



# The Beacon

The newsletter of Chapter 54  
Lake Elmo, Minn.

NOVEMBER 2011

## NOVEMBER 2011

THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM WILL BE ON  
MONDAY NOVEMBER 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:
- James Niehoff  
FAA Team Program Manager - Airworthiness Minneapolis Flight Standards District Office MSP - FSDO. Subject will be Owner/Operator Responsibilities in Aircraft Maintenance

## Chapter Member's Project Gets Mentioned in a Local Paper.

*Printed with permission*

By: [Jon Echternacht](#), Hudson Star-Observer

## Hudson man builds airplane in garage

John Weigel's passion for flying has consumed most of the space in his two-car garage for half a year at a time. Weigel is building his own airplane in the garage. So when is the maiden flight?

[John and Christine Weigel in garage with airplane](#)



John Weigel's passion for flying has consumed most of the space in his two-car garage for half a year at a time.

Weigel is building his own airplane in the garage under a contract with his wife, Christine, that states

Christine Weigel allows her husband John to build the airplane in the garage from April to October, but by Nov. 1 it has to be cleared to house two cars over the winter. Photo by Jon Echternacht

he can have the garage from April to October, but on Nov. 1 both their cars have to fit inside.

The arrangement has been working, but with wing assembly the next step, Weigel has set out to rent hanger space to finish the project. So when is the maiden flight?

"In the next year, year or two," Weigel said during a conversation at his Hudson residence and current airplane assembly plant where he is building a Zenith – STOHL CH750 from a kit.

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

*BY LEIF ERICKSON*

First of all, let me offer a big thank you to Paul Ranking for filling in for me at the October meeting. I regret not being able to attend but both my wife and I were still recovering from, what we think, was food poisoning from a restaurant we ate at on the previous Friday evening. I lost seven pounds from Saturday to Monday. The Chapter bylaws state that if the president is absent, the responsibility of running the meeting falls to the vice-President. And, if both the president and vice-president are missing, the Secretary is in charge. The By-laws do not specify who is in charge if all three of the above motioned officers are not in attendance. So I punted and asked Paul, the only other officer. From all reports, Paul was an excellent last-minute fill in.

At the November meeting we will elect our new Officers and Directors for 2012 and 2013. The list of candidates has been announced and published several times. So, without objection, we will elect them using a "White Ballot" at the November meeting. They will assume their duties at the conclusion of the December meeting.

If you've visited the clubhouse in the past few weeks you should have noticed the handiwork of Dale Seitzer. Dale stained our deck and painted the exterior over the past month. I think Dale had a volunteer helper but I do not know who that person was. Anyway, thank you to both of them. That was a big job. I think the Saturday paint job was an all-day event. During his work Dale discovered several deck boards that are rotting and will need replacement in the spring. Dale also pointed out that the clubhouse was painted just two years ago and that our siding does not hold paint well. Dale suggested we consider replacing our existing siding with permanent, no-maintenance siding to eliminate having to repaint every two years. That will be an issue for the new Board of Directors to consider at the January meeting.

Also, our last major event of the season concluded Saturday, October 22, with a make-up Young Eagles rally. Even though we had several cancellations due to weather this summer, we still had a successful Young Eagles season (see Dave Becker's YE Report in this newsletter). A big thank you also goes to Dave Becker for his leadership with the YE program over the last six (or nine years?). Dave has done a tremendous job organizing and promoting YE for the Chapter. I'm sure that Chapter 54 has been one of the leaders in YE flown over Dave's tenure. We thank Dave for his service and dedication to the chapter. Next time you see Dave, thank him for his service and dedication to Chapter 54. You may have a difficult time seeing him though because I understand his flying club has a new Sirius aircraft the Dave is newly checked out to fly. Now he needs to build some hours flying it. So maybe we'll just have to wave from the ground when we see the new Sirius flying over.

The November meeting will be on Monday, November 14. The social gathering begins at 7:00 PM followed by the regular meeting at 7:30. Look for the program announcement in this newsletter and on the Chapter website.



Morgan Maxwell was a graduate of our 2010 Private Pilot Ground School and on November 7, her 17<sup>th</sup> Birthday, earned her Private Pilot Certificate. Congratulations to her from all the 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/MEMBBERSONLY](http://WWW.EAA54.ORG/MEMBBERSONLY)

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!



**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  
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Events Director  
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Housing Director  
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Membership Director  
John Renwick  
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Young Eagles Director  
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[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')

The fuselage is together without the tail and the wing assembly has been started alongside. The garage is filled with parts and tools and a partial airplane. “Without the wings I could hoist it up from the ceiling and get two cars in the garage,” he said. “It was too cold to work on it in the winter. I started using only one-half the garage,” he said, but more parts and the wings have taken over the whole area. “Just as long as I can get my car in the garage by Nov. 1, it’s OK,” said Christine.

Weigel said the plane will be 21 feet long and 8 feet 8 inches high to the top of the tail with a 29-foot 9-inch wing span when finished. “A new one (airplane) costs \$100,000,” he said. Weigel estimates the cost to build one is about half as much. It will be awhile before the craft is ready for the engine. Weigel wants to get a 120-hp model, which will run on high octane car gasoline and should make for more economical flying. The 130-hp model takes 100-octane aviation fuel. The plane will have 12-gallon gas tanks in each wing. He figures he’ll use six gallons an hour with car gas. “Some people who build these kits use converted Chevrolet Corvair engines,” Weigel said. If anybody is wondering what to do with that air cooled rear engine model car from the 1960s sitting in the back yard, an airplane engine might be an option.

Some other basic facts about the plane Weigel imparted include:

- It will weigh about 800 pounds when finished, depending what kind of engine is installed.
- Maximum gross weight is between 1,320 and 1,440 pounds.
- Maximum speed is 100 mph (no matter how big an engine), Weigel said.
- It can take off on a short runway, 100 to 150 feet and land in less than 200 feet.
- It is considered a “low and slow” aircraft, but some have flown as high as 10,000 feet.

Weigel said he could probably finish up the project faster working full time but, “I promised my wife I would pay as I went,” he said.

Weigel, who is a member of Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) Chapter 54 at the Lake Elmo, Minn., airport, comes by his love of flying honestly. “I started taking lessons at age 16. I soloed in an airplane before I had a driver’s license,” he said. His father was a commercial 747 pilot and Weigel was told his first airplane ride came when he was two months old.

Weigel, 48, is a 1981 graduate of River Falls High School. He earned a degree in computer science in 1992 from UW-River Falls and currently is an IT manager for Wells Fargo in the Twin Cities. He and Christine have been married eight years. “I proposed to her in an airplane,” he said. Will Christine get the first ride in the new aircraft? “I don’t know if I’ll be the first, but I will take a ride in it,” she said.

Weigel is documenting his progress on the web at [www.mykitlog.com/jweigel](http://www.mykitlog.com/jweigel). He is also looking for a high school student with a similar passion for flying he had as a teenager to help him finish building his dream.



**Chapter 54 Meeting Minutes**  
**For October 10, 2011**  
*By Dale Seitzer*

Meeting called to order, 730pm, by Paul Rankin; Lief Erickson was absent tonight. Dale Seitzer and Betty were absent tonight, John Schmidt is filling in as secretary.

**Guests present:**

Greg Adler, New teacher at Farnsworth, pilot, was in chapter 25, was in the Maple Lake Chapter. Lives in Afton and does not have an airplane right now.  
 Dan Schmidt, took chapter. 54 ground school and is taking flying lessons at Menomonee, 10-15 hours so far.

**Motions;**

Moved by Jessie Black, seconded by Al Kupferschmidt to approve the Treasurer's report as it appears on the website. Passed.  
 Moved by Keith Polk, seconded by Paul Hove, to approve the September meeting minutes as they appear on the website. Passed.

**Old business.**

We have a slate of officers up for election:  
 President: Bettie Seitzer Vice President: Jim Pearsall  
 Secretary: Dale Seitzer Treasurer: Paul Rankin  
 Housing: Dave Fiebiger Education: Rob Barros  
 Young Eagles Linda Amble Membership John Renwick  
 Voting for officers to occur at the next (November) meeting.

IFR ground school: starting around May, 2012  
 Approved for spring of 2012, taught by Brian St. Claire. It would be Mondays and Thursdays, 6-9pm. We'd like to get it done before Memorial Day weekend, cost between \$100-150. If one passes the written, it's good for 2 years.

**New business:** None.

Young Eagles, Dave Becker: We got weathered out again so our rain date is October 22.  
 We've flown 135 Young Eagles this year.

Newsletter: reminder to send stories to Tom Gibbons

Education: Art Edlund – not present, no report.  
 The Thursday before the February meeting might be private pilot ground school sign-up deadline.

Historian: Jeff Hove: Ring binders of our chapter 54 history will be scanned and put on the website.

Housing Report: Dave Fiebiger: The paint might not be done on the west side of the building. The primer appears to be done. The deck is re-painted. Dale Seitzer might have been the only member to volunteer to paint the west side; with 150 members, we can do better than that. We must have more members involved.

Membership: John Renwick: We have 150 members, that's as high as it's ever been.

Events: Jim Pearsall: No events are planned on the horizon.

Jeff Hove/Al Kupferschmidt motion to adjourn, 8pm.

The meeting was followed by a presentation by Jeff Hove on formation flying in an RV7A/Bamboo Bomber, his flying in an L-39, his flying in the former Soviet Union in a MIG 25. (he reached 60,000 feet, burning 18,000 gallons of fuel in 45 minutes.) This was in 1995, and hosted by [www.incredibleadventures.com](http://www.incredibleadventures.com), which still offers this and other adventure/vacations.  
 Submitted by John Schmidt

## Pilots Lounge

### 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 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 .

### Deluxe Hanger For Sale:

40 X 50 with 44 X 11 Door

Fully carpeted, insulated, gas unit heater with S.S. flue, electric baseboards, F.G. ceiling, textured walls, some attic platform storage, attic trusses are reinforced and double "X" braced. Wall ventilator with humid stat, two season wall vents, tool room with shelves & separate thermostat. Screened storage above. LAV room with single tub, cistern & storage above. Holding tank. Coffee room 4' above floor with finished storage below. Completely finished with A.C. and large hanger view window. Anderson permashield casement window. Door 2 3/4 S.C. Oak with steel frame. Includes furniture, microwave, refrigerator, coffee bar cabinets with Formica. Main floor windows have jail bars. Perimeter has rock border & ramp is flared. There is an electric aircraft winch and a custom oak work bench as well as a desk and a glazed book cabinet.

Price is \$69,900 Firm Plus any MAC fees.

NORM DUPRE 651-439-7688

## 2012 – 2013 Officer and Class III Director Candidates

### Officers

President – Bettie Seitzer

Vice President – Jim Pearsall

Treasurer – Paul Rankin

Secretary – Dale Seitzer

### Class III Directors

Education – Rob Barros

Housing – Dave Fiebiger

Membership – John Renwick

Young Eagles – Linda Amble

**Chapter Billboard**  
Special ads allowed by the chapter

**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)



**Tailwinds Flying Club Welcomes New Members**



Tailwinds **Flying Partnership** is based at Lake Elmo airport, 21D, in Lake Elmo, MN. We are a non-profit corporation of 38 pilots who equally own three aircraft. Our goal and philosophy are to fly great airplanes inexpensively. We strive for consistency in equipment among our three airplanes. We currently have a Cirrus SR20, Archer II, and a Cherokee Six.

To inquire about membership, please send an [e-mail to Mark](mailto:mark@tailwinds21d.org) or call 651-982-6275.

Visit us at [www.tailwinds21d.org](http://www.tailwinds21d.org) to learn more.



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



Our last scheduled Young Eagles event for the year on October 8th was canceled due to weather and re-scheduled for October 22 with 20 kids signing up for a flight. The event was low on Young Eagle attendance but high on EAA Chapter 54 support and enthusiasm. This year was plagued with bad weather on many of our scheduled events. But with re-scheduled dates, we made up for most of the bad weather days. Chapter 54 has flown over 150 Young Eagles this year. All members who participated in this year's program can feel proud for helping to introduce aviation to so many kids. I sincerely appreciate and thank all those who volunteered their time to fly or help out on the ground. Great job to all of you.



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}*

A **HAPPY THANKSGIVING** goes out to all the chapter members! I think we should all be thankful for the freedom of aviation, our interest in aviation, the Experimental Aircraft Association, whatever we have achieved in aviation and of course our own chapter for all the exciting events we all have done and getting to know others thru it.



Also, let's not forget all the veterans during Veterans Day for all the sacrifices they have done and the thanks they deserve serving our country!



### Contact Information for Newsletter Stories

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## QUOTE OF THE MONTH

**Flying is within our grasp.  
We have naught to do but take it.**

*-Charles F. Duryea, Learning How to Fly.  
Proceedings of the Third International Conference on Aeronautics, 1894.*