urbana. In 2019 the pavilion was officially designated as part of the Aviation Trail.

# RSVP deadline July 10 for July 23rd Grimes Flying Lab Event

## Twin Tail Gathering / Fish Fry Fundraiser Event July 23rd - 3-7 PM The Grimes Flying Lab Museum / Foundation



July 23rd - 3-7 PM • **RSVP date is July 10th**

Location : Grimes Field I74

The Grimes Flying Lab Museum Building (middle hangar )

Price for dinner - presale tickets at \$8.00/ at door \$10.00

There will be a corn hole tournament.

See the Grimes Flying Lab Foundation Facebook event post at:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1393823131132818>

Grimes Flying Lab Foundation • 1636 North Main Street • Urbana, Ohio 43078  
937-652-4319 • <https://www.facebook.com/GrimesFlyingLab>

## Grimes Flying Lab is Site #14 on the Aviation Trail



## Aviation Trail Gift Shop

See the **GIFT SHOP** menu item on the Aviation Trail website at: <https://www.aviationtrailinc.org/> or **CLICK HERE**.



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/>





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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 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)