

# Expedition to Find Plane of Pilot with Connection to Horsham Aviation Museum to Begin in October

Amelia Earhart may be a household name as far as early aviators go, but locally, she is an integral part of history at the [Wings of Freedom Aviation Museum](#) in Horsham.

Earhart, who mysteriously disappeared in 1937, set a world altitude record in Horsham on April 8, 1931 in a Pitcairn autogiro. Her flight record occurred at Pitcairn airfield, which later became the Willow Grove air base and is where the Wings of Freedom Aviation Museum has been situated since opening in 2004.

Beginning in October, an expedition featuring a 16-person team of archaeologists, filmmakers and other experts will travel by boat to Nikumaroro in the central Pacific nation of Kiribati, where Earhart and her navigator, Fred Noonan, are believed to have landed while trying to fly around the world in 1937.

The team hopes to [find Earhart's plane](#) as part of the exploration.

Radio signals, human bones, and 1930s-era artifacts—including anti-freckle cream—all indicate Earhart and Noonan may have died on an unplanned stop at the uninhabited island. Soon after a strong tropical storm in 2015, satellite imagery also captured a visual oddity offshore of the island that the expedition team believes could be the remnants of Earhart's long-lost Lockheed 10-E Electra aircraft.

Earhart, who began flying in 1921, set a multitude of flight records and even broke her previous transcontinental speed record by making the same flight in 17 hours and 7 minutes in July 1933.

In 1932, became the [first woman to fly solo](#) and nonstop across the Atlantic Ocean with a time of 14 hours and 56 minutes. In May of that year, she was awarded the National Geographic Society's gold medal from President Herbert Hoover. Congress awarded her the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Docents at the Wings of Freedom Aviation Museum enjoy sharing the history of Earhart, as well as old photographs of her time flying in the region with the thousands of visitors who stop by the museum each year.

## About Wings of Freedom Aviation Museum

The Wings of Freedom Aviation Museum is operated by the Delaware Valley Historical Aircraft Association, a nonprofit organization focused on preserving the aviation history of the greater Delaware Valley since 1972. The museum, which opened in 2004, houses aircraft spanning various eras in the history of aviation: World War I through World War II, The Korean War, The Vietnam War, The Cold War Era, The Gulf War, The Balkan War, The Iraq War, and the War in Afghanistan. The museum is open Saturdays and Sundays from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Wednesdays-Fridays from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. The museum is available for group day trips, scout troop visits, and birthday parties. Guests may use the pavilion for lunch or birthday celebrations. For admission pricing and other information, please visit <https://wingsoffreedommuseum.org/> or call 215-672-2277. Memberships, volunteers, and donations are always welcome as well.