

Wright "B" Flyer, Inc.

WRIGHT LANDINGS



Issue 4, 2013

Dayton, Ohio

Fall 2013

TWO AWARDS SPOTLIGHT WRIGHT "B" FLYER INC.

Our museum received two prestigious community awards this summer.

At its annual meeting on August 20, The National Aviation Heritage Alliance selected Wright "B" Flyer, Inc. to receive its PROPS (Partner Recognition of Outstanding Support) Award. The NAHA recognized us for outstanding community support, citing especially the exhibit of a full-size replica of a Wright "B" Flyer at the International Manufacturing Technology Show in Chicago in September 2012.



NAHA, Tim Gaffney.

NAHA Chairman Tony Perfilio, Wright B Chairman John Bosch, and President, Phil Beaudoin with PROPS Award.



Pittman

Phil Beaudoin accepts the Charbonneaux Award from Frank Boensch of the Engineers' Club.

And then, on September 10, the Engineers Club of Dayton presented the Wilson A. Charbonneaux award to the museum "...for its innovative approach, the quality of its outreach and demonstrated commitment to increasing public understanding" of science and technology and its impact on society.

These two awards are a great credit to the people who make this all-volunteer effort such a success.

ANNUAL DINNER AND MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The annual membership appreciation dinner and meeting will be held in the John and Evelyn Warlick Hangar on 22 October, beginning with the reception at 5:30. Dinner will follow, featuring the Italian cooking of Walt Hoy. The business meeting will include a recap of the 2013 visitors' season, nominations for positions on the upcoming Board, and recognitions. Board Member Amanda Wright Lane will introduce the speaker, Tim Gaffney, who will describe the efforts to save the Wright Company factory buildings.

WRIGHT B VOLUNTEER HONORED BY COMMUNITY

Walt Hoy, one of the museum's dedicated volunteers, was recognized recently at the National Aviation Heritage Area's annual meeting for his many community contributions, not the least of which have been those on behalf of the Wright "B" Flyer, Inc.

Walt received the Ivonette Wright Miller Award, named for the niece of Wilbur and Orville Wright, for a broad range of volunteerism, from cooking and serving meals at NAHA organization functions to designing and building one-of-a-kind aircraft and equipment for those same organizations. He is a founding member and current chair of the Wright Image Group Inc. and a trustee for our museum.

Besides his aviation heritage activities, Hoy also serves in leadership positions and does hands-on volunteer work for the Gospel Mission, the Good Samaritan Hospital Foundation, and the K-12 Gallery for Young People.



NAHA

Tim Gaffney, Walt Hoy, and Tony Perfilio.

Wright "B" Flyer, Inc.

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Whats the story behind these two "mascots" that live in the hangar? It's been guessed that the rabbit represents the one kept in the Wright's lab, but the bunny? Who donated them, and when?

DAYTON WRIGHT AIRPORT FLY-INS



Photos, Timothy R. Gaffney

Sam Strothers, Joe Tyler, Bill Simpson, and Tom Walters show off the Brown Bird at Wings and Wheels.

The Dayton Wright Brothers Airport, The Wright B Flyer, and Commando Aero were hosts to two popular aviation events this summer: Wings and Wheels, and the second annual Runway Fest.

Wings and Wheels was held on July 13 to benefit the Lebanon High School Marching Band. It featured vintage vehicles of all kinds—cars, trucks, tractors, motorcycles, and fire and military equipment, as well as homebuilts, ultralights, and warbird aircraft.

The Runway Fest was on Friday evening, August 9. In addition to fly-in aircraft, including a B-24 Liberator, a wide variety of entertainment was provided: music by the Rockosonics; hot air balloon, helicopter, and pony rides; children's activities; and plenty of food.

And of course, our Wright B Flyer was there for inspection, along with its support crew to explain its construction and the historical significance of the Wrights and their invention.



Runway Fest.



Wings and Wheels.

SHARE YOUR STORIES

Wright "B" volunteers have a wide variety of experiences, and your contacts with visitors allow you to pick up many more second hand. What stories some of them have! Why not share them with the rest of us? *Wright Landings* is the right place [notice we resisted the temptation to say "the Wright place"] to pass them on. Even better if you can add or suggest photos. Send them to kwavn@earthlink.net or Karen Pittman, 498 Carthage Drive, Beavercreek, OH 45434-5865.



Bob Mayne supports the Wright "B" Flyer, Inc. with this Legacy of Flight plate.

WRIGHT BROTHERS PARK, MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

A public park was dedicated on July 2 in Montgomery, Alabama, to commemorate the country's first flying school for civilian students established by the Wright brothers in that city in 1910.

The park, located on the edge of downtown, sports a full-scale steel replica of the 1903 Flyer pedestal-



Courtesy photo

mounted to be easily visible from Interstate 65.

The school was short-lived, only a few months and with but five students. It was, however, the tentative beginning of a long and continuing aviation training heritage for Montgomery, now the home of the Air Force's Air University.



Courtesy photo

FLY-OVERS

The Brown Bird performed several Fly-Overs this summer. The Vectren Air Show on 21 & 22 June was reported in the last issue of *Landings*. Unfortunately, the July Fourth flights were lost to weather. A salute to the Pontiac Convention at the Nutter Center the following week, however, was flown. Weather delayed, but did not cancel, the annual flyover of the Holiday at Home Parade in Centerville on Labor Day. Closing out the season, the Flyer added to the celebrations of Carillon's



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Timothy R. Gaffney

Concours d'Elegance, the Air Force Marathon finish, and the race's after event party. Unfortunately, weather also cancelled a scheduled appearance at Carillon on October 5th for the Balloon Glow commemorating the 108th anniversary of practical flight.

ONE AUSSIE GIRL, 50 UNITED STATES, 50 WEEKS

Linda Bentley, head of an Australian travel site, The Packed Bag, is roughly three-quarters through a year long trip through the United States. Her premise: Approximately 90% of international visitors to the USA go to only four states? What do the other 46 have to offer? To answer that, she's visiting a different state each week for fifty weeks and writing about it on her web site (www.thepackedbag.com) and in a



Linda Bentley with pilot Rich Stepler



Ready to fly!

Photos, The Packed Bag

forthcoming book. On the 23rd of September this brought her to Dayton and an orientation ride in the Wright "B" Flyer look alike. She was impressed! "This is the real deal.... as close to the original as possible while still meeting today's aviation standards. ... It was thrilling and, other than when I skydived, about as exposed and close as you can get to human flight." See her You Tube posting at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?>

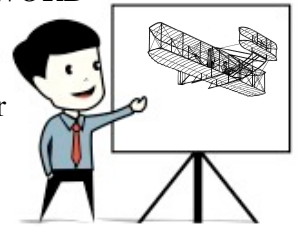
PROMISE KEPT—CARY—GUM AWARD WINNER ORIENTATION FLIGHT



Will Daniel Everett, winner of the first annual Mitch Cary – Don Gum Memorial Aviation Scholarship Award, flew on the Wright “B” Flyer on September 7, 2013. This scholarship was established by the National Aviation Heritage Alliance (NAHA) to honor the memories of the two Wright B Flyer pilots and engineers lost in an aircraft accident in July 2010. Will is pursuing his own private pilot’s license.

SPREAD THE WORD

The Wright “B” Flyer museum is possibly one of Dayton’s best kept secrets. Other than air shows and community holiday functions we depend on walk-ins and word of mouth to attract our visitors.



The Museum has prepared a public relations program for presentation to schools and civic clubs with a slideshow tailored to fit from 15 minutes to one hour. It provides the audience with some history of the Wright brothers, as well as a visual display of what transpires at Wright B Flyer Museum. We learned that middle school youngsters could understand the display and civic clubs were pleased with the show. These presentations can also recruit new volunteers.

If any of you have a group that you think might be interested in seeing a presentation to learn more about the Wright “B” story, please have them contact the hangar (937-885-2327).

THE FLIGHT THAT DIDN'T HAPPEN



These photos illustrate the frustration that often accompanies scheduled flying events. Left: Tom and Phil watch the weather before canceling the fly over for the Fourth of July parade at Centerville. Right: Preflight for the event that didn't happen.

SPOTLIGHT ON VOLUNTEERS

Les Dunning. Originally from Francisco, Ind., Les graduated from high school there in 1940 and enlisted in the Army on 8 January 1942. Following the war and after a short spell in the Reserves, he continued his military career through retirement as a colonel in 1978. Over this period he served in a variety of roles—transport, Strategic Air Command, and systems

acquisition. During Vietnam, he was in Thailand. After retirement, he and his wife of 59 years, Elaine, settled in the Dayton area at the end of a final Wright-Patt assignment. When he heard about the construction of the Silver Bird, he put his Purdue degree in aeronautical engineering and his long experience with aircraft to work volunteering with the Wright “B” Flyer. Elaine and Les have a son and a daughter, and four grandchildren.

