

EAA CHAPTER 1128

Two Harbors Helgeson Airport

www.1128.eaachapter.org

Getting cooler at the lake tonight, a big change from last month. Flying season is winding down for us ultralight/light sport types so I've been grabbing every opportunity to catch some air. I hope you have too. Our next meeting will be on **Thursday, November 2nd, 6:30** in the **Community Room at THHS**.

Last Meeting

Turns out we didn't have to meet in the school library after all and we moved tables around in the Community Room for a more intimate feel. During the board meeting the treasurer noted \$5141.88 after purchasing the new chapter grill. Dave volunteered to assemble said grill. Mike reminded us that elections for chapter officers will be held at the November meeting. Steve produced an updated member list. We spoke briefly about upcoming programs including guest speakers, an AAR tour and possible field trip to the Air Corps restoration facility.

The general meeting started with video of a B1b bomber doing an emergency landing with no nose wheel. Mike gave an update on the Fall Color Tour. He said it all started as a memorial flight and may not continue into the future. He then asked chapter members to consider starting a tour of our own. Seth showed pictures that Dave took during the tour. Engine went over the plans for the Christmas party. Mike asked for more member airplane pictures and Dave suggested we frame a few to replace the old photos in the A/D building. Seth showed some of the pictures he took at the September meeting and also a cute one of Mike Shannon's S-7 on floats in the pond. Mike asked about interest in a tour of the AAR airliner maintenance facility at DLH and many hands went up. Seth reviewed our summer activities with pics and videos. Mike did a presentation on his involvement with the EAA Air Cam construction at Oshkosh. The build is taking place in the Kermit Weeks hangar which also houses the EAA's B-25 restoration project. He also got a chance to tour the Sonex headquarters. Seth showed the Chapter Video from HQ which included footage of the Piper Cub mass arrival at Airventure. Busy meeting!

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Chapter 272 recently flew 60 young eagles! On one day! Their dedication to sharing the joy of flight with young people is unsurpassed.

Chapter 1221 had a campfire night at Cloquet and are now back to their winter schedule of meetings on the second Tuesday of the month.

ETC.

If you haven't already heard, our friend Bill Amorde was recently inducted into the Wisconsin Aviation Hall of Fame. No one deserves it more. Bill has given instruction or a check ride to just about every pilot you know. He can fly almost anything and has spent more time off the planet than even most airline captains. Besides all of that, he's a really nice guy. Congratulations, Bill.

I'm getting excited for our Christmas Party. It's great to spend some quality time with friends we usually see only in passing at the airport. Make sure you let your friends know they all are welcome. And if you are planning to attend let me know so we can properly plan the festivities.

There has been lots of air traffic at our aerodrome during this recent fair weather. Not all of it human. The geese have become accustomed to our plastic "wolves" and pay them no heed. I saw about a thousand crows mob the place one afternoon. Occasionally a couple dozen seagulls will stop by for a visit and just the other day a wild turkey paced me as I back taxied runway 15. My favorite visitors so far were six beautiful Sandhill cranes. I had the good fortune to fly formation with them briefly before we all came to earth at Helgeson International Airpatch.

Birds can definitely be a hazard to navigation but they are almost always the inspiration for our flying dreams. With the exception of the occasional swan dive humans are limited to two dimensions and we are jealous of a bird's mastery of the third. No matter how sophisticated our flying machines become they are but crude imitations of the natural avian architecture. We may be able to go faster but sitting in a pressurized metal tube is not what flying is about. We long to swoop and soar through the living sea of air that surrounds us without a thought of speed or even direction. To release our souls from the rigid structure of mundane life and carve our own path.

Wow, got pretty deep there for a moment but flying is that cool to me. And did I tell you about the view? Every flight this time of year is a personal Color Tour. The trees just explode into oranges, yellows and reds and from the air it is easy to make out sinuous patterns of color that follow the ridges and valleys. The deep blue backdrop of Lake Superior makes every random glance a frameable work of art. On the warm days I get this view from Fifi's open cockpit and the clarity is amazing. I feel like a natural part of this great big beautiful world. Including the third dimension. Like a bird.

I promised an update on my lithium iron phosphate battery experiment. You may remember I installed electric start in Miss Chaos and I opted for the one pound LIFPO4 instead of a ten pound lead/acid battery. So far, so good. I've had dozens of strong starts in all temperatures and zero fires. Since it sits next to my foot, the battery has not approached it's maximum temperature of 122f but it will soon see it's minimum of 14f if I don't bring it home for the winter. When a warm day presents itself I can easily stick it in my jacket pocket and bring it back to the airport. I'll keep you posted.

As mentioned earlier, we will have elections for chapter officers this month. Please consider serving. It doesn't take any extraordinary skill or effort and you get a sweet pin for your flying jacket. Meanwhile, keep watching the birds and.....

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