

# Winter Newsletter

January 2025



## WINTER HAS ARRIVED

*Warm up and visit the  
Wright B Flyer Museum.*

Wright Landings is published for the information of members and volunteers of the Wright B Flyer, Inc., a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Dayton-Wright Brothers Airport; 10550 Springboro Pike Miamisburg, Ohio 45342 Phone: 937-885-2327

## Hours of Operation

Tuesday,  
Thursday, Saturday  
9:00 am – 12:30pm

**Retired? Need something  
to do? See the last page!**



Following the White Bird fly-over at the WPAFB 97th anniversary celebration on October 10, 2024, the aircraft experienced an unexpected flight emergency and had to make a forced landing on a golf course driving range located on the base. Fortunately, both pilots, Jeff Stands and Hank Griffiths were not injured.

As a result, the White Bird has been disassembled and a thorough investigation is being conducted as to the cause of the mishap. The White Bird has otherwise had an excellent safety record with multiple event flyovers and runway hops throughout 2024.

Following the most likely redesign of some components and the replacement of the failed engine, we anticipate that we will soon be flying the White Bird once again!



Tucked in the corner of the Wright B Flyer hangar are two Model T Fords. Both donated to the museum and both in the only color offered from 1914 through 1925, black. Both cars run and are maintained and driven by the volunteers at the hangar.

The “Staff Car” for the Wright B is a 1916 Model T Touring car. A veteran of the Dayton Air Show, Centreville Fourth of July parade and the Concourse d’ Elegance, it is one of over fifteen million Model T’s Ford made between 1908 and 1927. Often during the warmer months, we pull the car out to drive visitors around the airport giving them the feel of life in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century when the original Wright B was flying.

Sitting alongside the “Staff Car” is a 1917 Model T Runabout. This car, when donated, came in on skids and was painstakingly restored by Frank Goepferich, Sr. Frank himself has two Model T’s, and he has taught innumerable people how to drive and maintain them. Since Ford didn’t make a pickup truck until 1925, what many farmers did was remove the turtle deck (trunk) and build a wooden pickup truck bed on the back. This is what Frank did (videos of this are on our website). Much less original than the “Staff Car” the truck sports more modern, circa 1926 -27, wire wheels. Both cars have been fitted with electric starters which is much easier than cranking it... although that option is still available.

Both cars have the standard four-cylinder engines that all Model T’s have, electric lights, the two speed planetary transmission, three pedals on the floorboard (Clutch on the left controlling the two speeds and neutral, reverse in the middle, and a transmission break on the right). The throttle is a lever on the right of the steering column, the spark control is a lever on the left. Choke and carburetor adjustments are on or below the dash. A speedometer was added to the “Staff Car” as an option at some point.

Special thanks to Model T aficionado and volunteer mechanic, Jim Perrine, for this article.



***The Wright Brothers led the way with Wright B Flyer transportation!***

## **Below are 10 facts about the Wright Brothers, some you may know, and a few may surprise you!**

- 1. The Wright brothers were raised and lived most of their lives in Dayton. Wilbur was born near Millville, Indiana and Orville was born in Dayton. The family briefly moved to Iowa in 1878, then Richmond, Indiana in 1881, before returning to Dayton in 1884. The brothers would then spend the remainder of their lives in Dayton.**
- 2. On Dec 17, 1903, the Wright brothers achieved the first powered, sustained and controlled airplane flight. Orville & Wilbur decided who would fly first that day with a coin toss! Wilbur won the toss, but his first attempt failed. Orville went second and managed to fly for 12 seconds. Later that day, Wilbur flew their plane for 59 seconds, over a distance of 852 feet.**
- 3. In 1878, when Wilbur was 11 and Orville 7, their father gave them a helicopter-like toy to share. It was based on an invention by Alphonse Pénauud and was made of paper, bamboo and cork, with a rubber band to twirl the motor. The brothers later said this toy was the *beginning of their obsession with flying machines.***
- 4. In 1889, Orville and Wilbur started a newspaper printing business, publishing a weekly, and later a daily, newspaper - they even designed and built their own printing presses! In 1892 they opened a bicycle repair shop. They designed their own bicycle with custom features like an oil-retaining wheel hub and coaster brakes, things still used today in many modern bikes. Their bicycle business financed their work on inventing the world's first controlled flight of a power-driven, manned, heavier-than-air plane.**
- 5. Neither brother ever married.**
- 6. The Wright Flyer cost about \$1,000 to build, and the Wright brothers financed it entirely by themselves. The framework was made of spruce, with twin "pusher" propellers and a specially designed engine, cast mainly from lightweight aluminum. It was the first controlled and powered flying machine that could fly with the weight of humans. From this design, the modern airplane was born!**
- 7. The Wright brothers established the world's first test flight facilities here in Dayton. Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park are just a few of the Wright brothers' continuing legacies in Dayton today.**
- 8. Neither brother attended college nor even obtained a high school diploma.**
- 9. The Wright brothers only flew together once (though both piloted the planes individually). On May 25, 1910, they took a six-minute flight together, piloted by Orville with Wilbur as his passenger.**
- 10. The Wright Company's first production airplane was the Model "B." The "B" was the first US airplane to be manufactured in substantial numbers, and it became the company's workhorse.**



# Major White Bird Activities Completed for 2024

- White Bird runway hops and pattern flights to assess cylinder head temperatures, electric trim function and the effects of aileron drooping.
- Civil Air Patrol Renaming Ceremony in Hangar.
- Wright B Flyer Museum Annual Meeting in Hangar.
- America 250 Ohio Trails and Tales (Air and Space Trail) Kickoff Event.
- AOPA White Bird Photo Shoot with Flight and Runway Hops.
- Dayton Airshow for White Bird Static Display.
- Centerville Americana Parade with Half-Scale and Model T participation.
- **EAA AirVenture at Oshkosh for Static Display.**
- NAHA Photo Day with White Bird Runway Hops.
- Kettering Holiday at Homes Parade White Bird Flyover.
- Concours D'Elegance White Bird Flyover and the Model T Static Display at the Carillon Historical Park.
- Half-Scale to National Parks for Air Force Marathon.
- Dayton Christian High School with White Bird Flyover.
- White Bird Flyover and Half-Scale in the Heritage of Flight Festival Parade.
- White Bird Flyover at 97<sup>th</sup> Wright Field Anniversary Celebration.



**Want to  
learn how  
receive this  
Wilbear  
Wright  
bear?**

While touring the Dayton, Ohio Aviation Trail, receive a stamp at the one required site; The Wright-Dunbar Interpretive Center, plus a minimum of seven of the remaining sites to qualify for a free "Wilbear Wright" aviation teddy bear. Pick up a folder at any Dayton Ohio Aviation Trail site.

**BE SURE TO VISIT  
THE GIFT SHOP  
WHILE AT THE  
MUSEUM. TEE  
SHIRTS, POLO  
SHIRTS,  
SWEATSHIRTS,  
BALL CAPS,  
BOOKS, AND LOTS  
OF GREAT WRIGHT  
BROTHERS  
MEMORABILIA.**

## **Don't forget:**

Displaying the "Leader in Flight" license on your car proclaims your pride in Dayton's Heritage as the true birthplace of flight! And it means \$15 more to the Wright "B" Museum and a tax deduction for you!



We are an all-volunteer Museum and welcome all donations to help us continue to celebrate the accomplishments of the Wright Brothers.

Just use the QR Code on the right.



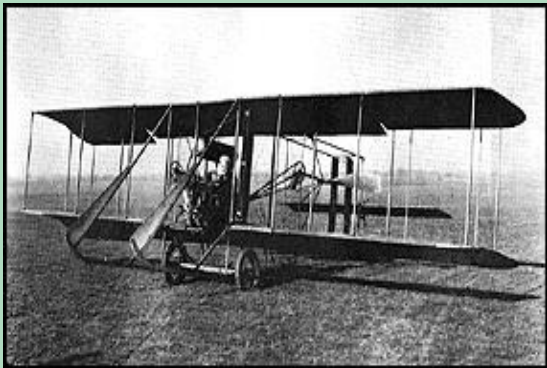


Want to be part of Aviation History, you can be!  
**We need interested volunteers!**

- \* **Mechanically inclined? Help work on the Wright B.**
  - \* **Love People? Greet guests visiting the Museum.**
  - \*\*Retail Experience? Work in the gift shop.**
  - \* **Computer Skills? Help manage the website, archive images and mass mail newsletters.**
- Learn, Contribute and Have Fun with Great People!**

- Front Office**
- Dispatch**
- Operations**  
 Tom Rose
- Archivist**  
 Linda Madaffer
- Events**
- Coordinator**  
 Steve Donaldson
- Gift Shop**  
 Diane Baker  
 Clayton McDaniel  
 Mike Miller  
 Gayle Sachs  
 Bill Serra
- Information**
- Technology**  
 Tom Dermis
- Landscape**  
 Neal Charske
- Office Systems**  
 Paul Bauer
- Media**  
 Don Adams  
 Carlos Monzon  
 Bob Sachs
- Model T**  
 Frank Goepferich

- Wright B Flyer Executive Committee**
- Jim Papa – Chairman  
 Don Adams – President  
 Fred Tegarden – Vice President  
 Jeff Stands – Secretary  
 Amanda Hayes - Treasurer



- The Wright B Pilots**
- Rich Stepler, Chief Pilot  
 Hank Griffiths  
 Jay Jabour  
 Jeff Stands  
 Tom Walters  
 Don Stroud, Pilot Emeritus

- Trustees**
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