



# BRIEFINGS



June 2019

## HILLER AVIATION MUSEUM WHERE INSPIRATION TAKES FLIGHT

### MARRIOTT'S "HERMES"

by Jen Roger



*"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*

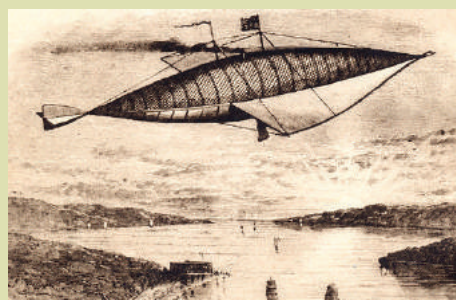
*it, dream it, or invent it, one could do it, and perhaps none more than Frederick Marriott. As Mark Twain was noted for writing, it was, "in some genius' brain [that slept] the solution of the grand problem of aerial navigation."*

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 Henson and Stringfellow's attorney and promoter, became backers of Henson's Aerial Steam Carriage Company in 1843. Their affiliations did not last long however and with capital for their aerial steam carriage model faltering, Henson and Stringfellow urged Marriott and Columbine to sell them their shares in order to expedite construction.

Marriott's business venture with Henson 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

**Biggest Little AIR SHOW**  
Saturday  
June 1  
10am-1pm

HILLER AVIATION MUSEUM  
**STEAMPUNK PARTY**  
JULY 13TH 2019 - 6 - 11 PM

GET THE FULL STORY AT THE  
**AVIATOR STEAM AIRSHIP**

**PLANES, TRAINS & COOL CARS!**  
SATURDAY, JULY 20

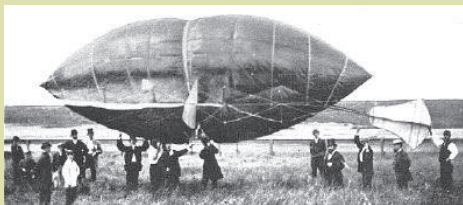


Smithsonian Institution  
Affiliations Program

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,<sup>[2]</sup> 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."<sup>[3]</sup>



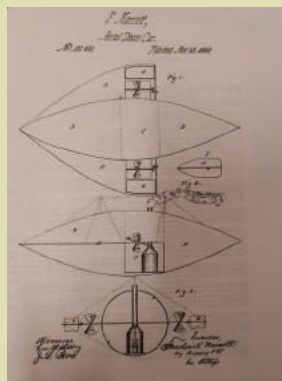
Newspapers across the country printed articles proclaiming Marriott's lighter-than-air steam carriage the transportation advancement for the future, but Marriott and his investors had lost their gamble. The Central and Union Pacific rail lines joined at Promontory Point Utah on May 10, 1869, and edged 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 aerial steam carriage constructed of "Bamboo, iron, steel and shirting muslin, coated with a peculiar varnish... [and appeared as a] hybrid between a fish and a long necked bird,"<sup>[4]</sup> 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.<sup>[5]</sup>

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.



<sup>[1]</sup> Mark Twain, "How Is Your Avitor," *Alta California*, August 1, 1869, 4.

<sup>[2]</sup> Hernandez, Richard A. "A Forty-Niner Banker and Editor Who Took a 'Flier' in Pioneering American Aviation." *Journal of the West* No. 1 (July 1962): 403

<sup>[3]</sup> "The San Francisco Aerial Steam Carriage," *Cincinnati Daily Enquirer*, Sunday, July 11, 1869, 3

<sup>[4]</sup> "Aerial Navigation," *Cincinnati Daily Gazette*, Wednesday, July 24, 1867, 4

<sup>[5]</sup> "The New Aerial Steam Carriage," *Sentinel of Freedom*, Tuesday, July 20, 1896, 4

## PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE



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!

Jeffery 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!



# BIGGEST LITTLE *Air Show*

**AT SAN CARLOS AIRPORT!**

**SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 2019 • 10AM – 1PM  
FLIGHT DEMONSTRATIONS • 10:30AM – NOON!**

Big things come in small packages  
in an amazing aerial display at the Hiller  
Aviation Museum!



Enjoy a thrilling aerobatic performance by airshow pilot Vicky Benzing and her full-sized 1940 Stearman Bi-plane along with demonstrations of exceptional radio controlled models. San Carlos Airport will close to regular traffic from 10:30 am to noon to allow realistic jet and propeller-powered model aircraft to roll down the runway and into the sky to take their part in a unique aerial extravaganza. Performances will include RC aerobatic helicopters, jets, drones, quadrotors and high performance model rockets.



**PEAXY** TOTAL DATA ACCESS  
FOR INDUSTRY



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!

The Renowned Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University will present a Drone Safety Seminar at 12:30 PM

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](http://www.hiller.org)

Hiller Aviation Museum  
601 Skyway Rd. San Carlos CA  
650-654-0200

# PLANES, TRAINS & COOL CARS

SATURDAY, JULY 20, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM



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.



# PLANES TRAINS AND COOL CARS



## HILLER MUSEUM

SATURDAY JULY 20TH, 2019  
10AM-2PM

## 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](http://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 Rall

**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 U 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](http://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.

### DRONE DAY DEMO

WEDNESDAY, JULY 10  
11 AM

Experience the few, the proud – the machines! See a wide variety of modern remotely piloted vehicles, including programmable drones and first-person-view racers! Learn about the history of unmanned aerial systems and observe flight demonstrations in the Museum's main Atrium. Drone simulation experiences will be available for all participants.

### 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.

### 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.



# 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!

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SAN CARLOS AIRPORT,  
VOLUNTEERS & PARTICIPANTS!



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[duran@hiller.org](mailto:duran@hiller.org) or  
650-654-0200 x203



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# HILLER AVIATION MUSEUM

601 Skyway Road  
San Carlos, California 94070

[www.hiller.org](http://www.hiller.org)

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US POSTAGE PAID  
San Carlos, CA  
PERMIT No. 96

## Join Now!

### Senior (age 65+) \$50

Unlimited admission for you + 2 guest passes.

### Individual \$65

Unlimited admission for you + 2 guest passes.

### Family \$90

Unlimited admission for 2 named adults and up to 4 children (17 & under) + discounts on Aviation Camp.

### Pioneer \$125

Family Membership benefits + an additional card for a named member (ideal for caregivers) and 2 guest passes.

### Pilot \$275

Family Membership benefits with a total of 3 guest passes + 8 FMX Flight Simulator passes and 50% off additional FMX tickets.

### Barnstormer \$550 • Adventurer \$1,000

Pilot Membership benefits with a total of 4 guest passes + 10% off Museum Rental and Birthday Parties.

### Explorer \$2,500 • Navigator \$5,000

Pilot Membership benefits with a total of 8 guest passes + 15% off Museum Rental and Birthday Parties.

### Aviator \$10,000

Pilot Membership benefits with a total of 12 guest passes + 25% off Museum Rental and Birthday Parties and a Hiller Aviation Museum jacket.

## Annual Membership Application

Or join online at [www.hiller.org/member](http://www.hiller.org/member)

### I want to be a member of Hiller Aviation Museum in the following category:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior (65+) \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> Barnstormer \$550  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$65   | <input type="checkbox"/> Adventurer \$1,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$90       | <input type="checkbox"/> Explorer \$2,500   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pioneer \$125     | <input type="checkbox"/> Navigator \$5,000  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pilot \$275       | <input type="checkbox"/> Aviator \$10,000   |

New Member     Annual Renewal

Primary Adult Member: \_\_\_\_\_

Second Adult Member: \_\_\_\_\_

*(Family Memberships and up)*

Third Adult Member: \_\_\_\_\_

*(Pioneer Memberships 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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650-654-0200 x215

Tax Deductible Gift

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## Thank you for your support.

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