

The Lighter-Than-Air Society

Newsletter

Issue # 5 September 2010

Crouch Featured in Lighter-Than-Air Weekend Activities



Plan to attend the Lighter-Than-Air (LTA) Weekend on Saturday and Sunday, November 6th-7th in Akron, Ohio, which will feature Dr. Tom Crouch, senior curator of the National Air and Space Museum in

Washington, D.C.

At the Lighter-Than-Air Society (LTAS) annual dinner, the Dayton native will talk about the development of the LTA craft and artifacts display at the Smithsonian Institution's Udvar-Hazy Center near Dulles Airport. Highlights of the museum show the history of ballooning from the period of invention of the balloon through the Civil War and up to the present. Now the focus is on developing more of the LTA history.

He will be kept busy. Crouch will also present a free talk about "The Life of Wilbur and Orville Wright" at the Akron-Summit County Main Library downtown at 1 p.m., Saturday, November 6th.

Tom Crouch grew up near Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, so he was always interested in flight. He earned degrees in history with a BA from Ohio University in 1962, an MA from Miami University in 1968, and his Ph.D from The Ohio State University in 1976. He has studied and written about the history of flight from 1783 to present day.

The latest of his 15 books is *Lighter-Than-Air: An Illustrated History of Balloons and Airships*

(2009). His collection also includes two books on ballooning and four on the Wright brothers.

Joining the Smithsonian in 1974, he has served both the National Air and Space Museum (NASM) and the National Museum of American History in various curatorial and administrative positions. His early career was director of education at the Ohio Historical Society (1969-1973) and as Director, Ohio American Revolution Bicentennial Advisory Commission. (1973-1974). He also planned exhibitions for the Neil Armstrong Museum in Wapakoneta, Ohio.

Tom Crouch will be given a tour of the vast intellectual collection of books and documents owned by the LTAS and kept by the Main Library. Meanwhile, the Special Collections department plans a large public presentation of books, photographs and artifacts. They will be in the large display case on the third floor from October through December.

On Sunday afternoon, November 7th the Main Library will also present a free showing of the Academy Award-winning movie "UP." The Pixar-Disney film uses helium balloons and a dirigible as key plot elements in its story.

The major event of the LTA Weekend will be the annual dinner at 6 p.m. at the Martin Center, 105 Fir Hill on The University of Akron campus. Tom Crouch is an excellent speaker and certainly well versed in Lighter-Than-Air history and future plans of the technology.

His talk will be timely because of the critical lighter-than-air work in which Lockheed Martin is involved at the Akron AirDock, including the large High Altitude Airship.

Make plans now to enjoy the Lighter-Than-Air Weekend and annual dinner.

LTA artifacts debut at Akron History Exhibit



On July 31st, The Society unveiled its latest update to the items and artifacts on display at The Akron History Exhibit located at Lock 3 in downtown Akron, Ohio. More than 120 people attended this public event with an introduction being given by Akron's Deputy Mayor and Chief of Staff Dave Lieberth. In an on-going effort to enrich and educate the public in regards to lighter-than-air matters, the Society's Artifacts and Exhibits Committee periodically rotates the items on display in order to showcase different aspects of LTA through the Society's expansive collection.

Joining the other items at the Exhibit are some new artifacts that have never been put on display before which highlight the USS Akron/ USS Macon era of rigid airships. The bunting which hung in front of the podium at the Christening Ceremony of the USS Akron now hangs above a colorized photographic enlargement of that very bunting at the Ceremony on August 8th, 1931. Next to this is the red, white and blue pull cord which First Lady Lou Henry Hoover used to release 48 racing pigeons as she christened the airship. Also on display is the US Flag which graced the stern of the USS Macon as she made her way from Akron to Lakehurst, NJ and finally to her new home at Moffett Field in Sunnyvale, CA.

While all of these fragile artifacts are sealed behind special glass to protect them from ultraviolet light, one new addition welcomes a more hands-on approach. An anchored section of Akron/Macon girder made of Duralumin has instructions which invite observers to feel free to lift it up and see just how lightweight this aluminum alloy was. The feedback on these latest additions has been wonderful and they will continue to be on display for an extended period to give all an opportunity to enjoy them.



Are your dues and email address current?

Please support this newsletter and all efforts by the Society. Check your mailing address on this newsletter to see when your current dues expire.

We save the Society money by not mailing reminders.

Include your **email** in all correspondence and we can keep you up to date on Society news and events.

ANNUAL BANQUET RESERVATION FORM

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Cell _____ E-Mail _____

____ Yes, I (we) will attend the Lighter-Than-Air Society Annual dinner at the Martin . UniversityCenter on the campus of the University of Akron on Saturday, Nov. 6, 2010.

6 p.m. Social 7 p.m. Dinner and Program
Dinner: \$35.00 Patron: \$50.00

Please indicate your dinner choice:

- ____ Beef & Portabella mushroom stew with noodles
- ____ Chicken breast cordon bleu style
- ____ (Vegetarian selection available upon request)

Checks made payable to LTAS and mailed to:

Lighter-Than-Air Society Annual Banquet
c/o Sandy Bee Lynn
240 Northwood Dr.
Doylestown, OH 44230-1050

Call 330-658-4259 with questions. Seating will be limited and on a first-come, first served basis.

Please RSVP by Oct. 29, 2010.

____ I cannot attend but would like to make a donation to the Lighter-Than-Air Society fundraiser in the amount of \$_____.

Please indicate the number of people that plan to attend each event listed below. Bring your camera to all events.

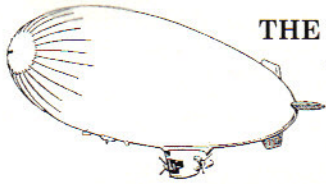
____ Sun. 11.07.2010 Tour of Wingfoot Lake Gdyr Blimp Base. We will meet at WFL, time to be announced at dinner and will depend on whether or not the Spirit of Goodyear will be home and in the hangar.

____ Mon. 11/08.2010 Trip down to Ava, Ohio to visit the three *Shenandoah* crash sites and the local Museum. We will car pool for the trip. Leave Akron about 10:00 a.m., have a quick lunch in Caldwell and head back about 2:30.

Please list any nominees you have for the *P. Rendall Brown Lifetime Achievement Award*

This award is presented to those individuals who have devoted a lifetime of service to the Lighter-Than-Air Society, during which time they have dedicated themselves to preserving the history of buoyant flight and promoting public awareness and appreciation of the technology and the value of it to humankind.

Nominee(s) _____



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

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!

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.