

EAA CHAPTER 1128

Two Harbors Helgeson Airport

www.1128.eaachapter.org

Great news! We finally have a place to meet where we can all sit comfortably and hear what's going on. Brett and Matt have secured the community room at the Two Harbors High School for at least our next two meetings. With access to multi-media technology and a clear path to involve students this is a huge step forward for the chapter. Our next meeting will be on **Thursday, September 6th at 6:30** in the **Community Room at THHS**. This beautiful new facility is on your right less than a mile up Co. Hwy #2 from the Holiday station if you don't already know.

LAST MEETING

Our August meeting was full of business. Bill gave a complete treasurer's report including expenses and receipts for the year so far. The new total of the chapter's booty is \$1598.01. Mike wondered when we collect dues and how we compute what a new member would pay when joining in the middle of the year. The membership approved a plan to use the calendar year and pro-rate dues by the quarter. Mike asked for volunteers to help chapter 272 with their effort to feed a couple hundred skydivers on August 4th and 5th and their Ford Trimotor visit Aug. 30th thru Sept. 4th. He also told us about the benefit for Bill Irving's daughter. Seth reported on the big Oshkosh experiment. He said the FAA had released guidelines for Residential-Through-The-Fence for public comment and the Airport Commission will make a recommendation to the City Council once the comment period ended. He also talked about the City's position on 'Deluxe' hangars, the security gate and the fall paving project. Mike proposed a member survey to help chart the course of the chapter and Seth agreed to create one. Mike also told the members about the first meeting of the new Executive Board and it's mission to keep routine business out of general meetings so the meetings could focus more on fun activities. Matt gave us some information about the national 'Build-a-Plane program and it's focus on involving young people. He also said there was a chance to get a private pilot ground school going at THHS to further attract students. Mike passed out the new magnet backed name tags and we proudly stuck them on our shirts. Then he reminded us about the Grass Roots Tour coming up on the 28th and featuring Jeff Skiles. Lots of business! Someone made a motion that ultralight pilots should adjourn to their airplanes so we did.

341

Chapter 272 is running full out this summer with skydiver's convention, the Ford Trimotor and their fall fly-in breakfast on September 8th. They can still use some volunteers and they are a fun bunch to hang out with so don't hesitate to join their efforts.

Chapter 1221 continues their fly-out schedule and their next meeting will include a pot luck dinner on Sunday, September 9th.

ETC.

My good friend Phyllis drove up from Minneapolis to see Jeff Skiles last night. We arrived at the EAA Grass Roots Tour early expecting a traffic jam. What we found were a bunch of airplane guys standing around their airplanes and swapping stories. One of them was Jeff Skiles. Phyllis remarked,

“He seemed taller in the video.” What she was actually saying was, “He's not acting like a Hero, he just seems like any other nice boy from Wisconsin.” And that is just what he was. When I strolled over during a pause in his conversation I just said “Jeff” to get his attention. “Captain Skiles” or even “Sir” seemed out of place. He turned with an honest smile (not a put-on face) and shook hands like we were old friends. Phyllis and I both posed for pics with him and he couldn't have been nicer.

The program was well produced with computer graphics on the big screen and comprehensive coverage of the EAA mission. Emphasis was put on chapters and Young Eagles with a nod to the new Eagle flight program. (I think 'Old Buzzards' would be a better title.) At the end was a brief video from this year's Oshkosh and our American Hero stood patiently by the AV cart holding his mic by the computer so we could hear the audio. Three other nice young men from HQ joined Jeff for Q&A and they seemed very knowledgeable. Also, the cookies were great.

The Nighthawk migration has begun and it is spectacular! The other night I sat on my deck til it was too dark to see watching the most amazing demonstration of aerobatics. Nighthawks fly solo most of the time and mostly at night, (Duh) so seeing dozens in good light is a once a year treat. With their swept wings and military bars they remind me of the F-86 Saber but no airplane can turn and burn and zig and zag like a hungry Nighthawk. The whole time they patrolled the skies above me not a single insect came to bug me. I wish they could hang around.

People fly for a variety of reasons, I fly just to get off the planet and see it from another perspective. I took Fifi for an evening cruise recently and it was just magical. The air was warm and smooth and the sun was sliding toward the horizon. We had to taxi slowly past the Geese who think they own the runway but soon we were off and climbing. Banking over Murphy's garage I saw no one to wave at so I putted over to Mary's house and waved at her. That was fun so I decided my mission was to find more people to wave to. I found half a dozen wavers on the deck at the Earthwood and then pointed Fifi down the shore. A lot of folks were out enjoying the evening and I only rested my waving hand to occasionally touch the throttle. At Bob's Cabins Bill and Tom waved from the front yard and I could clearly see their smiles. That made me think about my altitude. “Yeah, I could glide to the road if the motor quit right now, Maybe.” I asked Fifi for a little more zoom and we climbed away toward the Scenic Hwy. Looking across the expressway I realized we were right at deck height of the Ferrari house so that's where Fifi went. We had a couple hundred feet of safety margin when we got there and Ann came out with a big wave. Mission accomplished! I left the planet, plotted a happy course and waved my arm off. Turning back toward the airport I saw Jim's Cherokee on downwind for 24. We were kind of on a collision course but he was climbing so Fifi descended and soon we were skimming over the treetops for runway 33. Just off the ground we flew into the shade and the air temperature dropped about ten degrees. Bracing!

I just went to save this document and realized it is the 200th newsletter I have written, boy are my fingers tired!

Our Chapter President Mike Busch has written a note to you and I have it on an email. Due to my lack of skills with software I will send it separately to your inbox. Of course I will just print it for snail mail.

Summer is winding down, go fly!

.....Happy Landings!.....