

CLIFF BALL WING NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2011



Issue 1

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Ivan Livi, President
Editor
Scholarships

Cliff Yerkey, Vice Pres.

Dennis Yerkey, Secretary
Database
Co-editor
Lay-up

Tom Barruso, Treasurer
===== Governors =====

Darla Mroski
Frank B Long
Harry Bochter
Sherwood Thompson
Jim Herron

**OX5 Aviation Pioneers
are Committed to the
Preservation of Early
Aviation History and
Memorabilia.**

CBW MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Election Of Officers

On November 9, 2010 a luncheon meeting was held at the Italian Oven Restaurant in Caste Village. The attendees were Jim Kirk, Ivan Livi, Dennis Yerkey, Sherwood Thompson, Gary Gries, Harry Bochter, Cliff Yerkey, Ben Venables, Jim Herron and Ralph Hiller. Those not shown in the photograph are Ben Venables, Jim Herron, and Ralph Hiller.

The meeting was called to order by President Jim Kirk and the minutes were presented by Dennis Yerkey. In the absence of the Treasurer Tom Barruso, Dennis Yerkey presented the Treasurer's Report. The report indicated that the Wing current balance is \$1,469.00 plus \$858.00 in the scholarship fund. The minutes and financial report were accepted unanimously.

Ivan reported on the attendance of Cliff Ball Officers at the 55th National Reunion in Dayton, Ohio. Also, Ivan reviewed the circumstances involved in moving the OX5 National Headquarters from Colorado to Pittsburgh, Pa.; the change in the OX5 newsletter schedule and the raising of dues to \$30.00 per year.

Dennis Yerkey reported that the extensive project of validating the NATIONAL membership data base is about 98% complete. Member Harry Bochter inquired about receiving the newsletter by email and about the possibility of the CBW affiliating with other aviation organizations. Ivan reported that he is pursuing the possibility of an affiliation with the Pittsburgh Aero Club.

In regards to new members, each attendee was asked to take

a membership application and to try to enroll one new member. During a discussion about future projects, Ivan suggested considering a joint picnic with other aviation organizations; fundraising project for scholarships; helping with the operation of the KLBE Museum and producing other DVDs like the one on the restoration of the Miss Pittsburgh.

A major event was the election of officers and Board members. The results of the election were:

President – Ivan D. Livi

Vice President – Cliff Yerkey

Secretary – Dennis Yerkey

Treasurer – Thomas Barruso

Governors – Darla Mroski, Harry Bochter, Jim Kirk,

Frank Long, Sherwood Thompson, and Jim Herron.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 PM

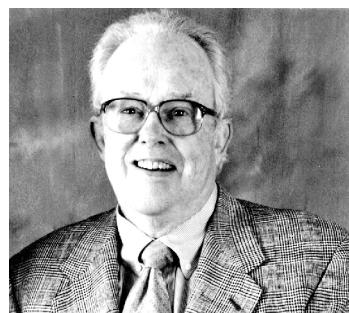


DICKSON SIBLINGS MAKE ALASKA BOOK-SIGNING TOUR

Roy Dickson
1930s Alaska Bush Pilot



Roy Dickson was a pioneer Bush Pilot in Alaska from 1934 - 1941. This first-person account describes his many adventures.



Brother & sister Roy Dickson (Jr) and Dorothy Dickson McLaren published the book *Roy Dickson 1930s Alaska Bush Pilot* which is their father's account of his pioneer aviation experiences in Alaska. The book, now in its second printing has been widely praised. Roy and Dorothy, who had lived with their family in Anchorage from 1934 to 1941

spent three weeks in Alaska in August 2010. In addition to sight-seeing in the much more modern Alaska, they held two book signings in Anchorage, and signings in Homer and Talkeetna. Their website www.alaskabushpilot.org provides a great deal of information about Alaska aviation history as well as information about the book and an accompanying DVD video set. There is also a link to view the KTUU Channel 2 feature *Assignment Alaska* segment on the book signing at the Alaska Aviation Heritage Museum.

MEET OUR NEW CBW MEMBERS



Thomas E. Hendershot, Executive Director of the AMT Society

Tom's aviation career began at the age of seven with a ride in a J-3 Cub. He built new U-control models and he joined the Civil Air Patrol as a teenager. After school graduation he served in the US Air Force where he attended the maintenance schools for various airplanes including the B52. Tom obtained his private and commercial licenses and then worked as Chief Flight Instructor at Willoughby, Ohio. In the ensuing years he worked as an administrator for companies that included Airmotive Specialties, Inc., Air Commuter Airlines, Inc., Inc., Mile High Aviation, and Frontier Airlines.

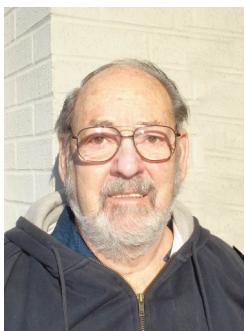
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In assumed the role of Executive Director of the AMT Society. The AMT Society conducts Maintenance Skills Competitions with amateur teams from the United States and other countries; golf tournaments to raise funds that are administered by the Northrop Rice Foundation. Presently, Tom is a member of the Board of the Aviation Technician Education Council.

Ron Bill

It is with great pleasure that we introduce one of our newer members, Mr. Ron Bill of Chalk Hill, Pa. Ron was recruited by CBW Sec. Dennis G Yerkey and shares with us an interest in early American aviation pioneers, aircraft and memorabilia. As an advanced amateur photographer using professional equipment, his hobby is aircraft photography both vintage and modern. Ron has attended many local and national air shows in his quest for the perfect aircraft photograph. Mr. Bill is the President of RBAB, Inc., an automotive rental corporation; President of MVD, Director of FOF, and is now a member in good standing of the Cliff Ball Wing of Pittsburgh. We look forward to his participation in our Wing activities.



John Etzel

John learned to fly and was initially certificated circa 1950 at the Downtown Pittsburgh Seaplane Base situated on the Monongahela River. He then bought a 1946 Taylorcraft that he hangered at the Finleyville Airport. From 1956 to 1958 he was in the military where he was assigned as a computer operator at the Nike site in Westview, Pa. Upon his discharge from the military, he attended Pittsburgh Institute of Aeronautics where he graduated as an Honor Student and was certificated as an Airframe and Powerplant technician. He later acquired his Comm., Seaplane, Inst and Inst Instructor, Multi-engine and Helicopter ratings. John has flown as co-pilot on a Jet Commander for Beckett Aviation. He is now retired from his plumbing and heating business that was located in Pittsburgh.

MEMBER GONE WEST OX5-CBW Member Charles Mayo Henry #22020, of Whitehall, Pa, passed away on December 22, 2010. Our condolences to his family.

BEMUS JOHNSON'S WINGLESS AIRPLANE

A Local Historical Article by Ivan D. Livi, CBW 7760
BELLE VERNON, PA

The early years of aviation brought forth many, many ideas for the development of the airplane. The majority of the experimentation and building was done by individuals not companies. By the early 1930s ideas about airplanes without wings emerged and there were numerous attempts to construct and fly such a machine. One of those attempts was made in this area at the Belle Vernon Airport. The airport was located adjacent to the present location of the Belle Vernon Shopping Plaza at the intersection of Route 70 and 201. The airport was a grass field with a barn-like building for a hangar that was referred to as the "Red Hangar" because of the red painted surface of the building.

During the 1920s and 1930s Belle Vernon Airport was the local center for flight training, airplane repair, and other activities. Its nearest neighbors were Bettis Airport and Allegheny County Airport. In the mid 1930s Bemus Johnson of Rosstraver Township designed and constructed a wingless airplane in the old "Red Hangar". The airplane was of a novel design. It had a long fuselage with the pilot being positioned near the tail structure. Forward of the pilot there was a long section of the fuselage that had a rotating belt aft to forward upon which there were mounted a series of airfoils. The airfoils moved along the top of the fuselage and retracted backward inside the fuselage. The speedy movement of the airfoils on the conveyor-like belt was supposed to create the lift for flight. The structure of the fuselage was welded tubing with fabric covering, as was common at that time.

Only several attempts for flight were made. The airplane did not succeed in getting off of the ground. It was reported that as the rotating speed of the airfoils increased the airfoils detached themselves from the belt resulting in a failure. An article about Bemus Johnson and his wingless airplane was featured in the January 1936 issue of the Air Trails Magazine.

NATIONAL DUES PAYMENTS \$30.00

On December 27, 2010 a notice advising the membership that the 2011 dues are to be paid was sent to all members. Please remit as soon as possible to the National Office. A new permanent membership card will be issued to members that will be valid with the payment of each year's dues. Use the stub that was mailed to you. Mail to:

OX5 Attn: TJB
PO Box 18533
Pittsburgh, Pa 15236-0533



I to r
Ivan Livi, Dennis Yerkey, Delmar Zenobi

OX5 DECALS RECENTLY PRODUCED IN MONONGAHELA, PA

A new 3" color high-quality vinyl decal is now available from the CBW office. If you would like use these for promoting our CBW Wing, you can purchase them in quantities of 5 for \$5.00. Send your check to:

Cliff Ball Wing-IDL PO Box 18561 Pittsburgh, Pa 15236-0561

A SEARCH FOR HISTORY

The restructuring of the National Office during 2010 has resulted in increased communication with members that has brought a focus on how much OX5 memorabilia is owned by members and their families. The National Office is searching for memorabilia items for an OX5 display in the recently opened KLBE museum in Latrobe, Pa. Recent donations were made by Carl Santmyer, son of charter member Lloyd Santmyer, Virginia and Morris McNabb, and members of the Cliff Ball Wing.

Anyone who has any type of OX5 material or equipment that can be made part of the OX5 display, and is willing to donate it, please contact Ivan D. Livi, National Secretary at ivan.livi@verizon.net or 412.655.7187.

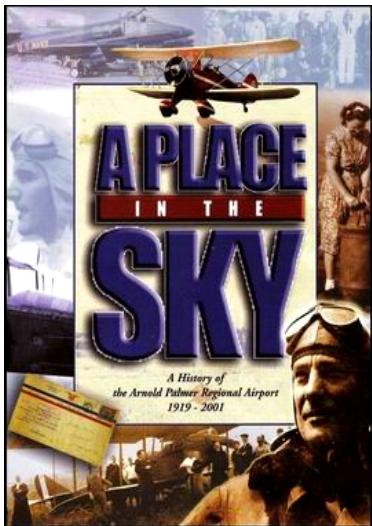


OX5 Glass from the 1974
Charleston SC Reunion.

Handmade lead/glass
ornament of OX5
engine.

These items were donated by Virginia and Morris McNabb





LAST CHANCE for a LIMITED EDITION
CBW HAS ACQUIRED THE ONLY REMAINING COPIES
THERE WILL NOT BE A REPRINT

"A PLACE IN THE SKY"

The History of the Founding of the OX5 and Latrobe Airport

This beautifully illustrated publication provides the history of aviation development in Western Pennsylvania. Authored by Richard D. Wissolik and published by the Saint Vincent College Center, this book tells the story of the Arnold Palmer Airport (LBE) in Latrobe, Pa. This 225 page, highly illustrated publication is replete with information, rare photographs, accounts of early aviation, the air mail pickup system, and the founding of the OX5 Aviation Pioneers.

Only a few copies are available

Get yours NOW!

\$30.00 + \$5.00 postage.

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