

Summer Newsletter

July 2026



OSHKOSH EDITION!

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 8.

See special event photos on page 7.

EAA AirVenture Oshkosh is the world's largest aviation gathering. It is a weeklong fly-in, airshow, convention, and camping event held every summer at Wittman Regional Airport in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. It grew from a small 1953 homebuilders' meet-up into a global "aviation pilgrimage" that draws hundreds of thousands of visitors, thousands of aircraft, and major industry announcements. **We Were There and Flew!**

Oshkosh 2026

Origins: From a basement idea to a fly-in (1953–1958)

- The Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) was founded in 1953 by Paul Poberezny and a small group of aviation enthusiasts in Hales Corners, Wisconsin, with a focus on homebuilt and modified aircraft.
- The first EAA fly-in was held in September 1953 as part of the Milwaukee Air Pageant at Wright-Curtiss Field (now Timmerman Airport), with only a handful of airplanes and fewer than 150 registered visitors.
- The early years were defined by grassroots, do-it-yourself ethos: builders sharing plans, techniques, and a strong sense of camaraderie.

The Rockford years: Expansion and identity (1959–1969)

- By the late 1950s the event had outgrown its Milwaukee space and moved in 1959 to Greater Rockford Airport in Illinois, where it stayed for a decade.
- During the “Rockford Years,” the convention broadened beyond homebuilt to include antiques, classics, warbirds, and aerobatic performers, while adding workshops and commercial exhibits—setting the template for the modern event.[[eaa1361](#) +2]

Why Oshkosh? The move that created “AirVenture” (1970)

- By 1969 the fly-in was too large for Rockford. EAA searched for a permanent home with more space and better traffic flow.
- Aviation legend Steve Wittman (an EAA member since 1953) suggested Oshkosh, Wisconsin, where Wittman Regional Airport offered two non-intersecting runways and ample surrounding land for camping and aircraft parking.



- EAA’s board approved the move in late 1969; volunteers built much of the initial infrastructure in just months, and the first Oshkosh fly-in launched in 1970.

Growth into a global aviation showcase (1970s–present)

- Through the 1970s and 1980s attendance jumped into six figures, and the event became a top sport-aviation gathering with daily airshows, forums, and a massive exhibitor area.
- In 1990 the event was officially rebranded as “EAA AirVenture Oshkosh,” cementing its identity as more than a fly-in—part convention, expo, museum experience, and family reunion.
- Today it typically runs the last full week of July, attracting well over half a million attendees from dozens of countries, with more than 10,000 aircraft arriving and departing—making the tower frequency the busiest in the world that week.
- Recent editions have set records: 2023 saw 677,000+ visitors from 90+ countries; 2025 closed with nearly 690,000 attendees, 10,000+ aircraft, and an estimated 40,000 campers.

What makes AirVenture unique?

- Scale and variety: vintage warbirds, homebuilts, ultralights, helicopters, seaplanes, and modern military/civil aircraft share the field.
- Education and industry hub: hundreds of forums and workshops, major product launches, and networking across manufacturers, suppliers, builders, and pilots.
- Culture and tradition: camping on-site, the “Oshkosh pilgrimage,” volunteer-staffed operations, and nightly programs create a distinctive community feel.

How do we get the aircraft to AirVenture?

- The Wright “B” Flyer all volunteer organization partially disassembles the Wright “B” Flyer look-alike, the “White Bird,” then ships it in a standard land/sea container. It is then reassembled on-site, for both static display and event flights. Our volunteers and pilots are pictured on the next two pages.



Jerry Mark Steve Jeff John Tony



Lots of hard work and a little rest!



Pilots Tom Walters and Jeff Stands



WB Flight Attendants



The White Bird Flying at Oshkosh

The flight was accomplished July 23 at the 2026 Oshkosh AirVenture, attended by over 700,000 aviation enthusiasts. **We flew third to help open the Vintage Aircraft Showcase in review.** For the remainder of the week, the White Bird was on static display, with our volunteers answering questions from AirVenture attendees. The Wright "B" Flyer was one of three organizations selected and partly funded by the Experimental Aircraft Association to bring their aircraft to the 2026 AirVenture.

Other Major Museum Activities for 2026

• Spring/Summer/Fall 2026

- Adult Day Care Museum Visit
- John Hansen Retirement Ceremony
- Hilliard Historic Association – Speaker Request
- Seniors of Centerville Community Church Visit
- City of Loveland – White Bird Flyover - Pending
- 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 – The White Bird Flew in the Airshow**
- Kettering Holiday at Homes – 1/2 Scale
- Urbana Fly-In Pending
- Air Force Marathon - 1/2 Scale and Flyover
- Huffman Prairie Flyover – Pending
- Carillon Park Concours Flyover

Want to know how to retrieve this Wilbear Wright bear?



While touring the Dayton Ohio Aviation Trail, receive a stamp at the only must visit site; the Wright-Dunbar Interpretive Center, then add a minimum of seven of the remaining sites to qualify for a free “Wilbear Wright” aviator teddy bear. Pick up a folder at any Dayton Ohio Aviation Trail sites.

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.





The CenterPoint Dayton Airshow



Lt. Colonel John Hansen Retirement Party

Civil Air Patrol Cadets at the Museum for Chairman Jim Papa Presentation



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

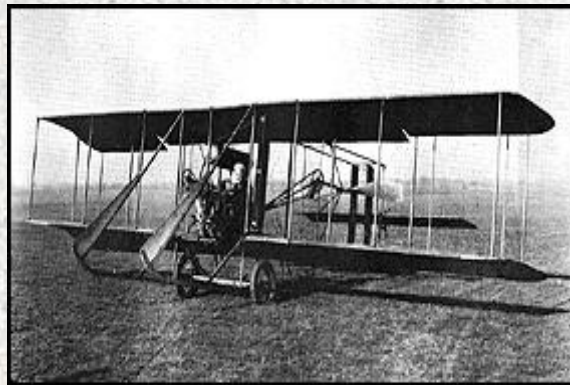
Don Adams
Carlos Monzon
Bob Sachs

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
Bob Sachs
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