

KANSAS WING **OX5 NEWS**

Sam Snyder	President	2012
Bob Conard	1 st VP	2011
Harold Walter	2 nd VP	2010
Joe Latas	3 rd VP	2011
Jay McLeod	Secretary	2012



JoAnn Bailey	Treasurer	2010
Ron McCulley	Governor	2010
Hank Lewis	Governor	2010
Richard Kirkland	Governor	2012

MAY 2010 – VOL 3

HAROLD AND BOBBIE WALTER, EDITORS

OX5 KANSAS WING MEETING WITH EAA CHAPTER 88'S FLY- OUT

NOON COVERED DISH LUNCHEON

SATURDAY, MAY 15

12:00 NOON at Doug Moler's hangar
High Point Airport (3KS5)

Date: Saturday, May 15, 2010

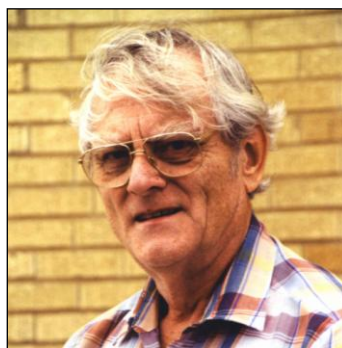
Time: 12:00 noon meal, arrive early stay late

Where: High Point Airpark near Valley Center
(just north of 85th street and east of Seneca Street)
Doug and Sabrina Moler hangar at –
22 Hawthorne Drive, Valley Center

Bring: side dish and a lawn chair – Chapter 88
and OX5 Kansas Wing to provide meat,
bread/buns, condiments, drinks

Flying in? East pattern (Miles airport is one mile
west of High Point airport.) – Power line at south
end, balls on the wire – Frequency 122.9 – watch
for traffic, see and avoid, no long approaches, use
the pattern –

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: This month we are meeting along with EAA at Doug Moler's hangar. Many of you are also EAA members, but those of you who are not have a chance to get acquainted with a new group of aviation enthusiasts. Several pilots are expected to fly in with their airplanes. There's no formal program - just a good old-fashioned gab session. You're sure to find someone with the same interests to chat with.



We have started thinking about a bus trip in the fall. At the moment we are considering a trip to the Combat Air Museum at Forbes Field in Topeka. If you have any comments or suggestions, let a board member know. **Sam Snyder, President OX5 KS Wing**

SECRETARY'S MESSAGE: A Kansas Wing board meeting was held at Harold and Bobbie Walter's house on Saturday, April 10.

President Sam Snyder opened the meeting with the announcement that our next membership meeting would be at Doug Moler's hangar located at High Point just east of Valley Center. It was mentioned that EAA's Chapter 88 would be having a meeting there, and Joe Latas suggested that we have our meeting at the same time, for Doug's benefit. Harold called EAA's President Ron Blum, and Ron was in agreement. We have offered to pay the OX5 share of meeting costs. See the program announcement for directions to Doug and Sabrina's place.

There was discussion of a field trip in the fall. Bobbie Walter had investigated three locations: Coffeerville, Topeka, and Bartlesville. The decision leaned heavily toward Topeka's Combat Air Museum at

Forbes AFB. A future meeting will be held to determine details.

Harold has prepared a draft copy of the KS Wing page for the 2010 Reunion Book. The page is a memorial to Marguerite Lawrence, and includes a photo of a Laird Swallow.

Harold is Chairman of the National Awards program this year. Get your nomination form from him, fill out, and return to Harold.

It was also mentioned that we need an applicant for a National Governor vacancy from the Wing. The National Board has been re-established to have 15 members.

Our next meeting will be a covered dish lunch at Moler's hangar, High Point on May 15.

Secretary: Jay McLeod, 683-3949

TREASURER'S MESSAGE: Please mail or see JoAnn Bailey to pay **OX5 Kansas Wing** dues of \$5.

JoAnn Bailey
1736 S. Emporia
Wichita, KS 67211

National **OX5 Aviation Pioneer** dues payment (\$20) is to be sent to:

OX5 Aviation Pioneers
Attn: Member Services
PO Box 18533
Pittsburgh, PA 15236-0566

Membership and organization is being checked along with records for accuracy. That is why you are receiving cards to fill out when paying 2010 dues. Our new OX5 National Treasurer is Tom Barruso, who comes to us with a fine financial background. We are fortunate to have a person with his experience and background. See the December National **OX5 NEWS**. **JoAnn Bailey, 316-258-4956**

EAA's Annual Fly-In will be held July 4 at Newton. The title theme of this year's event will be **Marguerite Lawrence**. Marguerite was a great aviation person. She was known everywhere – OX5, EAA, 99s, Kansas Aviation Museum – and any place where aviation was spoken. She drove to Oshkosh and Sun n'Fun, and attended the OX5 National Reunions all over the U.S. until she was 90. She was a member of the Boards of Governors of both the OX5 Kansas Wing and also OX5 National, and had held major offices in both.

Kay Alley sent us a note saying that the Ninety-Nines plan to induct Marguerite Lawrence into the International Forest of Friendship, located in Atchison, KS, on June 19, 2010. The area of trees from all over the world has been set aside by the community and the Ninety-Nines to remember those who made an interesting contribution to the world of aviation during their lifetime. There will be several hundred persons in attendance for the three-day weekend activities. The Ninety-Nines and OX5 Aviation Pioneers are pleased to have Marguerite's observance be recognized.

The bus trip to Chanute was very successful. Our goal was to relay the actual costs to the passengers, and that's the way it worked out. Planning is underway for another bus trip. This one will be to Topeka in October. We will go through the aviation museum and eat lunch at a place to be selected. The Topeka Chamber of Commerce is helping us. Our next Kansas Wing newsletter will include more details.

Bob Blanton has acquired a Sweitzer 1-34 sailplane. It includes a covered trailer. It has a wing span of 49 ft 3 in (15 meters), and a wing area of 151 ft². The wing has Wortman airfoils and an aspect ratio of 16. Its glide ratio is noted as 33. We'll get a picture of it later.

The OX5 National Reunion will be in Dayton, OH September 23-25. This is the 55th year for our organization. The Ohio Wing President is Carl Belville. Carl will be assisted by the Clifford Ball Wing of Pennsylvania. There are a lot of different airplanes at the Air Force Museum. Dayton and the Wright Brothers is where it all started. Watch your national newsletter, **OX5 NEWS**, for reunion registration forms. Award nomination forms can be obtained from Harold Walter, and other Kansas Wing officers.

NOTE: The color copy of this issue of **Kansas Wing OX5 NEWS** is being sent to members whose email address Harold Walter has – black and white copies by US Postal service. If you have an email address, and would rather have the color copy, please forward your email address to: hwalter3@cox.net
Harold Walter, editor KS Wing OX5 News.

Stearman Field held a special day Saturday April 24 in support of the annual Benton Day celebration. EAA's Young Eagles airplane rides were given. OX5 members helped with the Young Eagles. Harold Walter gave the ground school to children, encouraging parents to attend also. Ground school provided airplane education and included safety items.



Steve Carlson, Stuart Davis and Ken Rathbun support Young Eagles coordinating between the children and the pilots.



Steve Waltner is taking off with a load of Young Eagles from Stearman Field.

The Kansas Aviation Museum held an open house April 8, to celebrate the completion of the "rebuilding" of the first Laird Swallow – 1920. The engine is a Curtiss OXX-6.



OX5 member Ron McCulley is putting a Stearman 4D together at the Kansas Aviation Museum. In the left background wings for this airplane are visible. The nacelle has just been installed. This airplane was once Texaco 11, and later its designation changed to Texaco 14. Texaco 13 is the Beech Mystery S, and is in the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago.



Richard Kirkland has built many bottle rockets and launchers. These have provided technical enthusiasm for many children including through EAA's Young Eagles Program. He has also given the launcher and rockets away as prizes. They perform surprisingly well, especially considering that the power for propulsion comes only from the foot.



Joe Leiker prepares to fire a bottle rocket.

TRANSITION FLIGHT By Paul D. Fiebich

Pedestrians view the winter-to-spring landscape change from a common perspective—the ground. Pilots can fly far above the terrain, some so high that the ability to experience seasonal change is lost. However, there is an alternative perspective, one available to a select group of pilots: the low and slow aircraft (Light Sport, ultralights, and powered parachutes). These pilots view what is happening in the environment below from an altitude of only a few hundred feet.



Paul on a warm refreshing day

We will make a single flight in an open cockpit plane, one that will magically take us from February through April. Imagine ourselves in a seasonal time travel machine, if you will. This trip will dramatically showcase a Kansas landscape in transition. Come fly with me and enjoy the experience.

On a cold (thirty-five degree) February afternoon I start the plane's engine, we hop aboard and soon are gaining speed down the bumpy frozen grass runway. Our plane quickly separates from its shadow, signaling that we are airborne. Leaving the airfield and looking back, we realize the hangar, runway, and reflecting pond, are similar to a still-life photograph caught in winter's final grip. Remember this view and compare it with the one at the end of our flight.

Peering ahead, through the plane's windscreen, we see a snow-covered winter landscape beginning its transition towards spring. The take off temperature seems mild compared to the seventeen degrees we feel now when our sixty-mile-per-hour airspeed is taken into account.

Flying above the serpentine Arkansas River flowing through the flat land south of Wichita, Kansas, we see evidence of rushing water eroding one sandy riverbank turn and making a sandbar at the next one. In the surrounding fields, last November's sprouted Red Winter wheat will soon poke through the snow.



In other fields, Brome hay is dormant, but in the summer months this annual grass crop is harvested to feed livestock. The winter sun thaws snow from the hay fields faster than from those hosting wheat. Therefore, some fields are brown with grass stubble while others remain white.

Below us, the landscape appears locked in winter. Squirrel nests and hunters' deer stands are clearly visible through barren trees. We see deer paths winding through the woods and underbrush that lead to feeding areas. Soon the snow laden wheat fields will display their iridescent chartreuse color as the late evening sun highlights the crowded slender stalks. Tree branches with delicate new leaves appear to have frothy green veils and the river sandbars disclose the presence of visiting wildlife.

Flying further into the changing season, winter continues its hold on the land while our flight travels into March. The green shoots of wheat blanket the fields, becoming the first crop to show life. The landscape is awakening!

For a closer look, we fly lower—one hundred feet above the river sand bars where animal, human and off-road vehicle tracks are embedded in the sand like fossilized prints. The cockpit view of the three dimensional advancing panorama is more awe inspiring than any omni-theater movie. The plane's engine noise, vibration, and cold buffeting wind, heighten our senses. In stark contrast, a faint aroma of Redbud tree blossoms lining the riverbank can be detected. Occasionally, the odor of weed-clearing range fires creates an invisible rising warm air mass felt only while flying through and receiving lift from it. During low level evening flights, another aromatic burning odor becomes evident, that from food cooking on outdoor grills!

Suddenly, below us, we see a fellow pilot, Brent Boggs, flying his PPC (Powered Parachute)—a tubular metal cage hanging from a closed-cell parachute and powered by its pusher engine's propeller.



This wonderfully maneuverable aircraft allows its pilot to slowly skim a few feet above the greening wheat fields. We watch as his shadow startles a grazing deer herd into frenzied evasive action, their white tails bouncing like freshly popped corn escaping the cooker.



We find the expansive view from our own small plane, so close to the ground, exhilarating. We see terraces following the field's contour, adding to the landscape artistry. Flying his Mini-Max airplane, Chris Duncan enhances our depth perception by flying below and then passing in front of us. The fields are clearly defined by Osage Orange trees, they also serve as a soil erosion prevention measure. The trees provide habitat for birds, insects and squirrels. What wonderful patterns the trees, crops and cultivated fields display!

We've arrived in April, the temperature is a blissful seventy degrees! Finally, the area boasts full foliage displaying various shades of green while the river collects the sky's color. Seeing the airfield upon our return, although viewed from a different angle, we notice its dramatic change – far different than the

start of our flight. The reflecting pond is full, ducks paddle about, and the grass runway is green and forgiving of a skewed landing. What a marvelous transition has taken place, made even more dramatic when viewed from the air!

I hope you enjoyed our ride.

Photo Credits:

- Chris Duncan—Snow covered airfield and river
- Paul Fiebich—All the remaining photos

An “ART IN THE FAMILY” show will be held during the month of July in the new Andover Public Library. It will feature Sharon Leiker, daughter of Harold and Bobbie Walter. Included with Sharon's art will be art by Harold and Bobbie. A reception will be held from 10:00 AM to Noon, and Harold will have a signing of his book, *Airplane Beans*, on July 10. Sharon has presented her art many times at shows, and has taken many ribbons, including People's Choice and Best of Show.

Note the location of our next meeting on May 15.

The meeting was to be held at Doug and Sabrina's hangar at another time, until we found that EAA's meeting would be held there on May 15. It appeared that it would be more practical to hold meetings in conjunction with each other, at the same time. Chapter 88 President Ron Blum agreed. This should be a great meeting. Many of us are EAA members, which furthers the practicality of meeting together.

FOURTH ANNUAL ULTRALIGHT FLY-IN is being held at Doug Moler's Saturday June 12 – 8:00 AM till 7:00 PM – food, drink, friendship, fun, flying, etc. – Doug says, “Come join us for a great social time with your ultralight pilot friends and companions.” It's at Doug Moler's hangar at High Point Airpark 3KS5, just east of Valley Center, KS. The hangar is in the center of the runway on the west side. If flying in, stay on the east side of the field – CTAF = 122.8 See the location noted on the first page of this newsletter. Hawthorne Street is approximately 1 city block north on Seneca and only goes east. The street turns north and parallels the runway. Follow signs.

Welcome back from Puerto Rico, Richard and Darlene Kirkland.



Stearmans at Stearman Field April 24. The Stearman was manufactured in Wichita. It trained more military pilots in WWII than any other trainer.



Return: Sam Snyder
10802 Rolling Hills Dr
Wichita, KS 67212



A sailplane at Stearman Field on April 24.

