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BLOG: AVIATION MUSEUM OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

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NHGSA Tour - Aviation Museum of New Hampshire

February 21, 2017

27 Navigator Rd, Londonderry NH 03053 - Off Harvey Rd.

Recently some of NH's passionate ambassadors toured [The Aviation Museum of NH](#) in Londonderry, NH and it's new attached hangar filled with interesting exhibits. The museum has added so much since the last time NHGSA visited. While on the tour we learned of aviation history in our state, impressive NH pilots, saw eye catching historic displays, and even saw the inside of several of the planes. Their docents were passionate and knowledgeable - one even took us all for a flight to Concord in their simulator. The museum is suited for all ages and has added multiple hands-on activities for younger guests. The museum even offers a wonderful, and free Aviation Education program for High School students. See the details [here!](#) Another plus - the parking lot looks over the runway and Manchester-Boston Regional Airport (MHT) and is one of the best spots around to watch the planes land and take off!!

While there, Wendell Berthelsen, Director of Operations, told us how a personal visit to our friends at [Bedrock Gardens](#), and the subsequent connection he made with them at our 20th Anniversary led to scheduling a special presentation about Bees and flight at the gardens. The presentation, which will be part of an open house exhibit installation by art students about Winged Insects and Flight, will be held on March 20 & 21 at Bedrock Gardens. The NH Aviation Museum's *Wilbur Wright*, in character, will demonstrate flight kits and will enlighten participants on how bumble bees manage to fly.

Here is what our GSA's had to say about the museum:

"The Aviation Museum of NH is a must-see treat. You will easily leave with 5 new things you are amazed to learn about NH's aviation history, and 5 more you wish to look up. There's a wonderful diorama of the current airport in front of a window with a view of the airport in operation. The wonderful original 1937 art deco terminal building built by the WPA, the Depression era's Works Progress Administration, makes a great museum with so many stories to tell. Wendell Berthelsen, Director of Operations and his volunteers are wonderful at sharing them. You will find that flight becomes more clear and fascinating. I had about an hour's more questions that I wished I could have peppered each volunteer with. The red stunning home-built experimental EAA Biplane is a treat to explore up close and personal with a rich story all it's own. The thought of one person building it is mind boggling. I could imagine myself in it like it's placard says "tearing up the sky and cutting holes in the clouds".

If only I could be in high school again and take part in The Virtual Skies course held at the museum offering six modules which include airport planning and design, navigation, weather, communications, air traffic control and aeronautics. The museum offers fun special events like an Easter Egg Hunt, a Paper Airplane Contest and silent films accompanied by live music. This is a wonderful NH resource for residents and visitors." Admission Fees: Adults-\$5.00, Seniors (60+)-\$4.00, Child (12-16) -\$2.50, Child under 12- Free, Family Max-\$15.00, Veteran-\$4 Stay tuned via it's website www.aviationmuseumofnh.org

- Kate

"I was aware of the Aviation Museum, but this was my first visit. It was awesome, an experience that adults and children should take advantage of. Manchester and area residents are very fortunate to have this museum in our backyard. It is housed in the original terminal building at Manchester Airport, which a piece of history in itself! Step inside and experience New Hampshire Aviation History at its finest.

The docents and volunteers are extremely knowledgeable and forth coming with great stories about aviators, who were NH residents, that went on to become historically noted for their contributions to space and aviation. The exhibits are outstanding - donated to the museum, for public viewing, from people who were fortunate to have these aviation antiquities. Thank you for sharing. A perfect road trip for young and old alike!!!!"

- Sandra

"Kelly, I was quite impressed with so many upcoming activities offered for adults & children at the Aviation Museum. And, like you, the high school program, as well. Such an opportunity for someone interested in aviation. It was a great informative tour. Thanks for arranging it."

- Eleanor

"To step into the Aviation Museum of NH is to physically relocate to the 1930's and the beginnings of air flight in NH. Starting in the Manchester airport's original Art Deco terminal, you are lead by story boards displaying a timeline of the that history from the Civil War to the present day. The knowledgeable volunteers do a wonderful job of discussing that history with a depth that brings it off the storyboards, so it is thoroughly engaging. Inside the hangar the sense of the pre-WW11 era continues as examples from the evolution of flight are displayed in such a way that makes you want to question and understand. The story behind each item on display offers a deep appreciation of this slice of NH history as well as NH's connection to the greater whole of flight. The whole of the experience leaves you just staggered by the simpleness of the early days when compared to today's large, security-guarded terminals and jet airliners that seat hundreds." - Kirsten

"There are 25 public airports and approximately 93 private airstrips in New Hampshire. That is just one of many interesting facts GSA's learned on Wednesday, Feb 21 touring the Aviation Museum, located at 27 Navigator Road, off Harvey Road, at the Manchester NH airport. You can receive their quarterly newsletter, THE AERONAUT, filled with interesting facts and exciting upcoming events by emailing www.aviationmuseumofnh.org. You will not be disappointed. I encourage anyone who hasn't visited the museum to put this on your to do list of fun activities for you, your spouse, friends and family. The museum is a hidden gem not only for Manchester, but for our state. Our own Alan Shepard, from Derry NH, took flying lessons at the Manchester Airport and we know the rest of his career story and how proud he makes us feel knowing he came from New Hampshire. Thank you Alan Shepard and all the other brave souls that led us in this journey into space. Let us not forget Christa McAuliffe's contribution as well. Reciprocal membership exchange with the McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center, "We bring the universe to you" can be enjoyed; see the above website for membership details for the Aviation Museum or www.starship.com for *Discovery Center membership*. The future of space travel is our future and maybe our next NH hero is already enrolled in the free Aviation Education High School course. To find out more about this credit course open to high school students join the Aviation Museum Wednesday, April 5, 3-6PM to learn more. The museum is open Monday-Thursday by appointment; Friday-Saturday 10:00 AM-4:00 PM; Sunday 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM."

- Sally, Proud to be a GSA, 2013

NH's Aviation Museum also offers an impressive events calendar. Click [here](#) to check it out!

PHOTOS: <https://goo.gl/59photos/RA1zj89Ntnxjm3s59>

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