

# Wright "B" Flyer, Inc.

## WRIGHT LANDINGS



Issue 3, 2014

Dayton, Ohio

Summer 2014

### DAYTON AIRSHOW

It was another successful kickoff event as our Wright B Flyer wowed an estimated 65,000 fans at this year's 40th Vectren Dayton Airshow held June 28 and 29 at the Dayton International Airport. Our team of over 20 volunteers supported the pre-show arrival on Thursday, practice sessions on Friday, and launch and recovery activities on Saturday and Sunday.

As with past performances, the Wright B Flyer opened the show each day with multiple low altitude passes over the cheering crowd with seasoned airshow announcer Danny Clisham in the right seat. Danny delivered an airborne narrative of life in Dayton during a much simpler time, 100 years ago. Following our 15 minute performances each day, the Brown Bird remained on static display in the performers' pit where our volunteers answered questions about the its history,



Tom Walters with announcer Danny Clisham taxi past the Blue Angels aerobatic team.

our organization, volunteer opportunities, and the Wright Brothers in general.

Not to be forgotten is the contribution of our volunteers and our participation in the annual Vandalia Airshow parade and pre-airshow activities Friday night. Our Model T, driven by Bob Calcagni, and 1/2 scale float, towed by John Kennedy, were big hits.

From Brown Bird's arrival at the Dayton International Airport on Thursday, pre-show parade activities, static display and manning during the Airshow, and recovery of the aircraft at the hangar on Sunday evening, our volunteer force performed like true professionals. We are extremely proud of the outstanding contributions of our volunteer pilots, crew chiefs, ground-crew, and support personnel for their selfless dedication to our organization, the aviation heritage events in which we participate, and to each other.



Tom Walters and Wolf Wolfenbarger answer questions from the crowd.

### FLYING AGAIN

After its normal winter maintenance program the Wright B Flyer Brown-Bird is again flying HAM flights every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, and in addition has already completed several flyovers for local events. The Valentine Airplane (right) continues to remain at the Wright B hangar as the annual summer program at Huffman Prairie in cooperation with the National Park Service was cancelled because of lack of funds.

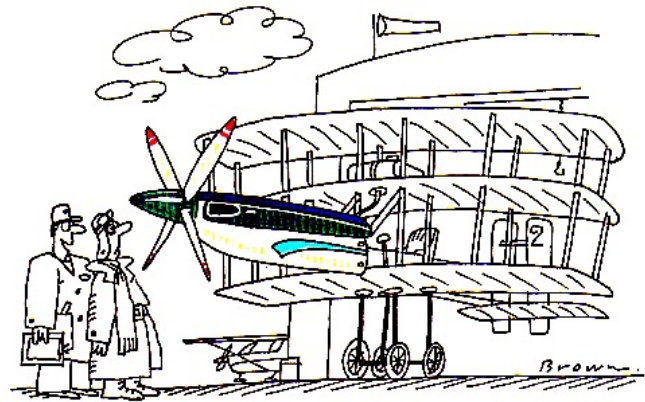


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Wright Landings is published quarterly for the information of members and volunteers of the Wright B Flyer, Inc., a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

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"Sorry, we couldn't do anything with your vintage engine, so we had to install a new one."

### PRESIDENT'S NOTES

As I am writing this it's the middle of the flying season at Wright B. So far, the weather has been very good to us; we have flown quite a few events, and quite a few Honorary Aviator Membership rides. The Brown Bird has been flying great. We now have five checked out pilots, so we have supported all the events we have gotten. That's the good news. During the last maintenance period we did find a problem with the Constant Velocity joints on the engine drive system. We have worked through that, but it highlights the need to refresh our airplane.

To that end we were presented with a tremendous gift. After a recent flight the individual was so impressed with our operation and volunteers that he donated a substantial amount of money to us to allow us to start planning another airplane. So, we are in the process of building a plan to build an airplane to augment the Brown Bird. It's probably a few years off, but we think we have a great opportunity. We will make an official announcement in the near future, so stand by.

Part of the plan is to build the new airplane in the original Wright Airplane Factory on the west side of town in cooperation with the National Aviation Heritage Alliance (NAHA). NAHA is in the process of acquiring that factory and returning it to the condition that Orville Wright left it. It will be exciting to build the next Wright B Flyer in the building where Orville Wright built the original. More on that as our plans come together. This will allow us to keep the organization moving into the future.

We have also brought two new members on to the Board of Trustees; Bob Matthews and Sam Carbaugh. Both are experienced leaders in the military and business communities and bring new ideas to the board. We are also sorry to see Phil Beadudoin leave the board as he and his lovely wife move away from the Dayton area to sunny Southern Utah. This is a move Phil has looked forward to for a long time and we will miss his leadership of the organization, but wish him the best luck.

Jay Jabour, President

### AIR FORCE MUSEUM GROUNDBREAKING

The Flyer took part in the ceremonies to mark the groundbreaking for the Air Force Museum's fourth hangar on 3 June 2014. The new hangar-gallery is scheduled to open to the public in 2016. It will house several collections: the Presidential/R&D aircraft, space artifacts, and Global Reach-the story of world-wide air mobility.

The ceremony was attended by Air Force senior leadership in the persons of Deborah Lee James, Secretary of the Air Force; Gen. Larry Spencer, Vice Chief of Staff; and Lt. Gen. Stephen L. Hoog, Assistant Vice Chief of Staff.

The event was kicked off by a two-pass fly over by the Wright B Flyer. Pilots were Rich Stepler and Wolf Wolfenbarger.



## THE DAYTON FLIGHT FACTORY

Wright B Flyer Board Trustee Tim Gaffney has published another book about the Wright Brothers, *The Dayton Flight Factory*. This one fills another gap in the story of their legacy, their role in establishing the airplane industry in the United States—in the world! In Tim's words: "...there was a lack of books on the Dayton places themselves where the Wright brothers invented flight and then had airplanes built. The Wright factory here in Dayton was the first American factory built in America specifically for aviation, which means Dayton's not only the birthplace of flight, but also the birthplace of the aviation and aerospace industry."

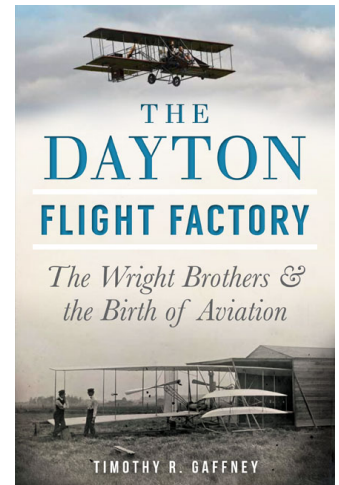


NAHA photo

The book's appearance is timely, not just to fill an historical void, but because the fate of the remaining structures of the original factory which is the linchpin of the story is even now the subject of

discussion and study. (See the article in the last issue of *Landings*.) In brief, the site has been acquired by the Home Ave. Redevelopment LLC, and has been included within the boundary of Dayton's National Aviation Park. The effort now is to determine how the site will be restored and then managed to make it available to the public.

In a related project, the Nation Aviation Heritage Area and Wright State University Archives are launching an effort to find descendants of the men and women who worked in the original factory. There are no surviving rosters or adequate employee records, so very little is known about the workers shown in the contemporary photographs of the factory floor. It's hoped that surviving relatives, if found, will be able to fill in some of the human history of this pioneering enterprise.



WSU Archives photo

## NEW WRIGHT-BRANDED MERCHANDISE SUPPORTS AVIATION HERITAGE

NAHA Press Release, Dec 2013

A Dayton company, The Wright Brothers USA, LLC, has unveiled a series of limited edition watches and bicycles made in America by Shinola/Detroit.

Half of the proceeds from the merchandise will go to The Wright Family Foundation, whose focus is on preserving Hawthorn Hill, the Wright family home in Oakwood, and on promoting the hometown legacy of the Wright brothers while supporting various aviation heritage causes worldwide.

The products are being co-branded with the newly re-introduced Shinola brand as the lead.

Each timepiece comes in a special custom gift box with a certificate of authenticity, leather card wallet, leather carrying case, and a hickory watch box. Also included is a leather-bound coffee table book that delves into the background and achievements of the Wright brothers, featuring rare imagery from the Wright brothers' private collection, and automatic membership in The Foundry, a private collectors' club established exclusively for owners of limited edition

Shinola wristwatches.

The handcrafted timepiece is the first watch in the Great Americans Series—a collection of limited edition watches created to honor iconic American innovators and industrial pioneers.

Shinola is also building 25 Wright-branded Runwell bicycles customized with a jet-black finish and sleek bamboo fenders.

The Wright Family Foundation contracted with The Wright Brothers USA, an independent merchandise licensing firm, in 2011 to manage the Wright

brothers trademark worldwide. It marked the first time the foundation had commissioned an agency to create, develop and build a brand around commercial products and services bearing the brothers' famous name. Visit [thewrightbrothersusa.com](http://thewrightbrothersusa.com) for more information.

Shinola is Bedrock Manufacturing's Detroit-based brand of handcrafted American watches, bicycles, leather goods, and journals. Visit [www.shinola.com](http://www.shinola.com) for more information.



## WRIGHT MONUMENT ON DEEDS POINT



Deeds Point, at the confluence of the Great Miami and Mad Rivers, was selected by the Inventing Flight organizers in 2003 to site a commemorative statue of the Wright Brothers. The monument was created by sculptor Mark Hamm, born in Dayton but now a resident of southern California.

The life size bronze, which shows Wilbur explaining his thoughts about their theory of “wing warping” using a bicycle inner tube box, was cast in bronze by the Sun Foundry of Burbank. It was unveiled in its permanent location on Deeds Point in November, 2002.

Besides being a sculptor, the artist is an illustrator with the Disney Studios. His work has been seen in *Fox and the Hound*, *Mickey's Christmas Carol*, *The Great Mouse Detective* and *The Little Mermaid*.



## CHARLIE TAYLOR HONORED IN AF MUSEUM

A copy of the Virginia Hess bust of Charles E. Taylor, the Wright brothers’ “mechanician,” was recently unveiled at the Air Force Museum. As readers of the *Wright Landings* know, Charlie was responsible for the design and construction of the engine used by the Wrights in their 1903 Flyer, as well as subsequent models.

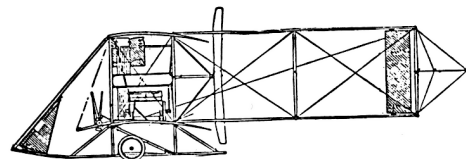
Another copy of the bust,



commissioned and placed by the Aircraft Maintenance Technicians Association, has been displayed in the Wright State University library for several years. The sculptures are scattered around the country, including the National Air & Space and the San Diego Aerospace Museums. Others are at various American Airlines

facilities in three states. The first was placed at the Embry Riddle University in Florida ten years ago.

The artist is a Dayton native and history buff, with memberships in the Centerville-Washington Township Historical Society and the Montgomery County Historical Society. She has done similar works commemorating other significant individuals.



Tom Walters supports the Wright “B” Flyer, Inc. with this Legacy of Flight plate.



**Neal Charske.** Cleveland native Neal received his Bachelor and Masters degrees from Miami University and settled in Dayton to teach in the Kettering Schools for thirty-one years and at Sinclair Community College for 20. He also coached track and cross country for 42 years and is still officiating after 47 years. He came to the Wright B Flyer to pursue a love of aviation. Here he’s on the flight and P.R. crews, gives tours, and does grounds maintenance and improvement.

In addition to volunteering with us, he flies (instrument rated private pilot), does gardening and landscaping, and works in woodwork/construction. Married to Barb for 49 years with two sons and five grandchildren.