

# Preserving Our Past For The Future!

## What is an OX5 engine?



(Creve Coeur Airport Museum)

by Kimble D. McCutcheon

The OX-5 was the last in a series of Vee engines designed by Glenn Curtiss that began in 1910. It was a pre-war engine and although obsolete by World War I, it was still put into mass production and was the mainstay of the American wartime training program. There weren't too many options at the time for the US Army Air Service and the only good domestic trainer available was the Curtiss JN-4 Jenny, designed around the OX-5.

## What is our mission?

The OX5 Aviation Pioneers was organized in 1955 at Latrobe, Pennsylvania whose mission is, "to compile and record in detail the historical and educational history of the development of air transportation; to perpetuate the memory of pioneer airmen and their great sacrifices, accomplishments and contributions to the development of civil aviation; and to do honor to all pioneers in aviation, especially those associated with the OX5 engine".

(Preamble to our charter)

The goals of our mission remain intact. We hold Wing meetings, maintain a website, support giving scholarships to promote aviation skills and knowledge of aviation history in young people, and provide educational booths at air shows. We also publish a quarterly newsletter containing historical articles, encourage the operation of aviation museums, and support the preservation of aviation memorabilia.

We seek to maintain suitable ways to bring into focus member projects, and to recognize and honor their names and achievements.

The OX5 was started over 58 years ago and is one of the oldest continuously functioning aviation organizations in existence. Our organization was built from our rich traditions and history of the 1920s and 1930s.

## Early OX5 Aviation Pioneers History

In June of 1955, Charlie Carroll, the operator of the Latrobe, Pennsylvania Airport appeared before the Aero Club of Pittsburgh. He approached Clifford Ball, then Manager of Greater Pittsburgh Airport and President of the Aero Club of Pittsburgh, and suggested they arrange a rally for OX5 pilots.

The purpose of the meeting was to round up aviation people and to honor them for the part they played in laying the foundation of the aviation industry as we know it.

Cliff Ball agreed to spearhead the project which was, at the time, not expected to be little more than of local interest. Charlie Carroll welcomed the opportunity to host the aviation pioneers and a meeting was arranged at Latrobe Airport with a luncheon, banquet and lodging made available at the Mission Inn.

Word of the rally began to spread. Realizing that there might be a need for a record of those who attended in case another get-together might be desired, Cliff Ball had temporary application forms printed in his office before he left for Latrobe.

Temporary officers were selected at Latrobe until a formal election could be held. Russ Brinkley was appointed President, Clifford Ball was appointed Secretary and Charlie Carroll was appointed Treasurer.

When the affair was over, 87 persons had signed the application form, and 20 more were sent in by mail. The total was 107 applications that formed the nucleus of the OX5 Club. At that time the OX5 Club of America came into existence and the parent club became the OX5 Club of Pennsylvania. High membership was 4,000.



(Creve Coeur Airport Museum)



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## History Of The OX5 Hall Of Fame

Airplanes powered by Curtiss-built Model OX5 engines represented a period when flight grew from a side-show business to an air transportation industry. The pilots and mechanics of that period became a special group of old-timers.

It was on this concept that the OX5 Aviation Pioneers was founded in 1955. It grew to thirty-one Wings and some four thousand active members whose backgrounds were general aviation, airlines, and military, all with a common bond. At one time, they all had a close relationship with that nostalgic symbol ...the water-cooled Curtiss OX5 engine.

Known as the association's prestigious honor, the *OX5 Hall of Fame Award* recognizes those outstanding individuals who, through their exceptional work and achievements, have made a significant contribution to the fostering and development of the aviation industry. The names of the Hall of Fame recipients are embossed on the plaque that is located at the Glenn Curtiss Museum in Hammondsport, NY.

## Wing Affiliations And Meetings

As a Wing member you will have the opportunity to attend meetings as called by the Wing President. OX5 holds a National Reunion/Board meeting once a year at various locations throughout the United States. At the Reunions we conduct business, elect new officers, honor persons who have contributed to aviation, travel to historic aviation locations, and experience flight history first hand. We invite you to join this prestigious Organization.

The OX5 Web Site is <http://ox5.org>



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**OX5**  
**AVIATION**  
**PIONEERS**

A 501(C)(3) PA Corporation

Preserving our aviation past...  
for the future



(Curtiss 24)

**OX5 AVIATION PIONEERS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Membership is open to a person who has flown an OX5 powered aircraft, owned an OX5 powered aircraft, or actively participated in the design, construction, repair, maintenance, or operation of OX5 powered aircraft. **Membership is also open to Aviation Enthusiasts who affirm that he/she will work toward the perpetuation of the history and membership of the OX5 Aviation Pioneers.**

Applicant's Name (Print) \_\_\_\_\_ Applicant's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City - State - Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Forward this completed application form together with a check in the amount of \$30.00 for your annual membership dues to: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Membership year is Jan. 1 - Dec. 31)

**OX5 Aviation Pioneers**      **(Donations are welcome -**  
**PO Box 769**                      **please send them to the**  
**Troy, Ohio 45373**                **address on the left.)**

A large Membership Application and Membership Renewal form can be found on our Web Site at <http://ox5.org> under Member Services.

