

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

Volume 31, Issue 4

Winter 2022-23

## RICH BIEVENUE RECEIVES “ALEX’ AWARD

**Rich Bievenue** received a well earned Alex Award at the Annual ESAM Dinner Meeting on October 19th.

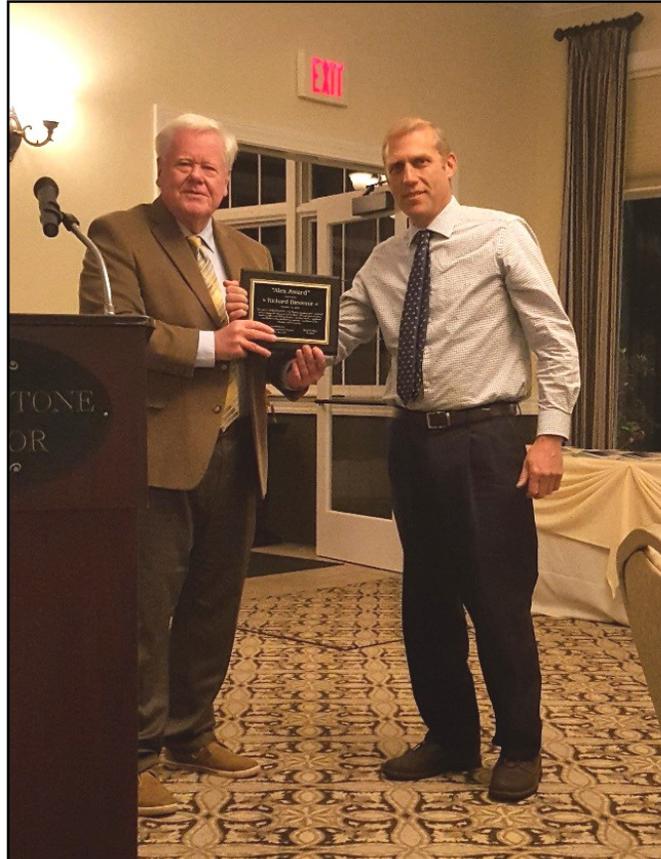
Each year, one or more ESAM volunteers are presented with the Alex Award for their sustained and outstanding volunteerism. Named in memory of a truly great ESAM volunteer, **Roland "Alex" Alexander**, the award recognizes the volunteer's service, cooperation, teamwork and a dedicated pursuit of excellence.

Rich has been an ESAM member in good standing since February 2015. He consistently displays many positive personal qualities. He is always friendly, willing to help on a variety of projects, has strong organizational skills, particularly in his role as coordinator of the restoration work group, and has expanded his role at ESAM.

Rich is involved in several activities. He is a member of the Board of Trustees, on which he currently serves as the First Vice President. He is the leader of the Restoration Work Group, and has participated in, and taken the lead on, education activities, special events, and volunteer recruitment.

His participation has resulted in many notable accomplishments. His leadership with the Restoration Work Group has resulted in many improvements, including identification of priorities and organization of the volunteers, which has resulted in the restoration of several aircraft in the museum's collection. He organized and participated in the clean-up of the back area, previously populated by discarded engines and aircraft parts, as well as their restoration, whereby many are now on exhibit. He actively participates in museum special events. Over the past year, he has fostered effective partnerships, such as organizing an education program with Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, which proved to be very positive. He is also leading an effort with Eagle Scout candidates intended to produce several improvements at the museum. He recently oversaw a successful fund-raising effort in which car owners had their cars photographed with ESAM aircraft. And he organized a volunteer recruitment event, which resulted in several new members and volunteers at ESAM.

The museum is honored to have Rich as a volunteer, a leader and an Alex Award recipient.



**Rich Bievenue, right, received the 2022 Alex Award from Kevin Millington, left.**

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Dear Friends and Supporters of the Empire State Aerosciences Museum (ESAM),

Greetings to all.

We recently partnered with Schenectady County on a new event, a 5K run. The runway was shut down for this event on a rainy and windy day. In spite of the weather it was one of our first tests to use our C-130 as a shelter and museum exhibit. We offered refreshments, tours, and flight simulators. Next year this event will grow to a full day event and I hope you as members can share some ideas on expanding next year's event.

We need more members and volunteers. Please help with both of these requests.

With winter hours, please consider our monthly breakfast event as described on Facebook, or a possible birthday party or retirement party at ESAM. The SRV ride in Gallery 2 is a real crowd pleaser.

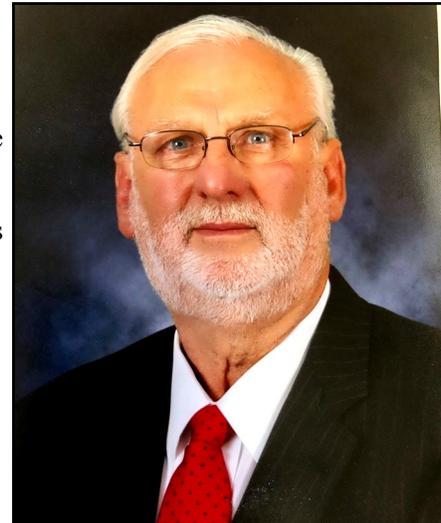
Improving Gallery 1 continues weekly with the 109<sup>th</sup> exhibit still growing and new signage everywhere. We will be installing a new camera system that will add excitement and security. We can share progress updates to our membership.

Drive by and see the new lighting on our Concorde.

Please help share on social media.

Thank you, for being a member.

Daniel P. Wilson, President  
ESAM Board of Trustees



Dan Wilson



## ESAM IS PLANNING FOR 2023 AND BEYOND

As part of the 2023 budget and planning development processes, ESAM leaders are being asked to define priorities and foster improved communication. The goals of this effort are to:

- Establish a focused approach in identifying and detailing priorities with thoughtful, detailed cost estimates and schedules of completion.
- Allow us to go forward with an effective corporate donor program linked to specific projects.
- Assist us in taking better advantage of grant opportunities.
- Provide the basis for developing a short- and long-term plan for the museum.

We look forward to sharing the results of this effort with members and supporters.

## **AeroNotes**

Published quarterly by the  
**Empire State**

### **Aerosciences Museum**

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Glenville, NY 12302

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### **Editor**

Lawrence McArthur

ESAM is a registered charitable organization chartered by the N.Y.S. Department of Education

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## **STEVE BORBEE RECOUNTS HIS EXPERIENCES IN THE US AIR FORCE COMBAT CONTROL COMMAND**

On Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, ESAM hosted guest speaker, and ESAM Trustee, **Steve Borbee** who spoke about his experiences as a U.S. Air Force Combat Control Team member. Steve enhanced his presentation with a Power Point presentation and items for display.

Training for Combat Control was rigorous, including: Air Traffic Control, Combat Control School, static line and free fall parachute training, open and closed circuit SCUBA qualification, Close Air Support, Survival School plus mountain warfare training.

Among other missions, Tech Sergeant Borbee was a member of a Combat Control Team that participated in Operation Just Cause in Panama in 1989. He and his team jumped into a Panamanian airfield on December 20, 1989, after a nine-hour flight during which the team members were required to remain dressed in 100 lbs. of combat gear. The gear included such things as a satellite radio, night vision goggles, batteries, ammunition, water, a Navy knife, a second radio, a pistol, a Leatherman, and IV kit, flares, an armored vest, money, credit cards, a urinal, and a Spanish dictionary. The jump was made from 500 feet with a static line parachute.

During the operation, gunfire erupted and some 400 people in the airport terminal were detained. Steve's target was the Air Traffic Control tower at the airport. After some difficulty resulting from unpoliced parachutes becoming entangled with helicopter blades, Steve and a fellow team member reached the tower, took over Air Traffic Control at the airport and stopped all air traffic at the airport. Steve noted that the regular on-duty controller did help them get started and then left the scene.

Thanks to Steve for this informative presentation.



**Photo of Operation Just Cause, provided by Steve Borbee**

**ESAM SUPPORTS INAUGURAL SCHENECTADY COUNTY  
RUN THE RUNWAY 5K**

ESAM is pleased to have participated in the Schenectady County Run the Runway 5K on Saturday, November 13th. The museum was there at the beginning and at the end of the race. At the beginning, the Start Line for the race was on the ramp close to the museum. At the end, participants and observers were able to purchase breakfast items, snacks and beverages inside ESAM’s “Montana” C-130. ESAM also had its flight simulator in action in the Hercules after the race. We’re already looking forward to participating again next year.

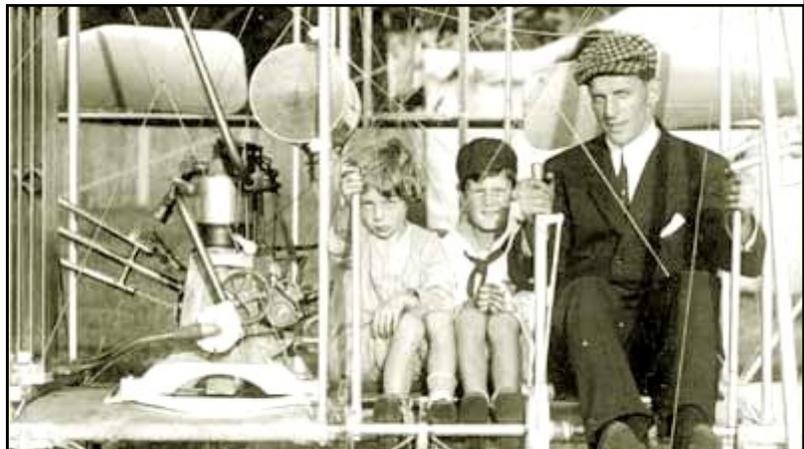


**5K participants and observers enjoy refreshments inside ESAM’s “Montana” C-130.**

**AN ESAM GEM: THE FRANK COFFYN COLLECTION**

What was it like to be a pioneer aviator? **Frank Coffyn** knew. He was one of the Wright Brothers Exhibition Team pilots in 1910.

The Frank Coffyn Collection at the Empire State Aerosciences Museum tells the real life story of Frank Coffyn and others who helped introduce the airplane to America. Once an abandoned scrapbook, the collection is now available to the public at <https://centennialofflight.net/coffyn/index.html>. Learn about the project, explore the collection, and see Coffyn's flying machine come back to life via a cooperation between ESAM and the **Centennial of Flight Commission**.



**Frank Coffyn (right) with two children on a Wright Brothers aircraft**

## LETTERS AND EMAILS LIKE THESE WE LIKE TO RECEIVE

Mr. Kevin,  
Thank you for a  
great birthday party.  
We had so much fun,  
we learned a lot  
from you. The Air  
Museum is the best.



My favorite part  
was the C-130,

Thank you,  
Liam McDonald



Editor's Note: The above letter came with another thank you letter from Liam's parents. In their letter they thanked both **Kevin Millington** and **Peter Bergendahl**.

## OUR VOLUNTEERS

### ESAM PARTICIPATES IN TOWN OF GLENVILLE OKTOBERFEST

ESAM continued its participation in the Town of Glenville Oktoberfest by bringing one of its parade planes for people to sit in. Thanks to **Gary Davis, Brent Coon, Fonz DiBlasio, Cheryl Cummings** and Gary's son **Ryan** for representing ESAM.



### T-2C BUCKEYE IS NEWLY PAINTED

ESAM's T-2C Buckeye, on loan from the US Navy, was repainted over the summer. It looks great in its bright orange and white Navy Training Command colors!

The T-2C was an intermediate jet trainer for Navy and Marine Corps pilots, and flight officers. It entered service in 1959 and was retired in 2008. The C model was the final production model for the US Navy, and used two General Electric J85 engines. ESAM received its T-2C in 2003. Thanks to **Andy Chang, Fonz DiBlasio, Reuben Ginsburg** and **Rich Bievenue** for completing this painting project.



### PHYSICAL PLANT IMPROVEMENTS CONTINUE AT ESAM

Under the leadership of **ESAM President Dan Wilson** and **ESAM Chief Operating Officer Joyce Newkirk**, physical plant improvements continue to take place at the museum. Recent activity includes:

- Stabilizing and repairing the north wall of the Main Hangar
- Removing damaged windows from the north wall of the main hangar and the entryway to the Gift Shop
- Starting renovation of the Women’s bathroom on the second floor of the Main Hangar
- Patching the surface of the parking area
- Touching up the paint on the Concorde
- Installing new LED lighting for the Concorde (see page 16)
- Improving security throughout the museum

Planned upgrades include replacing plumbing in building 1 and roof repairs to Buildings 1 and 8.



**North Wall**



**Women’s Bathroom**



**Window Replacement**



**Painting and Lighting**



**Parking Lot Patching**

## AVIATION POSER

In the Fall issue of Aeronotes, we asked for input on why the command pilot sits in the right seat in a helicopter while he or she sits in the left seat of a fixed-wing aircraft. Absent any responses, we consulted the Internet which provided the following opinion from **Roger Connor**, Curator of Vertical Flight in the aeronautics division of National Air and Space Museum.

“The pilot in command often does sit on the right on a helicopter, but by no means is it all of the time,” Connor writes. “The reason is mostly historical, though there can be some operational advantage. Since most helicopters are more inherently unstable than most airplanes, a helicopter pilot rarely likes to let go of the cyclic stick with his or her right hand, even with trim, and particularly in hover operations where near-continuous control inputs are required. [The cyclic controls the helicopter’s attitude and direction of movement, almost like a combined elevator and aileron for an airplane.]

In steady flight, the left hand that normally moves the collective lever [which changes all the blades’ pitch angles simultaneously] is sometimes free to push buttons or twiddle instrument knobs that are usually on a center console in a cabin with a side-by-side crew arrangement. Rotor brakes and clutches are also usually centrally located for the same reason.

The cyclic is usually positioned between the pilot’s knees, so it can’t be shared. A left-handed pilot in the right side seat, presumably, would have to get used to using the right hand for it in much the same way that a lefty copes with a stick shift in a manual-drive car. Most helicopters with side-by-side seating have always had two cyclics.”

Connor goes on to explain that when Igor Sikorsky built the world’s first mass-produced helicopter, the R-4 (“and no, Flettner Fl 282 prototypes were not in mass production beforehand,” he adds), weight was a serious issue. “The R-4 was intended as a trainer, but was so underpowered that Sikorsky was looking for any potential savings, so Igor and his engineers decided to let the instructor and student share a single collective. The only place to put it then was in the middle between the two seats. Given the coordination and strength required to manipulate an R-4 cyclic for any length of time, the student always flew from the right. Thus, the first generation of U.S. Army Air Forces, Coast Guard, and Navy pilots, along with those from Britain and its Commonwealth who learned on the R-4, and its follow-on, the R-6 (also with a single collective), flew exclusively from the right.”

That all changed in 1946 with the arrival of Bell’s Model 47, the first civilian-certified helicopter, which featured dual collectives. From then on, dual collectives became standard for side-by-side seating, and a helicopter pilot could fly from either the left or right seat.”

## OUR VOLUNTEERS

### ROBERT NEWKIRK, IN MEMORIAM

The Empire State Aerosciences Museum is saddened to report the passing of long-time ESAM volunteer and supporter **Robert Newkirk**. Bob served in the US Army from 1959 to 1965. He worked for the NYS Department of Corrections as the Support Services coordinator, retiring in 2002. He served as a Volunteer Fireman, USA Swimming Official and an International Luge Official at the 1980 Olympics. He was a constant presence around ESAM for years. He volunteered at essentially all special events, normally leading the security aspects of the events. He took on the unenviable position of cleaning and maintaining the museum. And he did all of this not only competently but also with a friendly and positive approach. His museum family will very much miss him. Bob’s wife Joyce serves as ESAM’s Chief Operating Officer and Treasurer.

Memorial donations may be sent to ESAM, 250 Rudy Chase Drive, Glenville, NY 12302.

### ESAM HOSTS VISIT FROM BRITISH AIRWAYS EXECUTIVES

ESAM was honored and pleased to give four executives who were key leaders in placing the Concorde in Times Square, New York City another chance to see their “model”.

**ESAM President Dan Wilson** also toured them around the museum, including a cockpit visit to the “Montana” C-130.



(Above, from left to right) Woody Hartford, former British Airways VP of Business Marketing, US; David Charlton, former British Airways VP of Marketing, US; Dale Moss, former British Airways Executive VP Sales and Marketing, US; and Tom Goodman, President and CEO Goodman Media International pose in front of the Concorde during their visit to ESAM.

(Left) A thumbs up from the cockpit of ESAM’s C-130 Hercules.

## OUR VOLUNTEERS

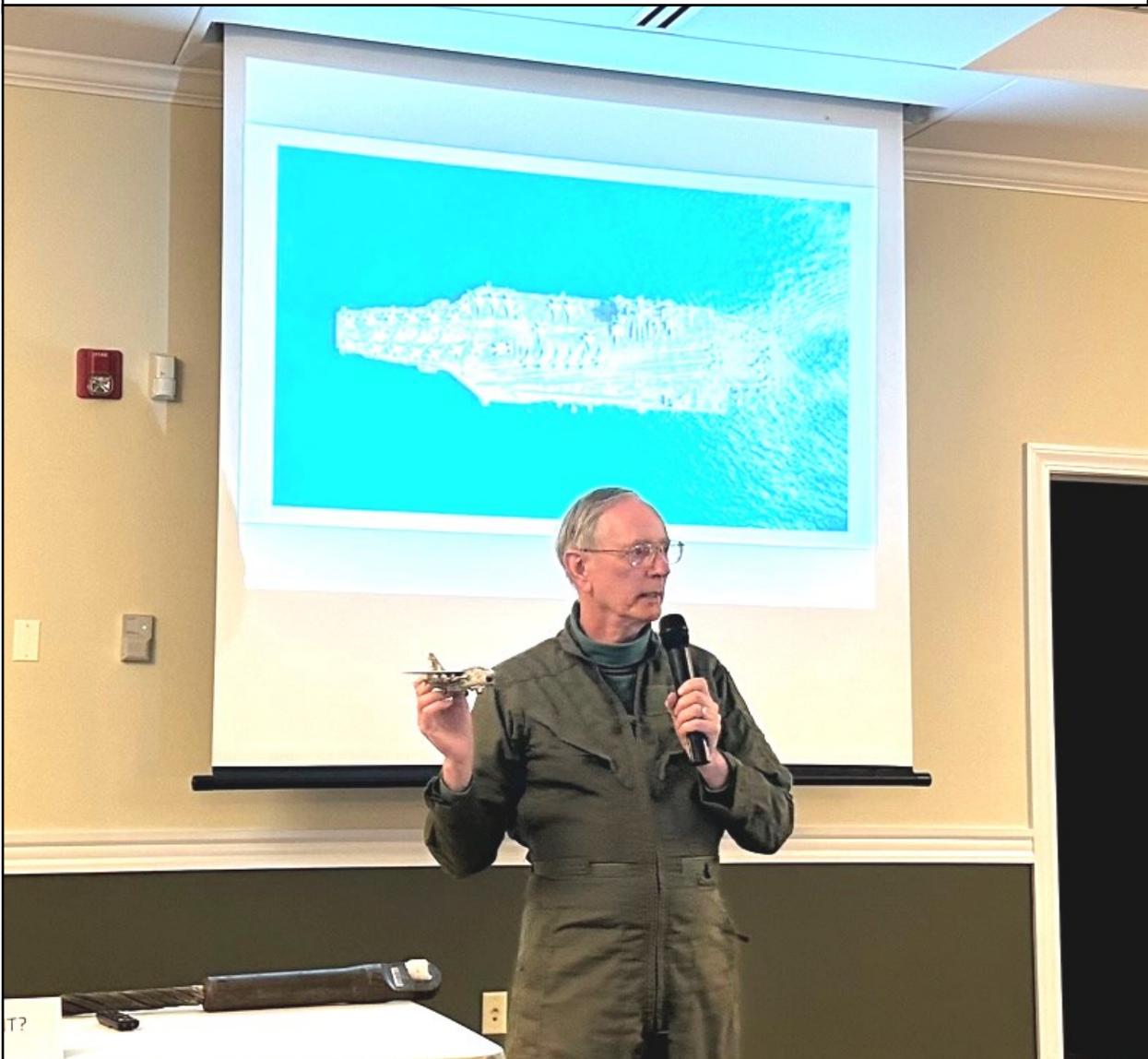
### DAVID ROE ELECTED TO THE ESAM BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Empire State Aerosciences Museum is pleased to announce the election of **David Roe** to the ESAM Board of Trustees. The election took place at ESAM's Annual Meeting on October 19th.

Dave has been an Aerospace Engineering and Digital Electronics teacher at Shenendehowa High School since 2009. Between 1986 and 2008, he was a Avionics Specialist for the US Air Force, working on F-111 and C-130 aircraft. He has worked on projects for Lockheed Martin, Raytheon, Malta Test Site, and Global Foundries.

He has Masters degrees in MAT (teaching) and MSITM (MBA not programming), and was a Adjunct Instructor at both Nyack College and Hudson Valley Community College.

Congratulations, Dave!



Larry McArthur presented an informative talk about Landing a Jet on an Aircraft Carrier at ESAM's Annual Meeting. He will give it again at a Fly-in Breakfast in the Spring.

## OUR VOLUNTEERS

### ESAM AGAIN PARTICIPATES IN THE FESTIVAL OF TREES

ESAM is again participating in the Schenectady County Historical Society Festival of Trees. Thanks go to (pictured from left to right) **Yvonne and Dan DeBellis, Joe Nicolella, Ronnie Quinn, and Larry and Dorie McArthur** for decorating the tree. Special thanks also to **Hewitt's Garden Center in Glenville** for donating the tree.



## OUR SUPPORTERS

**ESAM THANKS THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE AND ORGANIZATIONS  
WHO HAVE ESTABLISHED OR RENEWED THEIR MUSEUM MEMBERSHIPS**

	<b>Business Patron</b>	
	All Seasons Equipment	
	<b>Friends of ESAM</b>	
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	<b>Galaxy Club</b>	
	Mr. James Liguori	
	<b>VIP Sustaining</b>	
Jessica Berman, MD	Mr. Steve Borbee	Mr. James Conlon
Mr. Nicholas D. Filippone		
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Ms. Linda Cioffi	Richard & Bernice Ruzzo	
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	Mr. Matthew Mendleson	
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East Greenbush Community Li- brary	North Greenbush Community Library	Town of Ballston Community Li- brary
Voorheesville Public Library		
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Mr. John Kolwaite	Mr. Michael Maddelone	Mr. Joseph Nicolella
Mr. Ronald Provost	Mr. Neil Quantock	Ms. Ruth Robin
Mr. David Roe, Jr.	Mr. Ronald Schimpf	Mr. Charles Shields
Ms. Linda Sweet	Mr. Duane Van Patten	Mr. Martin Waite
Mr. James Wallace	Mr. James Wilson	Mr. Anthony Zuelsdorf

# OUR SUPPORTERS

## RECENT ACQUISITIONS

- **Star Gaworecki** donated a New York Times Monday, July 21, 1969 “Men Walk on the Moon” newspaper (see below), and a NASA Apollo 11 Mission Film Reel container.
- **Joseph Snapp** donated a photo of the Voyager aircraft with an inset photo of Jeana Yeager and Dick Rutan, signed by Jeana Yeager, Dick Rutan and Burt Rutan.
- **Deven Draper** donated an F-35A wood desktop model
- **Marc Osselmann** donated two Fei Xiong Cessna two channel ready-to-fly radio controlled models, an ESTES Space Shuttle model rocket and two crystal radios.
- **Ron Ankabrandt** donated four mugs
- **Ralph McBride** donated a Vietnam conflict map, two CH-53 photographs, one UH-1 photograph, and a facsimile of a Vietnam Era Ace of Spades Death Card.



## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

The Empire State Aerosciences Museum thanks the following organizations and individuals for their recent support of the museum:

- Boys & Girls Club**
- Boy Scouts of America - Eagle Scout Project**
- Kathryn Lennon Matthews & Chester (Bud) Matthews**
- Joseph Palko**

The Empire State  
Aerosciences Museum is  
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David Montana  
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Mr. & Mrs. Marvin Weiss  
Mr. & Mrs. Maurice York

**Galaxy Club Members**

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John Hackert  
James LaDolce  
James Liguori  
John Panoski  
Maureen Sauter  
Howard Schlossberg &  
Michelle Ostrelch  
The Family of Jansz Vander  
Veer\*

\*ESAM Charter Member

**RENOVATION OF THE 109TH AIR WING  
EXHIBIT IS PROGRESSING**



Exhibit Chairman John Kolwaite reports that the 109<sup>th</sup> Airwing exhibit is progressing with some new additions.

A video about the 109<sup>th</sup> is now playing on a 50 inch monitor on the wall next to the LC-130 cockpit.

A Nansen sled that was designed in the 1880's and was used up until recently in Greenland is on display.

An ice formation mockup with researchers and an ice core drill bit has been added.

A front LC-130 ski is also on display along with a pair of JATO bottles and signage.

And, the Whirligig has 4 new engines.

**Ice core drillers loom above the whirligig in ESAM's developing 109th Air Lift Wing exhibit.**

**FLY-IN BREAKFAST PRESENTATIONS CONTINUE**

Thanks to **Second Vice President Mike Collins**, interesting and informative presentations continue to take place at ESAM's monthly Fly-in Breakfasts.

The next breakfast will be January 21st. The speaker will be **Allan Mad-daus** who will speak about his book **Wright Peak Elegy: A Story of Cold War, Nuclear Deterrence, and Ultimate Sacrifice**. The book chronicles the story of a U.S. Strategic Air Command B-47 Stratojet flying at 400 miles an hour during a practice bombing run in wind-driven snow and freezing rain that crashed into Wright Peak in the Adirondack Mountains.

Upcoming presenters include **Larry McArthur** who will reprise the Landing a Jet on an Aircraft Carrier presentation that he gave at ESAM's Annual Dinner Meeting.

**NEW LED LIGHTING FOR THE CONCORDE**

As of December 3rd, ESAM's Concorde has new LED lighting. The color of the lighting can be selected. For those people receiving Aeronotes electronically, you can see in the photos on this page and page 2 of the newsletter, the Concorde lit in Christmas red and green.



**ESAM Membership Application**

Please check one: NEW MEMBERSHIP  RENEWAL

**ANNUAL DUES:**

**INDIVIDUAL/FAMILY**

- Senior Citizen \$35
- Student \$35
- Individual \$45
- Family \$60

**VIP:**

- Contributing \$80
- Supporting \$135
- Sustaining \$285
- Galaxy Club \$500
- Friend of ESAM \$1,000

**BUSINESS**

- Supporter \$285
- Patron \$500
- Benefactor \$1,000
- Not for Profit/School/Library \$60
- Small Business \$100

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**Work** ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail address** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Mail to ESAM, 250 Rudy Chase Drive,  
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If your company offers a matching gift program, please contact them with the amount of your gift.

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## HAPPENINGS AT ESAM

### MUSEUM HOURS

Winter Hours: Friday through Sunday 10 AM to 4 PM

**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

**Jansz Vander Veer Research Center/Library Hours** – Friday 9 AM to 12 noon & Saturday 10 AM to 12 noon

**January 16, Monday - Board of Trustees Meeting:** 7 PM. ESAM Community Room

**January 21, Saturday - Pancake Breakfast:** 8:30-10:30 AM. All you can eat: \$10 for ages 15 and older, \$8 for children 6-14, free for children under 6. Menu varies with pancakes or French toast, sausage, eggs, applesauce, juice and coffee/tea. The public is invited to attend.

**Pilots:** Tower Frequency 121.30; Ground 121.90. Land at Schenectady County Airport and taxi to Richmor Aviation North.

Browse the Museum beginning at 10 AM. Museum Admission: \$8 per adult; \$6 per senior and military; \$5 age 6-16; under 6 free when accompanied by an adult.

**January 21, Saturday - Speaker:** 10 AM. **Alan Maddaus**, author of **Wright Peak Elegy: A Story of Cold War, Nuclear Deterrence, and Ultimate Sacrifice**

**January 28, Saturday - Aviation Adventures for Kids:** 1-3 PM

**February 18, Saturday - Pancake Breakfast:** 8:30-10:30 AM. All you can eat: \$10 for ages 15 and older, \$8 for children 6-14, free for children under 6. Menu varies with pancakes or French toast, sausage, eggs, applesauce, juice and coffee/tea. The public is invited to attend.

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**February 18, Saturday - Speaker:** 10 AM. TBA

**February 20, Monday - Board of Trustees Meeting:** 7 PM. ESAM Community Room

**February 25, Saturday - Aviation Adventures for Kids:** 1-3 PM

**March 18, Saturday - Pancake Breakfast:** 8:30-10:30 AM. All you can eat: \$10 for ages 15 and older, \$8 for children 6-14, free for children under 6. Menu varies with pancakes or French toast, sausage, eggs, applesauce, juice and coffee/tea. The public is invited to attend.

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**March 20, Monday - Board of Trustees Meeting:** 7 PM. ESAM Community Room