

The Wright Icon News

Bringing an Icon to Dayton - The Birthplace of Aviation

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

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New Display Model Getting Lots of Use – and Attention!



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.

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Walt Hoy and the new display model set up for the 50th NAHF Enshrinement

Wright Image Group Founder and Chairman of the Board, Walt Hoy, and project architect, Steve Brown, collaborated on redesigning and building a large scale updated display model of our monument. Such an update has been needed since Steve shifted away from his initial twin pedestal design to the single pedestal now depicted in all our artistic renderings. Steve provided the drawings from which Walt cut the parts of the base and shaped the pedestal. Steve also provided the Flyer itself. When these two guys put their heads together, one could get the impression there is nothing they couldn't build!

Walt's company, Fox Lite, Inc., with all the materials and tools needed, was the ideal location to build it; so Walt was ready to go to work on it when the unexpected happened – he separated tendon from bone in his right thumb and had to wear a cast on his right hand. At that point, we were rapidly approaching the first need date for the model, the 50th National Aviation Hall of Fame Enshrinement Ceremony and Banquet at the Dayton Convention Center. Feeling the pressure, Walt assembled a team of a half dozen friends and other WIG board members, and assumed a supervisory role! Progress was slower than wanted, but the model was finished, delivered, and set up not more than two hours before the start of the event!

Set up on the second floor just inside the 5th St crossover, where most people who attended had to pass by, it was quite impressive and elicited plenty of admiring comments. Many folks thought that it was especially poignant to display a model memorializing the birth of aviation at an event honoring some of that industry's superstars!

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WIG Supports NAHF

The National Aviation Hall of Fame is one of the Dayton Region's huge aviation attractions, and over the years its annual enshrinement ceremony and banquet has become a beloved tradition – the “Oscar Night of Aviation.” Earlier this year, however, the NAHF Board faced a hard decision – whether to continue in Dayton for the annual event, where it has consistently lost money, or move it to another city, a couple of which had made lucrative offers.

That threat first broke into the open at a meeting of



Eileen Brown, Steve Brown and Walter Ohlmann during the Enshrinement dinner.

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Not long after the Enshrinement, the model was needed at another event, a November 18th reception hosted by Mrs. Zoe Dell Nutter (a longtime supporter of the WIG project) at Hawthorn Hill, the former Dayton home of the Wright Brothers, to introduce the project to friends and influential members of the community. The model still needed just a few finishing touches, but it was set up in time, and again provided an appropriate tone for the event, as well as an inspiring backdrop for conversation.

Ten days later, Steve Brown and Curt Nelson took the model to Cleveland and put it on display in the Great Lakes Science Center during a reception for participants in NASA's Technology Days, hosted by the Ohio Aerospace and Aviation Council (OAAC). Technology Days was a 3-day event showcasing NASA capabilities to a broad range of representatives from government, industry and academia, and the WIG had offered to display our model as an example of the kind of collaboration and support NASA can provide. It was also an effective symbol of Ohio's aerospace leadership and aviation heritage – an important theme of the event.

Finally, we put the model on display in the Engineers Club of Dayton on December 6th, during the WIG's annual membership meeting. It provides a truly impressive and inspiring backdrop – even for business meetings!



Zoe Dell Nutter, flanked by (l to r) Walter Ohlmann, Walt Hoy, Curt Nelson, and George Gianopulos, in front of the new model set up for her fund-raiser at Hawthorn Hill.



(l to r) Curt Nelson, Amanda Wright Lane, NASA Glenn Research Center Director Ray Lugo, and Steve Brown in front of the model at the Great Lakes Science Center.

OSU Students Report on Progress



Student Team Leader, Tim Hendrickson presents the Capstone Project progress report to (l to r) Dick Meyer, Steve Brown, NASA's Tom Benson, and Chuck Stevens

The Ohio State University Capstone Project, undertaken at the behest of NASA's Glenn Research Center to support the Wright Image Group's monument design with computer analysis and wind tunnel testing, was the subject of a progress report on December 11th by the student team assigned to the project. The team, Lindsey Crump, Chelsea Curtin, Mitchell Le, and Tim Hendrickson, has been working on the initial computer analysis and, hosted by their faculty mentor, Department Head Dr. Mike Benzakein, took this opportunity immediately prior to the semester break to discuss progress and plans for the next semester.

WIG and NASA representatives were impressed by the quality of the work done so far, and the plans for

continuation. The wind tunnel test matrix planned by the team was very comprehensive, and as such, presented a challenge for them to be able to complete by the April 2013 final report date. Fortunately, the group was able to relieve them of some test conditions that are of low interest or probability. Also, Steve Brown volunteered to provide the 4' Flyer model to be used in the OSU wind tunnel. This further reduced the workload for the team and boosted our probability of success.

We will continue to report on this in successive newsletters.

NAHF from page 1

the National Aviation Heritage Alliance (NAHA), of which the NAHF is a partner. Dismayed by the possibility of losing this cherished event, NAHA voted to leap into a leadership position throughout the Dayton Region and try to generate enough support to ensure the annual enshrinement would continue here. The Wright Image Group was one of several NAHA partners to commit to as many tables at the enshrinement as it could fill from among its own membership. And the good news is that, ultimately, NAHA was successful in generating sufficient community support to ensure that the ceremony remained here for 2012! The WIG's own effort was also successful – we sold 24 seats, enough to fill 3 tables! To all our members who participated, we offer our deepest gratitude.

It remains to be seen whether 2013 will bring a greater assurance of sound financial footing for the NAHF to host the annual enshrinement here, where it has been for so long. If the same issue emerges, the WIG will stand ready again to shoulder its share of the burden.

Four New Board Members Elected

This year, the Wright Image Group held its monthly board meeting and, immediately afterward, its annual general membership meeting on December 6th at the Engineers Club in Dayton.

At the board meeting, all officers of the Wright Image Group were re-elected to another term.

At the general membership meeting, one third of the sitting directors were re-elected for another three-year term, and four new candidates were unanimously elected to an initial three year term on the Board of Directors:

Maj Gen (USAF Ret'd) David Eidsaune

Mr Franz Hoge

Mr Al Leland

Lt Gen (USAF Ret'd) Bob Raggio

All four gentlemen bring significant management and fund-raising talents to our project.

We welcome them to the Wright Image Group!



(l to r) Franz Hoge, David Eidsaune, Walter Ohlmann (re-elected WIG President) and Bob Raggio

WIG Tries Again For Regional Priority

Several times in recent years, but most earnestly in 2012, the WIG has participated in the Dayton Development Coalition's Priority Development and Advocacy Committee (PDAC) process. The process identifies regional projects in five separate categories, defense, economic development, hospitals/healthcare, quality of life, and transportation/government services. A panel of highly qualified local individuals reviews all the projects in each category and ranks them in three tiers, "priority," "recommended," and "reviewed." Those rankings are then given to the full committee which makes the final determinations. This process gives the Dayton Region a structured way to communicate its developmental priorities to any governmental organization or individual who might be a potential source of funding.

This year the WIG put forth a cogent (and we hope effective) argument for our project to receive a "priority" rating. Since final determinations will be made the end of this month, look for results in the April newsletter!

Important Note to WIG Members

We are constantly looking for ways to conserve our scarce resources for use in design and construction of the monument. One of the things we can do is reduce mailing costs. The newsletter is a good example – we want to keep our membership informed, but each one we send out in hard copy costs over \$2.

If you are currently receiving a paper copy of our newsletter through the USPS, and you have an e-mail account to which we could send it instead, please let us know. To make that change, please call or e-mail Curt Nelson, 937-372-7050 or cnelson3@woh.rr.com, to update our records with your e-mail address.

Thank you for your help!

To join, make a donation, or get information explaining the different contribution and recognition levels, write to us at:

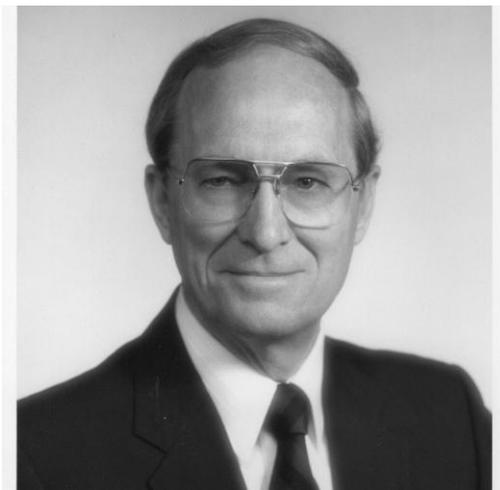
Monument
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Dayton, OH 45405
or visit our website,
www.wrightmonument.org

Annual Membership Dues*

1 year - \$20
2 years - \$35
3 years - \$50

**Applicable to Individuals, Families or Businesses*

Board Member Spotlight



Ralph Link

Ralph was born and raised in St. Henry, Ohio, and attended St. Henry High School where he was selected as All-State in basketball. In 1944 he enlisted in the Army Air Corps and served as a B-29 tail gunner. After his honorable discharge in 1946, he enrolled in the University of Dayton, graduating in 1950 with a Mechanical Engineering degree. He then went to work for Chrysler Airtemp in Dayton. By 1970 he had worked his way up to National Sales Manager and had decided to shift gears, becoming the President of Airtron, Inc., with its 15 divisions and \$100,000,000 in annual sales. After 10 years in that position, he sold the company to ARCO and served as its Vice President for the next 5 years. During that time he also served as President of 12 of the company's subsidiaries and as a board member. In 1985 he retired from ARCO, and in the years until 2004 he remained active as a management consultant and board member for various corporations.

For 8 years, Ralph has served as a mentor for University of Dayton business seniors. He and his wife, Esther, have been married for 63 years, and have 3 children and 4 grandchildren. They love to play golf, and Ralph is an avid fisherman.

Expected Donation Pledge

Payment Schedule

\$ Up to \$1000 - 1 month
1001 to \$2500 - 3 months
\$2501 to \$5000 - 6 months
\$5001 to \$10,000 - 12 months
\$10,001 to \$50,000 - 18 months
\$50,001 to \$100,000 - 24 months
Over \$100,000 - Negotiable

The WIG is a proud partner of the National Aviation Heritage Alliance



Make checks payable to:

Aviation Heritage Foundation, Inc.

With the following comment on the "For" line:

"Restricted for WIG"

WIG Board of Directors

- Walt Hoy - Chairman
- Walter Ohlmann - President
- Stephen Brown - 3rd VP (Design & Engineering)
- George Gianopoulos - 2nd VP (Fund Raising)
- Curt Nelson - 1st VP (Public Information)
- (vacant) - Secretary
- Jacqueline Nawroth - Treasurer
- David Eidsaune
- Franz Hoge
- Shayna Kolodesh
- Jon Kurtz
- Amanda Wright Lane
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- Al Leland
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- Ralph Link
- Anthony Perfilio
- Bob Raggio
- Walter Rice*
- Marshall Ruchman*
- Bob and Sally Ruh*
- Toula Stamm*

*Directors Emeritus

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