

Atterbury-Bakalar Air Museum, Inc.

The Wing Script

Atterbury Army Air Base - Bakalar Air Force Base - Columbus, Indiana

Museum Membership Newsletter **February 2020** is published by the Museum Volunteers.
The publication name, "The Wing Script" is taken from the former air base newspaper

Museum Expansion



The canopy joining the new workshop to the main museum building was completed in June.



A Wright R-3350 cut-a-way engine was acquired in Sept. 2018



The engine was cleaned and restored last winter. It was placed on display when the museum reopened in March 2019.

President Nick Firestone Remarks

Last year was another busy year for the museum. We welcomed over 4,000 visitors and hosted 30 groups for scheduled museum tours. This publication contains a pictorial review of events and projects our members were involved in during 2019, and here is a list of just a few of them:

- We started a funding campaign and purchased a C-119 "Flying Boxcar" in Wyoming. The plane is currently being disassembled in preparation for its trip to Columbus for restoration and display across the street from the museum.
- We added an operating cutaway Wright R-3350 radial aircraft engine display.
- We began work on a flight simulator to be displayed later this year.
- On June 6th, we participated in the 50th anniversary reunion of the return of the 71st SOS from Vietnam.
- In July, we had a cookout on our patio for friends of the museum.
- In September, we had over 800 guests on the airport's Birds & Brews Day.

The museum will reopen for the 2020 season on Tuesday, March 3 and we hope you will pay us a visit.

- Nick -

The Atterbury-Bakalar Air Museum complex consists of the museum and William "Bruce" Dalton Media Center, the Jeanne Lewellen Norbeck Memorial Chapel and the Historical Markers on Bakalar Green. Bakalar Green is the preserved green area between the F-4 Phantom Jet static display and the airport rotating beacon.

Special Events

The museum is a community resource that hosts a variety of activities.



The South Central Association of Health Underwriters uses the museum every year for a luncheon followed by a continuing education class.



The Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) Chapter 729 uses the media center for meetings and guest speakers.



The museum is a great location for a birthday party for that child who loves airplanes.

71st Special Operations Squadron

The veterans of the 71st SOS meet at the museum at least once a year for a reunion. In June of last year, they celebrated the 50th Anniversary of their return to Columbus from Vietnam.



The reunion activities started with a luncheon at the airport terminal building.



The veterans and their families then moved to the museum for additional ceremonies and to tour the museum.



The veterans of the 71st Special Operations Squadron.



Off-Site Activities

The museum volunteers participate in a variety of special events around town. This is a good way to meet people who aren't aware that there is a museum at the airport.



The "Steps Through Time" event at the county library.



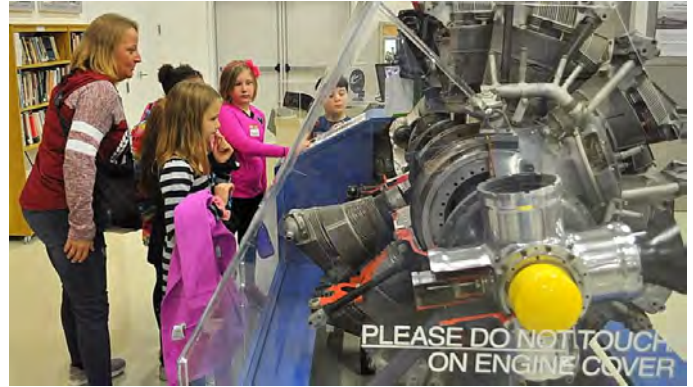
The Camp Atterbury "Community Day" in September.



The Saturday morning Columbus Farmers Market is a good place to meet and chat with potential visitors.

Our Visitors

Most of the visitors to the museum arrive as individual, families, or small groups of friends. Schools, churches, travel clubs, and other organizations will call the museum and arrange for a group tour.



Both public schools and home school groups use the museum as a way to teach history to their students.



This group is from the Four Seasons Retirement Center.



May (Whittington) Glasson worked at Noblitt Sparks Inc. during World War 2. She inspected the bomb casings before they were packed for shipment.

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Charlie 119 Project - 2019



A C-119 that was available for sale was found in Greybull, WY. The museum purchased the airplane in May.



In September Skip and Pat drove out to Greybull, WY to work out details on how the contractor will disassemble the aircraft. They brought back a trailer load of loose parts from the aircraft.



In November the airplane was towed into a hanger and the contractor began the disassembly work. The parts needed to be small enough to allow their shipment to Columbus via truck.

Charlie 119 Project – 2020 Goals



As of February, the only disassembly work left to be done is to separate the wing box from the fuselage.

In March/April two standard semi-trucks will bring the smaller parts to Columbus.

In May an additional two trucks will bring the fuselage and wing box to Columbus as “oversize” loads. This will require special routes, permits, and police escorts.



The C-119 parts will be cleaned, repaired, and then re-assembled at the permanent display location in front of the museum.



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