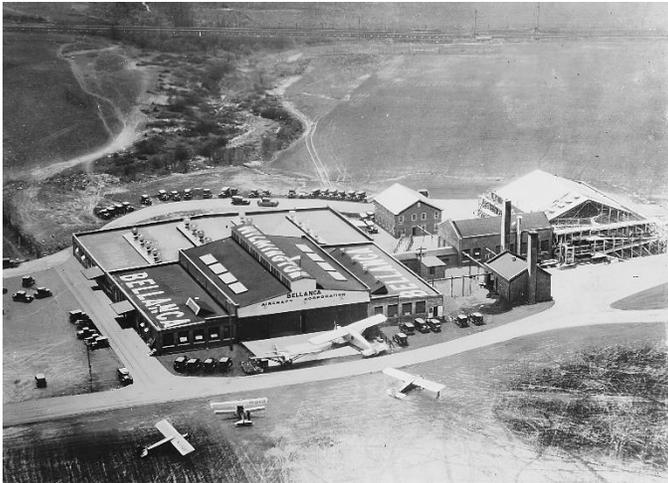


FRIENDS OF BELLANCA AIRFIELD

2016 HANGAR HIGHLIGHTS

OUR MISSION: To preserve one of America's treasures, an aircraft hangar that was built in the 1930s that was typical of the Golden Age of Aviation, and today is one of the last of its type still existing in the U.S. displaying the classic arched roof structure. We will tell the history of the early days of



Delaware aviation with an emphasis on the nearby Bellanca Aircraft Factory as well as the story of the individuals who made great contributions to Delaware Aviation History.

VISION: To display memorabilia that tells the story of Bellanca/Wilmington Airfield from the 1920s to 1950s with emphasis on the people involved, and the types of airplanes they flew. This aviation museum will include models of airplanes, photographic displays, classic restored airplanes, and assorted memorabilia. The Museum will have a small lecture and media room and a research library, as well as a larger lecture area. We will have hands-on activities such as an aircraft flight simulator to enhance the learning experience. We will tell the story of Air Service, Inc. which



operated this facility as a FBO (Fixed Base Operator). This will include many of the people who owned and flew the private planes based at Air Service, Inc. The Museum in the Air Service Hangar will be open to the public at no cost, according to our published schedule. Group tours for children or adults, can be arranged, with a Docent to speak to them. All lectures are open to the public. During the winter months, when the hangar is closed, a lecture series on aviation topics will be presented at the New Castle Public Library, schools and other locations. With the help of our volunteers and contributions from generous friends and supporters we can continue to carry out our mission and achieve our vision.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

You too can be a volunteer, no experience is needed and all ages are welcome. All that is required is an interest in Aviation History. Volunteers are needed to help restore our historic airplanes, greet visitors, catalog our donated artifacts, prepare exhibits and perform basic maintenance in the hangar. For further information on volunteering call Elliott Smith at 302-999-8623 or visit the Bellanca Museum.

YOUTH GROUPS;

Cadets of the Civil Air Patrol visited the museum and held a general meeting and presentation of awards. We were pleased to host these aviation enthusiasts and look forward to their visits in the future as well as visits from other youthful aviation organizations.



We were also delighted to have the fifth grade students from the Tall Oaks School spend a community service day at the hangar. They were very helpful in preparing the Museum for opening day and in return we gave them a history lesson on early aviation in Delaware, flight time on our simulator and a guided tour of the hangar.



TUSKEGEE AIRMAN DISPLAY.



Mr. Fred T. Johnson - decided in 1943 that he wanted to defend his country and joined the Army Air Corps. After training at Tuskegee he was awarded his navigator wings and, as a second lieutenant he flew in B-25 bombers as a member of the 617th Bombardment Squadron. He was honored this year by induction into the Delaware Aviation Hall of Fame. He was Delaware's

first and only Tuskegee Airman Navigator.

Ms. Wanda Washington, a retired school teacher and new member of the Bellanca Airfield Museum, proposed that a display honoring all of the Tuskegee airmen be installed in the Museum and volunteered to gather information and artifacts and prepare the exhibit. The project is currently a work in progress and will be completed in time for our opening next spring.



CAR CRUISE

Three Car Cruise events were scheduled to be held this year in our parking lot in partnership with the First State Mustang and Ford Club.



Unfortunately the weather did not fully cooperate. Rain cancelled one event and limited attendance at another. We intend to have similar events in 2017.

Visitors not only can enjoy the classic and sporty cars, but can learn a lot about Delaware aviation in our Museum.

MODEL TRAINS

We continued to host the Delaware Large Scalars. Our visitors and especially the youngsters and parents are delighted with the model trains and track-side displays.

MUSEUM GIFTSHOP

Sweatshirts and Tees with our new Hangar Museum logo on the front can now be purchased in the Bellanca gift shop.



Most sizes are available from small to XXlarge. The T-shirt price is \$15 and the sweats sell for \$25. Either one would make a great gift for any aviation buff. The shirts can also be purchased by mail. Please call Elliott Smith at 302-999-8623 for

details. Peaked Caps with a Bellanca logo are also available for \$15. When you visit the Bellanca Museum also check out the new and used books as well as some discounted items for sale.

Jan Churchill a founding member of the Bellanca Airfield Museum and also our Treasurer is the author of many aviation related books including those listed below which are available in the gift shop:

From Delaware to Everywhere
First South Pole Landing
Pioneer Women Military Pilots

Her books are also available by mail at www.janchurchill.com

BELLANCA HISTORY

In 2017 we will be celebrating the 90th anniversary of Lindbergh's solo trans-Atlantic flight to Paris. Of equal importance, (at least to the Friends of Bellanca), it is also the 90th anniversary of Clarence Chamberlain's flight to Berlin two weeks later with the first trans-Atlantic passenger Charles Levine. The remarkable plane making this flight was the Bellanca designed WB2 "Columbia". Unlike Lindbergh's



Ryan built "Spirit of St. Louis" which was custom designed for the Paris flight, the Columbia was built as a general purpose 6 place aircraft.

Lindbergh's plane had many design compromises to extend its range. It lacked forward vision thru a windscreen, had room for only one person and was aerodynamically unstable making it unsuitable for general aviation. The Spirit of St. Louis made only one flight across the Atlantic. The Columbia made three and had already set records for speed, altitude and endurance before its first Atlantic crossing. No wonder Lindbergh wanted to buy it. Regrettably our Nation lost an important relic of early aviation when the Columbia was destroyed in a fire at Bellanca Airfield shortly before its intended delivery to the Smithsonian.

FRIENDS OF BELLANCA AIRFIELD

P.O. Box 267 New Castle DE 19720

For information call (302)325-1805 or (302)999-8623

www.friendsofbellanca.org

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