



THE *Flyer*

P.O. BOX 1903 • Kitty Hawk, NC 27949
www.firstflight.org • Ph. 252.441.1903

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Air Apparent A Paranormal Day at Wright Brothers Memorial

By: Lisa Loy



Tiny Broadwick

This year when the crowds assemble at Wright Brothers National Memorial in Kill Devil Hills on December 17 to commemorate the anniversary of powered flight and the induction of two new portraits to the First Flight Society Paul Garber Shrine— Capt. Albert Berry, the first man to jump from a moving airplane, and Tiny Broadwick, the first woman. For the 34,000 member skydivers of the United States Parachute Association, it will be a “paranormal” day!

Although the idea of a parachute can be traced to Da Vinci (no surprise

here) as early as 1495, the first actual jump from a moving plane did not occur until 1912.

All of these pre-feats set the stage for the rapid advances in art of skydiving during the early 20th century. In less than 10 years after the Wright Brothers’ first powered flight in 1903, Grant Morton and Capt. Albert Berry both claim to have made the first parachute jumps from a moving plane; the skydiving community most often credits Berry however. U.S. Army Capt. Albert “Bert” Berry made a tethered jump from a Benoist Headless airplane over Kinlock Field, near the site of the present Lambert Field in St. Louis, Missouri in March of 1912. Asked if he would ever repeat the performance, Berry replied:

“Never again! I believe I turned five somersaults on my way down... My course downward ... was like a crazy arrow. I was not prepared for the violent sensation that I felt when I broke away from the aeroplane.”

Meanwhile, at the tender age of 15, a Henderson, North Carolina girl named Georgia Thompson Brown, later known as Tiny Broadwick, made her first parachute jump in 1908 from a hot-air balloon. On June 21, 1913, Glenn L. Martin flew her up to 2,000-ft. over Griffith Park in Los Angeles, California, and she became the first woman to jump from an airplane. She is also credited with the first free fall jump ever, the first woman to jump from a hydro-aeroplane, and the first woman to make a water jump from an airplane.

Her first jump, and name change,

stemmed from a trip to the state fairgrounds in Raleigh where she watched, spellbound, as Charles Broadwick parachuted from a hot air balloon. She was determined to become a jumper herself. She was relentless, and eventually successful, in her efforts to convince Broadwick and her mother to let her jump. The increase in spectatorship an 80-lb. woman parachutist would attract to his exhibition shows wasn’t lost on Broadwick either, and Tiny became a member of Broadwick’s World Famous Aeronauts. For propriety’s sake, Tiny’s mother agreed to let Broadwick adopt her daughter, hence the name change, and away they went—Tiny made big at fairs and carnivals, making more than 1100 jumps throughout America from balloons and planes between 1908 and 1922.

“It was the most wonderful sensation in the world!” Tiny said of her first leap. Decades later, during her 80th birthday celebration at Perris Valley Airport in California, she commented as she watched a group of skydivers land on target, “Boy, I always landed in trees, swamps, rivers and mud holes. Sure is something else seeing all these kids land right where they want to!”

Guest speakers this year will be: at the Wright Brothers Memorial Park, Chris Needels, president of the USPA. At the luncheon, we will have a member of the Broadwick family and Col. Joe Kittinger as our guest speakers.

For more information about events this December 17th, go to firstflight.org or call the office of the First Flight Society at 252-441-1903.

Luncheon for December 17th, 2005

This year, the 102st anniversary of the Wright Brothers flight, we will have a luncheon at the Comfort Inn South on December 17th. The Luncheon will start at 11:30 a.m. and will be catered by Kelly's with a cash bar. The Annual meeting of the members will be at this time with the election of Board Members for 2006, new officers and honorary members.

We will be sending out luncheon invitations with the ball invitations this year. You are asked to send them back with your check or credit card # for the amount of \$ 35.00 per person. We will have available 300 seats in the Comfort Inn. **WE REQUEST THAT YOU PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS FOR THE LUNCHEON AHEAD OF TIME!!** If you have not prepaid your luncheon ticket, you may not be able to attend due to seating restrictions. Please return your invitation with your money by **Nov. 17th**. Looking forward to seeing you there!!!

RSVP FOR LUNCHEON:

I would like to have _____ tickets for the December 17th, 2005 Luncheon

Enclosed is the amount of \$35.00 per ticket.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State and Zip _____

Phone Number _____

Check to FIRST FLIGHT SOCIETY

Credit card number _____ exp. Date _____

Return to: P. O. Box 2111, Kill Devil Hills, NC 27948

First Flight Society 102nd Anniversary Ball December 17th 2005

This year the Ball is going to be so exciting!! We want you to be a part of the festivities. The Ball will be in the Wright Brothers Memorial Pavilion on December 17th, 2005. We will have a reception at 7:00 P.M. followed by a buffet dinner catered by Kelly's at 8:00 P.M. The cost is **\$100.00 per member**. Each member may bring **1 guest at the cost of \$100.00**. *Non-Members will cost \$125.00 per person* but that includes a one year limited membership in the Society, at a savings of \$10.00. Black tie is optional this year. *Society of Five* will be the band this year, as it has been in the past.

We will be accepting only 300 reservations and there will not be any tickets sold at the door. ***This is a space limited affair.*** Please get your reservations in by **NOVEMBER 17TH** to assure you will have a place. There will be door prizes and a raffle for donated articles. You may also buy raffle tickets at the luncheon or ahead of time for \$5.00 per ticket or 5 tickets for \$20.00, send check to P.O. Box 2111, Kill Devil Hills, NC 27948.

RSVP FOR BALL:

Member Name _____ (\$100)

1 guest _____ (\$100)

NON-MEMBER number _____ ((\$125.00 per person)

(Please have each non-member guest fill out a membership form from the back of this newsletter, make copies as needed)

Check to FIRST FLIGHT SOCIETY

Credit card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Return to: P. O. Box 2111, Kill Devil Hills, NC 27948

A New And Exciting Way Of Sponsoring This Event!!!!

We will be asking for sponsors in three packages, Platinum, Gold, and Silver.
After November 17th, the tables will be available as follows:

SPONSORSHIP PACKAGES:

PLATINUM - \$5000.00 Sponsorship Package includes:

- 1 table for 8
- Table sign of Sponsor name or company
- Sponsor name in Event Program, Luncheon, and January FLYER
- Group table Photo taken beside the Wright Flyer Replica with a copy for each table guest
- Recognition of Sponsor in any advertising about the event
- Bottle of wine
- First Flight Society mugs for each table guest

GOLD - \$2500.00 Sponsorship Package includes:

- 1 table for 8
- Table sign of Sponsor name or Company
- Sponsor name in Event Program, Luncheon, and January FLYER
- Recognition of Sponsor in any advertising about the event
- First Flight Society mugs for each table guest

SILVER - \$1000.00 Sponsor Package includes:

- ½ table for 4
- ½ table sign of Sponsor name or Company
- Sponsor name in Event Program, Luncheon and January FLYER
- Thank you for your Sponsorship to the FLIGHT SOCIETY

PACKAGE **PLATINUM (\$5000)** _____
 GOLD (\$2500) _____
 SILVER (\$1000) _____

NAME OR COMPANY _____

ADDRESS (if possible, include business card) _____

Phone number _____

Check to FIRST FLIGHT SOCIETY

Credit Card # _____ exp. Date _____



**Present at the June, 2005 Dedication
of the W.O. Saunders Memorial in
Elizabeth City:**

Warren Wrenn, Bill Harris, Melvin Daniels
(*Park Services*), David Stick, Tom Halfhill,
Mrs. Byrd Barnes, Nancy Smith
(*Granddaughters of W.O. Saunders*),
Joe Hardman and Ed Greene.

Business Sponsors 2005

Thank you for supporting the First Flight Society:

Black Pelican Restaurant	Roanoke Island Festival Park
Business Storage Systems, INC.	Speech-Language Professional Services, LLC
Coastal Beverage Company	Town of Kill Devil Hills
Dare County Airport	Town of Kitty Hawk
Dare County Tourist Bureau	Patrons:
First Flight Insurance Group, INC	Jo Whitehead
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Outer Banks Internet, INC	
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The Flyer is the Newsletter of
The First Flight Society

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First Flight Society Membership Application

Members of the First Flight Society come from all walks (or flights) of life, but we all share a common bond: our love of aviation. The purpose of the society is to foster and promote a public awareness of, and widespread interest in, the origin, history and future of flight, in all its forms, and to memorialize Orville and Wilbur Wright, first in the world to successfully achieve powered flight in a heavier-than-air machine, December 17, 1903, near Kill Devil Hill, at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. Join us by completing the information below and mailing your membership check made payable to the First Flight Society.

Name _____, Address _____

City, _____, State _____, Zip _____ Phone _____, E-mail _____

(Mail to The First Flight Society, P. O. Box 1903, Kitty Hawk, NC 27949)

\$35.00 Renewal \$35.00 New Member \$50.00 Family \$200.00 Business \$350.00 Lifetime Members



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