



# 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

**February 2025 ISSUE**

02/01/2025

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

### Aviation Trail, Inc. Annual Meeting

#### An Invitation:

Saturday, February 15, 2025 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon  
Sinclair College National UAS Training and Certification Center

The Board of Trustees of Aviation Trail, Inc. will hold their organization's Annual Meeting for 2024 (a bit delayed) at the Sinclair College National UAS Training and Certification Center.

We will meet in Building 13, Room 103. There is free surface lot parking available in Lot K (off Perry St.) adjacent to the building. Once entering the first-floor lobby from the lot, cross to the far (north) hallway. Room 13-103 is the second room on the left. The meeting will be from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon on Saturday, February 15, 2025.

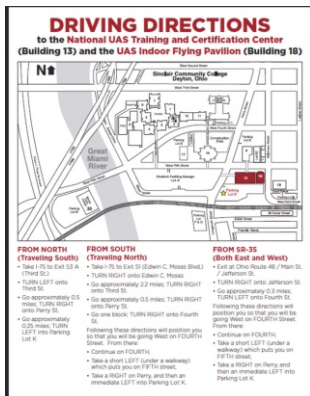
#### Agenda will include:

- ATI annual updates including:
  - the Wilbear program and its impact,
  - the revised Field Guide to Flight,
  - ATI signage improvements, and
  - the Parachute Museum collections latest additions.
- A chance to connect with fellow friends and share best practices and gift shop suggestions.

Directions to the lot and campus map can be downloaded below. Call 937-512-4848 if needing assistance.

All **Aviation Trail** members and **trail site representatives** are invited and encouraged to attend, along with community friends of aviation who wish to participate.

Sinclair College is hosting TechFest nearby in building 12 throughout the day: <https://www.techfestdayton.org/>



Click this map to download a full size printable version, or copy and paste the following address:

<https://www.aviationtrailinc.org/files/ugd/0d9eb311d0edcdbc5c4e76895b6b39aac00158.pdf>



### After Dark: Swing the Night Away

Feb. 8, 2025 - 6 to 10 PM  
National Museum of the U.S. Air Force™

Join us Saturday, Feb. 8 for the return of our fan-favorite event, After Dark: Swing the Night Away! The event takes place from 6-10 pm at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force™. Try your hand (or should we say feet) at swing dancing on the dance floor. New for 2025 - you'll be cutting a rug to a live swing band! Enjoy the swingin' sounds of "Victory Canteen," A Tribute to the Glenn Miller Army Air Force Band, as performed by the Tom Daugherty Orchestra." It'll be swell, ladies and gents.



Folks will also get a gander at artifacts from the Museum's collection not normally on display, as well as artifacts from Wright State University Libraries Special Collections & Archives. There will be a caricature artist at work, themed aircraft to view, trivia with prizes, plus games, food, and cash bars. Kiss your sweetheart under the wings of history. No special one this year? No problem. Enjoy a beverage with your favorite aircraft and friends. Event is for adults only, ages 21+.

Tickets are just \$45 per person. Remember, your ticket purchase benefits the nonprofit Air Force Museum Foundation.

#### GET TICKETS at:

<https://airforcemuseum.centeredgeonline.com/movie/buyticketswithdate/113/02-08-2025>

The Air Force Museum Foundation, Inc.  
1100 Spaatz St. • PO Box 33624  
Wright-Patterson AFB OH 45433  
<https://airforcemuseumfoundation.org>

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

## Upcoming Events

### Super Soarin' Saturdays 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.

### Fly Higher With Garden For Victory February 11 & 12, 2025 @ 2:15 pm - 3:15 pm



Dig into gardening, recipes, canning techniques, and artifacts that make gardening for victory come to life.

Fly Higher is a new workshop program aimed at providing students with an interactive and hands-on learning experience that motivates students to discover more.

Registration at: <https://form.jotform.com/TSWM/homeschool-programs-2024-2025>

### Kidz Zone – Engineer Week at Tri-State Warbirds February 22, 2025 @ 11:00 am - 12:30 pm



Join us in celebrating National Engineers Week! Explore the Museum, build some crafts, and discover the basics of engineering.

Kids will get hands-on with fun activities that use engineering skills! This event takes place in the Kidz Zone area between 11

am – 12:30 pm, on Saturday, February 22nd.

This program is included with Museum admission, and free to TSWM members.

### We Love Soldiers! at Tri-State Warbird Museum February 26, 2025 @ 11:00 am - 12:00 pm



Bring your children to the Museum to enjoy stories, songs, art activities, and creative play. Each segment will delight and educate young museum visitors and their families.

Tiny Soarers is best suited for ages 3- 5. Registration is required for this program.

Student admission is \$5  
This program is FREE to members

REGISTER AT:  
<https://form.jotform.com/TSWM/tiny-soarers-registration-2025>

Tri-State Warbird Museum Membership info:  
<https://www.tri-statewarbirdmuseum.org/support/membership/>

*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



## Champaign Aviation Museum Free Lecture

Thursday, February 20th, 2025 at 11:00am

### The Spanish-American War

Presented by Robert Mergel, P.E., P.S. (Ret.) and  
Major Edward Sachs, USAF Reserve



This presentation explores the Causes, Nations, Leadership, Preparedness, Weaponry, Major Engagements, and Conclusion of the Spanish American War. Professor Emeritus Robert Mergel and Major Edward Sachs portray Lt. Colonel Theodore Roosevelt and Colonel Leonard Wood of the 1st US Volunteer Cavalry in period uniform.

The presentation includes an MS PowerPoint media depiction of the Administration of Spain and the United States prior to hostilities, the sinking of the US Battleship Maine, preparedness and mobilization of the warring nations, the army and naval commanders and forces, and a description of the major engagements and the terms of the Peace Agreement. Interspersed with the MS PowerPoint presentation is a display of the weaponry and accoutrements of the combatants. This presentation held during the week of President's Day is significant, as it was the Spanish American War that ultimately propelled Roosevelt into the White House.

#### About our Speaker:

*In 2012 Robert (Bob) Mergel retired from Columbus State Community College, Columbus, Ohio and was awarded the title of Professor Emeritus. Upon retirement he held the position as professor and coordinator of Civil Engineering Technology. In 2018 he retired as a senior lecturer at the Ohio State University College of Engineering teaching undergraduate civil engineering and surveying courses. In 2019 Bob retired his registration as a Professional Surveyor and a Professional Engineer in the State of Ohio. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from the Ohio State University (1972), Master of Education Degree from the Ohio University (1990) and a Master of Science Degree in Geodetic Science and Surveying from the Ohio State University (2002).*



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



## National Aviation Hall of Fame Announces New Board Leadership

and Welcomes Kerry Lynch to the Board of Trustees

DAYTON, Ohio – January 9, 2025 - The National Aviation Hall of Fame (NAHF) today announced its 2025 Board of Trustees, which features esteemed leaders from across the aviation industry. The new Board leadership and board member will advance the NAHF's mission to celebrate aviation's legacy and ignite innovation for the future.



Beginning January 1, 2025, the NAHF Board of Trustees leadership team will include:

**Chair:** Douglas Schwartz, an aviation management and flight operations leader and dedicated advocate for the NAHF's mission.

**Vice Chair:** Major General John Barry, USAF (Ret.), a seasoned leader steeped in aviation expertise and visionary in aerospace and education.

**Secretary:** Lillian Dukes, a global aerospace operations expert and champion for aviation excellence.

"As Chair, I am honored to lead this exceptional team of Trustees as we continue to advance the Hall's mission," said Douglas Schwartz. "Aviation's past and future are filled with stories that deserve to be celebrated, and I look forward to working with my fellow Trustees and the NAHF team to inspire the next generation of aviation leaders and innovators."

Outgoing Board Chair Jim Cooling reflected on his tenure, saying, "Serving as Chair of the NAHF Board has been a pleasure. I am extremely proud of the honorees Enshrined, the Congressional Leaders honored, and the extraordinary quality of our Enshrinement Events that recognized them along with all other award winners. Thank you to our Board, Executive team, members, sponsors, and contributors who helped strengthen our Hall of Fame and its mission. I end my term as chair confident in the extraordinary leadership of Doug, John, and Lillian, and look forward to continuing on the board and supporting the NAHF's mission."

Joining the board is new Trustee Kerry Lynch, Editor at Aviation International News Monthly Magazine, award-winning aviation journalist, and advocate with decades of experience, whose work has amplified the stories and achievements of the business aviation community.

"It is a privilege to welcome Kerry Lynch to our Board of Trustees," said Aimee Maruyama, NAHF President and CEO. "Her storytelling expertise and depth of knowledge of the aviation industry will be invaluable to our efforts to honor legends and ignite the curiosity of future innovators. I'm also excited to work alongside Doug, John, and Lillian as we grow the Hall's impact under their thoughtful leadership."

The NAHF also extends its deepest gratitude to outgoing trustees Captain Chris Grael, USN (Ret), Dr. Geoff Murray, Philip A. Roberts, and Dr. h.c. Niels M. Winther for their dedicated service. Their contributions have been instrumental in advancing the Hall's mission and impact.

(See Aviation Trail blog post for accompanying photos:  
<https://www.aviationtrailinc.org/post/national-aviation-hall-of-fame-announces-new-board-leadership>)

Media Contact NAHF:  
Aimee Maruyama  
President & CEO  
(937) 256-0944, ext.11

National Aviation Hall of Fame  
1100 Spaatz St., Dayton, OH 45433  
(937) 256-0944  
[www.nationalaviation.org](http://www.nationalaviation.org)

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

# Parachute Museum Theater

One Day with the Golden Knights Style & Accuracy Team

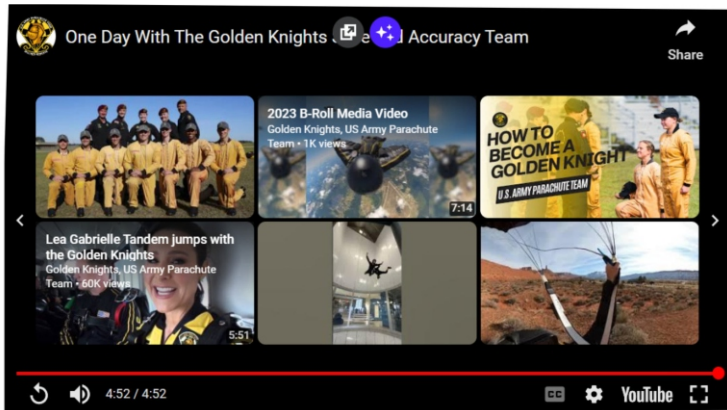


# 14 in a series of videos featured on the Aviation Trail Parachute Museum Theater

In preparation for the 2010 Nationals, the Golden Knights Style and Accuracy Team trains in classic accuracy at Laurinburg, North Carolina. Classic or precision accuracy is a parachuting discipline in which a competitor makes their first point of contact with their heel on an electronic scoring pad in the center of a tuffet. The scoring pad is typically black with a one centimeter yellow dot in the center. The pad is thirty two centimeters across or roughly the size of a medium pizza. The competitors are scored in centimeters. If the jumper hits the exact center, they receive a zero for the round. The further to the edge the contact is made, the higher the centimeters, all the way to sixteen. At the end of a ten round or ten jump meet, the competitor with the lowest score is the winner. In this video, you see only three jumps of a ten to fifteen jump day. Special thanks to the pilots and competitors. Video shot by SSG Chris Acevedo, compiled by SSG Laura Dickmeyer.

Golden Knights U.S. Army Parachute Team

To view the video see <https://www.aviationtrailinc.org/post/parachute-museum-theater-11> or click the image below:



See the Parachute Museum page at <https://www.aviationtrailinc.org/parachute-museum-theater> for access to more Parachute Museum Theater videos.

The Aviation Trail Parachute Museum  
16 South Williams Street  
Dayton, OH 45402  
(937) 225-7705



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



# Aviation Trail Gift Shop



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.

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



# Aviation Trail Membership



## 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.

