

WINTERMAIL

EAA CHAPTER 25

MINNEAPOLIS / ST PAUL, MN

SEPTEMBER 2014

AAA Fly-In at Blakesburg

By Patrick Hoyt



Beech D18 does a fly-by

Several people from our area attended the annual Antique Airplane Association's fly-in at Blakesburg, IA (IA27 on the Chicago sectional).

The AAA fly-in at Blakesburg is similar to many other grass-roots fly-in events: People initially come

(Continued on page 4)

Close Encounter in Muslim Mosque in Iran

by Lou Martin

When flying as a charter pilot in Iran (1976 to 1979) I was directed, in 1978, to fly an interesting Iranian navy special support mission. Pakistan was committed to resuming normal relations with their Muslim neighbor Iran and an integral part of this rela- *(Continued on page 5)*

Reza Mosque in Mashhad, Iran



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"Say Intentions"



-an update from Kim V. (Gudgeon Pin) Johnson,
EAA Chapter 25 President

For our Chapter meeting on September 17th, Gary Reigel, of The Reigel Law Firm, Ltd. will give us an overview of aviation legal concerns associated with owning and flying aircraft. The Reigel Law Firm was founded to combine the passion of flying with legal expertise to advise and represent clients on commercial and aviation law issues. Each aviation attorney is an experienced legal professional and pilot, who flies in the system on a regular basis. The Firm advises clients on aviation issues such as: aircraft purchase and financing transactions, property and casualty losses, airport land use protection and FAA enforcement actions.

Our next Young Eagles event will be on 9/20/2014. Contact Kris Olson, Young Eagles Coordinator if you can be a pilot or ground crew member.

According to Ch. 25's By Laws, we must finalize officer nominations at our September meeting and have officer elections at our October meeting. All positions are open. If you would like to run or nominate someone for a position, please contact a Board member.

Our **Ch. 25 Banquet** will be on **Sunday, October 5, 2014** at the Eagan Community Center from 6:00 – 9:00. Please put that date on your calendar. Dr. Randle S. Corfman, PhD, MD, a reproduction health specialist, will be speaking about flying his airplane to provide reproductive solutions in rural areas. Tickets will be limited so send your ticket request form along with your check to Pat Hoyt as soon as possible. Start planning your silent auction item. Gift cards, tickets to ball games, theatre or concerts usually generate high fundraising bids. Remember to sell your 60 raffle tickets and give the money and stubs to Ned Lebens at the September meeting.

On **Saturday, 11/1/2014**, we are going to have a **BSAEC Clean-up and Chili Lunch** from Sat., 9:00 am – 1:00 pm. We need to haul away an old refrigerator and other contraband that has been lying around and cleanup the hangar for winter. Bring gloves, leaf blowers, heavy garbage bags, eye and ear protection and a crock pot of chili to share when the work is done.

The **Chapter 25 Holiday Party** will be on **Sunday, December 7, 2014** from 1:00 – 5:00 pm. Put this on your calendars, too. Contact me if you are willing to host this event.

Don't forget to pick up a package of: pre-cooked brats, hot dishes, hot dogs, hamburgers, buns, condiments, deli salads, beans, chili, chips, cookies, plastic utensils, paper plates, cups and paper towels, soft drinks and bottled water and bring them to the Chapter meeting.

(Continued on page 8)

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This Month: Wed Evening Sept 17th—BSAEC at Airlake

Grill on at 6pm, Meeting starts at 7pm

Please bring something to share: pre-cooked brats, hot dogs, hamburgers, condiments, deli salads, beans, chili, chips, cookies, plastic utensils, paper plates, cups and napkins, soft drinks and water. We also need a couple volunteers to cook!

Program: Gary Reigel, of The Reigel Law Firm, Ltd. will give us an overview of aviation legal concerns associated with owning and flying aircraft.

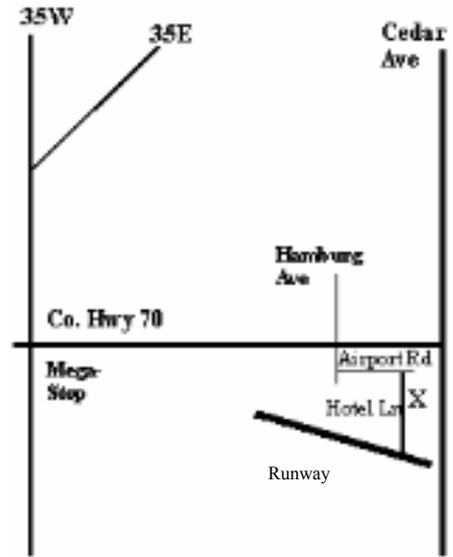
Saturday Sept 20th Young Eagles To volunteer to help with young eagles, contact **Kris Olson:** 651-675-6826 ksimpson2@yahoo.com

Sunday Oct 5th—Annual Banquet, Eagan Community Center

Friday Oct 24th—Hangar Dance at Airlake 6-10 pm

Saturday Nov 1st—BSAEC Cleanup and Chili Lunch—9am-1pm

Sunday Dec 7—Annual Holiday Party, 1-5pm



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 for Wednesday 20 August 2014

Presiding Officer, Kim Johnson, President

Bert Sisler Aviation Education Center at Airlake Airport, Minnesota

The meeting was called to order by Kim Johnson, President. Member Lou Martin led the pledge of allegiance. A moment of silence was observed for those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

President Johnson asked that members remember Norm Tesmar at the VA Convalescence Home.

Member Hemchan Ramnarine was thanked for cooking and arranging the food. Members who contributed to the chapter newsletter were recognized.

Treasurer Pat Hoyt presented a short report on the Chapter finances and reported that family memberships would be \$5 more.

Scholarship recipients Maranda Magnuson and Connor Senkry spoke about their Air Academy experiences.

Member Kris Olson reported that the “I Can Fly” event for children with special needs will be rescheduled to September. This is a joint effort between our chapter and Chapter 92, Glenco. The next Young Eagles will be 20 Sep 2014; contact Kris Olson: 651-675-6826, ksimpson2@yahoo.com.

Member Pat Halligan reported that the Chapter Banquet will be at the Eagan Community Center again on Sun. 10/5/2014. Put the date on your calendar and start planning your silent auction items. Sell your 60 raffle tickets during your travels. Let us know if you need a copy of the donation letter, which describes how we give back to the community and a 501c3 letter, which confirms our tax exempt status.

Two first flights were reported: Kevin Knutson in his RV-6 on 5/11/2014 and Greg Sebold in his Sonex at KFCM on 8/14/2013.

The program was member reports on AirVenture by Greg Cardinal, Bob Poore, Pat Hoyt, Ron Oehler and Craig Nelson.

There being no further old or new business, President Johnson adjourned the business meeting.

—Submitted by Gordon Duke, Secretary

Final Approach Trivia Quiz from John Schmidt

Which famous long-distance pilot, celebrating the 80th anniversary of his/her accomplishment in July, 2013, was a convicted criminal who served time?

Answer on page 7

Blakesburg Fly-In

(From Page 1)

for the airplanes, and then in subsequent years they come back for the friends they've met. New friendships are always made, and old friendships become renewed.

Poor weather had an impact this year, with the area getting several inches of rain during the fly-in. Many aircraft made it in before the rains. Some aircraft overflowed the airfield and elected not to land, or were waved off. One humorous pilot returned with a float-plane and did several passes. Much of the time the airfield was closed, and staff attended to the grounds as best they could with a tractor and a large roller. Several pilots diverted to nearby Ottumwa, and then drove into Blakesburg via car, where they encountered muddy roads and helpful people willing to lend a push to their now-stuck vehicles. The camping area was reminiscent of Camp Scholler during "Sploshkosh" a few years ago, with 4-wheel drives getting stuck, and some people leaving their campers in place after the event, to be retrieved at some later date.

Despite the mud and rain, determined people will always find ways to have fun.

Some of the kids got a kick out of playing in the mud, until some of them discovered leeches between their toes (and some of the adults got a kick out of witnessing that!).

During the day there are always airplanes to look at. When the rains drove people inside, people roamed the hangers and the museum. After sunset there is a movie in one of the larger hangers. The Pilot's Pub also becomes a popular evening spot. Its walls are adorned with some interesting memorabilia, behind which there are many stories...

Much later in the evenings, after the Pilot's Pub has closed and the movie has ended, people who camp on-site will often set up chairs and look at the night sky with binoculars. Despite the rainy days, we were fortunate enough to witness a couple of clear nights, where the brilliance of the stars in the dark Iowa sky is absolutely breathtaking. On



Paul Poberezny's Baby Ace and a Rose Parakeet

one other night we were treated to a nice lightning storm, heavy winds, and an amazing downpour.

On Sunday the airfield was opened up, and aircraft were able to leave. Lighter ones went first, followed by the heavier ones. As is the case at similar events, the "Sunday Exodus" is always an interesting sight to see!



Kids Playing in the Mud

For more information on the Antique Airplane Association or the Blakesburg fly-in, see <http://www.antiqueairfield.com>

Patrick Hoyt

N63PZ



Maybe he's spraying for mosquitoes?



Bowers Fly Baby Arrives

Wittman Tailwind from Florida



Close Encounter in

Iran (Continued from page 1)

tionship was joint visits by military officers and enlisted men. The Chief Pilot informed me that a Pakistani submarine was making a good-will port call to the Bandar Abbas Naval Station and Air Taxi was dispatching an Iranian Navy F-27 to support the crew's transportation needs. My mission was to fly about 25 Pakistani sailors to the city of Mashad, and stay with them for two nights while they performed a Muslim pilgrimage.

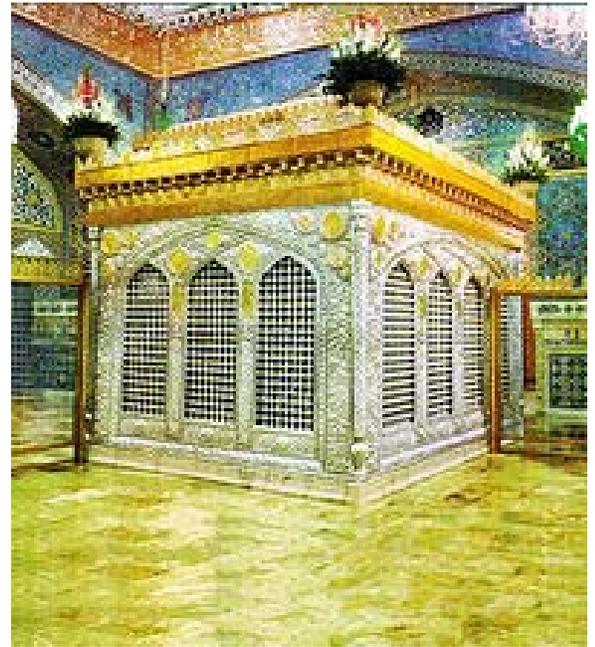
Mashad is Iran's second largest city and located in North-east Iran close to the Afghanistan border. It contains one of Islam's most revered Shiite mosques and is a popular pilgrimage site for Muslims the world over. The mausoleum of Iman Reza, one of the most noted Muslim martyrs who died in 818 A.D., is located in this elaborate world-renowned mosque. After checking into the Razavish Grand Hotel my two Iranian navy copilots asked me if I had ever visited the famous Iman Reza shrine located in the Mashad Mosque. When I replied in the negative, they said that they would take me there after we changed into civilian clothes.

A short taxi ride deposited us near the main entrance to a huge gilded copper-domed mosque easily filling an entire city block. It was protected by a high stonewall and a security guard was overseeing all visitors entering, only men were allowed entrance and everyone was required to remove their shoes. As an obvious infidel, I was surprised that I was not challenged when I entered this most holy Muslim mosque, as I had heard that the inner sanctum was off limits to all non-Muslims. However, I naively assumed my Iranian Navy copilots knew what they were doing and would not lead me astray.

The interior of the mosque consisted of chambers of glittering mirrors, tiled walls and floors and a huge gold-encrusted sarcophagus in the center of a large cylindrical cupola containing the tomb of Iman Reza. The mosque was filled to near capacity with hundreds of worshipers praying and reciting the Koran in a sort of hypnotic trance. Almost all worshipers were dressed in long black robes, had full beards and were joined in a slow moving, tightly packed procession toward the mausoleum.

My escorts and I worked our way toward the rotunda passing men touching and kissing the walls leading to the holy tomb. Some, after being in close proximity to the sarcophagus, were so overcome with emotion that they were rolling on the floor or beating their bleeding heads against the hard marble walls. Most faces were wet with crocodile tears trickling

Mausoleum inside the famous Reza Mosque in Mashhad, Iran



down into thick black beards. Some were in such an emotional state that they had to be held up by friends or other parishioners. The sound of wailing and praying that echoed off the walls and ceiling produced a stereophonic, unearthly, hypnotic effect.

The activity I was observing was strange to my non-Muslim eyes, yet I could not help but admire such vivid display of faith. It was obvious that everyone felt a deep sense of devotion to their God (Allah) and was not ashamed of exhibiting this commitment in public.

I was standing off to one side mesmerized by the religious scenes being played out before me when I noticed a group of about eight menacing-looking men encircling my companions and me. Through slow shuffling-foot movements, the circle was becoming smaller and soon formed a tight corral. The faces of this unhappy group were contorted with rage as they shouted obvious insults regarding my presence. Their black piercing eyes, dilated with obvious hate, sent a clear message that I was not welcome. I sensed a serious concern on the part of my two Iranian navy copilots. When I asked them, what was going on they told me not to speak, or make eye contact with any of the demonstrators, as they were outraged that an infidel had invaded the inner sanctum of their most sacred mosque during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

I felt utterly helpless; as it appeared that, the situation could turn ugly with the slightest provocation. With a copilot on each arm, we started a slow shuffle toward a nearby door. The circle of protesters, still shouting obvious obscenities, moved along with us. When we reached the door, I was literally pushed through it and it closed with a bang behind me. As the door was closing one of the copilots, in an excited voice, said, "Wait here (Continued on page 6)

Close Encounter

(Continued from page 5)

captain, out of sight until we come back with our shoes.”

I breathed a sigh of relief in escaping the angry mob inside the mosque, but soon learned that it was only a short reprieve from potential danger from angry Islamic militants. I found myself standing in a small alcove overlooking an open-air courtyard. Marching in unison around a half-darkened flowered center garden were about 25 men, wearing white T-shirts, and engaged in self-flagellation across their backs with small metal whips. Their backstrokes were synchronized with a melodic drumbeat emanating from a hidden source and painful chants from the participants. The backs of their T-shirts were blood stained and when they passed my position, they gave me a menacing look I will never forget. I felt like I wanted to melt into the cement wall to escape their stares, but at the same time I had no desire to reenter the mosque. As they were about to make their second pass, the door opened behind me and my two Iranian navy copilots appeared carrying our shoes. With backs bent in a slouch position, we slowly worked our way around the courtyard, past the euphoric marching mob and escaped through a door, which fortunately opened onto a public street. After donning our shoes, we took a taxi back to the Razavish Grand Hotel.

When I entered the hotel lobby, I was greeted by an Iranian navy Lieutenant Commander medical doctor who had been a passenger on some of my previous flights. He extended a warm handshake while stating, “Salam-u-Alaikum” (peace). He asked where I had been and I told him of my narrow escape from the Reza Iman Mosque. His face turned red as he called my two junior officer copilots to attention. He dressed them down mercilessly in Farsi, and when he was through, they snapped him a salute and headed for their rooms.

After my copilots left, he told me that they had performed a very foolish move in taking me inside the mosque during the holy month of Ramadan. He added that since I was an infidel “nonbeliever,” I had exposed myself to the possibility of having my throat slit by one or more of the fanatical Muslims and my body thrown out into the street, where it would have lain until the following morning, or provided a midnight snack for wild dogs. He stated that a small minority of the Shiite Muslims living in the Mashad area are Militant Fundamentalists who take the writings in the Koran literally. Consequently, my visit to the mosque could have been very dangerous if it had been interpreted as a sin against Allah. He went on to state that some radical Muslims believe it is an honor to fight and die for their religion and believe they are following God’s will when they kill infidel sinners. To do otherwise would be to disobey the teachings of Mohammad. Life in Iran was becoming more interesting every day!

At the time I thought the doctor's admonition about the dangers I exposed myself to when visiting the Mashhad Muslim mosque was overstated. However, in the last 30 years there have been numerous terrorist attacks on Western targets by Islamic militant extremist groups that have killed thousands of people. These attacks ranged from the suicide attack on the Marine barracks in Beirut in 1983 that killed 242 to the World Trade Center and Pentagon attacks on 9/11/01 that killed 3,000. Terrorist groups like al-Qaida, Taliban, Hamas, Hizballah and Islamic Jihad are familiar names. However, reference to the Internet web page, "Terrorist Groups Profiles, Dudley Knox Library" lists more than 60 active militant groups whose goal is to strike against Western countries. An excerpt from the web page, "Islam and the Shariah" states, "The concept of Jihad, or holy war, is a concept that is interpreted from the Koran and backed up by the Shariah (Muslim law). The holy war to the Shiite Muslims is the war between Muslims and non-Muslims. Many Muslims believe that it is an honor to fight and die for their religion. They believe they are doing the work of Allah (God) when they kill people who are not Muslim." Based on this it appears my Iranian doctor friend was providing good advice.

The above is an excerpted section from Lou Martin's book "Close Encounters with the Pilot's Grim Reaper." Lou can be contacted on pilotlou@aol.com.

Sidebar note from Lou:

At the time I thought the doctor's admonition about the dangers I exposed myself to when visiting the Muslim mosque in Mashad was overstated. However, in the last 25 years there have been numerous terrorist attacks on Western targets that have killed thousands of people. These attacks ranged from the suicide attack on the Marine barracks in Beirut in 1983 that killed 242 to the World Trade Center and Pentagon attacks on 9/11/01 that killed 3,000.

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Based on this it appears my Iranian doctor friend was providing good advice.

Stuff for Sale/Wanted

For Sale: iFLY 700 with most of a year's subscription (\$66), RAM mounting system and panel mount with ball adapter. \$400. John Koser (612/240-0776)

For Sale: Flightcom Model 403mc Voice Activated Monaural Aviation Intercom.

Four place, panel mount. New in box. Email roehler533@gmail.com

Wanted: Your dusty old VFR instruments for my Pietenpol project. Please contact Ned Lebens 952-567-3329 or nlebens@gmail.com

For Sale: Ellison EFS-2 Throttle Body Injector
don schlais <d.schlais@hotmail.com> 763-479-8228

For Sale: Aviation Books. Oldies, classics, some brand-new, some autographed. Inexpensive! Cutting down my library. I can e-mail a listing. Noel Allard. nallard@unitelc.com.



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Answer to Final Approach Quiz (See page 3)

As published in Air and Space Smithsonian:

Eighty years ago, on July 22, 1933, Wiley Post completed the first solo flight around the world. He made the circuit in seven days, 18 hours, and 49 1/2 minutes, taking off and returning to Floyd Bennett Field on Long Island, New York.

As Bryan Sterling and Frances Sterling note in their 2001 book *Forgotten Eagle*, in April 1921, Post pleaded guilty to highway robbery, and was sentenced to ten years at the Oklahoma state penitentiary.

The Sterlings write:

The robber's stratagem that Wiley employed was basic.... A robber would simply place some lure—be it a small suitcase, a bag of sugar, or a new-looking tire—into the center of a quiet stretch of country road, hide nearby and await the arrival of an inquisitive and acquisitive victim. Seeing by serendipity a relatively costly item that apparently had fallen off some truck, the imminent victim would stop his car to step out and retrieve it. The robber would then pounce from his hiding place with his gun or rifle at the ready, and demand money and valuables.

In June 1922, after serving time for a little over one year, Post was paroled; according to the Sterlings, prison doctors were concerned that Post was "racing toward a state of total psychological failure."

On December 27, 1934, then-Governor William "Alfalfa Bill" Murray granted Wiley Post—then a household name for his two around-the-world flights—a full pardon.

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Chapter Events

Sept 17th Chapter Mtg at BSAEC, 6 pm
(see page 3 for map & directions)

Sept 20th Young Eagles at Airlake
contact Kris Olson (see p2) if you can volunteer

Oct 5th Annual Banquet in Eagan CC.

Oct 24th Hangar Dance at Airlake 6-10p

Nov 1 BSAEC Cleanup & Chili Lunch

Dec 7 Chap 25 Holiday Party 1-5 pm

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

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“Say Intentions” from page 2

Chapter 25 Pietenpol build sessions are conducted every Wednesday evening (except Chapter meeting night) at Dale Johnson’s backyard shop from 6:00 – 9:00 pm followed by wing-leveling refreshments at a local restaurant. Come and learn how to build an airplane. Contact me if you need directions.

There is no lack of opportunities for involvement in Chapter 25 activities. We will work it out so that you can participate at your own level of availability. We are looking for a Food Coordinator, a BSAEC hangar maintenance task force, newsletter writers (write a story about an aviation experience or an interview someone about their aviation interest) and a librarian. See me if you are interested in serving in any of these capacities.

Four of my goals for Chapter 25 continue to be:

- Encourage Chapter 25 membership by young men and women with an interest in aviation.
- Encourage younger members to get actively involved in Chapter 25 activities.
- Have all members get to know each other better.
- Perpetuate the Chapter 25 Mission of furthering interest in building custom aircraft and supporting all with an interest in aviation by sharing our knowledge and experience.

“In wisdom gathered over time I have found that every experience is a form of exploration.”

--Ansel Adams,
American photographer and environmentalist

Looking forward to seeing you at the meeting on 9/17/2014!





Stein Bruch
President

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