

Wright "B" Flyer, Inc.

WRIGHT LANDINGS



Issue 4, 2014

Dayton, Ohio

Fall 2014

WRIGHT B FLYER-NEXT GENERATION

Wright "B" Flyer Inc. has launched a project to replace its venerable flying machine.

The organization has been flying Wright "B" Flyer No. 1, also known as the "Brown Bird" or "Iron Bird," since 1982. It has made flybys of the Rose Bowl and the Statue of Liberty and has been on display in Berlin. It's a familiar sight in local skies at the Vectren Dayton Air Show and other community events.

The Brown Bird has been flying for a generation, thanks to regular maintenance and periodic upgrades. "We're thinking ahead to the next generation," said Jay Jabour, Wright "B" Flyer president and acting chair. He recognizes that a new airplane is necessary, and to "ensure continuity of our mission

in future years, we're beginning the replacement process now."

Shortly after the fundraising phase was begun, an anonymous enthusiast stepped forward with an outright donation totaling \$100,000—nearly half of the full cash amount needed—and an additional \$50,000 to match further gifts.



(Tim Gaffney)

With this windfall, serious planning can begin. Depending on raising the rest of the money, obtaining donated components such as the engine, wheels, etc., and finding the most critical element of all, the volunteer labor to do the building, Jabour hopes the new biplane will fly in 2017.

Meanwhile, the campaign to acquire the original Wright factory buildings for the Park Service proceeds. It's hoped that the construction of the new Flyer look-alike can take place in those buildings, providing Park Service visitors a unique opportunity to see history replicated.

WE REMEMBER

On the morning of August 19 family, volunteers, and other friends gathered at the memorial in front of the museum to honor the memories of pilots Mitch Cary and Don Gum.



(Brian Frock)



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Wright Landings is published quarterly for the information of members and volunteers of the Wright B Flyer, Inc., a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

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YOUR NEWSLETTER

Is *Wright Landings* useful or entertaining for you? We try to cover the activities of the WBF and the Museum, and to add items of interest relating to the Wrights and the time period. We could use some help. If you think of a Museum event or other subject that we might use, send it to us at kwavn@earthlink.net, or 498 Carthage Dr, Beavercreek OH 45434.

PRESIDENT'S NOTES



President Jay Jabour speaks to members of the Antique Toy Collectors of America. (Tim Gaffney)

We are finishing up a successful season flying the Brown Bird. The weather has been kind to us and flying has been great. We flew 155 members and were seen by almost 325,000 people! We also supported quite a few events in the local area. So we are wrapping up another successful season. We now move into the annual maintenance period. Our first task is to install new joints in the propeller drive system that replace an aging part of the Brown Bird. After we do a little flying on the new parts we will begin the annual inspection process. We are planning to be back in the air early April next year.

The new airplane program is moving along. So far we have established a team to work up the engineering

for the design. Sam Carbaugh and Jim Papa are key team members on that effort. We plan on partnering with the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) for expertise (another word for labor) during the build. I went to EAA headquarters to brief them on the program. They are very enthusiastic about partnering. Toward that end we are also planning on taking the Brown Bird up to AirVenture next year. That show will be 20 July 2015. It will be quite an effort for the volunteers to move the airplane, but we will get great publicity for the new airplane.

I would really like to thank all of you volunteers who have spent tremendous efforts during this flying period; we could not make this happen without you. One group we flew this year was a group of Toy Manufacturers. They had 3 members join as Honorary Aviators. The group was quite large. About a month after this event they came back and gave us an additional donation because of the tremendous support the volunteers gave the group. You do make an impact, so thank you all.

Jay Jabour, President



The Wright B Flyer inspires crowds at the 2014 Dayton Vectren Air Show. (Tim Gaffney)

SUMMER OF 2014

The 2014 flying season was another busy one. It started off with a bang with the Swift airplane fly-in sponsored by Commander Aero and involving up to fifty of the 1946-51 era monoplanes. Although Air Force restrictions cancelled the Flyer's appearance at the annual marathon, it did make two appearances over the Air Force Museum, marking the ground breaking for the new



fourth hangar in June and the opening of the Dawn Patrol World War One Fly-In in September. And the Brown Bird was a highlight yet again of the Dayton Vectren Air Show



Dayton Air Show (Tim Gaffney)

in late June, both in flyovers and as a crowd pleaser on the ground. The Model T and the half-scale took part in the parade in Vandalia before the show. Other familiar local



Ramp Fest (Don Payne)



Wings and Wheels (Tim Gaffney)

Concours d'Elegance at Dayton History's Carillon Park in the middle of September, one event where the Model T may

celebrations made more memorable by the Flyer's participation were the Americana Festival on the Fourth of July, Ramp Fest on the home field of Dayton-Wright Brothers Airport early in August, Lebanon's Wings and Wheels mid-month, the Kettering Holiday At Home parade at the end of the month, and the



Antique Toy Collectors of America (Tim Gaffney)



Model T at 2013 Concours d'Elegance

have seemed most important to the attendees. Also in September, The Flyer, Model T, and Half-Scale marked the anniversary of powered flight with the Park Service at Huffman Prairie. A few days later, the Flyer Museum hosted attendees of the Antique Toy Collectors of America meeting.

TAKE YOUR KIDS (OR MOM) TO WORK DAY

At least two of our volunteers are proud enough of what they do to show off to family.



Tom Walters took his mother, Eleanor, up for her orientation flight as an Honorary Aviator. (Tim Gaffney)



Syl Kerstanski gave his granddaughter, Airman Tara Virag, an up close look at the Brown Bird he crews before her orientation flight. (Tim Gaffney)

WRIGHT BROTHERS AND GE AVIATION

An article by Chelsey Levingston in the *Dayton Daily News* this past Spring outlined the evolution over time from the Wright brothers to the massive Evendale factory today producing General Electric aircraft engines.



merged with Curtiss, Wright Aeronautical became the engine division of the new company. With the expansion leading into World War Two, a large plant was constructed north of Cincinnati to build the Wright Cyclones that powered much of the Army's bomber fleet.

After being closed briefly at the end of the war, General Electric moved into the shuttered facility to begin its manufacture of military jet engines, eventually becoming GE Aviation.



Bob Mayne, a volunteer with the Flyer since the year 2000, works wherever he's needed. He's a Dayton native and graduate of Ohio State with his degree in Industrial Engineering. During World War II he was a radar instructor in the Air Transport Command. Following this, he had a varied and busy civilian career: plant layout with DELCO and plant manager for Brady Air Controls; administrative services at Arthur Anderson; in the engineering division of General American Transportation; and finally as manufacturers representative for R. Mayne & Co. A general interest in aviation brought him to the Flyer in retirement. He and his wife of 45 years have three children and two grandchildren.