

Wright "B" Flyer, Inc.

WRIGHT LANDINGS



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VOLUNTEER



SPOTLIGHT

If you are looking for Jim La Salvia, you will usually find him sitting in front of his computer at the Wright Brothers Airport in the Wright B Flyer Museum located at 10550 Springboro Pike in Miamisburg, Ohio.

Jim helps coordinate the events that occur at the Wright B Flyer Museum and travels to local meetings involving the Wright B Flyer as well as meetings in other parts of the country. He coordinates equipment loans from the next door neighbors, Commander Aero Hangar, and solicits contributions for events at the airport. He handles several of the day to day issues that come up so that the others working at the Museum are not constantly interrupted and can do the work that needs to be done, whether it be on the "Brown Bird", The "Valentine Flyer" or the new WBF-X Model now being built.

Jim has retired twice. First he retired as a LT. Colonel from the United States Air Force. During his time with the Air Force Jim served as a B-52 Navigator and was in the initial cadre of B1B instructors. His second retirement was from a local Tech Company that built sections of aircraft simulators,

Jim and his wife, Chris, have been married for 28 years. Jim's current passion is his cabin in Kentucky. Like most of the volunteers at Wright B Flyer Museum, Jim enjoys giving tours to visitors. Jim also helps to launch the "Brown Bird", participates in parades in local municipalities, as well as working at the Vectren Dayton Air Show each summer. His favorite activity is to sit and listen to the "B.S." from the guys in the break room at the hangar. I am sure he adds some of his own B.S. to the conversation as well.

Shirley Stewart

**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED!**

There are jobs for everyone with every skill set. If you have a skill, we'll find a place for you.. You'll meet a wonderful group of interesting people and have fun being part of the team. If you have an interest in aviation history and few hours to spend each month, please take a minute to call the office at (937) 885-2327.



Would you like to create a legacy for a family member who served in aviation? Honor them with an Engraved Brick at the walkway of the Wright B Flyer organization's hangar. With a \$100 contribution you can create a memory and also provide needed funds to continue the reincarnation of early aviation. Please call the hangar at (937) 885-2327 for details.

Join Wright B Flyer and fly just like the Wright

Brothers! That's right, become a member for \$100 and you'll take a ride on a look-a-like of the Wright B Flyer. You'll take off, fly the length of the runway and land, experiencing the thrill of flight much like the Wright Brothers did.



WRIGHT "B" FLYER, INC.

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Have you seen a picture of these three aviators together?

This photograph shows three of the most important figures of Ohio aviation.

Pictured from left to right are Orville Wright, Edward "Eddie" V. Rickenbacker, and Captain Rudolph W. "Shorty" Schroeder. Orville Wright (1871-1948) and his brother Wilbur pioneered flight and invented the first heavier-than-air aircraft capable of sustained flight that was first flown in 1903. Rickenbacker (1890-1973) was America's highest scoring ace (26) in World War I and a Medal of Honor recipient. Schroeder (1885-1952) gained national fame for his high-altitude flights at McCook Field in Dayton, Ohio where he reached a height of 33,114 feet in 1920. He enjoyed a good cigar.

These dangerous flights were instrumental in the development of higher-performance fighter aircraft used in World War II.—Ohio Memory. org



The Existing Wright "B" Flyer

The 1911 Wright B Flyer Look-a-like, aka Brown Bird, had a very successful flying season in 2017. Nearly 100 passengers participated in an Honorary Aviator Membership Orientation ride up 40 to 70 feet in the air and down on the 5,000 foot long run way at the Dayton — Wright Brothers Airport. This included over a dozen members of the Wounded Warrior baseball team. The rides are considerably longer and a little higher than the Wright Brother's first flight of around 140 feet long. But the passenger gets a great sense of what it was like in those early days of flying in an open cockpit airplane. There have been over 4,500 passengers including Jimmy Stewart and Neal Armstrong that have taken this memorable flight over the past 30 plus years. People from all over the country, and many foreign countries put this on their Bucket List.

We invite young and elders 90 years plus to join our organization as Honorary Members to experience the history of early aviation. All must be able to be safely fastened with seat belt and shoulder harness. We provide numerous means of assistance in getting in and out of the airplane. A few years ago, Members of a local adult wheelchair basketball team were thrilled with their flight experience. Our hangar has accommodated Birthday Parties, a Wedding and other gatherings.

The Annual Winter, 2017-2018 Inspection was completed in February. The inspection was routine and there were no major modifications or heavy maintenance performed. Normal taxi and flights were completed and the Brown Bird is ready for the 2018 flying season. Of course this is an aircraft that loves only nice weather. The flying activity is totally dependent on the time of day, and requires that the weather is dry and winds are suitable. Come visit our Wright Brothers Museum and bring friends

Syl Kerstanski

WBF-X Status



The new Wright B Flyer, designated for now the WBF-X, has been in design and construction for the past 3 years. A dedicated group of experienced WBF volunteers have completed the build of major components of the aircraft including the tubular steel structures and wooden ribs. The wing structures were built to our design by the enthusiastic members of the Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 5 of Middlefield, Oh. All of the spruce ribs for the aircraft were laser cut by the Foxlite Co. owned by Walt Hoy, one of our trustees and volunteers.

Numerous local businesses have been generous enough to provide some donated services or reduced prices to help with the manufacturing of parts. The biplane wing, center section structure, tail boom, stabilator, pilot platform, landing gear, and 2 of 4 ailerons are complete. The avionics, electrical system, and main fuel tanks have been built and are ready to install. The brand new Lycoming IO-390 engine has been run and broken in and is also ready to install. Tests of our improved rudder design were conducted on the runway using a truck in 2016, and a load test of our wing structure using 161 bags of salt weighing 6698 pounds, loaned to us by Lowes, was conducted in 2017.

Things in progress remaining to be completed include the covering of all lifting and control surfaces, two ailerons, fuel lines, rudder, flight control linkages, pilot seats, and nose wheels. After the final assembly and checkout, ground tests that include thrust runs, control surface checks, weight and balance measurements, and instrumentation checks will be conducted.

Our biggest challenge now is having enough volunteer man hours to maintain our tight schedule. The new-technology fabric that will cover the flight surfaces is our biggest task, requiring skills that we learn as we go.

We hope to be able to fly the WBF-X early this fall.

Jim Papa



This national aviation treasure and widely recognized symbol of American bravery and heroism during WWII will be placed on permanent public display exactly 75 years after its crew finished their last mission in the war against Nazi Germany on May 17, 1942 at the National Museum of the United States Air Force.

The area around the Memphis Belle will showcase the story of the aircraft and its crew and will include artifacts from several Airmen who served on the Memphis Belle in combat. During these three days, the Air Force Museum Theatre will also feature Living History Film Series. (\$) For details visit www.nationalmuseum.af.mil.

2018 Vectren Dayton Air Show



If you have never been to the Vectren Dayton Air Show make an effort to be there June 23rd & 24th. The US Navy Blue Angels will appear both days along with many other aerial events and static displays. The ground displays include the B-1 Bomber, Navy F/A-18A, C-17 Globemaster III, C-130 Hercules, a Blackhawk Helicopter and so much more. Of course, everyone enjoys screaming jet fighters flying overhead. In addition to the Blue Angels, the F-22 Raptor, several aerobatic teams and TORA! TORA! TORA! will present a dramatic recreation of the December 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor. This emotionally moving crowd favorite consists of replica Zero fighters, Kate torpedo bombers and Val dive bomber aircraft, eight in total, along with realistic explosions, fire and smoke. For details visit www.daytonairshow.com