



# THE EAGLE

The Official Newsletter of The Wings of Eagles Discovery Center

For more information visit [www.wingsofeagles.com](http://www.wingsofeagles.com)

## In This Issue:

From the Curator .....	Page 2	Director of Development .....	Page 4	MiG-17 Flight .....	Page 5
Volunteers Needed.....	Page 2	Members News .....	Page 4	Elmira Soaring School Sign.....	Page 5
WEDC Science Academy.....	Page 3	Chat Group Formed .....	Page 4	Operations News .....	Page 6
Flight Programs News .....	Page 4	Restorations News.....	Page 5	Word Search .....	Page 7

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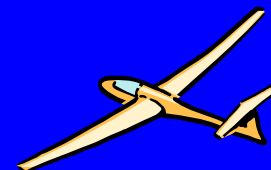
## Organizational Growth

In the April Issue I wrote about our strategic planning initiative. Plain and simple, our business recovery has reached a point where we need some written documents to guide our path forward. That's good news and our future is looking brighter!

A key element of our education programs will be a Challenger Learning Center. During the May meeting of the Board of Trustees, we hosted retired astronaut and Challenger Foundation President, Bill Readdy. A colleague of Eileen Collins, Bill flew three missions and later held senior management positions at NASA. His articulate presentation about the link between Challenger Learning Center programs and developing a workforce for high tech industry was right on point for our situation. Following that meeting, I visited the Rochester Challenger Center and watched a teacher and her students go through a space exercise. What a superb experience for both the 5th graders and for me.

We are currently completing the detailed application and supporting business plan that will result in the establishment of a Challenger Learning Center at WEDC. In a uniquely cooperative arrangement, our development effort is supported by Rochester, one of the longest serving Challenger Learning Centers. Their support has been a great resource and we look forward to many exciting possibilities for future cooperation – including joint missions to the Moon, Mars and beyond! You can learn more about our exciting opportunity at [www.challenger.org](http://www.challenger.org), [www.rmsc.org](http://www.rmsc.org) and [www.rochesterchallenger.org](http://www.rochesterchallenger.org). Please take some time to review the information on these sites and let us know what you think!

-Clyde Robbins, President



## Airfest 2008

July and August are the busiest months at WEDC! We kicked off the season with Airfest 2008 on June 28th. Once again we chose our date to coincide with the Pride Ride and Community Fireworks. Fifteen hundred (mostly) Harleys rolled from our parking lot at 10AM, beginning a tour of the Twin Tiers that ended at dusk with a pass down the main runway at Elmira Corning Regional Airport! Then we got to the real fireworks!

In between, WEDC hosted a community open house. This year our theme was broader than in the past, reflecting the diverse nature of the aviation industry. The American Red Cross and the Chemung County Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council stressed wellness. We need healthy and fit workers in our demanding industry! History was evident in static displays and exhibits from WEDC, The National Soaring Museum, and the Glenn Curtiss Museum. The Children's Miracle Network raffled a car and the Humane Society had pets for adoption.

Once again we showcased our education programs, including some favorite family

Continued on Page 3

Has your e-mail address changed or do you have an e-mail address we don't know about? See page 4 for more details.

## COME FLY WITH US!

Take a ride in one of our historic planes or come over to the Elmira Soaring School for a glider ride.

Call Karen Robbins today at 607-483-0350 to schedule a flight.



## From the Curator

Maintenance and New Exhibit projects abound. Fifteen improvement projects have been identified. Three new exhibits are thoroughly planned; “Women-in-Aviation – WWII”, “RB-47 Shootdown – Col F. Bruce Olmstead” and “WWII Prisoner of War – SSgt Herman Holland”. Please see the list of “Volunteers Needed” below. Commitments range from a few hours to a few weeks and to regular volunteer positions. A complete list of projects is available at the Curator’s desk.

We’re still looking for an experienced Librarian. As our affiliation with BOCES grows, we would like to open the library to the public. Currently it is pretty much members only. A new classification system is needed and a dedicated person to implement it.

If interested please use the contact information under “Volunteers Needed”.

**-Ed Flesch, Director of Collections and Artifacts**

## Volunteers Needed

Ed Flesch, Director of Collections and Artifacts, needs volunteers for the following positions:

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Talent &amp; Staff Hrs</u>	<u>Description</u>
“Women-in-Aviation – Pioneers”	Electrical Light carpentry 16-24 hrs	Replace light fixtures Decorate and install exhibit back
“Women-in-Aviation-WWII”	Carpentry 16-24 hrs	Replace light fixtures Drill holes for glass shelves Decorate
“Women-in-Aviation-WWII”	Administrative 16-24 hrs	Select material and artifacts prepare captions, redesign existing display case.
“Eileen Collins”	Electrical 4-8 hrs	Cut plywood to prepare new back for display case.
“Eileen Collins”	Light Carpentry 4-8 hrs	Cut plywood to prepare new back for display case.
“Vietnam Exhibit”	Administrative & Light Carpentry 8-16 hrs	Select picture frames for purchase, Prepare captions, mount picture and captions to display case.
Small Exhibits (2)	Administrative 16-24 hrs	Select material and artifacts, prepare captions, using an existing display case.
Space Program	Administrative 16-24 hrs	Select material and artifacts, prepare captions, redesign existing display case.
Sign Stands	Metalwork At least two people	Cut, bend, assemble heavy gauge aluminum and paint sign stands.
Accessions	Administrative Continuous/more than one person	Accession artifacts into inventory.

All materials will be furnished. All projects require some training during the week or on weekends by appointment. Volunteers must be capable of working independently or with minimum supervision after training.

Contact Ed Flesch at [curator@wingsofeagles.com](mailto:curator@wingsofeagles.com) AND [eflesch@stny.rr.com](mailto:eflesch@stny.rr.com) or 607-739-8200

## Airfest 2008 *(Cont'd from Front Page)*

science activities like rocket launches! It was also a day for Young Eagles rides, with EAA Chapter 533 and WEDC collaborating to introduce youth to the excitement and science of flight. Rides for hire were also available in both our historic flight and glider programs.

After a fun filled day of activities and events, Ed Knitter and the restoration crew hosted a volunteer "dish to pass" supper – featuring Ed's special barbecued chicken. And then our members attended a special guest presentation given by our long-time member George Lucas. George

spoke about his passion for building full-scale wooden aircraft models, two of which we have on display. Our members finished the evening with a first class vantage point from which to view the return of the bikes and fireworks!

I'd like to extend a special thank you to all of our staff and volunteers who made the day a success. I hope you were able to be there for all of the activities, if not I look forward to seeing you there next year!

**-Mike Hall, Executive Director**

## WINGS OF EAGLES DISCOVERY CENTER SCIENCE ACADEMY

The Wings of Eagles Science Academy is in full swing! Students from all three local middle schools, home schoolers and students from the Corning City School District started their experience on July 7<sup>th</sup>. This year's Science Academy featured guest speakers from the Department of Astro Physics at Cornell University. Many of these speakers were part of the Wings of Eagles Science Saturday series. Rick Kline returned to update students and teachers on the NASA Mars Rover program and shared new images of the Martian surface. Below is this year's class picture.



**Front L - R:** Bevan MacPike, Samuel Robbins, Alex Johnson, Gavin Derick, Morgan Sterling, Patrick May, Bridget Murphy, Kassie Putney

**Back L - R:** Tyler Taft, Shane Curren, Kyle Michaud, Greg Thomas, Derek Johnson, Precious Campbell, Heather Malloy, Serena Testone, Sean Bassler, Phillip Patterson, Luke Campbell

**Missing:** Ryan Mason and Nate Peterson

## Flight Programs News



Karen Robbins

The flight program is pleased to announce the appointment of Karen Robbins as Flight Programs Manager. Karen's duties include managing the business end of the soaring school, coordinating the entire flight program schedule and working to bring new business to both the soaring school and historic flight. We have already seen an increase in activity in spite of the high gas prices and look forward to a busy flying season. To schedule a flight, contact Karen at (607) 483-0350. Remember, as members you receive a 10% discount on published flight prices so come on out and go for a ride in our recently acquired Stinson L-5 Sentinel or any of our other WW2 era trainers. And don't forget glider rides; it's hard to beat the thrill of powerless flight.



Stinson L-5 Sentinel

-John Herrington, Director of Flight Operations

## New Director of Development Appointed



Pat Krauss

We are pleased to welcome Pat Krauss as the newest member of the Wings of Eagles team. With the pace of operations ramping up in anticipation of adding a Challenger Learning Center, Pat fills the new position of Director of Development. An experienced educator, counselor and manager, Pat will have primary responsibility for the complex process of bringing the Challenger Center up to speed. Her responsibilities include not only working with outside entities like the Challenger Foundation, but also helping WEDC grow internally to accommodate our new responsibilities. Pat is excited and motivated by the opportunity of being part of the team that builds and develops the WEDC into a world class operation and bringing the dream of the new Challenger Learning Center to life! Please introduce yourself and welcome Pat on board!

## Member News

Thank you to all of the members and volunteers who made Airfest 2008 a success. Without your support, events like this would not be possible. If you weren't able to attend the Member's Picnic, you missed a good time. I hope you will attend our next Member Dinner this fall.

Has your e-mail address changed or do you have an e-mail address we don't know about? Nearly 40% of our members have informed us of their e-mail addresses. By providing us with an e-mail address you receive the most up to date reminders on events happening at WEDC and keep your membership dues low by saving on postal costs. The easiest way to inform us of a new e-mail address is to send me a message at [membership@wingsofeagles.com](mailto:membership@wingsofeagles.com). Just remember to add [membership@wingsofeagles.com](mailto:membership@wingsofeagles.com) to your safe mail list so our messages don't end up in your junk mail filter!

-Stacey Brown, Director of Communications/Member Services

## Chat Group Formed

Long time member and dedicated volunteer Bob Prior has formed a Yahoo group to exchange information about aviation history and events of current interest. Exchanging stories, pictures and notes about airshows, displays and demonstrations is highly encouraged. The site enables e-mail communication between members who want to share their ideas, experiences and reminisce about "The Good Old Days!" There is no official connection to the Wings of Eagles Discovery Center.

If you are interested in joining, please go to the following website: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/WOEDC/> and click on the button that says "Join This Group!" If you don't already have one, you will need to sign up for a free Yahoo account.

## Restoration News

### Nuts and Bolts

Airfest arrived to the sound of old engines, as our Cubs spent the day carrying young passengers. The rest of the powered fleet flew as well, even our Pawnee towing some glider flights. At the end of the day a large group of volunteers repacked the hangar, set up for dinner, and listened to George Lucas tell us a little about all the replica aircraft he has built and the people they allowed him to meet. We ended the day with "Set the Night to Music" as we listened and watched the annual fireworks display for Independence day. You missed the Fireworks, but its not too late to come fly or soar with us.

-Ed Knitter, Director of Restoration and Maintenance

## WEDC Member Experiences 14 Year Dream

On July 23, 2008 at 5:15 pm, Jon Blanchette, a long-time member of the Wings of Eagles Discovery Center, realized his 14 year dream to restore a Mikoyan-Gurevi MiG-17 "Fresco" Polish Air Force Fighter to airworthy status. Approximately 20 family members and friends gathered around the restoration hangar to support Jon and his wife Beverly as pilot Randy Ball taxied down the runway to takeoff on this historic flight. The first flight lasted approximately 5 minutes. Several more successful test flights were performed that night and the following day. Congratulations to Jon again on the successful flight!



Restored MiG-17 shortly after takeoff



Jon Blanchette—Owner/Mechanic and Randy Ball—Pilot

## The Elmira Soaring School Has A New Sign

This summer the staff here at WEDC, especially our new Flight Programs Manager, Karen Robbins, have been working hard to get the Elmira Soaring School into shape. Karen has spent a large portion of her time managing the renovation of the former Schweizer Soaring School's cabin in order to make it more welcoming to anyone interested in taking a glider flight.

The outside of the cabin now has a new look too, thanks to our member Glenn Engle. Glenn (seen to the right with sign) generously donated his time and materials to the Soaring School to make a new sign that will be displayed in front of the cabin. With Glenn's help, we are another step closer to making the Soaring School cabin feel like a place to call home.

Thanks again to Glenn, Karen, and everyone else who has worked to make the Elmira Soaring School into a great aviation destination!



Glenn Engle

## Operations and Administration News

Events are on going at WEDC. Starting the summer off we had Saint Mary our Mother 50th Class Reunion with 600 attendees, History Grant Seminar July 7th - July 11<sup>th</sup>, Weddings throughout the summer, Arnot Fest August 16th, Ferrari Club of America August 30th, and the list goes on and on. Keep checking our website <http://www.wingsofeagles.com/events.cfm> for new events happening at WEDC.

A special thank you goes to one of our Staff employees—Dana Slater. Dana does all the set ups/teardowns and clean up for all the events that happen at WEDC. I would also like to thank Kelvin Brown and the students from GST BOCES/Edison High School who also help with the upkeep of WEDC. Matthew Stanton a 2008 graduate from Horseheads High School will stop in and offer assistance with whatever needs to be done. Matthew started volunteering two years ago. He is now a volunteer Fireman and is working at Jubilee in Horseheads. Then we have Edwin Young who travels a distance to keep up with the grounds work, mowing the lawn and trimming. Edwin will come and spend a few days helping in any way. Our newest volunteers are Tom Rogan and Matthew Dittler. Stop and say hello to them while they are working in admissions, giving tours and helping out with the Simulators. Our docents at WEDC are authentic men and women who

have served in the military or have some form of connection to Aviation. Going on a tour with Bob Young, Mike Mikolas, Bill Harsell, Joe Molnar, Bob Woodhouse, Hap Cole, Rich Green, Bob Guzman, Candi Reed, Duane Haight or Jonathan Meigs is like going back into time with them. WEDC is starting to strike interest for the youth to become docents. Stop in on a Saturday and watch and listen to Llew Franks, one of our of youngest Docents, give a tour.

I have received many thank you's from our tourists for the wonderful experiences they have had taking a tour. Not to forget our wonderful admissions greeters Mary Ellen Bergman, Dot Foray, Marilyn and Joe Davis, Adele Leonard, Dottie Young, Lindsay Hoefflerle (Notre Dame Student), Jerry Hayek, Bobbie Staub, and Candi Reed. We also have several new faces at the front desk. Come by and say hello to Justin Mattison, Kassi Putney, and Tom Rogan.

Stop in and take a flight on the 727 Simulator. Craig Bergman and George Foray have dedicated many hours getting the simulator operable for Museum tourist groups and youth to enjoy...Thank you.

There is not a weekend that Dave Victor, Chuck Erle and his brother Rob Erle have not been here working on their projects: the A10 Warthog, the A7 and the Grumman OV-1C Mohawk.

The Restoration Hangar is really buzzing with dedicated volunteers and pilots like Dave and Lynda Ames, The Cole Family, Bob Prior, Lee and Clyde Robbins, Don Phillips, Duane Haight, Burt McConnell, Al Cromie, Dean Huff, Jim Doane, John Herrington, Shane Lese, Al Ryan, Reggie Myers, David Javarey, Darrell Tenny, Matt Perry, Bill Wolfe, Bob Baldwin, Tom Cassetta, Ron Gertsen, Debbie Giacomina, Chris Gabers, Jerry Staub, and Bud Miller. Last but not least, Ed Flesh our Director of Collections is always busy with the upkeep of artifacts and building new displays that have been donated to the museum. Thank you Ed...

Our Gift Shop has a boutique that carries casual smart attire for men and women as well as children. And we always carry Aviation memorabilia. On sale for \$14.99 is the Ghosts 2009 Calendar World War II "A Time Remembered". It is never too early to start your Holiday Shopping.

As always, it is because of Mike Hall, our Executive Director, and all the hard work and dedication he puts forth for the organization and the help of our WEDC team that we have a future. "Imagine the Possibilities"  
-Brenda L. Benza, Director of Operations and Administration



## Wings And Words – Word Search

i	r	l	o	7	p	3	i	n	p	a	0	a	e	f	i	e	m	e	e
i	e	p	u	o	c	b	u	c	b	4	j	r	e	p	i	p	t	e	i
m	y	4	n	o	5	a	l	t	i	n	1	b	g	f	d	s	d	h	r
o	o	n	a	t	t	1	g	n	o	d	c	p	p	e	f	4	s	s	n
t	r	e	4	i	n	a	m	s	n	j	3	t	6	t	e	x	a	n	f
n	t	i	i	t	l	o	b	r	e	d	n	u	h	t	a	0	1	a	e
a	s	t	i	n	s	o	n	l	5	s	e	n	t	i	n	e	l	b	y
h	e	t	l	u	e	m	t	c	r	e	2	n	e	b	2	a	o	p	b
p	d	l	n	4	e	r	b	a	a	1	l	o	f	p	h	d	h	2	i
b	1	h	r	a	o	o	m	g	3	c	o	t	t	b	x	r	o	h	n
4	d	r	s	n	m	r	3	l	i	m	s	1	l	m	a	n	i	2	h
f	t	e	h	l	s	r	e	i	e	d	9	c	i	n	d	i	s	f	e
l	b	e	e	e	s	2	a	d	a	c	e	g	b	p	b	p	e	l	l
l	s	b	f	i	s	i	v	e	o	u	1	o	m	3	f	c	h	l	i
e	a	c	n	t	o	t	e	r	t	7	e	j	p	3	a	a	d	e	c
n	l	c	y	n	n	s	n	s	f	s	g	7	e	a	e	h	r	n	o
n	g	n	c	x	m	e	g	r	d	o	7	e	e	b	n	e	l	n	p
o	u	h	n	c	l	n	e	c	i	f	m	1	h	e	2	o	t	o	t
d	o	u	g	l	a	s	r	4	d	s	k	y	t	r	a	i	n	d	e
c	d	b	u	c	c	3	j	r	e	p	i	p	l	p	4	e	t	c	r
m	h	e	g	o	d	d	l	4	3	l	d	i	c	s	r	c	t	m	e

### Word List:

A-10A Thunderbolt II

Douglas BTD-1 Destroyer

Douglas R4D Skytrain

Gliders

Helicopter

McDonnell F2H-2P Banshee

McDonnell F-4B Phantom II

MiG-17 Fresco

Piper J-3C Cub

Piper J-4B Cub Coupe

PT-17 Stearman

PT-19 Cornell

SNJ-3/T6 Texan

TBM-3E Avenger

Can you find the BONUS plane's name? Hint-The answer can be found on page 4!



# WINGS *of* EAGLES DISCOVERY CENTER

Elmira-Corning Regional Airport  
17 Aviation Drive  
Horseheads, NY 14845  
Phone: 607.739.8200  
Fax: 607.739.8374

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Pat Krauss ..... Director of Development  
Karen Robbins ..... Flight Programs Manager  
Dana Slater ..... Buildings and Grounds Maintenance

*imagine the possibilities*

We're on the Web!  
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