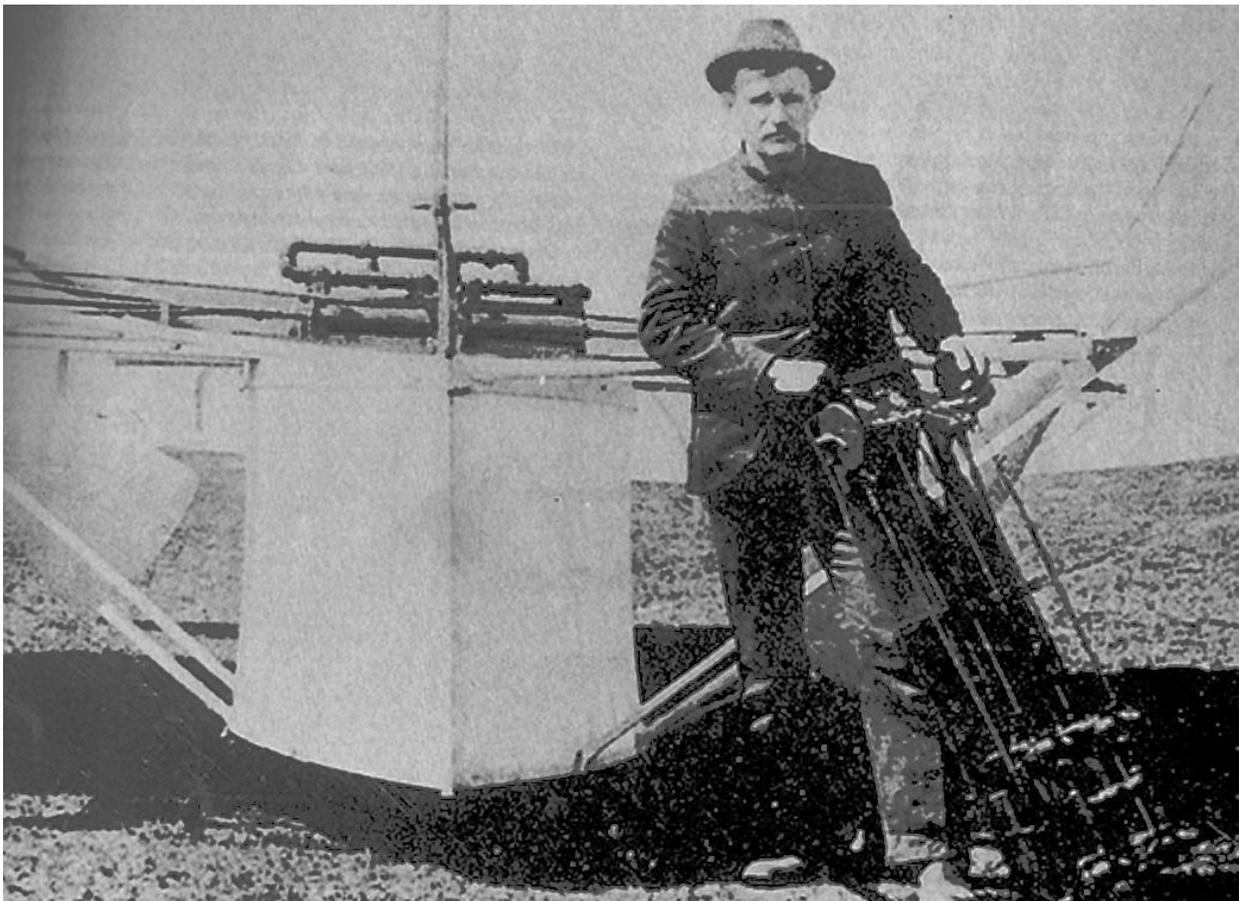




Aerospace Education Newsletter of the NY Wing, Civil Air Patrol

Vol. 1, No. 2

First Quarter 2013



Gustave Whitehead: First to Fly? You Decide

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. -- In a startling announcement, *Jane's All the World's Aircraft*, in its 100th anniversary edition, named an August 1901 flight by

Connecticut aviation pioneer Gustave Whitehead as the first successful powered flight in history, beating the Wright Brothers by more than two years.

The decision by *Jane's* is sure to fuel the most controversial discussion in aviation, perhaps ever, as aviation enthusiasts take sides, either with the Wright Brothers, who made history on the North Carolina dunes in December 1903, or Whitehead.

Jane's traditionally backed the Wrights as first in flight. However, the publication cited recent research and photo analysis presented by John Brown, an Australian researcher who works in the aviation industry in Germany as proof. Now they say the evidence for Whitehead's flight is strong enough for the publication to reverse course and recognize it as the first successful powered flight.

Whitehead was a German immigrant who settled in the Bridgeport, Conn., area, where this flight took place – more than two years before the Wright Brother's flight at Kitty Hawk, N.C.

Jane's Editor Paul Jackson described what happened in Bridgeport, Connecticut, on August 14, 1901.

"It was in the summer of 1901 that Whitehead flew his airplane, which he called the Condor. In the early hours of 14 August 1901, the Condor propelled itself along the darkened streets of Bridgeport, Connecticut, with Whitehead, his staff and an invited guest in attendance. In the still air of dawn, the Condor's wings were unfolded and it took off from open land at Fairfield, 15 miles from the city, and performed two demonstration sorties. The second was estimated as having covered 1½ miles at a height of 50 feet, during which slight turns in both directions were demonstrated." The length of flight and altitude reached make the Wright's first powered foray pale in comparison.

The evidence that *Jane's* presents is compelling. There are multiple photographs, overwhelming evidence of Whitehead's preparation for the first flight — Condor was the 21st airplane he built — eyewitnesses, dozens of newspaper accounts of the story and ample evidence not only of an engine sufficient for the flight but one whose basic design was used on many subsequent successful airplanes by other designers, including Glenn Curtiss. Moreover, Whitehead made another successful powered flight in an airplane with three-axis controls in 1902, more than a year before the Wright's first flight.

The Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum issued a statement March 15 defending the Wrights and dismissing Whitehead for a lack of evidence. Attributed to Senior Aeronautics Curator Tom Crouch, the statement is subtitled, "A fresh look at the evidence."

The Smithsonian, however, has little choice but to recognize that the Wright brothers were first. The agreement that gives the museum possession of the Wright Flyer includes this legal caveat: "The Smithsonian shall [not state] any aircraft ... earlier than the Wright aeroplane of 1903 ... was capable of carrying a man under its own power in controlled flight."

Only after a Freedom of Information request from then Sen. Lowell Weicker Jr. in the 1970s was the Smithsonian's signing on to a legal restriction on history disclosed to the public. Read more on Brown's website, www.gustave-whitehead.com, is packed with evidence.

(Several sources were combined to provide this report: Lt. Col. Terry LeFeber, Flying Magazine, the Canadian Owner Pilots Association, HIS Jane's, and the Connecticut Post.)

And Now There Are Four

CINCINNATI, Ohio -- A B-25 bomber navigator in the daring Doolittle's Raid World War II attack on mainland Japan has passed away. Maj. Thomas C. "Tom" Griffin was 96 and his death leaves four surviving Raiders.

Griffin died Tuesday, Feb. 26, 2012, in a VA nursing home in northern Kentucky. He was among the 80 original volunteers for the April 18, 1942, mission.



Maj. Thomas C. Griffin, left, with then Maj. Gen. Jimmy Doolittle and other Raiders (USAF Photo)

When they began training, they were told only it would be "extremely hazardous," coming in the aftermath of Japan's devastating attack on Pearl Harbor and a string of other Japanese military successes.

"We needed to hit back," Griffin said in an interview a year ago in his suburban Cincinnati home. The attack on Tokyo, with a

risky launch of 16 land-based bombers at sea from an aircraft carrier, was credited with providing a major lift to American morale and helping change the course of the war.

The planes lacked fuel to reach safe bases after dropping their bombs. Griffin parachuted over China after the attack, eluded Japanese capture, and returned to action in bombing runs from North Africa before being shot down in 1943 and spending nearly two years in a German prison camp.

Griffin died less than two months from what now will be the Raiders' final annual reunion, April 17-21 in Fort Walton Beach, in the Florida Panhandle where the Raiders trained for the attack.

Griffin took part in last year's 70th reunion at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force near Dayton, which also included survivors and relatives of the USS Hornet carrier and Chinese villagers who helped the Raiders elude capture. Eight Raiders were captured, and three were executed. A fourth died in captivity. Villagers suspected of hiding the Americans also were executed.

"We had a lot of near-misses, when they (Japanese soldiers) raided places we had been the night before," recalled Griffin, who had parachuted into a tree without major injury. Three Raiders died off China after the raid.

Griffin had joked last year that he hoped to be one of the last two surviving Raiders who would share the final toast in a small gathering, which had been the plan for decades.

"It's going to be special," Griffin said before the Dayton reunion. "I can't help but think it's going to be our last one."

Instead, it will be Griffin's turn to be honored at the reunion; a goblet with his name engraved on it will be turned upside down. The private ceremony will include only Raiders, the Raiders' historian, Casey and two Air Force cadets; there will be a roll call of the names of all the Raiders. When Griffin's name is called, Lt. Col. Richard Cole, at age 97 the oldest survivor, will give a report on Griffin, Casey said.

At the end of the reading of names, the white-gloved cadets will pour cognac into the goblets of the survivors, and they will drink their special toast: "To those who have gone."

Besides Cole, a Dayton native who lives in Comfort, Texas, the other survivors are Lt. Col. Robert Hite of Nashville, Tenn.; Lt. Col. Edward Saylor of Puyallup, Wash., and Master Sgt. David Thatcher of Missoula, Mont.

Griffin was a native of Green Bay, Wis., who settled in the Cincinnati area after the war and had an accounting business. He was preceded in death by his wife, and is survived by two sons.

Services were held March 9 at the Green Township Veterans Park, with a B-25 flyover. 4.

From The Wing DAE

I want to offer a special thank you to all group and unit AEOs for your outstanding efforts for completing the most recent annual reports and plans of action. The New York Wing package was submitted to Region early and would not have been possible without your individual outstanding assistance. This year's AE Breakout Session at the Wing Conference is geared toward the annual contest. Want to watch an interesting event, don't hesitate to stop by and consider being a judge if you don't have a team entered.

Florida: CAP's Annual National AEO School in the Wings

The 12th Annual National AEO School will take place from June 25-29, 2013, at Pensacola NAS, FL. As many of you know, this is a wonderful opportunity for AEOs to learn more about the Aerospace Education programs, projects, and resources available to them. Please let your folks know that there are plenty of seats still available in the class, and if they are interested they can go ahead and apply. We'll set up registration soon, but for now, they can go to www.capmembers.com/ae and learn more information about the school.

Have You Seen the New Issue of FAA Safety Briefing?

The March/April issue, of FAA Safety Briefing, available at (http://www.faa.gov/news/safety_briefing/) focuses on the themes of the 4th Annual FAA Safety Standdown: building a safety community, human error, and loss of control. The issue's departments also focus on these and other key areas of GA safety.



In Jumpseat (p 1), Director of Flight Standards Service John Allen describes the importance of getting to know your fellow flyers and building an aviation safety community.

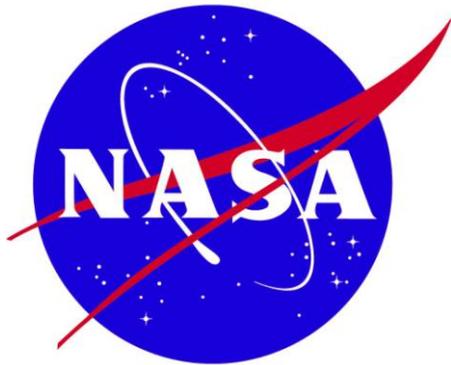
In her Checklist department (p 24), Editor Susan Parson reviews some of the "spring cleaning" we've done with the magazine in this issue. New cover elements, a redesigned table of contents, and new department banners are among the changes.

The issue's Nuts, Bolts, and Electrons department (pg 25) looks at complacency in the workplace, while Angle of Attack (pg 28) features a Q&A with NTSB Board Member Dr. Earl Weener.

Finally, this issue's FAA Faces department profiles FAASTeam Program Manager Guy Minor, whose passion is with human factors. "I speak and write from the point of view of a mechanic addressing human factors issues, as opposed to a psychologist addressing aviation issues," says Minor. For more on Minor's efforts to support a positive safety culture in aviation, see page 33.

NASA Offers Free Exploring Space Lecture Series

The 2013 Exploring Space Lectures will feature world-class scholars discussing the incredibly diverse worlds that make up our solar system. The lectures will be held at the National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C., and are free to attend. Tickets are required. The lectures will be webcast live for free viewing. Lecture videos will be archived.



The next one is entitled, "Voyager Journey to the Edge of Interstellar Space." Launched in 1977 on a journey to explore Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune, the two Voyager spacecraft are now over nine billion miles from Earth. Professor Edward Stone of the California Institute of Technology will discuss the epic journey taken by the Voyager spacecraft as they approach interstellar space.

The lecture will take place on *April 16, 2013*, at 8 p.m. Come early to see a free film and to meet the lecturer. For more information, visit <http://airandspace.si.edu/events/eventDetail.cfm?eventID=4978>.

NASA Offers International Space Apps Challenge

NASA and government agencies worldwide will host the second International Space Apps Challenge .April 20-21, 2013, with events across all seven continents and in space.

Participants are encouraged to develop mobile applications, software, hardware, data visualization and platform solutions that could contribute to space exploration missions and help improve life on Earth.

The two-day event will provide an opportunity for government to harness the expertise and entrepreneurial spirit of citizen explorers to help address global challenges. During the event, representatives of NASA and other international

space agencies will gather with scientists and participants to use publicly released open data to create solutions for 50 software, hardware and visualization challenges, including robotics, citizen science platforms and applications of remote sensing data.

Twelve locations in the United States will host an International Space Apps Challenge event: Atlanta; Austin, Texas; Cape Canaveral, Fla.; Cleveland; Detroit; Easton, Md.; New York; Philadelphia; Reno, Nev.; Rochester, N.Y.; San Francisco; and Syracuse, N.Y. Thirty-eight other events will be held in 30 other countries: Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, France, Finland, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Poland, Macedonia, Mexico, Nepal, New Zealand, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Uganda and United Kingdom. Also participating will be McMurdo Station in Antarctica and astronauts aboard the International Space Station.

Registration for citizen participation is now open. To learn more about the International Space Apps Challenge, get the latest updates and register to attend an event, visit <http://spaceappschallenge.org/>. If you have questions about the challenge, please visit <http://spaceappschallenge.org/about/contact/>

CAP Offers STEM Kits: Apply Now

CAP has received a generous funding offer from the NDEP (National Defense Education Program) administered by the Air Force STEM Outreach Coordination Office at the Pentagon. This funding will be used to provide “STEM Kits” which contain components and associated implementation instructions on subjects such as flight simulation, astronomy, radio-controlled aircraft, model rocketry, and robotics. The target audience for receiving the kits are Aerospace Education Officers (AEOs) assigned to CAP cadet and composite squadrons, CAP Aerospace Education Members (AEMs), AFJROTC Detachments, and regular CAP senior members who are educators in America’s schools, air museums, and other youth organizations. The application process can be found at www.capmembers.com/stem-ed.



FAA “Raise Award” For Outstanding Students

The Secretary of Transportation is announcing a second-annual award competition to recognize outstanding students who develop unique scientific and

engineering innovations in aerospace and aviation. Students at the graduate, undergraduate, and high school level can compete and develop innovative solutions to real-world aviation and aerospace issues to share with the broader academic and business community. Winners will be formally recognized by the Secretary of Transportation on behalf of a partnership of government and private sector organizations. This is a great opportunity for students to be recognized for their innovative efforts. For more information, go to <http://fastlane.dot.gov/2012/05/raise-award.html>. The submission period for this competition is May 1, 2013, to July 1, 2013, but begin planning NOW.

Air Force Association Looks to Partner with Museums

The Air Force Association (AFA) is trying to locate aviation and/or space museums around the country with which to partner in conducting educational outreach programs to promote STEM subjects and careers. CAP is partnering with the AFA to provide educational products and programs to museums wishing to become involved in youth outreach initiatives. The AFA AE Grants for CAP Units and Educators are being used often times to fund a trip to and educational event at an aviation museum. Scheduling a museum trip as the culminating 2-hour event requirement for the Aerospace Education Excellence (AEX) program is always a very effective way to align CAP's thematic units and historic aviation educational products with the displays at historical aviation museums. For more information, check out the AFA Museum Initiative link at www.capmembers.com/afa or contact afa@capnhq.gov with information about a museum near you that might be interested.



WINGS TIPS is a product of the New York Wing Aerospace Education Office. Contributions are welcome by e-mailing Lt. Col. George Fillgrove, NYW DAE at flyboy53@verizon.net. Special thanks for this edition go to Lt. Col. Terry LeFeber, Lt. Col. Marilyn Rey, NASA, Judy Stone, NHQ CAP/DAE, FAA FAST, and the Air Force Association.