

## WRIGHT LANDINGS



Issue 1, 2009

Dayton, Ohio

Winter 2009

## Wright B Flyer Debuts at NBAA2008

*The Silver Bird was the star of the annual NBAA Convention this year at Orlando. The building crew raced to get the plane ready to ship in time for the convention—and made it! Here is an excerpt from the press the Silver Bird received:*

**ORLANDO, FL, October 6** – There aren't many structural differences between the newest Wright B Flyer look-a-like and the original aircraft that Orville and Wilbur Wright used to introduce a country to aviation.

Wright "B" Flyer Inc., a Dayton, Ohio-based nonprofit dedicated to recreating historic moments in aviation, unveiled the newest flyer today during the NBAA Annual Convention & Meeting (NBAA2008) in Orlando, FL.

The "Silver Bird," nicknamed for the metal skeleton, will be on static display inside the Orange County Convention Center for the duration of the Convention.

"We had a need to build a portable and durable flyer that we could take to air shows all over the world," said John Bosch, chairman of Wright "B" Flyer Inc. "We serve a global market today and this airplane extends our reach in promoting our aviation heritage and Ohio's aerospace business."

Wilbur and Orville Wright invented the airplane in their West Dayton bicycle shop at the turn of the 20th century and formed the Wright Company in 1909 to produce military and civilian airplanes. The "B" model was the first one they produced in quantity, with more than 100 built beginning in 1910.

Amanda Wright Lane, great grandniece of Orville and Wilbur Wright, is a Cincinnati resident and Wright "B" Flyer Inc. trustee.

"In America, 1910 was a year when Americans started to see the first big air meets around the country. The Wright B Flyer was brought around the country, and introduced people to airplanes. It was the first time that most Americans got to see a flying ship," Wright Lane said.

"More than 30 volunteers helped to build the Silver Bird for more than a year.



WBFA Crew at Orlando

## Wright "B" Flyer Hangar to Get New Look

Work has begun to transform the Wright "B" Flyer hangar and make it more deserving of the word: "museum." The bronze plaques in the lobby of the hangar honoring the donors to the Brown Bird and hangar have been removed from the walls and placed in temporary storage. In their place are a variety of photos and prints of early Wright Flyers. On November 1st the volunteers hung the first print of an actual Wright "B" Flyer from 1911. Marvin Christian of Aviation Trail has graciously offered to provide prints from the William Preston Mayfield collection for display in the hangar.

Marvin has a wealth of early photos taken by Mr. Mayfield on Huffman Prairie beginning in 1910.

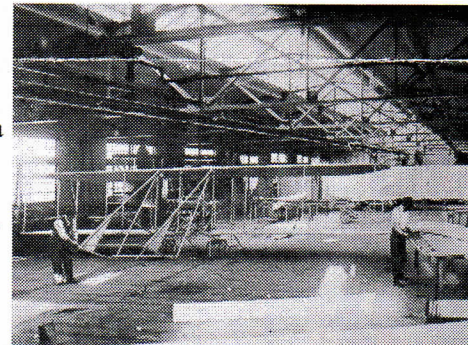
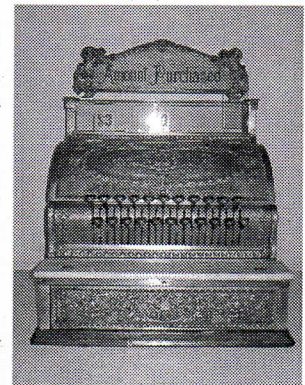


Photo donated by Walt Hoy

## 1910 NCR Cash Register

John Bosch graciously donated a "real" cash register to the Wright "B" Flyer. This cash register was produced in October 1910 by National Cash Register. It was rolling off the assembly line at about the same time Wright "B" Flyers were being built in West Dayton. While a welcome addition to the gift shop, the largest value on any of the keys is \$3.





## Record Crowd at Annual Membership Dinner

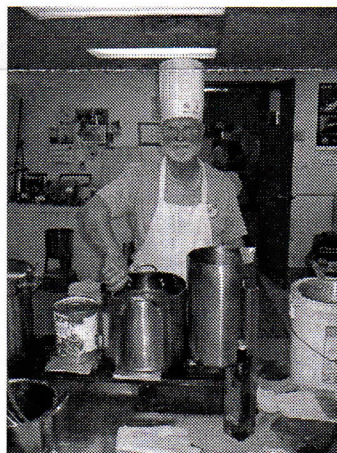
On October 23rd a record 200 members, volunteers, trustees, and patrons of the Wright "B" Flyer assembled for the annual Membership Dinner. Chef Walt Hoy once again prepared his signature pasta supreme, aka spaghetti. The assembled Wright "B" family was honored to have Dr. Mike Heil, president of the Ohio Aerospace Institute, as a guest speaker. Dr. Heil gave an informative presentation on the role of OAI in promoting Ohio's industry.



Amanda, Walt, & Dr. Mike Heil

The evening was a complete success—right up until the water leak which prevented clean-up of the cooking mess. Many thanks to all who attended. If you did not attend or have never attended make it a point to do so next year.

Chef Walt



Our Largest Crowd to Date

## Oshkosh 2009 welcomes Wright "B" Flyer and Grimes Flying Lab

The world's greatest aviation celebration, EAA AirVenture Oshkosh, is pleased to welcome the Wright "B" Flyer and Grimes Flying Lab as part of the programs and displays for 2009. "Oshkosh" will be celebrating its 57<sup>th</sup> event. The dates are July 27-August 2.

"We are excited to host the first public display of the Wright "B" Flyer in North America," stated EAA president and Oshkosh chairman, Tom Poberezny. "This unique airplane recreates and represents an important part of aviation history. It provides a wonderful opportunity for aviation enthusiasts to inspect the Flyer while it's on display on AeroShell Square, and also see it fly." Joining the Wright model "B" on AeroShell Square will be the Grimes Flying Lab ... an airplane that has a significant history in supporting the advancement of aviation technology.

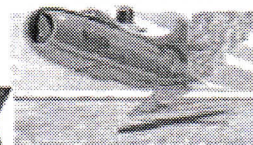
AirVenture Oshkosh focuses on education through its hundreds of forums, workshops, and displays while honoring history and advancements in technology. The model "B" and the Grimes Flying Lab are part of an extensive program for 2009 that meets those goals.

### New Book Available at Gift Shop(& On-line)

Renowned aviation artist and SETP Corporate Member, Hank Caruso, has generously donated the use of a body of his Aerocatures™ art to the SETP Foundation to kickoff the new Foundation's latest fund-raising campaign. This book should be of interest to flight testers and aficionados everywhere. This softbound, 128 page, 8.5 x 11-inch book features more than 60 fun Aerocatures™, depicting unique flight test aircraft and flight test techniques over the years. Each piece is accompanied by historical descriptions and photos of the aircraft and tests themselves and some of the test pilots, crewmen, and engineers who participated in the flight trials.

This historic, educational, and FUN book is available online at [www.setp.org](http://www.setp.org) for only \$24.95 plus shipping and handling. All profits from this endeavor will directly benefit the SETP Foundation, a fully tax-deductible 501.c.3 charitable Foundation established to further the Goals and Objectives of the Society with emphasis on education and historical preservation.

The Society of Experimental Test Pilots Foundation Presents ....



Extraordinary Planes,  
Extraordinary Pilots

Historic Adventures in Flight Testing  
Join by EAA and World War II  
Supporting the Aerocatures™ of Hank Caruso



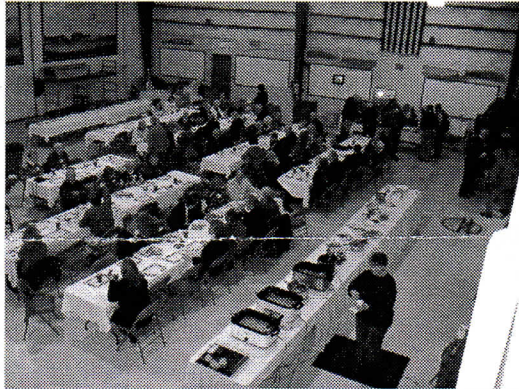
## Volunteers, Trustees Brave Ice-storm to Attend Christmas Party



Nearly seventy hardy volunteers and trustees braved the ice-storm to attend the annual Christmas Party. There was ample turkey and with the dishes brought by all there was no excuse for leaving hungry.

John Bosch welcomed all.

Amanda read the recent press release regarding Oshkosh. Mitch gave a brief report on his recent trip to San Antonio. In spite of the daunting weather it was a great opportunity to reflect on the achievements of the past year and share the Holiday spirit with the Wright "B" Flyer family.



Many came in spite of the weather.

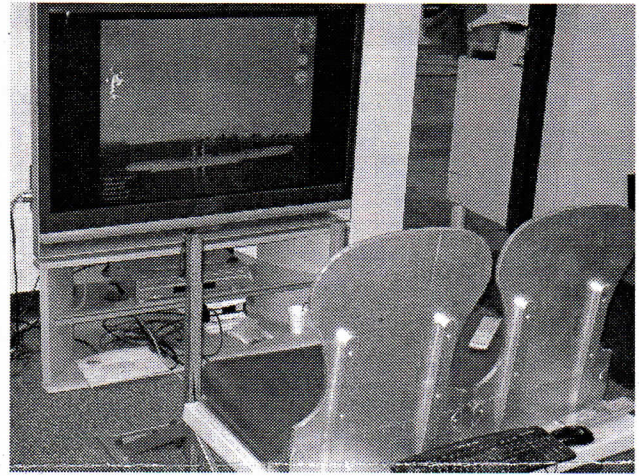


Tony Perfilio, our Bartender

The best part of the evening was not having to scrub pots and pans and dispose of turkey grease in a hangar ill-prepared for cooking!

## A Wright "B" Flyer Simulator Finally!

We finally have a realistic simulator of the Wright "B" Flyer at the hangar thanks to Walt Hoy. Walt graciously offered to build two simulators for NAHA and while in the process offered to build a realistic control set to replace the joysticks, keyboard, and chairs that have been used in the hangar for the past two years. We now have a simulation capability comparable to that at the Huffman Prairie Interpretive Center. Thanks Walt! We once again proved that to get something done you should ask the busiest person you know.

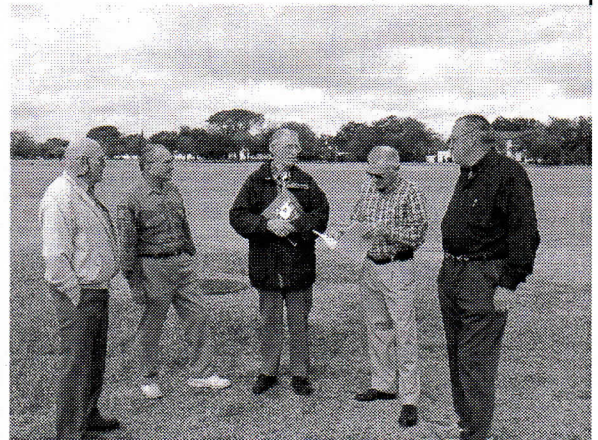


New Authentic Seats and Control Levers

## March 2, 2010 Flight at Ft Sam Houston

Mitch recently traveled to San Antonio to meet with the committee planning the centennial of military flight at Ft. Sam Houston. The Daedallians' Stinsons Flight is planning the event to commemorate the first military flight by Lt. Benjamin Foulois in the Wright 1909 Military Flyer.

While at Ft Sam Houston we viewed the parade grounds to assess the feasibility of taking off and landing the new Silver Bird on the grounds at the event. Once flight tests begin one of the first things we will want to determine is the takeoff distance from a sod field!

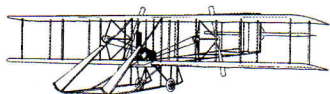


Col Stewart and his committee



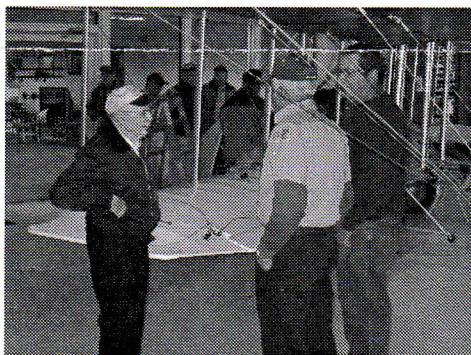
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### Wright "B" Flyer



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Miamisburg OH  
Permit No. 16

### More Photos



Ralph, Joe, and Dan



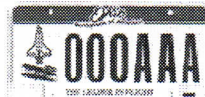
John B., Don Lane, and George Forest

### *A Busy Winter*

Many of my friends ask me, "what do you do down there during the winter months? You can't fly, can you?" They show shock when I try to tell them the winter months are even busier than the summer season. The Brown Bird requires its annual inspection. The maintenance manuals need updating for the FAA. The hangar needs much work to clean up from the year-long construction project and update to the exhibits which have not been touched in years. Construction continues on the Silver Bird and test plans need to be developed if the plane is to fly next spring. In short, the winter is the perfect catch-up period to ready for the next flying season. Yes, we are busy during the winter. If you would like to be a part of our effort stop down and ask any volunteer: "what can I do to help." We desperately need it.

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)