



The Beacon

The newsletter of Chapter 54
Lake Elmo, Minn.

DECEMBER 2007

DECEMBER 2007

THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM WILL BE ON
MONDAY DECEMBER 10, 2007.

- SOCIAL HOUR STARTING AT 7:00PM.
- MEETING AT 7:30PM. CHAPTER HOUSE, ENTRANCE B, LAKE ELMO AIRPORT.
- AT THE NEXT CHAPTER MEETING:

JILL WAHL FROM THE FARNSWORTH SCHOOL WILL SPEAK. SHE WILL TALK ABOUT RECENT REWARDS, PROGRAMS AND PROGRESS. EAA 54 CHAPTER SPONSORS THE 6TH GRADE FIELD TRIP TO THE AIR ACADEMY EACH YEAR.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

SPEED HOLMAN CHAPTER	1
PRESIDENT'S REPORT	2
TREASURER'S REPORT	3
IDEAS FOR IMPROVING THE CHAPTER	4
A CHRISTMAS POEM	5
MEETING MINUTES	6
HANGER TALK/CLASSIFIEDS	7
YOUNG EAGLES REPORT	8
TAXI TALK	9
QUOTE OF THE MONTH	10

Why We are called The Speed Holman Chapter

Compiled by Tom Gibbons

1898



1931

Holman was born in Minneapolis and grew up a daredevil. Early pranks and motorcycle racing earned him the nickname "Speed." He learned to fly at the Security Aircraft Company at Speedway Field in 1920, did some parachute jumps and received his first airplane as a gift from his father. Stunting and cross-country racing became his passion. His name became a household word, and when the newly organized Northwest Airways looked for its first pilot, they hired Speed. He became Operations Manager and pioneered air mail routes across Wisconsin and into North Dakota. His airline career was punctuated by wins in national air races, including the prestigious Thompson Trophy Race in 1930, part of the National Air Races in Chicago. Holman set a looping record that stood for many years; visited every corner of the State, lobbying the cities to build airports; was considered one of the country's top aerobatic pilots; and every fragment of his life was spectacular. Such was his death during an impromptu aerobatic performance at the dedication of the Omaha Airport. His funeral was the largest in state history, with a hundred thousand persons turning out along the funeral route and at the cemetery.



This is Speed at the Spokane Airport after winning the 1927 Air Derby



FROM THE FLIGHT DECK (PRESIDENTS REPORT)

BY PAUL HOVE

My Goodness, time certainly does fly by. I have been an officer at EAA Chapter 54 for the last six years. During that time I have retired from working for high tech companies, finished building an RV-7A and bought a lake home. I did not run for office this year so that I could use my weekends to entertain my grandchildren at the lake. I will still be an officer as Past President and will sit on the board of directors and I plan on be active in the chapter. Since this is the last Presidents Report that I will be submitting, I wish to thank all of you who contributed your time, aircraft and support to keep the chapter a viable active organization that supports the field of aviation.

EAA Chapter 54 elections were held this fall. The election was for Chapter Officers and Class III Directors. Congratulations to our returning and new officers and directors.

The Chapter roster for 2008 is:

Chapter Officers 2008 - 2009

Dale Seitzer – President
Lief Erickson – Vice President
Paul Rankin – Treasurer
Betty Seitzer – Secretary

Class II Directors 2007 - 2008

Tim Reberg – Events
Open –
Open –

Class III Directors 2008 – 2009

Art Edhlund – Education
Dave Becker – Young Eagles
Dave Fiebiger – Housing
John Renwick – Membership

Class IV Director

Paul Hove – Past President

Appointments:

Tom Gibbons – Newsletter Editor
Lief Ericson – Publicity
Art Edhlund – Flying Start Coordinator

Dale Rupp – Flight Advisor
Bill Shanks – Technical Counselor
Paul Liedl – Webmaster
Betty Seitzer – KidVenture

As you can see we have two or three openings for Class II Directors. This came about when the current directors became officers instead. I plan on leaving the positions open until the new officers are installed at the December meeting.



Here is a design that I am considering for my RV-7A. Let me know what you think.

Valters Aviation is selling 2008 EAA Calendars for Chapter 54. If you have not bought your calendars for next year stop by the clubhouse on any Saturday or on meeting nights or stop by Valters and have a cup of coffee and purchase them there. The calendar is in a wide format. It's very pretty and will look good on your hanger or den/kitchen wall.

Van's Air Force – Minnesota Wing will be meeting on Saturday December 8th at 10:00am in Doug Weiler's and my hanger at 41C Mooney Lane. Coffee and donuts will be available and everybody is welcome to come and listen to the presentations on RV aircraft.

The EAA Chapter 54 private pilot ground school class sessions will be held at the EAA Chapter 54 Chapter house on Lake Elmo Airport. Enrollment will be on February 4th and the classes are scheduled to begin February 7, 2008 at 7:00 PM.

Go to www.eaa54.org and click on ground school for more information.

Be sure to attend the next chapter meeting on December 10th.

EAA CHAPTER 54 TREASURER'S REPORT

By PAUL RANKIN

2007 November Financial Summary

Checking Account	\$ 8,276.77
Cash on hand	\$40.00
<u>Investments</u>	<u>\$ 6,933.30</u>
Total	\$ 15,250.28

Income

Donations	\$ 5.00
New Members	\$ 25.00
<u>Membership Renewals</u>	<u>\$ 275.00</u>
Total	\$305.00

Expenses

Insurance	\$ 505.02
Newsletter & Mailing	\$ 44.44
<u>Utilities - Electricity & Gas</u>	<u>\$ 59.43</u>
Total	\$ 609.19

Net Cash Flow (\$304.19)

A neat picture of our newly completed viewing pad. Look for dedication next year.



Chapter 54 Directory

President
Paul Hove
president@eaa54.org

Vice President
Dale Seitzer
vicepresident@eaa54.org

Treasurer
Paul Rankin
treasurer@eaa54.org

Secretary
Bettie Seitzer
secretary@eaa54.org

Education Director
Art Edlund
education@eaa54.org

Events Director
Tim Reberg
events@eaa54.org

Housing Director
Dave Fiebiger
housing@eaa54.org

Membership Director
John Renwick
membership@eaa54.org

Young Eagles Director
Dave Becker
youngeagles@eaa54.org

Newsletter Editor
Tom Gibbons
Newsletter@eaa54.org

Chapter member meet on the second Monday of every month at the Chapter House, Entrance B at Lake Elmo Airport (21D). The House is at the base of the airport beacon. The newsletter is printed on the first Monday of every month. Parts of the newsletter may be reprinted with appropriate credit.

21D RCO 118.625
21D Unicom: 122.8
TPA: 1932'
Runways: 4-22 (2497' x 75')
14-32 (2850' x 75')

Chapter Speaker Notes

November 12, 2007

Sorry, no speaker notes reported this month however, see below for some important information

Ideas for improving the Chapter:

At a recent meeting, Art Edlund shared information about what EAA headquarters was planning. This led to a group discussion about what our chapter can do to improve. I kept notes and here is the list. The Board of Directors and Officers will meet in early 2008 to plan for the next year. Look through the list and pick an activity you would like to champion and help us make the chapter more fun and vital.

Flying Contests, spot landings bomb drops

Ask members—survey about what they think is fun

Speakers to talk about different planes.

Get identical t-shirts and attend events and fly-ins as a group.

Publish our mission statement

Obtain grant to build addition

ATC Speaker

Powered parachute speaker

Scavenger hunt

Poker Run

Tower tours

Hangar Tours—progressive

Get email addresses for everyone

Letters to Young Eagles and parents

Letters to people not in a chapter

Member Name Tags

Cut away planes engines

Promotion, Washington county fair, community center, library bulletin boards,

Civil Air Patrol

EAA sign at Gate B

Find donors from VFW, Jaycees, American Legion to help fund

Reported by Dale Seitzer

'Twas the Night Before Christmas
(With apologies to Major Henry Livingston Jr.)

*'Twas the night before Christmas, and out on the ramp,
 Not an airplane was stirring, not even a Champ.
 The aircraft were fastened to tiedowns with care,
 In hopes that come morning, they all would be there.
 The fuel trucks were nestled, all snug in their spots,
 With gusts from two-forty at 39 knots.
 I slumped at the fuel desk, now finally caught up,
 And settled down comfortably, resting my butt.
 When the radio lit up with noise and with chatter,
 I turned up the scanner to see what was the matter.
 A voice clearly heard over static and snow,
 Called for clearance to land at the airport below.
 He barked his transmission so lively and quick,
 I'd have sworn that the call sign he used was "St. Nick".
 I ran to the panel to turn up the lights,
 The better to welcome this magical flight.
 He called his position, no room for denial,
 "St. Nicholas One, turnin' left onto final."
 And what to my wondering eyes should appear,
 But a Rutan-built sleigh, with eight Rotax Reindeer!
 With vectors to final, down the glideslope he came,
 As he passed all fixes, he called them by name:
 "Now Ringo! Now Tolga! Now Trini and Bacun!
 On Comet! On Cupid!" What pills was he takin'?*

*While controllers were sittin', and scratchin' their head,
 They phoned to my office, and I heard it with dread,
 The message they left was both urgent and dour:
 "When Santa pulls in, have him please call the tower."
 He landed like silk, with the sled runners sparking,
 Then I heard "Left at Charlie," and "Taxi to parking."
 He slowed to a taxi, turned off of three-oh
 And stopped on the ramp with a "Ho, ho-ho-ho."
 He stepped out of the sleigh, but before he could talk,
 I ran out to meet him with my best set of chocks.
 His red helmet and goggles were covered with frost
 And his beard was all blackened from Reindeer exhaust.
 His breath smelled like peppermint, gone slightly stale,
 And he puffed on a pipe, but he didn't inhale.
 His cheeks were all rosy and jiggled like jelly,
 His boots were as black as a cropduster's belly.
 He was chubby and plump, in his suit of bright red,
 And he asked me to "fill it, with hundred low-lead."
 He came dashing in from the snow-covered pump,
 I knew he was anxious for drainin' the sump.
 I spoke not a word, but went straight to my work,
 And I filled up the sleigh, but I spilled like a jerk.
 He came out of the restroom, and sighed in relief,
 Then he picked up a phone for a Flight Service brief.
 And I thought as he silently scribed in his log,
 These reindeer could land in an eighth-mile fog.
 He completed his pre-flight, from the front to the rear,
 Then he put on his headset, and I heard him yell, "Clear!"
 And laying a finger on his push-to-talk,
 He called up the tower for clearance and squawk.
 "Take taxiway Charlie, the southbound direction,
 Turn right three-two-zero at pilot's discretion"
 He sped down the runway, the best of the best,
 "Your traffic's a Grumman, inbound from the west."
 Then I heard him proclaim, as he climbed thru the night,
 "Merry Christmas to all! I have traffic in sight."*

Chapter 54 Meeting Minutes

November 12, 2007

Reported by Bettie Seitzer

EAA Chapter 54 meeting was called to order 11/13/07, 7:30 pm

Paul Hove President, Dale Seitzer Vice President and members were present.

New member / visitor is Bob Darst who is building a wooden airplane.

Old Business:

2008 Calendars available at the club house and from Valters -- \$10 each.

Chapter 54 Hats, still a few available, \$10 each

Treasurers Report was approved

Secretaries minutes was approved

New Business:

Chapter 54 Ground School starts the week of 2/4/07. 2 nights per week—details on the Chapter 54 website

RAAC Meeting Report Dave Fierbeger and Al Kupferschmidt attended. They were told Crystal will never go away—the costs would be too high for the developers.

\$300,000 will be spent at Lake Elmo on improvements—most funds going to downtown St Paul Airport.

Kevin Rebman- AOPA airport advocate is asking for letters of support from EAA chapters to MAC in support of the Crystal Airport.

Lake Elmo Airport Pilot Association is not active, they have some treasury and are discussing what to do with the money.

Director Reports:

Art Edlund Education Director – looking for another volunteer ground school instructor

New student EAA membership is starting soon—youth will have a newsletter, special website and other services.

Dave Becker, Young Eagles coordinator 25 Young Eagles were scheduled but low visibility cancelled the event/

Next year the season will be shorter—May Through October.

They have a new handout for Young Eagles with information—“What next?”

Summary—219 Young Eagles flown this year.

Many Thanks to all the volunteers who made the events fun and safe.

Tim Reberg- Events- Report on the Pancake Breakfast. 650 people served. Tim thanked all the volunteers.

No further new or old business of discussion.

The meeting was adjourned

Tony Reberg reported on his week at Air Academy at Oshkosh

He had a great time. Received ½ hour of instruction in a Cessna 172, received a helicopter ride, visited the Wittman field tower, and got a personal tour of the museum. He also worked in the sheetmetal shop, built a rib in the woodshop and made an airfoil in the composite shop. Tony thanked the club for sponsoring him and he said he would like to go again perhaps. There were many questions from the members—they liked everything Tony said and were impressed with his report.

Dale Seitzer
Vice President

Hanger Talk

Happenings and Classifieds from around the field compiled by the editor

For Sale:

Whittman Tailwind Project
Plans, welded fuselage with controls,
fuel tank, motor mount, nose bowl and spars
and

ribs. \$2,200.00
Contact Ross Sublett
Phone # 651-407-6449
e-mail rosssublett@hotmail.com

For Sale:

Piper Cherokee Warrior Information Manual -
\$25
Cessna 172R Skyhawk Information Manual
with Pilot Safety and Warning Supplements -
\$20
Dale Seitzer
651- 329 - 2229

Looking to Buy:

" I am looking for information about
anyone that may have a Luscombe 8A or a
Aeronca 11AC or 11BC for sale. It can be in
annual or out. I would also like to talk to any-
one interested in forming a small Light Sport
Flying Club around this type of aircraft.
Please contact me, George Mathiesen at 651-
455-9271 "

George Mathiesen
3727 72nd St. East
Inver Grove Heights, MN
55076-2367

Remembering a Chapter 54 Member, Don Carlson



Young Eagles Report *by Dave Becker*

We have completed our 2007 scheduled Young Eagles program as of 10 November with a weathered out event. We did have a clubhouse full of about 20 kids and parents eagerly awaiting a decision if they could fly or not. With the captive audience, we had a few people talk to them about flying and invited them outside to learn about Paul Liedl's Cub prior to announcing the cancellation of the day's Young Eagle events due to the weather.



I want to thank all those who participated in this year's Young Eagles program. I hope your involvement was a rewarding experience and you are anxious to start next year's program in the spring. Our 2008 scheduled Young Eagle events will be held each 2nd Saturday of the month from May through October.



If you would like to become actively involved in our Young Eagles program, contact Dave Becker or come to Lake Elmo on the 2nd Saturday of the month between May and October and see what Young Eagles is all about

Photos taken during our Young Eagles events are posted on our www.eaa54.org website.

TAXI TALK

{Interesting Happenings compiled by the editor}

**Merry Christmas/Happy Holidays
to you all and hope you have a
Happy and Joyous New Year!!!**

Month of December.....

The month of December is special to me not only because of the holidays but because of the fact that the world of aviation also started in this month. In case you are not familiar with what I am referring to, it is the month in which powered flight first took to the air. That is right, the Wright Brothers first flew their "machine", as they called it, down in Kitty Hawk, North Carolina on December 17, 1903. These two brothers became my hero's after I read a few books and saw some really neat TV specials on just how they managed to accomplish this very difficult task. I followed the 100 year celebration, which happened on December 17, 2003, in Sport Aviation and on various cable shows. Shortly afterward in February of 2004 I decided to plan a trip to Kitty Hawk to see the area and learn more, I was engulfed in this wonder of how it all came together for these two brothers. They were amazing to learn about, they had stamina and a will that would not quit. I just thought they were such neat guys and wanted to learn all I could about how the first "airplane" flew.

Now you have to know that I have been working on an experimental homebuilt aircraft since October of 1990 called the Pulsar and I just worry sometimes if I ever am going to see it fly. Well these brothers really proved to me that

if you want something bad enough you can achieve it if you keep at it and do not give up. I have not given up on my project and I really enjoy working on it and someday it WILL fly!!!

For those of you interested in a neat article I wrote on my visit down to Kitty Hawk in 2004, please go to our website, www.eaa54.org and click on newsletters and look for the August 2004 issue. I hooked up with really nice Pulsar friends in Washington DC and four of us flew down to Kitty Hawk and back one day. A trip I will never forget and I hope to repeat it someday with my own Pulsar.

I have really nice pictures and wall hangings all over my house depicting the Wright Brothers. Obsessed??? Quite, I guess but one has to think what it was like back then learning about this new "machine" and all they did to get it in the air. So next time you go fly, think of the Wright Brothers and all they did for you to enjoy this great thing called **FLIGHT** !!!.

Note the quote of the month this month!

Thanks Paul!!!

I would like to take the time to thank Paul Hove for his six years as our president. I got to know Paul real well when I visited him during his RV aircraft construction days and spent many a times going to the chapter work party at Oshkosh. He was president when I first tried this editor thing and he has been very helpful with it. So Thanks Paul for serving your chapter well and look forward to seeing you often around the field. Safe skies to you!

Contact Information for Newsletter Stories

**Thomas J. Gibbons
2685 Manning Avenue North
Lake Elmo, Minnesota 55042-9690
Phone # 651-777-5587**

E-Mail: newsletter@eaa54.org



**EAA CHAPTER 54
3275 MANNING AVE. N. SUITE #7
LAKE ELMO, MN 55042**

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

The desire to fly is an idea handed down to us by our ancestors who, in their grueling travels across trackless lands in prehistoric times, looked enviously on the birds soaring freely through space, at full speed, above all obstacles, on the infinite highway of the air.

— Wilbur Wright