

# HIAWATHA VALLEY EAA CHAPTER 1518

RGK—Red Wing, MN Regional Airport

(Formerly the Hiawatha Valley Pilots Association - founded in 1973)

**Our 48th Year**



## May 2020 Newsletter

### Presidents Greeting

#### Greetings!

This is Dan Johnson. I am writing the presidents greeting for Ben because his business has got him working long hours day and night during the pandemic.

#### Covid-19

This year is a very different year for Chapter 1518! Because of the Covid-19 Pandemic the world has changed in ways we would never have expected just a few months ago.

Because of social gathering restrictions and Stay at Home Orders or Safe at Home Orders all of Chapter 1518s meetings and activities have been curtailed this spring and the rest of the summer is in question.

Airventure 2020 and the B17 tour have been cancelled and the EAA headquarters and the Air Museum are closed. Chapter 1518 will not be holding the Young Eagles Rally in May or the B17 visit over the July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend .

#### Good News

Looking at the trends for Minnesota and Wisconsin this morning it looks like over the weekend we may have reached the peak and are starting down the backside of the curve.

River City Days is 80 days down the road. Today I checked with the Red Wing Chamber of Commerce and they have not yet made the decision whether River City Days will be cancelled. We are hoping that River City Days will take place at the end of July. If it does, we may be able to have our Annual Pancake Breakfast, Stay tuned.

We planning on having a cookout on Saturday June 13 at 5PM in Ed Whitman's hanger. It will be good to get together after a long winter and the stay at home spring.

#### New Web Site

Rex Porter has done good job of getting our new web site up and running. If you have photos of some of our gatherings send them to Rex so he can get them on the web site. The old web site has been deactivated. To get to the web site just google EAA 1518.

#### Go Flying

Even though we cannot have any group meetings we can still go flying. We should have some nice summer evenings for solo flights. If you are going to other airports be sure to call ahead to make sure they are open or if fuel is available.

#### Dan Johnson

Secretary/Treasurer

#### Upcoming Meetings

**June 13th  
Dinner meeting**

?????

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Well isn't this an interesting world we live in today? The state of the world reminds me of a train wreck because everything is going along at a good rate and then in a short order, it derails. This is devastating to all involved and disruptive to everyone, everywhere!

While the derailment was quick, the rebuilding takes time because besides fixing the immediate area, it is important to check every track to avoid another derailment. In my view, that is why it will take a while to get this world back on track.

I don't believe general aviation is derailed forever because of all the positive things it is capable of doing. It is up to all of us to keep an eye on our section of track. We can do this by staying current in our brains even if we don't have an opportunity to get airborne.

While stuck at home there are many online training opportunities on the FAA Wings site [www.FAASafety.gov](http://www.FAASafety.gov).

Not only will it keep our brains on track but insurance companies sometimes reward our good behavior by offering discounted premiums.

As we venture into the air again, I have a few thoughts.

### **Preflight, Preflight, and Preflight!**

- Preflight the Pilot for health and currency. Rust can form on pilot skills over a normal winter. This one has been longer. The FAA is making some concessions on enforcement of deadlines unfortunately mostly to commercial operators. However, before you fly past a deadline you should consult your insurance company. They are historically stricter on limitations than the FAA. Scary isn't it!
- Preflight your aircraft. Like it's pilot, your aircraft can get rusty over the winter. Not to mention we are in the heart of bird nest season. Extra attention to fuel sumps may be in order. You may purchase old fuel at airports that may have cut back of their maintenance, like fuel filter checks. You may want to carry more fuel than the minimum because of other operational issues like unexpected ATC delays due to staffing.
- Preflight your trip. Besides checking the ever-changing spring weather, we need to look at the airports. Call ahead to check status of the airport and local rules. Food, ground transportation and restroom availability are just some of the questions to research. Besides your mask, you should bring your own tie downs and wheel chocks just in case.

Once airborne remember to use your windshield. Besides the human aviators, the sky's are crowded. It appears birds have activated all squadrons for the season. Legal and illegal drones are also on the increase. Be safe and fly safe.

On a sad note we lost one of our local aviators. Ray Henry as many of you knew as part of the pancake grill engineering team passed away.

His family hopes to have an opportunity to gather later this year and swap flying tails with his friends.

I wonder what Ray would say about the state of the airlines today? I always admired his even-tempered approach to the world. However, after hearing many tails of his flying career one has to believe an excitable person would have given up early. His career carried him through many iconic airliner cockpits in many turbulent economic times.

I always enjoyed his stories of working as a flight engineer in the radial engine airline days. Then retiring from a 747 Captain seat traveling the world to a C-172 and a Bonanza at Red Wing Regional. Have a good flight Captain Ray.

Jim Cushing



## Hiawatha Valley EAA Chapter 1518 is continuing the Long History of the Upper Hiawatha Valley Pilots Association that started in 1973

The cruising speed of N7772F is slow enough that hawks, pelicans, and those pesky eagles hear the roar of the O-200 and move to the side, letting the 1600 lb. G.W. Cessna turn base over the Bay City settling ponds. Over the years I've had to scrape the remains of mosquitoes and June bugs from the leading edges after a visit to the class "G" airspace over the tiffany bottoms, but a week ago a mid-air on the departure end of "27" headed the changed times EAA 1518/HVP will be navigating this summer. Somehow the victim of my 65-kt. climb out survived the collision with a prop rotating at 2350 R.P.M. and fried itself on the #3 cylinder. It was one of those Coronavirus guys invading our class "E". If our group can survive my newsletter contributions it will thrive after this summer's challenges.

Randy's new hanger is progressing on the north end of the revetment alpha. I'm in the early stages of negotiations to allow our group to paint a mural on the east facing hanger door. The 52-foot diorama of our membership would greet any visitor to the airport's administration building as they exit HWY 35. I've got a bit of convincing before our concept of sidewalk chalk for bored pilots becomes reality – meanwhile I'm exploring the recreation of a scene from THUNDERBALL which makes use of both opened overhead doors. With the angle of attack produced by an approach from the west, the deck angle of a C-150 would allow the tail to clear both transoms by a matter of 18 inches. James Bond flew to fame as he piloted a BD-5 on an X-C in Europe that involved a flight through the bad guys' hanger – I'll admit to not having seen the movie, but our chapters version of the stunt should commission Randy's new hanger before it fills with SR-22's and a fleet of vision jets.

Personally, my preference in Ian Fleming thrillers is the performance of Pussy Galores flying circus in GOLD-FINGER. Those blue and white PA-140's fed a passion for aviation that was ignited years before the movie's 1965 premier by the daily flight of North Centrals 728 down the river valley to landings at Winona, Madison, and Chicago. Jim Wright owns a clone of the Fort Know duster that will be enhancing the airspace above Goose Lake during this summer's sparkling skies.

Ray Henry died just as the last newsletter went to press. Ray did not fit the super pilot mold – he looked the part of a Prescott farm hand but flew the heavies of Boeing and Douglas across the globe. I remember Ray as being the master of the NWA fleet when it was developing its B747 segments to Hong Kong and Seoul. Ray's stories number in the dozens – I'll list my favorites and will expand upon them if anyone asks.

- The overnight in Iceland in a Boeing B-377 Stratocruiser that turned into a week with a return to Boston without heat or pressurization.
- Landing a 1946 Swift in a farmer's field during a fog bound X-C in western Minnesota.
- The courting of Carol, the hot flight attendant, on flights to Paris in DC-7's during the days of H.F. navigation.
- Marilyn Monroe, in the buff, running down the aisle of a Stratocruiser as #3 engine developed a runaway prop.
- Ray's organization of a tour of the Northwest Maintenance Facility where our members were allowed to explore every aspect of a B-747 as a "C" check was being performed – it was 1992 – it was a different era.

If Ray had an empty seat on a Skyhawk or Bonanza it was filled with an air-minded bystander – Ray will be missed but remembered as long as EAA 1518 indulges in hanger flying.

Thanks for reading.  
Dennis Ahern

## 2020-21 Chapter Officers

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## 2020 Schedule

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>June 13th</b>	<b>Pancake Breakfast Planning Meeting &amp; Cook out</b>	<b>17:00</b>	<b>Ed Whitman's Hanger</b>
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>June 20th</i>	<i>Young Eagles Rally ??</i>	<i>9:00-Noon</i>	<i>RGK Main Terminal</i>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>July 4th Weekend</b>	<b><del>B17 Air Tour</del></b>		
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>July 18h</i>	<i>Young Eagles Rally ??</i>	<i>9:00-Noon</i>	<i>RGK Main Terminal</i>
<b>Mon-Sun</b>	<b>Jul 20-26</b>	<b>2020 Airventure</b>		<b>KOSH</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Aug 1st</b>	<b>Pancake Breakfast Work day</b>	<b>9:00-Noon</b>	<b>RGK Main Terminal</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Aug 2 nd</b>	<b>44 th Annual Fly-in/Drive-in Pancake Breakfast</b>	<b>7:00—Noon</b>	<b>RGK Main Terminal &amp; Main Hanger</b>
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>Aug 17th</i>	<i>Young Eagles Rally</i>	<i>9:00-Noon</i>	<i>RGK Main Terminal</i>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Sept 5th</b>	<b>Airport Neighbor Day</b>		
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Oct 3th</b>	<b>Annual BBQ Dinner</b>	<b>16:30— 19:00</b>	<b>Ed Whitman's Hanger</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Nov 7th</b>			
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Dec 5th</b>			