“The ready genius of inventors...” reached the height of its sentimentality in the 19th century with a commonly accepted understanding, that if one could think it, dream it, or invent it, one could do it, and perhaps none more than Frederick Marriott. As Mark Twain was noted for writing, it was, “in some genius’ brain [that slept] the solution of the grand problem of aerial navigation.”

The newspaperman turned eccentric inventor had, by his own admission, discovered and accomplished the triumph of aerial navigation, or did he? Marriott, an English-born immigrant to the California gold fields arrived in the state like so many others, seeking their fortune, but failing to find it in the rough and ready mining camps of the Sierra. Marriott’s gold was in his experience as a publisher and printer, and by 1856 he had established himself in just such a profession in San Francisco, with his first of several publications, The San Francisco Newsletter, and later The San Francisco Newsletter and California Advertiser, a satirical paper published between 1856 and 1926. He had experience in both publishing and advertising from his previous endeavors in England and, in particular, with his work with William H. Henson and John Stringfellow, both of whom had sought Marriott’s expertise in publishing and later his financial backing with their own attempts at aerial navigation.

What started as an agreement between a publisher and his clients readily turned into another business venture that Marriott could not resist. He and fellow investor D. E. Columbine, who had acted the part of Hanson and Stringfellow’s attorney and promoter, became backers of Hanson’s Aerial Steam Carriage Company in 1843. Their affiliations did not last long however and with capital for their aerial steam carriage model faltering, Hanson and Stringfellow urged Marriott and Columbine to sell them their shares in order to expedite construction.

Marriott’s business venture with Hanson and Stringfellow may have derailed his plans to involve himself in aerial navigation, but his interest remained and was only rekindled upon his relocating to San Francisco. Marriott had seen what he had supposed was a decided deficiency in the transportation options afforded mid-19th century Americans and between publications sought the construction of his own aerial steam carriage.

Marriott utilized the basement of his Montgomery street printing office to begin his own airship model and in 1866 Marriott filed for a certificate of incorporation in San Francisco as the Aerial

MARRIOTT’S “HERMES”  
by Jen Roger

Smithsonian Institution
Affiliations Program
Steam Navigation Company with fellow trustees Algernon Smith and James H. Gardner. They had found their investors who, like Marriott, stood at the ready for any new business venture that came their way. Marriott succeeded in finding funding with the notable local citizenry, including financier William C. Ralston. With the influx of capital Marriott and his investors rebranded themselves as the California Aerial Steam Navigation Company and set out to best the railroad at its own game.

Marriott was a firm believer that his Aerial Steam Carriage would be more practical and efficient than a transcontinental rail line, which had suffered at the hands of politicians, labor shortages and geographic obstacles, and a seemingly apropos position for Marriott, who had gained Ralston's backing, the man who had financed the Comstock Lode rail lines and would be known for racing the train from the Valencia Street Station to his home in Belmont.

With the backing of his investors Marriott successfully relocated The California Aerial Steam Navigation Company to a barn built in San Jose near the San Jose and San Francisco Rail Yards, and Marriott hired a construction crew. The race for transportation dominance had begun and Marriott surely saw himself the winner. Travel to and from the East Coast, along with transportation across the waters of the Atlantic and the Pacific was within reach and as the Newsletter reported, “Within four weeks the first aerial steam carriage, capable of conveying six persons, and propelled at a rate exceeding the minimum speed of thirty miles an hour [would be winging its flight over the Sierra Nevada.”

Newspapers across the country printed articles proclaiming Marriott’s lighter-than-air steam carriage the transportation advancement for the future, but Marriott and his investors had lost their gamble. The Central and Union Pacific rail lines joined at Promontory Point Utah on May 10, 1869, and edged Marriott out.

Hindered, but not stymied, Marriott continued with the construction of his model, dubbed Hermes and readied it for its first flights at Shell Mound Park along the Burlingame Bayfront. Marriott’s lighter-than-air steam carriage constructed of “Bamboo, iron, steel and shining muslin, coated with a peculiar varnish… [and appeared as a] hybrid between a fish and a long necked bird,” to those watching the spectacle. Marriott’s Avitor, Hermes, was a success in that the airship, which stood 37 feet long and eight feet wide and which was commonly referred to as being cigar shaped. The airship achieved lift through the aid of an eight-pound steam engine from which a spirit lamp was used to generate the heat in the boiler.

While Marriott’s design was certainly successful, it was far from the revolutionary advancement in transportation he had hoped for. His advancements in stabilization certainly added to the credibility of this steam carriage, but his Avitor faded quickly from public memory thanks in part to the untimely and accidental destruction of Hermes, but more to the point, the exponential growth of the railroads. Marriott tried again in the late 1870s with his plans for a heavier-than-air version of Hermes. However his patent application was denied due to the belief, on the part of the U.S. Patent office, that a heavier-than-air vehicle was impractical and would never fly.

As we wind down the 2018-2019 academic year, we are proud to report that the school year was a busy one with about 10,000 youth visiting the museum on field trips from K-12 schools throughout the Bay Area, along with an additional 3,000 teachers and chaperones.

The museum’s third annual Airport Runway Run took place in mid-April with over 900 runners participating in 2K, 5K and 10K courses, all originating on Runway 12 at San Carlos Airport. Thanks goes to Gretchen Kelly and the airport management team as well as numerous volunteers and committee members for working with us to ensure a successful event. We also thank our Premium Sponsors, including Sports Basement, Nevro, Tavarez Orthodontics, Orangetheory Fitness and ABC 7 News for their support. Lastly, kudos to our VP of Development, Rebecca Duran, for doing a fabulous job in organizing and delivering the event. Good race!

Meanwhile this summer, look for the addition of a new aircraft in our gallery, the much anticipated replica of a Fokker DR.1 triplane, the Red Baron’s aircraft. Our dedicated and skilled restoration shop volunteers have been building this aircraft from the ground up for the past three years.

We greatly appreciate our family of museum visitors for helping make the Hiller Aviation Museum a vibrant and exciting place to visit. We look forward to seeing you soon at the Museum this summer!

Jeffrey Bass, President & CEO
Hiller Aviation Museum

FOOD TRUCK CRAZE CONTINUES!

AT HILLER! EVERY WEDNESDAY 11AM TO 1:30PM – RAIN OR SHINE!
The parking lot of the museum turns into a food court every Wednesday. Several food trucks participate in this gourmet event. The trucks rotate weekly, so come for your favorite truck or try something new! Dine under our porte-cochere, or indoors when it’s a little cold, or, grab and go!
Performers are scheduled to include:

- Vicky Benzing and her full-sized 1940 Stearman Bi-plane in a full aerobatic routine
- RC Flyers model aircraft demonstrations
- Aerobatic gyroscopic routines
- 3D aerobatic helicopters
- Drone racing
- Jets and other RC aircraft
- Model rockets

Beautifully detailed radio control model aircraft will be on display at the Museum from 10 AM to 1 PM, with air show flight demonstrations from 10:30 AM to 12 PM! Drone demonstrations from 12-1pm in the Drone Plex!

Event is included with Museum admission—no charge to Museum Members! Capacity is limited and advanced ticket purchase is recommended.

For more info: www.hiller.org

Hiller Aviation Museum
601 Skyway Rd. San Carlos CA
650-654-0200
Come check out unique aircraft, European H-O model trains and cool cars featuring cars from car clubs and individual owners.

Hand built Experimental “X” planes and classic airplanes will be on hand plus HO-scale trains by European Train Enthusiasts (ETE).

**SPECIAL BONUS PRESENTATION AND MODEL ROCKET LAUNCH DURING THE SHOW:**

**50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE APOLLO MOON LANDING, SATURN-V, THE FIRST 700 SECONDS PRESENTATION AT 11 AM:**

Faride Khalaf will take you down memory lane and visit the Apollo program in a unique way. He will focus on some of the details starting from early launch preparation to the last rocket blast that sent the gallant crew and their spacecraft to the moon. In this presentation, you’ll find answers to questions that Walter Cronkite never thought to ask!

To commemorate this historical achievement, the Museum will launch a Saturn-V Model Rocket at approx. 1:17 PM. The exact time the Lunar Module landed on the moon!

Events included with Museum admission.

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**FOR MEMBERS ONLY!**

**HILLER AVIATION MUSEUM’S SUMMER PARTY!**

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 11, 10AM-NOON**

**SPECIAL BUBBLE FESTIVAL • JUMPY HOUSE • FACE PAINTER • GAMES • PRIZES • TREATS (WHILE SUPPLIES LAST) • 25% DISCOUNT IN THE GIFT SHOP**

**SUNDAY ONLY • EVENT IS FREE TO MEMBERS!**

Join us for a Member Appreciation Party. Museum members are invited to a private party featuring many fun activities and games! Bring the whole family! August 11th is also a “Special Member Day” in the Museum gift shop, where members receive 25% off their purchases. Check out www.hiller.org/member for more details on our Museum Membership Program.
CALENDAR

JUNE
SAT, JUNE 1 • 10AM-1PM
Biggest Little Air Show
SUN, JUNE 2 • 2-4PM
Flight Sim Rally
SUN, JUNE 9 • 1:30-4:30PM
Drone Meet
TUE, JUNE 11 • 11:30AM
Starlab
WED, JUNE 12 • 11AM
Water Rockets
THU, JUNE 13 • 11:30AM
Starlab
SUN, JUNE 16 • 10AM-12PM
Kids’ Carnival
WED, JUNE 19 • 11AM
Happy Birds
SUN, JUNE 23 • 1:30-4PM
Aero Design Challenge
WED, JUNE 26 • 11AM & 1PM
Perfect Paper Airplanes
SAT, JUNE 29 • 11AM
Happy Birds
SUN, JUNE 30 • 10:30AM, 11:30AM & 12:30PM
Starlab Sky Show
JULY
WED, JULY 3 • 10AM-2PM
Open Cockpit
SAT, JULY 6 • 11AM
Perfect Paper Airplanes
SUN, JULY 7 • 1:30-4PM
Fly For Fun
WED, JULY 10 • 11AM
Drone Day Demo
SAT, JULY 13 • 6-11PM
Steampunk Extravaganza
SUN, JULY 14 • 10AM-NOON
Kids’ Carnival
TUE, JULY 16 • 11:30AM
Starlab
WED, JULY 17 • 11AM
Water Rockets
THU, JULY 18 • 11:30 AM
Starlab
SAT, JULY 20 • 11AM
Apollo 11, Saturn V
SAT, JULY 20 • 10AM-2PM
Planes, Trains & Cool Cars
SAT, JULY 20 – SUN JULY 28
10AM & 4PM
Model Train Exhibit
SUN, JULY 21 • 2-3:30PM
Flight Sim Rally
WED, JULY 24 • 11AM
Happy Birds
SAT/SUN JULY 27 & 28 • 10AM-4PM
EuroWest Model Train Show
SUN, JULY 28 • 1:30-4PM
Drone Meet
WED, JULY 31 • 10AM-1PM
Kids’ Air Faire
AUGUST
SUN, AUGUST 4 • 2 – 3:30PM
Flight Sim Rally
TUE, AUG 6 • 11:30AM
Starlab
WED, AUG 7 • 11AM
Water Rocket Rally
THU, AUG 8 • 11:30AM
Starlab
SUN, AUG 11 • 10AM-NOON
Members Only Party
SUN, AUG 11 • 1:30-4PM
Drone Meet
WED, AUG 14 • 11AM & 1PM
Perfect Paper Airplanes
SUN, AUG 18 • 11AM
Water Rocket Rally
WED, AUG 21 • 11AM
Happy Birds
SUN, AUG 25 • 10AM-12:30PM
Kids’ Carnival
GOURMET FOOD TRUCKS • WEDNESDAYS, 11AM-1:30PM,
DRONE PLEX • SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS, 10:30AM-12PM & 1-3PM
INVENTION LAB • SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS, 10:30AM-4PM
FLIGHT SIM ZONE • SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS, 11AM-2PM,
AVIATION CAMP JUNE 3 – AUG 30
AVIATION CAMP 2019 • SUMMER PROGRAMS GRADES K-8

Explore flight this summer at the Hiller Aviation Museum! Aviation Camp introduces kids entering Grades JK-8 to aerospace with hands-on experiments, flight simulation, real aircraft and much more. Eight different topics are available. Visit www.hiller.org for current availability information or to enroll today!

WEDNESDAY FAMILY EVENTS
SPECIAL EVENTS AT THE HILLER AVIATION MUSEUM

Join the excitement on special event Wednesdays all summer long! Special events and programs for kids and their families are offered each Wednesday, and gourmet food trucks are available 11 AM—1:30 PM.

HAPPY BIRDS
WEDNESDAYS JUNE 19, JULY 24, AUGUST 21, SATURDAY, JUNE 29 ALL SHOWS 11 AM

The birds are back in town! Meet the hilarious team of feathered (sometimes) fliers with the Happy Birds! This unforgettable flock of parrots, macaws and cockatoos demonstrates remarkable natural behaviors and amazing trained tricks and antics.

WATER ROCKET RALLY
WEDNESDAYS, JUNE 12, JULY 17, AUGUST 7 SUNDAY, AUGUST 18 11 AM

Have a blast exploring the world of rocket propulsion! Learn about the science of rocketry, then create a high flying water rocket. Bring a clean, recycled soda bottle from home or purchase one at the Gift Shop on the day of the event.

PERFECT PAPER PLANES
SUNDAY, MAY 26, 11 AM (NATIONAL PAPER AIRPLANE DAY!) WEDNESDAYS, JUNE 26 AND AUGUST 14, 11 AM & 1 PM, SATURDAY, JULY 6, 11 AM

Champion paper plane maker John Collins shares his design techniques while putting on a remarkable demonstration of flying paper airplanes. Build a paper plane and watch unique designs take flight.

OPEN COCKPIT DAY
WEDNESDAY, JULY 3 10 AM - 2 PM

Climb aboard and take the controls of many of the Hiller Aviation Museum's unique aircraft! The doors of the Aero Commander, Boeing 737, Aero L-39, Grumman Albatross and many more are open for exploration on Open Cockpit Day.

KIDS’ AIR FAIRE
WEDNESDAY, JULY 31 11 AM—2 PM

Join Bay Area pilots and local public safety agencies as they share airplanes, helicopters, fire engines, police cruisers and other emergency vehicles with children of all ages. Fly a glider or paper helicopter, explore the Museum’s gallery in an Exhibit Safari and more! Event included with Museum admission.

STARLAB SKY SHOWS
JUNE 11 & 13, JULY 16 & 18, AUGUST 6 & 8 (TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS) 11:30 AM

Discover the glittering stars of summer in the expansive dome of the Starlab planetarium! See stars, constellations planets and more.

SUPPORT THE MUSEUM!
FAMILY SUNDAY PROGRAMS • SUMMER 2019

**FLY FOR FUN PAPER PLANES**
AGES 5+
MAY 26, JULY 7
1:30 PM – 4:00 PM

Launch an adventure in paper-light flight! Learn the physics behind making paper glide, then fold and fly to construct a marvelous flying machine!

**DRONE MEET**
AGES 8+
JUNE 9, JULY 28, AUGUST 11
1:30 – 3:00 PM

Compete in one of three different mini-events in drone flying! Practice a specific maneuver on drone simulators, then take the controls to fly the real aircraft!

**FLIGHT SIM RALLY**
AGES 10+
JUNE 2, JULY 21, AUGUST 4
1:00 – 2:30 PM

Take it to the edge of the envelope in a specially-developed flight simulation session! Learn to fly a specific aircraft, then accept a mission sure to challenge the skills of pilots of all ages and abilities!
Join Now!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Benefits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Senior (age 65+)</td>
<td>$50</td>
<td>Unlimited admission for you + 2 guest passes.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Individual</td>
<td>$65</td>
<td>Unlimited admission for you + 2 guest passes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family</td>
<td>$90</td>
<td>Unlimited admission for 2 named adults and up to 4 children (17 &amp; under) + discounts on Aviation Camp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pioneer</td>
<td>$125</td>
<td>Family Membership benefits + an additional card for a named member (ideal for caregivers) and 2 guest passes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pilot</td>
<td>$275</td>
<td>Family Membership benefits with a total of 3 guest passes + 8 FMX Flight Simulator passes and 50% off additional FMX tickets.</td>
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<td>Barnstormer</td>
<td>$550</td>
<td>Pilot Membership benefits with a total of 4 guest passes + 10% off Museum Rental and Birthday Parties.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adventurer</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>Pilot Membership benefits with a total of 8 guest passes + 15% off Museum Rental and Birthday Parties.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Explorer</td>
<td>$2,500</td>
<td>Pilot Membership benefits with a total of 12 guest passes + 25% off Museum Rental and Birthday Parties and a Hiller Aviation Museum jacket.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Navigator</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td>Pilot Membership benefits with a total of 20 guest passes + 35% off Museum Rental and Birthday Parties and a Hiller Aviation Museum jacket.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aviator</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>Pilot Membership benefits with a total of 25 guest passes + 40% off Museum Rental and Birthday Parties and a Hiller Aviation Museum jacket.</td>
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I want to be a member of Hiller Aviation Museum in the following category:

- New Member
- Annual Renewal

Primary Adult Member: ________________________________________

Second Adult Member: _______________________________________
(Family Membership and up)

Third Adult Member: _______________________________________
(Pioneer Membership only)

Address: ______________________________________
City: ______________________________________
State: _______ Zip: _______ Daytime Phone: _____________

Email: __________________________________________

This is a gift membership from: _______________________________

Payment Amount: ________  ☑ VISA  ☑ MC  ☑ AMEX
Card #: ___________________________  Exp. Date: __________
CSC: _______  Print Name on Card: ________________________
Signature: __________________________________________

Thank you for your support.
Please make checks payable to
Hiller Aviation Museum
601 Skyway Rd, San Carlos, CA 94070

SUPPORT THE MUSEUM!
DONATE YOUR CAR
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CALL TOLL FREE
1-888-500-1555
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AN AVIATOR’S PARADISE!
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