



The Flyer

First Flight Society Newsletter

2010-1

Board of Directors

Alvah H. Ward, Jr.
President
Zene Fearing
1st VP
Lois Smith
2nd VP
Bill Harris
Treasurer
Joe Hardman
Secretary

All board members may be contacted by sending an email to dec17@firstflight.org

Quick Links

[Join the Society](#)

\$35-Individual
\$50-Family
\$200-Business
\$700-Lifetime

Directors

Robert Benson
Constance Brothers
Melvin R. Daniels, Jr.
Bill Dyer, Jr.
Glenn Eure
Gene Garrison
Tom Halfhill
John Harris
Phil Heitman
Gary McGee
William J. Overman
Willard Plentl
Richard Roberson
Doug Seay
Mike Smith
Susie Von Suskil
Horace Whitfield

President Emeritus Council

Aubrey Heath
Alton Jones
Kenneth Mann
Rex Peters
Vic Powell

Incoming President's Message

Alvah H. Ward, Jr. (right) was elected as the new president of the Society at the December 17th luncheon meeting. Zene Fearing will serve as the 1st Vice



President in 2010. Our new president has the following message for our members: "The officers and directors of the First Flight Society are looking forward to another great year in support of our goals and objectives and as always, we ask for the help and support of our membership. Our organization must develop new and innovative ways of expanding our membership, restructure our financial capabilities, improve our

relationships with organizations having similar objectives and revitalize our association with state and national agencies and all branches of the military. We remain pledged to our purpose to foster and promote a public awareness of and wide-spread 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 on December 17, 1903.

As your new president, I need your active support and hard work, and I especially need your thoughts and suggestions."

A great celebration was had by all!

The celebration of the 106th anniversary of powered flight took place as scheduled on a crisp and beautiful winter day on the Outer Banks of North



Carolina! MajGen Johnny Weida, assistant deputy chief of staff for operations, plans and requirements, HQ USAF, delivered an outstanding keynote address on the responsibilities of freedom, and included a wonderful description of the Pentagon, including a picture that he sees each time he enters. It is the depiction of all the airplanes, from the Wright flyer to the current Air Force fighters, called the "Wings of Time" by artist Robert Bell. "Orville

and Wilbur could never have imagined the capabilities in that one aircraft, but they started it all. With every airplane that flies, their spirit and motivation flies with them," said MajGen Weida.

Darrell Collins spoke eloquently of the challenges the brothers faced on those cold, windy days at Kitty Hawk. He also asked the many Wright Flight children who were present a few questions, and of course, they knew the Wright answers! President Zene Fearing presented him with a First Flight Society pylon, in appreciation for his support to the Society over the years.

We were happy to see Dr. Tom Crouch again this



James "Red" Smith

Ex Officio Members

Senator Marc Basnight
Darrell Collins
James Dadson
Mike Murray
Mark Selph
J. Anthony Sharp
Richard Walls

Honorary Members

Russell Barringer, Jr.
Tom Crouch
Ralph E. Eberhart
Charles Emanuelson
Dave Grana
Ken Hyde
Greg Kavalec
A. Joe Lamothe
Amanda Wright Lane
Richard P. Lindsley
Pam Nance Merritt
William Redmond
Robin Stoddard
Robert Trivette
Warren Wrenn

These businesses support us with their membership.

~ Kelly's Hospitality Group
~ Preddy Memorial Foundation
~ Black Pelican Restaurant
~ Dominion NC Power
~ Kitty Hawk Kites
~ Sunny Day Guide
~ Coastal Impressions
~ Outer Banks Visitors Bureau
~ Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce
~ Barrier Island Aviation

year, and he eloquently described the early achievements of both Lieutenants Frank Lahm and Frederick Humphreys and their training by Wilbur Wright. The portraits were unveiled with the assistance of MajGen Weida and Lawrence Lahm, II and his wife, Gail Lahm.

Following the celebrations at the Wright Memorial, the annual meeting/luncheon was held at the Hilton Garden Inn in Kitty Hawk. The room was filled to capacity and all the guests and members enjoyed the presentation by Paul Glenshaw of Glenshaw Creative, Inc. The videos of some of the original flights at Fort Myer, VA as well as photos and documents on the history of military aviation were outstanding. Near the end of his presentation, he surprised Larry and Gail Lahm with a voice recording of Major Frank Lahm, speaking of his meetings with the Wright brothers and the excitement of flight.



New Officers Elected: The annual meeting took place shortly after the presentation, and the Society officers for 2010 are as follows: Alvah H. Ward, Jr., President; Zene Fearing, 1st Vice President; Lois Smith, 2nd Vice President; Bill Harris, Treasurer; and Joe Hardman, Secretary.

The two empty Directors slots were also filled: Glenn Eure fills a 2010 Director slot for the remainder of the term, and Richard Roberson fills a 2012 position. The First Flight Society is also happy to add Dr. J. Anthony Sharp, head of the Aviation Department of Elizabeth City State University to the Board as an Ex Officio member. In fact, the highlight of the flyby after the morning ceremonies, against a



clear, Carolina blue sky, was the Cessna 172 piloted by newly licensed Corey Kellam, a student in Elizabeth City State University's aviation program. It was the first time the school was invited to participate in the flyby, and Dr. Sharp accompanied Corey for this particular trip. We want to congratulate this young man for obtaining his pilot's license.

Letter from Larry and Gail Lahm:

Dear Members of the First Flight Society,

Thank you for hosting our visit to Kitty Hawk for the celebration of the 106th Anniversary of Powered Flight and the induction of Humphreys and Lahm into the First Flight Shrine. The officers and members who made the arrangements and represented you were gracious and efficient. The people we met were fascinating and delightful, and we only wish we had time to meet and speak with each of you. The ceremonies were magnificent. You are clearly a remarkable organization.

The ceremony at the Wright Brothers National Memorial was wonderfully done. The presentation by Darrell Collins was deeply moving and the tribute to Humphreys and Lahm by Tom Crouch was so interesting and engaging that I didn't realize it was a history lesson until he was done. Gail and I were honored to participate in the unveiling of the portraits.



Your luncheon speaker, Paul Glenshaw, really put the frosting on the cake. His multi-media presentation on the 1909 trials of the Wright Military Flyer blew us away. I had never expected to see more than a couple of snippets of grainy film and a few photographs to go along with the relatively dry accounts of the trials. I never expected to be transported back in time

IN MEMORIAM

James P. Whitman
Dr M. Young Stokes III
Dr. Kent Sparrow
Martha Eberhardt

to watch my grandfather and Orville for what seemed like several minutes from only a few feet away -- and then to hear his voice again.

In the fourteen years between my birth and the death of Frank P. Lahm, my father was on active duty in the US Army, moving frequently. Six of those years were spent in Germany, VietNam or Peru. None of my father's assignments were close to my grandfather's homes (he summered in Ohio and wintered in Arizona.) My father seldom took us on long vacation trips in those days, probably because five young children were quite enough of a challenge at home.

Consequently, I only saw my grandfather a few times, and only at an age too young to appreciate his experiences. Seeing him at his prime and engaged in such momentous events was absolutely astounding. It is for this, most of all, that my wife and I thank you.

Most sincerely yours,
Lawrence Lahm, Jr. and Gail F. Lahm

April 16th - Founders' Day Celebration/Wilbur Wright's Birthday - MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW

Plans are underway for a big luncheon bash on April 16th. Not only is it Wilbur's birthday, but we are also looking for Founders and their descendants of the original Kill Devil Hills Memorial Association and the Directors and descendants from the incorporation of the First Flight Society in 1943.



The luncheon will be held at Pamlico Jack's restaurant in Nags Head, 12-2pm. The cost will be about \$20 per person for a buffet meal. More information will be sent to all members and invited guests, but please take a moment to put this on your calendar now so that you don't miss out on the fun. We are looking forward to seeing old and new members, having great food and fun, and some entertaining stories. Save the date!

Notes about The Flyer

Our email is Dec17@firstflight.org. If you have news and events of interest to the general membership, please let us hear from you.

CALENDAR EVENTS:

- April 16 - Wilbur Wright's birthday celebration, Pamlico Jack's, 12pm-2pm
- May 6 - Board of Directors' meeting, Chamber of Commerce Conf Rm, 1-3pm
- Aug 19 - Orville Wright's birthday celebration and National Aviation Day



Cool Headgear - Our new cap These were on display at the celebrations, worn proudly by many of our members. On the back our year of formation as the Kill Devil Hills Memorial Association, 1927.



Caps are \$15 each, \$6 shipping and handling fee for up to 5 hats, sent by Priority Mail. These hats are part of our fundraising efforts, so if you know anyone who would enjoy having one for a special gift, birthdays and other celebrations - please order today by calling the office - 252-441-1903.

Many thanks to our Members for the Luncheon Scholarships

The Aviation Science Program of Elizabeth City State University educates and trains students for careers and opportunities in aviation and space science.

Our generous members sponsored 9 students and 1 faculty member for the annual luncheon. We were delighted to have that many of the students present, including Corey Kellam, a brand new pilot, who also participated in the flyover.

Things to Know - Membership Information

- \$35.00 - Individual Annual Membership
- \$50.00 - Family Annual Membership
- \$200.00 - Business Annual Membership
- \$700.00 - Lifetime Membership

As a member of the First Flight Society, please take a moment to recruit other members who share our interests in honoring and promoting flight.

The website has a Join the Society page, and for added convenience for our members, PayPal is now an option to pay membership renewals.

WELCOME!

Our newest members are:

Lifetime - Joe Patane

Individual - Judith Harris Fearing, M. Roy Daniels III, Gregory Watts, Larry Ihle

Your efforts to encourage friends and family to support the First Flight Society are appreciated!

Contact Info

The First Flight Society office is located on the upper level of the Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce building in Kill Devil Hills. The mailing address is: PO Box 1903, Kitty Hawk, NC 27949. Visit our website for more information: www.firstflight.org

Phyllis Miller, Executive Assistant to the Board, First Flight Society
252-441-1903 dec17@firstflight.org

A few more pictures from the festivities:

The dinner on December 16th at Pamlico Jacks:



The Copeland Family



Sen Melvin Daniels & daughter



Mike & Elizabeth Murray



Gail and Larry Lahm
Travis Thomas(R)



Jennifer Fearing(L)
CTNC Tricia Stockstill