

Reunion Director Update for January/February 2010

The top of the calendar says 2010, which means it is now time to start thinking of going to Dayton, Ohio, in September for our next OV-1 Mohawk Association reunion. The host hotel this year is the Dayton Marriott and the dates are the week following the Labor Day holiday, September 8th through the 11th.

In case you are not familiar with Dayton, there are quite a few things to see around the area which are associated with aviation in general and, in some instances, military aviation in particular. The National Museum of the United States Air Force is located at Wright-Patterson AFB, just on the northeast edge of town, and houses a vast inventory of displays and artifacts having to do with all branches of the military from the earliest days of aviation through to the present. I am planning a full day at this museum for those interested in seeing it. For the ladies who want to occupy their time, I hope to put together a trip to Waynesville, Ohio, which appears to be a short drive from Dayton. This town is full of unique shopping and dining experiences, I'm told. I will attempt to utilize the same buses for both groups on that day.

As the home town of the Wright brothers, Dayton has many sights to visit associated with their tinkering and experimentation with kites and the earliest versions of powered flight in this country. A good number of locations around town are designated as part of the Wright brothers legacy and story. As you no doubt imagine, Dayton is very proud of the history of the Wrights and the town's association with their family.

Downtown Dayton is home to the The Citizens Motorcar Company, also known as "America's Packard Museum", and home to a large collection of some very beautifully-restored antique luxury automobiles from days gone by. Not all are Packards, but they are all important examples of the once-glamorous art of building automobiles for the well-to-do in the U.S.

Our hotel is situated next to the campus of the University of Dayton, just a couple of miles south of downtown and along the east bank of the Great Miami River, in a park-like setting with ample opportunity for serene walks if you desire. It is within walking distance of the Carillon Historical Park, home to many of Dayton's historical buildings, inventions, artifacts and the 1905 Wright flyer III. It was completely renovated during 2007 and 2008 so the rooms are very fresh.

The negotiated nightly rate for this year is \$112 + tax (13%), good from the 8th through the 11th and, if the hotel has availability, for 3 days prior and 3 days afterward. Reservations can be made online at the following site: <http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/dayoh-dayton-marriott/>. Just be sure to open "Special Rates & Awards" along the right side by clicking it, then click on the button next to "Group Code" and enter "omkomka" in the box to get the rate for your reservation. If you prefer calling, the hotel reservations number is 800-228-9290 or 800-450-8625; mention the code OMK or OV-1 Mohawk Association and the dates you want to stay. I hope to be able to put "hot links" to the hotel website on the Mohawk Association website for your convenience so watch for these.

GETTING THERE

If your preferred airline does not serve Dayton International then look into both Cincinnati and Columbus, which are within driving distance if you rent a car. Cincinnati is about 60 miles to the south, on I-75 and Columbus is to the northeast on I-70 about 75 miles away.

Dayton International itself is on the north edge of Dayton, actually in the area of Vandalia, at the intersection of Interstates 70 & 75. The hotel does not normally offer airport shuttle service, but has agreed to provide 2 pickups at the airport on Thursday Sept 9 and two drop offs at the airport on Sunday Sept 12, for those who fly into Dayton. Otherwise, cab and limo service is available from the airport (approximately \$35 one-way) if you do not want to rent a car.

For those driving to the reunion, driving directions to the Dayton Marriott are available on the web. The hotel is just to the east of I-75, south of downtown Dayton, near the intersection of Patterson Blvd. and East Stewart St. Exit 51 off of I-75 will get you to the hotel.

For more information on the Dayton area, check out the Dayton Convention and Visitor's Bureau site at <http://www.daytoncvb.com> or give them a call at 800-221-8235. I hope to see you there in September for another get-together with old friends in the Mohawk Association. Look for the registration form with final plans and info in the next issue of the Mohawk newsletter coming out in March and on the Association's website. Until then, mark the dates on your calendar and keep the 2nd week of September open.

Questions? Email me at bcwalker01@earthlink.net or call my home 660-885-5877 or cell 660-351-2132.