



# OX5 NEWS



Celebrating 60 Years: 1955-2015

Volume 58 - Number 2

August 2015

*Published for and by the Members of the OX5 Aviation Pioneers*

Web Site – [www.ox5.org](http://www.ox5.org)

## Presenting: The 60<sup>th</sup> OX5 Annual Reunion

**Dayton, Ohio – Center of Aviation History and Innovation**

**October 8 – 10, 2015**



Join us in celebrating 60 years of OX5 history! We have many exciting events and activities planned such as:

- Touring the Wright Brothers' Homestead, Hawthorn Hill
- Seeing a B-17 restoration in progress
- Touring Carillon Historical Park which allows you to "time travel" through Dayton's history and innovation: Includes the 1905 Wright Flyer III, 1835 B & O steam locomotive, and Dayton's oldest building 1796 Newcom's Tavern to name just a few things.
- Banquet speaker: Nick Engler, Wright Brothers' Aeroplane Company
- Many other attractions!

**Come join in all the fun for the OX5 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!**

## **60<sup>th</sup> OX5 Aviation Pioneers Annual Reunion**

### **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

#### **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2015**

6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Registration and Welcome to the Reunion

Clarion Inn      10 Rockridge Rd.    Englewood, Ohio    (937) 832-1234

#### **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2015**

Breakfast – member's choice. Free breakfast available to guests of the hotel in the lobby.

8:00 - 9:00 a.m. Registration for those not already registered

9:15 a.m. Meet in the Clarion Inn Lobby

9:30 a.m. Board Vans for Tours

10:15 a.m. New Carlisle Airport (Andy Barnhart Memorial Flying Field): Tour of restorations and projects

11:30 a.m. Lunch at the Airport, courtesy of National OX5 and the Ohio Wing

1:00 p.m. Depart in Vans to travel to Grimes Field

(<http://www.champaignaviationmuseum.org>)

1:45 p.m. Visit the Grimes Field Museum and B-17 restoration project

3:45 p.m. Depart from Grimes Field to return to the Clarion Inn

5:00 p.m. Governor's meeting with light refreshments, Clarion Inn Banquet Room

6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Meet in the Clarion Inn Lounge for refreshments

Dinner on your own.

#### **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2015**

Breakfast – member's choice. Free breakfast available to guests of the hotel in the lobby.

8:45 a.m. Meet in Clarion Inn Lobby

9:00 a.m. Depart in Vans for Carillon Historical Park in Dayton

(<http://www.daytonhistory.org/destinations/carillon-historical-park/>)

10:00 a.m. Group 1, tour of Hawthorn Hill (Wright Brothers' Home)

11:30 a.m. Carillon Brewing Company, 1850s style brewery and restaurant, hearty German-style fare. Lunch. Purchase on your own.

(A tour may be available of the working brewery)

12:30 p.m. Group 2, tour of Hawthorn Hill (Wright Brothers' Home)

3:00 p.m. Depart Carillon Historical Park

3:30 p.m. Return to Clarion Inn Lobby

4:30 p.m. General Membership Meeting, Clarion Inn Banquet Room

6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Banquet at the Clarion Hotel, Courtesy of National OX5—

Speaker, Nick Engler, Wright Brothers' Aeroplane Company, Wright airplane expert



**The Wright Estate,  
Hawthorn Hill**

## HISTORICAL NOTES

### FRANK REZICH (copied from the Midwest OX5 Wing News)



In California I have an old friend named Frank Rezich. He is the youngest of three brothers – the oldest was Mike, then Nick and Frank. Frank is the sole survivor of the three boys.

Mike Rezich bought a Travel Air 2000, NC661H and young Frank began taking lessons from middle brother Nick. Frank soloed the Travel Air at age sixteen and thus began his flying career.



Eventually the ship needed recovering and the engine overhauled. Frank was the mechanic, Nick was the professional pilot and Mike was a Blatz Beer distributor on the south side of Chicago. So Mike had all the money!

Photo below is titled, “Croatian Overhaul” as the boys ham it up after removing a worn out OX5 that can be seen lying on the ground lower right of this old photograph from the Rezich file. The OX5 manual recommends overhauling the engine every fifty hours of operation, but most operators ran the engine until it got tired or quit altogether. In the early days of aviation, no logbooks were kept; so operating time on the engine was impossible to retrieve.



## CALIFORNIA OX5 POWERED SHIPS

In 1979 my former California home city of Reedley dedicated its new airport. We had a reunion of former aviators and friends to celebrate the event and asked for scrapbooks and photo albums of early aviation pictures. At Reedley College in the aviation department where I worked, my colleague Loren Dietrich and I set about to place on 35 mm slide film as many of the photos as we could, without disassembling any of the valuable books. Here are a few of my favorite pictures with a brief description of each.



Above, a 1927 OX5 powered Travel Air 2000 at the Reed Ranch strip near the town of Reedley. Two ships were there in 1932 hopping passengers. A large group of people can be seen behind the aircraft along with many cars.



Furrows in the ground are grooves cut by the tailskid.

Two passengers await their turn for a short ride in the Travel Air 2000.

A close-up of the two place front cockpit of the Travel Air 2000. Exhaust tail pipe extension from the OX5 motor can be seen at lower right of photograph.



Above, although blurry because early cameras would not capture moving objects, a Travel Air 2000 (left) awaits the landing of a

Curtiss JN-4 Jenny. Both ships powered by the OX5 motors. The Jenny most likely was flown by Dale Drake, the son of J.A Drake who operated a machine shop in Reedley. Dale was the youngest son who became an excellent designer and machinist who partnered with Louie Myers to produce the Myers-Drake "Offenhouser" racing engines that dominated the Indy 500 auto races for many years.



**Check out the information!** It is filled with wonderful OX-5 people and their stories and historical information!  
Web Site – [www.ox5.org](http://www.ox5.org) Managed by Dennis Yerkey

## New Members

Welcome to Glenn Phillips from Shalimar, Florida. Nice to have you join us, Glenn!

James Hyde joins us from Granbury, Texas. Welcome James!

G. G. "Jerry" Schiera signed up at Air Venture in Oshkosh, WI where he helped out. Jerry is a corporate pilot and is from Honner Glen, Illinois. Welcome to OX5 Aviation Pioneers, Jerry!

## Donation List

(Most recent additions at press time)

**Thank you for all of your donations!**

Donald Mosher

Robert Lomley

John D. Stewart

Jimmy Rollison

Michael Patitucci

Robert J. Craig

Thomas Maines

Bonnie Hawkins

Robert K. Lane



## *Messages from the Officers*



### President's Corner

Greetings OX5 Members:

I am looking forward to visiting with old and new OX5 friends at our 60th reunion this year in Englewood, Ohio on October 8, 9, and 10, 2015. It promises to be an exciting time with an excellent mix of aviation related and general interest activities. Our common bond is the historic aviation world but I know we also enjoy sharing time with general interest activities as well. Come and join us in our special upcoming event.

AirVenture 2015 at Oshkosh, WI was very successful this year and the OX5 WI Wing represented the National Organization with their display and also the running of the OX5 engine daily. The engine is certainly an attention getter and the Wing was happy to pass out brochures to interested folks. I hope that you will take every opportunity to spread the word about our great Organization and encourage new members to join our aviation group. Best wishes and happy memories.



Don Voland  
National OX5 President



## **Secretary's Message**

Greetings from your Secretary:

Over the past 20 years, having served on your Board of Governors, Treasurer, President and now the sought-after position of Past president and temporary Secretary, it is a pleasure to state that your OX5 Aviation Pioneers is healthy and ready for the next 60 years! Like you, it is a pleasure to be a part of a winning team and you are to be commended for being a part of this prestigious organization.



James Beisner, Secretary

## **Treasurer's Message**

Hello Everybody!

We have a wonderful, exciting, fun-filled 60<sup>th</sup> reunion planned for you this year! Many of the presenters and restorers would not be available except by special connections; you don't want to miss this reunion! Get your registration in early to make sure you have a spot reserved to tour the Wright Brothers' Homestead as spaces are limited for this.

Send the registration fee of \$85 to the OX5 Headquarters at: OX5 Aviation Pioneers  
PO Box 769  
Troy, OH 45373

I look forward to seeing you at our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary!



Janet Barnard, Treasurer  
(937) 307-8763  
[JBarnardox5@gmail.com](mailto:JBarnardox5@gmail.com)



See you at the 60<sup>th</sup> Reunion!

## **Folded Wings**

**David E. Long** from Keyser, WV went west on 6-29-13. His son wrote that he was very proud of being a member.

**Charles Holmes** of the Colorado Mile High Wing passed away on 6-21-15.

**Chester Hoffman** – Glenn Curtiss Wing

## **WING STRUTS**

### **Midwest Florida Wing**

#### **NEW STUDENT ON THE BLOCK    By Robert G. Lock**



Having spent some 31-years instructing in an FAA approved Part 147 A&P program, I facilitated future aircraft mechanics to learn from both book and hands-on instruction. Now I am the one learning from hands-on instruction by two OX-5 master mechanics – Dean Tilton and Jim Beisner. So now I can add this to my resume', that to this point is filled with mostly radial engine experience and virtually no OX5 background, except to know it put out 90-hp at 1400 rpm, had single ignition with either a Dixie or Berling magneto and had fuel flow control with a duplex Zenith carburetor. Jim wanted to make the venerable OX5 run in

time for the 2015 Sun N Fun show. Left, Dean and Jim with the Zenith duplex carburetor demonstrating how to check idle and power jets and explaining the intricacies of operation. Such hands-on knowledge needs to be passed down to a younger generation and once the engine runs, the sights and sounds of a nearly 100-year old motor will come to life.

I have knowledge of small single row radial engines manufactured by Wright, Continental, Lycoming, Jacobs, Pratt and Whitney but have only seen and heard the venerable OX5 run and fly. There are a few items that comparable between the OX and the radials, particularly valve clearance, magneto operation and timing, tracing ignition leads and some troubleshooting. However this is a great opportunity to learn the OX5 from the point of view of those who know the engine well. Such is the case with Dean Tilton and Jim Beisner.

The motor had been donated to the OX5 Midwest Florida Wing located in Lakeland at the Sun N Fun facility. Dean Tilton had assembled the motor using the same standards as one that would eventually fly. Now, complete to include the single Berling magneto and Zenith carburetor, Jim decided we should make it run in time for the 2015 Sun N Fun show. And so the real story begins.



The OX5

motor that Dean had built never ran but was essentially complete and, as it turned out, the magneto was properly timed and so were the valve opening sequence. The motor was nicely displayed on steel stand that was welded to the trailer of Beisner design.

Left, Jim is working on his “commencer”, a means to electrically start the motor. He adapted a Lycoming starter gear plate with a Toyota starter, added a 12V battery, ignition switch and associated wiring – and it works. The large aluminum plate behind the prop absorbs twisting of the starter motor when engaged. The Toyota starter motor teeth closely match the Lycoming starter ring, thus making this “modern” system work. Most of we old folks are incapable of hand propping the motor. Our objective was to have the motor operational by the 2015 Sun N Fun gathering at Lakeland,

Florida. Having the motor operational required an instrument panel and fuel tank. I adapted a plastic tank from a lawn mower that held just enough fuel to run the motor long enough for bystanders to hear and see a WWI aircraft engine run. The instrument panel was fabricated from wood and the appropriate instruments installed. Dean provided a beautiful four-inch diameter original tachometer that came from a 1928 Travel Air 2000. Throttle and choke levers are typical Travel Air of the era while a magneto spark advance handle is provided to retard the spark for starting the motor.





## Kansas Wing

During the June meeting of the Kansas Wing, Harold Walter spoke about his part in the development and certification of the Beech Starship. He was there just after the 85% scale Proof of Concept (POC) model had been built by Burt Rutan. He was involved in its flight testing and in the development of the aircraft's aerodynamics and flight characteristics.

## Ohio Wing

Ohio Wing president, Tim Pinkerton, developed and led the Starbase (Wright-Patt Air Force Base) three-day Aviation Summer Camp which had many hands-on activities such as hot air balloons, gliders, boomerangs, and several types of rockets to name a few things. Wing secretary/treasurer, Janet Barnard, showed the campers how to make and launch 3 kinds of rockets. The Wing donated funds for the purchase of camp t-shirts.



Return Address:

**OX5 AVIATION PIONEERS**

**PO BOX 769**

**Troy, Ohio 45373**

Web Site – [www.ox5.org](http://www.ox5.org)



**Send in your 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion Registration to:**

OX5 Aviation Pioneers

PO Box 769

Troy, OH 45373

**60<sup>th</sup> Aviation Pioneers Annual Reunion**  
**Dayton, Ohio – October 8 – 10, 2015**  
Registration Due September 20, 2015



NATIONAL AVIATION  
HERITAGE AREA

Come. Discover. Fly!

*Dayton, Ohio*

**Clarion Inn      10 Rockridge Rd.      Englewood, OH**  
Call for a special room rate of per night of \$95.00 + tax (must call by 9-15-15)  
(937) 832-1234

---Cut here---

---

**Registration Fee: \$85** (Includes all tours, Saturday's banquet, transportation to activities, and Friday's lunch.)

1. Name (print): \_\_\_\_\_
2. Name (print): \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse, friend, member of Wing (which one?), Member At Large:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

Title (if you are a newsletter editor, wing president, governor):

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

---

**Return this completed form and your check by September 20, 2015.**

**Make checks payable to OX5 Aviation Pioneers for \$85.**

**Send to:      OX5 Aviation Pioneers**  
**PO Box 769**  
**Troy, OH 45373**