

# **EAA CHAPTER 1128**

## **Two Harbors Helgeson Airport**

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

Another chilly night in the northland, I hope you are staying warm. Our next meeting will be in the cozy Community room at **Two Harbors High School on Thursday, February 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30** in the evening. Thanks to the tireless efforts of our president we will have a special guest. Sport Aviation columnist and illustrator Dave Matheny will be there to share some of his flying stories with us. Bring a friend, it will be fun!

### **LAST MEETING**

Cold even for our standards the January meeting was still well attended. Steve Wattnem was officially elected as Chapter Treasurer and Mike passed out service medals from HQ for chapter officers. Chapter activities for the coming year were reviewed and discussed. They include a Fly-in/Drive-in movie, a hangar dance, our Heritage Days events and the fall color tour. Bud said he has collected a half dozen R/C controllers for our student program. We talked about the potential of another student field trip to DLH and Cirrus. We remembered Bill Negar who was so helpful with the “Ukie” project and Bev Melanson who recently passed. Seth screened a Video with EAA top dog Jack Pelton previewing Airventure 2014 and other EAA plans for the year. We also watched the “Li'l Cub” short take-off and landing video followed by the annual Valdez, Alaska STOL contest. Jerry West said the yearly Minnesota registration fee for his Skyhawk had nearly doubled over last year. Seth suggested all airplane owners contact their congressmen.

Mike summarized the Board of Directors meeting which took place just before the chapter meeting: The Board will review the chapter bylaws and present an updated version at the April meeting for member confirmation. The Board will also develop operating policies not related to by laws such as billing for dues. Our hard working vice president will apply for various grants that may be available to aid our education outreach programs. He will also upload chapter documents to our website for easy access by members. The Board will produce a post card/letter to invite local EAA members to our meetings. All members are encouraged to attend Board meetings with concerns or ideas to make our chapter better.

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Chapter 1221 is moving their February meeting to a member's workshop to see a Bushcaddy project underway. They have been ski flying on weekends even in this year of the Polar Vortex.

Chapter 272 is moving forward on their Build-a-Plane project with inventory and paperwork the first priority. In a strange confluence of events, just as our long serving treasurer Bill Fieldson has stepped down, Betty Ramsland is getting a break from the same position with chapter 272. She has been in charge of their numbers for 23 years!

**ETC.**

Mike has penned another "From the Cockpit" missive for the members and I will send it as another attachment to this email. I'm sure there is a way to include it in the text of this document but I have no clue. Every time I ask a computer to do something for me it just laughs in my face. Snail mail customers will find another sheet in the envelope.

I can hardly wait to meet Dave Matheny, he is one of my favorite writers. The fact that he lives on the light side of aviation makes his stories resonate sweet truth for me and his illustrations are brilliant. The irreverent humor he draws can't fully disguise his commitment to sharing serious lessons about the safe pursuit of our shared passion.

The wind is so strong tonight it sounds like the F-16s from the 148<sup>th</sup> are dog fighting over my house. The wind chill factor has me dreaming of white sand beaches and girls in bikinis. (Of course I'd be dreaming of the girls even without the wind chill.) In my dream I'm looking down from Fifi's open cockpit on azure gulf waters and I'm comfortable in my Hawaiian shirt and shorts. We chase the sun west until it slides into the sea then return to earth refreshed and reborn. I'm sure this is not a unique state of mind for ultralight pilots this time of year and I just read a great story of one who lived the dream.

John Gilpin traveled a long way to fly a Kolb Firefly across America's desert southwest and he has inspired me to start planning for next winter. In the December issue of Powered Sport Flying this intrepid Australian pilot describes his 2012 adventure. Lots more detail and pictures are on the web at [www.tailwindsplease.com/usa-flyingroad-trip/](http://www.tailwindsplease.com/usa-flyingroad-trip/). I highly recommend it as fuel for your flying dreams.

Reading John's story prompted me to open my diary to July of last year and begin to re-live Oshkosh 2013. I will be putting that story in order for your perusal while the winter winds howl around my cozy cabin. I first flew to Oshkosh twenty years ago and I still remember every moment with Technicolor clarity. In contrast I can't tell you for sure what I had for breakfast today. I take great care to transform hastily scribbled notes into a coherent narrative so you can ride along with me and share my joy. If just one of you decides to fulfill your own dream of flight because of something I write my time will not be wasted and when you see our beautiful world from a higher perspective you will know your time wasn't wasted either.

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