

AERONOTES

Our Mission: To interpret aviation, particularly that related to New York State, with exhibits and programs that educate, entertain and excite the public

Volume 34, Issue 2 Summer 2025

JOYCE NEWKIRK RECEIVES 2025 WOMAN OF DISTINCTION AWARD

On May 10th, ESAM's own Joyce Newkirk received the Woman of Distinction Award from NYS State Assemblywoman Mary Beth Walsh. ESAM nominated her for the award. Here is the statement from Joyce's nominating form:

"A proud resident of the Town of Glenville since 1963, Joyce Newkirk has spent her life dedicated to family, community, and service. Raised in a military family, Joyce learned the values of hard work, commitment, and giving back at an early age, all principles that have guided her for years.

Joyce built a successful 20-year career with Schenectady Savings Bank (later Northeast Savings and now Bank of America), where she was known for her unwavering integrity and dedication. Married for 63 years and the mother of two, Joyce has also been a devoted Girl Scout leader and tireless volunteer, lending her time and talents to organizations such as the Scotia-Glenville PTA, Union College Capital Campaign, and the American Red Cross.



Joyce Newkirk (left) receives the Woman of Distinction Award from NYS Assemblywoman Mary Beth Walsh (right)

One of Joyce's most enduring passions has been the Empire State Aerosciences Museum (ESAM), where she has been involved since its founding in 1984. Her contributions have spanned nearly every role – Trustee, Treasurer, Chief Operations Officer, event planner, and even cook. Today she continues to serve as both Treasurer and COO. For over 20 years, she has managed the museum's monthly fundraising breakfast and played a vital role in organizing the highly successful air shows at the Schenectady County Airport during the 1980s and 1990s - leaving a lasting mark in a traditionally male dominated field.

Joyce's impact extends well beyond ESAM. For more than 45 years, she has been an active and passionate member of the Zonta Club of Schenectady, an international organization dedicated to empowering women through service and advocacy. As club Treasurer, she also hosts countless meetings in the museum's community space. In 2009, the Zonta Club honored her for her exceptional service and

Continued on Page 3

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to all,

2025 is a special milestone for us as ESAM celebrates its remarkable 41st year and continued commitment to aviation preservation and community education.

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to our ESAM volunteers and supporters, who are truly the backbone of this organization, helping spearhead the museum's ongoing updates and evolution. Many changes are on target for completion, while some are progressing at a slower pace as we try to secure funding.

Projects in progress include the Airpark (outside), with new paving, improved lighting, and an improved layout to enhance the member and visitor experience.

We also have been adding QR code readers to exhibits throughout the museum for information and donation purposes.

We are pleased to have hosted a handful of corporate meetings and events, which provided donations and further community exposure to our mission. Cars and Coffee alone brought 1,500 people (clong

Dan Wilson

to our mission. Cars and Coffee alone brought 1,500 people (along with their social media posts) to museum grounds. The veterans' recognition wine tasting event brought an additional 500 people.

We are discussing ways to encourage more businesses and organizations to leverage our unique venue for events, which can include tours guided by our knowledgeable volunteers.

Finally, ESAM's New York State Chartered STEM education program continues to grow rapidly. Enrollment in our weeklong summer STEM camp was full within two weeks of being offered, and has a significant waiting list. In addition, we have created two new single-day young aviator STEM programs, one for preteens and the other for teenagers. Our educational program could expand in size and learning capabilities if we had funding for teachers, classrooms, and workshops.

We need your help to take ESAM to the next level. Most of the museum's funding comes from donations, annual memberships, grants, special events, and the monthly breakfast. The ESAM Board is actively looking to secure a corporate sponsor (or sponsors) who will help us secure enough funding to grow and reach new levels.

ESAM is the only cultural center in Glenville, and we are thankful that both the Town of Glenville and Schenectady County have been extremely supportive. We look forward to continuing our wonderful partnership with them and of course, we would welcome more support from additional organizations.

Thank you for all your support of ESAM - the second largest Air Museum in New York State, but perhaps the richest in aviation history.

We hope that you enjoy this newsletter and that we will see you soon at ESAM.

Dan Wilson President

Continued from Page 1

leadership at ESAM.

Her work at the museum has had a ripple effect, benefiting a wide range of organizations including the Civil Air Patrol, Schenectady County Community College Aviation Science Program, the Glenville Rotary, veterans' groups, and numerous scouting troops. Through her leadership and generosity, Joyce has created a space where education, community, and service intersect.

Admired for her dedication, integrity, and boundless energy, Joyce Newkirk is a true pillar of the Glenville community. She believes that real joy comes from lifting others up and giving back - something she credits with keeping her young at heart."

Congratulations, Joyce! Well deserved!

ALEX AWARD NOMINATIONS DUE BY SEPTEMBER 12TH

Each year, one or more ESAM volunteers are presented with the Alex Award for their sustained and outstanding volunteerism. Named in memory of a truly great ESAM volunteer, **Roland "Alex" Alexander**, the award recognizes the volunteer's service, cooperation, teamwork and a dedicated pursuit of excellence.

The ESAM Board of Trustees is actively seeking applications for this year's nominees for the Alex Award. The Board of Trustees welcomes applications, which may be sent to the ESAM office. Applications must be received no later than September 11, 2025.

The application should clearly describe why the individual deserves the award, and must be from ESAM members who have worked with the individual. Therefore, the application is based on personal experience, rather than second-hand information. The application can be hand-written, typed or submitted through email, and must provide the following information:

- The name of the nominee and a statement that he or she is an ESAM member in good standing
- The dates of the volunteer's service (must have been an active volunteer for a minimum of five years)
- A description of the personal qualities of the individual that demonstrate the characteristics of his or her pursuit of excellence
- A list of the activities in which the individual has been a participant
- A list of the individual's accomplishments supporting the development, operation and enhancement of ESAM and its mission
- The names of at least two ESAM members in good standing who have worked with the individual in an ESAM volunteer setting and who are making the nomination. The application must be signed and dated by the two members making the nomination.

The final choice of the recipient is a difficult one as there always are a number of outstanding representatives of Alex's qualities. We look forward to the challenge and the reward of recognizing another outstanding volunteer at the annual meeting in October.

ESAM PLANS TO ATTEND GLENVILLE OKTOBERFEAST ON SEPTMEBER 27TH

Look for ESAM's display aircraft at the Glenville Oktoberfest at Ma'alwyck Park on September 27th.



JOHN J. PANOSKI IN MEMORIAM

The Empire State Aerosciences Museum is saddened to announce the passing of **John Panoski** on July 3, 2025, at the age of 86.

John was a passionate and dedicated leader at ESAM. His leadership took many, many forms. He was a long-time Trustee. He was a dedicated volunteer at museum events, often taking on the role of public address announcer. He represented ESAM with the public and many local organizations. He was instrumental in the museum establishing and maintaining an excellent working relationship with Stratton Air National Guard Base. He raised more than \$2 million directing ESAM airshows, involving the USAF Thunderbirds and the US Navy Blue Angels.

In addition to all of these achievements, John is well remembered for his skill and success in obtaining aircraft for the museum. As Director of Acquisitions, he made excellent contacts in the Air Force and Navy aviation heritage communities, and he was ready to travel anywhere to get a plane. Among the aircraft that he was instrumental in obtaining are the A-4, A-7, F-3D, MIG-15, F-84, F-4, S-2 and C-130. Perhaps his best acquisition was the largest model airplane in the world: the half-size model of the SST Concorde that graces the lawn in front of the museum.

John was an airplane aficionado from an early age. His love of airplanes led to a 33 year career in the NY Air National Guard as an engine repairman and then 13,000 hours as a flight engineer on C-130 aircraft. He deployed to Vietnam, Greenland, Europe and Antarctica, making friends everywhere he went.

John's passion for airplanes was exceeded only by his passion for his family. ESAM offers its sincere condolences to Nancy Panoski, John's wife of 59 years, and to John's children Jennifer, John and Kevin, and their families.

John's family has graciously asked that donations in his memory be made to the Empire State Aerosciences Museum, 250 Rudy Chase Dr. Glenville, New York, 12302, a cause close to John's heart. The museum has established a memorial fund in John's name. (Note: The photo immediately to the right shows John at ESAM about a week before he passed away.)



EVERYONE LOVES A PARADE, INCLUDING ESAM!

2025 is setting a record for the number of parades ESAM has participated in. Here's the list:

5/17 - Niska Day Parade

5/21 - Scotia Memorial Day Parade

6/12 - Burnt Hills Flag Day Parade

7/4 - Clifton Park July 4th Parade

The museum is pleased to be using a brand new parade float: an F-14 cockpit and nose cone that was beautifully and recently restored by ESAM's Restoration Team. The restoration was led by Glen Preece, Fonz DiBlasio, John Kolwaite and Paul Quantock. (See also Page 13).

The float is paraded on a wheeled cradle that ESAM's Restoration Crew modified by extending and refitting a trailer that was originally built as a boat trailer. Creating the cradle was a work of art in itself.

Thanks to all of the volunteers who restored the float and the cradle, and who have participated in the parades.



ESAM's F-14 Cockpit and Nose Cone in the ESAM Restoration Hangar



ESAM Float in the Niska Day Parade on May 17th. Note the Open Canopy.

AND A LOT A LOT OF PEOPLE LIKE A CAR SHOW!

Look at the photo below to see what things looked like at ESAM during the recent June 8th Cars and Coffee Show! Wow! ESAM is pleased to have coordinated with **Miguel Texeira** of **Capital City Cars and Caffeine** in hosting this show and showing off the museum at the same time. In addition to the ramp space, ESAM opened the museum early, provided a discounted admission, and provided food and drink for purchase, photo opportunities, and fun for the whole family! **Dunkin'** provided hot coffee.

Thanks to ESAM volunteer Erin Beaulac for the photos of both the parade and the car show.



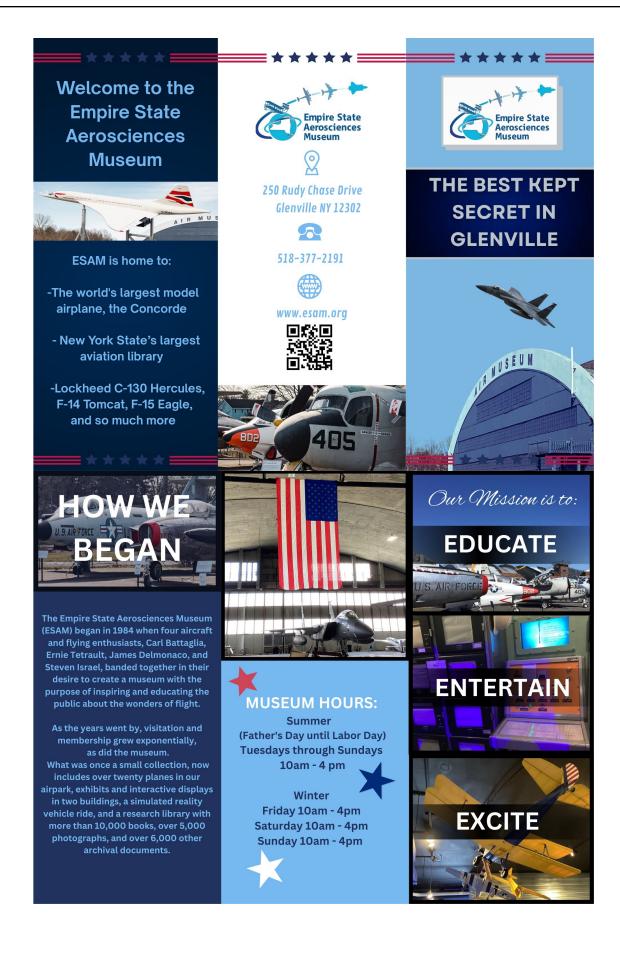
ESAM ISSUES NEW TRIFOLD BROCHURE

In a continuation of ESAM's expanded efforts to improve its marketing and community communications, the museum has issued a new trifold brochure.

The brochure is pictured on Page 7 (opposite) of this newsletter. Thanks to volunteer **Ann Marie Kitchen** for developing the brochure .

The new brochure includes the new QR code that was highlighted in the Spring newsletter, and that is displayed here.





LETTERS, POSTS AND EMAILS LIKE THESE WE LIKE TO RECEIVE

Downtown Schenectady Improvement Corp. Building Block Party

November 14, 2024

Mr. Richard Bievenue Empire State Aerosciences Museum 250 Rudy Chase Drive Glenville, NY 12302

Dear Mr. Bievenue,

Last week, we were so fortunate to have a packed crowd of community partners, business owners, and friends in attendance at the Downtown Schenectady Improvement Corporation's (DSIC) 2024 **Annual Building Block Party** at the SUNY Rise Gallery. The event was a celebration of the remarkable work being done in our downtown district while raising funds to help the DSIC provide cleaning services, visual improvements, and promotions for property owners, businesses, visitors and residents.

On behalf of the Board and staff of the DSIC, please accept my sincere thanks for your donation of 4 admissions & 4 family memberships, valued at \$344 to the Silent Auction that took place during the event. The auction was a highlight of the evening, and I am thrilled to report that your contribution helped us to surpass our fundraising goal for the auction. We were delighted to be able to highlight your business at the event and show your dedication to our community. As the DSIC is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, your donation is tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

Thank you again for your generous participation in our annual Building Block Party!

Sincerely

Maureen Neufeld, Executive Director

Dear Neighbor,

Thank you for your generous donation to the raffle at the Bird Event hosted by The First Reformed Church of Scotia. We truly appreciate your support and generosity. Your contribution played an essential role in making our event a success and helped showcase the best that our local community has to offer.

We have received overwhelmingly positive feedback from attendees, many of whom were thrilled to see their favorite local businesses involved in supporting this event.

Once again, thank you for your kindness and support. We look forward to the opportunity to work with you again in the future,

Warm Regards,
Susan Damon
Bird Event Coordinator
The First Reformed Church of Scotia
Fundraising Committee

AeroNotes

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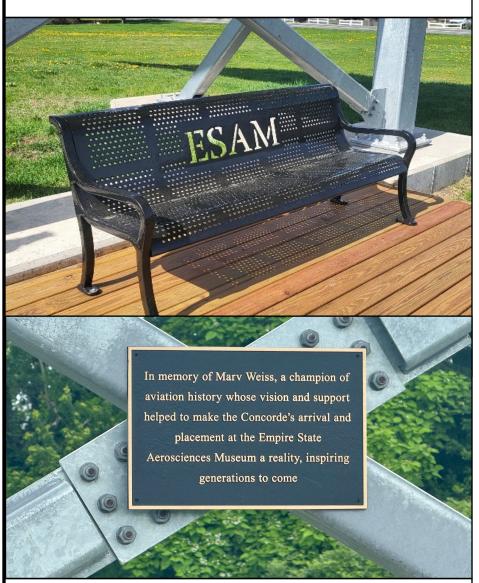
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SUMMER HOURS HAVE BEGUN

ESAM is now on Summer Hours. The museum is open for general visiting on Tuesdays through Sundays, from 10:00 am to 4 pm.

JUST IN TIME FOR SUMMER

If you've recently walked out to the Concorde in front of the museum, you will have noticed a beautiful new metal bench and plaque under the display. The bench and plaque came from **Vera Weiss** in memory of her husband **Marvin Weiss** who was an ESAM Board Member, Board Officer and dedicated volunteer. Thank you Vera.



HAPPY FATHER'S DAY AT ESAM

On June 6th, ESAM was pleased to help forty-five kids and their fathers celebrate an early Father's Day by touring ESAM. Smiles and discoveries all around!

MCDONNELL DOUGLAS (NOW BOEING) F-15C EAGLE

by Kevin Millington

The F-15 has been, without doubt, the premier air supremacy fighter in the world since entering service with the U.S. Air Force in 1976.

The F-15C is a single-seat, twin-engine fighter which offers a near perfect blend of speed, maneuverability, avionics, and weapon systems. The Eagle was developed following the Viet Nam conflict specifically for air supremacy and was the first American fighter built for maneuverability. Key to its maneuverability are the trapezoidal wings with low wing loading. The F-15 is also one of the heaviest and most expensive fighters, with a maximum take-off weight of 68,000 lbs. and a unit cost of nearly \$50 million in 1980. A total of 1,238 were manufactured, most for the U.S. Air Force. However, the Eagle was also purchased by the air arms of Israel, Japan, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, and Qatar. In addition to the single-seat "C" version, a two-seat all-weather attack version, the F-15E Strike Eagle is also in service.

In combat, the F-15 has seen considerable action with the U.S. Air Force during the 1991 Gulf War and with the Israeli Defense Force, and its pilots have scored 104 air-to-air victories without loss – the greatest kill ratio in history! As of 2025, the Air Force has been retiring the "C" models due to airframe age, however, since the production line has remained open for foreign sales, the Air Force is acquiring between 80 and 150 of the new F-15EX version.

The F-15 is powered by two Pratt and Whitney F-100 afterburning turbofan engines, which provide a maximum speed of 1,650 mph (Mach 2.5) and an unprecedented climb rate of 50,000 ft./minute. Typical weapons load is comprised of six AIM-120 Advanced Medium Range air-to-air missiles, two AIM-9 Sidewinders, and an internally mounted 20mm Vulcan cannon.

ESAM's Eagle was delivered to the U.S. Air Force in 1986 and last served with the 104th Fighter Wing at Barnes Air Base, Massachusetts. On January 19, 1991, while serving with the 33rd Tactical Fighter Wing during the Gulf War, its pilot downed an Iraqi MiG-23 Flogger.

Many thanks to Dave Roe, who played a major role in acquiring the legendary fighter.



ESAM'S F-15 Eagle on Display

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

• M. Scott Hartmann donated seven aviation related books in memory of his father Martin G. Hartmann.

- Lynn Neal donated approximately two hundred plastic model kits to be used to benefit ESAM finances and education programs. The donation was made in memory of Stewart Neal.
- **Donald K. Hulbert** donated twenty nine official U.S. Navy photographs circa 1948.

ESAM HOSTS ANOTHER C-130, TEMPORARILY

On June 12th, a C-130 from the Delaware Air National Guard joined two of its brethren on the tarmac at ESAM. Its stay, however, will be temporary. ESAM is hosting the plane as airmen from the 109th Air Wing, stationed across the Schenectady County Airport from ESAM, dismantle the plane and prepare it for shipment to California.



A C-130 (far right) is towed toward ESAM's Two C-130s (left and center)

OPERATION SONG IS COMING TO ESAM

Operation Song is coming to ESAM on September 13th from 5:00 to 11:00 PM.

Join us for a powerful, star-spangled evening celebrating the bravery and sacrifice of our nation's heroes! Experience the unbreakable bond between music and service as Nashville's top songwriters bring to life the heartfelt stories of local upstate NY veterans-inspiring songs written in their own words.

There will be a Silent Auction and raffles to support our veterans. Come for the Cause, Stay for the Celebration. More information and tickets are available at https://oPSONGNY2025.givesmart.com.



OUR SUPPORTERS

ESAM THANKS THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE AND ORGANIZATIONS WHO HAVE ESTABLISHED OR RENEWED THEIR MUSEUM MEMBERSHIPS

	VIP Supporting	
Carl Hackert		
	F '1	
	Family	
Daniel Alt	Richard Arthur	Davanna Bahiah
		Rayanne Babich
John & Maureen Baringer	Sabra-Joi Bartz	Tracy Berkshire
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, 5	Andrew & Courtney	
Jennifer Bowman	Crecca	Thomas DiMezza
Farah Douglas	Rebeleah Evans	Kolbe Franklin
Franci Geller	Solomon Goldstein	Edward Hamilton
Patricia Hertz	Josh Hicks	Ilma Hills
Steven Jacobs	Erik Lustgarten	Alison Meier
Jennifer Panter-Smith	Leslianne Penny	Jennifer Plochasczyle
Ten Eyck Powell III	Susan Schaffer	Rachel Wonder
	Individual	
A. D. II		
Alec Darling		
	0(1-1	
	Student	
Eller Liv	Jacon Dakasay	
Ellen Liu	Jason Rakoczy	
	Senior Citizen/Student	
	Semoi Gilizen/Student	
Lawrence Krug		
Lawiciice itiug		
	Library	
	,	
Cairo Public Library	Glenville Public Library	Kinderhook Public Library
Schenectady Public Library	Scotia Public Library	

SPECIAL DONATIONS

ESAM thanks the following individuals for their donations to the museum:

Lou Benaqusito

Gerry Fushino

ESAM'S FLY IN/DRIVE IN BREAKFAST PRESENTATIONS CONTINUE

Thanks yet again to Trustee **Mike Collins** for arranging interesting educational presentations in association with ESAM's monthly breakfasts on the third Saturdays of the month.

August: Fred Lee, Flying Drones

September: **John Coulthart**, History of Mohawk Airlines October: **GE R&D** on Hydrogen-Powered Airplanes

November: Paul Quantock, Army Aviation "Ĥunter Killer" teams

Please Note: All programs are subject to change. Please check with the ESAM office closer to the event

date.

\$2,500 GRANT RECEIVED FROM THE NISKAYUNA FOUNDATION

ESAM is pleased to have received a \$2,500 grant from the **Niskayuna Foundation**. The grant was used to restore an F-14 cockpit and nose cone into an impressive parade float. (See article on page 4 of this newsletter.) We have already used the float to participate in the Niska Day Parade and other parades.

Glen Preece of ESAM obtained the cockpit from the 174th Attack Wing at Hancock Field ANG Base in Syracuse. The nose cone was donated by the Intrepid Sea, Air and Space Museum in NYC after approval by the National Naval Aviation Museum. Chuck Hoffman picked it up free of charge.

ESAM thanks the Niskayuna Foundation and the volunteers who brought the items to the museum for restoration.

FSAM Mambarshin Application

ESAW Membership Application			
Please check one: NEW MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL			
ANNUAL DUES: INDIVIDUAL/FAMILY Senior Citizen \$35 Student \$35 Individual \$45 Family \$75 Sustaining \$285 Galaxy Club \$500 Friend of ESAM \$1	BUSINESS Supporter \$285		
NameAddressCity State Zip	Please make your check payable to ESAM Mail to ESAM, 250 Rudy Chase Drive, Glenville, NY 12302		
Phone: Home () Work () E-mail address	If your company offers a matching gift program, please contact them with the amount of your gift. Matching Gift Company		

The Empire State Aerosciences Museum is supported in part by:

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Howard Schlossberg &
Michelle Ostrelich
The Family of Jansz Vander Veer*

*ESAM Charter Member

LOOKING BACK

Thanks to ESAM member **Bob Duncan** for sending along a vintage photo (below) of what is now the Main Hangar of the Empire State Aerosciences Museum.

The caption to the photo reads in part: "A night view of General Electric's newly completed Flight Test Center at the Schenectady County Airport on June 17, 1946". Army-loaned bombers, such as the B-29 and the B-24, were converted into flying laboratories for the flight testing of new aircraft developments, including in the field of jet propulsion.



ESAM RECOGNIZES FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF SCOTIA



ESAM has long had an account with **First National Bank of Scotia**. Members of the bank have served on ESAM's Board of Trustees and have helped guide ESAM through difficult financial times in the past.

First National has also been a financial supporter of ESAM by loaning the museum money (ESAM is currently debt free) and by donating to the museum. Recently, First National Bank applied for and provided to ESAM a \$5,000 Small Business Grant to help cover operating expenses. ESAM is pleased to be a long-time partner with First National Bank of Scotia.

ENGINE COLLECTION IN GALLERY I

ESAM has an extensive collection of aircraft engines. Some of the older engines are on display in Gallery I. Come see them!



Franklin O-805-2: Made in Syracuse for the World War II XTD2R-1 Pilotless Drone



General Electric/Allison J33: The First Jet Engine used in an Operational Fighter (P-80)



Westinghouse J34: Used in Two of ESAM's Aircraft: the T-2A and the F-3D



Pratt and Whitney R-2800-22: Used in Many Aircraft including the World War II Grumman F6F Hellcat, Vought F4U Corsair, and Republic P-47 Thunderbolt

Empire State Aerosciences Museum 250 Rudy Chase Drive Glenville, NY 12302



HAPPENINGS AT ESAM

MUSEUM HOURS

Summer Hours: (Father's Day through Labor Day) Open Tuesday through Sunday 10 AM to 4 PM. Closed Monday

Winter Hours (Labor Day through Father's Day) Open Friday through Sunday 10 AM to 4 PM. Closed Monday through Thursday

Closed on New Year's Eve, New Year's Day, Easter, Memorial Day, July 4th, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas

For all other federal holidays or school breaks, contact the museum in advance to confirm.

General Museum Admission – \$11 per adult; \$9 per senior and military; \$8 age 6-16; under 6 free when accompanied by an adult Simulated Reality Vehicle (SRV) – Ride: \$5

Jansz Vander Veer Research Center/Library Hours – Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday 9 AM to 12 noon, by appointment only

August 12-15, Tuesday-Friday - Becoming a Young Aviator: 8:30AM-noon. Students ages 10-17. \$250. Sign up through Schenectady County Community College.

August 16, Saturday - Pancake Breakfast: 8:30-10:30 AM. All you can eat: \$12 for ages 15 and older, \$8 for children 6-14, free for children under 6. Menu varies with pancakes, French toast, sausage, eggs, applesauce, juice and coffee/tea. The public is invited to attend.

Pilots: Tower Frequency 121.30; Ground 121.90. Land at Schenectady County Airport and taxi to the north parking area.

Browse the Museum beginning at 10 AM. Museum Admission: \$11 per adult; \$9 per senior and military; \$8 age 6-16; under 6 free when accompanied by an adult.

August 16, Saturday - Speaker: 10 AM. Fred Lee, Flying Drones

August 18, Monday - Board of Trustees Meeting: 7 PM. ESAM Community Room

September 13, Saturday - Operation Song: 5:00-11:00 PM. (see Page 11 of this newsletter)

September 15, Monday - Board of Trustees Meeting: 7 PM. ESAM Community Room

September 20, Saturday - Pancake Breakfast: 8:30-10:30 AM. All you can eat: \$12 for ages 15 and older, \$8 for children 6-14, free for children under 6. Menu varies with pancakes, French toast, sausage, eggs, applesauce, juice and coffee/tea. The public is invited to attend.

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September 20, Saturday - Speaker: 10 AM. John Coulthart, History of Mohawk Airlines

September 21, Sunday - Cars and Coffee

October 18, Saturday - Pancake Breakfast: 8:30-10:30 AM. All you can eat: \$12 for ages 15 and older, \$8 for children 6-14, free for children under 6. Menu varies with pancakes, French toast, sausage, eggs, applesauce, juice and coffee/tea. The public is invited to attend.

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