

WINTERMAIL

EAA CHAPTER 25

MINNEAPOLIS / ST PAUL, MN

NOVEMBER 2011

Flying to AirVenture *by Craig Nelson*



Camping under the wing at Oshkosh

So I finally did it. I flew my Kitfox to AirVenture this past summer. It's one of those bucket list kind of things that I have wanted to do since completing my plane almost 5 years ago. After all, it seems you just have to take your homebuilt to OSH, the Mecca for homebuilders and aviation enthusiasts.

So why did it take so long? Well, there were work schedule conflicts, weather concerns, and plane maintenance issues which got in the way. But there was another reason for dragging my tail. I was a bit intimidated at flying into the

(Continued on page 4)

Late Summer Fly-ins

By Pete Gavin and Norm Tesmar

We've been following the progress of the Piet builders group this year as they work on the fuselage and wings. I visited the group at Dick Navratil's hangar at Crystal Airport in August and found them working on the wing spars (photo at right). Since that time Norm has been emailing me *(Continued on page 5)*

From left, working on the spar: Bob Poore, Dick Navratil, Jim Fischer and Norm Tesmar. Steve Schmidt, Pat Halligan, Greg Cardinal and Peter Denny are in the background



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Koser's Comments



I'd like to once again thank the three members who've stepped forward to take officer positions for Chapter 25. I think we have excellent folks to keep the Chapter running smoothly with Kim Johnson as our new president, Ned Lebens as our new VP, and Paul Brown as our new secretary. I'm sure that Terry, Craig, and I will be available to assist in the transition if needed.

For the November 16 meeting, we will be presenting some award certificates to members for their work in Chapter activities.

Hope the turnout is a good one.

We are also looking forward to Lou Martin's presentation at our meeting. See below.

New and "old" Board members, please be aware that we've planned a Board meeting following November YE to discuss any items that you want to bring. If you're not a Board member and have items to ask Board members to deal with, please let at least one of us know so we can get it on our agenda for that day.

Speaking of Young Eagles, we have two more dates to bring our already good YE count to an even more laudable number. If you know of groups of kids or their leaders, please ask them to call Bill Brown.

See y'all at the meeting!



Lou Martin during our November 16th meeting will be speaking on some of his experiences of flying as a War Bird pilot for the Planes of Fame Air Museum. His talk will devote special attention to flying the Grumman Wildcat Fighter during the museum's 50th reunion of Marine Corps fighter pilots who flew with the Cactus Air Force out of Henderson Field Guadalcanal in 1942 & 43.

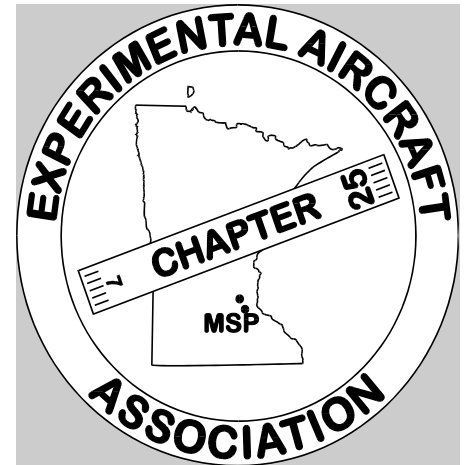
The reunion included four Medal of Honor recipients who Lou had the unique pleasure of honoring with a fly-by in the Wildcat and sharing drinks and pilot discussions about flying the Wildcat with them in Bob Pond's house in Minnetonka. Lou was able to obtain autographs of all four and will present a copy of this historical record during his presentation.

The four Marine Corps VIPs were Lt. Jefferson J. DeBlanc (8 kills), Maj. Robert E. Galer (14 kills), Capt. Joseph J. Foss (26 kills) and Lt. James E. Swett (15 kills). All four pilots are no longer with us but their wartime achievements will never die.

The picture at right is of Lou Martin and the Wildcat he flew with the Planes of Fame Air Museum.



ON FINAL



Minneapolis/St. Paul

Visit our website at eaa25.org

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This Month: Wed Evening Nov 16th—BSAEC at Airlake

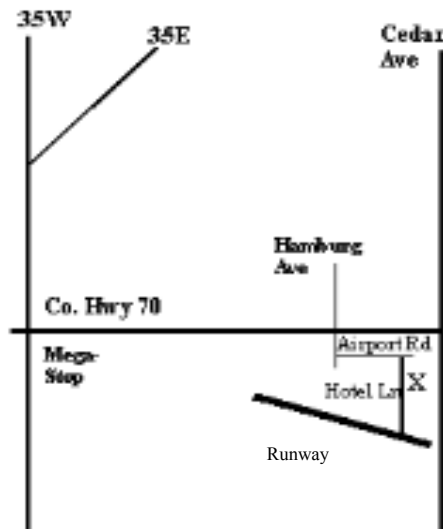
**Grill on at 6pm, Meeting starts at 7pm
Bring something to share!**

Program: Lou Martin will be speaking on flying as a War Bird pilot for the Planes of Fame Air Museum with special emphasis on flying the Grumman Wildcat fighter. See page 2 for more information. We will also present YE and newsletter award certificates for 2011.

Saturday, Nov 19th: Young Eagles at 9am. We are expecting a very large group this month. Please contact Bill Brown if you can help out!

Sunday, December 11th: Christmas Party at the home of Pat & Mary Hoyt from 1pm to 5pm. See page 8 for map and directions.

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

October 19, 2011

Presiding Officer: John Koser

Location: Bert Sisler Aviation Education Center at Airlake Airport

Business Meeting Discussions

Lou Martin led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The treasurer's report shows a cash balance of \$10,102 as of October 19.

Terry Carmine reported that net proceed from our fund raising raffle is approximately \$3800. Thanks to all for a successful raffle. Members who have unsold tickets need to return them to Terry so that we are compliant with MN State Law. Many thanks to Mark Gulbrandson for his generous \$1000 donation during the raffle.

Bill Brown gave a Young Eagles update. 47 kids were flown at the last rally despite the windy weather. We have flown 345 kids year to date despite 4 event cancellations due to weather. If you have any leads on groups of kids (scout troops, etc.) that are potential Young Eagles, please refer them to Bill.

We had a great banquet this year. Everyone enjoyed the good food and the presentation by George Erickson. Pat Halligan indicated that over 80 people attended. Thanks to Pat for coordinating the event again this year.

Kris Olson reported that the annual membership renewals are being distributed. Please return to Kris by the end of November.

Mark your calendars. This year's Holiday Party will be at Pat and Mary Hoyt's house on December 11.

Pat Halligan gave an update on John Cumpton's condition after his recent auto accident. He is recuperating from surgery to fuse several of his neck vertebrae and is in a neck brace. The good news is that a full recovery is expected. We hope you a speedy recovery John!

Dale Johnson has volunteered to develop a tool loan program for the Chapter. The idea is to maintain a list of special tools that chapter members would be willing to loan to other members.

Peter Denny indicated that the Minneapolis Community & Technical College will be holding a 16 hour Gas Tungsten Arc Welding class on January 7 & 14. Cost is \$290. Call 612-659-6500 to register.

Craig Nelson reported that the Inflight Pilot Training Saturday Seminar on Nov 5 will be devoted to a discussion on Experimental Amateur Built Aircraft. A number of homebuilts will be on display. The session starts at 8 AM. Inflight is at Flying Cloud Airport behind Modern Avionics.

Congratulations to the following individuals who were elected to officer positions for 2012.

President – Kim Johnson

Vice President – Ned Lebens

Treasurer & Membership Coordinator – Kris Olson

Secretary – Paul Brown

Program

Tom Fitzhenry and several cadets from the Civil Air Patrol discussed the CAP program and their experiences being a part of the organization.

Submitted by Craig Nelson

Flying to AirVenture

(From Page 1)

“World’s Busiest Airport” with special NOTAM procedures when I’m a relatively low time VFR pilot. But yee-haa! I did it and it went great. There is nothing quite like hearing the tower controller say “Nice job yellow taildragger - turn onto the grass - welcome to Oshkosh” after landing halfway down the runway on the blue dot.

So, how did I overcome my apprehension? Planning. Feeling very well prepared gave me the confidence to make the trip. I prepared by obtaining and studying the NOTAM closely. I took several seminars that talked to the finer points of the VFR arrival and departure procedures. I also studied the EAA website which gave additional information on these procedures. On the advice offered in one of the seminars, I practiced flying the Kitfox at the speeds/altitudes needed for arrival, flying close patterns, and landing at chosen points farther down the runway. This turned out to be quite fun and freshened my skills in preparation for the trip. After all this, I felt I was ready.

I took the entire week off of work for AirVenture so that I had flexibility to deal with the weather. After watching the forecasts closely, I departed from Flying Cloud early Monday morning about one half hour after sunrise. I choose this time because the weather was good and I thought I might avoid the weekend arrival rush prior to the convention.

Turns out, this worked well. I flew right into Wittman Field following the railroad tracks coming out of Ripon with little airspace congestion and no holding. While on a right downwind leg for assigned runway 27, just as I was starting my descent, I received instructions to left turn out of the pattern and fly north. I wagged my wings, flew NW along the river then headed south following Highway 41 to re-enter the pattern as instructed.

I landed halfway down the runway on the assigned colored dot then off into the grass ASAP. I’m not really sure why I had to take the detour. Maybe there was a faster plane behind me that they needed to deal with. After taxiing what seemed like forever, I arrived at the Homebuilt Camping area and was escorted to a parking spot. That was a fun flight!

I spent Monday – Wednesday doing my usual AirVenture activities. I hooked up with several other Chapter 25 members while there. Since I was airplane camping, I would usually eat my meals by the Kitfox and it was great fun to have other builders and sightseers stop by and ask about the plane. Through this process, I got to meet a number of other Kitfox builders/owners that I was familiar with from postings on the internet forums that I monitor. You can’t beat talking airplanes while hanging out under the wing of your airplane (hiding from the sun) and munching on a sandwich.



After some midweek rain, I intended to leave Thursday morning but the weather did not cooperate. High pressure was moving in and I kept thinking the low ceiling would lift and let me sneak out. I took down the tent and was ready to go but it wasn’t to be. About noon, things were brightening up and I checked the ATIS only to find out that the departure runway was closed because a F16 had gone off the end. This would not allow time to leave prior to the airport closing for the afternoon air show. Oh well, twist my arm, I have to stay another day.

Friday was much better weather. I learned that it takes quite a while to get out by the time you wait to get fuel and wait in line on the taxiway with all the others who are leaving. Departing was another unique experience. They were using runway 36 and you had to right turn to course 150 as soon as you stabilized after takeoff. The controllers were on the ground lining airplanes up on both sides of the runway. One side would go and as soon as they lifted off the other side would go while the previous side was being “reloaded” with another airplane. I can see how they handle up to 3400 ATC operations in a 10 hour day. The flight home was great with wonderful flying weather.

So, if you find yourself wanting to fly to AirVenture but are a little apprehensive about handling the flight, I encourage you to study, practice up, and go. It’s a great experience. While you’re there, be sure to buy yourself a tee shirt that says “Wag Your Wings” on the front and “I Flew to Oshkosh” on the back and wear it proudly.



Late Summer Fly-ins *(From Page 1)*

photos of the group as they attend some of the greatest grass field fly-ins Minnesota has to offer. As you can see, this group is just as enthused about flying these low & slow airplanes as they are committed to building them.

Forrest Lake, Aug 20 In the photo below, Dick Navratil taxis to parking at Forrest Lake, and in the photo to the right, the crowd gathers around his Rotec Piet to get a closer look.



Glencoe, Aug 27

Norm got a nice photo of this Tailwind at Glencoe, and to the right is Dick Byland's cub.



Wanamingo, Aug 28

Jewel Ness Cherry Grove Central Airpark near Wanamingo is one of the absolute nicest fly-ins around. It always has a laid back atmosphere, as you can see in the photos below. Not to mention the 1200' runway, which always makes for some interesting landings! Thanks to David Thate for posting the photo of the musicians on the Ma-



tronics Kolb list. The rest of the photos are Norm's. Just below and to the left, a small crowd gathers around Greg Cardinal's Piet, with Dick Byland's cub also shown. Directly below is a rare photo of Airpark owner Jewel Ness, who was captured actually wearing a tie!

(Continued on page 6)



Summer Fly-ins *(From Page 5)*

Log Cabin Airport, Sept 13

Doug Ward's Log Cabin Airport five miles east of Mondovi, Wisconsin has also become a favorite of the tail-draggers. In the foreground of the photo below you see the Grega Piet Doug bought from Bob Poore. To the right of the Grega is Bob's Piet, the "Cub Club" cub flown by Steve Schmidt, and Dick Byland's cub flown by Norm. In the center photo, Dick Byland chats with Doug Ward and others. To the right, Bob Poore



refuels the Piet before taking off from Log Cabin. In the photo to the left Bob, Norm and Dick regroup at Stanton Field. There they are lined up for a photo with Greg Herrick's Stinson Tri-Motor with the American Airways markings, and to the far left Greg's Ryan PT Trainer.

Benson Airport, Oct 1

In the photo to the right, Dick Navratil taxis



through the clearing among the weeds after landing at Benson Airport in White Bear Lake. To the lower right, Greg Cardinal lands his Piet at Benson. And in the photo to the lower left, Dick Byland's Piet has also joined the group.



(Continued on page 7)

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CLAY ADAMS

Summer Fly-ins (From Page 6)

At Benson, Dick Navratil gets a surprise visit from his wife Joan who drove over to join him at the fly-in. Below, Steve Schmidt lands the "Cub Club" cub at Benson. In the bottom photo are, Greg Cardinal and Bob Poore's Piets.



According to Norm, this is the first time we have had three Pietenpols from Chapter 25 at the Benson fly-in. Go Piets!!



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Chapter Events

Nov 16th Chapter Mtg at BSAEC, 6 pm
(see page 3 for map & directions)

Nov 19th Young Eagles start at 9am-
Contact Bill Brown to volunteer
Board meeting to follow

December 11 Christmas Party 1-5pm
At the home of Pat and Mary Hoyt
Mark your calendars!

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

This year's Chapter 25 Christmas Party will be on Sunday, Dec 11th from 1pm—5pm at Pat and Mary Hoyt's. Join your fellow chapter members and spouses for an afternoon/evening of food, beverage, and esprit de corps. If you want to bring a dish, dessert, or beverage to add to what we are preparing, please feel free.

Directions, from 494:

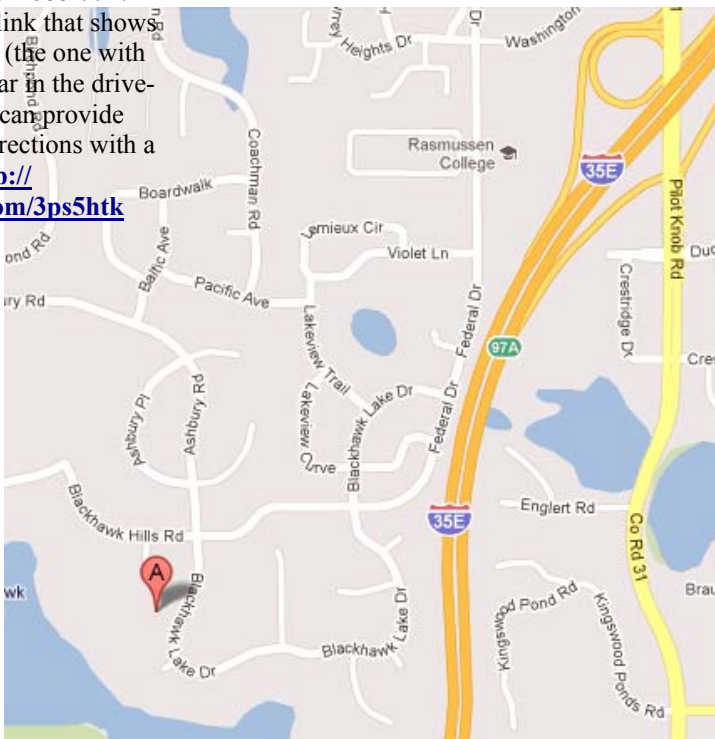
Get to I-35E Southbound
Take Yankee Doodle Rd exit. Get in 2nd lane from the right.
Turn right onto "Yankee Doodle Rd". (heading westbound)
Go straight through the first stoplight which is "Pilot Knob Rd". Get into the left lane.
Turn left at the stoplight onto "Federal Dr"
Federal Dr becomes "Blackhawk Hills Rd".
Blackhawk Hills Rd turns to the right (road construction in this area).
Turn left at the *second* "Blackhawk Lake Drive" (it's a loop, the 2nd entrance is better).
We are the 5th house on right. Tan house with the numbers "1620" above the garage door.

Address is 1620 Blackhawk Lake Drive, Eagan, MN 55122

Phone: 651-688-7747

Here is a link that shows our house (the one with the blue car in the driveway) and can provide driving directions with a map: <http://tinvurl.com/3ps5htk>

- Pat



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