

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

Volume 31, Issue 1

Spring 2022

SCHENECTADY AND ESAM RECEIVE A VISIT FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT'S PLANE

Although **Vice President Harris** was not aboard, the Boeing 737 that uses call sign Air Force Two when she is aboard landed at Schenectady County Airport on January 19th. Its arrival was cheered by the family of **Command Pilot Lt. Col. Paul Chase** and a contingent of ESAM observers.. Lt. Col. Chase was born in Schenectady and still has family in the area.

According to Lt. Col. Chase, only when the Vice President is on board is the aircraft designated as Air Force Two. On January 19th its call sign for the day was Venus 35, meaning it was being used for training purposes.

The plane, an Air Force C 40B, a modified Boeing 737, originated out of Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland. It had originally been expected to conduct touch-and-go landings, but ice on the runway prevented the crew from practicing here. It carried six crew members on its trip to Schenectady.

“The pilots have to keep up training,” said **Dan Wilson**, Chase’s uncle and the President of the Empire State Aerosciences Museum. “They go to a different city several times a week.”

Once the plane was parked, Chase got to show his family the aircraft up close. Later, he was able to take a tour of ESAM, something he had been wanting to do for a while. During the tour, museum members had the chance to meet with him. (This article is adapted from The Gazette.)



“Air Force Two” taxis at Schenectady County Airport

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Dear Friends and Supporters of Empire State Aerosciences Museum (ESAM),

I am encouraged by the response of the public and our membership to our recent improvements at ESAM. We moved forward despite a cold winter and Covid issues. The anticipated warm weather coming will see much more progress on our two C-130 projects, along with the Harrier. We hope to have the Harrier in its permanent resting spot in the next few weeks.

Spring projects include:

- Total restroom renovations will be complete for first and second floor of the main hangar
- Proposed new Surveillance System installed (pending grant)
- Proposed new upscale audio system for the community room
- Proposed kitchen upgrade in Community room with hood (pending grant)
- New chairs in Community Room
- Roof repair on north and south areas
- Completion of the Exterior Insulation Finishing System on the north elevation
- Painting of the exterior east elevation
- Renovation of Building 9 and 10 (planning stages)



Dan Wilson

Also I would like to encourage more social media coverage. This may include new and existing members to share the newsletters and weekly events with photos on their social media Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube, TikTok, etc. I would like to see our membership double in the next few years and our Education programs to be a top priority in our future growth.

I want to personally thank our volunteers who make it all happen, the engine program, gallery renovations, repainting of aircraft, and newsletters. They are talented people who are dedicated to keeping this Museum a main destination for upstate NY.

Fundraising is a major priority for all of us. We have recently applied for many grants and will continue to apply for more. The main roof replacement of building 1 is first priority. Thank you to all our volunteers.

Daniel P. Wilson, President
ESAM Board of Trustees

WORK CONTINUES ON RENOVATING GALLERY I

Under the direction of **Exhibits Chair John Kolwaite**, volunteers from the Restoration Crew continue to work on a major upgrade to Gallery I.

One of the new displays will be a **Hall of Engines**. Featuring engines with compelling local history, the hall will trace the development of turbine engine technology from the 1840s!

Another new, hands-on display will be a renovated C-130 nose which visitors will be able to enter and "fly".

Stay tuned for a great reopening of Gallery I.

AeroNotes

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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.

An interesting talk was presented in February by **Jay Fuller** about his experiences with Army and Air Force flight training.

Joe Hathaway followed in March with a talk and book signing about "Ski Birds", adventures of the 109th Tactical Air Wing in Glenville.

On April 16, **Dan Swift** talked about flying the A-10 "Warthog" in Kosovo. The Saratoga Springs resident is retired from the USAF and Delta airlines.

Looking ahead, **Jim Lloyd** will relate his experience flying the Vin Fizz II on a re-creation of the first transcontinental flight of **Cal Rogers** many years ago. His plane is in restoration at ESAM.

Also on the list of future presenters are **Paul Jendzeizk** with a book signing and talk about the 22nd Bomb Group in WWII, **Dan Brown** on building a Glasair 3, and **Joe Zarzinski**, underwater archeologist, on recovering an RAF Wellington bomber from the frigid depths of a lake in Scotland.

Mark your calendars now, third Saturday of every month. C U there.



ESAM RECEIVES "NEW" COMPUTERS

ESAM stalwart **Mardy Moore** arranged with the **General Electric Elfuns** to obtain four PCs and two laptops for ESAM. The refurbished computers are being deployed throughout the museum by ESAM's IT Coordinator, **Bob Vore**.

Thank you Mardy for making this happen!

ENERGY EFFICIENT LIGHTING INSTALLED

ESAM has replaced the lighting in Gallery I, the Main Hangar, the Gift Shop and exterior lights with energy efficient LEDs. By arrangement with **National Grid**, the cost to the Museum was less than \$5,000. **ESAM Treasurer Joyce Newkirk** says that the reduction in our electrical bills due to the higher efficiency will save us the costs of replacement in just four months – after that, we will notice the positive impact on our monthly cash flow. What a bright idea!



New LED lights light up the exterior of the museum (above right) and the main hangar (above).

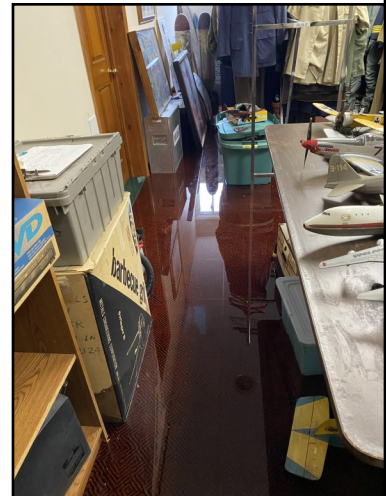
GOOD NEWS: ESAM RECEIVES GOOD NEWS AWARD

The Chamber of Schenectady County, an affiliate of the **Capital Region Chamber**, has announced that the Empire State Aerosciences Museum is a recipient of its 2022 Good News Award. The Good News Awards honor businesses, organizations and individuals in Schenectady County due to exceptional growth; a new or renovated building; celebration of a significant anniversary; demonstrating extraordinary community support; launching a unique product or service in the past year; or just being a true success story.

The award was presented on Wednesday, April 13th at **River Stone Manor** in Scotia.

BAD NEWS: ROOF LEAK IN MAIN HANGAR

Unfortunately, a downspout became detached in the Main Hangar building, causing flooding in the second floor ESAM offices and leaking into the first floor Community Room. Thanks to the **Thomas Corner's Fire Department** for helping us with the clean up.



LETTERS AND EMAILS LIKE THESE WE LIKE TO RECEIVE

January 25, 2022

Empire State Aerosciences Museum
c/o Pat Barrot
250 Rudy Chase Drive
Glenville, NY 12302

Dear Pat,

Thank you!

On behalf of the entire Schenectady JCC family, I want to thank you for your generous gift of a family membership to the museum to the JCC's 2022 Spring Online Auction. Your gift will help to support programs and improvements to your JCC. We are very appreciative of your continued support and involvement in the Schenectady JCC.

Here at the Schenectady JCC, our goal is to provide our members and guests with high quality programs in a welcoming environment. It is our hope that with the wide array of activities we offer and resources we have, we can accommodate the interests, needs and passions of our community members whether they be fitness related, childcare related, senior programming or Jewish and other cultural programming. If you want it, we want to help!

Thank you once again for thinking of us and supporting the JCC mission. It means the world to us. Please don't hesitate to be in touch if you need something.

Shalom,

David Posner
CEO

Jack's Place
17 Rosa Road
Schenectady, NY 12308

Empire State Aerosciences Museum:

We want to thank you for donating admission tickets to your museum, for us to use in our raffle, at our golf outing fundraiser. The event was a huge success, and thanks to people like you, Jack's Place will continue to serve families in need. Jack's Place can host up to 8 families at a time, and we average 6 families a night. So we definitely are filling a need.

We have been open for over 4 years now, and we have served many families, at no charge to them, so they can be there for their family members....

Thanks again, your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,
Jeff Countermine
Donation Chairman

OUR VOLUNTEERS

HOW ESAM'S CONCORDE LEFT NEW YORK CITY IN 2001

ESAM's Concorde provides a dramatic introduction to the museum. It graces the lawn in front of the museum in an eye-catching climbing left turn. In past issues of Aeronotes, we have chronicled the story of how ESAM obtained the Concorde model from the **Cradle of Aviation Museum** on Long Island and how a team of ESAM volunteers and business supporters worked to erect the model at ESAM.

Through the efforts of **ESAM President Dan Wilson**, we now have an earlier part of the story: How the model came to be taken down from its perch in Times Square, New York City. We are indebted to **Robert A. Schubert, Past Senior Vice President of Boston Properties, Inc.** for providing this story.

In the 1990's British Airways installed a half-size replica of the Concorde on top of the Times Square Brewery and the 42nd St subway as part of a marketing campaign. (See photo at right). In 2001 four buildings, including the Times Square Brewery, were demolished to make way for a new 47-story building in Times Square, and the Concorde had to be removed. Many approvals were required to move the Concorde: MTA, Department of Buildings, FDNY, NYPD and the Department of Transportation.



With approvals in hand, permission was granted to close Broadway from Midnight to 6 a.m. on June 13, 2001 so that the Concorde could be taken down. In order to remove the Concorde, it was necessary to remove the wings and tail for trucking. Unfortunately there wasn't enough time to take it apart before 6 a.m. So, where do you park it? A temporary scaffold platform was erected over the Broadway sidewalk. The wings would be cut off after the Concorde was landed on the scaffold. The relocation work started on site on June 13, 2001 with the midnight arrival of a 250 ton capacity mobile crane. The crane promptly broke down. The crane's radiator was cracked and needed repair. Luckily one of the iron workers knew how to fix it! Repairs were completed at 3:30 a.m. The clock was ticking!

In order to cut the steel supports, the Concorde needed to be temporarily supported by the crane during burning operations. After the Concorde was detached from its base, for safety reasons, it was decided to first land the Concorde on Broadway. Once everything was deemed safe, it was lifted onto the temporary scaffold, arriving on the scaffold at 6:22 a.m.

Over the course of the next few nights, the wings were removed. The fuselage, wings and tail each made separate trips to a British Air hanger at JFK to await its new home.



Concorde suspended by cranes while being detached from its supports



Temporary Landing in Times Square

ESAM STANDARDIZES BUILDING NUMBERS

Now, just which building was the Fobare building? The Outback? The Pole Barn?

In an effort to all be on the same page, ESAM has numbered each of its buildings and has placed numbered placards on the building themselves. Thanks go to Trustees **Marv Weiss** and **Dan Wilson** for leading this effort. The eleven numbered buildings are shown below.



ESAM IS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

Serving as a volunteer at ESAM is truly rewarding – you can help to promote the history and heritage of aviation, educate the public, and otherwise interact with folks with a similar interest. AND, it's fun. The facing page lists the various volunteer Teams that are active at the museum. So if you're interested, in being a volunteer, attend Volunteer Recruiting Day on May 7th from 10A M to 2 PM, or call us at 518-377-2191.

**EMPIRE STATE AEROSCIENCES MUSEUM
DEPARTMENTS/COMMITTEES**

Building/Grounds

Responsible for Building Maintenance (maintain furnaces, replace lights when needed, minor repairs)
Make recommendations of contractors for major repairs, etc. when necessary
Responsible for Maintenance of Grounds (lawnmowing, snow removal in airpark, etc.)

Curatorial & Acquisitions

Manage the acquisition, care, preservation, public access, security and deaccession of items in the museum's collection

Education

Develop and teach various Aerosciences classes for all ages (both through classes taught at ESAM or through Outreach Programs to various schools and organizations) (Birthday parties and Special events are also offered).

Exhibits

Design, develop and build new exhibits that depict the mission of the Museum, while maintaining the existing ones.

Finance

Provide support to the Treasurer when needed (i.e. development of budget, review/support the filing of 990/Char 500 tax returns)
Provide financial assistance to Fundraising Committee when needed

Fundraising

Plan and support fundraising activities to obtain the financial needs of ESAM (showcasing new exhibits, acquisitions, etc.)

Nominating

Solicit/evaluate potential Board Members to ensure that well-rounded, qualified individuals are recommended to Board Positions. Meet with new Board Members – conduct Board Orientation.

Reference/Resource Center

Maintain aviation research volumes in ESAM's research center. (catalogue, input of information in Past-Perfect)

Restoration

Maintain and Restore the various aircraft in ESAM's collection. Over 30 large aircraft, many of which are on loan from the Navy and Air Force

DORP AVIATOR'S FORCED LANDING LED TO 'MATCH MADE IN HEAVEN'

Excerpt from Tales of Old Dorp by Larry Hart in the April 19, 1993 issue of The Daily Gazette
Provided by ESAM volunteer **Maury York**

There's a story of ingenuity and persistence to be told about Conrad "Connie" Blom, one which deserves some sort of placement within historical records of Schenectady and aviation....

Born in 1904 at Fargo, N.D., Connie came east with his family at an early age and lived in various parts of New York-Oneonta, Amsterdam, Schenectady and Glenville-alternately working as project engineer for GE, production superintendent for Bigelow-Sanford Rug Co., and aeronautics instructor for the Schenectady School District. Aviation, however, was his main interest and as a youth he was soon caught up with the thrill and glamor of becoming a birdman.

Not long after World War I, Connie took flying lessons from Victor A. "Tex" Rickard, veteran local aviator, and thereafter began his pursuit of anything that had to do with aviation-from learning every function of an airplane to actually building one....

Eventually, he taught his younger brother Harold to fly, and together they formed an aeronautical team bent on improving aircraft design and construction. From their barn in back of the Blom house on Saratoga Road, in close proximity to the newly opened airport, they organized a firm to be known as Northeast Airways Inc. with Connie as chief designer. His first effort was an open cockpit monoplane which attracted much attention throughout the East. However, it was the second experimental effort, believed to be the first all steel monoplane of the cruise type in the East, which drew a huge crowd to the Schenectady Airport for its initial tryout. A Schenectady Gazette account follows:

"Persons at the local airport yesterday afternoon saw a trim little orange-colored monoplane taxi down the runway and rise gracefully into the air to circle about the big field several times. The more observant spectators noticed that the ship's flight was attracting unusual attention among the local group of birdmen who were gathered at the airport.

"And why shouldn't they be interested? The monoplane represented Schenectady's first venture into the manufacture of aircraft, and C. C. Blom, the designer and co-partner of the little firm which constructed the cruise ship, was at the stick."

Connie became instructor of the Schenectady Vocational Training night school in aeronautics in 1929 and those who worked with him became involved in design techniques. It was during this venture that he decided to build the first low-wing cabin monoplane to be constructed in this country. It resembled to a great extent the Bremen type constructed by the Junkers firm of Germany and was capable of carrying two passengers and a pilot. The framework was of welded steel and the covering a combination of "airplane cloth" and aluminum. The interior of the cabin was neatly upholstered with brown Spanish leather. Powered by a 150-horsepower "Hosso" motor, the plane developed a cruising speed of between 100 and 105 mph and a top speed of better than 150 mph.

It was when he attempted a cross-country flight in his little orange monoplane in September 1928 that Connie met with near disaster which turned out to be perhaps the biggest event in his life. He planned to fly in easy stages from Schenectady to the Pacific coast and back again in two weeks, stopping at various airports in between.

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Cruising at 100 mph, his ship came to grief near Wesby, Wis. Caught in a bad storm with driving winds, he was forced to set his plane down on any flat stretch of ground that came into sight. He landed on level terrain but it was extremely soft and consequently bent the undercarriage.

He had the plane taken to the nearest airport at LaCrosse and, as he attempted to straighten it, the blow torch came in contact with the highly shellacked surface of one of the ship's wings. As a result a blaze destroyed not only both wings but a greater part of the fuselage covering.



Connie Blom's Cross Country Airplane

Determined he would fly back home if there was a possible chance, Connie went to work repairing the ship and, 17 days after his departure, landed back at Schenectady Airport, this time with a ship painted silver.

It was while he was at LaCrosse working on the plane that he met a young girl from that area who also loved airplanes. Her name was Elizabeth Leipelt, and she became charmed with his doggedness as she watched him work on the damaged ship.

She helped him at work whenever possible and, by the time he left for home, they had become good friends. It resulted in courtship and on May 8, 1930, they were wed in LaCrosse.

From that time on, through 62 years of married life, they always maintained that theirs was "a match made in heaven" because of the way they met—a forced landing from the skies that led to romance.



Elizabeth Leipelt

OUR SUPPORTERS

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

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Ms. Ronnie Quinn	Mr. Anthony Russo	Ms. Rugena Sitzer
Mr. Chuck Spangler	Ms. Dorothy Stekeur	

OUR SUPPORTERS

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

- **Vincent Smith** donated a model of a P-40, ear phones, a manual flight computer, a slide rule, other navigation devices, military uniforms and travel equipment.
- **Josh Spring** donated books, Christmas ornaments, models, postage stamps, Aircraft Warning Service volunteer pins, an aviation-related Monopoly game and other aviation memorabilia.
- **Dale and Christine Pennings** donated an aerial tow target.
- **Mark Simmons** donated a Pratt & Whitney JT3/J57 turbofan engine and support cart. The engine was possibly used on a B-52.
- **Michelle Lue** donated an etched plaque of a UH-1M, and etched plaques of an AH-64 and four framed prints of P-37s.
- **Steve Halsdorn** donated two pictures of an Army Air Force squadron circa World War II.
- **Robert Pressly** donated two aviation prints: "Advantage Cunningham" by artist Mark Waki, signed by the artist and Randy "Duke" Cunningham; and "Tomcats 2—Fitters 0" by artist Jerry Crandall, signed by the artist, pilot Lt Larry "Music" Muczynski and RIO Ltjg Jim "Amos" Anderson.
- **Richard Murphy** donated fifteen 8" x 10" framed aircraft prints
- **Barbara Notch** donated a silk scarf commemorating the 1962 maiden flight of the BOAC VC10.
- **Duane Leach of All Season Equipment** donated a Honda generator model EM5000SX K3 AT.
- **Duane Leach of All Seasons Equipment** also donated a SCAG mower with Kawasaki engine.
- **William Shattuck, Jr.** donated Space shuttle patches and astronaut photos.
- **Bonnie Kerr** donated twenty six models built by and donated in memory of **Robert D. Kerr**.
- **Lane Calabro** donated a 1:150 scale Lockheed Martin C-5B Galaxy desktop model.
- **Gregory H. Kennedy** donated three World War II parachute seat cushions.
- **Michael Corson** donated a World War II-era flight computer Type AN-5837-1.
- **Christopher Trow** donated two books: the Epic of Flight and The Pathfinders
- **Edward Grinter** donated the book The Concorde Story by Christopher Orlebar.
- **Daniel Rohrbaugh** donated "Wings" Tops trading cards
- **Sharon Jarvis** donated a Fisher Koala airplane along with miscellaneous documents related to the airplane.

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE AND BUSINESSES WHO MADE CONCORDE DONATIONS

All Seasons Equipment	Mr. & Mrs. Richard Bievenue	Mr. Louis H. Buhrmaster
Capitaland Motors	Mr. Phil Garvey	Mr. & Mrs. Tom Gloss
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*ESAM Charter Member

OUR SUPPORTERS

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO DONATED TO ESAM'S
ANNUAL APPEAL. THE APPEAL RAISED \$12,555.

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Mr. & Mrs. Robert Vore	Mr. Maury York

PROGRESS ON THE HARRIER

With the help of **ESAM President Dan Wilson**, and ESAM volunteers including **Dave Tripp** and **Mickey Lavicska** significant progress has been made on restoring the museum's Hawker-Siddeley Harrier. As the photo shows, the wings have been reattached and refurbished wheels have been attached to the wing struts. Next up is reattaching the horizontal tail with the help of a crane.



The wings are back on ESAM's Harrier

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 _____

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Phone: Home (____) _____

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Please make your check payable to ESAM

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Glenville, NY 12302

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Matching Gift Company _____

Empire State Aerosciences Museum
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

April 16, 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.

April 16, Saturday: 10 AM- **Dan Swift** will talk about flying the A-10 "Warthog" in Kosovo.

April 18, Monday - Board of Trustees Meeting: 7 PM. ESAM Community Room

May 7, Saturday - Volunteer Recruiting Day at ESAM: 10 AM-2PM. Come see how you can get involved.

May 14, 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.

May 16, Monday - Board of Trustees Meeting: 7 PM. ESAM Community Room

June 18, 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.

June 20, Monday - Board of Trustees Meeting: 7 PM. ESAM Community Room