Empire State Aerosciences Museum

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

Volume 35, Issue 3 **Fall 2026**

ANNUAL MEETING TO FEATURE COLONEL STEVE CAINE AS SPEAKER

ESAM's Annual Meeting will take place on Wednesday, October 28 at the museum. The schedule is for hors d'oeuvres at 5:30, no-cost dinner (donations accepted) at 6:00, with meeting and speaker to follow. We hope to see you there. If you are planning to come to the Annual Meeting, please contact the office at 518-377-2191 so we can plan for the food.

We are pleased to have museum member and retired Air Force pilot **Steve Caine** as our guest speaker. While he was deployed to Southeast Asia, Steve flew ESAM's F-4 Phantom (see below) during the Vietnam War. He will speak about his experiences flying the F-4 and the F-16. Colonel Caine has generously supported the maintenance and restoration of ESAM's F-4..

Trustees will be elected for the 2026-2027 year. The slate of Trustee nominees is:

- Nominated for a first three-year term as Trustee:

Sanford "Sandy" Family - Sandy is the Managing Director of Investments for **Sanford Family Financial** of Raymond James & Assoc. in Saratoga Springs. He lives in Saratoga and spends some of the winter in Naples, FL. With roots in Schenectady and a strong desire to give back to the community, he would like to use his professional experience to provide fundraising guidance and investment advice to the board in order to further the goals of ESAM.

- Current Board members nominated for additional three-year terms as Trustees:

Gary Davis **Gary Gershon** **Kevin Millington**



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Rich Bievenue

While it is sad to see the Summer of 2026 come to an end, ESAM is very pleased to see the airport north apron construction project come to completion. In just a few short months the apron and taxiways have been regraded and paved. New water, drainage and sewer lines have been run, and new security fencing and gates have been installed. The results are spectacular and will certainly improve the functionality, safety, and aesthetics of the space surrounding the museum. I would like to thank the project leaders from Schenectady County, CHA Solutions, and James H. Maloy that supported and kept ESAM so well informed throughout the project's entirety.

We expect the improvements to the north apron will result in increased air traffic and commercial activity. ESAM must position itself to take advantage of these developments. ESAM's Board of Trustees, Executive Committee, and Operations Manager will be looking at ways to improve the museum's curb appeal, and a means to fund these initiatives through grants, private donations, corporate sponsorships, and by seeking new revenue streams through the Glenville FBO (the for-profit subsidiary of ESAM).

In other news, ESAM's Annual Meeting of the Members will be held on October 28th at 5:30pm. The purpose of the meeting is to elect board trustees, recognize our outstanding volunteers, and report on the significant activities of the museum in the preceding fiscal year. We will kick off the night with a buffet dinner and close with a very special guest speaker, Steve Caine. I hope you will consider attending and catch up on the latest ESAM news.

With your help and the continued support of our local officials and municipalities, ESAM is well positioned to achieve new heights. Find out how you can get involved and help carry out our mission to Educate, Entertain, and Excite your friends, family, and neighbors about aviation science and history!

Sincerely,
Rich Bievenue, President

HAPPY BIRTHDAY USA



OPERATION SONG RETURNED TO ESAM IN SEPTEMBER

Operation Song empowers veterans, active-duty military members, and their families to tell their stories through the process of songwriting. The story tellers need no musical or writing skills, only a willingness to share their stories and, with the help of professional songwriters, transform them into song. Their stories were presented at ESAM in song on Saturday, September 19th.





ESAM CONDUCTS POW/MIA CEREMONY

On Sunday, September 20, ESAM conducted a poignant POW/MIA Ceremony recognizing those who gave their all in support of our country. Thanks to ESAM member **Dave Tripp** for arranging this ceremony.

FALL/WINTER HOURS HAVE BEGUN

ESAM has returned to Fall hours. ESAM is now open Friday through Sunday from 10 AM to 4 PM.

ROAD TRIP FOR A RUDDER

On August 10th, four ESAM volunteers traveled to Plattsburgh, NY (three by vehicle and one by plane) to start the transfer of ESAM's newest aircraft acquisition, a DC-3. The team consisted of **John Panoski, Jr.**, **Dave Roe**, **Peter Bergendahl** and new member **Tom McSweeney**. The team successfully detached the rudder from the plane and brought it back to the museum. Piece by piece the entire DC-3 will be disassembled and moved to ESAM, either by vehicle or possibly by helicopter.

If you would like to help defray the cost of moving the DC-3 to ESAM, the museum would be grateful for your contribution. Contributions may be sent to

ESAM
DC-3 Move
250 Rudy Chase Drive
Glenville, NY 12302



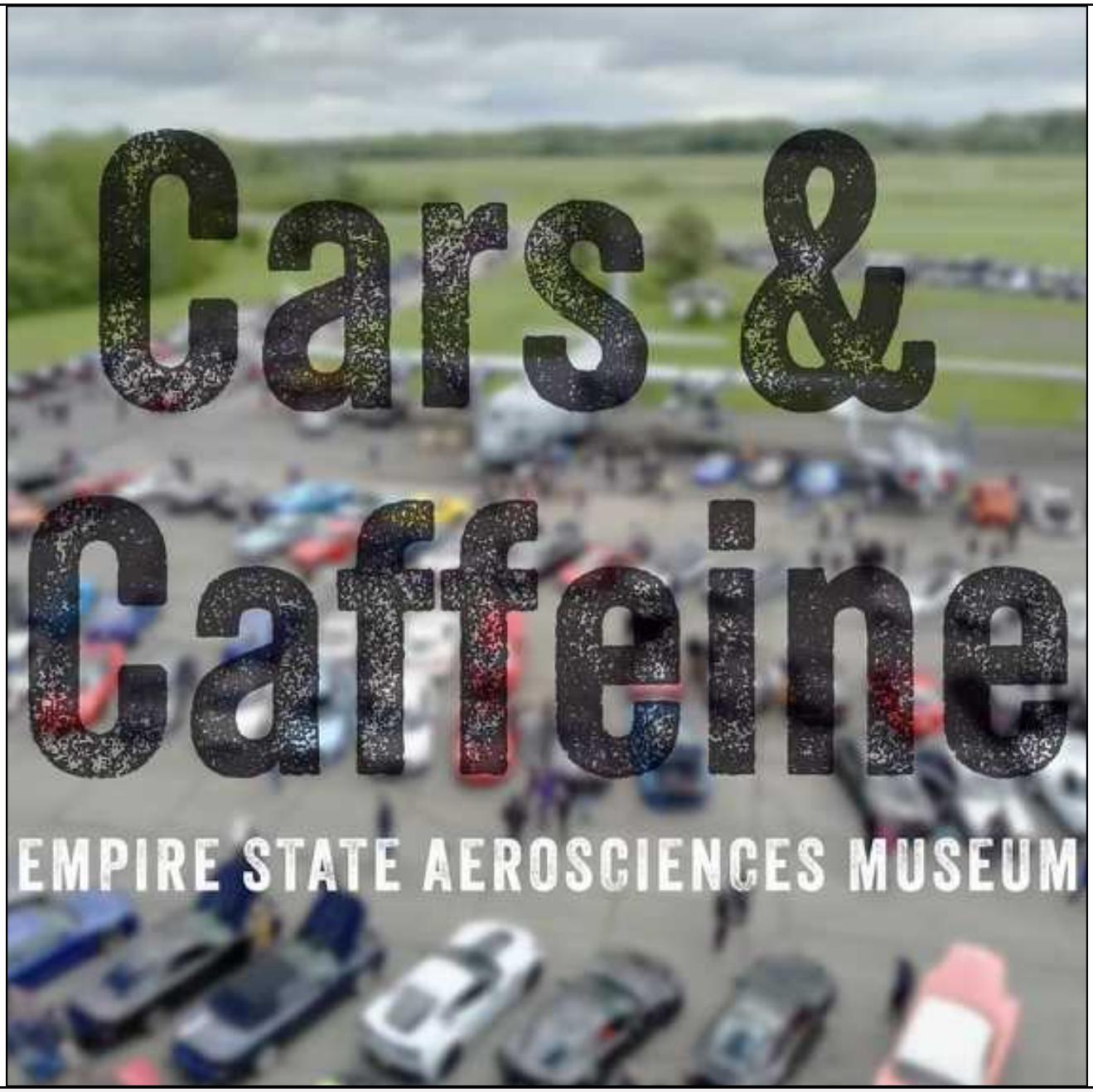
Detaching the Rudder



From left to right: Tom McSweeney, Dave Roe, John Panoski, Jr. and Peter Bergendahl.
Photos by Felina DeThomasis

CARS AND CAFFEINE: MAY 17 AND SEPTEMBER 27

ESAM hosted a very successful **Cars and Caffeine Show** on May 17th. If you missed it, or if you're ready for more, the museum is hosting another show from 9 am to noon on September 27th.



GLENVILLE DAY, AUGUST 23RD

With generous support from the **Town of Glenville**, ESAM declared August 23rd as Glenville Day. Forty-four Glenville residents received free admission to the museum on that day. Day. genre

YOUNG AVIATORS' PROGRAMS: SUMMER FUN AND LEARNING

Two groups of young aviators (22 in total) enjoyed four days at ESAM not only learning about flying from a host of experts, but also touring the museum, visiting the Control Tower at the Schenectady County Airport, and actually getting into the air! Thanks to **Dave Roe** for running the sessions.





2026 ESAM
DINNER AND ANNUAL MEETING

OCTOBER 28, 2026
IN ESAM'S COMMUNITY ROOM

5:00 PM: Hors d'oeuvres
6:00 PM: No-cost Dinner (donations accepted)
Meeting and Speaker to follow dinner.

RSVP to 518-377-2191 by OCTOBER 21

GUEST SPEAKER:
COLONEL STEVE CAINE, USAF (RET)
FLYING THE F-4 AND F-16

AT THE
EMPIRE STATE AEROSCIENCES MUSEUM
250 Rudy Chase Drive, Glenville, NY

Spouses and Significant Others
are welcome

Proxy Form for Annual Meeting

Dear ESAM Member,

The purpose of the Annual Meeting of the Empire State Aerosciences Museum (to be held on October 28, 2026) shall be to elect Trustees of the Corporation, to report on all significant activities of the Corporation during the preceding fiscal year and to conduct such other business as may properly come before the meeting. The Record Date for eligibility to vote at this meeting has been fixed at October 1, 2026. Every member as of October 1, 2026 is entitled to vote and may authorize another person to act for such member by written proxy. To insure a quorum at the Annual Meeting, please date, sign and return the Proxy Form below. The ESAM Board Secretary will be custodian of proxies. Every proxy shall be revocable at the pleasure of the member executing it. These signed proxies will be available at the Annual Meeting, and may be retrieved by those members who will be voting in person that night.

Please send to or leave your proxy with ESAM, 250 Rudy Chase Drive, Glenville, NY 12302, Attention: Proxy Custodian

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AeroNotes
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ESAM is a registered charitable organization chartered by the N.Y.S. Department of Education

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WHERE WERE YOU ON 9/11?

On August 15th, ESAM breakfast patrons were treated to a riveting presentation by Glens Falls-native **Gary Loughrey**. Gary spoke about his experiences as an airborne commercial pilot on September 11, 2001 when all aircraft overflying the United States were ordered "to land at the nearest suitable airport". This order came when the Federal Aviation Administration was unable to verify how many airplanes had been hijacked by terrorists.

Gary was piloting a US Airways flight from Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport to Kansas City International Airport on 9/11 when he received the FAA's order. He asked the FAA controller what was going on and was that the the United States was under attack. He informed his flight crew and enlisted a group of Marines who happened to be on his flight to ensure security in the passenger areas while he diverted to Indianapolis. His copilot smoothly made the steep descent needed to get into the landing pattern at Indianapolis, and, at one point, was the 6th of 60 planes headed to Indianapolis for landing.

Gary earned his Private License in 1970, graduated from USAF Pilot Training in 1978 and flew Lockheed C-141 transports at Charleston, South Carolina for nine years. He flew for US Airways for over 30 years. Later he flew aerial surveying for Bluesky Geospacial in North Adams, Massachusetts, and he continues to fly his 1947 Beechcraft Bonanza.

JACK O' LANTERNS AND JETS RETURNS ON OCTOBER 24TH

On Saturday, October 24th, another scary good time is in store for ghosts, goblins, skeletons, witches, and other Halloweeners. ESAM will host its annual Jack o' Lanterns and Jets program starting at 4:00 PM. Trick or Treaters and their parents will have the opportunity to see how Halloween creatures have transformed ESAM's Main Hangar into a Haunted Hangar. Food and crafts will be available.



FLIGHTS FOR VETERANS RETURNS

The annual Flights for Veterans returns to ESAM on Friday, November 6th from 5:30 to 9:00. The Flights for Veterans event at ESAM is a local tasting fundraiser hosted in partnership with the **Glenville Rotary** to benefit the **Capital Region Veterans Memorial** and the museum itself. It is a 21-and-older tasting event featuring beer, wine, cider, and spirits from over 25 local breweries, distilleries, and wineries, alongside food samples from regional restaurants, set right among the museum's aircraft. General Admission is $40. VIP Tickets are $60 (includes special access and tastings inside a C-130 aircraft). Designated Drivers are available at $20. Tickets can be purchased online via the QR code to the right.



ESAM AGAIN SUPPORTS THE RUN THE RUNWAY

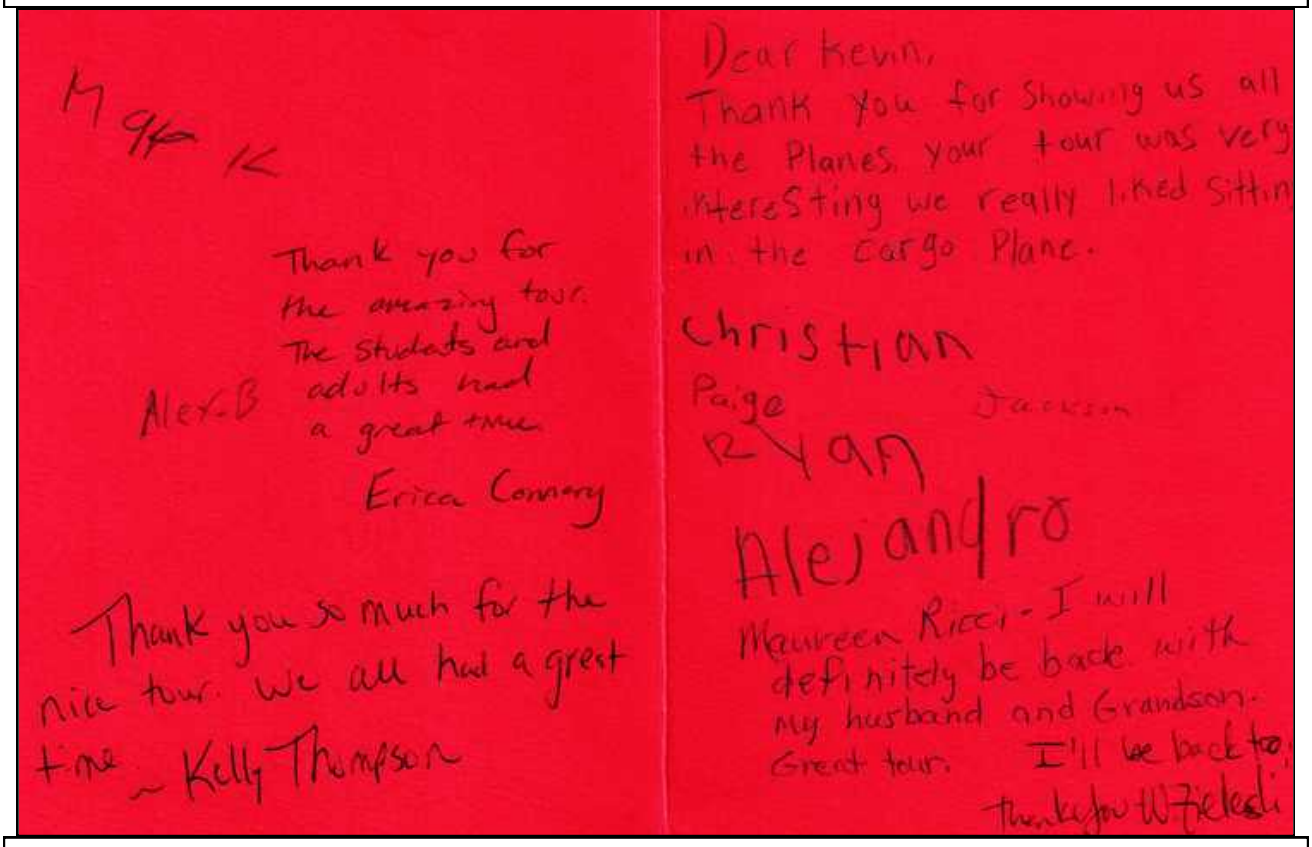
Fitness enthusiasts had a rare chance to run, jog, or walk on the massive runways and newly paved taxiways of the Schenectady County airport- an active hub that connects Schenectady County to the world, with 50,000 flight operations each year.

Starting at 10 am on September 12th, this unique 5K course took participants on the same runway used by the New York State Air National Guard's 109th Airlift Wing, and their iconic LC-130 "Ski Birds," the only aircraft in the world equipped to land on Antarctic ice.

Runners, joggers, and walkers of all ages were welcome. Young aviators, 12 and under, were invited to take off on a free 1-mile fun run down the main runway.

After the 5K, participants were able to taxi over to the Empire State Aerosciences Museum (ESAM) and enjoy free admission for the day, exploring the world of aviation and learning more about Schenectady County's legacy of flight.

LETTERS, POSTS AND EMAILS LIKE THESE WE LIKE TO RECEIVE



Hello!!

Thank you for your generous support of the Coming together for Shannon Fundraiser, which took place June 14th. The raffle prize you contributed to us helped us to raise upwards of $15,000, all of which will directly subsidize Shannon's medical expenses and loss of income as she battles breast cancer. Your support has made a true and tangible difference.

We are grateful for your contribution. Thank you for supporting a local community member in her time of need.

With appreciation, The Coming Together for Shannon Team

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...

Sincerely,
Shannon Galuski
Executive Director, Philanthropy
St Peter's Hospital Foundation

OUR SUPPORTERS

	VIP Supporting	
Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence McArthur	Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Ruggles	Mr. William Siudy
Mr. Kirk E. Vanderbogart		
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Ms. Gwen Novick	Mr. Daniel Stachnick	Mr. Mitchell Owen
Ms. Madhuri Saini	Ms. Madhuri Saini	Ms. Madhuri Saini
Ms. Lauren Cohen	Ms. Marlete Richards	Ms. Kayla Archer

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Mr. Zachary Koller		
	Individual	
Mr. Michael Corson	Mr. Michael Mills	Mr. Andreas Morales
Mr. Thomas McSweeney		
	Senior Citizen/Student	
Mr. Lawrence Krug	Rev. River Stone	Mr. William B. Bibby
Mrs. Deborah Beraneck	Mr. Stephen Arata	Mr. Jim Picket
Mr. Albin Zielaskowski		
	Library	
	Castleton Public Library	

OTHER DONATIONS

ESAM is grateful for donations from the following supporters:

Ms. Beth Gregory
Mr. Christopher Buckley
Mr. Kevin Millington
Mr. Ken Lloyd
Ms. Diane Teevan
Mr. Matthew Mendleson
Ms. Barbara Arisohn
Richard and Julie Bievenue
Ms. Laurie Salka-Kutosh
Mr. Joseph Barcelo

GARDEN PROJECT POSTPONED UNTIL NEXT YEAR

Due to construction delays at the airport, the Garden Project originally scheduled for September 26th and October 3rd is delayed until 2027.

The Empire State Aerosciences Museum is supported in part by:

Business Benefactors
All Seasons Equipment
AYCO/Goldman Sachs
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Curtis Lumber Co., Inc.
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Mr. Stephen Borbee
Carol Borthwick
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John Hackert
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James Liguori
John Panoski
Mr. & Mrs. Steven Ruggles
Maureen Sauter
Howard Schlossberg & Michelle Ostrelich
The Family of Jansz Vander Veer*

*ESAM Charter Member

RECENT ACQUISITIONS AND LOANS

- **John Gibson** followed up on an earlier donation by donating assorted American Aviation Historical society journals as well as other aviation-related books and magazines.
- **Randall Lynch** donated assorted aviation-related books and magazines.
- **Adan Candib** donated various aerospace and aviation books.
- Regular donor **Ross Armstrong** donated several issues of Metropolitan Airport News, Airline Pilot Magazine, Aviation International News and copies of newspaper articles.
- **George Litynski** donated a photo of F-106 flight systems evaluation technicians for GE Flight Control Systems.
- **Chris Hatin** donated a Challenger II Experimental Kit complete minus engine, instruments and covering.
- **Robert Estes** donated two framed prints of B-17 aircraft: "Sweinfurt 1943" by Francis Dartois, and "Bloody Hundreth" by Keith Hill.
- **Brian Henderson** loaned the museum three built-up 1/72 scale models: P-51 Red Tail, P-47 Red Tail and F-111 Aardvark.
- **Jim and Marsha Sharer** donated a Little-Wing autogyro. (see below)

ESAM RECEIVES LITTLE-WING AUTOGYRO

Thanks to the generosity of **Jim and Martha Sharer** (in photo below), ESAM now has in its collection a LW-3 Little-Wing Autogyro. Jim built the autogyro using plans provided by designer **Ron Heron** of Little Wing Autogyros. Inc.

Per the Internet, the Little Wing LW-3 is a single-seat, fabric-covered variant of the Little Wing autogyro family, optimized for enhanced cross-country performance compared to its ultralight predecessors. Unlike the LW-2 (which utilizes an elevator combined with a laterally tilting rotor head), the LW-3 features a universally tilting rotor head alongside a standard rudder for full 3-axis aerodynamic authority.

Thanks also to ESAM volunteers **Gary Davis** and **Dave Tripp** for making the trip to pick up the autogyro.





Dear ESAM Supporter,

Thank you for being a vital part of the Empire State Aerosciences Museum family!

Attendance at the museum continues to grow and we are expecting that trend to continue when the County completes its major airport improvement project in and around the museum. Our education programming is expanding and we are expecting some important additions to the museum's collection as well, in the form of a WWII era Douglas DC-3 and a USAF F-16! Regarding our facility, our highest priority is to replace the failing roof on the barrel hangar, a project which is estimated to cost over $1 million. We are actively exploring all possible funding options for this major project and your financial support for the museum will help us address this critical need.

To keep our commitment to aviation history and education moving forward, we need your help. We invite you to make a tax-deductible donation by clicking on the following link, https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/donation-form/esam-annual-appeal and selecting the appropriate choices. You may also wish to consider amplifying your impact with a monthly or yearly recurring gift to the museum. Your support is not just a donation; it's an investment in the future of this vital cultural and educational resource that impacts so many lives, young and young at heart, in so many ways.

Thank you again for supporting ESAM as we continue to "educate, entertain and excite" everyone who walks through our doors.

With sincere gratitude,
Rich Bievenue
ESAM President

The Empire State Aerosciences Museum (ESAM) is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Your donation is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. No goods or services were provided by ESAM in return for this contribution.

ESAM Membership Application

Please check one: NEW MEMBERSHIP____ RENEWAL ____

ANNUAL DUES:

INDIVIDUAL/FAMILY
- ____Senior Citizen $35
- ____Student $35
- ____Individual $45
- ____Family $75

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

BUSINESS
- _____ Supporter $285
- _____ Patron $500
- _____ Benefactor $1,000
- _____ Library $75
- _____ 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

If your company offers a matching gift program, please contact them with the amount of your gift.

Matching Gift Company _____

Empire State Aerosciences Museum
250 Rudy Chase Drive Glenville, NY
12302

Happenings at ESAM

MUSEUM HOURS

Summer Hours: (Father's Day through Labor Day)
Open Tuesday through Sunday 10 AM to 4 PM. Closed Monday

Winter Hours: (Labor Day until Father's Day)
Open Friday through Sunday 10 AM to 4 PM. Closed Monday through Thursday

Closed on New Year's Eve, New Year's Day, Easter, Memorial Day, July 4th, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day
For all other federal holidays or school breaks, contact the museum in advance to confirm.

General Museum Admission – $15 per adult (effective June 1, 2026); $11 per senior and military; $9 age 5-16;
4 and under free when accompanied by an adult
Simulated Reality Vehicle (SRV) – Ride: $5

Jansz Vander Veer Research Center/Library Hours – Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday
9 AM to 12 noon, by appointment only. Appontments can be made through the ESAM Office.at 518-377-2191

September 27, Sunday - Cars and Caffeine: 9:00 AM.
October 3, Saturday - Fly Market: Community Garage Sale: 9:00 AM.
October 17, Saturday - Pancake Breakfast: 8:30-10:30 AM. All you can eat: $12 for ages 15 and older, $8 for children 6-14, free for children under 6. Menu varies with pancakes, 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 the north parking area. Browse the Museum beginning at 10 AM. Museum Admission: $15 per adult; $11 per senior and military; $9 age 5-16; 4 and under free when accompanied by an adult.
October 7, Saturday - Speaker: Joe Bulmer. USAF Thunderbird pilot.
October 19, Monday - Board of Trustees Meeting: 7 PM ESAM Community Room
October 24, Saturday - Jack O' Lanterns and Jets: 4:00 PM.
October 28, Wednesday - ESAM Annual Meeting
November 6, Friday - Flights for Veterans: 5:30-9:00
November 14, Saturday - Pancake Breakfast: 8:30-10:30 AM. All you can eat: $12 for ages 15 and older, $8 for children 6-14, free for children under 6. Menu varies with pancakes, 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 the north parking area. Browse the Museum beginning at 10 AM. Museum Admission: $15 per adult; $11 per senior and military; $9 age 5-16; 4 and under free when accompanied by an adult.
November 16, Monday - Board of Trustees Meeting: 7 PM ESAM Community Room
December 12, Saturday - Christmas is in the Air