

CLIFF BALL WING NEWSLETTER

Western Pennsylvania



“BIRTHPLACE of the OX5 AVIATION PIONEERS”

TRIBUTE TO EARLY PITTSBURGH HEROES

THE LAFAYETTE FLYING CORP

WAINWRIGHT ABBOTT – PITTSBURGH, PA

Date: 1-15-2013

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Books For Sale

Ivan Livi, Pres
Cliff Yerkey, VP
Dennis Yerkey, Sec
Tom Barruso, Treas

Wainwright Abbott is one of the few Americans who were breveted on Nieuport. As he was with the famous Erlich in a squadron which specialized on *saucisses* (kite balloons), his life at the Front has not been devoid of excitement. On the Marne in the summer of 1918, with Erlich, Coiffard, and Lahhoule, Abbott made any perilous expeditions after the German gasbags at a time when the pyromaniacs often had to fight their way home through the swarms of Fokkers. Wainwright was so long with the French that he loved to *expliquer les coups*- an amiable weakness which consists in telling just how one did it, with appropriate sweeping gestures of the hands, signifying dives, zooms, and side-slips. One can easily picture him- grandchildren gathered around his knee- explaining with vivid gestures how grandfather used to shoot down balloons in the Great War.

Abbott served in the French Aviation from April 1917 to September 1918. He was commissioned into the US Air Service in August of 1918.

Source Houghton, Mifflin Co – The Lafayette Flying Corp

CBW DAY TOUR

At the last membership meeting member Norman Hogg suggested organizing a day tour to the Beaver Air Museum. Secretary Yerkey took an action item to investigate the details of arranging for a group of CBW members to visit the museum. The museum is open Monday through Friday from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM and there is no admission fee.

The museum has an assortment of airplanes in various stages of restoration and a number of completed aircraft that are on display outside of the facilities.

Secretary Yerkey is researching the mode of travel, the cost per member, and such details as the availability of lunch facilities in the vicinity. In order for this to be a feasible project it will be necessary to have a minimum of 10 to 12 persons.

If you are interested in participating in this tour please contact Secretary Yerkey at 412.445.3940, dyerkey@comcast.net or President Livi at 412.655.7187, ivan.livi@verizon.net. If there is member interest in this tour the details will be discussed at the Spring meeting.



Remembering An Aviation Pioneer

Carl Nicholson

An Article by Son Larry Nicholson

Jack Jefford of Alaska pioneer airman fame (*Winging It* :Rand McNally, 1981.) taught my Father Nick (Carl preferred to be called Nick by his friends) how to fly at Broken Bow NE. He soloed the Robin on March 5, 1935 at which time the Robin was not licensed and bore the number 398K. At that time an airplane was not required to be licensed which allowed you to carry passengers or do anything you wanted to do.

Originally a burnt orange color, the 1930 OX powered Robin-Robertson had been painted black and silver. A short time later while flying the Robin, the horizontal stabilizer covering ballooned up which prevented the nose to rise above a 15 degree nose low attitude. Nick was just able to land it. Inspection also revealed that the fabric was brittle and would crumble in your hands. The stabilizer was soon recovered and then Nick and Bob Booth recovered the wings. Bureau of Commerce famed Aero Inspector Harold Montee licensed the Robin and the number was changed to NC 398K. Montee issued Nick's first pilot's license, a limited commercial on April 9, 1936 at Lincoln, Nebraska.

Nick instructed and barnstormed mostly in Nebraska, Kansas, and South Dakota with aviation pioneers Bob Booth, Charlie Geise, Shorty Cochrane, Jim Clarke, Johnny Deiter, Bob DeWald, Harold Hartley, Ken Holmes, Jack and Bill Jefford, Joe Lambert, Hans Mirow, Evelyn Sharp (*Sharpie* by Diane Ruth Armour Bartels), Howard Taber, Steve Tuttle, and Jack Westphal. He instructed on the CPTP with Ken Holmes for Don Pratt at Hays, Kansas, in 1939 and 1940.

In September of 1940 Nick became a civilian flight instructor for the Spartan Air Corps Training Detachment at Tulsa, OK. Jay Gentry gave him his school check ride. Near the end of the war he instructed British students for Spartan at the No. 3 British Flying Training School (#3 BFTS) at Miami, OK. (*The Royal Air Force in Oklahoma* by Paula Carmack Denson, 2006.)

After the war he flew a G model Staggerwing Beach for Fred Manning at Casper, Wyoming. This was his favorite airplane. Bill Halverson has restored the Staggerwing to better than new condition. It was Grand Champion at Oshkosh in 1989 and was in the November *Sport Aviation*.

Larry Nicholson has audio taped many flying stories of his Father and friends and is now in the process of editing them for a story book he is writing.

The airplane behind Carl Nicholson is his 1930 OX powered Curtis-Robertson NX398K.



RECENTLY ELECTED OFFICERS & GOVERNORS OF THE CLIFF BALL WING-OX5 AVIATION PIONEERS

l to r D.Yerkey,Sec., G.Gries, I. Livi, Pres., F.Bria, J. Kirk, H.Bochter, N.Hogg
Missing D. Mroski, D.Mains, C.Yerkey,VP., F.Long, S.Thompson, T.Barruso, Treas.

**CBW MEMBERSHIP MEETING
DECEMBER 12, 2012 WEST MIFFLIN BOROUGH BUILDING**

MINUTES

President Livi called the meeting to order at 12:15PM. Copies of the last meeting minutes had been provided to all members. There being no changes or corrections the minutes were approved unanimously.

In the absence of Treasurer Tom Barruso Secretary Dennis Yerkey reported on the financial status of the Wing. As of November 30, 2012 the Wing has a bank balance of \$1541.23. The discussion on finances brought forth the issue of fundraising. President Livi related on the fundraising by the sale of aviation historical books and he urged all members to support the Wing by buying copies of two early barnstorming history books. All other members are asked to consider purchasing copies of either "Men, Wind, and Courage" by Nancy Mess or "Barnstormer

Jim” by Al Christman. The books are priced at \$18.00 plus \$3.00 for postage and handling. The number of copies available is limited.

President Livi then asked Secretary Yerkey to give an overview of the National Elections and the move of the National Headquarters to Troy, Ohio. A handout with information about the new officers and their directory information was provided to those in attendance. Secretary Yerkey also described the process for shipping the OX5 computers and all the past records to Troy, OH.

The next agenda item was an overview by Livi and Yerkey on the National Reunion and the visit to the Creve Couer Museum. President Livi described the excellent workmanship done on the restored aircraft and the number of aircraft that filled four hangars.

Next Livi an Yerkey described the process for ratifying the new OX5 National Bylaws. The new bylaws are more attuned to the size of the present organization membership and make provisions for the use of electronic methods for communication and voting by Board members.

The next agenda items were General Interest Items. President Livi described the new FAA Rule ACFR26 which sets the Limit of Validity on air carrier airplanes; a call from the Dixie Wing of the Commemorative Air Force relative to the identification of an OX5 powered airplane that turned out to be a 1928 Lincoln Page bi-plane; a contact from the owner of numerous OX5 engine parts that are for sale.

Harry Bochter reported on the progress of his homebuilt airplane. Gary Gries and Jim Kirk reported on the situation in regards to airport signs for the Finleyville Airport.

Norman Hogg suggested that we investigate the possibility of having a trip to the Beaver Aircraft Museum. Details for this will be discussed at the next meeting.

President Livi suggested that plans for next year’s summer picnic be discussed at the spring meeting in April/May.

The final agenda item was the election of CBW officers. A motion was made by Harry Bochter and seconded by Gary Gries to retain the present slate of officers and governors for another year. The vote was unanimous.

There being no other business issues to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 1:15 PM.

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CBW
Box 18561
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<p>BOOKS FOR SALE Men, Wind and Courage 18.00 + 3.00 SH Barnstormer Jim 18.00 + 3.00 SH These are CBW Fundraisers</p>
