

# CLIFF BALL WING NEWSLETTER

## JANUARY 15, 2012



### OX5 CLIFF BALL WING MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES WEST MIFFLIN BOROUGH BUILDING

Call to order – 11:40 AM – President Livi

Members in attendance – Ivan Livi, Dennis Yerkey, Thomas Barruso, Jim Herron, Harry Bochter, Ben Venables, Sherwood Thompson, Norman Hogg, Jim Kirk, Charles Wilhelm, Gary Gries, and Cliff Yerkey.

Issue 5 Jan 15, 2012

Page 1	Meeting Minutes
Page 2	Continuation
Page 3	Community Service
Page 4	Bochter Article
Page 5	Bochter Photos
Page 6	National Project
Page 7	Book Ad
Page 8	Data Plates

Secretary Yerkey presented the minutes of the last meeting for changes and corrections. A motion to accept the minutes as presented made by Ivan Livi, seconded by Harry Bochter. Unanimously approved.

President Livi then introduced new member Charles Wilhelm, Manager Finleyville Airport.

Treasurer's Report by Tom Barruso

The CBW check balance is \$818.18. Five hundred dollars came from CBW's share of the reunion profits. A report on the aviation book sales by Ivan Livi indicated that \$1200+ was brought in. Of the 41 copies of the "Place in the Sky" book, 37 were sold with only 4 remaining. Of the initial 10 copies of the "Men, Wind, and Courage" book, 4 have been sold. Of the 15 OX5 shirts used as a fundraiser, 11 have been sold. To date there has been no other fundraising activity for the Northrop Rice Foundation scholarship program.

Member Jim Herron presented President Livi with a check for \$500.00 as a donation to the NRF scholarship program. Cliff Yerkey made a motion to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Harry Bochter. Motion passed unanimously.

President Livi reviewed the updates and changes to the CBW newsletter recently sent out. They included the addition of color sections and a new printing format. Livi renewed his request for financial support for the newsletter so that the upgraded format can be continued. There was not much financial support generated from the letter. Member Norman Hogg made a donation.

The next agenda item pertained to the activities of the Aero Club of Pittsburgh. Dennis reported that his research indicates that the Aero Club has become inactive. The discussion was in regards to whether CBW should contact (125) Aero Club members to invite them to consider membership in CBW. A number of Aero Club members are currently CBW members. The general consensus was that we should invite AC members to join CBW.

Also discussed was the Aero Club web site. It was decided that CBW look into acquiring the Aero Club website. Dennis will investigate the feasibility and benefits of proceeding with this action. Jim Herron commented that it could be used to redirect to the OX5 site.

Immediately following lunch, Ivan related the discussion about Wing support at the National Governor's meeting.

Ivan Livi, President  
Editor  
Scholarships

Cliff Yerkey, VP

Dennis Yerkey, Secretary  
Web Page

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

Darla Mroski  
Frank B Long  
Harry Bochter  
Sherwood Thompson  
Jim Herron  
Jim Kirk

**Clifford Ball Wing**  
OX5 Aviation Pioneers  
PO Box 18561  
Pittsburgh, Pa 15236-0561

The Wisconsin Wing, which mans their OX5 booth at the Air Venture Show, has a static engine that they would like to put into running condition for activities during air shows. Ivan proposed that the engine be sent to Norman Brush at the GHC Museum for restoration with *OX5 National* providing the funds for parts and items that will be needed. The National Board approved \$1,000 to be used to get this project underway. In the interim, the Midwest Florida Wing is in the process of requesting similar assistance. Embarking on these projects would be the first time that OX5 National will have assisted any Wing in such a manner. This discussion brought into focus that the CBW also has a static engine.

The discussion on engine restoration re-ignited CBW interest in attempting to find and restore an OX5 powered aircraft as was done with the Miss Pittsburgh. Harry Bochter requested that we continue to advertise and is willing to lead the effort on this project. It was declared that there is storage and a place to do an airplane restoration at Finleyville Airport. This item will be given serious consideration during the ensuing months.

In a discussion regarding locations for future OX5 National Reunions, Ivan emphasized the difficulty of finding wings that will sponsor the event. That brought forth the idea of a Pittsburgh sponsored reunion for 2012. Dennis and Ivan will investigate the feasibility of CBW sponsoring the 2012 reunion and report their findings to the Governors. There were several member comments in regards to the possible activities and logistics, and then a discussion about CBW member help that would certainly be needed. A more in-depth report on this subject will be made at the January 25th Membership meeting.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 1:15 PM

Dennis Yerkey, Secretary  
November 15, 2011



November Meeting Attendees

## CBW COMMUNITY SERVICE

Community Service is service donated by someone or group for the benefit of individuals, groups, or community. It is the mission of the Life Span Community Centers located in Allegheny County and surrounding areas to provide numerous benefits to the senior citizens of this area that promote well-being, self-image, and individual independence. Among the numerous programs of assistance conducted by Life Span there are also programs intended to satisfy the need for recreational activities. To assist with this type of activity CBW President Livi and Secretary Yerkey have been working as volunteers on behalf of CBW to organize and help conduct a senior recreational event titled. "The First Annual Senior Prom and Dinner Dance."

The Senior Prom will be an evening of dining and dancing that is intended to bring together the seniors of the area for a period of relaxation and entertainment.

All seniors are welcomed and the event will be held at the facilities of the Holiday Inn Express hotel adjacent to the West Mifflin Borough Building located on Lebanon Church Road across from the Allegheny County Airport.

The affair is scheduled for May 11, 2012, from 5:30 PM to 10:00 PM All of the Life Span Centers will be involved in contacting their members to provide them with detailed information.

Livi and Yerkey have been working with the Life Span Staff arranging schedules, providing contact material, producing graphical advertising posters, and serving on the Senior Prom Development Committee. All are looking forward to a successful and enjoyable event.

The logo for LifeSpan features the word "LifeSpan" in a stylized font. "Life" is in black and "Span" is in green. A green swoosh underline is positioned beneath the letters.

## ***WANNA BUILD AN AIRPLANE?***

***by IVAN LIVI***

Harry Bochter, Cliff Ball Wing member of the OX5 Aviation Pioneers, has been building or rebuilding airplanes for almost two decades. Read about his early interest and later experience that extends to the present day.

### **HARRY'S STORY ABOUT BUILDING AIRPLANES.**

My interest in aviation started in 1957 at age 11. An issue of Air Progress Magazine caught my eye. In it was an article on homebuilt airplanes around the world. The high wing Parasol open cockpit planes such as the Pietenpol Aircamper, Sky Scout, and Baby Ace were the most interesting. They all had that antique yet practical look. The Aircamper and Scout were all-wood construction, using the DeHavilland method consisting of spruce stringers and plywood gussets pioneered in World War I in airplanes such as the DH-4. These were widely used in the US for air mail service.

Now spring ahead to about 2002. I was asked by a friend to help rebuild a DeHavilland Moth Minor. It is a 1937 all-wood, low wing, open cockpit airplane that was extensively damaged when its wooden propeller disintegrated in flight and the airplane was damaged in a forced landing. For my first job, I was handed a plastic garbage bag full of bits and pieces of what used to be a pair of plywood and spruce landing gear fairings. I duct taped all the pieces together and reverse engineered two new fairings. I discovered working on wooden airplanes was fun. Six months and much work later, the Moth Minor flew and now resides in a small museum on Nemaquin Airport.

After this project, I salvaged the wing spars from a 1940 Stearman bi-plane, eight beautiful aircraft grade pieces of spruce nearly 13 feet long. With this material, I decided to build a Roger Mann design all-wood ultra light Parasol. The lumber was planed and ripped into  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch by  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch longerons for the fuselage and wing spars. A work table and jigs were made and months of enjoyable labor followed. Nothing about the project is terribly difficult. Patience and planning are the keys to building an airplane. Make sure that you tell your friends what you are doing. I received donated materials such as dope, fabric, reinforcing tapes, hardware, and a set of plans for a 1930 Heath Parasol. As the project neared the fabric covering stage, the airplane took on the appearance of a three-dimensional puzzle. At present, the fabric is going on and I welcome all to stop in and see the project. It is located at Finleyville Airport... south of Pittsburgh. If you want to contact me, feel free to call me on my cell phone 412.523.2169. Harry Bochter



A Visit to Harry's Workshop

Stay Tuned for Future Updates and Photos

## **OX5 NATIONAL ASSISTS WINGS**

The Wisconsin Wing, which does the manning of the OX5 booth at the Air Venture Show, Oshkosh, has a static OX5 engine that can be restored into a running engine for display during the Air Venture Show. OX5 National Secretary and CBW President Ivan Livi proposed that the aid of the restoration shop of the GHC Museum be enlisted to put the engine into running condition. Livi requested financial aid from the National office to cover the costs of parts and materials.

The National Board of Governors approved an expenditure of \$1,000.00 to get this project underway. Livi conferred with President Brush, GHC Museum, who said that his wing would do the restoration work. The Midwest Florida Wing has asked for assistance to restore their engine to running condition to be used during the Sun 'N Fun Air Show.

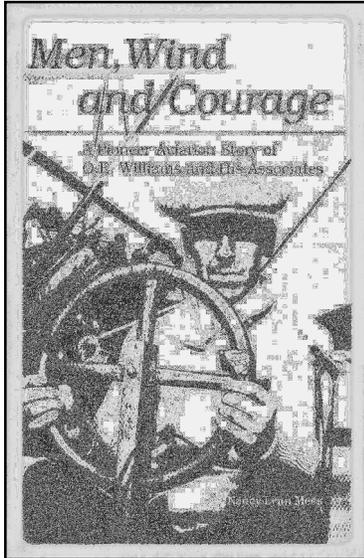
Interest in this National/Wing project has precipitated the establishment of a formal process for requesting aid from the OX5 National office. Wings that have static engines and are interested in similar arrangements with National can request the documents that must be submitted to OX5 National Secretary Ivan D. Livi.

### **SHORT STACKS**

- New member Charles Wilhelm introduced at the CBW membership.
- Member Norman Hogg first to donate for support of the CBW improved newsletter.
- Member Jim Herron donated to the Scholarship Programs of the Northrop Rice Foundation.
- "A Place In The Sky" publication no longer available.
- CBW is considering hosting a National Reunion.
- OX5-CBW logo golf shirts for sale.

### **NATIONAL DUES NOTICE**

The 2012 National Dues of \$30.00 are now due.  
Make your check payable to *OX5 Aviation Pioneers*  
Send to:  
OX5 Aviation Pioneers  
PO Box 18533  
Pittsburgh, Pa 15236-0533



Note: "A Place In The Sky" publication is sold out and no longer available. Thank you for your support for this CBW fundraising project.

Please consider supporting the improved color newsletter with a donation. Thank you, Ivan D Livi, Pres CBW

## “Men, Wind and Courage”

An extensive, in depth portrayal of the lives and accomplishments of Aviation’s pioneers whose exploits laid the foundation for today’s super-technical Aviation Industry. Author Nancy Mess’s detailed research has brought into focus the names and works of many known and unknown men and women who were the building blocks of the Aviation structure. This 400 page profusely illustrated publication is a must read for every young and old aviation enthusiast.

### MAIL THIS FORM AND YOUR CHECK TO:

Attn: Ivan D Livi, Pres  
Cliff Ball Wing Book Dept  
P.O. Box 18561  
Pittsburgh, PA 15236-0561

Men, Wind and Courage \$20.00 + \$3.00 S/H

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Ship Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

eMail \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

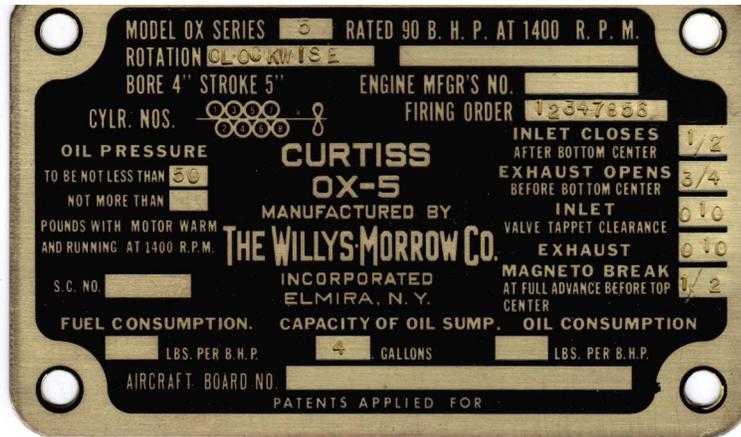
Questions: [ivan.livi@verizon.net](mailto:ivan.livi@verizon.net) 412-655-7187 <http://ox5.org>

# FOR SALE

## ORIGINAL OX5 ENGINE DATA PLATES

We have acquired a number of original OX5 engine data plates. Plates new, complete with the exception of the engine serial number.

They are available for \$20.00 each for members and \$25.00 for non-members.



Cliff Ball Wing  
OX5 Aviation Pioneers  
PO Box 18561  
Pittsburgh, Pa 15236-0561