

Our Mission: To interpret aviation, particularly that related to New York State, with exhibits and programs that educate, entertain and excite the public

Volume 30, Issue 4

Winter 2021-22

GARY B. DAVIS RECEIVES “ALEX” AWARD

Trustee and volunteer extraordinaire **Gary B. Davis** has received the 2021 “Alex” Award as Volunteer of the Year. The award was presented at ESAM’s Annual Dinner on October 20th.

Gary works effectively and cooperatively with other volunteers, as well as the public, always in a very positive manner, which engenders a very positive reflection on the museum and its success.

Gary has been and active member of the Restoration Work Group, the Education and Outreach Group, and in maintenance. He has participated in virtually every special event at the museum and has taken care of many maintenance projects.

As an active member of the Restoration Working Group he has continually expanded his responsibilities. For example, he has played a key role in establishing, and administering, the Adopt a Plane initiative, which has proven very successful in recruiting volunteers to restore the ESAM fleet of planes. He also works tirelessly in restoring the aircraft, most recently the Concorde and F-4 Phantom.

As an active member with Education and Outreach, he has participated as a tour guide in almost every group tour over the past few years, as well as participating in delivering classes. Most recently, he was a key participant in the summer STEM camp. Gary has participated in all programs at area schools, as well as community outreach events, such as Octoberfest and has been active in all special events at the museum over the past years.

In his maintenance role he both completes projects, such as restoring the drop ceiling in the Community Room, and supervises contractors, such as the painter who painted the front of the Main hangar.

Thank you Gary for all of your efforts.



Gary B. Davis, left, receives his “Alex” Award Plaque from ESAM Past-President Kevin Millington, right.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Dear friends and supporters of the Empire State Aerosciences Museum (ESAM)

As the new President of the ESAM Board of Trustees, I am looking to the future from this post pandemic era with much optimism.

Last year with your support we were able to move forward with many projects. I see a great amount of pride with our volunteers, who are the lifeblood of this organization.

This year we are moving ahead with special fundraisers to improve our facility and make it a world-class adventure. The potential is enormous at ESAM due to the fact we have room to expand.

New projects in the works include

- North Elevation upgrade of the main hanger building including Roof Exterior Insulation Finishing Systems and windows. The existing windows are the original 1943 steel construction that have out-lived their useful life.
- Electric lighting upgrade: We are working with National Grid to upgrade all lights to LED and reduce yearly costs.
- Painting of the exterior of the building and restoring onsite aircraft will continue when the weather is better. Upgraded signage everywhere.
- Gallery 1 renovation is in progress and the change will be exciting.
- The dedication of the Credible Sport mission will be a big event and we are working with the 109th NYANG at Stratton Airbase. We now have two Historic C-130s and both were part of a secret mission in 1980 which is available on YouTube: "Operation Credible Sport"
- Provide permanent power to the C-130 so we can display it to the public
- A much greater use of social media including advertising
- Landscaping under the Concorde Exhibit
- Added rest area for the public, benches and shelters in the airpark

We really need funding for these projects and are hoping we can increase our membership and keep this Museum around for generations to come. This is an Educational facility with room to grow. Our goal is to get more young people interested in Aviation and Science. The coming year will be exciting and we hope you will visit often.

Daniel P. Wilson, President
ESAM Board of Trustees



Dan Wilson

2021-2022 BOARD OF TRUSTEES OFFICERS ELECTED

At the November 15, 2021 meeting of the ESAM Board of Trustees, the following officers were elected. Congratulation to all!

President – **Dan Wilson**
 1st Vice President – **Rich Bievenue**
 2nd Vice President – **Mike Collins**
 Secretary – **Marv Weiss**
 Treasurer – **Joyce Newkirk**

A e r o N o t e s

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FLY-IN BREAKFAST PRESENTATIONS CONTINUE

Thanks to the efforts of **Trustee Mike Collins**, interesting and informative presentations continue to take place at ESAM's monthly Fly-in Breakfasts.

OCTOBER

In October, ESAM was pleased to welcome back **Brian Lindner** who spoke on the topic "Vermont's Most Famous Air Crash: The B-24 Crash on Camel's Hump Mountain in 1944". An accomplished historian, Brian gave the audience a full account of the doomed round-robin night flight that ended up in disaster because the plane descended to an unsafe altitude, presumably because of the cold air. He also gave bios of each of the crew on the flight, including the sole survivor. He also described the ineffective official rescue effort and the fact that the crash was first found by a local leader with a group of teenagers.

ESAM has an oxygen tank that was obtained from the airplane shortly after the crash and later donated to ESAM in 2016.

NOVEMBER

In November, ESAM member **Frank Hackert** presented the first part of a two part presentation about early Gas Turbine Development, some of which took place at the General Electric (GE) site that is now the ESAM Main Hangar.

The first person Frank named was **Sanford Alexander Moss** (1872-1946), an American aviation engineer, who was the first to use a turbosupercharger on an aircraft engine. Also mentioned were German **Hans von Ohain** who developed the axial flow turbosupercharger for an engine that made the first jet powered flight, and Englishman **Sir Frank Whittle** who independently developed a jet engine at the same time as von Ohain. Both von Ohain and Whittle eventually emigrated to the United States.

Because of GE's expertise, the company received a federal contract to work on jet engines, and shortly after World War II built a Flight Test Center that is now part of ESAM. The J33 and J35 were early engines developed by GE.

The J33 was originally developed as a follow-on to GE's work with the designs of Frank Whittle during World War II. It was used in the Lockheed P-80, the plane that made the first jet air mail flight in the United States.

The J35 was the United States Air Force's first axial flow straight-through airflow compressor jet engine. It was used in 15 United States military aircraft.



J33 Engine at ESAM, on loan from the Museum of Innovation and Science

SRV IS BACK IN OPERATION

The museum's Simulated Reality Vehicle (SRV) is back in operation. Enjoy the "flight"!

CONCORDE EXHIBIT FORMALLY DEDICATED ON OCTOBER 12, 2021

On October 12th, local politicians, ESAM members, a contingent from the **Cradle of Aviation Museum** on Long Island, the press and members of the general public gathered at ESAM to formally dedicate the Concorde Exhibit.

The dedication started with a ribbon cutting by assembled dignitaries and **ESAM Chief Operating Officer Joyce Newkirk** on the front lawn under the exhibit. The assembly then proceeded into ESAM's Community Room for speeches and refreshments. Well-known local broadcaster **Jack Arnecke** acted as Master of Ceremonies. ESAM was pleased to have in attendance **State Senator Jim Tedisco**, **State Representative Mary Beth Walsh** and **Glenville Town Supervisor Chris Koetzle**. Senator Tedisco presented **ESAM President Peter Russo** with a plaque and citation from the State Assembly recognizing Peter's and the museum's successful efforts to erect the Concorde model and move ESAM toward a regional and Statewide destination. President Russo generously recognized numerous museum volunteers who helped make the project a success. Also speaking was ESAM Trustee and Exhibits Chair **John Kolwaite** who presented a vision of the future for the museum's Gallery I. Well done ESAM!



Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at the Concorde Dedication



ESAM President Peter Russo (left) receives a Citation from State Senator Jim Tedisco (right)

LETTERS AND EMAILS LIKE THESE WE LIKE TO RECEIVE

September 16, 2021

Ms. Patricia Barrot
Empire State Aerosciences Museum
250 Rudy Chase Dr
Glenville, NY 12302-7135

Dear Ms. Barrot,

Please know how grateful we are for your generous in-kind donation in support of St. Peter's ALS Regional Center, Lewis Golub MDA/ALS Clinic. You may be assured that your special donation will benefit a fundraising event and will help St. Peter's, and the staff of the ALS Center, to continue to touch the lives of those living with Lou Gehrig's disease.

The St. Peter's ALS Regional Center continues to serve patients and their families in a 90 mile radius of St. Peter's Hospital. There are many who continue to deal with the difficult challenges of this devastating, terminal illness. St. Peter's, the ALS Center staff, those with ALS and their families thank you for supporting the important mission of the ALS Center in bringing guidance, compassionate care and hope to those with ALS.

Your generosity in providing us with a donation will allow St. Peter's ALS Regional Center to continue with this mission while helping the ALS Center serve all those who turn to them in their time of need.

Gift Amount: \$60.00

Item(s) Donated: One free year family membership to Empire State Aerosciences Museum

Designation: ALS Memorial Open 2021

Sincerely,

Shannon Galuski
Executive Director
St. Peter's Hospital Foundation

Karen Spinelli
Operations Manager
St. Peter's ALS Regional Center

Excerpt from a December 7, 2021 email from Hannaford Supermarkets

Patricia,

We have a new update for your Community Bag Program selection for the month of January. Once again, due to supply chain issues across the globe and regional single-use bag policies, the supply of Community Bags will likely deplete across all Hannaford stores in January.

Due to this we would like to select you for a **bonus month** in the Community Bag Program!

For the months of **January and May 2022**, Empire State Aerosciences Museum will receive a \$1 donation from each purchase of the \$2.50 reusable Community Bag at Hannaford store located at 262 Saratoga Road, Route 50, Glenville, NY... Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

Best,
Kim Monaco

OUR VOLUNTEERS

ESAM'S F-4 PHANTOM IS RESTORED

by James Johnson

The F-4 Phantom was restored this year by a team of ESAM volunteers including **James Johnson, Gary Davis, Eva Von Dell, Alfonso DiBlasio, Rich Bievenue, Dave Tripp, Peter Bergendahl, Paul Quantock**, and our newest volunteer, **Jill Hogan**. The project required extensive cleaning, surface prep, and painting which occurred from July through November. The tri-color camouflage and light-blue underside were selected to replicate the original colors used on the aircraft.

The F-4 is a two-seat, twin-engine, all-weather, fighter/interceptor developed by McDonnell Aircraft for the United States Navy. It was the first aircraft to make extensive use of titanium in manufacturing. F-4 Phantoms could reach a maximum speed of Mach 2.2 using two GE J79 turbojet engines.

With its development, the F-4 immediately began setting numerous records for speed and rate-of-climb. In 1962 a famous Time-to-Climb record was set when a Phantom reached over 98,000 ft. in 371 seconds from a standing brake release.

1. Altitude - Top Flight	98,557 ft	6 December 1959
2. 500 km closed course	1216.76 mph	5 September 1960
3. 100 km closed course	1,390.24 mph	25 September 1960
4. Los Angeles to New York	2 hr 49 min 9.9 sec	24 May 1961
5. 3 km Sageburner	902,769 mph	28 August 1961
6. 15/25 km Skyburner	1,606.324 mph	22 November 1961
7. Sustained Altitude	66,443.8 ft.	5 December 1961
8. Time-to-Climb - High Jump		
9,842.5 ft/3,000 m	34.52 sec	21 February 1962
19,685 ft/6,000 m	48.78 sec	21 February 1962
29,527.5 ft/9,000 m	61.62 sec	1 March 1962
39,370 ft/12,000 m	77.15 sec	1 March 1962
49,212.5 ft/15,000 m	115.54 sec	1 March 1962
65,617 ft/20,000 m	178.5 sec	31 March 1962
82,021 ft/25,000 m	230.44 sec	3 April 1962
98,425 ft/30,000 m	371.43 sec	4 April 1962
New York to London - Royal Blue 3	4 hr 3 min 57 sec	11 May 1969

The F-4 entered operational service in 1961 as a carrier-based interceptor for the Navy. The Phantom proved to be a powerful and versatile tactical fighter, ultimately serving the U.S. Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps, as well as ten U.S. allies. For air supremacy, it was typically armed with four AIM-7 Sparrow radar-homing air-to-air missiles and four AIM-9 Sidewinder infrared homing missiles; for ground attack, it carried up to 15,000 pounds of bombs. When production of the Phantom ended in 1979, it had become one of the most numerous American fighters since World War II, with a total of 5,195 built.

The last F-4 Phantoms were retired from U.S. service in 1996, being replaced by the F-15 Eagle and F-16 Fighting Falcon and F-18 Hornet. The German Air Force was among the last to use this great plane. And earlier this year, the Japanese Air Self-Defense Force retired the last two operational squadrons after 50 years of service.

continued on Pages 7 through 10

Continued from Page 6

ESAM's F-4D Phantom was delivered to the U.S. Air Force in 1965. It served with the 8th Tactical Fighter Squadron, and was deployed to Ubon Royal Thai Air Base from its home base at Holloman, New Mexico during the Viet Nam conflict. Former ESAM volunteer, **Steven Caine**, flew it during the war. This plane is dedicated to Captains **Don Morris** (Pilot) and **Hal Brown** (Weapons Officer). At the end of its career, our Phantom served with the New York Air National Guard in Niagara Falls.

The following pictures highlight the various phases of the ESAM restoration project:





Gary Davis Performing Surface Prep



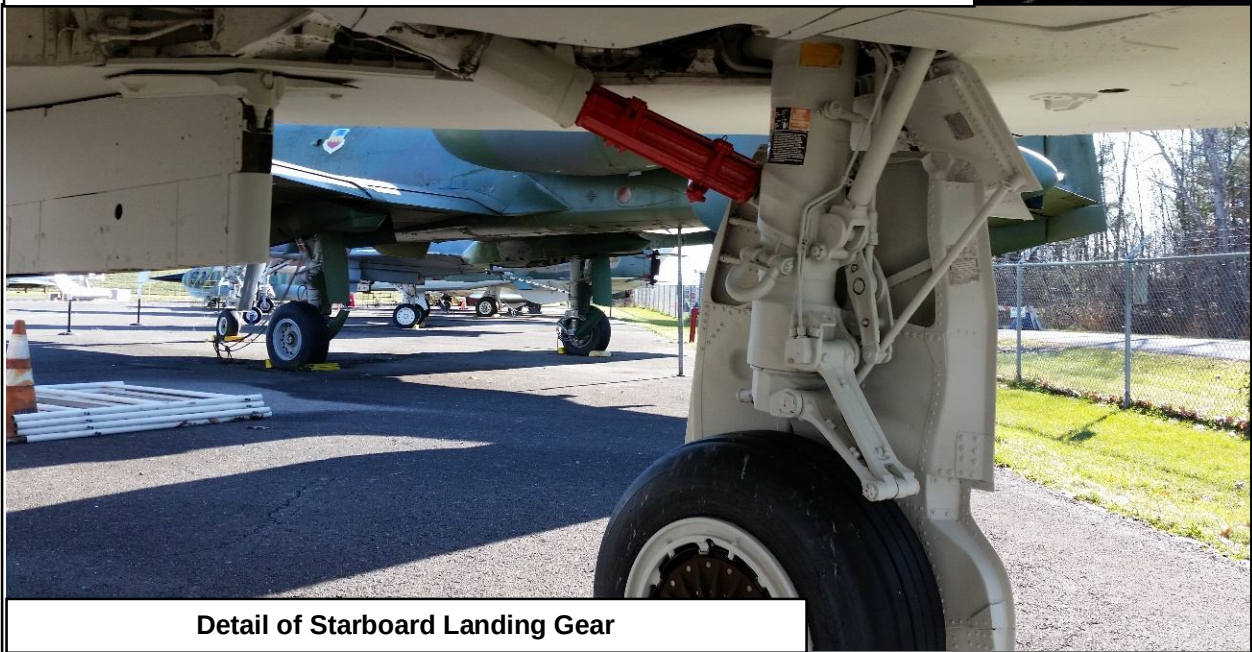
Detail of Nose Section Work by Fonz DiBlasio



Eva Von Dell, Acoustic Engineer, applying True Artistry



Detail of front section. The small air inlets were used for radar cooling.



Detail of Starboard Landing Gear



Glow Bars on Tail, Fuselage, and Wingtips were used at Night to facilitate Close Formation Flight



Detail of vertical stabilizer. Tail number 65-626 indicates it entered production in 1965.

CUTAWAY OF CONTINENTAL A-50 ENGINE IS IN THE WORKS

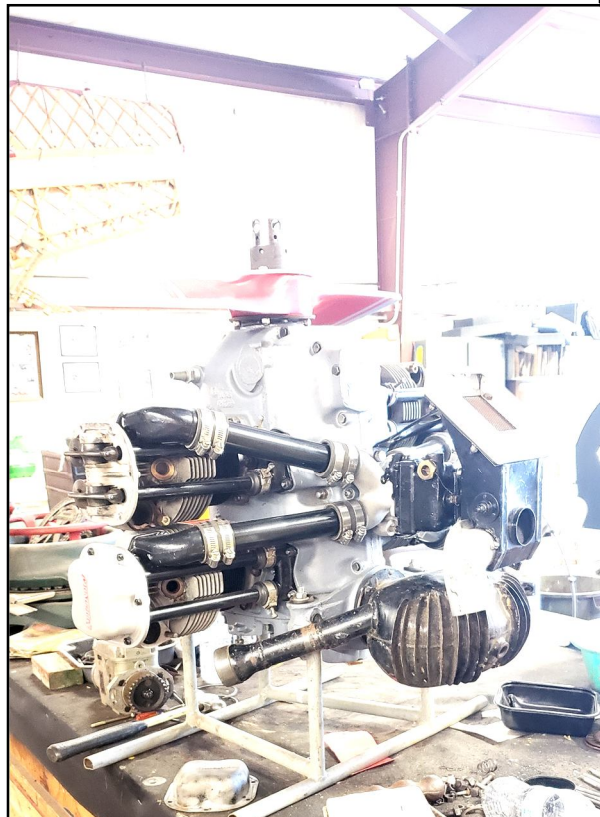
Trustee and Restoration volunteer **Gary Gershon** is working on a cutaway view of a Continental A-50 engine.

1939 ushered in a new stream of engines which started mainly with the Continental Motor Company. As newer and lighter aircraft designs came out, a new type of engine needed to be popularized to allow better performance at a lighter weight and with better efficiency. The Continental A-40, rated at 40hp, was the first model made. Designed as the solution to previous radial and inline engine designs, the cylinder arrangement of the engine where the cylinders are laid flat made the Continental engine smoother, lighter and better performing than its predecessors.

The Continental A-50, rated at 50hp, was the follow on to the A-40 and was typically found in light aircraft such as the legendary Piper Cub, Luscombe 8, Taylorcraft and Aeronica airframes.

Continental is still producing engines for aircraft today. Continental engines are used in the Beechcraft Bonanza, Cessna 206, Cirrus SR22 and Mooney M20.

Helping Gary have been **REM Tool & Manufacturing Co.** of Schenectady, **Fonz DiBlasio** who worked on the propeller, **Eva Von Dell** who did some painting and **Charlie Weissend** who welded a beautiful stand for the motor.



ESAM's Continental A-50 engine cutaway on a workbench in the Restoration hangar

BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS UNDERWAY AT ESAM

ESAM is sprucing up, with a number of significant building improvements underway in the museum.

One that has been completed is painting the front of the main hangar that faces Route 50 that provides a crisp background to the Concorde model. A photo of the front of the hangar is shown below. In addition, the back of the hangar has been painted and the hangar doors have been primed.



The Front of ESAM's Main Hangar has been redone in White and Blue-Gray. It looks great!

Another project underway is a major renovation of the Men's bathroom in the second floor administrative area of the museum. Upgrading the plumbing in the bathroom has long been needed.

Yet another project is a significant refurbishment of the back stairwell in the Main Hangar. This project has also been needed for a while but has become more urgent because of the effects of lingering water damage. At this point the fabric wall covering has been removed, the steps have been stripped of their linoleum and the drop ceiling has been removed.

Finally, repair work is being done on the north wall veneers of the main hangar.

ESAM'S BIG DAY

On Thursday September 16th ESAM saw its largest attendance in 15 years as it hosted a national auto tour that was meeting in the Capitol Region. The tour was the 75th Revival of the AAA Glidden Tour. The tour is a combination of the **Vintage Motor Car Club of America** and the **Antique Auto Club of America**. The original Glidden Tour was held from 1904 to 1913 to promote public acceptance and awareness of safer roads. The revived tour brought 350 visitors to the museum. Below are two of the vehicles that were seen at the museum. Thanks to the many museum docents who were on hand to provide information about the museum and its collection.



OUR SUPPORTERS

**ESAM THANKS THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE WHO HAVE ESTABLISHED OR RENEWED
THEIR MUSEUM MEMBERSHIPS**

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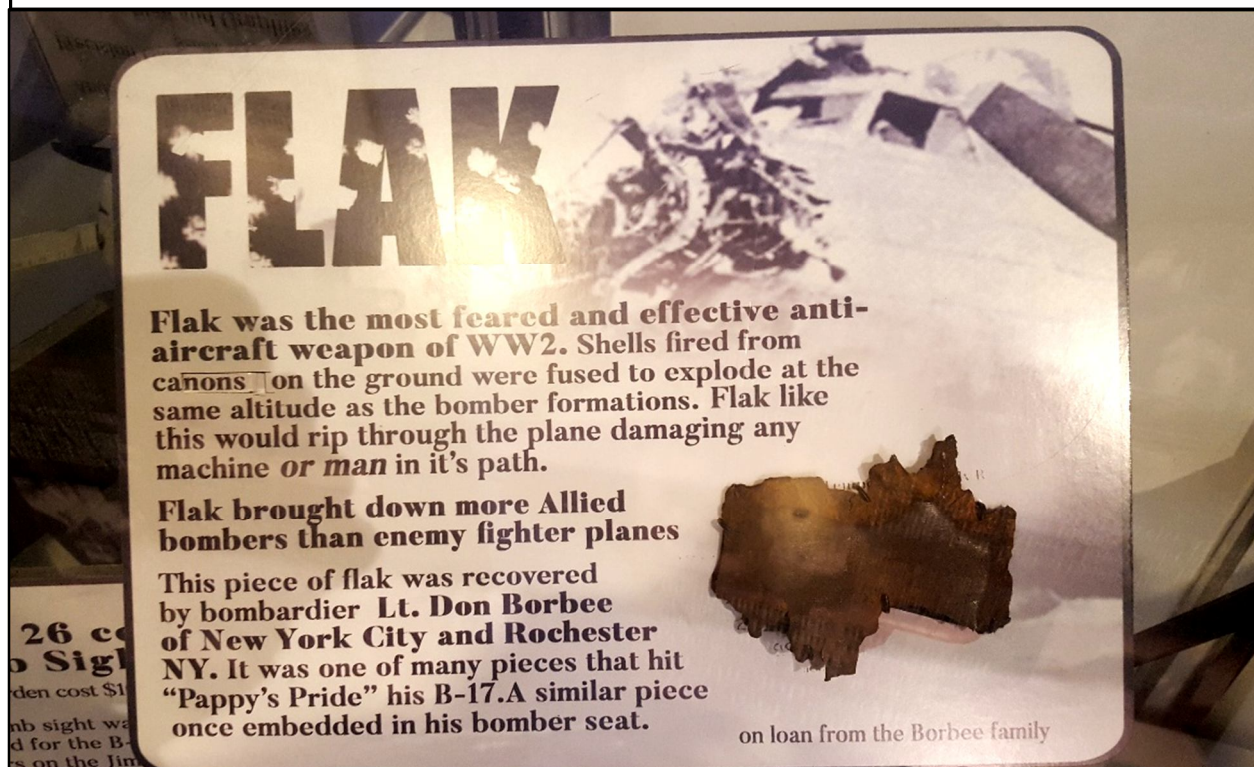
In Memory of Philip R. Kennicott
Thomas J. and Helen K. Baca

In Memory of Fran Miner
Mr. Michael Lambert

OUR SUPPORTERS

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

- Volunteer **Daniel D'Amour** donated four coffee mugs from the Raven Gang:, 109th NY Air National Guard, with F-47, F-51, F-94 and C-97 images.
- **Stephen Mihalovic** donated Douglas Aircraft Company photos of planes from World War II.
- Volunteer **Dennis Cusano** donated a photo of a Gnat that participated in an ESAM airshow, a Folland Gnat patch and the business card of Gnat pilot **Frank Chiodo**.
- **Richard Lemanski** donated several aviation-related books.
- **Michael Bielkiewicz** donated a print of "Yeager's Conquest-Mach 1" by artist Roy Grinnell, signed by Chuck Yeager and Roy Grinnell, and framed with three 50th anniversary postage stamps.
- **Richard Marine** donated lesson guides, instructor guides and technical manuals that he had developed for various radars when he was in the US Marine Corps.
- **Patti Morris** donated twenty boxes of plastic airplane models.
- **ESAM Trustee Steve Borbee** extended for five years the loan of a fragment of German flack retrieved from his father's aircraft during World War II. The flack is on display in Gallery II. See photo below.
- **ESAM Trustee John Panoski** donated a photo of a NY Air National Guard C-130 signed by the crew; a photo of himself, **Bob Eggleston** and donor **Sue Smith** in front of ESAM's MIG-21; and a photo of a boy looking at ESAM's glider when the glider was on display at Viaport.
- **Mrs. Robert Jarvis** donated a Fisher Koala aircraft along with documents related to the aircraft.
- Correction: In the last issue of Aeronotes, the name of the donor of five World War I aviation prints was listed as Jo Ann King. The correct name is **Jo Ann Koenig**.



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supported in part by:

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The Family of Jansz Vander Veer*

*ESAM Charter Member

OUR SUPPORTERS

GLEN DE VRIES, IN MEMORIAM

The Empire State Aerosciences Museum is saddened to hear of the death of **Glen de Vries** in a private plane crash. Glen was a Galaxy member of the museum. He achieved national name recognition by going into space with **William Shatner** on **Jeff Bezos'** Blue Origin. Our condolences go out to his family.

ESAM AGAIN PARTICIPATES IN THE SCHENECTADY FESTIVAL OF TREES

ESAM is again participating in the Schenectady Festival of Trees. This event is sponsored by the **Schenectady County Historical Society** and the **Schenectady YWCA**.

Team members, pictured from left to right, who erected and decorated ESAM's tree are **Dan & Yvonne DeBellis, Ronnie Quinn and Larry & Dorie McArthur**.

Thanks to **Hewitt's Garden Center** for the loan of the tree.



ESAM PROVIDES LOAN OF SOUND SYSTEM

ESAM is pleased to have provided a loan of its sound system in support of the dedication of a new veteran's Legacy Park in the Town of Glenville.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM CANCELLED FOR 2021

Due to Covid concerns ESAM decided not to hold a Christmas program this year.

NEW PUBLIC RELATIONS POWER POINT IS CREATED

On October 19, a representative of **Electro-Metrics Corporation** was on site at ESAM shooting some photos of their products using a Humvee and our A-10 as background. They planned to use those photos for an upcoming trade show in Washington, DC. During the course of the shoot, **John Panoski** and the rep had a conversation about how they could possibly help promote the Museum at the show by displaying a Power Point presentation highlighting ESAM.

John Kolwaite readily stepped up, took on the project and created a Power Point show. While this presentation was made for and provided to our Electro-Metrics contact for a specific event, we will be able to use it, or versions of it, for future public relations purposes.

John did a great job. The cover slide is shown to the right.



ESAM Membership Application

Please check one: NEW MEMBERSHIP ☐ RENEWAL ☐

ANNUAL DUES:

INDIVIDUAL/FAMILY

- ☐ Senior Citizen \$35
☐ Student \$35
☐ Individual \$45
☐ Family \$60

VIP:

- ☐ Contributing \$80
☐ Supporting \$135
☐ Sustaining \$285
☐ Galaxy Club \$500
☐ Friend of ESAM \$1,000

BUSINESS

- ☐ Supporter \$285
☐ Patron \$500
☐ Benefactor \$1,000
☐ Not for Profit/School/Library \$60
☐ Small Business \$100

Name

Address

City State Zip

Phone: Home ()

Work ()

E-mail address

Please make your check payable to ESAM

Mail to ESAM, 250 Rudy Chase Drive,
Glenville, NY 12302

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HAPPENINGS AT ESAM

MUSEUM HOURS

Summer Hours: Wednesday through Sunday 10 AM to 4 PM
Winter Hours, effective October 14: Friday through Sunday 10 AM to 4 PM

General Museum Admission – \$8 per adult; \$6 per senior and military; \$5 age 6-16;
under 6 free when accompanied by an adult
Simulated Reality Vehicle (SRV) – Ride: \$5

Jansz Vander Veer Research Center/Library Hours – Friday 9 AM to 12 noon & Saturday 10 AM to 12 noon

January 15, Saturday - Pancake Breakfast: 8:30-10:30 AM. All you can eat: \$10 for ages 15 and older, \$8 for children 6-14, free for children under 6. Menu varies with pancakes or French toast, sausage, eggs, applesauce, juice and coffee/tea. The public is invited to attend.

Pilots: Tower Frequency 121.30; Ground 121.90. Land at Schenectady County Airport and taxi to Richmor Aviation North.

Browse the Museum beginning at 10 AM. Museum Admission: \$8 per adult; \$6 per senior and military; \$5 age 6-16; under 6 free when accompanied by an adult.

January 17, Monday - Board of Trustees Meeting: 7 PM. ESAM Community Room

February 19, Saturday - Pancake Breakfast: 8:30-10:30 AM. All you can eat: \$10 for ages 15 and older, \$8 for children 6-14, free for children under 6. Menu varies with pancakes or French toast, sausage, eggs, applesauce, juice and coffee/tea. The public is invited to attend.

Pilots: Tower Frequency 121.30; Ground 121.90. Land at Schenectady County Airport and taxi to Richmor Aviation North.

Browse the Museum beginning at 10 AM. Museum Admission: \$8 per adult; \$6 per senior and military; \$5 age 6-16; under 6 free when accompanied by an adult.

February 21, Monday - Board of Trustees Meeting: 7 PM. ESAM Community Room

March 21, Monday - Board of Trustees Meeting: 7 PM. ESAM Community Room