

# Flight Line

Newsletter of the **Frontiers of Flight Museum at Dallas Love Field**

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## CONSTRUCTION ON NEW FACILITY MOVING AHEAD

By Dan Hamilton  
Executive Director

With construction moving ahead on our new Museum facility, it should be only a matter of a week or two before we see steel rising vertically from the site.

Demolition work, which got underway in mid-February, has been completed. The new AOA fence and gate have been installed. Piers for the new structures are being drilled and underground utility work has started.

The contractor found a few surprises during the digging, like a buried oil tank and underground reinforcing bars for the existing hangar.

We are working closely with our contractor to get our building on line as soon as possible. Based on present schedules, it appears we are heading for a January-February grand opening.

For those interested, I send out a building update mass e-mail with a few photos every Friday. If you would like to be added to the list, drop me an e-mail at [Hamilton@flightmuseum.com](mailto:Hamilton@flightmuseum.com).

### *Get In On The Ground Floor*

Here's a chance to be a permanent part of the new Museum and to give it a financial boost, too.

For \$100, you can participate in the engraved brick program. A 4" x 8" brick will be engraved with up to three lines of 16 characters each. These bricks will be prominently and permanently installed in the patio area of the new Museum. Great idea!

Call Dan or Lisa at the Museum to make your arrangements.

## Gala Proclaimed One Of The Best!



*United States Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, one of the recipients of the George E. Haddaway Medal of Achievement in Aviation, is shown above following the presentation. She is flanked by two officers of the Civil Air Patrol: Major André Davis on the left and Captain Larry Mattiello on the right. The Civil Air Patrol also received a medal in recognition of its service to aviation.*

Our 2003 Evening of Tribute Gala, our 13th, has been proclaimed as one of the best ever and will rank among the top two or three as most successful financially.

This year's event was held at the Inter-Continental Hotel on Friday, March 28th. Chairmen for this year's event were Jan Collmer, Bill Cooper and Jack Hamilton. Projected plans call for next year's event to be held at our new Museum facility.

Honorees for this year's George E. Haddaway Medal of Achievement in Aviation awards were United States Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, who co-founded the Frontiers of Flight Museum, and Major General Richard L. Bowling, representing the Civil Air Patrol. The Civil Air Patrol is a non-profit organization that is an auxiliary of the Air Force, providing disaster relief support to local, state and national relief efforts.

Senator Hutchison was honored for her years of service, not just to the Museum, but also to the nation's transportation system.

In 1993, Senator Hutchison was the first woman elected to represent Texas in the United States Senate. She serves as Chairman of the Military Construction Subcommittee of the Senate Appropriations Committee. This year, she became Chairman of the Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Subcommittee. She is the past Chairman and ranking Republican of the Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on aviation. She is also the former Vice Chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board. Senator Hutchison serves our Museum as Board Chairman.

A reception and silent auction preceded the Gala dinner.

## CURATOR'S CORNER

by Knox Bishop, Curator  
Frontiers of Flight Museum

This year has gotten off to a bang-up start on all fronts as we prepare for our new facility! We are finally working on full-sized "artifacts" (a.k.a. airplanes, engines and flight simulators) in our new rented space in Hangar K over on the SE side of Love Field. Current plans are for this restoration facility to be scheduled open on Tuesdays and Saturdays with Museum volunteer Raymond Rose coordinating the operations.

We will work on aircraft and large simulators in this space, and will work on engine refurbishment in the east end of Storage Bay G. We have some truly unique aircraft items inbound, in addition to the 23 for which we are already planning. The USAF Museum has approved the T-38 donation from the Perot Group. They have also approved the loan to us for display of one of the remaining Lockheed D-21R Mach 3+ recce drones currently stored at AMARC. Lou Johnson and the folks of EAA Chapter 34 are making excellent progress on our full-sized Wright "Flyer" replica, as well as a replica Wright Flyer engine! We are working with Cully Cullwell on the loan for display of his globe-girdling Piper PA-18 Super cub, and with Sterling May on the loan for display of his Sikorsky S-58 helicopter (which flew in the Chicago Helicopters' shuttle service out of Chicago O'Hare).

Our new F-105F crew chief, Lou Morlando, is also well along in the planning for her move down to Love Field from Cavanaugh. Tommy Meyer is nearly complete with our Museum "L'il Toot" biplane, which he helped us obtain on donation from the EAA at Oshkosh. We are still working with the U.S. Army on the loan for restoration and display of the Bell XV-3, and with the USAF Museum on the loan for display of one of the two F-16XLs. We should begin transfer and refurbishment of the world's first solar-powered aircraft, the "Gossamer Penguin," this summer as well. Chris Wool has volunteered to lead the restoration of our F-4 Weapons System Trainer. On the "non-aircraft" artifact side, Mike and Mike Conlin are nearly through cataloging the immense matter collection, and we are working with James Darien on the loan of the Bill Easterwood collection.

Join us in working to ensure these magnificent artifacts receive their proper care and preparation for display!

If you know of folks who have memorabilia that needs preserving, refer them to us. We are, after all, the "keepers of their stories."



by Brenda Magee, Gift Shop Manager

Air racing enthusiasts will always find a supply of books on the subject. Currently, we stock a book on the Gee Bee, \$14.95; *Travel Air: Wings Over the Prairie*, \$19.95; *The Schneider Trophy Story*, \$39.95; and *The Risk Takers—Racing and Record-Setting Aircraft*, \$15.95.

We finally found a new supplier for the ever-popular aviation-themed coverlets. We have an assortment of styles, including Blue Angels, Amelia Earhart and the Wright Brothers. The cost is \$54.00.

New kids' items include a set of wind-up toys — a crew of a pilot and flight attendant that walk (\$5.95), a flight attendant doll with luggage and child's backpack (\$14.95), plush squeeze planes and helicopters that make realistic noises (\$9.95), and a Southwest die-cast plane in the new colors (\$4.95). We have a large assortment of educational toys, including compasses, gyroscopes, puzzles, models, gliders and books about planes and pilots. Many of our children's items are great for keeping the little ones entertained while traveling, so if you're flying on Southwest Airlines, come up to the Museum before you go through security and let us help you find something.

As we look forward to moving into our expanded Gift Shop in the new building, we'll be searching for new items to stock. We'd love to have our members' input about what you would like to see added to our inventory.

Gift shop sales are an important source of revenue for the Museum's operations, so when you buy in our shop, you support the Museum. Members get 10% off all purchases. We take all major credit cards and will be happy to ship purchases.

## Schedule Set For Museum's Flight Schools

The 2003 schedule for the ever-popular Frontiers of Flight Museum's Flight School has been released. The program features two sessions for Beginning Pilots and two sessions for Advanced Pilots. Sessions run from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Tuition is \$50 per week. Dates are as follows:

June 3 & 5	Beginning Pilot (3rd & 4th grades)
June 10 & 12	Advanced Pilot (3rd & 4th grades)
June 17 & 19	Beginning Pilot (5th & 6th grades)
June 24 & 26	Advanced Pilot (5th & 6th grades)

For more information and registration, call Sharon or Brenda at 214-350-3600.

## Museum Leases Hangar

The Museum has entered into a one-year lease with DalFort for 4,730 square feet in Hangar K. This hangar is located on Lemmon Avenue just a few hundred yards north of the perimeter road from our new space. Our lease area includes a secure office to accommodate a computer and file storage. Anyone who would like a tour should call Dan or Knox at the Museum.

## Outstanding Programs Highlight "Focus Night" Schedule for Year

Four outstanding "Focus Night" features are on the calendar for the remainder of the year. The overall theme for 2003 is a celebration of North Texas' contribution to aviation and aerospace on the 100th anniversary of powered flight by the Wright brothers, plus the achievements of significant aircraft in aviation's first 100 years. Make plans to attend each program. Call Museum for reservations.

### Monday, June 16 The Wright Flyer

Presenters: Mr. Lou Johnson (Wright Flyer replica builder); Mr. Reb Folbre (Wright engine replica builder)

### Monday, July 21 Bell Helicopter Textron

Presenter: Dick Spivey (Bell Helicopter-Textron)

### Monday, August 18 The Aerospatiale/BAC "Concorde" Supersonic Transport

Presenters: Concorde Pilots Capt. Ken Larson and Capt. Glenn Shoop

### Monday, September 22 North American Aviation in Grand Prairie

Presenter: Charles W. Powers (Grand Prairie Historical Organization)

#### FRONTIERS OF FLIGHT MUSEUM

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## Cataloging Of Artifacts Is Fascinating, Rewarding

**Editor's Note:** John Merrell, who passed away last year, had a deep and lasting love for aviation and aviation lore. Here are notes he left with us from one of his final projects.

Cataloging the Museum's vast collection of artifacts is fascinating and many extraordinary treasures have been discovered. Several new objects have been added to the Museum displays.

Recently, two remarkably well-preserved French posters were examined and documented, one from 1909, the other from 1911. Both are beautiful original watercolors that are quite unusual and probably rare examples of very early aviation-related posters.

The 1909 poster depicts a Wright "Flyer" aloft over Paris, with the Eiffel Tower prominent in the background. The French legend: "Juvisy-Paris - de Lambert sur biplan Wright-Ariel - magneto - Lavalette Eisemann"

The one from 1911 shows a Farman biplane flying over a cathedral in a French village with mountains in the background. The French imprint reads: "Paris-puy-de-Dome - 7 Mars 1911 (348k en 5h 11)" - Renaux Gange le Grand Prix Michelin - sue biplan M Farman, moteur Renault, magneto Bosch, helice Chauviere"

The pastel watercolor paintings for both posters were done by Gamy, and were printed by Mabileau et Cie of Paris, on what seems to be heavy kraft paper, 45 cm wide and 90 cm high (approx. 18 x 36 in.).

*Another example of the extraordinary goodies we have in storage is a triple-panel of pilot wing badges from the U.S. and many international countries. All types of designs and materials from WWII and later, arranged and mounted on velvet-covered foamcore board. Unfortunately, we do not know who the donor was or when they were received.*

It was a real challenge identifying many of the "wings," but thanks to the outstanding help of Col. Lester Frazier, USAF (Ret.) of Georgetown, Texas, they were eventually cataloged correctly ... all 68 of 'em! (Les is a leading collector of international pilot wing badges, and has examples from over 140 countries!)

Virtually all of the "wings" are in very good condition, and the variety of materials (metals, fabrics, bullion) combined with the many color combinations make for an outstanding display. Hopefully, we'll be able to add these to the Museum display one of these days.

The detailed listing is too lengthy, but here are the countries represented. Some countries have multiple examples from Army, Air Force, Navy, etc. together with various pilot proficiency levels or specialties.

*United States, Britain, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Denmark, Finland, Norway, Israel, Saudi*

*Arabia, Jordan, Italy, France, Netherlands, West Germany, Austria, Hungary, Pakistan, Portugal, Peru, Chile, Argentina, South Vietnam, Japan, Philippines, Korea, Belgium ... (hope I didn't forget anyone).*

As you know, we have one of the most comprehensive collections of Lighter-Than-Air artifacts in existence anywhere, thanks to the collection of VADM Charles E. Rosendahl. The number of artifacts in storage is very substantial, even though we have a large number of objects on display in the Museum.

There have been many surprises in cataloging these stored objects. A recent find was Rosendahl's personal diary he kept during the Graf Zeppelin's 'round the world flight in 1929 ... just his personal observations about the flight, the cities they visited, etc. It's very interesting reading.

*But one artifact was quite amusing. It's a personal check dated October 1, 1931, issued to C.E. Rosendahl from W.A. Moffett in the amount of 50 cents only! Want to bet it was payment to settle a bet? But, it was never cashed!*

Another box in storage yielded some rather curious bits-n-pieces of an "early" communications setup, but its use was obscure, to say the least. A couple of strange-looking chin-mounted microphones, with open frames, magnets and audio diaphragms and a couple of hooks to fasten to the user's head or helmet. A pair of headphones with no cushions or ear pads, apparently to be inserted into helmet "pockets." Then there were several simple jumper cables with two-contact connectors on each end, one with a push-button switch on one end, all built by Western Electric.

But the real puzzler was a metal microphone housing mounted on the end of a tubular shaft which was swivel-mounted on two crescent-shaped plates, each fitted with adjustable web straps. Finally figured out this "apparatus" was to be worn on the user's chest, with one strap going around his neck and the other around his chest.

All in all, it appeared this collection may have been used in an old telephone exchange or "central" in the 19-teens or twenties. So the catalog pages were quite indefinite about the use or application.

*But, luck intervened. The November issue of Aviation History had a feature article on the early days of air mail ... "America's First Coast-to-Coast Mail Run" ... and one of the featured photos was of James "Jack" Knight standing beside his DH-4B mail plane, testing a radiotelephone identical to the one we have! And it looks like the headphones we have are like the ones Jack Knight has inside of his helmet in the photo. The cables even look the same.*

As a matter of interest, Jack Knight was probably the single most important pilot in developing and preserving America's air mail program in the 1920s.

Once in a while, it does pay to get lucky.

## Museum Starts Program For Concept Design Of Exhibits

Your museum has recently entered into an agreement with the museum exhibit design firm of Museum Arts, located in Dallas, to complete a concept design phase for all of the major exhibits that are planned for the new facility. This project is scheduled to be completed by mid-July.

The objective of the concept design phase is to define in writing, prior to any detailed exhibit design work commencing, the following elements:

- Display methodologies
- Interpretive messages and story content
- Entertainment strategy
- Floor layout of entire museum
- Desired guest flow patterns
- Budget parameters
- Schedule parameters and phased implementation plans

After completion of this very important phase, we will commence the hard design and construction of exhibit units on a prioritized basis as funding and schedule permit.

### MEMBERSHIP RECOGNITION

The entire Museum Board and staff would like to extend a very appreciative thank you to the following Sustaining, Benefactor and Corporate sponsorship members:

Mr. E. Eugene Uecker  
Ms. Julia Sweeney  
Capt. James T. Groves III  
Mr. James R. Lightner  
Exxon Mobil Corporation

### OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

Do you have some spare time and would like to conduct tours, greet visitors, prepare artifacts and aircraft for display, or work in the gift shop? Well, we have a job for you. Our volunteer membership continues to grow (now at 63), thanks to the efforts of Jack Stolly, our Scheduler, and Jack Redmond, President of Dallas Chapter 232 of the Air Force Association.

If you can donate some time to this effort, come see us at the Museum or call our office at 214-350-3600.



