

Come Fly With Me to Dayton

Remember the dates; September 8 – 13, Airport KMGY, Dayton Wright Brothers

Well, it's another Flyer issue and the Dayton convention is just around the corner. At the last publication deadline, all we knew for sure was that we had the National Museum of the United States Air Force ***Dinner Under the Wing*** banquet set up and secured for September 10 this year. Aside from that, the hotel, Hartzell visit, other banquets, vendor/seminar day and other details were in the works, but nothing established for certain. So, with considerable hard work and many people involved, all the major details are established and we are ready for you all to get ready for a really enjoyable week in Dayton. Here we go!

The Dates:

Tuesday September 8 through Sunday September 13. This is the week including the USA holiday Labor Day, so you get an extra free day from work, so take advantage of it; com early.

The Airport:

Dayton South at the Wright Brothers Airport, KMGY, has plenty of parking, plenty of fuel, plenty of runway, RNAV instrument approaches, and FBO First Flight Aviation. It is almost a destination itself, but we have planned plenty more for this adventure in early September.

The Hotel:

There are two hotels in Dayton that work for conventions with proper dining, beverage service, meeting rooms, hospitality rooms, and such. One is the Marriott that we used last time and the other is the Hilton Garden Inn virtually across the highway from our chosen airport, Wright Brothers, KMGY. The Marriott was previously booked and didn't have the space we needed for our program. The Hilton (same group we used in Cleveland in 2017) had the meeting and hospitality space necessary and has a really comfortable layout for all activities. It is also being fully updated and will be completed by convention time. As a newer hotel, it has all the goodies guests could want.

So, we didn't hesitate and booked this property; our 2026 convention is at the Hilton Garden Inn, South Dayton / Austin Landing. Bring your bathing suites and hiking/walking equipment. You can



extend your visit several days this holiday week and visit friends, spend more time at our venues, or enjoy Labor Day in Dayton. Check out Destination Dayton for all the scheduled activities.



Events at the hotel begin with the welcome reception on arrival day, September 8. The gathering space is adjacent to the lobby and includes an outdoor patio for winding down and relaxing conversation. Not a full dinner, but heavy hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar with expected good weather provide an excellent end to this first day in Dayton.

Our room rate is \$149 plus tax. Booking directly with the hotel at this ICS rate also provides all the gathering, meeting, and presentation space needed for an enterprise such as this. Please book early to assure we have sufficient rooms for this convention. Checking on Trip Advisor, many rooms are already sold out, so get yours immediately with our ICS room block. This block of held rooms expires August 10, 2026.

Getting around during the convention, a little planning yields a rewarding visit

There is really too much to do with only five days to get it all done, so a little planning goes a long way. Loosely, our planned schedule is:

- Tuesday, arrival and welcome reception.
- Wednesday, Hartzell tour, dinner program at Carillon Park Brewing.
- Thursday, Air Force Museum Day and Dinner Under the Wing.
- Friday, seminars and vendors.
- Saturday, Airport Day and Awards Banquet.
- Sunday, Fly away to more adventures.

However, local aviator, Fred Eisert suggests the following schedules to fully pack your time in Dayton.

Tuesday, arrival day:

This is a day to fly in and either relax or not.

With all the activities available, this is a good time to catch things that don't fit in with the following days schedules.

If the Air Force Museum and Aviation Hall of Fame will consume all of Thursday, consider Huffman Prairie Flying field, and any of the aviation Heritage sites around Dayton.

As our first day together, we gather at the Hotel for the welcome reception with cash bar and heavy hors d'oeuvres in the gathering area and patio.

Wednesday, September 9: Piqua & North Dayton

Option 1 driving: if you are driving, you will have easy access to these aviation related sites.

This day focuses on Hartzell Propeller tour while picking up north-and aviation sites.

08:45 AM – 09:45 AM: Drive from Hilton Garden Inn to Piqua, OH (approx. 45–50 mins).

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM: Hartzell Propeller Tour & Lunch (TBD).

12:15 PM – 01:15 PM: Drive to Urbana, OH (approx. 45 mins).

01:15 PM – 03:00 PM: Champaign Aviation Museum (Urbana). Home to the B-17 "Champaign Lady" restoration; usually takes about 1.5–2 hours.

03:00 PM – 04:00 PM: Drive back toward Dayton (approx. 45 mins).

04:00 PM – 05:00 PM: Huffman Prairie Flying Field & Wright Brothers Memorial. These are outdoor locations at Wright-Patterson AFB Area B and don't require an indoor "tour" time.

06:30 PM: Dinner and Program with Dan Patterson at the Carillon Brewing Company.

Option 2 Flying: Flying between these locations is fairly efficient. Hartzell Propeller plant is a 6-minute drive (we will provide ground transport) from I17. The Champaign Aviation Museum is located directly on Grimes Municipal Airport, I74. To include the Huffman Prairie and Wright Brothers Memorial, which are not accessible by plane, we can utilize the late afternoon on the 10th or the afternoon of arrival day on the 8th.

This schedule minimizes travel time to the northern sites by flying.

09:30 AM – 09:50 AM: Flight from Dayton-Wright Brothers (KMGY) to Piqua Airport-Hartzell Field (I17). With ground transport to One Propeller Place (Hartzell HQ)

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM: Hartzell Propeller Tour & Lunch. The factory service center is located right on the airport grounds.

12:15 PM – 12:35 PM: Flight from Piqua (I17) to Grimes Field (I74) in Urbana.

12:45 PM – 03:30 PM: Champaign Aviation Museum. The museum is situated on the north end of Grimes Field; you can taxi or walk directly to their ramp.

03:45 PM – 04:15 PM: Return flight to KMGY.

06:30 PM: Drive to Carillon Park for Dinner and Program with Dan Patterson at the Carillon Brewing Company.

Thursday, September 10: South Dayton & Air Force Museum

This day covers the sites closest to the hotel and the Museum.

Many will spend the entire day at the Air Force Museum. Otherwise;

09:00 AM – 10:30 AM: Wright B Flyer Museum. Located right at the Dayton-Wright Brothers Airport (KMGY), just a 5-minute drive or even a walk from the hotel. This is also easily done airport day, Saturday.

10:45 AM – 12:45 PM: Carillon Historical Park. Must-see: the original 1905 Wright Flyer III.

Optional: Hawthorne Hill (Orville Wright's mansion) tours typically run at 10:00 AM and 12:30 PM via shuttle from Carillon Park; advanced tickets are required.

01:00 PM – 05:00 PM: National Museum of the U.S. Air Force. The museum is massive (19 acres) and requires at least 3–4 hours for a decent visit.

06:00 PM: "Dinner under the Wing" at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force.

Summary of Locations Not Visited

To keep the schedule manageable, this plan prioritizes the most significant aviation landmarks. If there is extra time on the 8th or 11th, we could add:

The Wright Cycle Company & Wright-Dunbar Interpretive Center (Downtown Dayton).

Saturday, September 12, Airport Day

This day is open and relatively unscheduled.

This is a day to talk airplanes and check out all the Comanches for ideas and discussion.

The Wright B Flyer museum and shop is open until 12:30, and is right on MGY.

Lunch is served at the maintenance hangar at noon.

Flagship judging is done in the morning.

A hands-on maintenance seminar with a Comanche on jacks is early afternoon with Cliff Wilewski.

The Awards Banquet is at the hotel with cash bar and socializing at 6pm with dinner at 7pm. Speakers and presentations along with silent auction and door prizes bring this week's festivities to a conclusion.

Seminar / Vendor day at the Hotel:

We are lining up seminar presenters to convey useful information to we Comanche pilots and owners. At this point, we have the following seminar topics and speakers:

- Steve Fowler-Americas Aircraft Engines-Engine maintenance and overhaul issues
- Kathleen Yodice—Aviation Attorney, Washington DC. Drafter of the Pilots Bill of Rights. Will talk about current pilot issues
- Randy Africano and Nicholas Africano-Chicago, IL.- Comanche expert and maintaining the fleet.
- Allen Parmet, MD—Kansas City-AME and Basic Med issues
- Cliff Wilewski—Freeport, IL. Aircraft maintenance
- Steve Spector-Chicago, IL. accounting aspects and options for aircraft ownership
- Ryan Christman, Avionics shop at First Flight Aviation, what's available for the flying you do
- And more in the works

Vendors include:

- Webco
- Knots 2 You
- Heritage Aero
- Great Lakes Aero Products
- Poplar Grove Aeromotive
- Garmin is probable

Shirts and Hats for 2026

Shirts and hats are available for this convention. Fully Promoted has our shirts and hats with our 2026 convention logo on one pocket with your name and tail number on the other. they are available in different styles, fabrics, and colors, selectable on the website set up for us. The site is <https://comanche.itemorder.com/shop/sale/>. Easier than typing that, go to

comancheaviator.com and click on the Comanche shirt picture. My go to shirt style is the Cornerstone Snag Proof Pocket Polo. It is what it says and stays in perfect condition for many years. The ones from the 2009, 2017, and 2019 conventions are as good as new and I wear them regularly. Hats will be provided for all conventioners at registration.

Rental Cars:

We have set up Hertz Corporate account for the International Comanche Society that offers a 20% discount off the weekly rate at the MGY. That puts the cost at around \$230 for the convention and is a 1-week rental. That gives you a few days to roam around the area and see more than the convention offers. Put four of you in a car and you are looking at transportation for a week for around \$55 each. As this program is being established while this being written in early May, you will receive detailed instructions when your registration is received.

NOTE TO EDITOR, THE SPEAKERS CAN BE SEPARATED INTO A SIDEBAR

Speakers for Carillon Brewing and Dinner the Wing

We have confirmed two keynote speakers for Wednesday and Thursday evenings banquets. These are two nationally known personalities that should not be missed.

Dan Patterson, Wednesday at Carillon Brewing

Historian

For more than 40 years, Dan Patterson has been a self-employed artist, photographer, graphic designer, published author, lecturer and private pilot. His diverse professional experience spans the spectrum of commercial photography and design, producing annual reports, catalogs, special publications, and providing location and studio photography for clients ranging from General Motors to the aerospace industry, the entertainment industry and the USAF.

Since 1971, his work has been featured in juried art shows, and in one-man and group exhibits in art galleries, universities, private museums, and Air Force museums throughout the United States. Five portraits reside in the permanent collection of the National Portrait Gallery in London, England and a very large book is on permanent display at the Wright-Pau Museum in France.



Aviation history in all its forms became the primary focus of his expertise and led to concept, design, photography and production of more than 40 books, many on location throughout the United States and in 11 countries.

Born and raised in Dayton, Ohio, Patterson received a BA in Fine Arts from Wright State University in 1976. He began his life as a photographer at only 15, working for NORTH News Tribune and went on as an entrepreneurial photographer working for The Dayton Journal Herald, and RAP Magazine.

Gen Richard B. Myers, Thursday, Dinner Under the Wing

Air Force retired. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs 2001-2005

Richard B Myers, General, USAF Retired General Myers recently retired as president of Kansas State University. He assumed this role on an interim basis April 26, 2016, and was selected to the permanent position November 15, 2016. He retired from the university on February 11, 2022. As President, Myers cultivated collaborative relationships with a broad range of diverse individuals and groups to enhance the university's substantial strengths in research, academics and outreach. The university has three physical campuses in Manhattan, Salina and Olathe, Kansas, as well as a Global Campus for distance education.



General Richard B. Myers retired from the military as the 15th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on 1 October, 2005 after serving more than 40 years in the US Air Force. As the nation's highest ranking military officer, he served as principal military adviser to the president, secretary of defense, and the National Security Council. General Myers also served as Vice Chairman and Assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He has commanded at every level, including Commander of US Space Command, North American Aerospace Defense Command, Pacific Air Forces, US Forces Japan, and two fighter wings. A fighter pilot with over 4,100 hours, General Myers logged 600 combat hours during the Vietnam conflict. General Myers is a native of Merriam, Kansas and a 1965 graduate of Kansas State University, and received his commission through ROTC.

General Myers currently lectures nationally on national security issues and leadership. He is Foundation Professor of Military History and Leadership at Kansas State University. He currently serves on the board of directors for Aon Corporation, MP Materials, and Rivada Corporation. He previously served on the board of directors for Deere and Company (2006 to 2016), Northrop Grumman Corporation (2006 to 2017) and United Technologies Corporation (2006 to 2017). General Myers also served as First Vice President of the Defense Health Board, was past

Chairman of the USO World Board of Governors, and on the boards of several other non-profits to include Fisher House and past chairman of the Kansas State University Foundation Board. He also held the Colin Powell Chair of Leadership, Ethics, and Character at National Defense University from 2006 to 2016.

In summary, do not miss this convention.

The programs, activities, banquets; first class! Accessibility; at your own pace and schedule. The value; excellent. Make your hotel reservation NOW while rooms are available, you can cancel if you can't make it or need to change your arrival. The convention registration fee is refundable (less \$50) when using the non-discounted rate. If you aren't an ICS member, one year's ICS membership included with the registration. Not a Comanche owner, enjoy this conventions events and see lots of great airplanes. And **bring your airplane**; remember, **your** best airplane is the one you own and fly.