



OX5 NEWS



Celebrating 61 Years: 1955 - 2016

Volume 59 - Number 1

April 2016

Annual Reunion - Oct. 13-15, 2016

Published for and by the Members of the OX5 Aviation Pioneers
Web Site - www.ox5.org

Save the Date:
61st Annual Reunion to be held in Oshkosh, WI
October 13-15, 2016



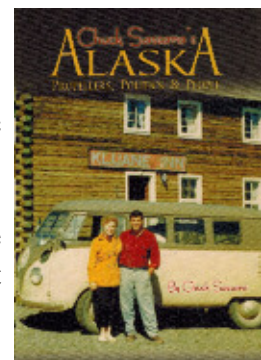
You Are Not Going To Want To Miss This One!

Plan your Fall schedules to attend this Reunion and experience another great center of aviation activity! The program will include tours of the EAA Museum, EAA Air Academy, EAA Pioneer Airport along with the display hangars, and Sonex Aircraft. We will be staying at the Best Western Premier Waterfront Hotel & Convention Center, a 4 ½ star hotel, in Oshkosh, WI which is located right on the edge of the downtown area. Free parking along with free transportation is provided between the hotel and airline connections at the Appleton, WI Airport.

The Friday night hospitality room will feature as our guest speaker fellow OX5 Member Chuck Sassara. He will share interesting and humorous insights into his aviation life and his well received book Chuck Sassara's Alaska. Chuck is great public speaker who has appeared on TV and radio.

Our guest speaker for the Saturday night banquet will be Sean Elliot, EAA Vice President, Advocacy & Safety. Sean plays a large part in managing EAA flight operations and helps to organize AirVenture in Oshkosh, WI.

Additional information will be coming in the next newsletter.



SCHOLARSHIPS



OX-5 Aviation Pioneers Announces New Scholarships Available

Aviation Education Scholarship

This \$1000 scholarship is available to high school, college, and other adult for the use towards aviation training and education. Examples of possible types of funding include, but are not limited to: flight training and ratings, aviation mechanic and airframe ratings, and college aviation courses. The applicant must submit a completed application form which includes the requested essay, two letters of recommendation, and also must have an OX-5 National Aviation Pioneer member (in good standing) sponsor. (Contact OX-5 Aviation Pioneers if you do not know a member at the address below.) This award also includes a one-year's membership to the National OX-5 Aviation Pioneers Organization. This scholarship may be awarded only one time per applicant. **Application due date is July 15, 2016.**

Discover Aviation Learning Through Fun Scholarship

This scholarship for up to \$300 and is available for any individual in grades 5 – 12 who would like to attend an aviation camp, training, or course. The applicant must submit a completed application form, write the requested essay, and have two teacher letters of recommendations. The applicant must be sponsored by an OX-5 National Aviation Pioneer member (who is in good standing). (Contact OX-5 Aviation Pioneer if you do not know a member at the address below.) This award also includes a one-year's membership to the National OX-5 Aviation Pioneers Organization. This scholarship may be awarded in conjunction with the Aviation Education Scholarship. **Application due date is May 15, 2016.**

Funds are made possible, in part, from the generous gifts from the Colorado, Georgia, and Maryland Wings.

Visit our website: ox5.org for scholarship forms and more information



Messages from the Officers



President's Message

Greetings OX5 Members:

By the time you read this message Sun-n-Fun 2016 in Florida will be history. I am sure that many friendships were renewed by those who could attend and that pleasant memories were relived. Winter is trying to wind down here in the Midwest and we are starting to look forward to all the aviation activities scheduled for the coming months. AirVenture 2016 in Oshkosh, Wisconsin is high on the list.

We were all saddened to hear of the passing of George Vose. His Newsletters and tremendous support for the OX5 Organization over the years has been very much appreciated. We will all miss him.

As the months go by, you will be hearing more about our new National Scholarship Program that is now in place. It is available to all OX5 Wings and interested parties in all the States. This Program is a great addition to the National Outreach effort. I also want to call your attention to our National 61st Annual OX5 Reunion. It is scheduled for Oct.13, 14, & 15, 2016 in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. We have a great program planned and I know that all of our members who can attend will be able to enjoy an interesting and memorable Reunion. Best wishes to all of you and happy memories.

Don Voland, National OX5 President



Secretary's Message

GREETINGS! We need nominations for 2016 AWARDS! Pioneer Woman, Legion of Honor, Legion of Merit, Hall of Fame and others. See our website for more information. Deadline is July 31.

James Beisner, Secretary



Treasurer's Message

We are very excited to be offering National Scholarships for the first time! This is a great opportunity to promote our organization and pass on our love of aviation and the history of aviation. We have two scholarships available; one that is geared for school-aged students for aviation camp and one for high-school, college, and beyond for aviation training and schooling. Promote our scholarships and have people you know apply. It could help someone become a pilot, aviation historian, instructor...who knows! Reach for the stars!

Hope to see you at the reunion in October,

Janet Barnard, Treasurer & Headquarters Office Manager



Do You Remember When ?





Welcome New Members



Welcome to Gordon Lasslett of East Lindfield, Australia! Gordon is part of a small group that is currently restoring a Willy's built Curtiss OX5. They recovered it from a junkyard; it had unfortunately been stripped of a lot of its external parts. Gordon says that back in 1916, the NSW Education Department opened a flying school to train volunteers for the Australian Flying Corps. As England could not supply aircraft, four Curtiss JN4s were ordered from the USA along with a number of engines. In addition, an OX5 was sent from England. He suspects that this is the engine they are restoring, but unfortunately, the Willy's records appear to have been destroyed.



Stephen Hennessy of Vancouver, Washington, we welcome you! Stephen writes that he has been helping Richard Wilbur of Colorado Springs, CO to restore "Anna", a 1926 Waco Nine. He was an instructor for the Ford Motor Company.

Thomas Imrich of Mercer Island, Washington was given a membership for a Christmas present from his daughter Janice. She writes that Thomas' father, Captain Stephen Imrich, was a member of the OX5 Club in Latrobe, Pennsylvania. He taught Thomas how to fly which lead him to have a career in aviation; he was the Co-Captain for the first flight of Boeing's new B747-8 freighter, and one of four primary test pilots conducting a full range of development and certification testing. He was also an engineering and production test pilot for other Boeing models. He retired from Boeing in 2010. He also was an Aviation Safety Inspector and worked with the FAA in many significant roles. He passed on his lifelong passion for aviation by teaching both of his children to fly and is now teaching his grandchildren to fly. Welcome to our organization Thomas!

Congratulations to the Midwest Florida Wings with the addition of 16 new members! A big welcome to the following people:

Philip McPherson of Battle Creek, MI; **Richard Bartley** of Grady, AL; **Byron J. Covey** of Weirsdale, FL; **Tom & Joanne Fleming** of Lakeland, FL; **Jack & Velma Soltesz** of Lakeland, FL; **Chuck Brown** of Lakeland, FL; **Necia Bradley & Family** of Lakeland, FL; **John "Chip" Koenig** of Boca Raton, FL; **Richard "Rick" Koenig** of Sarasota, FL; **Paul L. Shank** of Gaithersburg, MD; **Don Marek** of Wimauma, FL; **John Zito & Family** of Mulberry, FL; **John F. D. Peterson** of Gonzalez, LA; **Robert H. & Deborah Waldrop** of Eastaboga, AL; **Jim McMillian** of Ormond Beach, FL; **Dick Neland** of Daytona Beach, FL.



Folded Wings



George Voss, 93, flew west on March 7, 2016. He inspired countless people to learn how to fly through years of instructing. He started his instructing career at Penn State University and went on to being an instructor in the U. S. Army Air Corps in both Link Trainers and Fixed Gunnery. After WWII, he returned to his work doing bone density research. He became a research professor at Texas Women's University and participated in the NASA Astronaut research and was on board aircraft carriers to evaluate the effects



of weightlessness on bone density when the Gemini astronauts were recovered. He developed the basics of the techniques being used in bone density evaluations today. When George retired, he bought a couple of sections of desert and developed Taurus Mesa Air Ranch, consisting of three runways, in addition to another one leading to his self-built adobe house. He had more than 23,000 flight hours and was awarded the FAA Master Pilot Award in 2005, having had a clean record of more than fifty years with the FAA. He was a past National OX-5 President, Texas Wing President, and spent years writing numerous newsletters for the Wing. Jerry Eoff writes, "He was a fervent supporter of OX5 Aviation Pioneers and thoroughly enjoyed composing and publishing the Texas Wing Newsletter". We will miss you George.

Darrel Rippeteau, a past OX-5 Pioneer and President of the Glenn Curtiss Wing, passed away in Delray Beach, Florida at the age of 99. His son, Bruce, writes that "Darrel first learned of aviation as a child seeing OX-5 powered biplanes near his birth place of Clay Center, Nebraska in the 1920s and 1930s. He was an avid modeler of realistic, flying models of these aircraft. In WW-II, Darrel was the XO of a secret unit at then Pine Camp, now Fort Drum, near Watertown, NY. His job was to develop and send to the ETO their 'sonic deception recordings' and inflatable tanks as tactical ruses. He later became a Lt. Col. in the Army Reserve."

Edward Pinckert passed away Nov. 4, 2015 at the age of 96. Ed entered the military in WWII as an Aviation Cadet and earned his commission and wings on Feb. 7, 1944. He was retained as a Flight Instructor in the twin-engine Advanced Flight School in Blytheville, AR. While he was there he flew Curtiss AT-9s and Beech AT-10s. He also flew the B-26 and the B-17. Ed continued in a government position at the Pentagon after his active duty. He served many years as Education and Training Officer and Deputy Squadron Commander of the 9453rd USAF Reserve Squadron, Luke AFB, AZ. He retired as a Lt. Colonel on Aug. 11, 1979 and was the recipient of the Air Force Commendation medal.

Raymond J. Nevenner of the Illinois Wing flew west on January 1, 2016.

Richard Reich and **Frederic Stripe** of the Wisconsin Wing passed away.

Visit the OX-5 website for many interesting stories, pictures, and other information!
OX5.org Dennis Yerkey would love to have any OX-5 memorabilia you may have to put on the website. Email him at D.Yerkey@verizon.net.



Donations



We appreciate the donations from all of you - Many Thanks!

Richard Waite	Richard Kirkland	John Caldwell
Janet Yoder	Robert Bejna	James Rothschadl
Norman Brush	Fred Walatka	Richard MacIver
Dennis & Pat Griswold	Robert Taylor	John Hotam
Charles Moore	Robert Siegfried, II	Charles Heide
Clifford & Kellee Pleggenkuhle	Allen Richter	Estan Fuller
James Zazas	Glenn Phillips	Elizabeth Dinan
Dennis Yerkey	Laura Park	Cheryl Dewey
John Walters	Ann Pleggenkuhle Park	James DeLong
Ernest Mitchell	William May	John Blankenship
Calvin Arter	H. Douglas Brown	Gloria Haddock
Barbara Ball Ewing	Joseph Cunningham	Dan Cullman
Edward Beeman	Norman Armbrust	Ann Guglielmetti Garino
David Hedgecock	John Jenista	Robert King Lane
Eugene Weiler	Gerald Madden	Joseph Nevers
James Rollison	John Stewart	James Thompson
Gerald Lindenmuth	Keith Krewson	George Levis
Byron Emerson	Gordon Cumberland	Myron Barger
Robert Bailey	Lyle Bobzin	Granger Haugh
Warren Polsky	Steve Howard	Betty Eldridge
Robert Bejna	Timothy & Kathryn Thompson	Jon W. Vanderhoof
Cecelia Sue Leonard Marshall	Steve Brown	Carroll C. Rands
Steve Smith	Ann Staub	George Belville



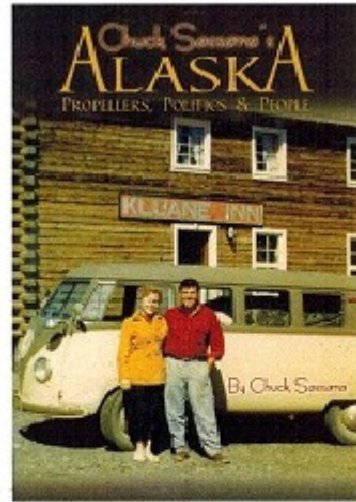
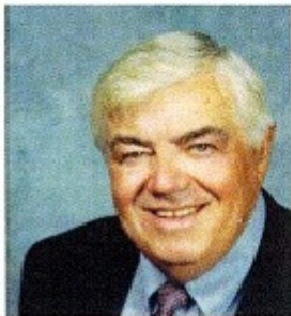
Wing Struts



Texas Wing

Texas Wing OX5 members Penni and Robert Clark of Miami, Texas are making the arrangements for the Wing Reunion in Amarillo, July 15-17, 2016. On Friday, July 15, an informal get-together in the "hospitality room" is planned. Saturday, July 16 at 12:30 pm a catered lunch at the Texas Air and Space Museum at Rick Husband Airport will be held. Sunday, July 17, 4:00 pm they will leave for Palo Duro Canyon to see "Texas" and a BBQ dinner. George Vose wanted the reunion to be a success; the Texas Wing is looking forward to a great gathering!

Chuck Sassara's Alaska: Propellers, Politics & People



Chuck Sassara has stories to tell. He's a pilot, former legislator, and long time Alaskan and boy, does he have stories! His book is a treasure. Come meet Chuck, find out about "Chuck Sassara's Alaska" and his life here in this great state.

OX5 ALASKA WING MEMBER

Propellers, Politics & People

This is a book of (aviation) adventures by Chuck Sassara (85), OX5 Alaska Wing Member.

It is an easy read and should give all OX5 members an insight into early Alaska aviation. Purchase directly for \$31.00 total.

\$25.00 + 6.00 postage. He would be happy to sign and put a personalized message on the book if you wish, just let him know.

**Chuck Sassara
420 E 3rd Ave #405
Anchorage, AK 99501**



Wing Struts



Kansas Wing

The Kansas Wing's last meeting had a presentation from a former Cessna engineer, Harry Clements. Harry was a major design person for the 4-engine Cessna 620 in the early 1950s. He had a digital slide presentation to talk about "The Complete 620 Story". It included the initial market survey and his work as the aerodynamicist and wind tunnel testing for the 620. The airplane was almost through certification when the project was cancelled, for fear of the market impact of surplus prop airliners when replaced with jets.

Midwest Florida Wing



Members of the Midwest Florida Wing have been hard at work refurbishing an OX-5 engine with the goal to have running demonstrations at Sun 'n Fun Expo being held April 5-10. Jim Beisner sent pictures of the completed project. **Congratulations are in order for this great accomplishment!**



Wisconsin Wing

Preparations are already underway for demonstrating our OX-5 engine at various aviation events for this coming season including AirVenture in Oshkosh. A big thanks to Wisconsin Wing member, Dave Hedgecock, for managing this demonstration program. We are looking forward welcoming all of you to Oshkosh for the Annual Reunion!

OX5 Aviation Pioneers
P O Box 769
Troy, OH 45373

Web Site: www.ox5.org



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

National Reunion October 13, 14, 15 in Oshkosh, WI