

FRIENDS OF BELLANCA AIRFIELD

2015 HANGAR HIGHLIGHTS

PARKING LOT

In early spring the hangar parking lot was paved giving us more than adequate parking for over 100 cars. At the same time decorative light fixtures were installed for security night illumination of the parking area. These lights replaced the two light poles that had been erected in the lot by the New Castle Municipal Service Commission. Security lights were also installed on all sides of the hangar with additional lights to illuminate the "BELLANCA AIRFIELD" sign on the hangar. We sincerely thank The Trustees of the New Castle Common for this terrific improvement to their Bellanca Airfield site.



A YouTube video from a Drone gives an aerial view of the new parking lot and area around the Bellanca Hangar. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y5NKiF0POs>

CRUISAIR SENIOR

Restoration of the airplane that the Smithsonian gave to us last year continues. Wings, tail, flaps and ailerons have been attached and control cables hooked up. New tires have been obtained to replace the old ones which are badly cracked and can't be inflated. We are fortunate to have David Ahmad as a volunteer to help with our restoration. He is an experienced aircraft mechanic and a member of the Experimental Aircraft Association.



The Bellanca Cruisair Senior that we have was manufactured right here at the Bellanca Airfield in 1948. Many similar Bellancas are still flying and cherished by their owners for their outstanding performance, economy and reliability.

STUDENT VISITS

We continue to encourage class visits from local schools and were pleased to welcome students from Tall Oaks and William Penn High School. The students were told of the history of Bellanca Airfield and record setting Bellanca airplanes, viewed the Museums historic artifacts, flew a Bellanca Cruisair on the flight simulator, had lunch and in return volunteered to help the museum with some housekeeping chores.

AERIAL TOW TARGET

In the 1950's Bellanca manufactured tow targets for the Army Ordnance Corp to practice radar tracking of high speed and high altitude aircraft. The target we have was refinished for us by



students in the Delcastle Technical High School paint shop with paint donated by Mr. Richard Marcozzi.

HANGAR LIGHTING

Our expert volunteer electrician Bill Wilson was finally able to solve the problem with the unusable ceiling lights in the SE section of our hangar. With the help of a high lift he found the problem and solved it. He also continued with installation of lights and outlets in the hangar and annexes.

CLASSIC CAR CRUISES

In collaboration with the First State Mustang and Ford Club we hosted three Classic Car Cruises on the newly paved parking lot in front of the hangar.

Visitors not only were able to admire the sporty cars, but could also visit the displays in the Bellanca hangar. A food stand was available to provide light refreshments to hungry visitors. We expect to have several more cruises next year.



BELLANCA MEDIA CENTER

The new Media Center has many things to offer visitors, beginning with a bright, freshly painted, attractive room with new carpet and bookshelves containing many books of aviation history and interest. Visitors will find comfortable seating at the far end where they can watch selected DVDs and VHS tapes featuring aviators and planes of all kinds, both in war and peace.



They can also select one of the interesting and compelling books from the shelves to sit back and read. Although we cannot afford to lend books that may be lost to us, visitors are welcome to do research and take notes while we are open. There is also a flight simulator on computer where they can polish their skills at landing a Bellanca Cruisair. The Media Center is still a work in progress to which we plan to add books and video choices over time, but we've come a long way in a few months. Please come see us.

VIP VISITORS

All of our guests are special but, we were particularly pleased to have welcomed August Bellanca and his family to our hangar. August is the grandson of G.M. Bellanca and had



L-R August, August Sr, Aris, Aurie, Kandra

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are vital assets for a non-profit organization like ours and we value the abilities they have. Without them we could not improve our museum or even maintain what we have. We thank all of them for their dedication



Recently we were fortunate to have several new volunteers join us with the special skills we needed to move forward with a couple of important projects. We were pleased to have two retired carpenters from Carpenters Union Local 626, Joe Chandler and Carl Harvey install new doors in our west annex replacing the old ones that were so badly deteriorated that they could not be used. Joe, on the left and Carl look very pleased with their work

Another very talented volunteer is David Ahmad shown here replacing a tire for the main landing gear on the Bellanca Cruisair. Dave is a pilot, an Aircraft and Propulsion mechanic, and has spent many years in the aircraft industry. His knowledge, ability and effort in reassembling the Cruisair has been impressive.



We must also mention volunteer member Nick DiPinto who has diligently spackled, sanded and painted our new rest rooms and also Joe Finocchiaro who seems to be able to build anything and creatively do everything that has to be done

MUSEUM RECEIVES B-17 BOMBSIGHT

The late Bill Nutter of New Castle worked as an unpaid apprentice at the Air Service Hangar at Bellanca Airfield. As WW II approached, Bill decided to join the U.S. Army Air Corps and was sent to radio maintenance school. He shipped out to England in early 1942 as a member of the Eighth Air Force, assigned to a B-17 Flying Fortress unit. The B-17 was the most advanced bomber in the world at that time, but it was plagued with an electrical problem. On a bombing mission Bill discovered the source of the problem and developed a fix, for which he was decorated. After the war he was a dedicated veteran, proud of his service, appearing at patriotic events in his flying suit. He was a close friend of the Bellanca Museum, often showing up there with his red 1936 Classic Mercedes Convertible, wearing his flying suit, and was always quickly surrounded by an admiring crowd. He was inducted into the Delaware Aviation Hall of Fame in 2014. His extensive aviation memorabilia collection, that included a B-17 bombsight, was bequeathed to the Museum. These items are now enclosed in a special display case in the Museum with a large photograph of his Mercedes nearby.

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