

EAA CHAPTER 1128

Two Harbors Helgeson Airport

www.1128.eaachapter.org

Ah, Minnesota! Less than 24 hours between, “Where's the fan?” and “Where's my sweater?” Ya gotta love it! Last month we met on the second Thursday due to Independence Day, this month we meet on the second Thursday due to our National Convention also known as Oshkosh. So **Thursday, August 8th** at **6:30** is the time and **Richard B. Helgeson Airport** is the place. If we are not gathered by the Admin building check for open hangars.

LAST MEETING

We met in hangar #1 on July 11 and it was hot in the sun so we all crowded into the shady corner. Mike reminded us that set-up day for our big event was the following morning. He then thanked Seth and Bill for their hard work preparing for the pancake breakfast and the two of them went over the grocery list one last time. It was mentioned that the airport tractor would not be available to lift the heavy griddles so Dan volunteered his tractor for the job. Bill mentioned expenses already incurred and gave our treasury balance as \$1094.00. He also asked for signs to be placed at the cashier table stating prices and policies. Mike asked for a document after the event with a list of vendors, amounts and prices in order to track our expenses. He told us insurance was in place for this and any other airport events this year. Bill confirmed that he had the permit for food service and told us a new County Health Inspector was on the job. Once all the ducks seemed in a row for the big fly-in we talked about our youth outreach program. Seth said the model building sessions would be in the High School wood shop on July 19, 20 and 21 and 8 kids were expected. Ryan said all the engines had arrived and the kits were ready to go. Bud had enlisted some of his modeling buddies to help mentor the kids. Seth said the fly-in movie was all set for August 16. The city will provide the inflatable screen on the grass near the snake pit and the feature will be Disney's “Rocket Man” starting at sundown. The “Lark of the Lake” festival was also mentioned and volunteers were still welcome. We enjoyed sodas and homemade cookies from Steve.

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Chapter 272 has been busy with the Lark Festival and Chapter 1221 has been fully involved as well. In addition 1221 continues their weekend fly-outs recently targeting Voyager Village for plunder.

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The big Heritage Days pancake breakfast went off without a hitch thanks to our dedicated crew of volunteers. I won't name chapter members for fear of skipping someone but I have to mention the outstanding effort of the young folks. Both of Matt's lovely daughters kept the tables spotless and Hunter was an absolute stalwart with a spatula. It's great to see a new generation experience the power of friendly cooperation toward a noble goal. The hangar was full of happy chatter and smiling faces all morning so no matter what the dollar figure, the event was an unqualified success.

The very next weekend saw another success with the “Ukie' build project. About a half dozen kids assembled kits for piston powered U control model aircraft under the careful supervision of several chapter mentors. Ryan and Bud took the lead on this project but Seth, Mike, Matt, Brett and a

couple of Bud's buddies also gave their time and attention to the future aviators. And worked their butts off for three long days. Check out the Chapter Website for pictures.

The Lark of the Lake Festival did well considering it hadn't been attempted for 100 years. The airplane was the star of the show and the turn of the century vibe transported visitors back in time. The local news couldn't stop talking about the errant skydivers but most of those present didn't even notice. Unfortunately a couple of days later the Lark had an unhappy reunion with the water during a test flight and is no longer airworthy. I can assure you that this is a temporary condition. The perseverance and determination of aircraft builders is legendary and these folks are at the top of that curve. If you had a dollar for every experimental aircraft that got a little twisted up during testing Warren Buffet would be your butler. And if those setbacks stopped the innovators none of us would be flying today.

There's a sleepy little town in Wisconsin on the western shore of Lake Winnebago. Surrounded by rich farmland and bisected by railroad tracks it is home to tough blue jeans and tougher trucks but for one week every year it is the center of the aviation universe. That week is fast approaching. I hope you have your camping gear cleaned and ready. I have been ignoring Miss Chaos in favor of Fifi on my after work jaunts in order to be prepared for the big dance. Flying Fifi is the pure Superman experience. Hang gliding may be more in tune with the posture and unrestricted view of the Man of Steel but hang gliders will not go up every time you wish so treetop skimming is a tricky maneuver. Fifi loves the treetops. And she loves her fans, always tipping a wing to return the wave of an admirer. Screen doors slam and people step out on the porch when Fifi glides over, even mothers with newborns in their arms. (Sophie will always remember her first airplane sighting.) In the pattern we stick to 300 feet above the ground to simulate the Farm environment and Fifi swoops down on short final to kiss the ground. In ten years of flying Miss Chaos I have logged well more than 1000 landings and I still cannot guarantee a greaser every time. Fifi is just the opposite. Maybe it's because my first airplane was a Kolb but I have never experienced a less stressful landing than those with my sweet FireFly. Unless I have an angry bird in my face or a fire in my lap the landing is going to be real good, usually bordering on elegant.

Dennis and Homer hit the sweet spot when they designed this little girl. And the beauty of Oshkosh is that I got to meet and talk with both of them more than once. Homer Kolb was a Wright Brother in the golden age of the ultralight movement and a truly sweet guy. Dennis was his right hand man and chief architect of the FireFly. My conversations with them in the Oshkosh environment were as casual and unguarded as any family dinner table chat. That is why seasoned veterans don't call it Airventure, they call it the Family Reunion.

I hope you can find a way to attend the big shin-dig, you will not regret it. We'll set a place for you at the table.

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