

From The Cockpit

A Happy Holiday Season to all!

I like to think of us as the little chapter that could! We've had a great year in spite of all the negativity that surrounds the world, with crazy weather and storm disasters, drought, floods, wars, a sluggish word economy, unemployment, politics, an election year, add nausium. And yet we're still standing! We're building and flying our beloved aircraft and sharing our experiences with our aviation friends.

We can be proud of all the things EAA Chapter 1128 accomplished this year, too: We participated in an EAA HQ Chapter Leadership seminar; we enjoyed movie nights (with popcorn!) we had a great pancake breakfast and Heritage Days parade float that featured Engine's Kolb "FiFi"; we supported the City of Two Harbors Economic Development booth at Oshkosh Air Venture, we launched the Two Harbors Municipal Airport MINDOT Airport Adoption program, we hosted an airport model air show /Bar B Q. We collaborated with local EAA chapters 272 and 1221 on the Jeff Skiles and Ford Tri-motor visits, (the "341" program!), lent a hand with the Duluth Aviation Institute Young Eagles flights and classroom assistants, visited the other chapters and participated in their meetings. We worked with Two Harbors High School students and had a great field trip traveling to Duluth visiting some of the local aviation facilities. We even won the Minnesota Community Education Award thanks to some wonderful support from THHS and their Community Ed program. And finally, we ALL enjoyed 12 dynamite 1128 Newsletters (THANKS, ENGINE!!), and a partridge in a pear tree. (I just made that up).

We signed up so many new members that we had to order name tags for everyone; new hats are on the way (for our big heads!). In case you haven't counted, we have about 22 airplanes in the chapter now; 4 active aircraft "build" projects are under way -the Pietenpol, the Carbon Cub, The Rands S7, (which will be signed off and flying by the time you read this - Congratulations, Mikey!). Plus an F1 Rocket, which is "about 85% "done". Most of our fleet is actually flyable; so on a calm summer's evening you can see them skimming the clouds and trees around our favorite airport. Some of our members actually own *and fly* TWO airplanes (Two Harbors, two airplanes ... why not?). With more to come next year, I am sure.

Our chapter now has an Executive Board which we're finding useful for moving the chapter's business along smoothly. Board meetings are open to all members; we generally try to hold these meetings around Matt's lengthy "freighter" trips, so meetings aren't held on a regular schedule, rather on an "as needed" basis. If you wish to attend one, let me know and I will pass along the time and place of the next meeting. The Board members are the four chapter officers: Mike Busch, President, Seth McDonald, Vice President, Bill Fieldson, Treasurer and Engine, Secretary; the at large members are Bud Gorman, Steve Wattnem and Matt Ferrari.

The 2012 Member survey has been processed and consolidated; it will be printed and distributed at our next meeting! Please let me know if you would prefer to NOT have your name on the survey, otherwise, it will appear just as I received it. The surveys contain lots of good suggestions for future chapter activities for you to review. I'm sure there are more good ideas out there, and we need to hear them but in the mean time the ideas expressed on the surveys will get your participative juices flowing! Remember, you only get out of a chapter what you put into it!

With the holidays just around the corner I think about the gift of flight, and how fortunate we are to be free to build and fly our own aircraft and operate them from the hundreds of wonderful airports all around our beautiful country. We have challenges, yes, but we are indeed some of the most fortunate people on the planet. Thanks to each of you for being part of the special world called "Sport Aviation" and "EAA Chapter 1128".

We'll have a great New Year!!

Sincerely,

Mike Busch
President, EAA Chapter 1128