

## Florida Air Museum Exhibits: Part 2

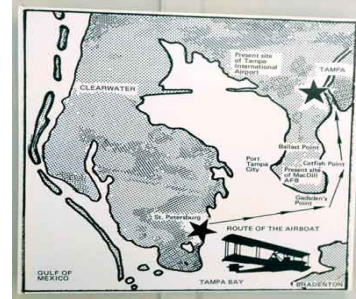
"Florida is the cradle of commercial aviation in the United States.

Florida's expansion from a large expanse of wetlands to a sprawling destination of tourism was directly influenced by war and the maturation of regularly scheduled commercial aviation. Between the 1914 flight of the Benoist in St. Petersburg, to the founding of Pan American in Key West, Florida has always been at the forefront of commercial aviation history. This exhibit pays respect to the aviators and airlines that shaped our state as the premier tourism destination of the Eastern United States." <Florida Air Museum-Museum Map brochure>



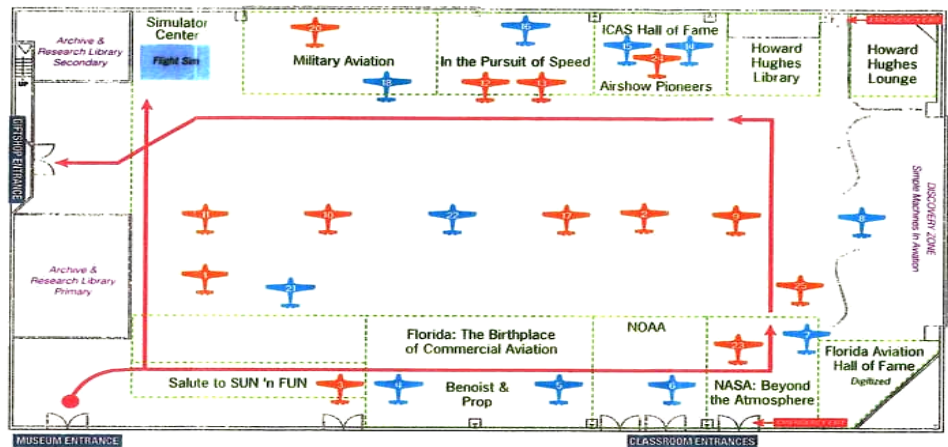
### The World's First Scheduled Passenger Airline

"The inaugural flight of the St. Petersburg-Tampa Airboat Line took place on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1914. Percival Fansler, Founder and Tony Jannus, Pilot. The Benoist Airport seaplane flew two roundtrips daily across Tampa Bay, with the pilot and one passenger and a small cargo payload. One-way fare was \$5. This pioneering operation is acknowledged by aviation historians as the world's first heavier-than-air scheduled commercial airline service." <floridaaahs.org> <airlinecentennial.org>



The Museum has over 15 topical areas regarding aviation history. There are also 25 aircraft on the museum floor or hanging from the ceiling. The areas include Salute to Sun 'N Fun, a local airshow that has been run for nearly 50 years. Florida: Cradle of Commercial Aviation. NOAA, the science behind weather. NASA, a review of America space exploration. Discover Zone: Powered by Publix, designed for children 11-17 years old to learn about simple machines. Howard Hughes Flight Lounge and Howard Hughes Experiences (See Part 1 for information and photos regarding this area. ICAS (International Council of Air Shows) pioneers' artifacts. In the Pursuit of Speed: Air Racing, vintage air-race airplanes from the early years. Military Aviation in Florida, WWII saw airports in the state grow from 12 to 200 and the infrastructure to maintain them. Finally, the Simulator Center for flight school students and their instructors is housed in the museum. <Florida Air Museum-Museum Map brochure>

### The Museum



#### Aircraft on Floor & Ceiling

1913 Laird Baby Biplane, ERCO Ercoupe, 1953 Wittman Tailwind, 1989 Quickie Q1, 1994 Agelin Space Walker II, 1926 For Flivver, 1972 Pitts Special S-1, Wright Flyer Replica, 1946 Culver V, 1934 Pietaenpol Air Camper, Lovings Love, Little Rocket Racer, 1979 Flying Flea, 1930 Woody Pusher, 1976 Chief Oshkoah, CP-30 Emeraude, 2008 M Squarel Breeze, 1934 Heath Parasol, Curtiss 1GE, RANS S-19 Ultralight, 1943 Red Baron Stearman, S-3D Rocket Motor, Stits Playmate, BD-58

#### Lobby







*"Dean and Liz Ramus were both born in small farm towns in Iowa. After marrying, Dean served in the US Air Force for 4 years. They later moved to Florida where he had a 30-year career with Publix Super Markets.*

*Upon moving to Lakeland, he became involved with The Boys club and spearheaded a fund raiser for them at the Sun 'n Fun Fly-In beginning in 1975. For 20 years he ran the Country Stores at Sun 'n Fun Fly-In with Liz, their daughters Terri, Tina and son-in-law Keith. He and Liz have always had a special place in their hearts for Sun 'n Fun as well as helping young people.*

*That made the Skylab Innovation Center a natural for them. Through Skylab, many generations of Polk County youth will benefit from exposure to science, technology, engineering, and math revolving around the world of aerospace."*

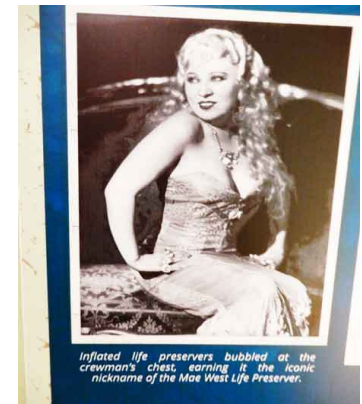
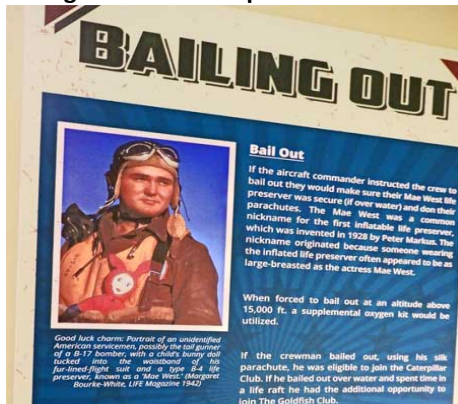


"The Baby Biplane was built by Emil Matthew (Matty) Laird at the age of 16, with assistance from his brother Charles. The Baby Biplane was a single-seat biplane made of wood, fabric covering, having conventional landing gear. Laird operated from Chicago's Cicero field. A self-taught pilot, his first flight resulted in the aircraft flipping over after becoming airborne. Over time, the aircraft flew up to 30 minutes at a time. The instrument panel consisted of a pocket watch, used to time the fuel supply."

<en.wikipedia.org>



# **Boeing B-17 & B-29 Super Fortress Crew Information: Subject Bailing Out**





The Red Baron was the name applied to Baron Manfred von Richthofen (1892-1918), a German fighter pilot who was the deadliest flying ace of World War I. During a 19-month period between 1916 and 1918, the Prussian aristocrat shot down 80 Allied aircraft. He was killed in a dogfight over France. <history.com>

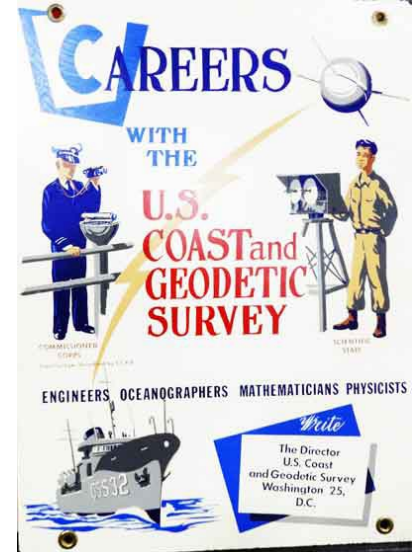
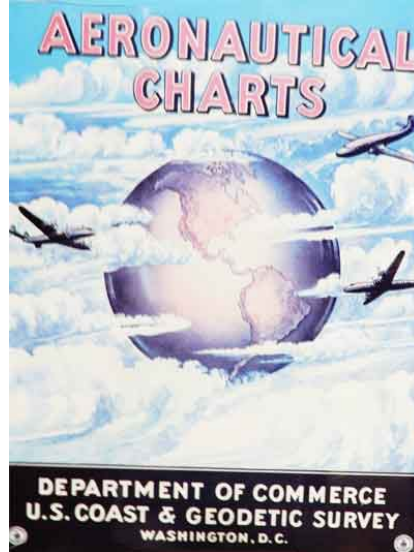


The **Stearman (Boeing) Model 75** is a biplane formerly used as a military trainer aircraft, of which at least 10,626 were built in the United States during the 1930s and 1940s.

The aircraft shown here is from the classic Red Baron Pizza aerobatic team.



In 1807, President Thomas Jefferson founded the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey (as the Survey of the Coast) to provide nautical charts to the maritime community for safe passage into American ports and along our extensive coastline. The Weather Bureau was founded 1870 and, one year later, the U.S. Commission of Fish and Fisheries was founded. Individually, these organizations were America's first physical science agency, America's first agency dedicated specifically to the atmospheric sciences, and America's first conservation agency. <noaa.gov>

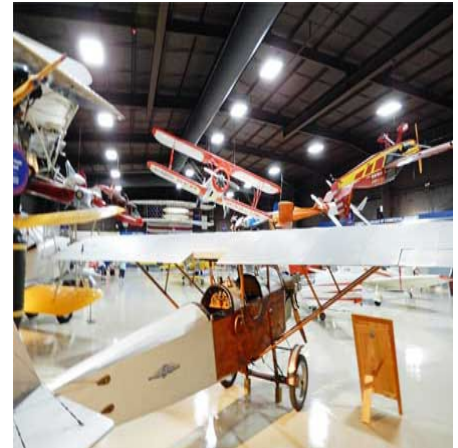


Like Howard Hughes, Amelia Mary Earhart (1897- declared dead 1939) was an aviation pioneer. She was the first female to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean, a promoter of commercial air travel, and author of flying experiences and instrumentation. She is ranked in the top ten of Heroes of Aviation.





The [Imperial War Museum](http://www.iwm.org.uk) has an interesting account of how war in the air changed over time. *Worth reviewing.* Changes noted: Reconnaissance by balloon as early as late 1790s. Recon by Aeroplane prior to WWI. Aircraft dropped projectiles in bundles during WWI as well as observation and fighter planes. WWII saw the most innovation in design and using guns and bombers. Jet fighters and rockets came into being in 1944. Radar was an important tool for detection, also during the 1940s. The helicopter though invented in 40s, its large-scale use took place during the Korean War. Missiles were developed after WWII. Other sophisticated stealth technology, landing and takeoff, laser designators, and drones have followed.



The museum is in Central Florida at 4175 Medulla Road, Polk County, Lakeland, Florida.

### [Florida Air Museum Part 1 Overview & Howard Hughes](#)

### [Florida Air Museum Part 3 Outside Exhibits](#)

Sources: Museum Map, <https://www.floridaairmuseum.org/>, <https://www.floridaairmuseum.org/index-cosmic-muffin/>, <http://www.floridaaahs.org/>, <https://www.airlinecentennial.org/>, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Laird\\_Baby\\_Biplane](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Laird_Baby_Biplane), <https://www.history.com/topics/world-war-i/manfred-baron-von-richthofen>, [https://www.wikiwand.com/en/Florida\\_Air\\_Museum](https://www.wikiwand.com/en/Florida_Air_Museum), <https://www.alamy.com/stock-photo-a-red-baron-stearman-hands-above-other-exhibits-inside-the-sun-n-fun-54475576.html>, <https://www.noaa.gov/heritage/our-history>, <https://www.nationalmuseum.af.mil/Visit/Museum-Exhibits/Fact-Sheets/Display/Article/195967/y-4-horizontal-periscopic-bombsight/>, <https://www.wingsofeagles.com/collection/additional-exhibits/y-4-horizontal-periscopic-bombsight/>, <https://www.airplanes-online.com/b47-stratojet.htm>, [https://real-life-heroes.fandom.com/wiki/Amelia\\_Earhart](https://real-life-heroes.fandom.com/wiki/Amelia_Earhart), [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amelia\\_Earhart](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amelia_Earhart), <https://theaviationgeekclub.com/quick-look-b-47-stratojet-backbone-strategic-air-command-early-cold-war/>, and <https://www.iwm.org.uk/learning/resources/how-has-war-in-the-air-changed-over-time>.