

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

Volume 33, Issue 3

Special 40th Anniversary Edition— June 2024

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Supporters of ESAM,

FORTY YEARS! And we're celebrating!

In 1984, our four founders started the museum in a room at Richmor Aviation. In 1986 the museum occupied the building that is now Gallery II, an ex-machine shop. In 1996 we took over the Main Hangar which now houses Gallery I, a community room, an education room, and administrative spaces. And over the years we've built display and work spaces on our own with the generous support of local businesses and donors.

Today we have a thriving museum which includes many civilian and military aircraft, engines, exhibits and artifacts from the beginning of aviation to the current time. We have a wonderful and unique Space Exhibit. We have a Concorde model, which we believe to be the largest model airplane in the world, making a graceful turn in front of the museum. We have active educational and lecture programming that serves more than a thousand children and adults each year.

And, so importantly, we have a dedicated crew of volunteers who keep the museum going.

Our future looks bright. We are in the process of major upgrades to the physical plant. We have plans to increase the size of our Restoration spaces. We have a commitment for an F-15 and leads on additional aircraft for the Air Park. We are continuing to forge both local and far-flung relationships that enhance the visibility and content of our museum. Our educational programming is expanding.

This special issue of Aeronotes highlights the events we've planned for ESAM's 40th Anniversary Celebration from July 24th through July 28th. We'll have a Ribbon Cutting, Fly-bys, a Hangar Gala with food and music, a Wings and Wheels photo ops, a showing of the Top Gun movie in the hangar with a presentation by an F-4 Phantom pilot, food, drink music, children's activities, tours and more. We hope you can join us for the celebration.

Dan Wilson,
President, Board of Trustees
Empire State Aerosciences Museum



Dan Wilson



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Pages 2-3: SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Page 4: 40TH GALA

Page 5: 40TH WINGS AND WHEELS

Page 6: 40TH TOP GUN EXTRAVAGANZA

Page 7: 40TH RAFFLE

Pages 8-9: SPONSORSHIPS

Page 9: OUR FOUNDERS

Page 10: EMPIRE STATE AEROSCIENCES MUSEUM STORY

Page 11: ORDER FORM

**40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS****WEDNESDAY, JULY 24**

10:00 am-4:00 pm: Free Admission to the Museum

**11:30 am: Ribbon Cutting Event to open the Celebration
Press and Public Welcome**

12:00 noon: Fly-by to Open the Celebration

THURSDAY, JULY 25

10:00 am-3:00 pm: \$5 Admission to the Museum for people 6 and up

**5:30 pm-10:00 pm: Gala Party featuring music by Grand Central Station , \$65/person
Hosted by Jack Aernecke**

Includes a Light Meal, Cash Bar, Raffles, Live Music and Lively Speeches

5:00 pm: C-130 Tour and a Welcome Drink for Sponsors and their Guests

5:30 pm: Hangar Opens for Guests, Bar Open

6:30-8:30 pm: Food Service (included in the Ticket Price)

9:45 pm: Bar Closes

FRIDAY, JULY 26

10:00 am-4:00 pm: \$5 Admission to the Museum for people 6 and up

**10:00 am-3:00 pm: Wings and Wheels Event
Photo Ops with Planes**

5:30 pm-9:45 pm: Food Truck

5:30pm-10:00 pm: Bar on Site

Top Gun Extravaganza Movie Night, \$15 per person

6:00 pm-7:00 pm: Presentation by LtCol Dan Petkunas about the F4D

**7:45 pm-9:45 pm: Movie Night in the Hangar: Top Gun
Bring Chairs**

40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION SCHEDULE OF EVENTS (continued)

SATURDAY, JULY 27

10:00 am-4:00 pm: \$5 Admission to the Museum for people 6 and up

**10:00 am-3:00 pm: Wings and Wheels Event
Photo Ops with Planes**

10:00 am-4:00:pm: Food Trucks

11:00 am-12 noon: Children's Workshop: The Planes of Top Gun

11:30 am-4:00 pm: Soft Drinks and Beer for Sale

1:00 pm-4:00 pm: Live Music

2:00 pm-3:00 pm: Children's Workshop: A Tour of ESAM's Planes

SUNDAY, JULY 28

10:00 am-4:00 pm: \$5 Admission to the Museum for people 6 and up

10:00 am-4:00 pm: Interior of Some Aircraft open to Visitors

11:00 am-4:00:pm: Food Trucks

11:30 am, 1:30 pm and 3:30 pm: Magician

11:30 am-4:00 pm: Soft Drinks and Beer for Sale

2:00 pm-3:00 pm: Children's Workshop: A Tour of ESAM's Planes

4:00 pm: Fly-by to Close the Celebration



40TH GALA



Celebrating 40 years of history and flights of the imagination!

Thursday July 25th 6:00pm to 10:00pm

Gala celebration featuring Grand Central Station.

Let's paint the town red with the hugely popular Grand Central Station performing throughout the night. Substantial canapes and finger foods will be provided, and there will be a cash bar, raffles, and the museum will be open for guests

\$65 per person. To book tickets, scan the QR Code above, go to ESAM.org or fill out the form on Page 11 of this newsletter.



40TH WINGS AND WHEELS

Celebrating 40 years of history and flights of the imagination!

Friday July 26th and Saturday July 27th 10:00am to 3:00pm

Photograph your car next to one, or more, of these four iconic aircraft.



Bell UH-1 Iroquois (Huey) helicopter



Hughes OH-6 Cayuse (Loach) helicopter



McDonnell Douglas F-4 Phantom II jet fighter



Northrop F-5E Tiger jet fighter

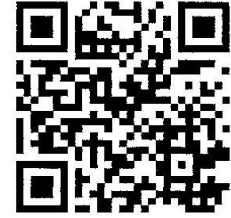
- 1 Aircraft \$30
- 2 Aircraft \$50
- 3 Aircraft \$75
- 4 Aircraft \$100



To book tickets, scan the QR Code, go to ESAM.org or fill out the form on Page 11 of this newsletter. Choose the number of aircraft you'd like to take a picture with. If more than 1 aircraft, you may use a discount code:

- 2 aircraft, \$10 discount
- 3 aircraft, \$15 discount
- 4 aircraft, \$20 discount

40TH TOP GUN EXTRAVAGANZA



Celebrating 40 years of history and flights of the imagination!

Friday July 26th 6:30pm to 10:30pm

Engaging presentation from an F-4 Phantom pilot, Lt Col Dan Petkunas.

Top Gun movie will follow in the hangar by the F-5 aircraft.

A chance to win a spot in the F-5 with a professional photographer.

Food and beverages will be available to purchase throughout the night.

Bring camp chairs or cushions to enjoy the experience in comfort.

\$15 per entrance, includes the talk by Lt Col Dan Petkunas. To book tickets, scan the QR code, go to ESAM.org or fill out the form on Page 11 of this newsletter.



ESAM's F-4 Phantom

40TH RAFFLE



Celebrating 40 years of history and flights of the imagination!

Drawing Friday July 26th during Top Gun Extravaganza

Want the chance to be a part of Top Gun history? Win the special prize of sitting in the cockpit of the F-5, and have your photo taken by renowned photographer, Dino Petrocelli (who is a veteran himself).

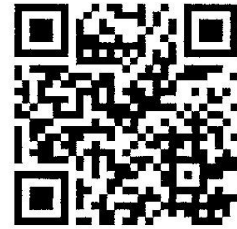
There will be 3 winners drawn at random who will sit for their photos on the night. If you have purchased a raffle ticket, but will not be there on the night, we will arrange an alternative time/day during that weekend to have your photo taken.

\$20 per raffle ticket. To purchase tickets in advance, scan the QR code, go to ESAM.org or fill out the form on Page 11 of this newsletter. Tickets can also be purchased on the night of the event.



ESAM's F-5 E Tiger

SPONSOR ESAM's 40TH CELEBRATION



Help enthusiasts! With a **Headline**, **Gold** or **Silver** Sponsorship.
Make ESAM's 40th celebration an inspiration for the next generation of aviators and aviation.

HEADLINE \$10,000

- Signage allowed on site throughout the celebratory Week
- Digital Billboard at corner of Freemans Bridge Road and Maxon Road: Free use for 1 month
- Four tickets to all ticketed events in the week excluding the Gala
- Eight Tickets to the Gala
- Short speech at the Gala Party
- Exclusive reception for 8 Guests in the C130 prior to the Gala Party
- Exclusive photo for 2 people in the F5 Tiger fighter jet
- Logo featured on:
- ESAM website, 30K visits
- ESAM e-mail blasts
- ESAM quarterly newsletters to 1000 members
- Ticket Receipt e-mails to customers for celebration events
- Ticket Receipt e-mails to all general admissions tickets
- All adverts in traditional and social media

2 Headline Sponsorships available

GOLD \$5,000

- Four tickets to all ticketed events in the week excluding the Gala
- Four Tickets to the Gala
- Exclusive photo for 2 people in the F5 Tiger fighter jet
- Logo featured on:
- ESAM website, 30K visits
- ESAM e-mail blasts
- ESAM quarterly newsletters to 1000 members
- Ticket Receipt e-mails to customers for guests events
- Ticket Receipt e-mails to all general admissions tickets
- All adverts in traditional and social media

10 Gold Sponsorships available

SILVER \$1,000

- 2 Tickets to the Gala
- Logo featured on:
- ESAM website, 30K visits
- ESAM e-mail blasts
- ESAM quarterly newsletters to 1000 members
- Ticket Receipt e-mails to guests for celebration events

UNLIMITED NUMBER AVAILABLE

OUR FOUNDERS



THE EMPIRE STATE AEROSCIENCES MUSEUM STORY

The Empire State Aerosciences Museum (ESAM) was established in 1984 as a tax exempt 501 (c)3 non-profit corporation, chartered by the NYS Department of Education. It received a provisional charter on July 25, 1984. This was extended several times and permanent charter status was presented to ESAM on September 14, 2010.

The mission of the Air Museum is: TO EDUCATE, ENTERTAIN AND EXCITE WITH EXPERIENCES IN AIR & SPACE. It does this by stimulating interest in aviation; providing a repository for historical artifacts, documents and aircraft; supplying interesting and imaginative educational programs; assisting schools to expose students to aviation technology and career opportunities; offering meeting space to community groups; and maintaining an Aviation Research Center with films, books, magazines, manuals, art & scrap-books. The Center's Research Library excels in aviation related fields, and is considered one of the better collections of its kind in the country. The three most important of our research collections are the Coffyn, which covers the Wright Brothers exhibition team from 1910-1912; the Flanagan, which chronicles the daily activities of WWI from 1914-1918; and the Allen Collection, a diverse group of aviation materials which covers the Golden Era of aviation growth from 1927-1940.

The Museum campus is leased from Schenectady County and occupies the World War II era General Electric Hangar and 8 associated buildings with 9.4 acres of land on the western perimeter of Schenectady County Airport, across the runways from the 109th Air National Guard facility. It is an ideal environment to tell the aviation story. The airport is one of the earliest consolidated airports in the country. Lindbergh landed here in 1928. During the '30's it was an aircraft manufacturing site and became a military training area and an AAF base during WWII. With the establishment of the General Electric Flight Test Facility and the Malta Rocket Test Station toward the end of that war, it became known as "The Little Peenemunde of the U.S." because of its rocket and jet research & development. Early cloud seeding tests were also done from the GE hangar. Additionally, the first jet air mail started from that same hangar. ESAM's Empire State Hall of Fame recognizes contributions of NYS aviation pioneers. The museum is part of this rich aviation heritage.

The two main galleries contain some fragile aircraft, detailed models, dioramas, historical artifacts and memorabilia and photographic displays. Exhibits include the DePischoff "flying motorcycle," replica of Amelia Earhart's plane, and a 32' scale model of the Japanese aircraft carrier "Akagi." The Museum also contains hands-on exhibits including a mock-up of a 1910 Von Pomer airplane, computer flying skill tests, a Space exhibit, and a Simulated Reality Vehicle (SRV) which treats occupants to a video and "ride" that feels that you are flying. Interactive exhibits are interspersed in the galleries. The outside Air Park displays about 20 full sized planes. The Restoration Center houses aircraft in various stages of repair, while the Exhibit Shop has displays in progress. All of these activities are performed by volunteers. Our teams include a restoration crew, collection management, group maintenance and grounds men, exhibit creators, extra office hands, and diligent Research Center workers. These volunteers supplement our dedicated and capable small staff of part-timers. They all provide the effort and planning to make ESAM grow and improve.

When ESAM first opened it only occupied the small building that now houses Gallery II and the Research Center. Over the years it has continuously expanded according to our expected growth plans. During the Covid pandemic, we were closed for several months twice. It caused the placement of the huge model of the Concorde to stop in mid placement but it is finally aloft in front of ESAM. **We continue frugally advancing and are proud to say we have no long-term debt.** On September 30, 2023, the lease for the tenant in the GE Hanger expired. It was not renewed so that we could reach our long-term goal of expanding the museum's area into the whole hangar. We now occupy about 1/4th of this building. This expansion action will also greatly increase educational opportunities, provide another large meeting space as well as greatly improve exhibit growth. Much repair work is needed to address public safety issues and to bring handicapped accessibility, lighting and heating service up to code. This work will be done by professionals to guarantee it meets all standards. This code work must be done now before this very large renovation project can proceed. We hope substantial expansion work into the entire hangar can be completed as we celebrate our 40th anniversary in 2024. We rejoice in reaching this milestone improving ESAM to make it the special place we always anticipated it would be. **We are also delighted to tell everyone that ESAM is the second largest of the 18 air museums in NYS.**

If possible please make reservations online at
ESAM.ORG/40TH-CELEBRATION. If you are not able to make reservations online, you may use the following form to make reservations through the mail.



ESAM 40TH ANNIVERSARY ORDER FORM

NAME: _____
 MAILING ADDRESS: _____
 PHONE NUMBER: _____
 EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

**DOLLAR
AMOUNT**

GALA: Thursday, July 25
 Number of Tickets at \$65/ticket _____

\$ _____

WINGS AND WHEELS

Choose Date and Time:

Friday 10:00 am _____
 Friday 11:00 am _____
 Friday 12:00 pm _____
 Friday 1:00 pm _____
 Friday 2:00 pm _____
 Saturday 10:00 am _____
 Saturday 11:00 am _____
 Saturday 12:00 pm _____
 Saturday 1:00 pm _____
 Saturday 2:00 pm _____

Number of Photos (prices include discount)

1 at \$30 _____
 2 at \$50 _____
 3 at \$75 _____
 4 at \$100 _____

\$ _____
 \$ _____
 \$ _____
 \$ _____

TOP GUN EXTRAVAGANZA

Number of Tickets at \$15/ticket _____

\$ _____

RAFFLE

Number of Tickets at \$20/ticket _____

\$ _____

CHILDREN'S WORKSHOPS

Number of Tickets at \$20/tickets

SATURDAY, July 27 11:00 am _____
 SATURDAY, July 27 2:00 pm _____
 SUNDAY, July 28 2:00 pm _____

\$ _____
 \$ _____
 \$ _____

SPONSORSHIPS

Headline at \$10,000
 Gold at \$5,000
 Silver at \$1,000

\$ _____
 \$ _____
 \$ _____

TOTAL

\$ _____

Make checks payable to **EMPIRE STATE AEROSCIENCES MUSEUM** and mail to
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Glenville, NY 12302



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MUSEUM HOURS

Summer Hours:

Tuesday through Sunday 10 AM to 4 PM

General Museum Admission

Adult: \$11

Senior and Military: \$9

Age 6-16: \$8

under 6 free when accompanied by an adult

Simulated Reality Vehicle (SRV) Ride

\$5 per person

Jansz Vander Veer Research Center/Library Hours

Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday 9 AM to 12
noon