



# The Beacon

The newsletter of Chapter 54  
Lake Elmo, Minn.

JUNE 2009

## JUNE 2009

THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM WILL BE ON  
MONDAY JUNE 8, 2009.

- SOCIAL HOUR STARTING AT 7:00PM.
- MEETING AT 7:30PM. CHAPTER HOUSE, ENTRANCE B, LAKE ELMO AIRPORT.
- AT THE NEXT CHAPTER MEETING:
- Scott Johnson from LSA North, Inc and Stick-n-Rudder Flight Training. Scott will fly a new Flight Design CT-LS to the Lake Elmo Airport our inspection. LSA North is the upper-Midwest distributor for the Flight Design CT and a Sport Pilot Flight School.

## Chapter House Beginnings

By Tom Gibbons



*Editors Note: I thought I would include this story about how our chapter house all began and how it came to be where it is today. I sat down with member and Housing Director, Dave Fiebiger for the story.*

Early chapter meetings were conducted at Sandborn Aviation at the St. Paul Downtown airport. Then they were moved to Lake Elmo where they used the shop space of Dave Fiebiger's rented hanger. They had about 35 members then and only close to a dozen showed up for the meetings. When Ed Mayer acquired the old Lake Elmo Aero hanger and building, former Mark Holiday building too, he allowed the chapter to meet there every month, rent free. That lasted for a year or so but then the "BIG" storm came and blew down their meeting place. They liked having a good meeting spot so they moved to the Lutheran Church in Lake Elmo and were there for around nine months.

Then one Saturday a few of the gang were sitting around in Dennis Hoffman's hanger, shortly after the big storm, trying to decide where to meet and were laying out options. Jerry Sarracco suggested buying a portable classroom that they could set on the airport. So the next Saturday or so, Jerry decides to call a moving company called, Simple Moving Company to find out what they had. The lady mentioned they just so happened to have one that they acquired from the White Bear Lake School District in which they only paid a buck for. He asked her how much it would cost to have it moved to the field and she said around \$10,000. It was over at the storage area off County 5 and Ideal Avenue so they thought that would be perfect to make things work. So Jerry struck a deal for an unknown amount, around \$7000.00, and the building was theirs. One side note was that Dave Fiebiger worked for the White Bear School District as a

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## **FROM THE FLIGHT DECK (PRESIDENTS REPORT)**

*BY DALE SEITZER*

The annual chapter banquet was a success. We gave out awards and recognized members contributions. We had excellent food, great socializing and conversation and a wonderful presentation in honor of former member Don Carlson from Jim Anderson.

Do you remember your scores on the written private pilot test? The graduates of our recent ground school all earned scores above 90% -- that is a testament to the attention and detail provided by the volunteer instructors and tutors. Way to go!

EAA is working to promote AirVenture again this year with local stories. I will pass your name and story on to headquarters if you have an interesting AirVenture story to tell.

We have received some interesting donations – fascinating books and even some hardware. Please check out our library and check out a book or DVD. Any officer can provide a donation receipt for your donations. We can also accept items that have value – we can sell the item and then use the donation in our general fund.

We had a great turnout for the Oshkosh work party – I look forward to a report at our next regular meeting.

The chapter clubhouse expansion is going very smoothly. The steel roof will be a big improvement over the shingle roof. There will be opportunities to volunteer no matter your ability and interests. We all can be very proud of the commitment and generosity of members.

There are 2 upcoming items that everyone should be planning on. The Pancake breakfast is coming in August – we will have planning meetings in July and August. We are looking for task leaders and volunteers. The elections in the fall depend on nominations which will be organizing starting in June. In a small club everyone is expected to contribute and take their turn as leader. Officers and board members will help train the new board members and officers.

International Young Eagle day is coming – look for details from Dave Becker.

I nominated Dave Becker for the EAA Young Eagle award from the headquarters – he does a great job. I also nominated Tom Gibbons for the Newsletter Editor award. We are very proud of this important resource to the club.



**EAA CHAPTER 54 TREASURER'S REPORT**  
*BY PAUL RANKIN*



**May 2009 Financial Summary**

Checking Account	\$3,729.39
Cash on hand	\$40.00
<u>Investments</u>	<u>\$7,166.47</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$10,935.86</b>

**Income**

<u>Banquet</u>	<u>\$680.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$680.00</b>

**Expenses**

Clubhouse Expansion	\$3,265.30
Clubhouse Roof	\$2,192.80
Membership - Stamps	\$42.00
Newsletter & Mailing	\$45.11
<u>Utilities - Electricity &amp; Gas</u>	<u>\$93.02</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,638.23</b>

**Net Cash Flow (\$4,958.23)**

**Chapter 54 Directory**

President  
Dale Seitzer  
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Treasurer  
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Newsletter Editor  
Tom Gibbons  
[Newsletter@eaa54.org](mailto:Newsletter@eaa54.org)

Chapter members 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  
21D AWOS: 120.075  
TPA: 1932'  
Runways: 4-22 (2497' x 75')  
14-32 (2850' x 75')

**This years Chapter Weekend Work Party!**

*From left to right: Dan Bergstrom, Gary Schmidt, Roger Westerberg, Tom Gibbons, Hugh Sontag, and Paul Rankin.*



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maintenance man and he actually worked on this building at one time!

So Simple Moving Company moved the building to the Lake Elmo Airport at a temporary spot while the members worked at finding a permanent place for it. The M.A.C. approved it for four possible spots and the first area the members liked was next to the MAC building along the south fence. Perfect to watch the aircraft while on the deck and possible hook up of the sewer and water from their building. But then MAC changed their mind about that spot and the members looked at the others. One was across from the present position on the other side of the beacon but again the MAC decided against that and another undisclosed area too. So they were left with the fourth spot which is the present position it is in now.

The next thing they did, now that they have an approved spot for it, was they needed to measure the building up, all the windows, doors, etc. and draw up certified plans to get a building permit to get things going. Dave Fiebiger did this and he told me that he drew up the original plans with future expansion plans that we are doing lately. Dave contacted someone to approve the plans and it was set, with some minor additions.

When they were ready to start the digging and laying out of the concrete building support columns, a company called Sunnyside Construction was on the field building some hangers so they contacted them about digging the holes with their auger. With the concrete columns in place and ready for the building, Simple Moving Company came out again and hoisted the building onto the supports. The rest was up the members and they came thru. First of all, the building came with a couple of rooms inside to which the members tore down to gain more space inside. The whole inside of the building had wood paneling installed on the outer walls so the members removed this and installed sheetrock. They installed the kitchen area with cabinets and a countertop with provisions for a refrigerator. Of course also they installed a nice deck out front and back but being a commercial building, they had to make it handicapped assisted. There are many more items and jobs the members did back then to get this clubhouse to where it is today and may I say they did a great job on it. So if you think the recent addition has been a job it does not even compare to what the early members did back then. Kudos to all the members who really came thru for a nice meeting place for it's members!

Heck, I am one of those people who saw the nice clubhouse and thought what a neat place to meet!

*Here are some pictures of Dave working on the concrete slab for our addition which he did last fall.*





## Chapter 54 Meeting Minutes

By Bettie Seitzer

***Editors Note: There was no meeting minutes last month due to the banquet.  
Look for this information next month.***

***James Anderson doing his presentation on Don Carlson  
at this year's banquet.***



# Pilots Lounge

## This Years Chapter Weekend Work Party Reports and Pictures:

Six Chapter 54 members made the trip to Oshkosh the weekend of May 15-17. The weekend work party was productive and much was accomplished. Our work projects centered around remodeling one of the shower buildings, making picnic tables and anchoring small wood frame buildings onto new permanent concrete pads. These projects are all part of the major changes that have been made to the Oshkosh grounds since last summer.

I was one of the willing, but unskilled volunteers who showed up Saturday morning at the EAA South Maintenance building for a job assignment. Potential jobs were read from a list and I chose one that sounded like something I could help with.

My job involved working with one of the regular EAA maintenance guys anchoring wood buildings to concrete pads. I stated our as the helper for Pat (EAA maintenance) as he drilled holes in the concrete pads. Soon, he had me checked out on the large "hammer drill" he was using and I was tuned loose to drill anchor holes into the concrete. We worked at this all day Saturday and then again Sunday morning...drilling holes, hammering in lag bolts and finally attaching the brackets.

All the EAA maintenance guys were friendly went to great lengths to make sure we were having a good experience. The refreshment van showed up in the morning and again in the afternoon with coffee, pop, water and cookies. They really make volunteers feel appreciated.

Overall, the work party turned out to be a lot more enjoyable and fun than I expected. We stayed in the "Binder House" (old farmhouse) which had two TV's, aviation videos and magazines, chips a refrigerator stocked with beverages. What more could a guy ask for? We were well fed all weekend, nobody went hungry or lost weight!

Saturday night we were given an "after hours" tour of the EAA Aircraft Museum. Our EAA tour guide let us go behind the ropes and get a close up look at the airplanes. We had a great time, but I am afraid for the tour guide it was a bit like trying to herd cats. Several of us had that one "special" airplane that we wanted to view or photograph at length and we sort of drifted away from the main group. Several times that evening our tour guide was heard to say, "guys, we need to stay together... guys?" He let us look as long as we wanted and then manage to get us all rounded up and out the door.

This was my first work party trip with EAA Chapter 54 and was definitely worth doing. We had fun, got lot of work done and got to know other Chapter members better. I also came away with a new appreciation for all the work that is required to make EAA AirVenture a success each year.

Dan Bergstrom



*Paul Rankin and Hugh Sontag at work on a bathroom remodel*



*Gary Schmidt in the woodshop working on picnic tables.*



# Local Flying Events

Compiled by Paul Hove and pulled from the Website

## June

June 6 2009, 7:00 to , Manitowoc WI Thunder On The Lake Shore, [www.thunderonthelakeshore.com](http://www.thunderonthelakeshore.com), Manitowoc County Airport,(KMTW), Hot air balloons, Military jets and plans, various stunt plane performers, various food vendors, Curt Drumm, 920-482-1650,

June 6 2009, 7:00 to 11:00, Amery WI Pancake Breakfast, , Amery Municipal Airport,(KAHH), The Amery Pilots Association. Breakfast and airplane watching. No Rain Date., Paul Isakson, 715-554-3858, [iker@amerytel.net](mailto:iker@amerytel.net)

June 6 2009, 10:00 to 14:00, Clear Lake MN EAA Chapter 551 Bean and Brat Fly-in , , Leaders - Clear Lake Airport ,(8Y6), Rain date: June 7, 2009 Just for fun, Land in the box and win a free lunch! Menu: Brats, Beans, Chips & Pop or Coffee Just \$5.00 (12 & under \$3.00) For more information & Spot Landing Rules see our Official Flyer <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/aero/avoffice/pdf/Spotland.pdf> , Bob Leaders, 320-743-2294,

June 7 2009, 7:00 to 12:00, Algona IA Pilots Association Flight Breakfast, , Algona Municipal Airport,(KAXA), Pilots in Command & Co-Pilots FREE , Dean Telford, 515-332-4012,

June 7 2009, 7:00 to 12:30, Albert Lea MN Breakfast, , Albert Lea Municipal Airport,(KAEL), , ,

June 7 2009, 8:00 to 12:00, Buffalo MN Fly-In, , Buffalo Municipal Airport,(KCFE), 1309 Country Road 134 Buffalo, MN. Come for the rides (Biplane & Helicopter) Stay for the breakfast (Pancakes with sausage, juice & coffee) 8:00 am - 12:00 pm Musical entertainment 9:00 am - 11:00 am Adults: \$6.00, Children (7-12): \$3.00, Ages 6 and Under: FREE, Pilot in Command: FREE [http://www.dot.state.mn.us/aero/avoffice/pdf/Buffalo\\_Fly-In.pdf](http://www.dot.state.mn.us/aero/avoffice/pdf/Buffalo_Fly-In.pdf), Rich, 763-295-8730,

June 13 2009, 19:30 to 0:00, Alexandria MN Hangar Dance & Veterans Recognition Day Fly-In, [http://www.dchsmn.org/news\\_events.html](http://www.dchsmn.org/news_events.html), Alexandria Airport ,(KAXN), Belgian Waffle feed from 7:30 - 12:00 pm ~Hangar Dance - 7:00 pm - Midnight ~ Sponsored by the Douglas County Historical Society (doors open at 6:00) Doc's All-Star's Big Band, food and beverage available. Come in vintage, World War II era dress. Preserve history while dancing to the big band era music!, , 320-762-0382,

June 14 2009, 8:00 to 15:00, EAA Chapter 688 Pancake Breakfast and Car Show, , Montevideo Chippewa Co Airport,(KAVA), Chapter 688 Pancake Breakfast. Fly-in and Young Eagles Rides. Antique and Classic Car Show, 70 cars, Don Reuther, 320-269-4829,

June 14 2009, 8:00 to 11:00, Rhinelander Wig Pancake Breakfast, , Rhinelander Municipal Airport,(KRHI), Pan cake breakfast Static Displays, , 715-499-5123,

June 14 2009, 9:30 to 14:00, Fergus Falls Luncheon, , Fergus Falls Municipal Airport,(KFFM), EAA 1174 Fly-In/Drive-In Luncheon. Static Displays Classic Cars Motorsports displays. Hawkeye Helicopter Rides. Proceeds support the local Young Eagles Program and other Youth Aviation Activities., ,

June 14 2009, 8:00 to 12:00, Lions Pancake Breakfast, , Rush City Regional Airport,(KROS), Free parking at Airport, , 320-358-4723 ,

June 14 2009, 8:00 to 12:00, Redwood Falls MN Rotary, Fly-in-drive in Breakfast, , Redwood Falls Municipal,(KRWF), Come enjoy the annual Redwood Falls, Rotary fly-inn, drive-inn breakfast. Pilot in command eats for free., Julie Rath, ,

June 19 2009, 7:00 to 13:00, Benson MN. LLFC Pancake & Sausage Fly-In Breakfast, [www.llfc.net](http://www.llfc.net), Benson Airport ,(KBBB), PIC Eat Free

(119 miles WNW of Twin Cities), Kent, 320-226-3237,

June 20 2009, 7:30 to 11:00, Kiwanis & Lake Air Flying Club Annual Fly - In Breakfast, , Moose Lake Airport,(KMZH), PIC Eat Free, Larry Peterson, 218-485-4441,

June 20 2009, 8:00 to 18:00, Davenport IA Quad City Airshow 2009, [www.quadcityairshow.com](http://www.quadcityairshow.com), Davenport Municipal Airport,(KDVN), Theme 'From Props to Jets see it all on the line in 2009' . Performers US Army Golden Knights John Mohr Barnstorming Bob Carlton Jet Sailplane , , 563-285-7469,

June 20 2009, to , La Crosse Deke Slayton Airfest, , La Crosse Municipal,(KLSE), "Freedom Weekend" 21st - concert , , 608-779-9994,

June 21 2009, 8:00 to 13:00, CAP Lake Elmo Pancake Breakfast, , Lake Elmo Airport,(21D), Pancake Breakfast \$7.00 North Entrance to CAP Building 39E Luscombe Lane, , ,

June 21 2009, 7:00 to 17:00, Crystal Airport Open House Pancake Breakfast, , Crystal Airport,(KMIC), Father's Day Pancake Breakfast by Crystal Lions PIC's free. Brats, hotdogs Warbirds, Civil Air Patrol, WWII Military Vehicles Both airplane & Helicopter rides. , Gary Grimes, , [garygrimes@comcast.net](mailto:garygrimes@comcast.net)

June 21 2009, to , Duluth Annual Int'l Cessna 170 Assn, , Duluth Sky Harbor Airport,(KDYT), 41st Annual International Cessna 170 Association, , ,

June 21 2009, 7:00 to 12:00, Dodge Center MN EAA Chapter 100 Pancake Breakfast / Fly In, [www.eaa100.org](http://www.eaa100.org), Dodge Center,(KTOB), Father's Day Pancake Breakfast / Fly-In., Tom Hall, 507-282-9682,

June 21 2009, 7:30 to 12:30, Canby, MN Airshow and Fly-In, , Canby Municipal Airport,(KCNB), Fly-In starts at 7:30 am, Airshow at 12:30pm. Four Airshow Acts: Jim Maroney Chipmunk, Rob Ator Pitts S1S, Mike Niccum Staudacher 200 and Vanguard Squadron Formation RV's., Matt Wagner, 507-829-9608, [mathewwagner@hotmail.com](mailto:mathewwagner@hotmail.com)

June 21 2009, 7:00 to 12:00, Stanton MN 19th Annual Father's Day Breakfast, [www.stantonairfield.com](http://www.stantonairfield.com), Stanton Airfield,(KSYN), Cannon Falls Lions Club with serve pancakes, sausage, eggs, coffee, milk, and juice. Free Diabetes Screening. Stanton United Methodist Worship Service at 10:00a with live music by Cheryl & Co. PIC Free., , 507-645-4030,

June 23 2009, to , Superior WI EAA 272 B-17 Tour Stop, [www.b17.org](http://www.b17.org) , Bong Field,(KSUW), 6/23-6/25 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 272, 800-359-6217,

June 27 2009, 8:00 to 13:00, Annual Mines & Pines Fly-in/Drive In Breakfast, [www.eaa996.org](http://www.eaa996.org), Chisholm-Hibbing Airport,(KHIB), Hosted by EAA 996, , ,

June 27 2009, 11:00 to 14:00, New Richmond WI Fly-In Lunch, , New Richmond Regional Airport,(KRNH), Fly-In Lunch, take off and landing competition., Mike Demulling, 715-246-7735, [mike@nrairport.com](mailto:mike@nrairport.com)

June 28 2009, 7:00 to 11:00, Fairmont Minnesota Lions Fly-in Breakfast, , Fairmont Municipal Airport ,(KFRM), Pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs. Pilots eat free , Wayne Kahler, 507-235-6648,



**Young Eagles Report**  
*by Dave Becker*



Our 2009 Young Eagles program is under way with two events flown in May. We flew 6 kids from the high school that's located in the Mall of America and flew 25 Young Eagles on our first regularly scheduled event for the summer. We welcomed a few new pilots and ground support volunteers and enjoyed their involvement and participation. The pilots and ground volunteers all did a great job as we all recalled our jobs and procedures from last year and added a few suggestions for making things flow even more smoothly and safely. We now have "No Parking" of vehicles directly between the club house and aircraft area and also suggestions for a bit more control of activities on the flight line. Art Edlund and I also hosted a cub scout meeting at Valters to talk to the kids about airplanes and let them each sit in a plane and view the weather computer, etc. They will be back in the future for Young Eagle flights. The new free log book and on-line private pilot course from Sporty's seems to be a great success and we are combining all this in a bag with literature and books provided by MNDOT.



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](http://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.





## TAXI TALK

*{Interesting happenings compiled by the editor}*

### HAPPY FATHERS DAY to all!

.....and may you get neat aviation stuff this day!

bus tour of the changes to the grounds after work on Saturday and Tom Poberezny came by with his wife and talked to the whole group. Very neat!

### Weekend Work Party

I attended the Weekend Work Party as usual this year and as usual, I had a great time. The group took two vans this year and I rode in Hugh Sontag's van with Paul Rankin.

We talked about a bunch of really neat aviation events and stories. It was neat to hear about Hugh's adventure of his purchase of his Titan Tornado from out west and his flight back. Oh how I long for a nice cross country flight in my Pulsar some day! Of course, Captain Paul Rankin always has neat stories of his flying adventures. We stopped for our usual lunch/breakfast at the Norski Nook and I had my same lefsa breakfast wrap and a big slice of their home-made pie, to die for!

The guys could tell when we were getting close to Oshkosh as I was getting excited as I always do. Something about that place that just makes me smile and look forward to my visit.

It was neat to see the grounds early this year as they are changing things around. We checked in and walked to the Pioneer airport to look things over. After a nice dinner at The China Banquet we settled in for the night. This year, I was the veteran of the group so I needed to let the group know when to get up and when breakfast, lunch and dinner was and where to go for work assignments. We kind of wanted to work together as a group somehow but as they read off the assignments they only asked for a couple of people each time. I volunteered to go work on the showers, same as last year, with a nice EAA carpenter guy, Don. I met Don the very first time I came to one of these events. He is a great guy and fun to work with. He always looks me up during the airshow. I also saw another carpenter from the first time, Hank who just showed up but not to work that day. He recognized me and it was good to talk to him. Of course he came by to inspect our work!

Steve Taylor, the supervisor, gave the whole group a neat



Later on that night we were given a neat Air Museum tour. It is neat to be able to go over the barriers they set up around some of the aircraft and look at them more closely. Here is Paul Rankin and myself next to the Mahogany Monster, the Mosquito.

All in all, just another great time spent at Oshkosh! I told Don and Hank that I just may come back for another work event on my own before the show but we will see. Always stuff to do here especially with the clubhouse addition.



### Contact Information for Newsletter Stories

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## **QUOTE OF THE MONTH**

**Lovers of air travel find it exhilarating to hang poised between  
the illusion of immortality and the fact of death.**

*—Alexander Chase, Perspectives, 1966.*