



The Beacon

The newsletter of Chapter 54
Lake Elmo, Minn.

JUNE 2010

JUNE 2010

THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM WILL BE ON
MONDAY JUNE 14, 2010.

- SOCIAL HOUR STARTING AT 7:00PM.
- MEETING AT 7:30PM, CHAPTER HOUSE, ENTRANCE B, LAKE ELMO AIRPORT. (21D).
- AT THE NEXT CHAPTER MEETING:
NO INFORMATION YET BUT WILL BE ANNOUNCED AS SOON AS WE GET IT!

Remembering a Former Chapter President

Compiled by Tom Gibbons



On Friday May 21, 2010 Chapter 54 lost one of it's own. A former President of the chapter, a Vans Aircraft RV-6 builder and an all around great person, Dale Rupp passed away. On that day myself and four other chapter members were headed

to Oshkosh for our annual Weekend Work Party event though we did not get the news until we returned. Dale used to go to this event only in a different way, he would head there on his own and fly Young Eagles in the EAA's aircraft. I remember one year when we were there and he managed to hook up with us. Dale was the president when I first joined and I really got to know him and enjoyed visiting him at his hanger while he working on his RV-6 project. Dale had heard of my Dad when I mentioned his name and I asked him one day to stop by and talk to Dad and he agreed. It was neat to see them talking. Dale also was the one to



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talk me into taking over the newsletter editor job. I had no idea what I was getting myself into but Dale assured me I was going to do a good job. I saw him once in

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FROM THE FLIGHT DECK (PRESIDENTS REPORT)

BY LEIF ERICKSON

International Learn to Fly Day is now history. I presume it will become an annual event for the various sponsoring organizations and Chapter 54. The intent of the program is to introduce non-pilots to the world of general aviation. Hopefully programs like ILTFD will help produce a new generation of pilots and sustain the future of general aviation. Someday, we will no longer want, or be able to fly, and it will be nice to have a market of potential buyers for our airplanes.

Chapter 54's contribution to Learn to Fly Day was headed by Jim Pearsall. Jim did a great job of organizing our Open House event at Valters. The next time you see Jim, thank him for his work. The response to ILTFD was overwhelming. I had no idea of how many people we would attract. I was thinking if half a dozen people showed up we could consider it a success. I'm not sure exactly how many people showed up at Valters other than to say "a lot". At times the lobby at Valters was so crowded with people it was difficult to walk through. We gave 31 free orientation rides. We started promptly at 8:00 AM when guests started to arrive. Our pilots flew almost non-stop until noon when they were both literally and figuratively out of gas. We still had several people interested in rides but had to turn them down. Fortunately they understood.

I talked to just about everyone that received a free ride. There was a wide range of backgrounds, from former pilots interested in becoming current, to young adults thinking of a career in aviation, to those just looking for a free airplane ride, to those just seriously interested in learning to fly. Whatever their reason, I think we satisfied their curiosity and tweaked their interest. We provided a positive first step.

Also, special thanks to the few ground support volunteers that helped. We definitely could have used more pilots and ground support people. But overall, it was a very successful first event.

The next big event on our calendar is Aviation Day. We are still planning adding scrambled eggs to the menu. We will not add Brines sausages this year due to the technical difficulties of preparing and serving them. Instead we will stay with the Jimmy Dean sausage patties we have used for the past several years.

Tentative plans are for a trial breakfast on Saturday, June 26. We will prepare scrambled eggs and sausages for everyone in the chapter, and anyone else on the field that wants to attend. We'll charge enough to cover expenses. The important thing will be to gain experience preparing and serving the new items. We don't want to make August 15 a learning experience with hundreds of hungry people standing in line. Think about how you could help!!

I have one new business item for the June meeting. Several chapter members have expressed interest in a Chapter 54 pedal plane. We have at least two chapter members willing to build it. The chapter would supply materials which are estimated to be around \$300. We would use the pedal plane at Aviation Day as a kid's attraction and other chapter events.

I understand our 2010 May banquet was again poorly attended again this year, despite returning to Mancini's Restaurant. Perhaps we should think of a different social event for chapter members and their spouses and families that would be more attractive. Dave Fiebiger was surprised, and pleased, to receive a plaque commemorating his work planning and supervising construction of the club house addition. The plaque is now hanging in the Chapter house. Take a look at it and say thank you to Dave.

Jeff and Paul Hove attended a meeting at the MNDOT Aeronautics office about proposed modifications to the MSP Class-B airspace. They will keep Chapter informed of the proposed changes and also pass along any comments or suggestions we have.

On Thursday, May 6 my wife and I represented Chapter 54 at an aviation focused Family Night geared towards Pre K - Grade 3 students at Farnsworth Aerospace. Over the course of the evening we talked to roughly two dozen parents and the children about EAA and the Young Eagles program. What a fun evening!!

Finally, congratulations to Chapter 54's newest private pilot – Tim Reberg. He passed his check ride with Bill Mavencamp at Maple Lake on May 29.



Dale Rupp in his RV-6 work apron at his hangar with other fellow Chapter 54 members.

EAA CHAPTER 54 TREASURER'S REPORT

BY PAUL RANKIN

EDITORS NOTE: AS DISCUSSED AT A RECENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, THE TREASURER'S REPORT WILL NOW BE ON OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.EAA54.ORG/MEMBERSONLY



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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')

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awhile at the clubhouse on a Saturday morning and I made sure to say Hi to him and see how he was doing. I overheard one time that he had lost his medical and probably could not fly on his own so that bothered me but I did not have the courage to talk to him about it. Dale will be sorely missed at the chapter and I am sure around the airport too but we know he is flying in beautiful conditions up where the weather is always wonderful 24/7, 365 days a year. Good bye my friend, I will miss your kindness and wonderful friendship around the airport!

- Tom Gibbons, Chapter 54 Newsletter Editor

Below are some kind words from fellow chapter members and former chapter members that I thought would be nice for all to see.

You know, it was Dale who, with his very easy-going personality, convinced me this was the Chapter to join even though it was 35 miles one way from my home. He wasn't even aware that he did it. I knew that he was doing poorly but I didn't expect his death so quickly. I'm ashamed I did not visit him more. Often, as he was building his RV6, he would reply "Tuesday" when asked when he would fly the plane. Somehow I guess I expected him to make his final flight on "Tuesday".

Dale, may you always have:
Runway ahead of you,
Altitude beneath you,
Blue skies above you,
Your fuel tanks are full,
And tailwinds forever. - Bob Pittelkow

Dale was President when I joined--he was the culture of the club, friendly, knowledgeable, approachable, all the best parts of the club. I sat at my desk for about 5 minutes when I read the email.

-Dale Seitzer

Dale was the former president when I joined many years ago. When I took over chapter newsletter duties, he always had a kind word thanks to his encouragement. He was the first RV project that I visited regularly, and he's the one who taught me the hangar rules of "No Politics. No Religion." Dale is also the person who taught me the proper response when somebody asks, "When is your first flight?" "Tuesday," he'd say. He just wouldn't say which Tuesday. The other day I was working on the RV-7A project and thought, "I'm about where Dale Rupp was the last time I visited his under-construction project." He flew the next year. He had the good sense to wait an entire winter to make his first flight. There aren't many RV builders with that kind of good, common sense. He sent me an e-mail a few months ago: **"Bob, saw you on Channel 2 a week or so ago. How is the RV6 coming along? It looks like my PIC flying days are over. Some how I have gotten older and some of my parts are wearing out."**

-Bob Collins, RV-7A builder and former Chapter 54 member
From his blog, Letters from Flyover Country

Dale was one of the first people I met at Lake Elmo. I was in Mayer Aviation (old building), seeing what "it" was all about and this guy got out of a Taylorcraft looking like he had been rode hard and put up wet. Turns out he'd just landed from one of his marathon X-C's but he still managed a somewhat dazed smile. My condolences to his family.

-David Holmes

Dale was the person who got me interested in building an RV. We have been friends ever since and in the same hangar building for the last year. I have used many of the building tricks that Dale came up with and conversations were always informative and humorous. I have been missing seeing him at Friday morning breakfast and at the clubhouse on Saturday mornings.

-Scott Hutchinson

I was deeply saddened to hear of Dale Rupp's death on May 21. We have not seen Dale on Saturday mornings at the Chapter House for some time – I presume because of his health. Normally he was a "regular" member of the Saturday morning hangar talk and coffee group. Over the years he served many functions for the Chapter. His friendly personality and willingness to serve Chapter 54 and EAA will be sorely missed.

-Leif Erickson

Aviation Day Planning Meetings

Aviation Day, on Sunday, August 15, is rapidly approaching and we have a lot of planning and preparation work to accomplish before the event. Thus, I am scheduling the following Tuesday dates for planning meetings: June 15, June 29, July 13, July 27, and, August 10. We will meet at 7:00 PM at the chapter building. All chapter members, interested in a successful 2010 Aviation Day, are encouraged to attend.

At the June 15 meeting, the agenda items will be 1) finalizing menu items, 2) setting the price and a target number of attendees, and 3) recruiting committee chairs.

There was been considerable discussion and research into adding scrambled eggs and Brines sausages to the menu. At this point, I am not in favor of including the Brines sausages. They are not pre-cooked and that adds an extra complexity to their preparation, storage, and serving. Pre-cooking, or even having Brines pre-cook them, increases the requirement for proper handling and storage to avoid food contamination. With the limited facilities at Valters hangar I feel our best course is to stay with the frozen Jimmy Dean sausages we used last year.

For the scrambled eggs I favor using liquid, pasteurized eggs from Sysco Foods. We can prepare them in an electric frying pan and store in a warming oven for serving. Also, unopened, refrigerated containers are returnable to Sysco thus avoiding the need to dispose of the unused liquid eggs before they perish. The other option was boiling eggs in pre-packaged plastic bags. However, this operation requires maintaining a continuous supply of boiling water (several gallons) which is not feasible considering the facilities in Valters hangar.

Another option is making no changes to the menu and staying with what we have done for previous events. That menu consisted of pancakes and Jimmy Dean sausages. If we decide to stay with last year's menu, then I recommend reducing the price to \$4 for adults and \$2 for children, with all-you-can-eat pancakes. The price reduction should greatly improve attendance. A family of four could eat breakfast for \$12 which is competitive with McDonalds. Plus we have the attraction of the airplanes for the kids to watch.

The following is a list of committees and committee chairs that have already volunteered:

1. Set-up:
2. Tear-down:
3. Events: Paul Hove
4. Publicity: Leif Erickson
5. Head Chef:
6. First Shift Cooking/serving: Craig and Karla Young
7. Second Shift Cooking/serving
8. Flight Operations/Safety:
9. Aircraft Parking:
10. Auto Parking:
11. Logistics:
12. Volunteers Recruiter:
13. Kid Venture:
14. Finances: Paul Rankin
15. Raffle/door prizes:
16. Public Address Announcer:

I will be soliciting suggestions at the meeting for names of members to fill each of the remaining chair positions. We have task lists for most of these committees. So, if someone wants to know what the committee responsibilities are before volunteering, we can provide that information. I would like to have all committee chairs recruited by the middle of July. That will give the Volunteers Recruiter time to recruit the needed rank-and-file committee members.

Volunteers, both committee chairs and committee members, are so important. Without them this event will never happen. John Kennedy said in his first presidential inaugural address "Ask not what your country can do for you. Ask what you can do for your country". Let's substitute the word "Chapter" for "country" and ask each Chapter 54 member to participate and help make our 2010 Aviation Day the best ever.

Aviation Day Trial Breakfast

In preparation for Aviation Day and the addition of scrambled eggs to the menu, the chapter will host a trial scrambled eggs and sausage breakfast on Saturday, June 26 at the Chapter House. The breakfast will start at 9:00 AM and continue until the food is all gone. The cost is yet to be determined, but it will be just enough to cover expenses.

If you are at the airport on Saturday, June 26 please stop by for breakfast. We need the practice preparing scrambled eggs for a large group of hungry people. The event is open to anyone of the airport so please invite your friends that are not chapter members.

-Leif Erickson



Chapter 54 Meeting Minutes

May 10, 2010

By Dale Seitzer

As last month was our annual Chapter Banquet there is no meeting minutes for this month, however below is a summary of the banquet.



*2010 Chapter Banquet
Chairman Bettie Seitzer pre-
sents Dave Fiebiger with a
plaque for all his work during
the clubhouse edition.*

*The plaque as it appears now hanging
in the clubhouse.*

*During the banquet, Dave explained
how the addition all came together as he
showed us a slide presentation.*

Thanks for all your hard work Dave!



Pilots Lounge

Tailwinds Flying Partnership, based at Lake Elmo Airport, has new membership openings available. Visit www.tailwinds21d.org for more information.

We are a partnership of 38 pilots and own three Piper aircraft. Our goal and philosophy are to fly great airplanes inexpensively. We strive for consistency in equipment among our three airplanes. To inquire about membership, please send an e-mail to Mark or call 651-982-6275.



For Sale

1,100 lb Minisize Electric Rope Hoist, 110 V AC, 12 A, 1 ¾ hp, \$75. I planned to use it to raise and lower a hangar door but changed my mind. Contact Leif Erickson @ 651-439-5040 or lericks@presenter.com.

Welcoming New Members:

-Alexandra Roberts and her parents, David and Barbara Roberts of Woodbury. Alex is the high school senior who gave us such an inspiring talk at the February meeting about her future plans and career ambitions. She's a Student Pilot at Valters Aviation -- if she hasn't already gotten her private license!

-Guy Freeman lives in Stillwater, is an airline pilot, ATP, with single-engine land and sea as well as glider ratings. He's currently building an aircraft, and is interested in teaching and mentoring as well as all kinds of flying.

-David Syverson is a consultant for the State of Minnesota; he lives in St. Paul. David has a Kitfox, and has also, with another person, restored an airplane. He loves planes, cars, traveling, and outdoor activities: hunting, fishing, camping.

-Ed Pfeiffer flies a 1961 Cessna 172, and lives in Wyoming, MN. He's building an Fisher Classic airplane in retirement, and enjoys electronics.

-Craig Mueller and George Podrug just completed our Ground School with flying colors! Craig is an investment banker from Mahtomedi, and George, from Hugo, is a regional manager for Superior Crane Corporation.

-Donald Moulin has joined us again after a very long absence. He was a charter member of EAA54 in 1970, as you can see by looking at the charter document posted on the clubhouse wall. He lives on Bayard Ave. in Saint Paul, and is a retired systems analyst. He's a private pilot, but isn't currently flying. A long time ago he started building a Flybaby, but the project was never finished. Don, we're glad to have you back!

Darrel Gibson is an A&P/IA mechanic who lives in Hudson, WI. He is self-employed, and his company is St. Croix Valley Aviation. He's also a student pilot, who likes aviation, hunting and fishing.

Eugene Hawkinson lives in Stillwater. He's a retired 3Mer, a mechanical engineer who also worked as a mechanic for NWA in the '50s and '60s. He's a student pilot, and enjoys woodworking and auto repair.

If you see any of these folks around the airport or chapter clubhouse, please say hello and welcome them to the chapter!

Best Regards, John Renwick, Membership Coordinator



EAA Chapter 54 International Learn to Fly Day May 15, 2010

The weather was perfect for the first ILTF Day at 21D. The event was a cooperation between Valters Aviation and Chapter 54. The goal was to introduce adults to aviation, a adult version of Young Eagles.

The attendance was beyond expectations. From the start, the lobby at Valters was full of visitors, interspaced with Chapter 54 members and Valters staff chatting about airplanes and flying. Over 30 folks were introduced to the General Aviation flying experience.

As a topper we had Pam Kelly, in below picture, produce a piece for the Valley Access Channel. As details are available on an air date, they will be distributed via email.



Thanks to all the pilots, **Dave Becker, Dale Seitzer, Jeff Hove, Dave Syverson, Al Kupferschmidt, Bob Pitelkow, Dan Bergstrom, Grant Wallace** and ground helpers **Leif Erickson, Tom Gibbons and Patrick Norris**, the event was productive and safe. Also thanks to Gatis Valters and his team for their wonderful hospitality. We have take-away lessons we will use to make it better next year, but we are off to a good start.

-Jim Pearsall



Above, Patrick Norris talks to potential pilots and to the left, Tom Gibbons directs the traffic.



The 2010 EAA Chapter 54 Oshkosh Work Party

By Dale Seitzer



I know party is in the title but it really is not a party. Oh sure, they provide free beer. "Drink this case and we'll bring another." You will see there was work completed in the fine photographs taken with Paul Rankin's camera.

The trip from Lake Elmo to Oshkosh is a trip taken many time before by the individuals. Paul Rankin drove, Paul Hove, Tom Gibbons, Roger Westerburg and me. This trip, like all the previous trips, took the same route, stopped at the same restaurants -- there must be something comforting about the same routine. The Norske Nook had good food -- I did not buy a piece of pie, everyone else did and loved it. The food at the Chinese Buffet made me sick—I am allergic to peanuts. The owner assured me, "No Peanut" on any food except for the Peanut Chicken. Somehow my food was contaminated.

I had not been on a work party at Oshkosh so I was learning while experiencing the event. EAA asks chapter members to volunteer over about 6 weekends every spring and early summer. They assist maintenance staff and other volunteers complete relatively simple tasks. The formal part of the weekend begins Saturday morning at 7 AM for a fine breakfast. The meals are best described as coming from the official church ladies cookbook. The cooks are volunteers too and they bring their rich heritage of Packer- Land cuisine. At 8 the work assignments are described -- they always need lawnmowers and this weekend they needed a crew of 4-6 guys to work on two storage sheds at the Seaplane Base. We had all worked together on the clubhouse addition so we figured we would be able to work as a team and not injure each other.

There were about a dozen Vintage Club volunteers but they were working exclusively on Vintage projects. Just 5 other people from 2 other clubs were there for the weekend work party. They had work for 3 times that many volunteers.

There are 2 choices for lodging, the bunkhouse with beds and living room in one 25 x 50 foot room. The other choice is the Binder House. This house was a tradi-

tional farm house with three bedrooms. There were cots in every room except the kitchen. Every room, including the porch had 4 to 5 cots—there were 24 cots in the house with one bathroom. The tradition is that volunteers with the most seniority choose which cot they will sleep on during AirVenture. Everyone had a private room for this weekend but I shudder when I think of 4 to 5 people in each room during a hot July evening.

Our volunteer coordinator was named Jerry -- he was a retired engineer. He volunteered for years and recently had built the floor, foundation and the wall units during the previous weeks. Our job was to assemble the walls and start on the rafters of two storage buildings. We had to level everything first and bolt the floor pieces together. The construction method was similar to the way we built the addition—sections were pre-built and then lifted into place for final assembly. Getting the walls, floors and rafters square, straight and as tight as possible was a challenge.

Our leader was remarkable picky, after all, these were essentially temporary structures, without foundation that would be used for storage. If it were me, a quarter inch gap would be filled with caulk and a coat of paint and no one would know.

The Maintenance Leader, Steve brought a cooler filled with pop and water and a variety box of cookies. It was warm and the fluids were essential.

We worked a full day and Saturday night we received a guided tour of the grounds and the improvements this year. Look for an expansion of Building C, more shower and toilets and a bike path.

We also received a presentation of the next steps for the Young Eagles program. There will be rewards for youth who complete the Sportys written test and discounts on lessons and scholarships.

There was a television in the Binder house but only 3 chairs. Tom borrowed episodes from Sky King from the bunkhouse DVD library. I don't remember the show but it was fun to watch with these aviation geeks who argue about the weirdest details—such as the size of the N numbers on Sky Kings plane—and the different models of the airplane used in the show.

Sunday was another warm day, we packed up our gear, had breakfast and worked until Noon. We did not finish the buildings but we did accomplish a big task—the heavy lifting was done. No fights broke out and nobody got hurt so it was a successful event.

The trip home had fewer comments about landmarks on the route because everyone was tired and most tried to nap. Thanks to Paul Rankin for driving





Young Eagles Report
by Dave Becker



Our Chapter 54 Young Eagles regularly scheduled event on May 8th was weathered out due to low clouds and high winds. The event has been re-scheduled for Saturday, June 5, in the hope of completing these kids Young Eagle flight. June will be a busy month for Young Eagles with the regularly scheduled event to follow on the next Saturday. Our volunteers did fly a group of five kids from the PLACE group on May 18. They all went back to their classes with smiles on their faces.



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.

Sign Up at WWW.EAA54.ORG
Free PLANE RIDES
FOR YOUNG EAGLES AGES 8-17
2nd Saturday, 9:00 a.m. May - October
Lake Elmo Airport - Entrance B



EAA Chapter 54 at Lake Elmo Airport invites young aviators ages 8 to 17 for a **free airplane ride**. Young Eagle rides are given each **2nd Saturday of the month from May through October at 9:00 a.m.**, weather permitting.

To reserve a flight, sign up at
WWW.EAA54.ORG
Click on Young Eagles.



TAXI TALK

{Interesting happenings compiled by the editor}

HAPPY FATHERS DAY to all you Dads. Hope your families give you what you want during this day! I bet it would be a day at the hanger or flying time!

Remembering Dale!

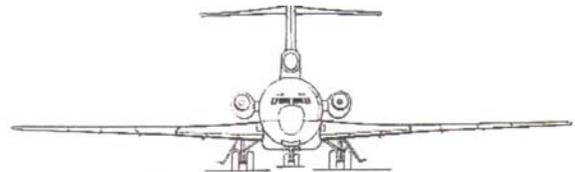


This picture sent to me by Dave Becker from the 2009 Chapter Banquet. We will miss you Dale!

Weekend Work Party

It was another great year for going to the weekend work party. Though the weather was warm and sticky at times it was still nice to visit the grounds before the "BIG" show. This year there are many new improvements again. For one they are putting in a bike path to go from the campgrounds to the North 40. Since I have been volunteering for the Flight Line Operations, which is past the warbird area near the middle of an area south of runways 9 - 27, the past two years it is very tough to cycle there as I need to do when I come from my campsite. This really is going to make it easier and also it is nice to just cycle around that area of the north 40 just to see all the neat aircraft. Just writing about all this gets me excited for this year's show! Hope to see you there!

How's this for my "N" Number?



727PT

I hope to have this made into a vinyl graphic and apply it to my Pulsar. I do love the Boeing 727 and the "PT" stands for Pulsar by Tom!

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QUOTE OF THE MONTH

**In our dreams we are able to fly.....and that is a remembering of how
we were meant to be.**

- Madeleine L 'Engle, Walking on Water.