



OX5 NEWS



Celebrating 60 Years: 1955-2015

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Happy Holidays

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Web Site – www.ox5.org

OX5 AVIATION PIONEERS NATIONAL REUNION - DAYTON, OH



Special Moments were shared at the National OX5 Reunion
Attendees are pictured here at the Grimes Field Museum and B-17 Restoration



Carl Belville relives flying the C-47 in WWII with daughter-in-law, Beatrice Belville.



Brenda Jones and Sam Meek enjoying the banquet.



Pat Griswold & Dennis Yerkey looking over the beautifully restored Demoiselle at New Carlisle Airport.



Beatrice Belville, Jeanette Voland, Brenda Jones, and Linda Daly enjoy Catching up with each other.



Dennis Yerkey, Nancy Sommers Board, Gordon Cumberland, and David Hedgecock raved about the **Wright Brother's Estate** (Hawthorn Hill) tour.



Patty & Bob Wagner are enjoying some laughs with long-time friend, Steve Alcorn



Jeannette & President, Don Voland at the banquet.

Awards given at the 2015 OX5 National Reunion

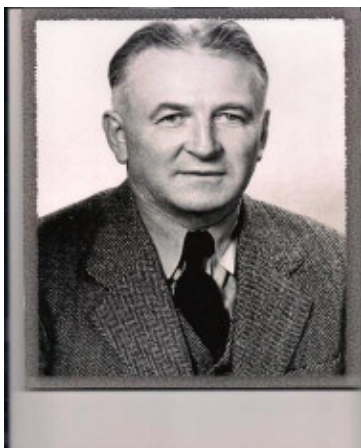
Hall of Fame --- Norman A. Armburst



Norman volunteered for duty in the Army Air Corps within a week of Pearl Harbor. Norman was a pilot before the war and loved to fly. He and his brother owned a WACO-10 bi-plane. He trained at Hancock College of Aeronautics in Santa Maria, CA and then on to advance training to Luke Field in Phoenix, AZ where he **received his “wings” on January 4, 1943. He was assigned to Pyote Air Base, TX for the B-17 Flying Fortress.**

He was assigned to the 306th Bomb Group at Thurlough Air Force Base in England. Norman flew 11 missions in the spring and summer of 1943; number 12 would be his last. **Norman’s plane got shot down on their way out of Germany.** He would spend the next two years of his life in a German POW camp. Read more about his adventures in our website.

Hall of Fame --- John E. (Jack) Sommers



Jack Sommers started his aviation career in 1917 in the US Naval Flying Corps with the rank of Ensign. After **graduation from the University of Michigan in 1922 with a bachelor’s degree in Aeronautical Engineering**, he worked for the Packard Motor Company and built a prototype of a new airplane engine designed at Wright Field. Jack worked with a family business and then returned to aviation as an Airways Extension Superintendent when the Bureau of Air Commerce was first organized. He worked on the early stages of

establishing airports in Newark, Pittsburgh, Los Angeles, and San Francisco. In 1933 John was assigned to aeronautical inspection work which aided him with his investigation of the Hindenburg crash in 1937.

He was selected as the Regional Manager of the First Region of the Civil Aeronautics Authority from 1938–1940. When he was assigned the position of Assistant Administrator in 1944, he was sent to Spain on a special mission to survey and report on facilities needed for the American carriers to start international operations. John also assisted the Air Force on establishing navigation and communication facilities across Spain and Portugal for transfer of troops and equipment to the Pacific Theater.

In 1945 John was assigned as Civil Air Advisor to the Office of Military Government in Germany. In Germany, he participated in the meetings that resulted in the agreement on the Air Corridors, which later proved to be the only out in the Blockade of Berlin.

Members of Jack Sommers family came to the reunion to accept his award; Col. Barbara Moore, Lt. Cmdr. Edward Sommers, Donald Sommers, Nancy Board Sommers, Christie Sommers, and Marilyne Sommers.

Hall of Fame --- Jimmy Rinehart



James Rinehart was born August 13, 1908 in Portland, Oregon. When he was about 13, he went to work as a mechanic in his off school hours for Earl Gray Aviation Company in Seaside Oregon. He soloed on 1 November 1925 at Pearson Field, Vancouver, Washington and obtained **his Oregon pilot's license**. **He established the first passenger service from Portland to the beaches and was the first pilot to deliver newspapers for the Oregon Daily Journal when that type of service was initiated.** In 1927, at 18, he traveled to Wichita, Kansas and purchased a brand new Travel Air. He flew the plane back to Portland following the union Pacific Railroad tracks and barnstorming along the way. He named the plane; **“The City of Roses” and entered the San Francisco to Spokane Air Race.** He was the youngest board member of the Portland Aero Club and youngest licensed commercial pilot obtaining certificate number 829 on his 18th birthday. He founded Columbia Gorge Air Service where he provided scenic flights, flight instruction and taught advance aerobatics.

Rinehart set the first official world endurance record without refueling, with the OX5 motor; staying aloft 16 hours and 35 minutes 25 2/10 seconds, on June 28, 1928 in Seaside, Oregon. He obtained the aviation concession for Janzen Beach Amusement Park; Oregon; fling wing walkers, racing boats, mock dogfights and passengers. After graduating from Oregon State University where he studied medicine, Rinehart decided to pursue a career in Aviation. He became a flight instructor for Tex Rankin's **flying school in Portland**. **In 1934** he moved to Alaska to fly as a bush pilot for Alaska Air Transport; he founded both Alaska Seaboard Airlines and Rinehart Seaplane service. During WWII he was a civilian flight instructor with Ryan School of Aeronautics' **Hemet Ryan Field, California**. **After the war Rinehart opened Hemet Flight Academy**. **In 1948;** Rinehart returned to Alaska to accept a position as the resident pilot for Alaska Coastal Airlines in Sitka. In Alaska he was ranked as one of the most experienced and trusted pilots in the region. James Rinehart was killed 4 Nov 1954 when the Grumman Widgeon he was piloting crashed in bad weather near Hoonah, Alaska.

Check out the www.ox5.org Web Site – www.ox5.org It is filled with wonderful OX-5 people and their stories and historical information!
Managed by Dennis Yerkey

Legion of Merit---Steve Alcorn

Pioneer Woman---Joann Alcorn



Steve Alcorn: I rode a bicycle to the airport at nine years old. Mr. Leonard Hartley offered me a ride. I told my mother I went for an airplane ride and said that I wanted to be a pilot. She replied **“airplanes are dangerous. Do not do that again.” That was my inspiration!**

First flying lesson, July Fourth, 1968. I washed an airplane for ½ hr. dual instruction. I managed \$1.98 to purchase a log book. **I worked weekends and after school. A week’s labor got me ½ hr. rental of a Taylorcraft BC12D.** At 15 years 11 months I was ready to officially learn to fly I had plenty of aircraft rental earned. I did not have a flight instructor, nor could I afford one.

Mr. Gerry Milburn, Chief Pilot for Allegheny Airlines stepped up and was my flight instructor. I had no money to pay him. Gerry worked with me and I soloed at 16 years old. I went on to earn my A&P ratings while working as an apprentice.

The next 40 years would be full of aviating adventures: Flying the Red Baron Stearman, landing a Piper Cub on the car in airshows, and flight instructing in a T-6 and Pitts Special.

I have been very fortunate to have met and continue to meet wonderful people in aviation.

I currently work with JoAnne and operate DME Services in Winter Haven, Florida as an FAA Designated Mechanic Examiner.

Joanne Alcorn: **I’d always been fascinated with flight. I took every opportunity to take rides or flights in airplanes and helicopters and balloons, and even a two seat ultralight but never thought to learn how to fly myself. Then at 52 I began thinking about retirement and what I’d do after retirement.** I was stumped but I knew something would show itself. Then an advertisement was placed in my mailbox **“Learn to Fly”.** **That was it....I would learn to fly. That started my trip into aviation.**

Single, working, I took lessons and bought an airplane, a new Skyhawk named “Precious”. Then the fateful day while helping at the airport, I met the man who would change my life, Steve Alcorn. Licensed, with airplane, and now with a mentor and future partner I really started learning how to fly. Especially cross-country flying. My dream had been to be able to visit my mother in Fargo whenever I wanted and now I could. Indy to Fargo became a well-worn route.

A few years later I learned of the Air Race Classic, the women’s transcontinental air race once called The Powder Puff Derby. One race and I was hooked. I’ve flown 7 races and now am part of the Board of Directors to help promote aviation to women and girls.

Aviation opened a new world for me. To be able to know so many talented people and experience so many unique opportunities is beyond anything I could dream of.

Special Meritorious Service Award --- George P. Vose

George has been an active member of OX5 for many years. “In the late 1990s I was asked by the President of the OX5 Texas Wing to produce a quarterly Texas Wing newsletter. I accepted the job and, as of this date, (September 2015), sixty-six issues of the quarterly OX5 Texas Wing Newsletter have **been printed together with the monthly “Taurus Mesa Update”, that’s a total of about 446 aviation-themed newsletter in thirty years – using lots of color ink cartridges and many reams of 28-lb paper envelopes and stamps.**” Thank you George for all you do!

Special Merit Service Award---Oren Hudson

Oren has had an incredible flying career. “I have been flying airplanes for 74 years,” reminisces Oren. “I enjoyed the people of Alaska and gave each flight my best. People liked it. My last flight physical was recorded at 36,764 flight hours.” At 92 years of age Oren still has three airplanes, a Widgeon, V-tail Bonanza, and a Cessna 170.

Oren has been an active life also served as National I continue to enjoy this chapter. The OX5 Aviation opportunity to enjoy many



member of OX5 for over 50 years and President. Oren states, “As I get older, association as president of the local Pioneer Club allowed me the people living the same life style.”

President’s Award---Dennis Yerkey



Dennis Yerkey has been a past National OX5 President, and a past President of the Cliff Ball Wing. Dennis is currently a Governor for the National OX5 Aviation Pioneers, the secretary for the Cliff Ball Wing, and manages the OX5 Aviation Pioneer website.

New Members

Travis Driskill, Welcome to OX5! Travis is from St. Charles, MO. He took his 1st flying lesson with George Vose in 1959. He says, “I had no idea it would become an occupation someday. I knew I wanted to fly since I was 10 years old watching slow aircraft fly over our farm.” Travis went on to become an instructor, then on to flying airmail at night out of Malden, MO. He has flew several kinds of aircraft. Good to have you join us!

James Bellar Jr. joins us from Corinth, TX. He learned to fly at 16 in Denton, TX. He flew for Braniff from 1966-1982 and Hawaii Express, Piedmont, and then USAir. After he retired from USAir, he was a SIM instructor for Southwest Airlines. Now he says he is retired for good. Welcome James!

We welcome two young men that attended the WACO Aviation Summer Camp with Ohio Wing OX5 scholarship. They are from Troy, OH: **Garrett VanHook and Joe Cusick.**

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

Granger Haugh

Dan Taylor

Richard Waite



Messages from the Officers



President's Corner

Greetings OX5 Members:

As I write this note to you, I must report that winter officially arrived in Wisconsin yesterday by dumping over **ten inches of snow on this part of our State. For the sake of our "snow birds",** I know you are enjoying every minute in your sunny and warm location!

It was approved at our most recent Membership Meeting in Dayton to remove regular payed membership names from our master membership list for cases where no dues have been paid for the past two years. That means for some of our folks that this will be their last Newsletter! If you happen to be in this group, send your dues payment to Janet Barnard and you will be **returned to the status of a "member in good standing"**.

Another important item that was approved at our most recent Membership Meeting was the further development of the OX5 Aviation Pioneers Outreach program. A part of this involves scholarships to students who are interested in pursuing a career in aviation. We are specifically interested in those areas of the country where OX5 Wings have folded. More information on these programs will be provided to our membership in the near future. If you care to donate funds to this worthwhile effort, please use the option on the Membership Renewal Form that can be found on our website.

Speaking of our website, if you have not had the pleasure of viewing it recently please do so. Dennis Yerkey, our Webmaster, has done an outstanding job of presenting the OX5 Aviation Pioneers story along with our history. You can also find links on the website for all the necessary housekeeping forms that you might require. Best wishes to all of you and happy memories.



Don Voland, National OX5 President

Secretary's Message

GREETINGS AND GOOD NEWS FROM THE SECRETARY

After two decades of service in the leadership roles of OX5 Aviation Pioneers, it is a pleasure to share with you, the fact that your organization is in VERY GOOD condition. We have stabilized the financial status of the organization. We are (for the first time) operating with a budget. We are recognizing the outstanding members with awards, such as Legion of Merit, Legion of Honor, Pioneer Woman, and Hall of Fame. We are offering additional service to OX5 Wings. We are looking to the future by granting outreach programs and a Scholarship program for young members and potential members. You can be proud to be a member of this prestigious organization.



James Beisner, Secretary

Treasurer's Message

Hello All,

We had a wonderful time at the reunion. It was filled with many precious moments with sharing of stories, exploring Dayton aviation history, and **having lots of laughs**. We also **accomplished a lot in our Governor's** meeting and reviewed our financial standings which are very solid. We look forward to supporting our wings more and also to offering scholarships to pass on the OX5 aviation and innovation history. The dues of \$30 are due by the end of January. Also if you would like to donate to OX5 or the scholarship program, it would be much appreciated!

I hope that you all have a joyous, memorable holiday season.



Janet Barnard, Treasurer
(937) 307-8763, JBarnardox5@gmail.com

ED NOTE:

We are always interested in the inclusion of member stories and pictures with aviation history or current activities.

They will be scanned and returned unblemished.

**Janet Barnard, Editor
PO Box 769
Troy, Ohio 45373**

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

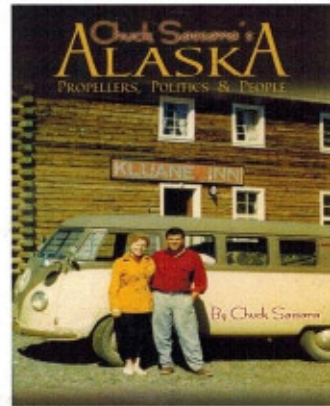
Propellers, Politics & People

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

It starts in 1910 with his Grandfather in Pittsburgh, Pa. and goes on for 174 pages of adventures and photos. Chuck is a tremendous story teller. 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.

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

Include your return address and a check for \$31.00. You should receive the book in 6 to 10 days. Note on the check that you are an OX5 member. Chuck will be happy to sign the book and include a personalized message if you would like. Please support our member



Folded Wings

Perry Brown of Yountville, CA 3/28/2014 Robert Larrabee of Argyle, TX 10/24/2015
Richard Taylor of Seattle, WA 10/04/2015 Carl Wheeler 9/17/2015
Robert Wilden of Albuquerque, NH 10/6/15

Chuck Holmes

It is with regret that I report the final flight west of Chuck Holmes, on June 21, 2015. Chuck was Treasurer of the Colorado Chapter of OX-5. He was an avid aviation historian and had a personal collection of many and varied aviation artifacts. He served in the USAF during WW-II as a parachute rigger and aircrew member (gunner) on B-24s.

Chuck began teaching in the Greely public school system in 1950 and retired in 1988. He was an active member of the Colorado Aviation Historical Society serving on the board of that organization for several years, and was recognized by that organization with a Special Recognition Award and also the Laureate Award. He was also inducted into the Colorado Aviation Hall of Fame. He also served on the Board of Directors of the OX-5 Aviation Pioneers.

WING STRUTS

Kansas Wing

Harold Walters states:

There was a good turn-out for the September meeting. The Kansas Wing of OX5 Aviation Pioneers met at Stearman Field at Benton, KS September 11 at 6:00 PM.

The restaurant is an excellent place to eat, and the atmosphere is very aviation. The evening was great for flying.

After the meal, we toured Hector Comacho's hangar with his Stearman rebuild, and parts manufacturing capability. The shop was very well laid out and well organized for airplane building, a real inspiration.

Texas Wing

The Texas Wing held its annual reunion and business meetings at the MGM Elegante Hotel in Lubbock on July 17-18. We visited and enjoyed two museums in Lubbock—the Silent Wings Museum, dedicated to the WWII invasion glider pilots who trained there, and the Science Spectrum Museum where member Jack Brouse's restored 1929 OX5 Alexander Eaglerock biplane is suspended in the main rotunda. The disassembled airplane was obtained in Gasport, NY, moved to Arlington, Texas in a pickup truck and restored to like-new condition by Jack and friends in his garage. It was flown to Oshkosh, Wisconsin and to Ottumwa, Iowa, where it received top EAA and AAA awards.

Our new Wing President is Colton Woodward, age 24, who replaced our Immediate Past President, Cade Woodward. (Cade was also 24 years old when he took the office in 2013 which apparently stimulated an increased Texas Wing membership to 74 OX5ers).

The Texas Wing anticipates an interesting and productive year, states George Vose.

OX5 Aviation Pioneers
PO Box 769
Troy, OH 45373

Web Site – www.ox5.org



Pay your 2016 dues \$30.

Send them to:

OX5 Aviation Pioneers
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