



The Beacon

The newsletter of Chapter 54
Lake Elmo, Minn.

SEPTEMBER 2007

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THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM WILL BE ON
MONDAY SEPTEMBER 10, 2007.

- SOCIAL HOUR STARTING AT 7:00PM.
- MEETING AT 7:30PM. CHAPTER HOUSE, ENTRANCE B, LAKE ELMO AIRPORT.
- AT THE NEXT CHAPTER MEETING:

EARL SCHOBECT, RETIRED CORPORATE PILOT FOR 3M WILL TALK ABOUT HIS FLYING CAREER FROM DC 3'S TO CORPORATE JETS. HIS OBSERVATIONS OF THE CHANGES IN AVIATION, FLYING CHARACTERISTICS OF THE DIFFERENT AIRCRAFT AND INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT PLANNING.

Our own Chapter Fly-in a Success!

Reported by Leif Erickson



Our 2007 fly-in pancake breakfast is now history. On behalf of Tim Reberg and myself, I would like to express my gratitude to all the Chapter 54 members, and their family members, that worked at our fly-in breakfast on Sunday, August, 12. I want to thank especially those members that served as chairperson for their committee; in particular Paul Hove, Pat and Joanne Drishcol (they chaired both 1st and 2nd cooking and serving), Dale Rupp, Paul Rankin, Dave Fiebiger/Dale Seitzer, Bettie Seitzer, Paul and Pat Anderson, Dave Becker and Art Edlund. You folks all did a fabulous job. I'd also like to extend a special thanks to Al Kupfershmidt, and the many spouses that always volunteer for whatever needs to be done. Also a special thanks to Sharon Marr for taking pictures and sharing them on a CD. I know there are many others that worked hard to make our event a success. A big thanks to all, even though I am not be able to individually identify you.

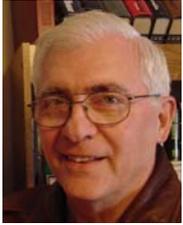
Mother Nature definitely smiled on us for the event. We were treated to clear skies, bright sunshine, unlimited visibility and light winds. I guess it could be described as "severe" VFR. In response, the number of airplanes that flew in was significantly higher than the prior year.

I spent the morning on the auto parking crew. It was a wonderful experience from two perspectives. First, it gave me the opportunity to see the guests as they were coming and also when they were leaving with smiles on their faces. Second, it gave me the opportunity to meet two younger members of our chapter, Jim Sackett and Johan Nielson. Both are working on

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FROM THE FLIGHT DECK (PRESIDENTS REPORT)

BY PAUL HOVE

Many thanks to all of those that volunteered their time at the EAA 54 fly-in Pancake Breakfast. The pancake breakfast was again a success. I wish to extend a special thanks to Valter's Aviation for donating their FBO hanger for this event and kudos' to our Committee Chairman who kept everything running smoothly.

I attended Oshkosh AirVenture and felt that the crowds were down from previous years. It was easier to get to the vender booths and talk to the sales representatives. We were able to see most of the exhibits in four days. One of the high lights was the formation flying by the Blackjack Squadron. The formations were made up of 45 experimental RV aircraft that flew large precision formations that were near perfect.

EAA member Mitch Zahler won a chance to test drive the 427 cubic inch Mustang Ford on a simulated ¼ mile drag strip at AirVenture. It was noisy and looked like a lot of fun. Mitch used his EAA Ford discount when he got home and bought a new Mustang.



Elections are next month for Chapter Officers and Class 3 Directors. The nominating committee is looking for candidates. If you wish to participate in the chapter's future contact Dale Rupp or Paul Hove.

Just a reminder that Wings and Wheels is at Osceola on September 8th.

See you all on Sept 10th Monday night at the chapter.

EAA CHAPTER 54 TREASURER'S REPORT

By PAUL RANKIN

2007 August Financial Summary

Checking Account	\$ 8,859.69
Cash on hand	\$ 40.00
<u>Investments</u>	<u>\$ 6,364.86</u>
Total	\$15,264.55

Income

Education Donation	\$ 25.00
Hat Sales	\$ 10.00
EAA National Refund	\$108.00
EAA Air Academy Refund	\$ 660.00
Pancake Breakfast	\$ 3,054.85
New Member	\$ 25.00
<u>Membership Renewals</u>	<u>\$ 225.00</u>
Total	\$ 4,107.85

Expenses

Pancake Breakfast	\$ 1,576.00
Chapter House Bench Repair	\$ 35.56
Newsletter & Mailing	\$ 40.80
<u>Utilities - Electricity & Gas</u>	<u>\$ 48.81</u>
Total	\$ 1,701.17

Net Cash Flow **\$ 2,406.68**

Even the little ones had a good meal!!



Chapter 54 Directory

President
Paul Hove
Paul@paulhove.com

Vice President
Dale Seitzer
Dalemseitzer@yahoo.com

Treasurer
Paul Rankin
rankinpd@yahoo.com

Secretary
Bettie Seitzer
BJSeitzer@Landolakes.com

Education Director
Art Edlund
aedhlund@hotmail.com

Events Director
Tim Reberg
tim2485@juno.com

Housing Director
Dave Fiebiger
goldendelta@comcast.net

Membership Director
John Renwick
membership@eaa54.org

Young Eagles Director
Dave Becker
Dave-becker@comcast.net

Newsletter Editor
Tom Gibbons
TomisFlyingby@comcast.net

Chapter member 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
TPA: 1932'
Runways: 4-22 (2497' x 75')
 14-32 (2850' x 75')

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building projects. Johan is working on a RotorWay helicopter. And, thanks goes to Ed Thompson. Ed spent most of the morning out in the sun directing cars to parking spots.

I don't know what our net proceeds are at this point, but I feel we put on a good show for everyone that attended. Paul Rankin will provide a complete accounting of the event along with the number of breakfasts served and the number of airplanes that flew in. In the past, we have planned for approximately 800 people attending. But in the last two years, we have been in the 500 – 600 range. I'm not sure why we're seeing fewer people attending. I think we publicize our event more now that we did in the past. We do complete with the Lake Elmo Fire Department. They sponsor a pancake breakfast on Sunday as well.

A suggestion was raised about changing the date. No specific date has been mentioned but I have thought about the possibility of scheduling our event to coincide either with Stillwater's Lumber Jack Days or Lake Elmo's Huff N' Puff days. Either of these would increase our event's exposure to the community. Their publicity resources definitely exceed ours. Unfortunately, Lumber Jack Days usually seem to coincide with the opening of AirVenture, which would be a problem for many of our members that regularly go to Oshkosh.

I think everyone that attended had an opportunity to get up-close and personal with many aspects of general aviation and came away with a positive attitude towards general aviation and the activity at the Lake Elmo Airport. I think we provided a nice mix of attractions related to general aviation. New this year were the Red Wing Soaring Club with their glider, static displays of two new Light Sport Aircraft, a static display of RC models, and the helicopter rides. This is in addition to turbine Beaver flown in by Wipaire, the T-6, and the new Cessna 206 on amphibious floats. I think events like this that will direct public opinion away from all the negatives that seem to surround general aviation airports.

Tim and I also welcome your comments and suggestions about what went right and what we could improve upon for next year.

So again, a big thanks to everyone involved and let's start looking ahead to next year's event.

Leif Erickson



Chapter Members Speak Out About the Fly-in

Compiled by the editor

As usual I volunteered to park the planes at the fly-in this year. It was a beautiful day and I was hoping to see many an airplane arrive. We had plenty as predicted but I must say I kind of thought there would be more, with all the great weather we had. We had a good crew this year and they did a great job getting the planes where they needed to be. A couple of highlights for me was when I got to park a turbine, Beaver on floats near the main hanger and when I waved in a State Trooper helicopter in to the grass near the flight line. Lots of helicopter action this year too!

-Tom Gibbons

The EAA Chapter 54's Pancake Breakfast is an awesome time for families, whether you are working the event or just spectators. My name is Katie Rankin and I have gone to the Pancake Breakfast several times. This year I worked the event and parked the airplanes. It was very exhilarating to park the human birds of the sky. Everyone I greeted was very nice and ready for a good breakfast provided by the dedicated EAA Chapter 54 members and spouses. It was fun to interact with a variety of people as they browsed up and down the flight line. I heard stories, saw kids' jaws drop in amazement and was asked many questions that I could not answer if my life depended on it but there were always the guys in the orange vest jackets that knew the answer. The very enthusiastic EAA members and their family made this year's Pancake Breakfast another smashing success! I can not wait to do it all over again next year.

-Katie Marcene Rankin

For the past 5 years I had been parking cars for the Pancake Breakfast. It was a lot of fun because I could meet people and contribute to the club. This year I offered to fill in where ever needed and I was asked to work parking planes. Leif and I also called members to fill out the volunteer list. We worked to fill out the needed volunteers but we were surprised when more people showed up -- then we needed to move people around a bit. Parking planes was fun but took full concentration to make sure people were safe when the planes were moving. I met some members I had not met before--I saw some people who are members but just don't come to every meeting. I know it would impossible for all the members to fit in the building because we have many members. Because we had enough volunteers everyone received regular breaks including breakfast and cool drink breaks. I am impressed that the Chairs keep excellent records year to year so jobs are easy to pick up. Our pancake breakfast is our primary fundraiser which allows us to sponsor students at Farnsworth school trips to Oshkosh and the many Air Academy attendees. Our dues are a very small part of operating revenues. Volunteering gives me a good feeling--I am involved and a part of the group and my contributions are appreciated--it's nice to be needed. Sign me up for next year.

-Dale Seitzer

This was my first year volunteering at the EAA fly-in in Lake Elmo but I've been volunteering at Osceola's Wheels and Wings for several years and I enjoy everything about the experience. Mostly, I enjoy being with people that share this crazy common interest of defying gravity. You hear interviews with pilots in movies like One-Six-Right and The Magic of Flight - these people have the kind of passion for aviation that you can only hope to experience. One way I'm going to experience this passion is to "do" and "be" involved in events like the EAA Chapter fly-in and Wheels and Wings. It's that simple.

-Johan

This was my first time working at the Fly-In. I ended up flipping pancakes, starting at 8:45AM, (after I had viewed the parked aircraft and visited the booths), going til just about noon. We were well organized; one batch maker who also refilled the batter dispensers. Two flippers, one who also scraped the grill after each batch, the other reoiled the grill. We were busy continuously!

Very friendly crowd and great kids, but we would expect that from a group who loves aviation, right?

Glad I volunteered. I also celebrated 50 years of flying that day.

-Tom Halfpenny

Dave Becker & I manned the Young Eagle booth. We introduced a lot of (hungry) people to the program. All went as planned until I revealed to my partner that I had never ever ridden in a helicopter. Shortly after that, he beckoned me to abandon our booth and dragged me out to the flight line where he had arranged a ride in one of those wingless craft. A thrill of a lifetime. My pilot was very skilled, and she was also a good teacher. I learned a lot about helicopters. Thanks Dave!

-Art Edlund

Chapter 54 Meeting Minutes

August 13, 2007

Reported by Bettie Seitzer

Meeting called to order at 7:30 by President

Guests: Jim a student pilot

Old Business:

Treasurer's Report: Approved as read.

Secretary's Report: Secretary's minutes approved as published in the Beacon.

Airplane Observation area. Concrete is down, a scout troop will build a picnic table. Once it is done we will have a grand opening. This will be an area that visitors will be able to sit and watch the planes take off and land. This is intended for community relations. Perhaps the scouts can write a statement about how the airport contributes to the community. This could help a scout with a merit badge as well as to build community awareness.

New Business:

Disks of pictures from pancake breakfast are available for members to copy if they want

Annual log cabin fly-in will be held Sept. 2. East of Mondovi; Wisconsin. This is an interesting airport – all buildings are log cabins. The originator lives in a log cabin on the property in a log cabin.

MAC meeting was intended by Al and Dave F. Only about 30 people attended. The new charge schedules were revealed including surcharges and fees. These fees are intended to cover any discrepancy in meeting budgets. Additional fees may be charged including bills sent with only 30 days to pay before a 12% interest charge starts accruing. A copy of the complete proposal is available in the clubhouse. Hangar owners on the airport should familiarize themselves with these rules.

Dale Rupp will be the chair of the nominating committee for next year's elections.

Proposal to provide bicycles for the use of pilots who fly in to Lake Elmo. Dale Seitzer will chair a committee to explore the options for setting this up; contact Dale if you are interested.

CHAIRMEN REPORTS:

Flying Start and Education (Art Edlund): Ground School in February. Valters may do a fall ground school

Young Eagles (Dave Becker): Flew 18 kids on the 10th. It got bumpy but all the kids got a flight before it got too bad. Two kids went to the air academy courtesy of Chapter 54. the funds to make this possible came from our

pancake breakfast! Thanks to all the volunteers who fly the planes and manage the ground crew.

Kid Venture: About 50 kids came to the Kidventure tent at the pancake breakfast. Parents and kids really enjoyed the activities and were very appreciative of the fun they had.

Housing (Dave Fiebiger): Not much – Ron Volkner repainted our picnic table, he is repainting the wood for the benches. The addition to the clubhouse needs a leader.

Pancake Breakfast: The startup was challenging with the weather from the night before. We were a little short on volunteers this year. There were over 500 guests! Service was great and a good time was had by all. Please give any comments or feedback to Leif or Tim. We will be working hard to recruit people ahead of time to get involved and feel like they are contributing.

Newsletter Editor (Tom Gibbons): Tom gives his heartfelt thanks for all of the support and kind words from members regarding the passing of his father. Please send in a brief paragraph or two about your experience at the breakfast. Send in articles and information about your planes. Pictures are especially interesting.
· TOMISFLYINGBY@Comcast.net

Program Chair

If you have ideas for speakers or subjects, please pass along the information to Dale Seitzer, he will track down the information and make the contact.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00

Our speaker for the evening was Brian Addis who shared some of his experiences as a flight instructor, pilot and pilot examiner.

Respectfully submitted:
Bettie Seitzer
Secretary
EAA Chapter 54

News From the “Kidventure” tent

Chapter 54's annual pancake breakfast is a wonderful opportunity to welcome the community onto the airport and build positive associations for the benefit of the Lake Elmo Airport. This is the second year that I have taken responsibility for the children's activities tent. Of course my focus is on the kids, but it is always interesting how many questions I get about Lake Elmo Airport, flying and what it takes to get a pilot's license. All of the comments I heard were very positive; I talked to several families from the area that had never been on the airport property before and were happy to have the chance to look around and learn about the airport and its operations.

Families were appreciative that we offered the kids activities at no additional charge! These days it can get very costly to take kids to public events. The kids loved looking through the paper airplane designs and special paper that I had. It was interesting to see how absorbed some of them got. Of course it takes volunteers to make it all work!

I had two volunteers who helped me out; Barb Leiter, a pilot and member of Chapter 54, and Jiyun Ha who is a student pilot (she soloed this week!). Without the help of these two ladies, I would not have been able to manage helping about 50 kids that visited throughout the morning. The kids could make paper airplanes or to work on coloring sheets. I had a couple of books with instructions for making planes and plenty of colorful paper. The kids were guided in their choice of design – I wanted to make sure that they picked something they would be able to complete and fly. The older kids were able to follow the instructions by themselves; I walked the younger kids through step by step.

Next year I would like to add some activities but will need additional volunteers to work with the children. This is a lot of fun, the parents are very grateful and the kids are excited to be working on something interesting. I would also like to add some sort of sign or banner to help draw the kids in. Please consider joining me in this enjoyable aspect of our pancake breakfast.

Beginning next spring I will also participate in as many of the young eagle events as my schedule permits. I will bring activities to those events in order to test ideas for the pancake breakfast kid's tent. If you have ideas for children's activities or would like to help at one of the young eagle events, please let me know.

Bettie Seitzer

bjseitzer@landolakes.com

EAA Chapter 54 Secretary

Kidventure Chair

First Flight in a Homebuilt!!

My RV-7A, N107XX, took almost 3 years and 2 months to build. She weighed in at 1101 pounds, unpainted, but otherwise fully equipped. On August 5, 2007, DAR Richard Marr completed his inspection and issued the airworthiness certificate. My first flight was August 9, 2007, and it was GREAT! She flies hands off, easily trimming out with no heavy wing or other undesirable flight characteristics. I haven't got around to recording any performance numbers, but she performed exactly as expected and is definitely very high performance. Surprisingly enough, the engine temperatures were all normal! I have already started my squawk list with no major issues to fix. I did have a little oil leak (which I have partially resolved) and the autopilot roll servo is not working right. Trutrak is going to replace the servo under the warranty.

N107XX is equipped with a Lycoming IO-390 and a Hartzell blended foil constant speed propeller. The engine was built by Barret Precision Engines and hit 219HP on the dyno! I have the Dynon EFIS and Engine Monitoring System with Van's airspeed and altimeter as backups. I went with the Trutrak dual axis autopilot which is coupled to a panel mounted AvMap EKP-IV moving map GPS. I installed a complete Flightline interior kit, which makes the cockpit a joy to sit in!



I've got the tanks full just waiting for opportunities to go flying, but the weather always seems to keep me on the ground. Looks like rain all weekend!

- Travis Hamblen

Young Eagles Report by Dave Becker



On 11 August, our EAA Chapter 54 volunteers flew 18 new Young Eagles under blue skies and a little bumpy air. All of the kids enjoyed their experience and went home with fond memories of their first flight. We have flown a total of 180 Young Eagles year-to-date and have been weathered out on one of our scheduled Young Eagle events. We have three scheduled Young Eagle events remaining for the season, they are: 8 Oct, 13 Oct, and 10 Nov.



Photos taken during our Young Eagle events are posted on our EAA54.ORG web site.



Our next Young Eagles event will be on 8 September. If you would like to become actively involved in our Young Eagles program, contact Dave Becker or come to Lake Elmo on the 2nd Saturday of the month and see what Young Eagles is all about.



TAXI TALK

{Interesting Happenings compiled by the editor}

Neat to See.....

At our meeting last month we were treated to a very nice talk about the happenings and future of aviation by Brian Addis. He really knows the aviation world and what is going on now with it. I have worked for a major airline now for 23 years and he explained more than any one I have talked to as to what to expect and what the general public is seeing as far as the airline industry. It was interesting to hear what is going on with the general aviation industry also. But what I thought was the coolest thing was after the talk was over Jeff Hove said he would like to see a show of hands as to how many people have had Brian as check pilot in their training. At least three quarter of the room raised their hands. Wow, this guy must be good!

Cute thing at the Fly-in

I used my John Deere Gator to drive over to give Glenn the air traffic controller some water during our fly-in but he expressed interest in some breakfast so I said sure I would go get something. Well, it was a bumpy ride to and from over that grass so I knew I needed some help. I enlisted the help of Paul Rankin's daughter, Katie to hold on the meal as I drove it over to him. Glenn was so funny when he said, "Wow, I did not know I was getting breakfast delivered by Miss America, Thank you!" Thanks for the help Katie!

Got to love it.....

Since I live right down the road from the Lake Elmo airport I really hear the beautiful sounds of the planes a lot. But every once in a while in the morning I REALLY HEAR THEM. One Saturday morning the winds must have been favoring runway 22 because I woke to some cool sounds I will tell you. The planes sound like they are right above the house. Sometimes I just have to go outside and see what kind of plane it is. During the weekend in the early morning, they must be heading to a breakfast somewhere. That Saturday was a busy one and they used 22 all day. I was doing yard work all day and looked up every time they took off. By the way, if you know where I live, it is allowed to "buzz" my house with a wing rock, I am sure to look up and wave! Just hope the neighbors will not mind.

Volunteers Needed!!!

Gang, the pancake breakfast/fly-in was a success but I heard we were shy of volunteers. The chapter always needs help to run our events smoothly, so when you can please help out. We always have many events that need your help. Watch this newsletter or check out the web-site when someone asks for help. It is very satisfying when you know you have helped our chapter when you can. And as I always say:

"Get to know your chapter members, it is very rewarding and fun!"

Contact Information for Newsletter Stories

Thomas J. Gibbons
2685 Manning Avenue North
Lake Elmo, Minnesota 55042-9690
Phone # 651-777-5587

E-Mail: TomisFlyingby@comcast.net



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

CLASSIFIEDS AND QUOTE OF THE MONTH

For Sale:

Whittman Tailwind Project
 Plans, welded fuselage with controls, fuel tank,
 motor mount, nose bowl and spars and ribs.

\$2,200.00

Contact Ross Sublett

Phone # 651-407-6449

e-mail rosssublett@hotmail.com

For Sale:

Piper Cherokee Warrior Information Manual - \$25
 Cessna 172R Skyhawk Information Manual with Pilot
 Safety and Warning Supplements - \$20

Dale Seitzer

651651 329 2229

**Unlike the boundaries of the sea
 by the shorelines, the “ocean of air”
 laps at the border of every state, city,
 town and home throughout the world.**

— Welch Pogue