

EAA Ultralight Chapter 75

North Central Wisconsin Lite Flyers

N3175 Norwegian Rd • Merrill, WI • 54452

Flying OZ by Dan Marlenga

50 years ago a musical group called the Ozark Mountain Daredevils was formed in the Ozarks of north west Arkansas. On May 8th 2025 the Chapter 75 version of the Daredevils departed central Wisconsin to fly in the Ozark mountain region. This area is actually a large plateau with an elevation of just over 2500 feet. The lower elevations of this region allows us to fly in the mountains with still very good performance.

The group flying this adventure are Steve Krueger in his Rans-7, Paul Buss in his Avid Flyer, Lyle Banser in his Rans S6ES, and Dan Marlenga in his Rans S6ES. We departed our home bases at 7 am on May 8th and met up near the Stevens Point Airport. A discussion followed about our first gas stop in Savannah Illinois where we would face a strong 90 degree crosswind. It was decided to stop in Sauk Prairie to top off with gas and skip the unfavorable conditions in Savanna.

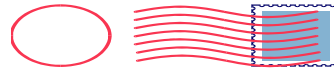
As luck would have it as we approached Savanna Steve reported he had a rough running engine and would stop at

Savanna to troubleshoot. Well we all decided to land in the very unfavorable 90 degree crosswind, and we all survived!

Steve and Paul worked on the Rotax 912S, adjusting Carbs and checking all possible areas. We all topped off with gas and Steve left first to see how she was running? We soon departed to get the call that Steve was still flying an unhappy airplane. He decided to turn back while he insisted we carry on to Arkansas.

We made our next stop in Mexico Missouri and took a factory tour of [Zenith Aircraft](#). We got a tour with the founder's grandson, Cal Heintz. A really nice compact factory with about 8-12 employees. They put out parts for kits at a rate of around 1 kit every working day. Nice planes, would be a fine choice for your next project. We ran into town for a bite to eat at a nice family restaurant and departed for our planned day 1 overnight in Clinton Missouri.

There is a brand new terminal building at the Clinton airport. We used the airport courtesy car to drive to Lyle's family



vacation home on Truman Lake and spent the night there.

We got the report that Steve almost made it home, but had to make a precautionary landing in a field between Wausau and Merrill. With the help of his son Brian they taxied the S-7 down the road to Brian's house to begin more troubleshooting.

We had tailwinds all day and 6.3 hours on the hobbs meter.

Day 2

This morning we departed Clinton and headed to Bentonville airport in NW Arkansas. This very nice field is situated below Class C airspace surrounded by 3 Class D airports. We fueled up our planes and our bodies and with careful navigation departed for our base camp.

We arrived at [Byrd's Adventure Center](#) in mid afternoon fighting heavy thermals and rotor winds off the mountains. On the Mullberry river, Byrd's is centrally located in the land of OZ, so in an hour and a half flight time you could reach the furthest Fly OZ airfields. We set

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NCWLF Treasurer Report June 2025

Submitted by Larry Wenning

<u>Checking</u>		<u>Savings</u>	
Balance Forward	\$ 1,512.73	Balance Forward	\$ 8,186.46
Checking Deposits		Interest	.07
	5/23/25 405.00		
Checking Payments		<u>Savings Balance</u>	\$ 8,186.53
	5/23/25 June Cash 100.00		
<u>Checking Balance</u>	1,817.73	<u>Total Cash</u>	\$ 10,004.26

EAA ULTRALIGHT CHAPTER 75

North Central Wisconsin Lite Flyers
Application Form for Membership and Subscription

Mail Check Payable To:

NCWLF
N3175 Norwegian Rd Merrill, WI 54452

May we Send you an Electronic Version of the Newsletter? Yes No

e-mail

Name

Phone

Address

City

State

Zip

EAA #

Type of plane you fly

Membership Dues Schedule

\$ 15 May	\$ 12 August	\$ 9 November	\$ 6 February
\$ 14 June	\$ 11 September	\$ 8 December	\$ 5 March
\$ 13 July	\$ 10 October	\$ 7 January	\$ 4 April

Payment of dues affords me voting privileges, and a subscription to news updates.

Send dues to: NCWLF N3175 Norwegian Rd Merrill, WI 54452

This newsletter is a monthly publication of the North Central Wisconsin Lite Flyers and is free to all club members. Send items you would like included in the newsletter to:

Thomas L. Voss

138213 Short Lane Dr Marathon, WI 54448

Items received by the 5th are considered for that months' publication.

Send comments, questions, suggestions, etc... to tvosswi@gmail.com



Flying OZ by Dan Marlenga cont...

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up our tents and went to the restaurant for a bite to eat.

As evening was on the horizon we decided to make a 35 mile flight to Ponca field. Ponca is one of the probably 2 dozen airstrips in the Fly OZ airports. Landing uphill on the side of

mountains really gets your attention! Back to Byrd's for refreshments and a good night's sleep.

We got the report from Steve that after some exhausting research he thinks his plane is fixed? Turns out he found some strange grass like sub-

stance in one of the carbs float bowls. Further testing will determine if that was the problem?

Bumpy air today with 4.3 on the hobbs.

Continued next month...

May Meeting Minutes

The May 17, 2025 meeting of UL Chapter 75 was called to order by President Steve Krueger at the Merrill Municipal Airport, New Terminal Building.

Self-introductions were done by 39 members in attendance. One plane, piloted by Dick Neitzel, flew in.

Secretary's report was read by Cindy Hanig. Motion to accept made by Joe Malsack and seconded by Paul Buss. Motion carried. Thank you, Cindy, for filling in for Colleen.

Treasurer's report was read by Lyle Banser. Lyle noted we earned 7 cents interest on the account. Thank you, Lyle, for filling in for Larry.

Old Business was discussed. First business was a reminder that anyone still needing to pay dues needed to see Lyle.

Next, Paul Buss shared about Flying Oz, located in the Arkansas Ozarks. Paul had been studying this adventure since 2021. He stated that the Bentonville Airport has a Flying OZ guide available. OZ consists of 2 dozen airstrips, many privately owned. Permission is needed to land at some of the strips. He said this is not a trip you do yourself, you need to do this with a group. The team that formed to Fly OZ consisted of Dan Marlenga, Paul Buss, Lyle Banser, and Steve Krueger. It was noted that on May 7th, huge storms hit the Ozarks, but the grass strips did dry fast. All was going well with the trip until Savannah Illinois. Then, Steve Krueger was having trouble with his Rotax engine. Steve made the decision to turn around and head back home. Paul, Dan, and Lyle persevered. The team of 3

stopped in Mexico, Missouri. While there, they toured the Zenith Aircraft factory. Zenith pumps out 1 new kit plane a day. The factory employs only 6-8 people. Accommodations for the night were at the famous Banser resort in Clinton Missouri.

The Bentonville Airport is the HQ for the Ozark airstrips. The pilots were informed many strips are privately maintained as well, so one needed to make sure to clean up any garbage. Paul shared that the Recreational Aviation Foundation, known as RAF, which is out of Montana, volunteer's hours and manpower to protect airports from disappearing. The RAF is involved in maintaining some OZ airstrips. RAF is always looking for volunteers to clear trees, cut back brush, etc.

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Next NCWLF Meeting June 21

Our next Chapter meeting will be at the Tomahawk Airport, Saturday June 21st, 10:30 am, hosted by Eric and Jade Lear.

Hope to see you there!

Calendar of Events

June 10 Tuesday Fly Night
Merrill Group RRL rescheduled from June 3

June 17 Tuesday Fly Night Dan
Marlenga Little O'Hare Little
Chicago

June 21 Chapter Meeting Tomahawk Airport 10:30 am

July 1 Tuesday Fly Night Paul
Buss Norrie Brook WI00

July 15 Tuesday Fly Night Evan
Hansen Stevens Point STE

No Chapter Meeting in July.

July 21-27 EAA AirVenture Oshkosh

August 5 Tuesday Fly Night Harold Schauer Scherrico Meadows WS16

August 10 Musky Day Fly-In
Boulder Junction

August 16 Chapter Meeting

August 19 Tuesday Fly Night
Joe Urban Clintonville CLI

September 20 Chapter Meeting



Fly Nights 2025

Our fly night season kicks off in June. For our new chapter friends, I'll go over the details of our program. We fly the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of June, July and August.

There's always the chance that weather will not cooperate. On the appointed day, we will monitor conditions and make a determination if it's safe to fly. Should an event be unsafe to fly, an email will be sent notifying members and we will try the same event again on the following Tuesday. Should weather be an issue on that day, the event is canceled and we move on to the 3rd Tuesday's event. Same procedure applies to the 3rd Tuesday.

Our 2025 schedule is filled and posted on the chapter website. Please know, we are always open to new destinations.

If you have questions concerning fly nights, or wish to host a future event, feel free to contact me. Text 715 891 7213 or email flyguy963@gmx.com

Lets all enjoy fly nights and fly safe all summer.

Dick Neitzel
Fly Night Coordinator

May Meeting Minutes cont...

(Continued from page 3)

The Cornucopia Airport in Wisconsin was opened up by the RAF. They have 1 or 2 fly-ins a year now to celebrate.

Now, back to OZ. It takes about 9-10 hours to fly around OZ., even an RV 6 could get in and out. The airstrips are close to each other, and there are some restaurants and facilities. OZ has plenty of fuel stops.

Back to Steve's return trip to Merrill, he almost made it. Steve troubleshoot his engine and discovered a small piece of **straw where it wasn't supposed to be**. Then, **with Karen's urging** to continue the OZ adventure, Steve flew down with the RV 6 on Saturday and met the rest of the crew. Overall, a fun trip to complete!

New business was then discussed. First, nominations for Officers was on the agenda. A motion was made to re-elect current members. Current members gave their affirmation to continue in their positions. Motion carried. Paul Buss stated that younger people needed to take over officer positions soon.

Next, it was reported that Dan **Marlenga's mother passed** away. She was 93 years old.

Condolences were made by the Chapter. Dan thanked the Chapter for the lovely plant.

Next, Steve spoke about Armed Services Day in Wausau. However, some of the bigger planes planning to be there were cancelled due to weather.

Dick Neitzel then discussed the starting up of Tuesday Fly Nights for June, July, and August. Merrill will be hosting June 3. The June 17th night will **be at Little O'Hare**. Always check newsletters for locations, and emails for cancellations, and reschedules.

Joe Mapes discussed the restoration of the 1946 F15C Ercoupe. He stated it is better now than when it was new. Syd Cohen and Lyman Hatz also helped with the reconstruction, which took about 5 years, not including take apart time! It was noted that the Ercoupe National occurs prior to EAA.

Rich McCullough and his son Liam reported about the World War 2 all female air unit named **"Night Witches."** **These women** pilots carried bombs and dropped them over Nazi Germany, during the night. The Night Witches made significant contributions to the Allied war effort.

Rich also reported that the Wausau Airport was having an Honor the Air event. One of the essay winners of Honor the Air celebrated Captain Scott Alwin, who had served 5 tours in Vietnam. Captain Scott Alwin is the reason we now have Auto Rotation. Another essay winner wrote about the history of the ejection seat.

Jim Cote asked about Merrill's North - South runway. Joe Mal-sack reported that the FAA is holding it up. It seems the FAA is mainly helping the bigger airports around the country. Joe reminded everyone to keep recording your use of 1-6, and 3-4.

The \$100 drawing was won by Charles Ercegovac. Spend it well!

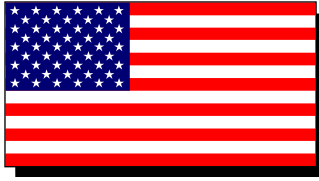
Motion to adjourn was made by Lyle Banser and Heinz Roth, seconded by Bill Maguire.

Next meeting is June 21st at the Tomahawk Airport at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy Hanig

Subbing for Colleen Hansen



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