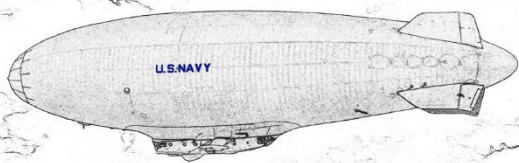
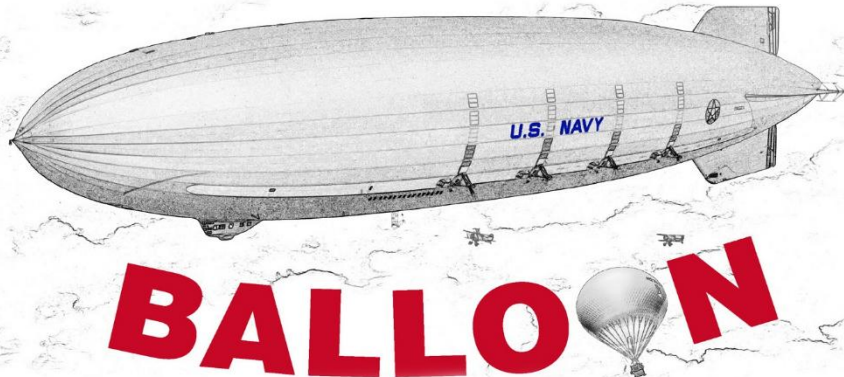


# THE NOON



# BALLOON

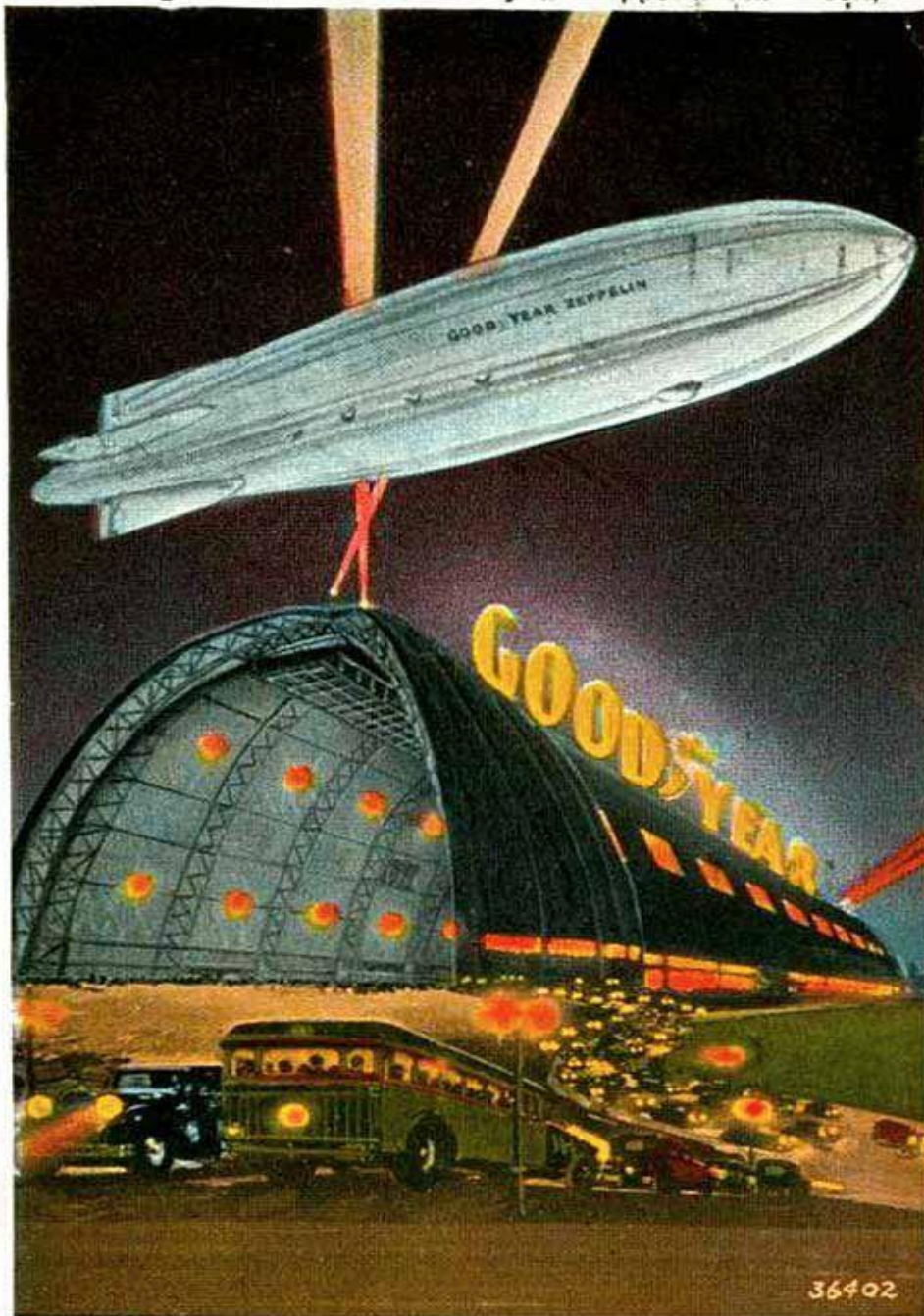
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No. 146

SUMMER 2025

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108:—Night View of the Goodyear-Zeppelin Air Dock,



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Akron, Ohio.

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As part of its continuing celebration of 100+ years in LTA, Goodyear decorated Wingfoot One in century-old livery. Below: LTA-R's Pathfinder One returns to the Moffett sky continuing its test flight regimen. See page 7. Professional media failed to acknowledge the ascent came exactly 88 years to the day when the LZ-129 *Hindenburg*'s fabric caught fire. If you are wondering what happened to Hangar #3 in this photo, refer to our previous two issues as it was going...going...gone.





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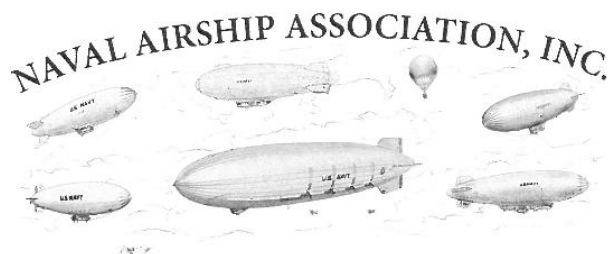
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Old age is not the problem. It's the side effects. 😊

On the Cover: Hand-colored postcard from about 1930 shows what was then the world's largest building, in Akron, Ohio, city of our 2025 NAA Reunion. The artist's conception of the airship to be built shows the original slender fins prior to Design change #2. When the Navy awarded the contract for the ZRS ships in 1929, Goodyear was incentivized to build the Air Dock, foreseeing the future which would allow a 20 million cubic foot ship to be assembled therein. Happily the Air Dock has since been extensively restored and is once again a rigid airship build site, for LTA-R's Pathfinder Three. 📏



A photo sharing site claims this is the “Norge Polar Explorer Airship.” How LTA history might have been different if it had been! “When you’re tired of your computer screen, relax with our magazine.” – Dr. Giles Camplin 😊



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All material contained in this newsletter represents the views of its authors and does not necessarily represent the official position of the Naval Airship Association, Inc., nor its officers or members.

## The Naval Airship Association Officers

### President

Phillip Spahr  
[philspahr@gmail.com](mailto:philspahr@gmail.com)

### Vice-President

Paula Spahr

### Sec-Treasurer

**Deborah P. Van Treuren**  
 P O Box 700 Edgewater, FL 32132  
 E-mail: [deborah\\_v@cfl.rr.com](mailto:deborah_v@cfl.rr.com)

### Immediate Past President

**William Wissel**

[willyum54@comcast.net](mailto:willyum54@comcast.net)

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[marklutz@usinternet.com](mailto:marklutz@usinternet.com)

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**TBD**

### Education Director

**Dr. Anthony Atwood**  
[aatwo001@fiu.edu](mailto:aatwo001@fiu.edu)

## 2025 NAA REUNION Akron, Ohio

100 Years of Goodyear Airships; 100-year anniversary of the Loss of the ZR-1

Join fellow members returning to Akron for our first national get-together since 2022. As we renew friendships and welcome first-timers, we will celebrate a century of Goodyear airships. We will also be paying respects to the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the loss of 14 Naval airship crewmen of the USS *Shenandoah*, on September 3, 1925.



Above: Wingfoot Lake hangar in Suffield. Begun in 1917, expanded twice, it is the oldest airship facility in the country, and is home for Goodyear's NT airship in Ohio.

NAA officers have been working hard to line up visits to LTA-important sites in the Akron area. At press time we have not received definite confirmation from officials at the most logical sites for visitation, remembering that operational schedules are in constant flux owing to changing requirements and even the weather conditions. However the Reunion team will continue to press for access to sites that might host our visit right up until our arrival. If schedules do not permit access to WFL and/or the Airdock, Akron boasts other worthy visitation sites we will enjoy. Several local museums feature prominent LTA artifacts and displays. Among these are the MAPS Air Museum and the Akron History Center, both accessible via transportation the Reunion team is lining up. That's not to mention sites of more general interest such as the Pro Football Hall of Fame, the Canton Classic Car Museum, the National First Ladies Museum, and the Warther Carving Museum which could easily be on your bucket list.



Reunion HQs hotel: [Holiday Inn Express & Suites \(IHG\)](#)  
898 Arlington Ridge E (Akron Regional Airport Area)  
Akron, Ohio 44312 Reservation Desk: 866-994-0472

NAA has a special price block of rooms ranging from \$109 to \$119 which will be honored a day before, during and after the Reunion. Breakfast in the lobby is included. Attendees must book their rooms directly with the hotel, being sure to mention "NAA Reunion" to get the special rate. Book early: after 8/8/25 the unsold rooms will revert to the standard rate (\$175 to \$216 at press time). The hotel also boasts an indoor pool. The Reunion team has secured the hotel's large meeting room in which we will hold our annual business and board meetings. Unless specifically invited elsewhere, the Saturday night banquet (with its presentation by the LTA-R rep) will be catered in the hotel.





# 2025 NAA REUNION Akron, Ohio

100 Years of Goodyear Airships; 100-year anniversary of the Loss of the ZR-1

Tentative Reunion Schedule:

Friday 8/29: Check in. Evening Reception Meet & Greet, with appetizers and beverages.

Saturday 8/30: Breakfast in lobby. Muster in Ready Room for transportation to nearby location(s) to be determined by operational schedules not finalized at The Noon Balloon press time. Lunch on your own, options. Evening: Reunion Banquet, catered in Ready Room. Presentation by Guest of Honor, LTA-Research & Exploration representative.

Sunday 8/31: Breakfast in lobby. Embark transportation to the Shenandoah Memorial in Ava. (See detail, right)

Monday 9/1: Breakfast in lobby. Membership meeting in Ready Room for member's votes on critical issues. NAA board meeting follows, open to all. Optional historical presentation(s). Lunch on own. Afternoon: Possible Muster in Ready Room for transportation to nearby location(s) to be determined by operational schedules not finalized at TNB press time.

Tuesday 9/2: Farewell breakfast, departure.

Please join us in Akron for the Reunion by mailing a check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ per person, made out to "NAA," to:

NAA Reunion, PO Box 700, Edgewater FL 32132-0700  
You may use the enclosed envelope. At press time, the team is working to accept on-line payment via the NAA website. Either way, this may be the last Reunion, so let's make it a great one!

At press time, Board Member Karen Sacanlon, ZR-1 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Remembrance Team member, filed this report: Citizens, historians, and naval personnel will gather in Ava, Ohio on Sunday, August 31 to commemorate the loss of USS *Shenandoah* (ZR-1). Those of us attending the NAA Reunion will take 15-seat vans from Akron to Ava, likely leaving by 9:00 am. Ava's United Methodist Church sits next to the national memorial and will be open to our needs. Shenandoah High School's lunch truck will be at-the-ready for our lunch, each of us selecting and paying individually. The service begins at 2:00 pm, keynote speaker is area historian, Judy Harowski. We'll visit the sites where the airship fell to earth, then head back to Akron to continue reunion festivities.



Above: LTA Society volunteers on the day they erected a new sign to replace the weathered old sign in the background. NAA members also participated. Eric Brothers photo. Below: Hand colored ZR-1 photocard.

