



The Lighter-Than-Air Society Newsletter

October 2013

Issue # 11

61st Annual Banquet and Silent Auction to be Held on Saturday, November 9, 2013

On Saturday, November 9, 2013 The Lighter-Than-Air Society will be holding its 61st Annual Banquet and Silent Auction.

This year the event will be held at the Greek Community Center (part of the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church of Akron), at 129 South Union Street, Akron OH 44304.

There will be three menus to select from for dinner: beef, chicken and vegetarian. See page 3 for details on the registration form

The Silent Auction will include golf packages, baskets and other items. The highlight will be a special package: A Guided Tour of the Lockheed Martin Airdock in Akron (restrictions apply). See pages 2 and 3 for more details.

The evening's program will start at 5:00 PM with a social hour followed by dinner at 6:00 PM and our evening's program will begin at 7:00 PM.

Bidding on the Silent Auction items will be open from 5:00 to 7:00 PM. Winners of the items will be announced at the end of the program. At that time all auction items will be available for check-out and pick up in the Auction area.

If you are unable to attend please consider making a donation to our fundraiser, or sponsoring one or more University of Akron—College of Engineering students.

All attendees are invited to bring memorabilia that they would like to display. Please contact Wayne Buchanan (w.r.buchanan@sbcglobal.net) in advance

Michael Heil to Be Keynote Speaker at Banquet



Michael L. Heil

President and Chief Executive Officer
Ohio Aerospace Institute

Michael Heil's talk is entitled **Ohio: The Aerospace State**. In his remarks he will address the near-space use of high altitude aerostats.

About OAI

OAI's mission is to enhance its partners' aerospace competitiveness through research and technology development, workforce preparedness, and engagement with global networks for innovation and advocacy.

OAI works closely with Ohio's two aerospace-related federal research laboratories (Air Force Research Laboratory in Dayton and NASA Glenn Research Center in Cleveland), Numerous aerospace-related companies with operations in Ohio and Ohio universities with Ph.D. and research programs in aerospace-related fields, e.g., The University of Akron

About our Speaker

Michael was appointed President and CEO of the Ohio Aerospace Institute (OAI) in January, 2007. Prior to OAI, Michael had a distinguished career in the United States Air Force, retiring at the rank of Colonel in July 2005.

A distinguished engineering graduate from the U.S. Air Force Academy, class of 1975, Michael received a master's degree in flight structures from Columbia University on a Guggenheim Fellowship in 1976 and a doctorate in aerospace engineering from the Air Force Institute of Technology in 1986.

His Air Force service includes engineering and program management duties in the F-15, C-17 and Advanced Cruise Missile program offices. Michael was Deputy Director of the Astronautics Laboratory, Commander of the Phillips Laboratory and Arnold Engineering Development Center, Commandant of the Air Force Institute of Technology, and Special Assistant to the Commander of the Air Force Research Laboratory. He served in two Air Force acquisition centers, four defense laboratories, a test center, a major command staff, the Office of the Secretary of Defense, and the faculties of the Air Force Academy and Air Force Institute of Technology. As Director of the Air Force Research Laboratory's Propulsion Directorate, he oversaw facilities valued at more than \$2.1 billion and led the efforts of more than 1,000 scientists, engineers and staff.

Bryan E. Rayner

May 4, 1957 - September 19, 2013



The lighter-than-air community lost a true friend and tireless advocate when Bryan E. Rayner, age 56, of Ava, Ohio, passed away suddenly on Thursday, Sept. 19, 2013, at his home.

Mr. Rayner, along with his wife, Theresa, operated a mobile museum dedicated to the history of the Shenandoah airship, which crashed in Ava in 1925. He was a collector of its memorabilia, including pieces of its wreckage, and he was a well-known local historian who promoted the history of the Shenandoah and the Ava community.

He was a member of The Lighter-Than-Air Society, Navy Lakehurst Historical Society, and the Naval Airship Association. He enjoyed hosting July Fourth celebrations at his home, and the Rayners were instrumental in organizing commemorative events in Ava on major anniversaries of the USS *Shenandoah* and in preserving the memory of the U.S. Navy's first rigid airship and her crew at the Noble County wreck sites.

Bryan was born May 4, 1957, in Cambridge, son of Evelyn Marie Bryan Rayner of Ava and the late Wilfred Ellis "Shine" Rayner. He was a 1975 gradu-

ate of Shenandoah High School and the Guernsey-Noble Vocational School's auto mechanic program. He was the third generation owner and operator of Rayner's Garage and Towing in Ava, which was founded by his grandfather, Boots Rayner in 1929. Together with his father, Shine, they operated the family business until his father's death December 1, 2006. He was always on call to help at the time of an accident or vehicle breakdown at any time of day or night, holidays, in blazing heat or in freezing cold. He was dedicated to his work. He provided towing services for demolition derbies, and decorated his tow trucks and participated in local parades.

In addition to his mother, he is survived by his wife, two daughters, one sister, one grandson, one grandchild on the way, several nieces, nephews, cousins, and many, many friends.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Caldwell Volunteer Fire Dept., 215 West St., Caldwell, OH, 43724, the Belle Valley Volunteer Fire Dept., P.O. Box 16, Belle Valley, OH, 43717, the Summerfield Volunteer Fire Dept., P.O. Box 214, Summerfield, OH, 43788, or the Cumberland Volunteer Fire Dept., 444 West Main St., Cumberland, OH, 43732.

November in Buoyant Flight History

Nov. 2 1931 - The USS *Akron* makes its first flight as a commissioned ship of the US Navy, from Naval Air Station Lakehurst, New Jersey.

Nov. 3 1897 - 1st all-metal rigid airship designed by David Schwarz is tested in Germany, using wafer-thin aluminum but crashes soon after take off.

Nov. 4 1910 - The British non-rigid airship *City of Cardiff*, built by E.T. Willows, completes the first ever dirigible flight from England to France.

Nov. 8 1836 A coal gas-fired balloon piloted by Charles Green lands in Weilburg, Germany, a day and 448 miles after having departed London.

Nov. 11 1935 Orville Anderson and Albert Stevens establish an altitude record for balloons of 72,395 feet in the Explorer II.

Nov. 12 1903 - The 1st fully practical airship, the *Lebaudy*, makes a successful flight in Paris, France. The 190-foot-long airship flies 38.5 miles, achieving a speed of 25mph.

Nov 13 1980 - Double Eagle V, piloted by Rocky Aoki, with Ben Abruzzo, Larry Newman and Ron Clark, lands in California's Mendocino National Forest 84½ hours after taking off from Nagashima, Japan, becoming the first balloon to cross the Pacific Ocean.

Nov. 21 1783 - The first untethered human flight takes place when Jean Francois Pilatre de Rozier flies as high as 500 feet and travels five miles over Paris in a Montgolfier hot-air balloon.

Nov. 21 1917 - The Zeppelin LZ59 begins a 4,198-mile journey through Africa in 96 hours.

Nov. 25 1924 - First Lady, Mrs. Calvin Coolidge christens the ZR-3 (LZ-126) as the USS *Los Angeles* at NAS Anacostia near Washington DC.

Nov. 30 1784 - Jean-Pierre Blanchard makes the first scientific observations from above the earth in a hydrogen balloon over London.

Nov. 30 1905 - The experimental Zeppelin LZ2 was damaged on its first attempt to launch. It made its first flight two months later but was damaged beyond repair after an emergency landing.

The L-T-A Society Newsletter

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LTAS Board Members for 2013

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Alvaro Bellon

Silent Auction Items

- Tour of the Akron Airdock, including a ride to the top of the Airdock, courtesy of Lockheed Martin Corp. (See details on page 3.)
- Round of golf for four on the South course of the Firestone Country Club in Akron, Ohio. (includes a cart)
- Round of golf for three at Portage Country Club in Akron, Ohio
- Brand new golf bag.
- Wine Basket, courtesy of Silver Run Vineyard & Winery, Wadsworth, Ohio.
- Die cast model of a 1931 Stearman Biplane 1/43 "O" Scale. Wings of Texaco #3 (coin bank)

Other items will be available.

Lockheed Martin Airdock Guided Tour



This year's Silent Auction will give you the "once in a lifetime" opportunity to visit this iconic building.

The Akron Airdock was built by Goodyear in 1929 for the construction of the USS *Akron* and the USS *Macon*. Later on it was used to build non-rigid airships and other aerospace products.

The Airdock is 1,175 feet long,

325 feet wide and 211 feet high. Its 364,000 square feet of floor space—without interior support posts—is the largest uninterrupted area ever built under one roof.

Its height is equal to a 22-story building. It can cover two Washington Monuments laid end to end.

Spherical doors at each end are the most unique feature.

Auction Item

One guided tour of the Lockheed Martin Airdock for up to four people, including a trip to the 'Top of the Dock' (weather permitting). Restrictions apply

Restrictions:

- All persons must be at least 18 years old
- All persons must be US citizens
- No food or drink permitted in Airdock
- No cameras (pictures by Lockheed Martin)
- Will occur at mutually agreeable time
- Good for up to one year

The two-piece doors are shaped like one quarter of an orange peel. Each of the two sections weighs 600 tons and is fastened at the top by a hollow forged steel pin 17" in diameter and 6 ft long. The doors ride on 40 wheels along railroad tracks and take 5 minutes to open.

THE LIGHTER-THAN-AIR SOCIETY ANNUAL BANQUET/SILENT AUCTION RESERVATION FORM

Name(s) _____

Address _____ City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Yes, I (we) will attend The Lighter Than Air Society Annual Dinner and Silent Auction at the Greek Community Center, 129 S Union Street, Akron on **Saturday, Nov. 9, 2013**. My check for _____ is attached.

Check here if you will pay at the door

5 p.m. Social Hour, Silent Auction

6 p.m. Dinner

7 p.m. Program

Please indicate your dinner choice(s):

Beef Shish-Ka-Bob

Spinach and Feta Stuffed Chicken

Vegetarian

Please RSVP by Nov. 4 for this Nov. 9 event.

I would like to donate \$ _____ to the LTAS fundraiser.

I would like to sponsor _____ Univ. of Akron students (\$35 each). My check for \$ _____ is attached.

\$35 per person, \$60 patron (includes mention in program)

All Dinners include Garden Salad with House Dressing, Potato, Vegetable, Rolls, Butter, Greek pastry, Coffee and Tea

Checks should be made payable to LTAS and mailed to:

The Lighter-Than-Air Society

c/o Sandy Bee Lynn

240 Northwood Dr.

Doylestown, OH 44230-1050

or register and pay through PayPal on our website

www.blimpinfo.com

Call 330-658-4259 with questions.

Seating is limited and is on a first-come first served basis.



The Lighter-Than-Air Society
526 S. Main St., Suite 406,
Akron, OH 44311
Telephone: 330-535-5827

Address Service Requested

Annual Banquet and Silent Auction 2013

Purpose: To further the 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 collection of artifacts pertaining to lighter-than-air.

Everyone is welcome to join

THE L-T-A SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

E-mail _____

Active Membership

United States: \$25/yr.

All other countries: \$35/yr.

Benefactor Membership

\$100 or more per year

New Membership Renewal [03-13]

Please make payment in U.S. funds by check or money-order, payable to The Lighter-Than-Air Society and mail to:

**THE LTA SOCIETY
526 S. MAIN ST, STE 406
AKRON, OHIO 44311 USA**

Or go to our website blimpinfo.com and donate online via PayPal with any valid credit card.

This Newsletter has all the information about the 2013 Annual Banquet and Silent Auction.

The registration form is also included.

Registration deadline is
November 4, 2013

Has your address changed?

Use the membership application on the left to update your address, indicating "Address Change" on the form.