

EAA CHAPTER 1128

Two Harbors Helgeson Airport

www.1128.eaachapter.org

It's a beautiful evening at the lake. The setting sun lights the far shore and spotlights three huge swans on the calm surface. If Fifi's hangar were closer I wouldn't be sitting at a keyboard right now. This month we skip our first Thursday meeting in order to set up for the pancake breakfast. We will meet at the **Airport at 9:00 am Saturday, July 9**. The more hands we have the quicker it will go so you can still catch the parade in town if you want to.

Last Meeting

Our June get together was a ball! We set up tables and chairs in Bud's hangar and fired up the grill. By the time the first burgers were done the sky filled up with traffic and soon the lawn was covered with pretty little airplanes. Lots of friends from chapter 272 and darn near all of chapter 1221 flew in to sample our fare. When most of our guests were on the ground a couple low wing hot rods made high speed passes down the runway. After landing one excused his action by saying, "Well, on short final I realized I had forgotten to put the gear down so I had to go around." When reminded that he hadn't pulled the throttle back either he said, "Oh yeah, I knew there was something else I was supposed to do!" Great fun. The hangar was filled with happy conversation wrapped around chomping noises and the donation jar looked pretty fat. Hamburgers, hot dogs, potato salad, beans and chips were followed by sweets and it was all fingerlickin' good. Seeing all of our friends enjoy themselves made the minor drudgery of moving tables and chairs well worth the effort. The sky filled up once more as we bade our buddies farewell and watched them fade into the sunset. Great meeting!

341

Some folks from chapter 272 went to Oshkosh in May for a 'work party'. They used their skills to help HQ get ready for the Convention next month.

Chapter 1221 continues to be the flying-est little chapter around and their smiles tell the whole story.

ETC.

Mike and Seth, our pres and veep were interviewed on KTWH radio. They talked about our upcoming pancake breakfast and hopefully enlightened the locals.

On June 6 several chapter members welcomed the entire Two Harbors 6th grade class to the airport and showed them our planes. Mike did a brilliant job of organizing ninety plus people and all the kids were well behaved. Some of them even learned something I'm sure. It was fun for me seeing all those bright young faces react to something out of the internet and out of the ordinary. I hope we can do it again next year.

A couple of weeks ago a friend from Clover Valley called and said his neighbor had lost his cattle. Apparently a bull moose had walked right through his fence and when he left all the cows followed. Must be the rack. Anyway he asked if I might do a little air recon to see if I could find them. That very afternoon was good flying weather so I pulled Miss Chaos out and we went hunting. The trees are all filled out now so the ground just looks like the broccoli bin at the store but a mission is a

mission and we searched the valley and surrounding woods. The small windows under my girl's shoulder mounted wing provide a limited view downwards so my technique is to bank steeply and look over the wing straight down. Oh, tough duty! I love steep banks and so does Miss Chaos. And of course we must be rather low for a good view and that just makes it more fun. I really didn't think I would see any critters at all but about twenty minutes into my low level aerobatics I saw some brown in a green patch. The trees were thin along a creek bank and as I swung around tight for another look I was rewarded with cowhide. Two more sharp orbits confirmed six head of Angus lounging on the bank. It took a bit more maneuvering to confirm where we were and how best to approach from the ground but soon we were tearing back to the airport to report. I suppose I might have called from the cockpit if I had a cell phone but I don't and I'm pretty sure that's still illegal anyway. Thankfully the airport still has a landline and I caught my friend on the second ring. He took my directions and thanked me for my efforts. Efforts? I was just having fun!

He called the next day to say the six were recovered but there were still nine more on the run. He urged me to keep looking and I have but so far, no joy. I sometimes feel like just boring holes in the sky is a little selfish since I have only single seat aircraft and can't share the joy. This episode made me feel useful and appreciated even though I haven't yet found them all. So, are you missing any livestock? Call me.

Fifi took me for a spin after the hangar BBQ and she is running great. My brake problem seems to be fixed and I can't wait to take her to Oshkosh. This just might be her last year. I have hatched a plan to build my dream two-seater and Fifi is a pawn in that scheme. If I can play on her popularity at Oshkosh and finagle a great selling price, I could just barely afford a Rans S-20 kit. My shop would once again hum with airplane building noises and I would be in heaven. Part of this scheme is to have Fifi ready to deliver on her own custom trailer. I have been welding up this masterpiece for the last couple of weeks and I have discovered a small problem. I don't know how to weld. This is where a dream differs from a plan. Oh well, I didn't know how to build an airplane once but the challenge was met and this challenge will be too. If I always did stuff I was comfortable with, I wouldn't learn much.

I never dreamed that at this stage of my life there would be so much I still want to learn and that learning could be so much fun. Of course I never thought I would even get to this stage or maybe I would have made a plan. So consider this a testimonial: No matter how old or infirm or dumb you think you are, hatch a dream, find a scheme and start marching. The future is as bright as you want it to be.

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