

The Lighter-Than-Air Society

Newsletter

Issue # 4 June 2010

FREE Film Showing of "Around the World via Graf Zeppelin" (1929)



11:00 AM Saturday, June 12 at
Akron-Summit County Main
Library

Fly Around the World in the Graf
Zeppelin

"The Harbinger of Peace, Pros-
perity and the Brotherhood of Gen-
erations"

The Experience of a Lifetime

Enjoy a unique journey Around the
World via Graf Zeppelin," with a
FREE showing of this rarely seen
documentary. The non-profit
Lighter-Than-Air-Society will pre-
sent the film at 11 a.m. on Satur-
day,
June 12 at the Main Branch of the
Akron-Summit County Library down-
town.

Restored by UCLA for its 1993 film
festival, the travelogue captured
the first circumnavigation of the
globe by an airship. The lengthy le-
viathan traversed the Atlantic
Ocean, and was the first aircraft to
cross the Pacific Ocean. The 776
Ft. German dirigible visited the
Cleveland Air Races during the Aug.
8 to Sept. 4, 1929 adventure.

William Randolph Hearst financed
about half the cost of the MGM movie
that premiered in New York City on
Nov. 2, 1929. Lady Drummond Hay,
the only woman aboard, traveled with
18 other passengers and crew of 40
to report exclusively for his news-
paper chain. She became the
first woman to cross the Pacific
Ocean and fly around the world.

Exciting scenes from the rigid air-
ship are among the first aerial im-
ages of the planet. U.S. Navy Com-
mander Charles E. Rosendahl de-
scribes each leg of the voyage be-
fore the landscape moves across the
screen. Rosendahl, who accompa-
nied the crew, was eventually put
in
charge of the flight trials of
the USS Akron at the Airship Dock
in
1931 and then assumed command of
the dirigible on 40 flights, un-
til June 1932.

Backed out of the hangar, the
huge ship first soars from Lake-
hurst, N.J., to Friedrichshafen,
Germany, under the command of Dr.

Hugo Eckener, "The Magellan of the Air." The magnificent Art Deco interiors of the enormous gondola take center stage, displaying comfort and style. Sipping chilled champagne, passengers swing to "Singin' in the Rain" in jazz on a modern phonograph.

Proudly, the aircraft roams above the major German cities. Views of Berlin and Potsdam are thrilling, as seen before the ravages of World War II bombs. The journey continues across immense Russia, and the endless "ocean of timber" of the Steppes, to Siberia and to Tokyo. The emperor of Japan presents a great ceremony of welcome.

Flying above a typhoon, they are the first to span the Pacific Ocean, crossing the International Dateline to reach San Francisco, and the majestic silver fish then glides to Los Angeles.

Finally the Graf Zeppelin travels over the Rocky Mountains, southwestern deserts, Chicago, and Cleveland to sail above the Statue of "Lady Liberty" in New York and land again at Lakehurst. The great ship circled the world in only 12 days of flying time.

The library is located at 60 S. High Street and parking is FREE in the adjacent deck. Take a seat for the experience of a lifetime.

LTAS Program at the Akron History Exhibit, July 24, 2010



Since 2003, with the opening of the Akron History Exhibit at Lock 3 Park (in downtown Akron), artifacts, photographs, and other materials from the LTAS's holdings have played an important role in illustrating aspects of the fascinating history of lta flight. To showcase these exhibits, the Society will hold a public program on Saturday, July 24, at 1:00 p.m. The History Exhibit is on the ground level of the State Street Parking Deck. Free parking is available in the Deck (enter from State Street), with eleva-

The L-T-A Society Directors

David Osterland (Chairman), David Wertz (Vice-Chairman), Sandy Bee Lynn (Secretary), Alvaro Bellon (Treasurer), James Boyazis, Eric Brothers, P. Rendall Brown, Wayne Buchanan, John S. Cunningham, David Gowans, Robert Handelman, John Miller, Steven Paschen, Joan Reisig, Tom Riley, Benjamin Schlater, Brian Steinkerchner, Ron Syroid, Timothy Toppen. Honorary members Howard Flood, Loren Seely, Charles Huettnner and James Shock.

The LTA Society, 526 S. Main St. Ste 406,
Akron, OH 44311 Office and Workshop: 330-535-5827

tor access to the ground level. The program is free and open to any interested people. The exhibits have changed over the years, so we will guarantee some new things, even if you have previously been to Lock 3 Park. Also, if you have not traveled to downtown Akron recently, you might be amazed at some of the changes (as examples, the Towpath Trail; Lock 4 [just to the north of Lock 3]).

On the subject of the Akron History Exhibit, there is a strong need for volunteers, particularly people with some knowledge of lighter-than-air flight, to enhance the experience of visitors. Most of the volunteer opportunities will be on Friday and Saturday evenings during the summer for two or three hour shifts. If you have any interest in sharing your knowledge of lighter than air or if you would like to learn more, please contact Dave Wertz (dwertz@neo.rr.com; 330-688-5984) or John Miller (jmiller@uakron.edu; 330-869-8193).

**Save the Date / Annual Banquet
and Meeting
Saturday, November 6, 2010**

The annual meeting of the Lighter-Than-Air Society will be held on Saturday evening, November 6, 2010, at the Martin University Center on the University of Akron campus. We have not set up the program as

yet, but as always, we are sure it will be of interest to all of our members.

Detailed information about the program and meeting will be distributed in early September. If you haven't been to one of the meetings, please consider attending and if you have attended in the past, we hope to see you again this year.

**Update on the LTAS Website
"Blimpinfo.com"**

Our website was contaminated with a virus recently, and neither our efforts or the efforts of the host computer company could eliminate the problem. Our solution was to remove the content and put up a brief message alerting people with the message "Our website is currently undergoing refurbishment and will return soon". We felt this was necessary to protect our members and website page visitors from potential infection of their computers. The Board communications committee is working on finding a web designer to completely revamp the web site into an exciting new format. Stay tuned!

**Are your dues up to
date?**

Check your mailing address on this newsletter to see when your current dues expire.

We save the Society money by not mailing reminders.



THE LIGHTER-THAN-AIR SOCIETY
526 SOUTH MAIN ST STE 406
AKRON, OHIO 44311
U.S.A.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PURPOSE: *To further knowledge pertaining to the history, science and techniques of buoyant flight; to encourage the use of lighter-than-air transportation; and to establish and maintain a library and museum on lighter than air.*

Everyone is welcome to join

The LTA Society Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Email address _____

Types of membership available:

- ☐ Active Membership, U.S. & Canada: \$25 per year
- ☐ Active Membership, all other countries: \$35 per year
- ☐ Benefactor Membership: \$100 per year

☐ Life Active Membership:
(NEW! Senior rates!)

- [] \$425 - Up to Age 55
- [] \$325 - Age 55 to 70
- [] \$225 - Age 70+

- ☐ New Membership Please mark your envelope ATTN NEW MEMBERSHIP or
- ☐ Renewal ATTN RENEWAL to speed processing.
- ☐ Please note: My address has changed to the one written above

Make checks or money-orders in U.S. funds payable to **The Lighter-Than-Air Society** and mail to:
THE LIGHTER-THAN-AIR SOCIETY, 526 S. MAIN ST., STE. 406, AKRON, OH 44311 U.S.A.

Be sure to watch for
the premier of our
newly designed web-
site at

www.blimpinfo.com
(temporarily off-line)

for the latest on Soci-
ety meetings and ac-
tivities, news, color
photos of our latest
events, and links to
other Lighter-Than-
Air sites!

The Lighter~Than~Air Society

Issue # 4-A

Special notification ~

July 2010

IMPORTANT DATE CHANGE

In the June Newsletter, we told you about an upcoming LTAS program at the Akron History Exhibit on Saturday, July 24, at 1:00 p.m. Due to the fact that the All-American Soap Box Derby will be held at Derby Downs in Akron that day, we decided to change the date of the LTAS program to Saturday, July 31, at 1:00.

The public program will be at Lock 3 Park (in downtown Akron) at the Akron History Exhibit. Artifacts, photographs and other materials from the LTAS's holdings have played an important role in illustrating aspects of the fascinating history of lighter than air flight. The History Exhibit is on the ground level of the State Street Parking Deck. Free parking is available in the Deck (enter from State Street), with elevator access to the ground level. The program is free and open to any interested people. The exhibits have changed over the years, and we will be adding some new things, even if you have previously been to Lock 3 Park. Also, if you have not traveled to downtown Akron recently, you might be amazed at some of the changes (as examples, the Towpath Trail; Lock 4 (just to the north of Lock 3).)

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Save the Date / Annual Banquet And Meeting

Saturday, November 6, 2010

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