

# **EAA CHAPTER 1128**

## **Two Harbors Helgeson Airport**

[www.1128.eaachapter.org](http://www.1128.eaachapter.org)

The fourth month of winter is winding down and the days are getting longer. It won't be long before my girls can escape their hibernation and spread their wings! Hope springs eternal. Our next meeting will be on **Thursday, March 3** at **6:30** in the **Community Room** at **THHS**.

### **Last Meeting**

February's meeting was consumed with discussion of the new EAA Child Protection Policy. Mike laid out the details and we spent more than an hour talking about how our programs could be affected. Most members felt they were suddenly suspects in an as-yet uncommitted crime and were reluctant to subject themselves to criminal background checks and personal financial scrutiny. Since HQ hadn't bothered to inform individual members most of us could only rely on our leaders' reading of the policy and there were plenty of questions. It was painful to say the least. The EAA that had always been so friendly and welcoming seemed to be turning into an ominous 'Big Brother' that wanted to know and see all. We decided to postpone further discussion until we had all read the policy.

The treasurer reported \$4,008.88 in chapter coffers. Dan said he and Bud would go to Menards to check on shelving for our fly-in food service supplies. Seth reported dates for our summer activities: Open Hangar cook-out in place of our regular meeting June 2<sup>nd</sup>, Pancake fly-in July 10 ( set-up on the 9<sup>th</sup>), and the fly-in movie August 12. This year's feature will be "Top Gun". He also showed us how to access the chapter's Facebook page. Mike Shannon announced his upcoming chili feed fly-in and gave driving directions. Seth said he intended to attend the next City Council meeting because the proposed A/D building update would be discussed. Mike drew our attention to a push by congress to privatize the nation's Air Traffic Control system. Seth showed a "Hints for Homebuilders" piece about cable ends and some cool video of Aerodrome Airplanes' WWI replicas.

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All three chapters were well represented at Mike Shannon's ski plane chili fly-in. Four pilots flew in to his place on Fish Lake and dozens more drove. He and his lovely wife really rolled out the hospitality and a good time was had by all.

### **ETC.**

I had to shovel snow and chip ice in front of the hangar door only once this year. Ever since that first snow Casey's crew has done an excellent job of clearing the offensive crust.

Mike Busch did a really nice layout of the proposed A/D building expansion and I'm sure the City Council took notice.

Matt and Ann Ferrari's daughter Kate was named outstanding student of the month at THHS and had a nice write up in the local paper.

Steve Wattnem is getting close to the last coats of paint on his Tailwind, I'm sure it will fly again this spring.

I'm no longer getting old, I have arrived. My knees feel like rusty old barn door hinges in the morning and I ski with a limp. When I arrive in the kitchen I often have to return to the living room to try to remember why I went into the kitchen. I'm losing my hair, I'm losing my hearing, I'm losing my teeth. I'm losing my mind but somehow, I'm still gaining weight. The most telling symptom though, is that I miss the way things used to be.

I was proud to live in the land of the free and the home of the brave but these old eyes now see the land of the over regulated and the home of fear. Fear is being preached as the new normal, especially in this election year. We must fear the Muslims, fear the Mexicans, fear the lesbians? And yet, even in this climate of fear Congress refuses to require background checks for gun purchases. A suspected terrorist on the NSA's No-Fly list can buy an assault rifle without a single check. I'm sure that will be good when the Mexican Muslims storm the border to turn our kids gay but, really? Upstanding EAA members will be subjected to careful scrutiny if we want to help a kid with a dream but at least we can buy assault weapons freely.

It is most certainly fear that drives this new policy. If not a parent's fear for his child then the fear of HQ being seen as deep pockets for a law suit. Some will say it is inevitable in today's litigious society but is it? Must we fold under the pressure of fear and suspect everyone? I'm sure Paul Poberezny checked a man's credentials by looking him in the eye and testing his handshake. We can build a wall of regulations around ourselves until the sun can't shine in but what will we gain?

I'm old and I miss the way things used to be.

P.S. I'm glad I got that off my chest. I'm called editor and sometimes I need to editorialize but that was rather dark. I must assure you that I am still optimistic about the future. Ninety nine percent of the people I've met in this long, strange trip are just plain wonderful. The next generations will face challenges but they are more than up to the task. Let's love them, support them as best we can and then just get out of their way.

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