

# WINTERMAIL

EAA CHAPTER 25

MINNEAPOLIS / ST PAUL, MN

JULY 2011

## *Pietenpol Formation Flight*

*by Greg Cardinal*



**Photos by  
Dave Olson**

On Wednesday, June 29th Norm Tesmar with his Cub, Bob Poore with his Pietenpol and I with another Pietenpol met at Fleming Field with plans to do some casual formation flying.

Our plan was to fly to Stanton to do some

*(Continued on page 4)*

## ***Dale Johnson to receive EAA Major Service Award***

***by Steve Adkins***

*As noted by John Koser on page 2, the EAA is recognizing Dale's long record of service to aviation this year. Here is the award submission prepared by Steve Adkins and submitted to Oshkosh this May*

**"Yes, he does do windows!"** This may seem like a strange comment, but Dale is very skilled at building *(Continued on page 5)*

*Dale at work on the WWII CG-4A Glider at Villaume Box and Lumber in St. Paul*



**Koser's Comments**  
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# Koser's Comments



July is AirVenture time! I don't know how many Chapter 25 members will be there, but I hope those who attend bring us reports of a good week. I can't attend, but would like to so I could attend the chapter leaders breakfast to accept the Major Service Award to be presented to Dale Johnson. Dale will not be able to attend AirVenture, but we will have a board member present to accept the award for Dale so we can present it to him at the August meeting.

Once again this month, Bill Brown has lined up about 70 potential Young Eagle candidates. I hope we can make those airplane rides happen this month without the weather problems we've been recently plagued with. Give Bill a call if you can volunteer either as a pilot or as a member of the ground crew.

Our presenter this month is Jeff Schans from Lycoming Thunderbolt—should be a good opportunity for all you engine mechanics as well as those of us only “turn an occasional wrench.”

Tom Fitzhenry from our local CAP squadron will be our speaker at the August meeting. I hope he'll bring some squadron members with him.

Finally, time is approaching when we need to look at our officer positions and consider those who would be willing to contribute their time and efforts toward continuing Chapter 25 operations. If you are willing to be considered, please approach any officer or Board member to let them know. We need to develop a slate during August so we can present it in September and vote in October.



\* \* \* \* \*

- ◇ My grandpa started walking five miles a day when he was 60. Now he's 97 years old and we have no idea where the hell he is.
- ◇ Did you know that dolphins are so smart that within a few weeks of captivity, they can train people to stand on the very edge of the pool and throw them fish?
- ◇ Every time I hear the dirty word 'exercise', I wash my mouth out with chocolate.
- ◇ My wife said, “Watcha doin' today?” I said, “Nothing.” She said, “You did that yesterday.” I said, “I wasn't finished.”

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# ON FINAL



Minneapolis/St. Paul

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# This Month: Wed Evening July 20th—BSAEC at Airlake

Grill on at 6pm, Meeting starts at 7pm

Bring something to share!

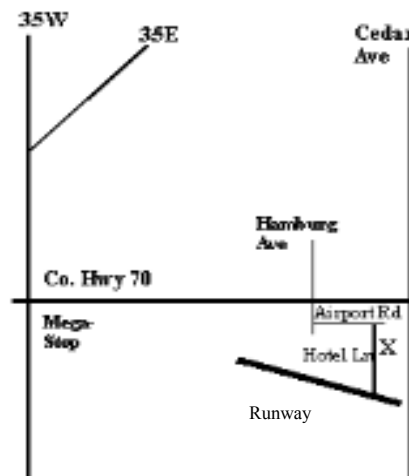
**Program:** Jeff Schans from Lycoming Thunderbolt will be our guest speaker this month. Bring your friends and lots of questions for Jeff! Come early for the grill, the meeting starts at 7pm.

**Saturday, July 16th:** Young Eagles start at 9am, contact Bill Brown to volunteer

**Sunday, October 2nd:** Annual banquet at Eagan Community Center. Note that our speaker this year will be George Erickson, author of *True North*.

## Directions to BSAEC (Chapter Hangar at Airlake):

South on I-35 to Hwy 70 (Megastop), then East to Hamburg Ave (3rd stop sign.) Right turn and South to airport perimeter road. Left on airport perimeter road then right on Hotel or India Lane. If the surface is firm, please park on space between hangars.



## EAA Chapter 25 Meeting Minutes

June 15, 2011

Presiding Officer: John Koser

Location: Bert Sisler Aviation Education Center at Airlake Airport

### Business meeting discussions

John led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

A treasurer's report was circulated. We have a cash balance of \$5,793 as of June 13.

Terry Carmine reported that ticket distribution for our annual fundraising raffle continues at today's meeting. Members should pick up their tickets during the meeting which will help us avoid the cost of mailing them at a later date. There will be a prize for the chapter member who sells the most tickets. We have already had some members sell their first batch of 30 tickets. The challenge is on!

We flew 19 kids during a special make up Young Eagles Rally last Saturday. This was less than expected. One group of Scouts showed up without their parental consent form signed and could not be flown. Bill Brown has 85 kids lined up for the usual monthly rally next Saturday. Please let Bill know if you can help out.

Our annual picnic will take place at noon after the Young Eagles rally on Saturday at the BSAEC. Bring a dish to share. Brats will be supplied by the chapter.

Almi Sela reminded members that a Rans Fly In is scheduled for July 17-18 at Fleming Field. Tours through Wipaie, BRS, and other manufacturers will occur. Watch for an announcement with more detail via the Yahoo Users Group.

The Pietenpol Builders Group has shifted their building schedule to every Wednesday night instead of the previously advertised 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month. All are welcome to come and join in on the building process.

Meet at the BSAEC.

Kris Olson discussed several topics:

She has chapter membership applications available if guests would like to join the chapter.

She also has Chapter 25 Members Rosters if you did not get one.

Members are encouraged to order Chapter 25 name tags to wear during Chapter events. See Kris for details.

Chapter 25 hats are for sale at \$13.

Dick Navratil reported that he intends to fly his Rotec powered Pietenpol to AirVenture this year. Jeff Coffey may get a camp site that we can use to gather at. More AirVenture plans will be discussed at our next meeting in July.

It is time for us to start planning for Chapter Officer elections which will take place in the fall. If you are interested in serving as an officer or know of a viable candidate, please inform one of this year's Officers so they can be included in the nomination process.

The program for our July meeting features Jeffery Schans, from Lycoming/Thunderbolt with a presentation on Lycoming engines. Our August meeting will include a presentation on the Civil Air Patrol.

### Program

Brian Huberty was our guest speaker with the topic: "The Nexus with Radar Detection of Flying Carp and Other Critters on Composite Floats." The talk was a mix of U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service aviation related activities and composite float construction information.

—Submitted by Craig Nelson

# Piet Formation

(From Page 1)

pattern work followed by some air-to-air photos.

Upon landing at Stanton Norm called Dave Olson who lives close by in Cannon Falls. While waiting for Dave Bob and I flew a few circuits until Norm waved us in.

Dave had arrived and we discussed the photo shoot, positioning of the aircraft, hand signals, etc...

We departed Stanton and headed WNW toward Webster with the Cub on the left, Bob in the middle and me outboard. Bob and I slowly maneuvered to within a wingspan of each other while being careful to stay out of each others blind spots.

About halfway through the flight Bob signaled to switch positions. Bob descended about 40 feet and moved to the right allowing me to move left alongside the Cub. Bob then came up on my right wingtip (see photo at right).

We landed at Webster and visited with Rich Klepperich, who is restoring a Bellanca "Cardboard Connie". It was a nice restoration.

At 7:45 we departed Webster and went our separate ways. Dave did a great job and got some nice photos. I can't think of a better way to spend a summer evening.



*The blue and white Piet is Greg Cardinal's based at Stanton  
The yellow and blue Piet is Bob Poore's, based at Airlake  
Dave Olson shot the photos from the Cub flown by Norm Tesmar*



# **Dale Johnson**

## **recognized by EAA**

*(From Page 1)*

complete custom windows from scratch. In addition, he has a valuable skill in obtaining substantial materials at no cost and putting those materials in use for the benefit of Chapter 25.

Our Chapter hangar was dark and dreary (although spacious). While the chapter struggled with finances and the need for windows, Dale had been building replacement windows for the Stanton Airfield. Thus, he was able to obtain three unneeded windows from Stanton at a very reasonable cost for our hangar (Dale was on the board of directors for Stanton Sport Aviation; plus, a major financial contributor). The windows face the active runway while allowing the low, winter sun to warm our well-insulated hangar.

In support of the Stanton airport, Dale has built custom windows for the FBO office, built custom frames for huge Thermopane windows for the FBO office obtained free from a hospital reconstruction. Dale built custom windows for the kitchen/classroom, and 14 huge windows for the WWII vintage hangar. Dale built the hangar windows during the winter and led a team of two to install them during the summer requiring 3-levels of scaffolding and working from unsafe positions at times.

It should be noted that Stanton Sport Aviation provides BFRs and tail-dragger training for a number of Chapter 25 members including our current Chapter president. This training is vital for members finishing their tail dragger projects. This Stanton training directly supports the goals of the EAA *Flight* Advisor program. Also, a number of EAA members base their aircraft at Stanton.

Statewide, Stanton is known as a destination airport ... “a grass strip where you can get Coke in a bottle”. The parked, home-built visiting aircraft coupled with airport exhibits (many built by Dale) promote interest in EAA activities. Further, Dale is actively involved in many maintenance and construction activities at Stanton. During the winter of 2010, Dale headed a team to install a dropped ceiling in FBO main office followed by insulation. Many EAA members enjoy this enhanced office.

Dale is the technical advisor on a Hummel UltraCruiser scratch-built homebuilt aircraft for a Chapter 25 member. In addition to advising, he has machined some critical parts; plus, creating jigs for hole-flanging on his lathe. Dale modified two pop riveters to create a domed head as required by the plans.



*Dale's Pietenpol at AirVenture 2009. Builders and Co-owners: Dale Johnson and Greg Cardinal*

Dale Johnson designed a low-cost tensile tester built from junk-box parts. Cost \$0. When Chris Bobka learned that builders in Britain are required to proof-test their parts, he shared Dale's design with them. In addition to using the tester on his own aircraft parts, Dale has also tested parts for many members of Chapter 25; and, to test towropes and tow fittings for the Minnesota Soaring Club (note: at least five Chapter 25 members are also members of MSC). <http://guid.us/dale/tensile.html>

Dale constantly offers to give glider rides to members of Chapter 25 in addition to other people interested in gliding. To ensure he is in a position to give rides, each year Dale is one of the earliest glider club members to finish the three FAA required solo flights.

**Service to the Aviation Community:** As briefly mentioned earlier, Dale Johnson was commissioned by the State of Minnesota to pull together a team to build a plans-accurate, full-scale **1903 Wright Flyer**. Dale spent three years building a “kit”. He then directed a team of ten people for six months to finish the project in time for the centennial celebration. This deadline was met in the face of a fire in the hangar that damaged the

*(Continued on page 6)*

*Firing Chamber -*

*1903 Wright Engine -  
Builder: Dale Johnson*

*Website:  
www.mn1903flyer.us*



## ***Dale Johnson recognized***

***by EAA*** (From Page 5)

Wright Flyer requiring a re-build of two wing panels. Once the Wright Flyer was completed, the aircraft required numerous moves over a period of nine years. Dale became the move team leader. Moving the Flyer required special rigs. While the aircraft is rugged in flight, it is a delicate aircraft to move requiring a team of 14 people minimum and an 18-wheel semi-trailer truck. The 1903 Wright Flyer was displayed at major aviation shows in Minnesota; plus, the Wright Flyer Centennial exhibit in the main atrium at the Mall of America. The Flyer is now on display in the historic Lysdale hangar at Fleming Field.

**Jenny Restoration:** Dale supported this project building many of the parts including landing gear, all inter-wing struts, gas tank and gas gauge, tailskid, torque tube, and aileron controls. He covered and painted the rudder and painted the cowling. Due to match-up problems, Dale had to drill-out and re-tap left and right threads into the turnbuckle barrels ... a very tedious job since there were about 150 barrels.

One should note that Dale also fabricated the many turnbuckles for the Pietenpol pictured on page 5.

**Waco CG-4 Cargo or Troop Glider:** Columnist Katherine Kirsten, StarTribune, discovered a group of men restoring a WWII Waco CG-4 Cargo Glider. She so was impressed by their efforts that she wrote a column extolling men involved in creative projects rather than passive pursuits such as TV and computer games. This column features Dale Johnson and others.

<http://quid.us/dale/column.html>

The cover photo for Bungee Cord, Magazine for Vintage Sailplane Association, displays Dale working on the wooden nose section of the Waco CG-4. (Dale built two full nose sections ... one went to Texas.) This issue included a full article on the Waco CG-4 and Dale's contribution to the project. Cover story in Minnesota Flyer magazine describes how the Villaume Box and Lumber Company built these gliders during WWII and is now housing the reconstruction project that involves Dale.

At a national glider contest, Dale developed critical Turn-Point film strips in a demanding two hours for validating contestant flights. He also regularly supports club activities as FOO, Flight Operations Officer.

**Personal Achievements in Aviation:** Dale Johnson has been flying gliders since 1980. Most of his flying experience has been in the mid-west but he has also flown in the Tetons and Pike's Peak. Member of EAA, Minnesota Soaring Club and the Soaring Society of America. A photo of Dale's Pietenpol home-built aircraft was placed in AIR&SPACE magazine. Feel free to visit a website built for Dale by another EAA member for images and articles that demonstrate the wide and varied aviation accomplishments by Dale: <http://quid.us/dale/>



*1918 Curtiss JN4D Jenny Restoration  
Minnesota History Museum*



*Rudder - Waco CG-4 Builder: Dale at Villaume Industries*



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## Stuff for Sale/Wanted

Wanted: An extra aviation headset for the Piper Cherokee I recently purchased. If you've got any extras or wish to part with something, please let me know. Ideally I'm hoping to stay under \$125. Craig Rodamaker 952-270-5739

For Sale: Bendix/King Skymap IIIC GPS. 5" diagonal screen with terrain and obstacles. Complete database update is 50. Comes with panel mount, yoke mount, and leg strap for hand held use. Easier to use and update than Garmin Handheld. Paid 2200 new, sell for 295. Larry 952-461-2299

For Sale: Lancair 320/360 kit, Super-Fastbuild kit. Asking \$20,000 or offer. Call 608/797-5752.

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## Great Flying Books!

from Ty Sibley

Hey! I have about 3 weeks left on my second tour over here in Iraq. It didn't take long for me to get tired of watching AFN or playing video games on my off time, so I have been putting my Kindle to good use. For those that don't know, a Kindle is an electronic book, capable of holding hundreds (thousands?) of book at one time. They also connect to cell phone signals so downloading a new book only takes a few seconds, and most of the classic books (Catcher in the Rye, War of the Worlds, etc) are all free! Anyway, I have read some great flying books in the 5 or 6 months I have been over here, some new, some old.

"Dumb But Luck: Confessions of a P-51 Fighter Pilot in WWII"

- There are plenty of books out there about flying fighters in WWII, but this one is pretty good. Richard Curtis should have washed out of flight training about a dozen times but somehow ends up flying P-51's in Italy towards the end of WWII, and even tangles with an ME-262 a few times.

"I Could Never Be So Lucky Again" - General Jimmy Doolittle's awesome autobiography. If you have never read it, I highly recommend it. There was so much more to this amazing guy beyond just the Raid on Tokyo. Not only an amazing stick and rudder pilot, but probably one of the smartest pilots ever.

(Continued on page 8)

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# Chapter Events and Fly-Ins

**July 20th Chapter Mtg at BSAEC, 6 pm**  
(see page 3 for map & directions)

**July 16th Young Eagles start at 9am-**  
Contact Bill Brown to volunteer

**October 2nd Annual Banquet**  
George Erickson will be guest speaker

**Future meetings** 8/17, 9/21, 10/19, 11/16,  
1/18, 2/15, 3/21, 4/18, 5/16, 6/20, 7/18

**Jul 14-18 St Cloud Mn (STC)**  
EAA's B-17 "Aluminum Overcast"  
Gates open at 9:30 each day.  
[www.b17.org](http://www.b17.org) or 320/229-8563

**Jul 16-17 Eden Prairie Mn (FCM)**  
Air Expo 2011 B-17 P-51C  
[www.airexpo-mn.org](http://www.airexpo-mn.org)

**Jul 17 Hallock Mn (HCO) 7a-12p**  
Fly-in bkfst Young Eagle rides  
Bill 218/843-1059.

**Jul 23 Hibbing Mn (HIB) 8-11a**  
Regional Airshow and Pancakes  
[www.eaa996.org](http://www.eaa996.org)

**Jul 25-31 Oshkosh Wi (OSH)**  
AirVenture 2011.

**Aug 6 Elbow Lake Mn (Y63) 9-1p**  
Fly-In, ribeye sandwiches  
Car show, ultralights, warbirds  
Flekkefest, Joe 218/685-6594.

**Aug 13 Rice Lake Wi (RPD) 7-1 p**  
Pancakes. Parachute jumpers, 11a

**Aug 13 Laporte Mn Robco Pvt**  
Pancakes 7-11, brats/beans 11a  
218/224-2585, (Y49) 730-1230p  
[jaswilliamsonmn@hotmail.com](mailto:jaswilliamsonmn@hotmail.com)

**Aug 14 Lake Elmo Mn (21D) 7-12p**

Aviation Day & pancakes  
Valter's Aviation, [www.eaa54.org](http://www.eaa54.org).

**Aug 14 LaCrosse (LSE) 7-1130a**  
Waffles, airshow by Bill Blank  
608/792-0113, [becbrok@aol.com](mailto:becbrok@aol.com)

**Aug 20 Forest Lk Mn (25D) 10-4p**  
Corn/brats/ice cream  
John Schmidt, (651) 776-1717.

**Aug 20 Bemidji Mn (96M) 9-3p**  
Float and Wheel Fly-In  
Moberg Air Base private field  
Jerome Gruel, (218) 835-6497,  
[www.paulbunyan.net/1397/](http://www.paulbunyan.net/1397/)

**Aug 21:Mankato, Mn (MKT)**  
730-1230p Pancakes  
Ken, 507/947-3084

**Aug 27 Glencoe Mn (GYL) 10-2p**  
Corn/brats Stuart 320/583-8367.

**Aug 28 Grygla Mn (3G2) 7-12p**  
Breakfast, Wilkens Field  
Fall festival, 218/459-3436

**Aug 28 Windom Mn (MWM)**  
Fly-In Breakfast 730-1p  
Brian 507/830-0273.

**Sep 17 Grand Rapids Mn (GPZ)**  
8-12p Breakfast 218/256-7402.

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## Great Flying Books! (Continued from page 7)

"Unbroken: A WWII Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption" - Some of you old timers may have heard of Louis Zamperini, this is his story. As an Olympian at the 1936 Berlin games, Zamperini had competed in the 5000 meters. When WWII came along he became a bombardier on a B-24 that ended up crashing in the middle of the pacific. He floated on a 2 person raft with 2 other people for 47 days before the Japanese found him and he spent the rest of the war in a prison camp on the Japanese mainland. This is the best book I have ever read.

Well I hope you are all getting out and doing some flying! I will have the rest of summer off when I get home and there are only 2 things on my to-do list: Catch Walleyes and fly Young Eagles!

—Ty Sibley



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