

FRIENDS OF BELLANCA AIRFIELD

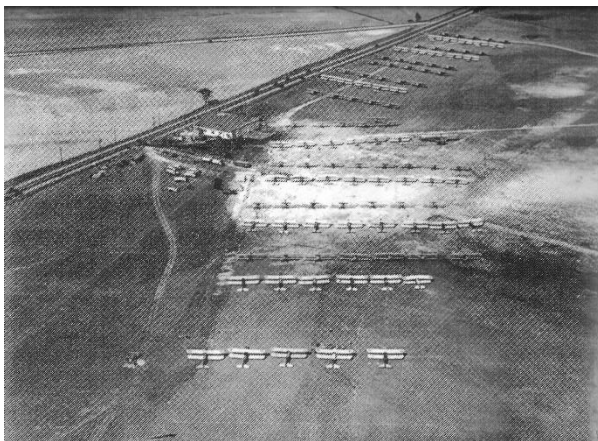
2018 HANGAR HIGHLIGHTS

90th ANNIVERSARY OF BELLANCA AIRFIELD 1928 – 2018

Ninety years ago on October 6, 1928, 30,000 people gathered in New Castle to witness the opening of Bellanca Airfield with



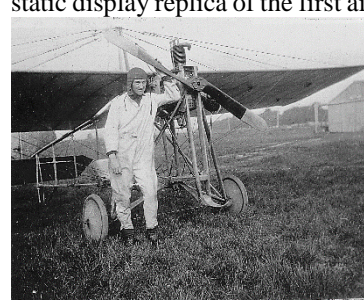
its nearby factory and Air Service Hangar. The day was the culmination of efforts by Henry B. DuPont to have Giuseppe Mario Bellanca, the leading aircraft designer of the day, move to New Castle to establish a modern airfield, factory and service hangar. DuPont, along with other family members, and with the help of Mayor Charles Klingmeyer of New Castle and others, arranged to purchase the Spring Garden Farm that stretched from the New Castle-Frenchtown Turnpike (route 273) to the Delaware River. Everything was ready by the fall of 1928 to open the largest and most modern airfield east of the Mississippi. Twenty Army, Navy, and Marine Corps airplanes flew over to start the day. Numerous races, mock



bomb attacks using flour sacks, civilian and military races, simulated aerial combat, parachute jumps, and rides were scheduled. Over a hundred airplanes were parked on the field. It was, as the press reported, "A Thrilly Day".

BELLANCA MONOPLANE DEDICATION

On April 21st The Bellanca Airfield Museum in collaboration with the Delaware Aviation Hall of Fame, unveiled a full-size, static display replica of the first airplane that Giuseppe Bellanca built in the United States in 1911 and the plane in which he taught himself to fly. Bruce Lambrecht, President of the Board of Trustees of the Delaware Aviation Hall of Fame and also a member of the Board of Directors of the Friends of Bellanca Airfield built



the replica in his garage.

As part of the project, the troop members of the Chesapeake Bay Girl Scout Council (serving the Delmarva Peninsula) assisted in creating the wing ribs. Their participation was arranged by Dr. Skye Schmidt, the S.T.E.M. coordinator for the Council along with Rachel Anderson of the 99s. While the girls worked on the ribs, they were provided with educational programs on the principals of flight as well as the importance and history of aviation in Delaware. Upon completion, the scouts signed the ribs and returned them for the wing build. Their names were also placed on a plaque next to the plane in the museum.



In order to further instill an interest in aviation, members of the local chapters of the Experimental Aircraft Association (Chapters 1536 and 240) have invited the scouts to attend one of the Young Eagles Days for a free first airplane flight as part of E.A.A.'s Young Eagles Program. It is felt that the Girl Scout involvement was an important step in getting more young women interested in aviation as a career or avocation. Among the distinguished guests at this event were Senator Tom Carper, Lt. Governor Bethany Love-Hall, New Castle Mayor Jimmy Gambacorta and several members of the Bellanca family who traveled from Italy to attend.

CAR SHOW

The Delaware Street Rods held their 45th annual Rod Run & Picnic at the Bellanca Museum on July 1st. Rods, Customs & Performance Vehicles 20 years old or older were showcased and competed for prizes. The weather cooperated and it was a fine show. Visitors and participants not only enjoyed the classic cars, food and music but also learned a lot about Delaware Aviation in our Museum. The Delaware Street Rods plan on returning next July for another show



KIDZ CORNER

A new addition to the Museum is the Kidz Corner. Young visitors will have the opportunity to acquaint themselves with aviation history in a playful and artistic way. Under the supervision of a docent they can create nose art (P.G. acceptable) based on Air Force Squadron patches. Their art can be placed on the nose of a Bellanca bomber mock-up and the child's picture taken while sitting in the cockpit. They will also be able to make and fly simple hand launched model airplanes and learn a little about what makes airplanes fly. This is still a work in progress and we need volunteers to supervise and work with the youngsters



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 Barbara at 302-325-1805 or visit the Bellanca Museum when it is open. Open hours are from 11am to 3pm the 2nd and 4th Saturday from April thru October.

MODEL TRAINS



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

OUR MISSION

To preserve one of America's treasures, an aircraft hangar that was built in the 1930s and was typical of the Golden Age of Aviation. Today it 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.



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

FRIENDS OF BELLANCA AIRFIELD

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www.friendsofbellanca.org

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