

EAA475
Chapter Newsletter
August 20, 2020
Albertus Airport, Freeport, IL

The meeting was called to order at 1900 hrs. 16 members were present plus one guest.

Guest Attendance

The President welcomed our guest, invited him to introduce himself and provide the chapter members with an overview of his history in aviation. He obliged and indicated that he may wish to join the chapter in the future. The President thanked him for his comments.

July Meeting Minutes

The President asked if any members had concerns or observations regarding the July minutes; none were forthcoming so he asked if the minutes were accepted. A motion to approve was made, seconded and all members present approved.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer presented the Treasurer's Report and stated that the chapter had received a donation after several members had volunteered their services selling ice cream at the Freeport Tractor Pull event. One of the members had invited the volunteers to participate on behalf of the event organizers. Votes of thanks were given to him for the invitation. As a result of the donation the new balance of the bank account was reported. A member in attendance at the event commented that the crowd at the event had been extremely courteous and polite - great people, in his words. It was noted that, due to the Covid 19 virus situation, the planned expenditure related to our air academy cadet sponsorship had not taken place.

A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was made, seconded and all members present approved.

Mail Run

The President advised the members that the mail-run is still scheduled for September 26th with a planned launch time of 10:00 hrs local. One of the members explained, for the benefit of our guest, that each team, comprising pilot and navigator, must project their flight time and fuel burn for the course. The closest 'projections' versus 'actual results' form the criteria for determining the winning team. Each team's aircraft is also categorized as a high or low performance machine.

USAF Museum, Dayton, Ohio - Planned Visit

The members were advised that the museum is now open 7 days a week with some limitations to access being applied including wearing of masks, cleaning regimes, social distancing, etc. There is also a 'flow route' marked throughout the facilities that visitors are required to adhere to. The President asked if there was any interest in a group visit maybe in early November. One plan would be to fly out Friday, attend the museum all day Saturday and then return home on Sunday. One of the members suggested that he could get access to one of the back-shops through his contacts. The flight simulators are also active. The President took an action to propose some suitable dates, email them to the membership and request responses indicating each member's preferences. Another member suggested that, due to probable weather conditions, the late October early November timeframe would be advisable.

Poplar Grove - Curtiss Jenny - Visit

Further to the last chapter meeting, The President advised members that he was awaiting a response from his contact at Poplar Grove. It was proposed that the next FPA/EAA 475 chapter meeting could possibly take place at Poplar Grove with the final decision pending. A fly out to and from the venue was proposed with participants being advised that they should be current on night flying. One member asked if there are landing lights installed at Poplar Grove. The President proposed that a contribution from each visitor would be appropriate and a member suggested an acceptable value. It was also proposed that a donation from the chapter's fund would also be appropriate. All members present approved the proposed donation.

Potential Visits

It was proposed that a visit to the WACO factory in Michigan be placed on the chapter's schedule and one of the members advised that the Cirrus factory in Duluth would also be pleased to invite chapter members to visit their operations.

AED Demonstration/Training

One of the chapter's members, who graciously donated an AED to the airport facilities, was invited to provide a training session on the correct use of the defibrillator. He explained the entire process including dos and don'ts which was most useful to all members present and a resounding vote of thanks ensued.

Airport Manager's Report

The Airport Manager advised that the road and vault projects are completed and that he has a pre-construction meeting with the state officials, related to the North hangar area resurfacing, pending. He also reported that the fencing project is still pending final approval for the 6 feet fence. The 'Heritage parking lot' project is scheduled to start soon to include a 14 feet by 6 feet gate and a 6 feet personnel gate. The engaged contractor is using non union labor so an inflatable 'rat', provided by the union, will be present when work starts. In conclusion, he advised the City Manager is keen to establish monthly meetings with the Airport Manager.

AOB

None raised

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