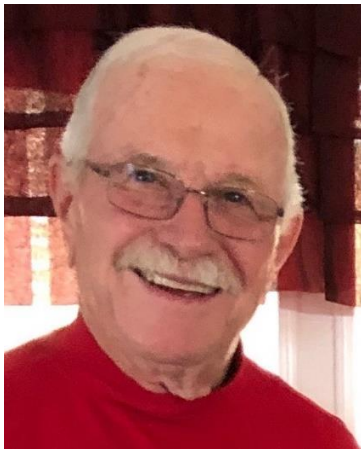




Northwoods Flyers Chapter 1537 Newsletter – June 2020 – Inaugural Edition

The EAA Northwoods Chapter 1537 was launched on March of 2012 and has been instrumental in the furthering of aviation interests in the Siren/Burnett County area since that time. Chapter activities include its EAA Young Eagles Flights, Aviation scholarship program, annual Burnett County Airport clean-up day, pancake breakfasts, hamburger socials and sponsoring AOPA and aviation-based seminars. Chapter 1537 is proud to play a primary role in the Gandy Dance Airshow held annually in July at the Burnett County Airfield. The Chapter welcomes all individuals interested in aviation to join its Chapter.

In future newsletters we will be featuring aviation related stories as well as featuring members of our Chapter. Welcome to EAA Northwoods Flyers Chapter 1537!



Northwoods Flyers Chapter 1537 – Member Feature

Ernie Swanson

Ernie was a founding member and the first president of EAA Chapter 1537. Having been a member of EAA Chapter 237 in Anoka his knowledge, experience and leadership were crucial to getting this Chapter off to a flying start in March of 2012.

Ernie was seven when his uncle took him for a ride in a Cessna 120 that sparked his interest in flying. He never lost his enthusiasm for aviation and in 1991 got his private pilot's license from the Flying Scotchman at Crystal Airport in the Twin Cities. With that in hand he has flown over 2,100 hours for business and pleasure. He is rated for single engine land and ski with a tail-wheel endorsement.

Ernie has flown the Cessna 152, Cessna 172, Aeronca Chief, Piper Supercruiser and a Kitfox IV he built himself. It took him only a year and a half to complete even with having to learn new skills such as fabric installation and researching engine options.

Ernie has been an active member of EAA since 1996, participating as a pilot and volunteer in the Young Eagles program as well as being involved in EAA Oshkosh work parties. Ernie has attended the annual EAA AirVenture event in Oshkosh since 1997. He has also participated in numerous pancake breakfasts and fly-ins. In addition to these activities he and his wife, Bev, (also a Northwoods Flyer) volunteer for the annual Gandy Dancer Air Show held at Burnett County Airport, Siren, Wisconsin. Ernie has also been a member of AOPA since 1991.

Ernie, Bev and Samantha, the beagle, fly all over the central U.S. from Montana to Ohio and North Dakota to Arizona in their 1970 Cessna 172K. He says his greatest enjoyment is flying Young Eagles of which he has flown 265 kids ages 8 - 17. He loves to see the youngsters' reactions when they actually get to take the controls.

Thanks, Ernie!