

# Wright "B" Flyer, Inc.

## WRIGHT LANDINGS



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Dayton, Ohio

Summer, 2009

### New wheels and tires for the Wright "B" Flyer

In auto racing a pit crew that can change the wheels quickly is an advantage; they can help win the race. In aviation, a ground crew that can change a wheel quickly means they are changing wheels too often. Last summer the Brown Bird ground crew became very proficient at changing wheels because of broken spokes. What was causing the spokes to break? Was it pilot technique? Not sure. The smoothest landing with minimum braking would sometimes cause several spokes to break. Was it a material or design problem? Not sure. We did find that there were two different thicknesses of replacement spokes but both broke with frustrating regularity. The design of the wheel and how we fly the airplane have not changed, but spokes that used to last several seasons were breaking after several landings. Over the winter we decided to stop analyzing and replace the old wheels with more robust wheels. To keep our Wright "B" Flyer as close in appearance to the one the Wright brothers built we needed spoke wheels, but the wheels must be able to withstand the loads and tempo of operations that were causing the old spokes to fail. Frank Sager found such a wheel at Dayton Wire Wheels. Bill Simpson worked with Cooper Tires to find the right size tire with the

correct load rating. The Cooper Tire Company management was good to us and donated the tires for our use. Thank you, Cooper Tire! Frank Sager led the team of volunteers including Frank Goeferich, Fred Tegarden, Harold Edinger, Don Gum, Ned Huesman, Syl Kerstanski, Richard Holt and Joe Tyler. The team fabricated the parts needed to adapt the new wheels to the Wright "B" and installed the new wheels. Following the installation, taxi and flight tests were conducted by Rich Stepler, Harold Edinger and Don Gum. After some adjustments all testing was completed and we now have more robust wheels, ready for the rigors of a new season. Come to the hangar and see the new wheels. Next time you see Frank, any of the volunteers that helped with the change or visit Dayton Wire Wheels or Cooper Tire, be sure to thank them for their part in keeping the Wright "B" flying!



Sam, Frank S., Frank G., Fred, Syl, and Richard show off our new wheel

### Maebelle Muterspaw 1919-2009

The Wright "B" Flyer family was once again saddened by the recent loss of Maebelle Muterspaw. Maebelle passed away May 10th at Greene Memorial Hospital. Maebelle had been an active volunteer in the gift shop for many years and usually commuted to the hangar with Harold and Betty Edinger. Maebelle was an active volunteer with UVS, the Wright "B" Flyer, and the Tecumseh Elementary School library. She took her first flight on the Wright "B" Flyer just a few years ago and was thrilled with the experience. Maebelle will be greatly missed.



Harold, Maebelle, and Betty being honored at our 2007 Membership Dinner

## ATK Open House Flyover

The flyover season has definitely begun. On June 1st the Brown Bird was invited to be a part of the dedication ceremony for the new ATK building. Mitch and Rich flew the Brown Bird to the ceremony and Phil served as ground control to bring the aircraft over the ceremony at the precise time. The participants on the ground enjoyed the flyover. The following photos show the view from above. It was just as enjoyable from the air!



Aerial photos of ATK's new building

## What Makes A Great Volunteer?

What makes a great volunteer? We are often asked what we "need" in the way of volunteers. More often than not, pilots are interested in flying the Wright "B" Flyer. Why not? It's fun to fly. It's free flying (we don't charge our pilots—YET!). Flying the plane is obviously one of the skills we need at Wright "B" Flyer, but there are other skills we need even more. Flying is only a miniscule portion of what is required at Wright "B" Flyer. In a busy year we may log little more than 100 hours on the aircraft (even less of this tach time is spent in the air). Contrast this with the thousands of hours spent on other projects. Many of our projects require skills that are not as obvious. More than a specific skill though, our greatest need is for attitude and adaptability. Many of the jobs that need accomplished aren't fun. If everyone stuck only to the "fun stuff" this newsletter would never get published, our hangar would never be clean, it would be over-run with weeds and junk, etc., etc., etc.

A GREAT volunteer is one with a superb attitude and one that is adaptable, active and available. We may prefer to

fly the plane, but we need to adapt to what needs done at any given time.

Also, we need to be available. Visitors walk in to the Wright "B" at all hours.



Sam and Jack — Span nearly 8 decades

Courtesy of Tim Gaffney

We've had more than our share arrive "after hours." Nor do we schedule when our plane breaks. A volunteer who isn't available is of no help. There is always work to be done. Often it's not glamorous work. Sticking labels on newsletters is one of the most un-glamorous jobs I know. Cleaning the "attic" ranks pretty high on that list as well. Both need to be done, however. Finally, with the Wright "B" Flyer or any organization, attitude is everything. With the increased demand

for our new simulators we need volunteers to "person" these at events. It takes a special personality to show a child how to fly the simulator without breaking the levers! Les

Dunning has precisely that personality! Les is a great example of adaptability. He became a volunteer because of his desire to work on the new aircraft.

Shown here is Les teaching youth at the "Night at the Air Force Museum." What a thrill for the children to learn from a genuine WWII hero!

We have numerous tasks we did not have a year ago. We soon will have the responsibility of displaying the Yellow Bird at Huffman Prairie in addition to the flight test of the Silver Bird. In short, we need your help. PLEASE stop down and inquire what you can do to



Les Dunning instructing a novice!

Courtesy of Tim Gaffney



## A Must-Visit Website

Wright "B" Flyer Trustee Tim Gaffney is now editor and publisher of a new online news and information service, **AviationDayton.com**. (<http://www.aviationdayton.com>). It's a one-stop Web portal for anyone with an interest in aviation in the 12-county Dayton region, from aviation heritage to aerospace and defense. Its Clubs and Groups section includes a page devoted to Wright "B" Flyer Inc., with a link to our website. Tim welcomes information about aviation news and events of all kinds. Contact him at [editor@aviationdayton.com](mailto:editor@aviationdayton.com).

## Recent Wright "B" Flyer Activities

### Dayton Heritage Festival

On May 24th, Memorial Day weekend, the Wright "B" Flyer was asked to participate in the First Annual Dayton Heritage Festival at Carillon Historical Park. The Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra free concert began at 5:00 PM. It was a patriotic concert and, of course, began with the Star Spangled Banner. The Wright "B" Flyer was overhead at the conclusion of the National Anthem thanks to the timing and coordination of Phil Beaudoin (as usual). The Wright "B" orbited briefly over the Oakwood Country Club and then took a brief tour over Downtown Dayton in order to accommodate a slightly-delayed start. This gave us an opportunity to view the "water show" at River-Scape. Shown below are the scenes from onboard the Wright "B" Flyer.



### Wright "B" Flyer Hosts Daedalians

On June 15th Wright "B" Flyer hosted the Daedalians for what has become a near-annual visit to our hangar. Dinner was catered by the Hope Hotel after our volunteers did an admirable job of cleaning away our "construction mess" for them. An Honorary Aviator Membership was raffled off and Kathryn Staiger was the lucky winner. Kathy, an Air Force Reservist and airline pilot, did an admirable job flying the Wright "B" Flyer.



**Kathy prepares for her flight in the Wright B and later debriefs Gen Odgers and husband John**

### Eagle Scout Project

David Milam, Jr. began work this month on a new display case for our hangar. This effort will contribute greatly to our efforts to make the Wright "B" Flyer Hangar more of a "museum." David developed his plans in close cooperation with us and on June 13th and 14th he and his fellow Scouts began construction. Shown is the work in progress.



**Boy Scouts prepare project**

### Caesar Creek Flyover



**View of Festival at Caesar Creek on June 20th. It must have been a little too early for most attendees**

Wright "B" Flyer, Inc  
10550 Springboro Pike  
Dayton Wright Bros. Airport  
Miamisburg, Ohio 45342  
Phone: 937-885-2327  
Fax: 937-885-3310

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**Wright "B" Flyer**



**Carillon Park just seconds before the end of the National Anthem**



**Syl, Barry and Joe wait for take-off time!**

### ***A Busy Summer***

This has been an extremely busy summer. Our construction crew has been working 6-day weeks to prepare the Silver Bird for Oshkosh. We have had numerous commitments with our half-scale Flyer at parades, festivals, and other events. Our newly added simulator has made several appearances as well: National Museum of the Air Force, Engineers Club, and elsewhere. The Brown Bird has had its normally busy schedule of flyovers: Troy Strawberry Festival, ATK Building Dedication, WPAFB Tattoo, Fairborn Heritage Days, etc. We've been working on developing the test plan for the Silver Bird and have been hosting an Eagle Scout project at the hangar. Already, we have had protests: "don't let this volunteer do such-and-such; we need that person on the Silver Bird." In short, we need more volunteers able and willing to take on a variety of projects: some fun; some not-so-much-fun. If you have some free time and are willing to help out down at the hangar please call me or stop down and pitch in. Have a great summer. We will.

Mitch

**Please purchase our "Leader in Flight" license plates!**



[http://bmv.ohio.gov/vehicle\\_registration/leader\\_in\\_flight.htm](http://bmv.ohio.gov/vehicle_registration/leader_in_flight.htm)