

Spring Newsletter

April 2026



SUMMER CAN BE HOT!

*The Wright "B" Flyer
Museum is cool! Plan a visit!*

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

Fax: 937-885-3310. See:
www.wright-b-flyer.org

Hours of Operation

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

Retired? Need something to do? See page 5.

Page 4 has a tribute to our patron Craig Willan.



Thanks to our hard-working volunteers, and financial support from NAHA, we have reached exciting milestones with the White Bird! We have completed all maintenance ground runs, low and high-speed taxi testing, and fulfilled Phase 1 flight requirements, logging over 5.1 flight hours. With the White Bird now approved for pattern operations and all post-flight maintenance checks finished, we are ready for the next big chapter.

This summer, we are aiming to showcase the White Bird at two of the most thrilling aviation events: the Center Point Energy Dayton Air Show and, after receiving a special invitation to participate with other vintage aircraft, the EAA AirVenture Oshkosh Airshow. EAA AirVenture Oshkosh is the world's largest gathering of aviation enthusiasts—a one-of-a-kind opportunity to share the White Bird's legacy with thousands from around the globe. These events are not just exhibitions; they are a chance for us to inspire, educate, and celebrate aviation history together.

Our volunteers are the heart of these efforts—handling White Bird transportation, coordinating event logistics, and engaging with visitors to share the Wright "B" Flyer's historic story.



Remembering Our 2024 Oshkosh Experience

The original article by Tom Rose has been edited for space

The pride of our museum, the White Bird, made its first trip away from home in our shipping container this summer. After extensive work developing storage methods, our shipping container (complete with new vinyl graphics) was picked up on July 18th. for shipment by truck to Oshkosh AirVenture 24. At Oshkosh, ground crew was able to remove and reassemble the White Bird in six hours.

Oshkosh had 700,000 visitors from 80 countries and 10,000 aircraft flew into Oshkosh making it the world's busiest airport for the week. Your Wright B Flyer look-a-like was placed on static display in the Homebuilders Hangar. We had a large TV to run continuous flight videos as part of our display. Our dedicated volunteers greeted hundreds of visitors, and we enjoyed telling our story and passing out information about NAHA and the Wright B Flyer. Thanks to NAHA and all of our volunteers that participated in this extensive undertaking that helped make our attendance at AirVenture 24 so successful.



Major Museum Activities Planned for 2026

• Spring/Summer/Fall 2026

- Adult Day Care Museum Visit
- John Hansen Retirement Ceremony
- NoKen Model T's Visit
- Hilliard Historic Association – Speaker Request
- Seniors of Centerville Community Church Visit
- City of Loveland – White Bird Flyover
- NAHA Video Filming with Runway Hops and Interviews
- 60th Birthday Party
- **Center Point Energy Dayton Airshow - White Bird on Display**
- Wright State University Air Camp
- Centerville Americana Parade - White Bird Flyover
- Fairborn Parade – 1/2 Scale in Parade
- **EAA AirVenture Oshkosh – White Bird Scheduled to Fly**
- Kettering Holiday at Homes – 1/2 Scale and Flyover
- For Travel Motorcade Club Visit
- Air Force Marathon - 1/2 Scale and Flyover
- Huffman Praire Flyover



**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.



Why We Honor Craig Willan



Wm. Craig Willan is the founder and Chairman Emeritus of Omega Research and Engineering Inc. in Decatur, Texas. Omega is an aircraft engineering and testing firm that works with major U.S. and European aircraft companies, as well as organizations like NASA, the FAA, and the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB). In 2017, after 33 years of pioneering work in understanding the effects of hydrogen on aircraft alloys, Goff Aerospace acquired Omega Research. Craig graduated from the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, receiving both Bachelor of Science and a Master's degree in Metallurgical Engineering.

He is a Registered Professional Engineer (PE) in the States of Texas, and Utah. As a respected industry leader, Craig has authored numerous aerospace publications on materials and processes and is considered an expert on metallic surface finishes and hydrogen's effects on aerospace alloys. Craig is the sole patent holder on a new novel accelerated hydrogen embrittlement testing method.



Craig was the 2017 recipient of the Wright Family (Witt) Award for his contributions in the understanding of the engineering materials making up the 1903 Wright Flyer and also engineering directives in the 1910 Wright B Flyer propulsion drive system materials redesign. He is an active participant in aerospace and a well-known advisor & supporter to the United States Air Force Museum, of which the W. Craig Willan STEM Learning Hall – Fourth Hanger Wing, Wright Patterson Air Force Base is named in his honor. In recognition of his guidance & support to the Experimental Aircraft Association and experimental flight in the development of a multitude of programs, the Willan Space Gallery at EAA-Oshkosh is named in his honor.

Craig remains passionate about high-energy rate physics and shock hardening of metals. He has also worked on U.S. patent applications for a novel, fully metallic super-toughness armor plate concept. As a respected industry leader, Craig has authored numerous aerospace publications on materials and processes and is considered an expert on metallic surface finishes and hydrogen's effects on aerospace alloys.

“Craig Willan’s journey with the Wright B Flyer Museum began one spring day, following his trip to the Indianapolis 500 with friends. Encouraged by a companion from Cincinnati familiar with the museum, Craig stopped for a visit. During his time at the museum, Craig had the opportunity to experience a runway hop in the Brown Bird, a moment he later described as “one of the best things I have ever done.”

Craig was aware of the Silver Bird incident—an event in which a critical component of the aircraft failed. Drawing upon his extensive engineering expertise, Craig engaged in thoughtful discussions with the Wright B Flyer engineering team, meticulously analyzing the root cause of the failure. He proposed a comprehensive redesign of the problematic part, leveraging his knowledge of metallurgy and aerospace materials. Craig also supervised the manufacture of the replacement component that was to be used on the new aircraft.

To help offset the design and fabrication costs of a new Wright B Flyer, Craig made a substantial donation and has continued to provide financial and engineering support and most welcome counsel to our organization. Given Craig Willan’s generous contribution and active participation, the White Bird became a reality.”

Want to be Part of Dayton 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 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

Docents

Yvette Ferrell

Mike Miller

Andrew Parker

Mike Walsh

Gift Shop

Gayle Sachs

Information

Technology

Tom Dermis

Landscape

Neal Charske

Museum Supplies

Fred Tegarden

Media

Don Adams

Carlos Monzon

Bob Sachs

Model T

Jim Perrine

Wright B Flyer Executive Committee

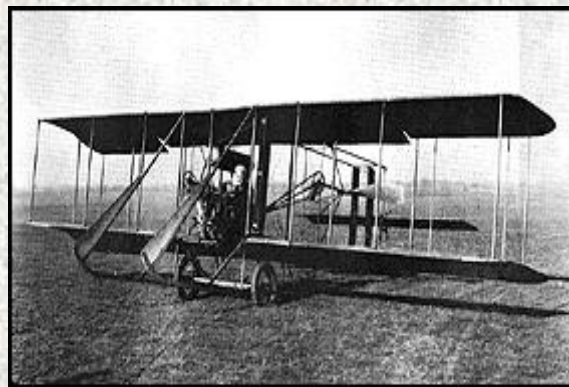
Jim Papa – Chairman

Don Adams – President

Fred Tegarden – Vice President

Jeff Stands – Secretary

Amanda Hayes - Treasurer



The Wright B Pilots

Rich Stepler, Chief Pilot

Hank Griffiths

Jeff Stands

Tom Walters

Don Stroud, Pilot Emeritus

Trustees

Don Adams

Sam Carbaugh

Steve Donaldson

Nicholas Georgeff

Amanda Hayes

Amanda Lane

Al Leland

Ed Mechenbier

Jim Papa

Tony Perfilio

Jeff Stands

Rich Stepler

Fred Tegarden

Tom Walters

Craig Willan

Park District

Liaison

Nicholas Georgeff

Speakers for Presentations

Don Adams

Jeff Stands

Rich Stepler

Ground Crew

Jerry Troidl, Chief

Dave Barrington

Paul Bauer

Tony Bonser

John Brugger

Mark Culbertson

Bill Jamison

Dean Sollman