

The Wright Icon News

Bringing an Icon to Dayton - The Birthplace of Aviation

January 2010
Volume 2, Issue 1



Soaring 220 feet above the intersection of I-70 & I-75 and seen by thousands of vehicles daily, this 120 foot wingspan monument to the Wright Flyer will symbolize Dayton, Ohio throughout the world.

Today's Modern Aerospace Hub - Tomorrow's Aviation Leader

Membership Drive Kicks Off

On October 25th, 2009, the Wright Image Group hosted its first orientation for prospective members in the Wright B Flyer hangar at Dayton-Wright Brothers Airport in Springboro. The event, attended by 75 potential new members, was a big success. In the setting of full scale flying models of the Wright B, attendees enjoyed grilled hamburgers and hot dogs with all the trimmings.



The main event was a presentation by Walt Hoy, explaining what the Wright Icon is all about, why we need it and how we're going about getting it built. That was followed by Steve Brown, whose company, Brown & Bill's Architects, Inc., designed the monument as it is currently envisioned. Steve also set up a large scale mockup of the



See [Membership](#) on page 3

Grassroots Contributions

We're just really getting started on our fundraising effort. Unlike so many of the current campaigns for monuments and museums, we have had no direct mail campaign, no radio commercials, no television appeals, no mass media of any kind. It's been a campaign by word of mouth, one person at a time.

See [Grassroots](#) on page 3

Support Continues To Gather

The Dayton Foundation President Michael Parks: "As president of The Dayton Foundation, I wholeheartedly support this effort that will help cement Greater Dayton as the rightful birthplace of aviation and our nation's innovative leader in aviation and aerospace technology."

The Fairborn City Council, after a presentation by Walt Hoy on December 21st, approved a Resolution of Support for the Wright Icon, joining the growing list of regional municipalities that support the concept of the monument.

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Webmaster Joins The Team

We are proud to announce that the Wright Image Group now has a professional webmaster! Mr. Dave Nieberding of Amelia, Ohio, has volunteered to take control of our website and move us along toward a more functional, useful, and attractive site.

Dave went to Carroll High School in Dayton and graduated from Ohio State University in 1976 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Computer and Information Science. He's the Lead Product Support Specialist for Cincom Systems, Inc., in Cincinnati, where he has worked for the last 12 years. Prior to that, he was the Director of Management Information Systems for KDI Precision Products, Inc., also in Cincinnati, where he worked for 20 years. He enjoys skiing, backpacking, and camping.

Walter Ohlmann, Steve Brown and Curt Nelson met with Dave in November and defined our site requirements for him. He's already made big improvements! Check it out at www.wrightmonument.org !

**Welcome
aboard,
Dave!**

Stepping Out On Design Development

The Wright Image Group is close to taking its first concrete, money-spending step towards completing the iconic Wright Flyer monument at the intersection of I-70 and I-75. With his initial design concept as a starting point, our architect, Steve Brown, president of Brown and Bills Architects, has estimated the cost of completing design development work at \$175,000 – assuming no unanticipated major design problems. All that money is not yet on hand – we're still about \$65,000 short of the goal – but the board feels that taking concrete steps soon with the funds available would enhance our ability to solicit further contributions from all quarters. Success builds upon success!

**Success
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Steve would begin with a defined work package that would cost less than \$40,000 – one half from funds on hand, and the other half from a matching funds pledge. With that money, Brown and Bills would accomplish a Preliminary Plan and Elevations, the initial phase of actual design development for the project. Included in the work package would be the preliminary load calculations based upon our current design concept. They may also be able to get started on the second design development task, an Analysis of Materials. This analysis includes the most challenging of the design issues we face – the foundation for the platform, the cables for the vertical supports (the "tower"), the tower itself, and lastly and most demanding, the Flyer and its connection to the supporting pedestal. Brown and Bills will have to put most of this work on contract or find pro bono support. The foundation work can be done with minimal outside help, and that would be included in this initial funded work package. Work can probably be completed within two months of starting.

See [*Stepping Out*](#) on page 3

Wright Image Group
polo shirts
Can be purchased
for \$20
(Available in SM, M,
L, and XL)

Call us at
937-276-2963

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monument, a table top display about seven feet tall, for all to appreciate the engineering achievement that it will represent.

Highly visible at this first major event for the WIG were the new light blue "corporate color" polo shirts worn by all board members. Procured by board member Jon Kurtz, president of Creative Banners, Flags and Poles, and embroidered with the Wright Icon logo, these shirts are also now available to the public. (See adjacent box)

Many of the people attending were strongly interested in supporting the effort and made a total of \$1580 in donations. Treasurer Jacqueline Nawroth processed 12 supporting member applications at the time of the event, yielding \$295 in dues. We received twelve more memberships by mail a short time later, and the WIG continues to solicit & receive memberships from interested supporters.



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But the word is getting out. Every week we receive checks. We received one for \$5 and another for \$10,000, but most are \$50, \$100 or \$150. It's truly a *campaign* of the people to honor and memorialize two inventors who were *men* of the people. They weren't rich, they weren't renowned, they were just two people with determination and perseverance.

So what could be more appropriate than the people honoring two of their own?

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The third and final design development task is completing a Preliminary Site Design. Remaining work on the Analysis of Materials and this Preliminary Site Design will be done as quickly as time and contributions allow! You can expect that we will partition the remaining work into discreet packages (as this one has been) to allow the soonest possible completion of design development. Then we'll be ready to start actual construction drawings and work. Of course, fund-raising will need to reach a much higher plateau to support that final stage, but having the design development work done will enable us to credibly answer questions like, "How much will construction cost?" and "How long will it take?" and "What will the Flyer weigh?" It will bestow a much higher level of confidence and certainty on the monument project and go a long way in helping us raise the additional funds!

<u>Our Supporters</u>
Kiwanis Club of Dayton - Breakfast
Dayton Lions Club
Kiwanis Club of Kettering- Centerville
Exchange Club of Dayton
Military Officers Association of America, - Dayton Area Chapter
Hithergreen Aviation Club
High Twelve Club of Dayton
Northridge DVKH Optimist Club
Frank P. Lahm Flight #9 - Order of Daedalians
Petitions from individuals – Air Force Research Lab
Petitions from individuals – Kettering and Centerville

To get a brochure explaining the different contribution and recognition levels, write to us at:

*Monument
1605 N. Main St
Dayton, OH 45405*

Annual Membership Dues

Individual \$20
Couple \$30
Business \$50

To join, send your check for dues to:

**Wright Image Group, Inc.
1605 N. Main St.
Dayton, OH 45405-4198**

Board Member Spotlight



Stephen Brown – Vice-President

Steve has been the Principal-in-Charge of the Wright Monument design since its inception. He has a number of impressive design and construction achievements in his resume that include the Wright Flyer in Riverscape Park, the \$17M Stillwater Center, the Masonic Temple restoration, the Engineers' Club of Dayton restoration, and the Ronald McDonald House. He graduated from the University of Cincinnati with a Bachelor of Architecture degree in 1975 and went to work immediately as a staff architect for Brown & Head &

Associates, rising as the company evolved until reaching his current position as President, Brown and Bills Architects. He is a past president of the Leadership Dayton Association, the Ronald McDonald House of Dayton, and the Kiwanis Club of Dayton. He is a 33rd degree Mason. Steve has also been a general aviation pilot since 1965, logging flight hours in balloons, gliders and fixed wing aircraft.

WIG Board of Directors

- Walt Hoy - President
- Stephen Brown – Vice President
- Walter Ohlmann – Secretary
- Jacqueline Nawroth – Treasurer
- George Gianopulos
- Shayna Kolodesh
- Jon Kurtz
- Amanda Wright Lane
- Ellie Lewis
- Curt Nelson
- Anthony Perfilio
- Walter Rice
- Marshall Ruchman
- Bob and Sally Ruh
- Toula Stamm

Published by: Wright Image Group, Inc.
1605 North Main St
Dayton, OH 45405-4198

Phone: 937-276-2963
800-266-4767

Website: www.wrightmonument.org

Email: walter@ponweb.com