

FRIENDS OF BELLANCA AIRFIELD

2019 HANGAR HIGHLIGHTS

OFFICIAL STATE AIRPLANE

A really exciting day was July 30, 2019, when Governor John Carney signed into law a Bill designating the Bellanca Cruisair as the Official State Airplane of Delaware. The bill that promoted this was sponsored by State Senator Stephanie Hanson, with House Representative Ed Osienski in support. This was definitely a milestone recognition of the Bellanca Aviation Company. If you haven't visited our Museum



in a while, please drop by and see our Cruisair. She was built here in New Castle at the Bellanca factory in 1948, and after a

long and successful flying career was donated to the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum. A few years ago, the Smithsonian donated the plane to our Museum. So, she is back in New Castle where she was manufactured.

The idea for honoring Delaware's role in aviation was first proposed by Kimberly Shropshire of Delaware Aviation Support, Inc and Henry "Chick" Chinski Chairman of the Delaware Aviation Advisory Council.

U.S. POSTAGE CANCELLATION STAMP

On October 12, 2019, in conjunction with the U.S. Postal Service, we held a commemoration of the Official State Historic Airplane designation at the Bellanca Airfield Museum with an official one-time, availability of a U.S. Postal Service Pictorial



Postmark Stamp Cancellation featuring the Bellanca Cruisair. Requests for a Cancellation envelope came from as far away as Madrid, Spain!

CAR SHOWS

2019 was a really great year for us. We hosted three Car Events: The Annual Delaware Street Rods Car Show, the British Car Club, and the Delaware Chapter of the Antique Truck Club. These



clubs have also confirmed return dates at the Museum. The Delaware Street Rods are always the Sunday after the 4th of July. Please check our web site for the dates for the British car Club and the Delaware Chapter of the Antique Truck Club.



Also visiting us this year in September was the Harrisburg Bicycle Club. They stopped by to visit the Museum while on a mega-tour of the area. Pedaling from Newark to Rehoboth Beach.

EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT

Right on the cusp of closing for the season because, as you all know, we have no heat or AC, we received a call from the father of an Eagle Scout Candidate who needed a Community Service Project to complete his requirements. A date was set for him and his mother to tour the Museum and see what we have and to decide whether we could, in fact, both benefit from his help. At that time, he was given a list of



several items to choose from. The following, and last, day we were open for 2019, was the beginning of a truly wonderful relationship with Troop 528, and the Bleacher family: Paul, Sr., Paul, Jr., the Eagle candidate, his mother, Ann, and sister Elizabeth. On this last day, both Paul Jr and his father arrived with Paul, Jr.'s advisor and toured the Museum with Paul Jr. acting as the guide. After they had visited for a while, I asked Paul if he had decided what on the list he might be interested in doing, and was totally surprised when he said all of it. This would involve finishing painting several places in Bellanca Blue, reorganizing the Library to make it user friendly, and developing a large world map on which Bellanca planes could be placed to show "Where in the World" they flew or are flying. All of this needed to be done in November before temperatures shut us down, and before Paul reached his 18th birthday. When I asked if he was sure,



because this was a *lot* of work, all three said yes, and they would bring "people". And so they did. And as they left on the last and final day, they promised a Springtime return to do more.

ELINOR SMITH

Another first for the First State was Bellanca hiring Elinor Smith to be his Company's first women test pilot. In 1928 she had become at 16 the youngest pilot to receive a license from the Federal Aviation Administration. The license was signed by Orville Wright.

In 1930 Elinor would be voted the best female pilot and was the first women to appear on a



Wheaties cereal box. Elinor set many records flying Bellanca airplanes. While still a teen she set a women's altitude record as well as endurance and speed records.

BELLANCA AIRFIELD MUSEUM

Open Every 2nd & 4th Saturday
 April thru October from 11-3pm
 Rte 273 & Centerville Blvd
 New Castle, Delaware

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 \$20. 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 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

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