



# OX5 NEWS



Celebrating 68 Years: 1955 - 2023  
Volume 65 - Number 1: Spring 2023

*Published for and by the Members of the OX5 Aviation Pioneers*  
Committed to keeping the history of early aviation alive  
Web Site - [www.ox5.org](http://www.ox5.org)

## - SUN 'n FUN 2023 -

Story and Photos by Russ Berry



Sun 'n Fun has come and gone for another year. We had the best weather ever. Lots of warm temperatures and lots of sunshine. It really helped to warm up these old northern bones of mine!

A special thanks to the Florida wing and the wonderful hospitality that they provided at the OX-5 clubhouse.

Wasn't the food great, and the clubhouse is such a wonderful place to sit and enjoy each other's company. It was fun to sit and listen to old stories and past times.

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It was good to see the OX-5 engine run. Definitely a great piece of aviation history there for everyone to see and *hear!* There is no mistaking the sound of the mighty OX-5 in action. I have included some pics I took of the clubhouse gang, check them out on page 4. Page 3 shows Sean Sadler, (corporate pilot for Hartzell Propeller) having great fun firing up the OX-5. The grin on his face tells the whole story. I'm definitely looking forward to next year's event and I hope you are as well.





# Messages from your Officers



## President's Message:



Sun 'n Fun is over! We had a great visit with the Florida Wing and enjoyed the folks at the clubhouse. Great hospitality as always.

There have been several questions about a possible 2023 reunion. The Ohio Wing is proposing that we host the reunion here in Ohio. In Troy, we will be celebrating the 100th anniversary of WACO aircraft. The first production WACO aircraft were made in Troy, Ohio in 1923. At WACO Field there will be a fly-in and celebration Friday through Sunday, September 15-17, 2023.

Our thinking is to enjoy the fly-in that weekend while keeping in mind the tremendous contribution the OX-5 made to aviation during the early years of flight. We are proposing a banquet for OX-5 folks on Sunday evening followed by a business meeting on Monday morning, then off to some site seeing that afternoon. Tuesday would then be a travel day. This is just our beginning proposal. Once we have approved our plans through all the members, we will have Steve Stanford, our editor, send out an official invitation and detailed plans for the event. We hope to see everyone in Troy, Ohio in September! Thanks for your time.

### Russ Berry

National OX5 President

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## Treasurer's Message:



Winter has passed – not too brutal for us this year. Snows didn't last long and temperatures were mostly moderate. Spring has sprung and the flowers are blooming. The grass is green and the grass runways are so inviting – just watching for a few wet spots yet.

Registrations have started for aviation summer camps. WACO is gearing up for a busy year from basics to drone programs; hoping to fill all their slots. The Aviation Cadet program is growing thanks to the tutelage of Tim Pinkerton, Russ Berry, Jim Beisner and a some of the great WACO volunteers. Thank you all for your extra donations to our scholarship programs. They make a difference and do change lives.

If you haven't paid your dues yet, please do so now. Mail me a check or use our PayPal option on the website. Enjoy your summer. I hope to be in my Cub – flying low and slow with the door open!

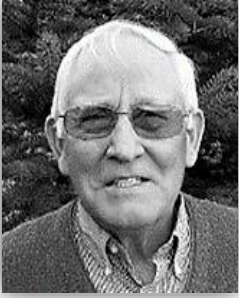
### Patty Wagner

National Treasurer

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## Secretary's Message:



Greetings To Everyone: I want to welcome Steven Stanford to the OX5 team as our National Newsletter Editor. I did my best over the years, between all of the Secretary Duties, to get a publication out to the members. I will continue to feed information to Steve for use in upcoming issues. Please feel free to send your articles and pictures directly to Steve from this point forward. Email him at [thefordroom@hotmail.com](mailto:thefordroom@hotmail.com) with your material.

My next duty is to get a mailing out to all the Regular Members who have not paid their 2023 dues. To check your membership status, look on your membership card and it will indicate if you are current through 12-31-2023. Thank you to all members for your helpful donations each year. Our overhead keeps rising but we have not increased the annual membership dues for regular members for years. Your donations allow us to keep moving forward with our scholarship programs and support to the Wings. Best wishes and happy memories!

### Don Volland

National OX5 Secretary

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## More from Sun 'n Fun 2023

Mac Meek and Sean Sadler enjoy the mighty roar of Jim Beisner's trailer mounted OX-5 Engine!



## Sun 'n Fun 2023- Club House Style!



The OX-5 Clubhouse is where friends, old and new, gather to catch up on each other's lives and to remember flights of fancy from times past



Patricia Griswold, Tim Pinkerton, and Jim Beisner take time out from their conversation to pose for the camera



Where would the club be without Nicole Azzaro keeping us all organized!



## Editor's Message

### Introducing Steven Stanford, Your New Editor for the OX5 News



If you have noticed that this issue of the OX5 News looks a little different than previous issues, you can blame me! I'm new to this group and new to the history of aviation in general. A little over a year ago I became the Saturday Associate at the WACO Air Museum and since then I've been immersing myself in WACO history and of course that includes the history of the OX-5 engine as well. One Saturday at the museum I noticed a display piece on the wall that mentioned the OX5 Association and a quick Google search led me to your website. I soon realized that I already knew some of the folks behind the OX5 Aviation Pioneers from our mutual connections to

the museum, so I mailed in my \$30 for an annual membership. With my first issue I saw that you were looking for an editor and after talking with Russ Berry, I offered my services.

I have been involved with *The Henry Ford Heritage Association* for a number of years and have written for their publication *The Ford Legend*. A couple of years ago they asked me to become their editor. It is that experience that I gladly bring to the OX5 News.

So, what can you expect from me as your editor? According to an online dictionary I consulted, the definition of **editor** is "Someone who edits especially as an occupation". Well, that's fine, but I don't consider my efforts for either The OX5 News or The Ford Legend as an occupation, more of a diversion and mental exercise in my old age!

Looking deeper, when I looked at definition of **edit**, I saw four activities that I hope to bring to the OX5 News as I serve as your editor:

- 1: to prepare something for publication or public presentation.**
- 2: to assemble something by cutting and rearranging.**
- 3: to alter, adapt, or refine, especially to bring about conformity to a standard or to suit a particular purpose.**
- 4: to direct the publication of edits in a publication.**

These are the things I will try to bring to the OX5 News, but I can't produce your newsletter alone. There are many regular contributors to this newsletter. These folks are the true OX5 enthusiasts who willingly share their knowledge and passion with us in each issue. Then there are the folks who will continue the fact checks, corrections, and suggestions before each issue is published. Finally, there is the publisher that makes sure each issue is printed and mailed directly to you.

And I want your help as well! Let me know your thoughts. Do you have a bit of history to share? How about an article or news that you would like to see published? Maybe an old photograph that everyone else should see. This is your newsletter, so send your material along to me and I'll do my best to include it in a future issue. You can mail items of interest to our P.O. Box or you can send it directly to me by email at:

[thefordroom@hotmail.com](mailto:thefordroom@hotmail.com)

Now, I'm by no means an expert in aviation history or the OX-5 in particular, but I hope by serving as your editor to become better informed over time. For example, is OX5 or OX-5 proper? I'm seeing it both ways in print! Anyway, it is my pledge to you that I will endeavor to continue this publication's contribution to the club and to do my best to bring you an informative and worthwhile publication. I would like to thank your board of directors for the opportunity to serve as the editor of the OX5 News!

- Steven Stanford

## WACO Cadets receive scholarships from the OX5 Aviation Pioneers



Gabe Campbell (left), received his scholarship in September 2022 and Luke Watkins (right), received his in March 2023. Each young man received a \$1,000 scholarship from the OX5 Club. Thanks to all our members who support the scholarship fund!

Gabe and Luke have been involved in the Aviation Cadet program at the WACO Air Museum and have actively worked in the *Jim Beisner Airplane Restoration Area* at the museum. We've said it before, but it bears repeating, Jim started showing young people how to restore airplanes 50 plus years ago and these are just two of the young people who have benefited from the experience!

Congratulations to Gabe and Luke on your scholarships and we wish you all the best with your futures in aviation!

### Speaking of awards...

This 1967 award was presented by the OX5 Club of America to **Clayton J. Brukner** – “*Who assisted in the design and building of the OX5 WACO. The plane in which many OX5ers learned to fly. It led to the transition of pasture fields into flying fields*”.

Does anyone know if a complete list of such awards presented by the OX5 Club exists?





## Donations



We want to acknowledge the many generous donations that our Life and Regular Members have sent in for the 2023 membership year. These donations allow the Organization to reach out to the public through our Scholarship Programs, Wing Newsletters, and Aviation Displays at Sun-n-Fun, AirVenture, and the WACO Museum. Thank you all for being a special part of this great Organization.

Arter, Calvin J.	Griswold, Patricia	Richards, Fred R.
Bailey, Robert G.	Koelling, William W.	Schexnaydre, Jared
Barbee, William Terry	Lane, Robert King	Sittauer, Larry R.
Bejna, Robert C.	Lester, Morton W.	Thompson, James
Blum, LeRoy	Martin, Lindsay	Victor, K. Matthew
Cullman, Daniel H.	Mitchell, Ernest L	Wagner, Bob & Patty
DeLong, James G.	Moore, Charles E.	Witt, Donald R.
Etherington, Dale E.	Newhouse, V. Lorraine	Wolff, Charles L.
Ewing, Barbara Ball	Payant, Kenneth A.	Yerkey, Dennis G.
Gallagher, Tim	Pleggenkuhle Jr., Clifford M.& Kellee	
Gilbert, Ronald L.	Prose USN RET, Captain Dorothy A.	



## Flown West



It has been reported that the following members have Flown West:

Marion Robles	L13381	Midwest Florida Wing	September 16, 2009
Charles A. Kulp Sr.	L20361	Virginia Wing	October 17, 2021



## New Members



We are delighted to welcome these new members. They have joined a premier aviation organization that has been chartered since 1955 in Latrobe, Pennsylvania. Their support will help us keep the club viable, continue our scholarship program for young persons and enable the aviation educational aspect as written in our charter.

### 2023 New Members

Kay Wilder - #23308	John Wilder - #23309	K. Matthew Victor - #23310
Roger Watkins - #23311	Nancy Royer - #23312	Steven C. Stanford - #23313
Bill Cowie - #23314		



**Steve Hennessy** reports an update on the OX5 Aeromotor Project that he and Rich Wilbur are working on out in Vancouver, WA.

Steve and Rich had the Main and Rod Bearings successfully rebabbitted by Paul's Rod & Bearing, a shop near Kansas City, MO. Steve recommends the company, and asked that we share their contact information here for anyone else that might be interested in similar services. Thanks, Steve, for the update and we hope that you and Rich will keep us posted on your project!



## Remembering Charlie Kulp, the Flying Farmer



**Charles Allen Kulp** (September 20, 1925 – October 18, 2021), nicknamed the **Flying Farmer**, was longstanding member of the OX5 Aviation Pioneers and a well-known aerobatic pilot. He performed his comedy aerobatic routine almost every Sunday in season at the Flying Circus Aerodrome in Bealeton, Virginia for 34 years until his retirement in 2007. He was a Navy mechanic in the Pacific during World War II, and received his wings in July 1943 after taking lessons in Roanoke, Virginia. A former mechanic for Capital Airlines, Kulp managed small airports in Maryland and Virginia before joining the Flying Circus Airshow, of which he was a founding member.

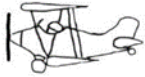
Throughout his career as the "Flying Farmer," Kulp flew a standard 65 horsepower (48 kW) unmodified Piper J-3 Cub. On October 28, 2007, Kulp flew his aerobatic comedy routine for the final time at the Flying Circus before retiring.

In 1993, Kulp took his act to Oshkosh, Wisconsin, for the "EAA Gateway to Aviation Classic". In 2000, Charlie performed at "Sun 'n Fun". As well as performing across the United States, Kulp performed at civilian and military airshows in Great Britain and Canada. Throughout his career in aviation, Kulp appeared in several newspaper articles and has been featured on the Discovery Wings Channel.

In addition to his airshow work, Kulp was a member of the Board of Directors for the Virginia Aviation Historic Society and an FAA-certified flight instructor. In 2000, Kulp received the Charles Taylor award from the FAA as a 50-year A&P mechanic. On November 8, 1997, Kulp was inducted into the Virginia Aviation Hall of Fame.

Thank you, Charlie, for your dedication to vintage aviation and your showmanship over many years. Thank you too for all the joy you brought to audiences around the world as the flying farmer!





## Model Member



This story about OX5 member Clayton Brukner was featured in the August 1975 issue of the OX5 News.



# OX5 NEWS

Published by and for Members of the OX5 Aviation Pioneers

VOLUME 17 – NUMBER 4

AUGUST 1975

## CLAYTON J. BRUKNER

Among our many interesting OX5 members is Clayton J. Brukner. He was born in Ravenna, Nebraska – the son of a hardware merchant and farm dealer who later manufactured such machinery in Battle Creek, Michigan. It was there that “Clayt” attended school, and met a classmate by the name of Elwood Junkin, better known as Sam, with whom he became a lifelong associate. Clayt and Sam instigated an airplane-building project in the basement boiler room of the Battle Creek High School in 1915. And in order to support his early aviation incentives Clayt Brukner worked as an electrician in a cereal factory.

Ironically, both Clayt and Sam soloed in 1921. Then followed a period of exhibition flying and a turn at building and rebuilding Curtiss-type pushers. They worked for a while at Curtiss Aeromarine and Standard aircraft plants. And by this time they were ready to develop their own design of an airplane for the general aviation market.

They then launched the Advance Aircraft Company at Troy, Ohio where they built an immediately successful 3-place biplane, using war-surplus OX5 engines.



Clayton J. Brukner

In 1928, they changed the name to Waco Aircraft Company.

Production of OX5-powered Wacos reached a high of six per day before the supply of surplus engines became exhausted. Open and cabin model Wacos were then designed around the air-cooled radial engines. These new models achieved world-wide fame and popularity for ease of handling and good performance, placing first in races of various types, including the Ford Reliability Tours.

Between the World Wars, Waco became the largest builder of commercial airplanes and supplied several hundred of its UPF-7s to the aerobatic phase of the Civilian Pilot Training Program. During WWII they developed Cargo and troop-carrying gliders for the military, and provided engineering for these gliders to fifteen other aircraft manufacturers. Clayton

J. Brukner remained as President of Waco until his retirement. He still lives in Troy, Ohio, and is widely recognized as a humanitarian and for his unparalleled generosity. Few people have done more for the advancement of general aviation – a prime reason for his name having been placed in the OX5 Hall of Fame at Hammondsport in May of this year.

**Editor's Note:** I'm proposing that we reinstate this feature that OX5 News has used in the past. I'm calling it "Model Member" and my proposal is to feature a current member of the OX5 Aviation Pioneers in each issue. I would love to get to know our members and their stories, and I think our readers would as well. So, if you *are* someone or *know* someone whose story we should all get to know a little better, please drop me a line. I'll reach out to that individual and ask for their story and photograph to feature in a future issue of the OX5 News!

BE PART OF THE  
**LARGEST WACO GATHERING**  
 SINCE THIS PHOTO...



...when 100 WACO  
 UPF7s were  
 manufactured  
 in 99 days, with the  
 last trainer created  
 September 28, 1940,  
 in Troy, OH.

Activity Schedule

SEPTEMBER 13-17, 2023

**The WACO Air Museum and Learning**

**Center** in Troy Ohio is pulling out all the stops for this year's Fly-In. The September Fly-In typically brings in at least 50 to 60 antique aircraft for their usual three-day weekend event. This year they hope to have 100 antique airplanes on the field for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of WACO in Troy.

Do you have a WACO or other antique aircraft you can fly to WACO Field 1WF? Contact the museum and let them know you will be attending! Give them a call at 937-335-9226 or email them at [admin@wacoairmuseum.org](mailto:admin@wacoairmuseum.org)

**Check out the list of events below!**

The Weaver Aircraft Company landed in Troy, Ohio in 1923 - 100 years ago this year! It is only fitting and proper that the WACO Historical Society and its Air Museum and Learning Center celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of WACO in Troy Ohio at their annual fly-in. The celebration is going to be bigger and better than ever! Just take a look at the five-day schedule on the right. These are just a few of the events planned.

- **Special tours for pilots**
- **Car shows**
- **Parade of Planes**
- **Hanger Dance and Dinner**
- **RC Airshow**
- **Food Trucks**
- **Biplane Rides**
- **Kids' Activities**
- **Fly-Overs**

There is something happening each day of this extended annual fly-in and WACO wants you to know they would love to see you there!

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13** \*\*pilot only event

WACO Pilots Gather at WACO Aircraft (KBTL) in Battle Creek, MI\*\*  
 Group Flight to WACO Field (IWF)\*\*

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14** \*\*pilot only event

Arrivals of WACOs Continue WACO Pilot's Hangar Party\*\*  
 Pilot Tours\*\*  
*arranged by National Aviation Heritage Area*

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15** \*\*pilot only event

Driving Tour of the Original WACO Sites WACO Biplane Rides  
 Pilot Tours\*\* Food Trucks  
*arranged by Miami County Visitor's Bureau*  
 Friday Evening Pre World War II Car Show & Live Music  
*sponsored by Wells Electric*

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16**

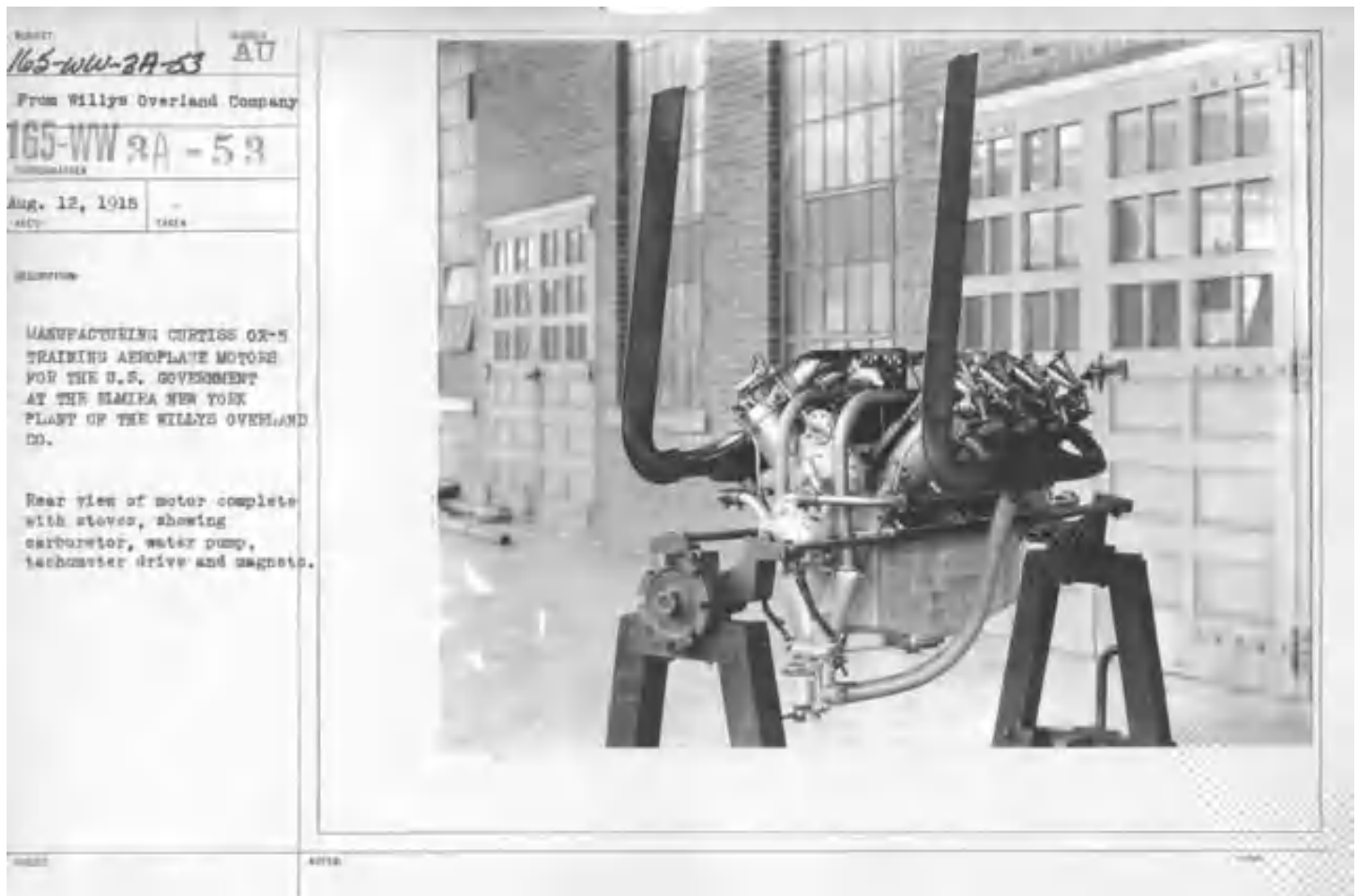
Parade of Planes WACO Biplane Rides  
*sponsored by Miami County Visitor's Bureau* Kids' Activities  
 Driving Tour of the Original WACO Sites Food Trucks  
 Hangar Dance and Dinner  
*with Tom Daugherty Orchestra*  
 Meet and Greets with Notable WACO Historic Figures

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17**

Farewell & Send Off of WACO Pilots WACO Biplane Rides  
 RC Airshow with Candy Drop Kids' Activities  
*by WACO Barnstormers* Fly-Overs  
 Driving Tour of the Original WACO Sites Car Show  
 Food Trucks

## OX-5 Historic Photograph

Here is a photograph taken by the Willys Overland Company on August 12, 1918 of an OX-5 airplane engine. The photo was taken at their Morrow Plant in Elmira, New York.



The photo is described as a **rear view of a complete motor with stoves, showing carburetor, water pump, tachometer drive and magneto.** *Source: PICRYL.com and is a public domain image.*

Willys Overland was one of the major producers of the Curtiss OX-5 engine during World War I. The company produced over 8,000 engines under contract to the United States government. Willys Overland's role in the production of the OX-5 was significant, as the engine was used on a wide variety of aircraft that played a major role in the war.

Willys Overland began production of the OX-5 in 1917. The company used a number of different facilities to produce the engines, including its main factory in Toledo, Ohio, as well as a number of smaller plants in other parts of the country.

Willys Overland's production of the OX-5 was a major undertaking, and the company employed a large number of workers to meet the demand. The OX-5 was a reliable engine for its time, and it was well-suited for use in aircraft. The engine was powerful enough to give aircraft the speed and maneuverability they needed to be effective in combat. The OX-5 was also relatively easy to maintain, which was important for aircraft that were often operating in harsh conditions.

Willys Overland's production of the OX-5 was a major contribution to the war effort. The company's engines were used on a wide variety of aircraft that helped the United States and its allies to victory. Willys Overland's role in the production of the OX-5 is an important part of the company's history, and it is a testament to the company's commitment to innovation and quality. – *Source: Google Bard AI Article Generator*

**OX5 Aviation Pioneers**  
**P. O. Box 769**  
**Troy, OH 45373**



**Attention Regular OX5 Members - Dues Renewal Time** - The annual dues year starts January 1, 2023 and extends to December 31, 2023. If you have not already done so, please take a moment now to renew your membership! Regular members who have not paid their dues for the past two years will be removed from the Master Membership List.

**Please visit us on our Web Site at: [www.ox5.org](http://www.ox5.org)**