



# The Beacon

The newsletter of Chapter 54  
Lake Elmo, Minn.

MARCH 2011

## MARCH 2011

THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM WILL BE ON  
MONDAY MARCH 14, 2011.

- SOCIAL HOUR STARTING AT 7:00PM.
- MEETING AT 7:30PM, CHAPTER HOUSE, ENTRANCE B, LAKE ELMO AIRPORT. (21D).
- AT THE NEXT CHAPTER MEETING:  
TO BE ANNOUNCED SO STAY TUNED OR CONTACT OUR CHAPTER PRESIDENT FOR MORE INFORMATION.

## A Chapter Member Heads to Texas for Vacation!

*By Tom Gibbons*



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I work outside at my job as a Fleet Service Clerk (aka...baggage handler) for American Airlines and during the winter I take what I call a mid-cold spell break vacation to visit some place warmer than Minnesota, usually around the beginning of February. There were times when I would stay home and get projects done around the house or even work on my homebuilt aircraft, a Pulsar. But when it's so cold I just have to seek a warm area, usually where a Pulsar is being built or flying. One of my most favorite trips was to the Washington D.C. area in 2004 where I met two of our Pulsar flyers and they flew me and a buddy down to Kitty Hawk N.C. where the first powered flight took place. Imagine flying there in an experimental aircraft as we did in two Pulsars! But this is another story to be told again maybe in a future newsletter. I also have been to San Antonio, TX a couple of times to visit a friend and Pulsar builder whom lives in a house on an airfield, way too cool. I have been out west to visit a buddy up in the

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## FROM THE FLIGHT DECK (PRESIDENTS REPORT)

BY LEIF ERICKSON

So far, the last few weeks of February and the first week of March have been very busy. It was nice to return from Georgia and get back into my normal routine. There are many events going on in our Chapter and always something to keep me busy.

Roger Westerberg agreed to apply for Technical Counselor status for Chapter 54. Roger will do a great job and will be a valuable resource for members that are currently building an airplane and to prospective new members that are thinking about a project. Roger will join Bill Schanks, our other Technical Counselor. There is no limit to the number of Tech counselors a Chapter can have, so if any other Chapter 54 members are interested in applying, please contact me and you can get started on the paperwork. The application form is available on the EAA website.

In addition to Technical Counselors, Chapters are also encouraged to recruit Flight Advisors. Here is what the EAA website has to say about the duties of a Flight Advisor. "The EAA Flight Advisor program helps with everything from **finding the right instructor** and **planning a first flight** to **determining the types of additional training needed**. More than 500 flight advisors counsel members considering **purchasing an aircraft, preparing for flight in a newly built or restored aircraft, or looking to transition to a high performance or unfamiliar aircraft**. Only EAA Members can take advantage of the complimentary services of a Flight Advisor." If any Chapter 54 members feel qualified and would like to participate in this program, please consider applying. The application form is also available on the EAA website.

On the last Friday in February I meet with Events Director Jim Pearsall. We talked about the annual Spring Banquet in May, Learn to Fly Day, and Aviation Day. Jim is excited about the challenges ahead in organizing and leading these big events. He is energetic, well organized, and is coming up with many creative ideas for improvements. Jim will present his ideas at the March chapter meeting so be sure to attend and hear what he has in mind. I think you will be impressed.

It's also been a busy month for many of our other Directors. I need to say "Thank You" to:

1. Dave Becker for selecting and awarding 2011 Air Academy scholarships to Ryan Gunderson, Jamie Cardenas, and Tristan Witch.
2. The person that dropped off a used weed whip at our clubhouse. It looks to be in good condition and will help us control the weeds and grass that grow around our building. We could also use a good lawnmower, hedge trimmer, and lots of free labor – anyone interested?
3. EAA member Art Mouyard. Art donated three Tony Bingelis books on building airplanes to the chapter. They will be added to our library.
4. Everyone involved in our Private Pilot Ground School. I understand we enrolled 19 students. I'm looking forward to doing my part later this month.

A couple of other things to report:

1. EAA is sponsoring several Chapter Leadership Academy events again this year. Check the EAA website for the dates. They are valuable week-end experiences for anyone interested in accepting a leadership role in a chapter. The weekend Academy also includes a private tour of the museum and the EAA maintenance hangar, an opportunity to meet Paul and Tom Poberezny, and many other staff people at EAA. I highly recommend going.
2. I received an e-mail from EAA announcing several Webinars in March. The topics look to be very interesting. If you're interested in something other than following Charlie Sheen's problems, plan to register for one of these. I think you will find them very informative and entertaining.

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President's Report continued From Page 2

3. John Renwick announced that Michael Roznick joined the chapter. Michael, a high school student, is enrolled in our Private Pilot ground school. He is the son of member John Roznick. The Roznicks live in Stillwater. Michael likes to build model aircraft and research military aviation history. Please welcome Michael to our Chapter.

Finally, I must admit that I'm getting a little depressed over this winter weather. Yes, I know no one will feel sorry for me since I missed six weeks of it. But still, I checked the Chanhassen National Weather Service website and found that we officially still have 11 inches of snow on the ground. Last year, at this time, we had zero inches. For the season, we've had 76.5 inches, which is over 30 inches above normal. And worst of all, last week I went out to the hangar to check on my airplane. When I got there I found the service door frozen shut!! This morning the low temperature was -2 °F. Where is spring???????

Our next meeting will be Monday, March 14. Mark your calendars know and plan to attend.

Chapter 54 President Leif Erickson



## Chapter 54 Directory

President  
Leif Erickson  
[president@eaa54.org](mailto:president@eaa54.org)

Vice President  
Bettie Seitzer  
[vicepresident@eaa54.org](mailto:vicepresident@eaa54.org)

Treasurer  
Paul Rankin  
[treasurer@eaa54.org](mailto:treasurer@eaa54.org)

Secretary/Class IV Director  
Dale Seitzer  
[secretary@eaa54.org](mailto:secretary@eaa54.org)

Education Director  
Art Edlund  
[education@eaa54.org](mailto:education@eaa54.org)

Events Director  
Jim Pearsall  
[events@eaa54.org](mailto:events@eaa54.org)

Housing Director  
Dave Fiebiger  
[housing@eaa54.org](mailto:housing@eaa54.org)

Membership Director  
John Renwick  
[membership@eaa54.org](mailto:membership@eaa54.org)

Young Eagles Director  
Dave Becker  
[youngeagles@eaa54.org](mailto:youngeagles@eaa54.org)

Newsletter Editor/Director At-Large  
Tom Gibbons  
[Newsletter@eaa54.org](mailto:Newsletter@eaa54.org)

Chapter Historian: Jeff Hove

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, Unicom: 122.8  
21D AWOS:120.075, TPA: 1932'  
Runways: 4-22 (2497' x 75')  
14-32 (2850' x 75')

## 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](http://WWW.EAA54.ORG/MEMBERSONLY)

Editors Note: These great pictures/calendars are pulled from the EAA website, [www.eaa.org/wallpaper](http://www.eaa.org/wallpaper) . They can be used for your screen savers!



mountain range of San Bernardino to his home in Big Bear just northeast of Ontario, CA. Beautiful, just beautiful! A couple of years ago I went to Pennsylvania to an area up in the Appalachian mountain range to visit a couple who picked me up in Philadelphia, about an hour and a half drive, so I could visit their Pulsar project. These have always been some fun visits with these people letting me stay with them the whole time! I cannot express how proud I am and happy I am that I belong to such a great group of aircraft builders and flyers that the Pulsar group is!



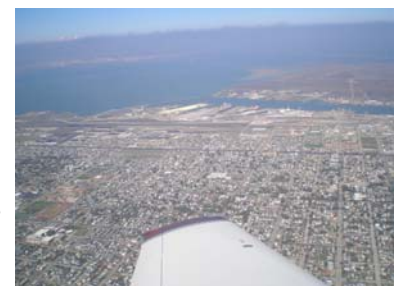
This year was no different! It was cold, real cold so I had to go somewhere! One of my flying Pulsar buddies recently got remarried to a beautiful and fun woman from Houston, TX. After meeting her and having so much fun with them at our Pulsar Reunion this past year at Lawrence, KS. I mentioned I'd love to visit them if I could and they said sure. When I sent them an e-mail saying I had an up coming vacation this February they were so excited and invited me down for the week. WOW what a week! I flew down on Sunday, February 6, which would have been my Dad's 86<sup>th</sup> birthday, and Jim picked me up at IAH and took me to their beautiful home in League City just south of Houston. We

had a blast that night and it was nice to see his wife, Rhonda, whom made the most delicious Cajun shrimp gumbo soup ever! The next morning after a beautiful breakfast cooked by Rhonda, Jim and I headed to the airport where Jim's Pulsar is based. Jim just managed to secure a lease for his hangar recently moved in so there were boxes and stuff all over to which it was planned that I help him get a little organized. We did what we could that morning and since it was quite windy we decided not to fly. Two days later and some calmer weather we headed back to the airport for a short flight to the Galveston area and the beaches.

We hopped in his Pulsar and taxied to the runway. After the necessary preflight check Jim takes the runway and says, "Ok, you're gonna take us off!" I was nervous but I took the stick and pedals and after calling traffic, we started our roll. I was a little squirrely on the runway but managed a decent take off. The Pulsar is easy to fly but has sensitive controls that you have to be aware of. In my lovely many years of building I have managed to gain some experience and that will be good when it comes to my plane, if it ever does fly!! After circling his house to wave to his wife we headed towards Galveston. It wasn't soon after that when Jim said again that I could fly it. It was a little bumpy over land and the clouds were around 3000' as we headed towards the beaches south of Galveston and Jim mentioned that he thought the clouds will probably clear out over the beach area, I thought otherwise. He was right as the clouds cleared out over the beach and it became smooth, unbelievably smooth! I told Jim we must be in heaven because it was so smooth and beautiful!



probably clear out over the beach area, I thought otherwise. He was right as the clouds cleared out over the beach and it became smooth, unbelievably smooth! I told Jim we must be in heaven because it was so smooth and beautiful!



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# Chapter Leaders Academy



## T h e r e ' s   s t i l l   t i m e .

Several openings remain for the next Chapter Leaders Academy session. These sessions are not only extremely valuable for any chapter officer, but can also be of great service to newly elected officers and future chapter leaders. We encourage your chapter to consider participating.

The academy sessions are provided free of charge. We'll take care of your food, lodging, and local transportation. You'll be responsible for the travel expenses to Oshkosh, but don't let that stop you. If travel costs are an issue, let us know and we may be able to assist you.

The sessions begin on Friday evening with dinner and social time, followed by a daylong discussion on many topics that challenge all chapters, including recruitment, programs, and fundraising. The academy concludes on Sunday with a half-day of meetings and another opportunity to discuss topics that may be of interest to your chapter. In addition, leaders meet many of the staff members they work with on a regular basis and other staff members who can be resources.

For more information or to reserve a spot, please contact us at [chapters@eaa.org](mailto:chapters@eaa.org) or call 920-426-4876.

Registration is open for all upcoming 2011 sessions.

March 11-13

April 1-3

October 14-16



## Chapter 54 Meeting Minutes

By Dale Seitzer

*Sorry, No minutes recorded from the last meeting*

### Book Reviews

These two books are being donated to the EAA Chapter 54 Library. Reading a fun aviation related book is a great thing to do on a cold nasty winter night. There are plenty of interesting books and many magazines you can check out for fun and education. Here are two local aviation books for you to consider.

***Bush Pilots, Legends of the Old and Bold*** by Bob Cary and Jack Hautala.

The book is a collection of stories from Bush pilots right here in our own back yard. Most of the stories are from pilots in Northern Minnesota. The stories are real, factual stories of pilots who are real people with fascinating settings and action.

They describe the events and situations in a light easy to read manner with enough detail to make it interesting but not too much that makes it seem like it takes all day to get to the point. You won't learn how to do short field landings on a float plane but you can almost see the action on lakes and rivers and small turf runways and field roads.

There are fun stories, dangerous stories and even stories of pilots who were too bold to be old.

***Winging it—at a Country Crossroads, The ups and downs of Minnesota's first real airport*** by Roger Bergerson is another local author with an even more local story. There are tons of historic photos of Minnesota aviation pilots and planes. The central theme is the activities, pilots and planes at an old airport that is now a bunch of houses in Falcon Heights, the Curtiss Northwest Airport.

This is another quick read with references to real locations and actual Minnesotans. We've come a long way as pilots and we are, at the same time, not that different from early aviation pioneers.



Pictured from the left is Jill Wahl from the Farnsworth Academy and Bettie Seitzer, chapter 54 vice president, as the chapter presented our donation to this wonderful school. And the kids, sorry unidentified, who went to the EAA Air Academy last summer. They gave a presentation at our February Meeting about their experiences.

## Pilots Lounge

**Tailwinds Flying Partnership**, based at Lake Elmo Airport, has new membership openings available. Visit [www.tailwinds21d.org](http://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.



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### For Sale:

4130 Gas Welding rods - 36" X 1/16" - I have 7 pounds of new rods I can part with. Each rod stamped with alloy ID. \$10 per pound or offer for the 7 pounds.

Vertical Card Compass lighted model - Precision Aviation, Inc - stamped 6/23/2004 \$50 or offer.

Dave Syverson [dsyverson@comcast.net](mailto:dsyverson@comcast.net) or see additional contact info in Membership List.

### For Sale:

60' x 48' Hanger, 54' door, small office, bathroom, well, holding tank, natural gas heat, 18' high ceiling, and 5HP compressor.

Asking \$80,000.00 or best offer.

2006 CT-SW Light Sport with about 200 hours Total time. Has everything on it. Asking \$90,000.00.

Call Jim Michalski at 612-618-1011 or see all of this at 13C Alfa Lane at the Lake Elmo Airport (21D)  
E-mail is [Jmkreps@comcast.net](mailto:Jmkreps@comcast.net).

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## LAKE ELMO MN (21D) SLSA Flying Club Forming

Looking for individuals interested in membership in a Flying Club featuring a Flight Design Light Sport Aircraft

**Contact Jim Pearsall**

Phone: 651-494-4579

E-mail: [pjpearsall@gmail.com](mailto:pjpearsall@gmail.com)



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We followed the beach area a little ways out over the water towards the Galveston area and beyond that towards the bays and inlets in the area. After some sight seeing over big ships and other areas Jim gave me headings back towards his airport where he let me fly the pattern all the way to final where he took over and did a beautiful landing into some fairly stiff cross winds. We put away the Pulsar after putting 1.2 hours on the meter, way too much fun flying.



That next Saturday, Jim and Rhonda were hosting what he called a Mid-Winter Pulsar Gathering. I helped Jim and his wife do the necessary preps for the gathering to which Jim was cooking a great Texas BBQ with ribs, brisket and amazing cream corn and then delicious banana pudding and brownies. With lots of Pulsar talk going on it was



soon time to head to the airport to greet an inbound Pulsar coming to the event. After we looked over the airplane like we always do



when someone flies in, Jim took Tim and his wife Amy to his house for some food. I stayed at the airport, imagine that, because I was going to meet another Pulsar pilot, whom I talked to at the BBQ, at his hangar and look over his plane as he installed the same engine as mine, a Jabiru 2200-80hp. He showed me all kinds of things on his aircraft and he removed the cowl so I could see his engine installation. He showed me all kinds of neat ideas to make my installation better. I learn something new every time I

get together with Pulsar people. After that, Tim and Amy came back to depart for their home airport about 45 minutes away so they would arrive before sunset. After seeing them off we went back to Jim's house and our Pulsar friends, who drove in, slowly departed for their homes. It was a great day spent with Pulsar friends and thanks go out to Jim and Rhonda for hosting it all!



**Stay tuned here next month as my Pulsar flying adventures continue as Jim takes me to a really neat fly-in restaurant for that \$100 burger.**



# EAA Chapter 54

## Private Pilot Ground School

Mondays and Thursdays from February 3 to April 25, 2011

Located at the EAA Chapter Clubhouse at Lake Elmo Airport

Visit [www.eaa54.org](http://www.eaa54.org) to sign-up and get more information

Class sessions are held at the EAA Chapter 54 clubhouse at the "B" entrance to Lake Elmo Airport (21D). The initial sign up and enrollment meeting for the 2011 class will be held February 3, 2010 at 6:00 PM. Classes will be held on Mondays and Thursdays from Feb. 3, 2011 through April 25, 2011. There will be no classes on Feb. 14, March 14, and April 11 as these dates are reserved for the monthly meeting of EAA Chapter 54. Class times are 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM. See complete [schedule](#) at [www.eaa54.org](http://www.eaa54.org)

Successful completion of this course will prepare the student to take the FAA Private Pilot Written Examination. Class size is limited so you are encouraged to sign-up early.

### Course Materials and Cost



Jeppesen course materials are used. Student kits can be purchased at [Valters Aviation](#) at the Lake Elmo Airport (21D) in advance of the class or they may be purchased at the enrollment session. Estimated costs for these course materials is \$200.00. In addition, students will pay a course fee of \$100.00 at the enrollment session.



# Young Eagles Report by Dave Becker



So far this year, I regret to report that we have not flown a single Young Eagles as of March 1. But on the upside, spring is close and Paul Liedl has activated our on-line scheduling webpage for Young Eagles to sign-up for a flight. Sign-ups are already starting to come in.



I am pleased to announce that our Chapter 54 will be sponsoring three youths to attend various EAA Air Academy camps this summer. When our pilots fly ten or more Young Eagles in a year, we receive a \$5.00 credit from EAA for each Young Eagle they fly, which we use towards our sponsorship of the Air Academy costs. The remainder of our sponsorship money comes from our checking account. The EAA Air Academy is a fabulous experience for children who have an interest in aviation. Each of the three kids will be reporting back to us at a monthly meeting after their return from camp.

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 St. Patrick's Day** to all you Irish out there and even those who would like to be Irish on March 17! Check out my quote of month on the last page that pretty well covers aviation with an Old Irish Blessing modified by myself!



A neat picture of a date I had recently of a girl staring at a beautiful Pulsar contemplating whether to go up in an experimental aircraft. Oh, what the general public does not know about our love affair of aircraft. As Jim, the owner tried to tell her, "The aircraft is not considered built to FAA standards, but it's built better than the standards in most areas." It did end up that she did not go but the winds were gusty that day so I think that was the main reason.

### 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](mailto:newsletter@eaa54.org)



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

## QUOTE OF THE MONTH

*May the runway rise up to meet you gently,  
May the wind always be at your back when at cruise altitude.  
May the sun shine warm upon your face,  
and rains fall soft upon your fields unless you are trying to land there!  
And until we meet again at some airport,  
May God hold you in the palm of His hand for many more great flights.*

*- An Old Irish Blessing, with aviation flair by Tom Gibbons*