

Our Mission: To interpret aviation, particularly that related to New York State, with exhibits and programs which educate, entertain and excite the public

ESAM SUFFERS A FIRE

On Sunday, April 3rd, the Empire State Aerosciences Museum suffered a fire in its kitchen. The fire started in the area of the kitchen's griddle. No one was in the kitchen when the fire broke out. It apparently broke out sometime between 12 noon and 12:30pm. It was discovered by **ESAM President Kevin Millington** at approximately 12:45pm.

The good news is:

- No one was injured.
- The museum was evacuated without incident.
- The fire company responded very promptly, and quickly put down the fire.
- Police and other emergency personnel also responded very promptly.
- The fire damage was contained to a relatively small area of the kitchen.
- Power has been restored to the museum galleries. The galleries have no damage and remain open.
- ESAM has insurance that will cover much of the cost of repairs.

The bad news is:

- Smoke damage was extensive in the kitchen and adjoining classroom, making them unusable until repairs are made.
- Loss of use of the classroom precludes the museum from hosting large groups for programs and events, resulting in the loss of income.
- Many of the models hanging in the classroom were damaged or destroyed by the smoke and heat of the fire.

Post-fire cleanup in the kitchen and classroom has been completed. ESAM has had the area inspected to determine the extent of the repairs and upgrades needed.

Kevin Millington has asked ESAM Past President **Dan Sliva** to lead the museum's efforts to restore the kitchen and classroom to operation. The repairs needed include complete cleaning of the kitchen and classroom area including sealing the walls and ceilings to reduce smoke odors. The entire kitchen and classroom will be re-done with a new ceiling and painting. Several new code improvements will be put in place in the kitchen, classroom, and Gallery I as require by new building codes.

(near right) Fire damage is evident near the kitchen griddle

(far right) A model that had been hanging in the classroom was melted by the heat of the fire



AeroNotes

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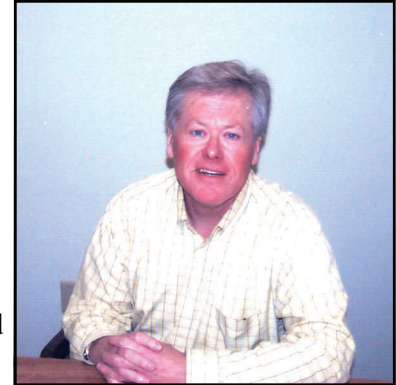
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PRESIDENT’S COLUMN



Kevin Millington

Well, summer is upon us, the school semester has ended, and things are as busy as ever at our favorite museum. I know we’re all anxious to have the classroom re-open and return to normalcy, so I want to keep you posted on this matter. Damage from the April 3rd fire was, fortunately, confined to the classroom, and repairs needed to stabilize the room and electrical system were quickly completed. As you may know, our facilities are owned by Schenectady County. Following the fire, County officials inspected the damage and identified the need to secure the services of a professional engineer to prepare plans for the repairs, as well as improvements needed throughout the museum to meet current building code requirements. Within a day, we secured the services of an engineer - **Dave Decker**, as well as a code compliance specialist - **Rob Roeckle**, who completed the required plans at little cost to the museum. My sincere thanks to Dave and Rob for their generosity, as well as to **Dan Sliva** who is coordinating the process with the County. I’m confident our County partners will work cooperatively to review the plans, issue the necessary permit, and help get us back to normal. In the mean time, we obtained a large tent so we can conduct classes and events. I can’t say enough about the time and effort provided by our great volunteers, particularly **John Panoski**, **Joyce Newkirk**, and **Dan**.

And speaking of events, I was so pleased with our **Viet Nam Commemoration Day** on June 18th! The day featured a presentation of an Award of Excellence to Restoration Chair **Bob Eggleston**, **Joe Gullo**, and all of the volunteers who did such a spectacular job restoring our legendary F-105 Thunderchief. In addition, we had the honor of hosting **USAF Col. (retired) Tony Germann**, a former pilot who provided a wonderful overview of his experiences flying the F-105 during two tours of duty during the war. Tony drove all the way from Cape Cod to be with us and was joined by a large contingent of family, friends, and museum visitors. Events like this are such a positive reflection on the museum, and really make me proud to be affiliated with it.

Other events are planned – as I’m writing this, we’re planning a family event for late July to celebrate the centennial anniversary of Naval Aviation, and on August 20th **Jamie Fuller** and **John Panoski** are developing a full agenda to celebrate National Aviation Day. We can really use volunteers for these events, so if you’re interested, please contact Jamie or John. In addition, **Vina** is busy as always arranging the ever-growing demand for group tours, which are so important to the museum.

Before I sign-off, I know you share our great loss in **Jim Seeley’s** passing. Jim was a wonderful member of our family - always willing to help on key museum issues and always with a friendly manner, which was so reassuring to us. We’re lucky to have known him and he will always be a big part of our heritage.

I can’t thank all of you enough for the help and cooperation you’ve given during this challenging time. But don’t worry, we’ll complete the repairs and continue to grow as one of the region’s very best cultural assets!

As always, it’s a privilege to share time with you.

Kevin

ZONTA HOLDS ANNUAL AMELIA EARHART SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM LUNCHEON AT ESAM

On Saturday, March 26th, the **Zonta Club of Schenectady** held its annual Amelia Earhart Scholarship luncheon at ESAM. The luncheon was attended by 62 people from various Zonta clubs, ESAM and the community.

Each year, Zonta awards a \$10,000 scholarship to a young woman who is working on her PhD in a field associated with aeronautics. The special guest at the luncheon was scholarship winner **Iti Srivtava**. Iti received her undergraduate degree in Metallurgical Engineering in India. She continued Graduate studies at **Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute** in Materials Science and Engineering Development, Iti graduated in 2011 and has accepted a position with **Zyvex Technologies** in Columbus, Ohio. She holds the position of research scientist and will continue research work on polymer composite materials.

The main speaker at the meeting was **Ric Gillespie**, Director of **The International Group for Historic Aircraft Recovery (TIGHAR)** and author of **Finding Amelia: The True Story of the Earhart Disappearance**. TIGHAR is testing the hypothesis that **Amelia Earhart** and **Fred Noonan** landed, and eventually died, on Gardner Island, now Nikumaroro in the Republic of Kiribati. Now in its 23rd year, TIGHAR's Amelia Earhart Project is planning a major underwater search for July 2012, the 75th anniversary of Earhart's disappearance.

Ric made his presentation via new teleconferencing equipment. This was the first use of this equipment by ESAM. The museum thanks ESAM Trustee **Marv Weiss** who donated the equipment, and volunteers **John Panoski**, **Mike Bell** and **Dennis Cusano** who installed it.

The Zonta Club of Schenectady has obtained from **J. W. Ragsdale** of Lockheed the approved plan for the instrument panel of Amelia Earhart's plane. In addition the club has obtained a movie poster from the **Diane Keaton**, **Bruce Dern** Amelia Earhart movie. These items have been donated to ESAM to enhance the museum's Amelia Earhart display.

Amelia Earhart had ties both to Schenectady and to Zonta. She visited Schenectady and during the visit spoke over WGY to Admiral Byrd. The only two clubs Amelia Earhart ever joined were the Ninety Nines (a founding member) and Zonta.

ESAM is pleased to have hosted this luncheon and is grateful for Zonta's ongoing support.



Pictured From left to right at Zonta's Scholarship Program Luncheon are ESAM President Kevin Millington, ESAM and Zonta members Mardy Moore and Joyce Newkirk, special guest Iti Srivtava, and ESAM Trustees George Yager and John Panoski

ESAM LEADERS MAKE PRESENTATION TO THE GLENVILLE TOWN BOARD

On Wednesday May 5th, ESAM President **Kevin Millington** and Second Vice President **Matt LeClair** made presentations about the museum to the Glenville Town Board. They identified for the Board the significant activities that the museum has been providing and spoke of future plans. The Board expressed their appreciation for the presentations and indicated that they look forward to working with the museum.

Also representing the museum at the meeting were **Dan Sliva** and **Larry McArthur**.

ESAM NEWSLETTER TO GO ELECTRONIC IN 2012

Starting in 2012, Aeronotes will be going electronic.

In an effort to reduce printing and postage costs, while at the same time providing the newsletter in color, Aeronotes will be distributed electronically through email starting with the issue that is scheduled to be released in January 2012. To make this transition successful, you are asked to contact the office and either (1) provide your email address or (2) state that you don't want to receive the newsletter through email. You may contact the office by phone at 377-2191, extension 10 or by email at esam@esam.org.

A limited number of paper copies of the newsletter will be produced for members who don't have email.

ESAM PLANS TWO CELEBRATIONS FOR THE SUMMER

ESAM is planning an event on July 30th to commemorate the **100th Anniversary of Naval Aviation**, and an event on August 20th to celebrate **National Aviation Day**.

Special activities will include guided tours, open cockpits, discounted prices on Simulated Reality Vehicle rides, a flight simulator experience, activities for kids, food and much more.

Check the museum's website at www.esam.org for more details as they become available.

DARTH VADER JOINS ESAM AT LOCAL PARADES

"The force is strong with this one."

ESAM had a surprise visitor when it participated with a float in the May 25th Scotia Memorial Day parade. Forces in the universe led ESAM to stage its float for the parade just across the street from **Darth Vader's** (aka **Ben Meyers**) house. Citing the word "Empire" as being a name common to both Vader's realm and the museum's pedigree, Darth marched with ESAM in the parade.

The ESAM/Darth Vader team was so well received in the Scotia Memorial Day Parade, that it continued to work together in the June 9th Burnt Hills Flag Day Parade.

John Panoski, Taylor Mextorf and Dennis Cusano represented ESAM at both parades.



Darth Vader (Ben Meyers) and ESAM's float in the Scotia Memorial Day Parade (left) and the Burnt Hills Flag Day Parade (right)

ESAM SIMUALTORS FLY AT SCIENCE AND HEALTH DISCOVERY NIGHT AND STEM

On April 28, 2011, ESAM and the **109th Air Lift Wing of the NY Air National Guard** participated in the fourth annual **SAGE Science and Health Discovery Night** at Shenendehowa's Gowana Middle School. Less than a month later on May 23rd, the ESAM/109th team also participated in the **South Colonie School District Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Exposition** at the Wolf Road Holiday Inn in Colonie.

Representing the 109th were **LtCol Matt LeClair** (who is also an ESAM Trustee), **SSgt Corey Palmatier** (LC-130 Flight Engineer) and **1stLt Brandon Caldwell** (LC-130 Pilot). Representing ESAM were **Kevin Millington, John Panoski, Matt LeClair, Dennis Cusano** and **Taylor Mexdorf**.



THE HUNT FOR THE LOST SQUADRON

After the March 19th 2011 pancake breakfast, ESAM presented a fascinating documentary film about The Hunt for The Lost Squadron.

In July 1942, two B-17s and six P-38s enroute to England from the United States, via Canada, Greenland and Iceland, were forced by weather to land on the Greenland icecap. All crewmen survived the landings and were rescued by US Army and Coast Guard personnel. The eight planes, however, were left on the ice cap and became known as the Lost Squadron.

The film depicts the privately-funded efforts that started in 1980 to locate and recover the planes. After a number of failed expeditions, the planes were finally located by radar in 1988. The recovery team thought that the planes would

be only lightly covered with snow and ice, but drilling in 1989 located one of the planes at a depth of 250 feet below the surface. In 1990 the team expanded the hole using a melting device and found that they had located one of the B-17s. However, the B-17 was crushed beyond salvage by the weight of the ice above it.

Having run out of money, the original financial backers of the search sold out to a new financier, and in 1992 another expedition located and recovered, piece by piece, a P-38, whose stronger structure was able to withstand to weight of the snow and ice above it.

Thus began the restoration, which lasted ten years. In 2002 the P-38, now named **Glacier Girl**, flew for the first time in 60 years. Glacier Girl is currently located in San Antonio, Texas.

Thanks to **John Panoski** for arranging for the presentation of this very interesting story.



P-38 Lighting in flight over water

ESAM PROVIDES OUTRACH PROGRAM TO CHARLTON HEIGHT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

During the past winter, ESAM provided afterschool programming at the **Charlton Heights Elementary School** in the Burnt-Hills Ballston-Lake School District. The programming consisted of three sessions during February and March. **Kevin Millington** led this outreach program. The museum is pleased that this is the second year in a row that Charlton Heights has asked us to provide this program.

ESAM INVITES YOU TO PARTICIPATE IN ITS INTERVIEW SERIES

ESAM would like to interview you about your aviation experiences.

Through the ESAM Interview Series, the museum is gathering the personal and professional recollections of people who have spent time in and around aviation, both civilian and military.

If you would be generous enough to share your memories, please contact **Vina Kaczmarczyk** at 377-2191, extension 10 or see **Kevin Millington** when he's at the museum.

ESAM has started posting abbreviated versions of the interviews on the ESAM website, If you wish, your interview will be posted there too.

LETTERS LIKE THESE WE LIKE TO RECEIVE

From: Austin Rivera

To: John Panoski

Sent: Fri, May 6, 2011 9:18 am

Subject: RAF Thank you

Good morning John,

On behalf of the entire flight club here at RPI, I would like to thank you for all of the help you and the museum gave us to support our event. I am happy to report that we raised \$1,750.00 for the memorial fund to help our student pilots obtain their pilots licenses. The event was a great first year start to an annual fundraiser we will host for a long time to come.

Also as president of the club next year, I want to be in contact with you over the summer about setting up a program for our club members to help out at the museum during next school year. I believe that it is a partnership just waiting to happen, I know that we have members that would love to get their hands dirty and make ESAM the best museum out there. I was hoping to set up something in which we can get a discounted volunteer rate or an honorary ESAM membership for the year and we can move people back and forth on the weekends to fix exhibits, display aircraft, paint, clean, and do whatever the museum needs. We could also use our club meeting time here on campus to build parts of exhibits, etc then bring them to the museum. We might actually get a larger membership in the club because of helping out with ESAM. These are just a few ideas, we will have all summer to work something out.

I also had a more personal question about the T-28. After cleaning it and working with it at the fly-in, I could not help but to think to myself how beautiful and magnificent of an aircraft that it is. I was wondering if you think the owner and pilot would at all be interested in teaching a young man like myself how to fly that power house. Ever since I started flying and received my certificate I have always had the dream to fly a piece of history.

Once again thank you for all of the help, and I will be in contact.

Very respectfully,

AUSTIN M. RIVERA

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

RAF President-Elect/ Thiers Fly-in Manager

Class of 2014

Dual Mechanical/Aeronautical Engineering



(From left to right) ESAM's A-4 and F-5, and Morris Strauss' T-28 participate in the Lawrence H. R. Thiers Memorial Fly In on April 23rd at the Schenectady County Airport

THE ALBANY LEGENDS BASKETBALL TEAM VISITS ESAM

In an effort to introduce the Capital Region’s only pro basketball team to the greater Schenectady community, ESAM and a select group of downtown Schenectady merchants invited the 2010 International Basketball League Champion **Albany Legends** to enjoy “An Afternoon in Schenectady” on Thursday, May 12th. Lead by ESAM President **Kevin Millington**, ESAM provided a guided tour and photo ops during the team’s visit.



(Top) The Albany Legends players pose with team officials, ESAM personnel and a 109th Air Lift Wing representative in front of ESAM’s F-5.

(Bottom) F-5 Assistant Crew Chief Kevin Millington (a.k.a. ESAM’s President) dutifully hands over Legends lucky basketball (presented to ESAM and signed by team members) to Damone “BIFF” Morris in preparation for a successful mission. See the Legends lucky basketball on display soon in ESAM’s gift shop.



OUR VOLUNTEERS

COMMEMORATIVE BRICK PLAZA GETS ITS SPRING BEAUTIFICATION

From: **Dan DeBellis**

To: **The many ESAM volunteers who donated or contributed to the purchase of flowers for the Commemorative Brick Plaza**

A very large **THANK YOU !** The flowers were planted in time to spruce-up the Plaza garden for Memorial Day weekend.

- Fred Bloomstein**
- Dan DeBellis**
- Joe Gullo**
- Bill Maetta**
- Kevin Millington**
- Ronnie Quinn**

- Dominic Carnibucci**
- Yvonne DeBellis**
- Marty Hartmann**
- Dorie McArthur**
- Joyce Newkirk**
- Bob Tomlinson**

- John Curtiss**
- Bob Eggleston**
- Aaron Lauber**
- Larry McArthur**
- Al Petroni**
- George Yager**

OUR VOLUNTEERS

ALEX AWARD NOMINATIONS DUE BY SEPTEMBER 15TH

Each year, one or two ESAM volunteers are presented with the Alex Award for their sustained and outstanding volunteerism. Named in memory of a truly great ESAM volunteer, **Roland "Alex" Alexander**, the award recognizes the volunteer's service, cooperation, teamwork and a dedicated pursuit of excellence. Last year's award recipient was **Larry McArthur** who emphatically demonstrated those qualities, including significant contributions to the development, operation and enhancement of ESAM and its mission.

The Board of Trustees is actively seeking applications for this year's nominees for the Alex Award. ESAM Board of Trustees First Vice President **John Panoski** is heading up the effort and welcomes applications, which may be sent to John at the ESAM office. Applications must be received no later than September 15, 2011. The application should clearly describe why the individual deserves the award, and must be from ESAM members who have worked with the individual. Therefore, the application is based on personal experience, rather than second-hand information. The application can be hand-written or typed and must provide the following information:

- The name of the nominee and a statement that he or she is an ESAM member in good standing
- The dates of the volunteer's service (must have been an active volunteer for a minimum of five years)
- A description of the personal qualities of the individual that demonstrate the characteristics of his or her pursuit of excellence
- A list of the activities in which the individual has been a participant
- A list of the individual's accomplishments supporting the development, operation and enhancement of ESAM and its mission
- The names of at least two ESAM members in good standing who have worked with the individual in an ESAM volunteer setting and who are making the nomination. The application must be signed and dated by the two members making the nomination.

The final choice of the recipient is a difficult one as there always are a number of outstanding representatives of Alex's qualities. We look forward to the challenge and the reward of recognizing another outstanding volunteer at the annual meeting in October.

From: Junco, Mark LCDR NOSC Schenectady, CO
Sent: Thursday, April 07, 2011 9:10 AM
To: Millington, Kevin; John Panoski
Subject: Family Event at NOSC

Gentlemen,

Once again I thank you for the great support during our Family event on Saturday. I heard nothing but great things from both the kids and adults.

I heard about the fire at ESAM from the Sunday night news. I hope that the damage was minimal. I noticed today that the billboard does not say closed anymore. That gives me great relief. I hope that none of the priceless displays were damaged. If there is need of any help for a clean-up please let me know. Your facility is truly a treasure in this community!

V/R
Mark

LCDR Mark A. Junco
Commanding Officer, NOSC Schenectady, NY

OUR VOLUNTEERS

JOSH NAGY TAKES OVER AS ESAM'S WEBMASTER

Josh Nagy has taken over as ESAM's new webmaster.

With the help of retiring webmaster **Pete Gilbert**, Josh has already made a number of changes to the website. In particular a Media Central page has been created, containing updated photos of the planes in the airpark and videos of interviews with ESAM volunteers (including Walter Bardsley talking about his time as a B-17 gunner in World War II). Coming soon will be updated photos of the items in both galleries.

Josh has also created a Facebook page for the museum. We will update it regularly and we invite Aeronotes readers to follow us to stay up-to-date on the latest news and events. Thanks for a great start, Josh.



ESAM's F-105 as shown on the ESAM website

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE AT ESAM!

ESAM has a variety of volunteer opportunities available. Whether you're interested in restorations, new exhibits, working with children or one of the other intriguing facets of our operations we'd love to have you on board!

Think you don't have time? You can make a difference by volunteering as few as four or six hours a month!

Getting started is easy – you can print a volunteer interest form from www.esam.org, or contact Vina at (518) 377-2191, extension 10 or esam@esam.org.

ESAM Membership Application

Please check one: NEW MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

ANNUAL DUES:

INDIVIDUAL/FAMILY

- Senior Citizen/Student \$30
- Individual \$35
- Family \$50

VIP:

- Contributing \$75
- Supporting \$125
- Sustaining \$275
- Galaxy Club \$500
- Friend of ESAM \$1,000

BUSINESS

- Supporter \$250
- Patron \$500
- Benefactor \$1,000
- Not for Profit/School \$100
- Small Business \$100

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Phone: Home (____) _____

Work (____) _____

E-mail address _____

Please make your check payable to ESAM

**Mail to ESAM, 250 Rudy Chase Drive,
Glenville, NY 12302**

If your company offers a matching gift program, please contact them with the amount of your gift.

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*Mrs. Charles Moore
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Newkirk
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Galaxy Club Members

Edward Barili
Frank Hackert
John Hackert
James LoDolce
Kevin Millington
Ralph Rosenthal
*Mr. & Mrs. Jansz VanderVeer

* ESAM Charter Member

OUR VOLUNTEERS

THE GE FOUNDATION MATCHING GIFTS PROGRAM

We are very grateful for the continuing support of our GE employees and retirees through the **GE Foundation Matching Gifts Program**. For every donation we receive GE will match the entire amount, but it does require you to contact them with the amount of your donation if you want us to receive the gift within one of the timeframes listed below. We have listed the payout schedule below to assist you in your decision to make a donation to ESAM.

The payout schedule for approved gifts is:

- Gifts confirmed by March 31 are paid by May 31 of the same year.
- Gifts confirmed by June 30 are paid by August 31 of the same year.
- Gifts confirmed by September 30 are paid by November 30 of the same year.
- Gifts confirmed by December 31 are paid by February 28 of the following year.

Once again, thank you for your continued support of the Empire State Aero-sciences Museum.



ESAM volunteer Lou Bach (right) receives a book from the ESAM Library as part of his prize for answering the Winter 2010-11 Flight Facts question. ESAM newsletter editor Larry McArthur (left) presents the book in the ESAM Restoration hangar

SUMMER HOURS ARE NOW IN EFFECT

Summer hours are now in effect at ESAM. The museum is open Wednesdays and Sundays from 12 noon to 4pm, and Thursdays through Saturdays from 10am until 4pm.

MONTHLY PANCAKE BREAKFASTS ARE SUSPENDED

Fire damage to the kitchen has unfortunately resulted in the suspension of the museum's monthly pancake breakfasts until further notice.

OUR SUPPORTERS

We are pleased to acknowledge and welcome the following NEW and RETURNING MEMBERS

VIP SUSTAINING (\$500)

Kevin Millington

VIP SUPPORTING (\$125)

Whitney G. Denio

Dorie & Larry McArthur

Joseph & Mary Ellen Sampson

Allen Slaterpryce

Chet & Susan Watson

VIP CONTRIBUTING (\$75)

Carl Hackert

Carl & Janet Linkinhoker

FAMILY (\$50)

Mr. & Mrs. Richard R. Bingham

Bill & Carol Borthwick

Linda Cioffi

Richard & Jennifer Fullam

Joseph & Lee Gullo

Mr. & Mrs. Larry Krug

Paul K. Male

Donald A. Morrett

Dean F. Ostrander

John J. Panoski

**Schenectady Co. Public Library-
two memberships**

Leland & Mary Lois Tupper

Denise Zieske

INDIVIDUAL (\$35)

Carmen Carreno

Kevin Corcoran

Paul W. Dwyer

David Greenwood

Thomas Stephany

SENIOR/STUDENT (\$30)

Louis Bach

Enrico Bello

Paul Cockerham

Donald Coon

Francis R. Dobbert

Terrence E. Dwyer

Robert Forest

Rolf Guendel

Martin Hartmann

Joseph M. Jasniewski

Dorothy Harrigan-Stekeur

Kenneth Kaskoun

LTC John F. Kienzle

Ronald King

Hebert Roes

Preston Van Patten

William Wragg

SEFA DONORS CONTRIBUTE \$734 TO ESAM

ESAM thanks the following individuals who made \$734 in donations to the museum through the 2010-2011 State Employees Federated Appeal.

**Thomas Abbott
Noreen M. Grose
Daniel P Miller**

**Steve Gold
Bruce Mereness**

OUR SUPPORTERS

GIVEN HYNES MAKES MAJOR BEQUEST TO ESAM

The Empire State Aerosciences Museum is very pleased to announce that **Mr. Given Hynes** has honored ESAM by bequeathing \$50,000 to the museum in his will.

Mr. Hynes donated the Strat to the museum, and he maintained a great interest in it as ESAM's Restoration crew worked on it and placed it on display in the Gallery I hangar. On January 8th at the museum, Given's family held a celebration of his life.

ANNUAL APPEAL RAISES \$7,810

Thanks the generosity of the following individuals and organizations, last year's Annual Appeal raised \$7,810 for the museum.

Mr. Dennis Andreas	Mr. Jason Baniak	Mr. Walter Bardsley
Mr. Milton Barton	Mr. Levon Bedrosian	Mr. Charles Blodgett
Mr. Frederick Bloomstein	Mr. & Mrs. William Borthwick	Mr. & Mrs. Bob Cheesman
Mr. Paul Cockerham	Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Corigliano	Mr. Robert Crandall
Ms. Dora Culver	Mr. Andrew Davis	Mr. Carlton Davis
Mr. Raymond Davis	Mr. Michael DeCata	Dr. Michael DePetrillo
Mr. John Desmond	Mr. & Mrs. Paul Dickson	Mrs. Herb Dudley
Mr. John Dupier	EPA	Mr. James Edgar
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Ericson	Mr. Peter Fischer	Mr. Paul Giebitz
Mr. Stanley Gordon	Ms. Marion Grimes	Mr. David Grimm
Mr. Joseph Gullo	H & M Equipment	Mr. Frank Hackert
Mr. John Hackert	Mrs. Marion Hackert	Mr. & Mrs. Roger Hannay
Mr. Martin Hartmann	Mrs. Stanley Hemstreet	Mr. Charles Huppert
Mr. D. S. Ingraham	Mr. Anthony Izzo	Mr. Gary Jones
Ms. Karen Johnson	Mr. Robert Koenig	Mr. & Mrs. Steve Largeau
Mrs. Sharon Leighton	Mr. James Liguori	Mr. Michael Maddalone
Mr. Charles Marshall	Mr. & Mrs. Chester Matthews	Mr. & Mrs. Larry McArthur
Mr. Charles McCabe	Mr. Edward Mertzluft	Mr. Kevin Millington
Mr. Francis Miner	Mr. & Mrs. Don Morrett	Mr. & Mrs. Robert Newkirk
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Ruggles	Mr. John Ryan, Jr.	Mr. & Mrs. Paul Semanek
Mr. C. J. Schampier	Mr. Mark Shalonis	Col. James Shaw
Mr. Earl Slanker	Ms. Dorothy Stekeur	Mr. Angelo Tommasone
Mr. & Mrs. Jansz Vander Veer	Mr. Ronald Volungas	Mr. Tom Walkowicz
Dr. & Mrs. Joseph Waring	Dr. & Mrs. Richard Welte	Mr. Roland Whiteman
Mrs. Edith Wiederkehr	Mr. Harold Wusterbarth	Mr. Maurice York
Zimmons Industrial		

NEW FEATURE: BOOK AND FILM REVIEWS

With this issue, Aeronotes starts a new feature. Each issue will include an aviation-related book or film review. Read our first review below. If you would like to write a review and have it published in Aeronotes, please send it to news@esam.org.

KITTY HAWK: THE WRIGHT BROTHERS' JOURNEY OF INVENTION (DVD)

by Jamie Fuller

Five stars

Beautifully done with a cinema-quality score, this two hour documentary explores where the **Wright Brothers** came from and their development from simple Ohio bicycle shop owners into the aviation pioneers we think of today. Exploring the often overlooked friendship between **Octave Chanute** and **Wilbur Wright**, describing the brothers' individual personalities and introducing key players in their inventive process and Kitty Hawk experiences, this film takes a unique approach. It seamlessly weaves together dozens of facts, experiences and stories that are rarely included in the Wrights' story. Another two hours of special features on the second disk include insightful glimpses into some of the brothers' letters and provides commentary by various experts and aviators.

Having read about the Wright Brothers before, I was surprised and impressed by how much new material I encountered in this film – both on the human level and in the technical aspects. Weaving together the many threads of the brothers' lives from their youth until Orville's old age, the documentary brought both men vividly to life as real people with human motivations, failings and emotions.

In addition, the technical knowledge in this film was expertly handled. Explanations of basic aviation concepts, recreations of the Wrights' famous wind tunnel, and an exploration of the process they pioneered in innovation - so completely different from what anyone else in their day attempted - were exceptionally well done.

Perhaps one of the best features of the film was its gently objective view of the Wrights in their waning years. While much of the early aviation community eventually turned against the brothers, angry over their patent-infringement lawsuits, Kitty Hawk continues through the Wrights' last years, adeptly handling the brothers' slip from the center of aviation to its periphery with grace and respect.

Appropriate for all ages, this film will appeal to history buffs, aviation enthusiasts and educators alike.

Note: This film is available through the Schenectady County Library System.

BELL P-39 AIRACOBRA

by Kevin Millington

I think every aviation enthusiast (i.e. "Plane Nut") has one or more favorite planes. For some reason, for me, that plane is the Bell P-39 Airacobra, a single seat, single-engine, all-metal fighter built by **Bell Aircraft** in the Buffalo region. I'm not quite sure what its appeal is - maybe its sleek, sculptured design, the unique mid-fuselage engine location - in any event, I'd take the opportunity to highlight this legendary fighter of World War II.

First flown in April 1938, the P-39 featured many revolutionary design elements, most notably its mid-fuselage engine location to the immediate rear of the cockpit. In addition, the Airacobra was the first fighter to feature a tricycle landing gear, as well as side-opening "car doors" for the pilot. The engine was connected to the propeller by a shaft passing under the pilot. The reason for this unusual design was to accommodate its main armament, a huge 37 mm. cannon which was mounted in the nose and fired through the propeller shaft. The P-39 was well armored, as well, which made it relatively heavy. In addition, its Allison V-1710 liquid-cooled 1,200 horse power engine lacked an adequate supercharger. As a result, the P-39 lacked the desired high altitude performance and its performance fell off rapidly over 17,000 ft. As such, it was not in the same class as other fighters, such as Germany's Messerschmitt Bf-109 or Japan's Mitsubishi A6M Zero. With its heavy armament, however, the

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Airacobra excelled in the low-level ground attack role, where it was used by the U.S. Army Air Force, particularly in the Pacific Theater.

It was with the Soviet Air Force, however, that the P-39 achieved greatness. Known affectionately as the “Little Cobra” and “Little Shaver” (Russian term for strafing), the Airacobra decimated German armor. The Russian Air Force also achieved considerable success with the P-39 in the air-to-air combat arena. When production of the P-39 ended in 1944, 9,558 had been built by Bell, with 4,773 provided to the Soviet Union through the Lend Lease Program.

The P-39 was powered by one Allison V-1710 liquid-cooled engine, which gave it a top speed of 376 mph and a range of 600 miles. Armament consisted of one 37 mm. cannon, as well as two nose-mounted 50 caliber machine guns and two similar wing-mounted guns.



P-39 Airacobra

FLIGHT FACTS

In the last issue of AERONOTES, we posed this question: **What U. S. aviation first did “Tiny” Broadwick accomplish?**

Answer: She was the first person in the United States to make a parachute jump from an airplane.

Georgia Anne “Tiny” Broadwick (4 foot tall and weighing 85 pounds) was a veteran of many parachute jumps from balloons when, on June 21, 1913, she parachuted from a specially modified plane flown by **Glenn Martin**. Glenn Martin had designed the parachute that she used, and the purpose of the jump was to demonstrate its effectiveness. “Tiny” was seated on a small platform attached to the right wing of the aircraft when, at a speed of about 30 miles per hour and an altitude of between 1,000 and 2,000 feet above Griffith Park Aviation Field in Los Angeles, she released a lever that collapsed the seat and allowed her to fall straight down. Her parachute opened perfectly and she landed on her feet.



“Tiny” Broadwick (left) and Glenn Martin (right) in 1913

By the time of her retirement from jumping in 1922, “Tiny” was said to have made over 1,100 jumps. She is one of the few female members of the Early Birds of Aviation.

Our next Flight Facts question is: **What was the first airplane to take off on rocket power alone? In another experiment, this plane also took off in a circle while tethered to the end of a 250’ cable.** If you know the answer to this question and want to be eligible for a free pass to the museum, a free ticket to ride the SRV, and a gift from the ESAM library, submit your answer either by e-mail to news@esam.org using a subject line of "Flight Facts", or by letter to ESAM Flight Facts, 250 Rudy Chase Drive, Glenville, NY 12302. Answers must be received by August 31, 2011 to be eligible for the prize.

Empire State Aerosciences Museum
250 Rudy Chase Drive
Glenville, NY 12302

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HAPPENINGS AT THE AIR MUSEUM

MUSEUM HOURS –

Thursday through Saturday 10 AM to 4 PM/ Wednesday and Sunday 12 noon to 4 PM

Jansz Vander Veer Research Center/Library Hours – Friday & Saturday 9AM to 12 noon

General Museum Admission – \$8 per adult; \$6 per senior and military; \$5 age 6-16; under 6 free when accompanied by an adult

Simulated Reality Vehicle (SRV) – Ride: \$5

Jul. 18, Monday - Board of Trustees Meeting: 7PM. ESAM classroom.

Jul. 30, Saturday - 100th Anniversary of Naval Aviation Commemoration

Aug. 15, Monday - Board of Trustees Meeting: 7PM. ESAM classroom.

Aug. 20, Saturday - National Aviation Day Celebration: Guided tours, Open Cockpit Event, Stick rocket classes, Flight Simulator Experience

Sep. 19, Monday - Board of Trustees Meeting: 7PM. ESAM classroom.