



The Beacon

The newsletter of Chapter 54
Lake Elmo, Minn.

JULY 2009

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THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM WILL BE ON
MONDAY JULY 13, 2009.

- **SOCIAL HOUR STARTING AT 7:00PM.**
- **MEETING AT 7:30PM. CHAPTER HOUSE, ENTRANCE B, LAKE ELMO AIRPORT.**
- **AT THE NEXT CHAPTER MEETING:**
- **Lindsey Meyer from Girls With Wings. GWW is an e-commerce merchandising and public awareness project that focuses on introducing young girls to their role models in aviation-related careers and hobbies. Lindsey will describe how GWW uses inspirational stories of women involved in various aspects of aviation to motivate girls to pursue their own skyward adventures.**

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A Chapter Member's Story

By Tom Gibbons

Editors Note: I am happy to begin this month with a story about a member who began flying early in his life and is now a captain with Northwest Airlines. I hope to continue this series on Chapter members to introduce themselves about what exciting things they have done to get into aviation. So let me know your story or let me interview you.

This story began as I interviewed Paul Rankin on the way back from a Weekend Work Party trip.



Paul's Story, a Rise to Captain

"I have been involved in aviation all my life". Paul Rankin's story began with that quote. It started with his father. Here is Paul's story.

When Paul was born in 1952, his dad was the only flight instructor in the San Jose, CA area. Doug, his dad, was a college student at the time.

Paul was just 3 months old when his dad got his first airline job, flying DC-3's, with Hawaiian Airlines as a summer job after his junior



year of college. After college graduation, his father became a full time airline pilot, flying for Capital Airlines which later merged with United Airlines.

From flights before birth till today, Paul's involvement in aviation has continually grown. His first flights as pilot were sitting in his Dad's lap to fly the plane, and it was a big deal when he graduated to sitting on phone books which enabled him to see over the instrument panel and out of the airplane.

(Continued on page 4)



FROM THE FLIGHT DECK (PRESIDENTS REPORT)

BY DALE SEITZER

I gave a Young Eagle ride to a Boy Scout who went to Farnsworth Aviation Magnet school. He is now going into the middle school that is being run on the Farnsworth model. This kid knew a lot about flying—simulations of course but he knew a lot. He said he has flown to Lake Elmo airport, normally they use Holmen Field as their home base. This year he will start doing more cross country flying – they work on the simulators every Wednesday as a team of 4. He demonstrated memorization of all the landing procedures for a Cessna 172 as we flew the approach so I talked about how my plane and others have different landing procedures. I was very impressed with his knowledge and observation abilities.

We need to take a moment to recognize three volunteer iron men – Ron Voelker, Dave Fiebiger, and Jim Buggert have participated in every opportunity building the club house addition. These guys are indeed iron men – they have worked on the ground on ladders and on the roof. They have worked in the rain and humid full sun. I am sure their backs were aching like all of the volunteers, but these guys kept coming back and helping more. Thank you to all the volunteers – as you can see the exterior is almost finished.

Chapter officer elections are this fall and we need a nominating committee now to present candidates for President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer and 3 Board members. At our next meeting I will ask for volunteers to help on the nominating committee – if no one volunteers I will assign the task.

We are in the middle of planning for our annual Pancake Breakfast and Fly In. I will be coordinating the planning and arranging for volunteers. We are counting on all members to contribute because this is a very important event to raise funds so we can continue our donations and support of aviation. The meetings are scheduled for 7 PM; July 9 and 23 and August 6, 2009. We need to expand our sales of the placemat advertising and are looking for a couple of good sales people to offer this advertising opportunity to local businesses. We are also looking for an airplane building or rebuilding project that can be displayed in the hangar during the event as well as items to raffle off during the breakfast.

AirVenture at Oshkosh is also coming at the end of the month. For Bettie and me it is a vacation filled with wall to wall airplanes. Tom Gibbons observed, “Everyone there is smiling all the time—a great place to be.” I encourage everyone to attend the convention, drop in on the numerous seminars and immerse yourself in aviation. As a weeklong vacation, the cost is really quite reasonable, unless you end up buying a \$15,000 camper for the trip and then spend too much on airplane parts and equipment at the show! I am always looking for good salvageable airplane parts that I bring and sell at the airplane parts flea market. I price it low enough that I always sell and then have a little extra for buying that special tool or missing part. I make a list of what I need and buy a years worth of parts and supplies during the show. The vendors always have discounts.

Don't forget about Young Eagles Saturday July 11, 2009. We always can use volunteers as pilots or on the ground crew. Being around the young people with their energy is a lot of fun.

The airplane bug bit him in grade school and he began building model airplanes. In junior high school, he built and flew control line and free flight airplanes. In high school, he advanced to radio controlled airplanes and built a Heath Kit RC unit and installed it in an aircraft. The first flight went well until he flew it into a stall/spin accident that destroyed his plane. At that point, Paul decided rather than spending money to rebuild the RC he would rather spend money on avgas!

His 16th birthday coincided with school spring break. He went to Fallon, NV and started flying lessons with the same instructor who taught his Dad to fly at the age of 16. Paul soloed on his 16th birthday in a Cessna 172 after only 4.4 hours. Later, when he had his private pilot certificate, he still did not have a driver's license, so had to get rides to the airport.



His dad bought a Cessna 120 and Paul enjoyed many hours of flying all over Nevada, California, Oregon and Washington. It was fun flying, especially the mountain areas. He worked as a line boy and helped out in the maintenance shop of the local FBO. Living in the Los Angeles area, he flew aircraft based at Van Nuys. The recent movie **16 Right** is almost a home movie for him. Paul knows some of the people in the movie, including; Phil, the tower controller, Clay Lacy, and Ben Harper.



Paul graduated from San Jose State University with a degree in Aeronautical Maintenance Engineering. During his time at San Jose, he had a job at Valley Airlines as a mechanic. He performed non-airframe and power plant license tasks on their D-18 Twin Beech aircraft. He got his commercial license in the C-120. While out flying one day, Paul landed at a glider airport. So happens they were looking to hire pilots to tow gliders. He applied and got the job. He towed gliders at Sky Sailing Glider Airport in Fremont, CA. A busy day he would tow over 50 gliders. At the end of the day, the instructors would fly with Paul so he could get his glider certificate. He was a flight instructor at Van Nuys during summer break from college and also a CFI at Reid-Hillview in San Jose, during the school year. Paul managed an airport northeast of Van Nuys called Agua Dulce. He was a summer replacement for the regular manager and enjoyed this job for two summers. The next stop up the aviation ladder was to get some twin engine time. The multi-engine aircraft were expensive at the time, \$80 for the Beech Baron. In comparison, the C-150's were going for \$7.50 to \$11 an hour! He started flying a C-402, but not the Cessna type! This one was called a Champion Lancer 402. Essentially, it was a Citabria with two O-200, 100 hp engines and a nose wheel. His last year during the last couple of years in college, he obtained his instrument rating. After graduation, the job market was bleak. The airlines were only hiring pilots with lots of jet time. So where to get free jet time? Pensacola!



Check next month as Paul joins the Navy and also the EAA



Chapter 54 Meeting Minutes

June 8, 2009

By Bettie Seitzer

Called to order at 7:30 by President Dale Seitzer

Visitors: Art Kidder, used to live in Woodbury, moved to Tucson, AZ comes back for one month to visit, he is a retired Airline pilot.

Treasurer's report approved as published in the newsletter

No secretary's report was presented; in May we held our annual banquet and there were no minutes taken..

Old Business:

Card for Dick Wicklund, who fell from a ladder and broke his femur. Members are encouraged to send cards to Serenity Care Center, he will be in care for a couple of months and would certainly appreciate your support and encouragement.

Members who helped with the building project were recognized for their participation. We still have some work to do before we are done. We have a new steel roof that looks fabulous and is a tremendous improvement. It will last longer and require less maintenance than the shingles.

We still have a couple of calendars left and will accept any offer from a person who would like to buy one.

Fly-in date is August 16th this year; this is our big fundraiser for the year so it is important to have as many members as possible contribute.

New Business:

Recognition of the members who served as officers last year began at the annual banquet and continued at the meeting tonight.

Dale Seitzer has written and published a book, The Mormon Conspiracy: A Flying Adventure; copies are available directly from Dale.

For persons interested in attending AirVenture this year, Jeff Hove has two beds available in a house 3 miles from the field for \$25 per night; this includes breakfast and hot showers. Contact Jeff if you are interested.

Jeff would like to know if there is interest in barbecue and movie nights for the summer.

Young Eagles (Dave Becker):

Started last month – 6 kids from Mall of America, 25 kids on our Saturday. There was also a special event for a scout troop. We have over 30 kids scheduled for this Saturday – the International Young Eagles Day. This will be a special event. Pilots and ground crew are needed for this event.

Flying Start and Education (Art Edhlund):

We will have another ground school next fall – we had five students pass with scores over 90%! The course is highly successful and we can be very proud of helping these new pilots get a good start.

Housing (Dave Fiebiger):

We will need about an hour's work on Saturday to finish off the ridge cap and trim for the roof. There is also some eaves work to be done.

The next big step will be the wiring; we can do some of the insulation as long as we don't put it in the way of the wiring.

Sheet-rocking will be next, we do have an experienced volunteer to do the taping. We have donated carpeting to put into place.

And we will have to do the painting; Dale will head that up.

Jack Portlance special Report:

We have 24 models hanging from our ceiling in the clubhouse; there were only 6 but Jack has added 18 planes to our collection.

Jack also has flying memorabilia to share, including some wit and wisdom regarding aviation.

EAA Leadership academy is an excellent learning opportunity and helps to keep our club leadership strong and to remind us how fortunate we are to have such a great membership.

Jack presented a copy of the Ryan Aircraft company brochure, in full color – great pictures and information. These items are an important part of our general aviation heritage.

Respectfully submitted:

Bettie Seitzer

Secretary

EAA Chapter 54

Pilots Lounge

“Here is what my son is up to when I leave the hangar unlocked!”



Many thanks to Paul Hove (Dad), Jeff Hove (Son) and Paul Rankin (Camera man)



Before.....

And after the addition to our club-house!



Great Job to all who helped out! Looks Great!!

I thought I would pass this on to the group if anyone is interested especially within the Minneapolis, Wisconsin area.

Stewart Systems Covering Work shop

When: August 14, 15, 16, 2009

Time: 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM

Where: Lake Elmo Airport (21D) at Valters maintenance hanger

Cost: \$360.00 per person

Contact: Lynn Riggs at 651-489-1836 or 612-508-0988 or email riggs_la@yahoo.com

This work shop is designed to be a hands on work shop where you will cover a sample part using the system.

Lynn A. Riggs

Aviation Day



Fly-In/Drive-In Pancake Breakfast Sunday, August 16 Lake Elmo Airport



**Sign up for
Young Eagles**

7am to noon
Valter's Aviation



**"KID
VENTURE"**



Public Invited

Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 54

For Info, visit www.eaa54.org

Local Flying Events

Compiled by Paul Hove and pulled from the Website

July

July 10 2009, to , St Cloud MN EAA 551 B-17 Tour Stop, www.b17.org, Saint Cloud Regional,(KSTC), 7/10-7/12 EAA is offering historic flight experiences in its beautifully restored B-17G Flying Fortress "Aluminum Overcast." One of only 14 Fortress's still flying, this aircraft is an icon of the Allied strategic bombing effort that helped turn the tide of battle in World War II. You can actually fly a mission back in time. , EAA, 800-359-6217,

July 11 2009, 8:00 to 12:00, Menomonie WI Fly-in Breakfast, , Menomonie Municipal Airport,(KLUM), Pancake Breakfast, Static Displays, Tim Ward, 715-255-0027, tward@wardaviation.com

July 12 2009, 7:30 to 11:30, Winona Fly-In/Drive-In Breakfast and Free Airshow, , Winona Municipal Airport,(KONA), Great family Event! Free Airshow at 1030 AM. 26th year. Wonderful catered breakfast meal., Steve Buswell , 507-452-2220, funnsky@hbc.com

July 12 2009, 7:30 to 13:00, Hinkley MN Pancake Breakfast and Air Show, www.fieldofdreamsairport.com, Field of Dreams Airport,(04W), Pancakes & Sausage hosted by the Hinckley Fire Department. Air Rides, Helicopter Rides, Under-Wing Camping, Aircraft, Helicopter & Car Display, Popcorn, Ice Cream & More, Matt Johnson, 320-384-6667,

July 12 2009, 7:00 to 12:00, Grantsburg WI EAA 875 Fly-in Breakfast, , Grantsburg Municipal Airport,(KGTG), Breakfast, and young eagles flights., Scott Hanson, 715-463-4232, scott25c@yahoo.com

July 12 2009, 7:00 to 13:00, Two Harbors Pancake Breakfast, , Richard B Helgeson Airport,(KTWM), Annual fly-in pancake breakfast in conjunction with Two Harbors Heritage Days, Jerry Anderson, 218-834-4392,

July 14 2009, to , Mankato MN EAA Chapter 642 B-17 Tour Stop, www.b17.org, Mankato Regional Airport,(KMKT), 7/14-7/15 EAA is offering historic flight experiences in its beautifully restored B-17G Flying Fortress "Aluminum Overcast." One of only 14 Fortress's still flying, this aircraft is an icon of the Allied strategic bombing effort that helped turn the tide of battle in World War II. You can actually fly a mission back in time. , EAA, 800-359-6217,

July 17 2009, to , Rochester MN EAA 100 B-17 Tour Stop, www.b17.org, Rochester International,(KRST), 7/17-7/19 EAA is offering historic flight experiences in its beautifully restored B-17G Flying Fortress "Aluminum Overcast." One of only 14 Fortress's still flying, this aircraft is an icon of the Allied strategic bombing effort that helped turn the tide of battle in World War II. You can actually fly a mission back in time. , EAA, 800-359-6217,

July 18 2009, 7:00 to 11:00, Rushford MN Days Fly-in, , Rushford Municipal Airport,(55Y), Fly-in Breakfast, cinnamon bread french toast served 7 to 11 AM , , ,

July 18 2009, 8:00 to 13:00, Airlake MN Open House & Pancake Breakfast, , Airlake Airport,(KLVN), Open House & Pancake Breakfast. Hosted by the 130th squadron of the Civil Air Patrol.Airlake Airport.CAP Hanger - Juliet Lane. Tickets available for \$5.00 at the door., , ,

July 18 2009, 9:00 to 17:00, Eden Prairie Air Expo 2009, www.wont.org, Flying Cloud Airport,(KFCM), July 18-19. Pancake breakfast, aviation displays, over 35 aircraft including a B-17G, over 40 aviation VIPs including Doolittle Raiders, Black Sheep, Tuskegee Airmen, River Rats, Marine Corsair pilots, WWII bomber crews, and aces from WWII, Korea, and Vietnam., , ,

July 18 2009, 6:00 to , Wings of the North presents "An Evening with Eagles" , www.wont.org, (,) Wings of the North is pleased to announce the return of "An Evening with Eagles" dinner and symposium. As in the past, this year's dinner will be part of the AirExpo 2009. The presentation will be hosted at the Eden Prairie Garden Room located in the Eden

Prairie City Center in Eden Prairie., , ,

July 19 2009, 7:00 to 13:00, Benson MN. LLFC Pancake & Sausage Fly-In Breakfast, www.llfc.net, Benson Airport ,(KBBB), PIC Eat Free (119 miles WNW of Twin Cities), Kent, 320-226-3237,

July 19 2009, 7:00 to 12:30, Preston MN Country Fly-In Breakfast, , Fillmore County Airport,(KFKA), Build your own omelets served with donuts and beverages by the Fillmore County Pork Producers., Kent Dornink, 507-765-2582, kjd hills@yahoo.com

July 19 2009, 6:30 to 12:30, Sleepy Eye MN Jaycees Annual Flight Breakfast, , Sleepy Eye Municipal Airport,(Y58), Pancakes will be served & pilots eat free. , , ,

July 19 2009, 7:00 to 12:00, Forest City IA Annual Flight Breakfast, , Forest City Municipal Airport ,(KFXV), Hosted by Forest City Police Officers Association. Pilots in Command Eat FREE. Come and join the fun! , Theresa Trimble, 641-581-2880, trimbler@wctatel.net

July 25 2009, 6:00 to 11:00, Siren WI Breakfast, , Bennett County Airport,(KRZN), Breakfast served by Siren Area Agriculture Club, Jeremy Sickler, 715-349-7076, jsickflyer@yahoo.com

July 25 2009, 12:00 to , Menominee WI Open House, , Menominee Municipal Airport,(KMNW), Open House & Ron bush T-34 Neniurak fly-in at Twin County Aripot. Noon till Sunday (Julie Clark performs sundone.) , , 715-938-4334,

July 26 2009, 7:00 to 12:00, Backus MN Lions Fly-in Pancake & Sausage breakfast., , Backus Municipal Airport,(7Y3), 7:30 am - 12:00 pm. \$6.00 per person. \$3.00 12 under 12. PIC eat FREE. Funds raised are given to the Backus EMT's & Fire Department., , ,

July 26 2009, 8:00 to 12:00, Center City Flyers Pancake Breakfast, , Marshfield Muni Airport,(KMFI), Pancake breakfast with many airplanes to view and to admire. Many are on their way to Oshkosh for the Fly-in there. \$6.00 for all you can eat, Great meal with all the trimmings, David Le Voy, 715-676-2282,

July 27 2009, to , Oshkosh EAA AirVenture 2009, www.airventure.org, Wittman Regional Airport ,(KOSH), For seven days, the aviation world descends on Oshkosh to create the World's Greatest Aviation Celebration. Nearly every aspect of flight is represented in one way or another -- from ultralights to the heavy iron of the Warbirds, AirVenture has it all., EAA, 920-426-4800,

August

August 2 2009, 8:00 to 12:00, Longville MN 4th Annual Pancake Breakfast & Fly-in, , Longville Municipal Airport,(KXVG), Classic Car Displays, Float Plan Display & N. Memorial Helicopter Display. Longville shopping only 1/4 mile away. Come for the fun and turn a simple Sunday into a day your family and/or friends will long remember! Free Will Offering. , Kurt Dahlen , 218-363-3247,

August 2 2009, 8:00 to 12:00, Red Wing MN. 35th Annual Pancake Breakfast & Fly-in, , Red Wing Regional Airport,(KRGK), 8:00 am to 12:00 pm. PIC eat Free, , 715-594-3701, teblue@blue-airways.com

August 8 2009, 7:00 to 13:00, Rice Lake WI Pancake Breakfast & Aerobatic flying, , Rice Lake Municipal Airport,(KRPD), Lunch 10:00-13:00 Aerobatic flying, Static Displays, Fire, Police, EMS & Medical Helicopters (Fuel Special), Jerry Stites, 715-458-4400, rpo@ricelakeairport.com

August 8 2009, 9:00 to 13:00, Elbow Lake MN Ribeye Steak Sandwich, , Elbow Lake Municipal Airport,(Y63), Pride of the Prairie Ribeye Steak Sandwich. In conjunction with Flekkesfest Rain Date 9th, , 218-685-6594,



Young Eagles Report

by Dave Becker



We had two Young Eagle events in June with 8 kids flown on June 3 and 32 kids flown on June 13 for a total of 40 Young Eagles. On our June 13 event, we celebrated “International Young Eagles Day” along with hundreds of other chapters around the world. We had a fantastic event with great weather. I can’t say enough to compliment our members who come out to fly and provide ground support for these Young Eagle events. I know the kids and parents all appreciate our service to the community and to them. July will be another busy month for Young Eagles with our scheduled event on July 11 and two other special events scheduled during the weekdays. See some of the “Thank You” letters from kids on the next page.



Our Young Eagle events are scheduled every second Saturday of each month from May through October starting at 9:00 a.m. Parents should pre-register their children for an event ahead of time by going to www.eaa54.org and clicking on the Young Eagles page to sign up for a flight. To view the many great Young Eagle photos, go to: <http://www.eaa54.org/YEPhotoGallery/YEGallery.html>



If you would like to become actively involved in our Young Eagles program, contact Dave Becker or come to Lake Elmo on the second Saturday of the month and see what Young Eagles is all about. You can also indicate on your yearly chapter renewal form that you want to be involved with our Young Eagles program.

Editors Note: There is always something to help out during this event. Here, Bettie Seitzer brings various games and fun things for the kids to do during the event.

See next page for Thank you notes from the Young Eagles themselves.



Young Eagle "Thank You" Notes

Dear: Mr. Paul

Thank you for letting me Drive your airplane I mean I will never think that a nice man like you will let me Drive his plane. But you taught me how easy it was to drive a plane and you taught me how to be brave. So thank you for all your help, and someday I will bye you something that is grateful, big and that can fly.

Thank you again

Dear, Dave Becker thanks for having us fly with you. It was very fun and interesting. thank you very much.

Dear MR. Dave Becker

I wanted to say thanks for letting me fly one of your planes and I had fun there. Flying with you guy was the Best thing i've done in my life so Thank you very much.

Dear Mr. Dave Becker,

I had a lot of fun at Young Eagles, I was a good first experience, and I thank Paul for letting me fly with him.

Dear Dave Becker,
I would like to thank you for the experience of flying in airplane. I had a lot of fun.

Thank you for letting us fly with the young Eagles program. It was very fun and exciting, I really enjoyed it. I would very much like to do it again sometime.



TAXI TALK
{Interesting happenings compiled by the editor}

HAPPY MONTH OF JULY!

Yes, I mean “month” of July! First of all of course I hope all had a “**BANG**” of a fourth of July, Happy Birthday America! Second of all, it’s “**OSHKOSH**” time at the end of the month. I am really excited this year about going back to AirVenture and having a great time as usual. For some reason this year I am just really looking forward to going there and camping and volunteering on the line again. I still consider this vacation as one of my most relaxing of all. The people are great, planes all over the place and no real schedules to worry about.

painting and I have received a new floor from the factory to install. Looks like a big job but it is really quite easy. Lots to do though before heading out to the show. Wish me luck!

But first of all.....

I must complete my floor replacement in my “Oshkosh Express” A frame camper!



The floor was really soft and in terrible shape so I have gotten to this stage so far. The frame is going to a sandblaster shop for cleaning and

More weekend work party stuff



I thought I would include this picture of myself and the carpenter, Don, whom I worked with during that weekend. As reported last month I have known Don since the first time I went on one of these trips. We worked on the Bunkhouse shower facility and I thought it was neat that he used old EAA signs on the walls. As he said, “Times are tuff”. One of pieces he was about to put up he was going to use the other side but I insisted that we use sign side out. We had a laugh about it.

Did I say I was excited about going to AirVenture “09 yet?????

Contact Information for Newsletter Stories

Thomas J. Gibbons
2685 Manning Avenue North
Lake Elmo, Minnesota 55042-9690
Phone # 651-777-5887

E-Mail: newsletter@eaa54.org



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

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

**Travelers are always discoverers, especially those who travel by air.
There are no signposts in the air to show a man has passed that way before.
There are no channels marked. The flier breaks each second into new
uncharted seas.**

—Anne Morrow Lindbergh, North to the Orient, 1935.