

# EAA CHAPTER 1128

## Two Harbors Helgeson Airport

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

A chilly wind is blowing rain on my window and I'm OK with that. When the weather is nice, no matter what I may accomplish I'm always a little guilty that I'm not flying. Today I'm quite content to sit by the fire and write you a letter.

Our next meeting will be on **Thursday, November 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:30** in the **Community Room at Two Harbors High School.**

### LAST MEETING

Our October meeting was well attended and comfortable at this lovely facility. It was nice to see Ryan and Emily Murphy bring little Patrick, start 'em young! Chapter survey forms were on the table in front of every chair so Mike has lots of data now to help chart the course of our growing club. Seth ran the Powerpoint once again and started with an audio file from the interweb of Oshkosh controllers. Called "Fantastic Friday" and recorded at the 1974 EAA convention it represents the first time the tower was overwhelmed with incoming air traffic and the origin of the phrase "World's Busiest Airport" Next up on the big screen was a 9 point agenda for the meeting. The first item was 'Kid's Project' and all the members got involved in the discussion. It was decided that we would involve as many kids as possible in the construction and flight of a "U control" model airplane. Even though we moved on to other topics brainstorming continued well past the end of the meeting. Seth showed some pics from the Fall Color Tour that was nearly weathered out. Brett announced that our kids initiative from last fall had won a Community Education Award and thanked all the folks involved. Seth gave the members an update from the Airport Commission and showed pictures from the recently completed paving project. He then ran a video from the EAA "Hints for Homebuilders" library and all agreed this could be a good feature to continue at future meetings. Bill gave his usual concise treasurer's report and quoted \$1420.05 as our total assets. Brett took everyone on a tour of the school's impressive wood and metal shops. Bob reported his progress on the Pietenpol landing gear and Bill said the right aileron was nearly done. Mike gave a public farewell to Bob for the winter and many expressed envy of his snowbird lifestyle. At one point a fire alarm squawked but nobody got up except Brett and he apparently solved the problem. It was a truly successful and interesting meeting that made me very optimistic about the future of this Chapter.

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The Twin Ports chapter (272) meets the third Friday of the month, 7:00 pm in their deluxe hangar at Superior's Bong Field. They have a long history in the Tree of Hope campaign which provides toys for hospitalized kids. Think about that when you go Christmas shopping.

The Cloquet chapter (1221) has changed to their winter schedule so meetings will be the second Tuesday at 7:00 at Cloquet Airport. Our sister chapters always welcome birds of a feather so drop in when you can.

Marv Melanson, who I believe has been active in both chapters, will be celebrating 60 years of marriage to the lovely Bev on Saturday, October 27 from 1:00 to 3:30 at Midway Town Hall. You'll never meet nicer people. Congratulations!

## ETC.

In a news flash EAA headquarters just announced Rod Hightower is stepping down as President and CEO. After Paul and Tom Poberezny held the post for decades each a two year term seems awfully short. Former CEO of Cessna, Jack Pelton will step in for the interim but who knows what will shake out of this. Reading comments on line I was a little surprised to see so much negativity towards Hightower. I know a fellow who owns two warbirds might not be seen as a champion for the lighter end of aviation but anyone expected to run the multi-million dollar corporation EAA has become will probably be in that tax bracket.

November is election month for our chapter as well as the nation but as usual no one has expressed any interest in assuming a chapter office. The current staff has agreed to continue for another year but we are always seeking volunteers to help with chapter meeting programs and refreshments, student hands-on programs and organizing our yearly pancake breakfast. Next year some of us will be thinking about stepping back so start thinking about your future as a chapter officer. We need you.

Dick's famous **Christmas Symposium** will be on **Friday, December 7<sup>th</sup>** in the basement of the **Two Harbors American Legion Post**. Doors will open at **5:00**, Airport Commission and Chapter meetings will start about **6:00** and a lovely dinner will be included. This year Dick has enlisted Ray Kozlowski, former CO of the 148<sup>th</sup> Air Guard fighter wing to speak. If you wish to bring an unwrapped kid's toy I will make sure they get to chapter 272's Tree of Hope campaign.

Fifi, the ultralight Nancy Smith calls my "Cute little fold-up airplane" has been tucked in for the winter. The rain on my window has now turned to snow so the timing was just right. I have been flying Miss Chaos however and expect to continue until it gets too cold to do a proper pre-flight without freezing my fingers off. We went for a spin last Saturday and the fog rolling in along the shore made for interesting sight seeing. It has been ten years since we first took the sky together and each flight feels like love at first sight. The exhaust gas temperatures were near the red line so after landing I replaced her main carb jet with a richer one for the cooler ambient temps. When I mentioned this to Bob Payne he said, "Oh, you're a JET mechanic!" Well, I guess I am!

Mike Busch's F1 Rocket is really coming along now. He did the smoke test on it's lighting systems and the hangar lit up like Las Vegas on a Saturday night. You could almost hear the batteries straining but no smoke was produced. The workmanship on this bird is so precise that if he could bring it to Oshkosh with transparent skin he would win the Lindy hands down. I can hardly wait to see it fly although it will probably be too fast to capture on film.

Building an airplane can seem like an unattainable dream but taken one step at a time it is like any other journey and the rewards are astronomical. If a fellow like me who sometimes has trouble deciding which end of a screwdriver to use as a hammer can do it, there's hope for us all. Dream on.

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