



The Beacon

The newsletter of Chapter 54
Lake Elmo, Minn.

AUGUST 2009

AUGUST 2009

THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM WILL BE ON
MONDAY AUGUST 10, 2009.

- SOCIAL HOUR STARTING AT 7:00PM.
- MEETING AT 7:30PM. CHAPTER HOUSE, ENTRANCE B, LAKE ELMO AIRPORT.
- AT THE NEXT CHAPTER MEETING:
- A discussion of 2009 AirVenture. Chapter members are encouraged to bring their photos and stories to share.

A Chapter Member's Story

By Tom Gibbons/Paul Rankin

Paul's Story, a Rise to Captain Part II



Paul in cockpit of a T-2C

Paul started his naval career at Pensacola, FL, in the Aviation Officer Candidate School, AOCS. His first flight training was the T-34B at NAS Saufley Field in Pensacola. Next assignment was Kingsville, TX, flying the T-2C Buckeye basic jet trainer. From there, he went to advanced jet flight training in TA-4J Skyhawks. Graduating near the top of his class, he received his Navy wings in March of 1977. Paul selected fighters, but was assigned to S-3 Viking training in San Diego, CA.

Paul flew the S-3A submarine hunter with VS-29, based at North Island Naval Air Station. In preparation for the cruise on the USS Ranger, CV-61, the squadron did work-ups (training missions). Work-ups are 6-8 months of 2-4 weeks off the coast, then 2-4 weeks back on the beach. The Navy was transitioning to a single ship air wing concept. The planes of 2 carriers were now on 1 ship. This made the ship crowded. In addition, an S-3 squadron is a large one, which caused more space constraints on the ship. At the same time, many Navy



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FROM THE FLIGHT DECK (PRESIDENTS REPORT)

BY DALE SEITZER

AirVenture was a success; attendance was up, lots of cool planes, new ideas and innovation. The only problem with a very successful event might be that more people know our secret is out.—aviation is fun and AirVenture is a pretty good event.

Members Paul & Billie Rankin were the subject of an EAA AirVenture article and John Renwick was recognized for “Most Outstanding Swift.”

Paul Hove is leading the committee to nominate officer and board members for the openings in the elections in October. Please contact Paul if you are interested.

Member participation is crucial and in a small club everyone should expect to participate as a leader. This is your club.

Please contact me if you want to volunteer for the annual Pancake Breakfast and Fly In. We will be confirming volunteers from last year and looking for new volunteers. We especially need Car Parkers, Kid Venture volunteers and Serving and Clean up.

Please tell your friends and neighbors about the Pancake Breakfast – this is our primary fundraiser for the year. Help us promote the event. You can also help sell ad space on our place mat. Tell your friends who have businesses about the advertising opportunities. Tell your insurance agent, your financial advisor, your mechanic, anywhere they know you. The ads are business card size and cost \$0 for members and \$50 for non members. Contact Lief Erickson.

There was a last minute presentation at the clubhouse on formation flying last week – these kinds of presentations are wonderful and symbolize an active healthy club. The active Young Eagle events and regular Saturday morning social event are strong indicators of a relevant club.



EAA CHAPTER 54 TREASURER'S REPORT
BY PAUL RANKIN



July 2009 Financial Summary

Checking Account	\$ 1,723.74
Cash on hand	\$ 40.00
Investments	\$ 7,166.47
Total	\$ 8,930.21

Income

Donations	\$ 35.00
Membership Renewals	\$ 250.00
Total	\$ 285.00

Expenses

EAA Air Academy	\$ 225.00
Clubhouse Construction	\$ 469.78
Banquet	\$ 900.00
Newsletter & Mailing	\$ 40.62
Utilities - Electricity & Gas	\$ 52.43
Total	\$ 1,687.83

Net Cash Flow (\$ 1,402.83)

Chapter 54 Directory

President
 Dale Seitzer
president@eaa54.org

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Young Eagles Director
 Dave Becker
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Newsletter Editor
 Tom Gibbons
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Chapter members meet on the second Monday of every month at the Chapter House, Entrance B at Lake Elmo Airport (21D). The House is at the base of the airport beacon. The newsletter is printed on the first Monday of every month. Parts of the newsletter may be reprinted with appropriate credit.

21D RCO 118.625
 21D Unicom: 122.8
 21D AWOS: 120.075
 TPA: 1932'
 Runways: 4-22 (2497' x 75')
 14-32 (2850' x 75')

ATTENTION MEMBERS!!!

Please send me your pictures and stories about your time at AirVenture '09. Next month will be dedicated to this!

Continued from Page 1

pilots were only spending 1 of their 3 years as an instructor in the S-3 training squadron, then going to the airlines. Paul never got to go on the USS Ranger cruise. He and 5 other junior pilots were volunteered by their commanding officer for an S-3 training gig at San Diego. After VS-29 returned from their USS Ranger cruise, the squadron was reassigned to the USS Kitty Hawk, CV-63. Paul had completed his 3 year sea tour but he re-upped to complete the next cruise. He did work-ups again and finally heads out on cruise in April, 1981. During his free time at North Island, he would go to the base Navy Flying Club and fly T-34's and a Beaver.



After cruise, Paul returned to Pensacola in March, 1982, to instruct in T-2C's at VT-4 squadron. He also married Billie in July, 1983. By coincidence Billie's brother was also a flight instructor in VT-4, but had nothing to do with their meeting! While in Pensacola,



he became a partner in a Bucker Jungmann with a Marine officer and two other Navy flyers, 'backseaters' as he calls them.

While in Pensacola, he joined the local EAA Chapter 485, serving as Secretary, Treasurer and also President. All of the Chapter members enjoyed the same enthusiasm of aviation and flying and created lasting friendships.

Flying his J-3 Cub, a fellow Chapter 485 member lead Paul, flying his Bucker Jungmann, to a private strip near Eglin AFB, FL to meet other J-3 pilots. A Chapter 485 member loaned Paul a J-3, and with 3 other Cub pilots they created the "Yellow Sparrows", a formation flight demonstration team. The group flew in many air shows throughout Northwest Florida and Southern Alabama. Billie did the announcing and narration of the flight routine. As the Yellow Sparrows reputation spread, they received calls to perform in air shows as far away as Virginia. Regrettably, you can't fly a J-3 to Virginia and back in one weekend!



Paul got out of the Navy in December, 1985. Paul told Billie that he always wanted to be an Alaskan Bush Pilot, so the family headed, via car, to Alaska. Paul was hired by Ryan Airlines, flying Cessna 207's in the western part of Alaska. He did not care for the methods Ryan used in conducting their operation and decided to quit. Paul, Billie, with daughters Tina and

Katie returned to the lower 48, settling in Memphis, TN, where relatives lived.

Photo description starting at upper left and going clockwise: 3 T-2C's in flight, self portrait in T-2C/1983, Bucker Jungmann & TA-4J, Typical Cessna 207, and 3 Piper J-3 Cubs of the Yellow Sparrows.

Stay tuned next month for the final story when Paul begins his career with the airlines, small and big!



Chapter 54 Meeting Minutes

July 13, 2009

By Bettie Seitzer

Called to order at 7:30 by President Dale Seitzer

Visitors: Lindsay Meyer of Girls with Wings. Rae Kupferschmidt, Meagan Hallick – Mr. Munson's granddaughter. Doug Portlance (son of Jack Portlance) Doug is president of the Model A club.

Treasurer's report approved as published in the newsletter. \$7,385. has been spent on the addition which includes re-roofing the entire building with the steel roof. The new roof is more durable and will last longer than the previous shingle roof.

Secretary's report approved as published

Old Business:

No old business

New Business:

Elections in October. Nominating committee needed. We will be electing President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and 4 board member seats are open. We would like to see new people come on board in leadership positions. Pancake Breakfast August 16th. We need volunteers. Committee chairs have been selected. FFAST team has a presentation on flying into Oshkosh will happen on July 15th. Information is also available on the AirVenture website – anyone who is interested in flying into AirVenture must review the NOTAM prior to the event. There are special rules and practices in place. Pilots must be familiar with the procedures – short final is not the time to try to figure it out.

Ed Thompson has considered donating a hangar to the chapter; there would've been conditions on the donation that might have put the club at risk. The status of the donation is undetermined at this time. There is a general consensus that donations should come without conditions so that the donation can be used as the club sees fit for the benefit of the members. It is also important that the club consider any liability that might be incurred.

Young Eagle volunteer dinner will be held on Wednesday at AirVenture.

Jack Portlance brought a copy of the National Geographic video on Air Force One. He also brought a

copy of Dale's book to donate to the library. Jack has listed all the model aircraft on display in the club house and added that list to the club record book. Jack has purchased many planes to add to our display here at the clubhouse. Many of the kits he bought were purchased from Hub hobby – there are a lot more models available

Jack and Doug will be bringing at least one Model A to our fly-in, other club members may come as well. Anoka airport has taken notice of our public viewing area and MAC is planning to do something similar at Anoka. A great complement to our club and the positive effect we have had on our community. We need more traffic cones for the pancake breakfast.

Young Eagles (Dave Becker): 2 events were held in June. June 13th we flew 32 kids. We flew 23 kids on July 11th. Special events are scheduled by request and we have been able to fly 96 kids so far this summer. Thank you letters have been received from young eagles and from our two AirVenture students. Copies of these letters are available in the clubhouse.

Flying Start and Education (Art Edhlund):

Looking for new programs for youth.
No ground school until next spring.

Housing (Dave Fiebiger): No report

We would like to finish the storage area prior to the pancake breakfast so that the grill and other equipment can be just put away after the event
The next step is sheet rock, club members will hang the sheet rock and we have a professional tapper to do the taping.

Respectfully submitted:
Bettie Seitzer
Secretary
EAA Chapter 54

Pilots Lounge

I thought I would pass this on to the group if anyone is interested especially within the Minneapolis, Wisconsin area.

Stewart Systems Covering Work shop
When: August 14, 15, 16, 2009
Time: 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM
Where: Lake Elmo Airport (21D) at Valters maintenance hanger
Cost: \$360.00 per person
Contact: Lynn Riggs at 651-489-1836 or 612-508-0988 or email riggs_la@yahoo.com

This work shop is designed to be a hands on work shop where you will cover a sample part using the system.

Lynn A. Riggs

Pat St. Claire has a design business. She updates our Pancake Breakfast banners, that we hang on the perimeter fence, for free. Here is her business :

Patty St. Claire
St. Claire Design Studio
651-439-7975 Office
612-747-7615 Cell

Her husband is Greg St. Claire – a chapter member.

Jesse Black's Runway to Paradise



Jesse has been politely reminding me that I promised to visit him at his farm near Wilmar. On a sectional, Jesse pointed out the specific lake and location of his farm. I called

him Friday night while looking at Google Earth satellite images, I was able to zero in on his farm and lake and even though I believed the runway was there—I could see no signs of a formal runway but Jesse assured me the runway has been there since the late 50s.

Jesse's Father purchased the 40 acre plot of land bordering a spring fed lake next to Green Lake with money he earned as a soldier in WWI.

I flew out early on a Saturday morning that started clear but developed into a cloudy day with wind increasing all morning. I took off from Lake Elmo and flew around the Anoka airport airspace, told them I was passing through and enjoyed the view of the northern metro. I had a GPS but I don't use it all the time—I planned a route almost straight west. My route went right by Maple Lake and I thought of my private pilot check ride there and I thought of how much I have learned and experienced since then.

I enjoy flying over the farmlands because all the available emergency landing areas: the landscape reminds me of my youth growing up on a farm near St Peter.

The runway is long with very large trees on the south end. The runway also has a dog leg, a drain culvert in the middle, a small ditch near the dog leg turn. The run way was not readily visible because the hay, which surrounds the runway was recently cut so it all looked the same.

Jesse admired the plane and how quiet it is. He talked about all his flying friends in the neighborhood—one circled while we talked on the ground. He showed me his fine hangar and plane and a very old - well maintained barn.



Jesse told of renting space to fishermen, farming the land and working on the buildings. The clouds thickened and the wind picked up so I said goodbye to Jesse, taxied back on the runway and took off quickly into the breeze. I circled his place while he stood in his yard waved and watched. I wagged my wings and headed east back to Lake Elmo.

The runway is the green grass strip from the bottom of the photo to the top. Notice the dogleg.

Jesse is one of the Chapter 54 Charter Members.

Dale Seitzer

Aviation Day



Fly-In/Drive-In Pancake Breakfast Sunday, August 16 Lake Elmo Airport



**Sign up for
Young Eagles**

7am to noon
Valter's Aviation



Public Invited

Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 54

For Info, visit www.eaa54.org



**"KID
VENTURE"**

Local Flying Events

Compiled by Paul Hove and pulled from the Website

August

August 8 2009, 7:00 to 13:00, Rice Lake WI Pancake Breakfast & Aerobatic flying, , Rice Lake Municipal Airport,(KRPD), Lunch 10:00-13:00 Aerobatic flying, Static Displays, Fire, Police, EMS & Medical Helicopters (Fuel Special), Jerry Stites, 715-458-4400, rpo@ricelakeairport.com

August 8 2009, 9:00 to 13:00, Elbow Lake MN Ribeye Steak Sandwich, , Elbow Lake Municipal Airport,(Y63), Pride of the Prairie Ribeye Steak Sandwich. In conjunction with Flekkesfest Rain Date 9th, , 218-685-6594,

August 8 2009, 7:00 to 11:00, Milaca Fly-in/Drive-in, , Milaca Municipal Airport,(18Y), POW/MIA Hot air balloon ride all weekend; weather permitting. Saturday; lunch and supper, band, aircraft, Fort Snelling Historical tank and display, bonfire. Sunday; Fly-in/drive-in, breakfast \$7 includes ham, sausage, eggs made to order, pancakes, fresh fruit including local blueberries, milk, juice, coffee., Gary Judd, 320-266-3822,

August 9 2009, 7:00 to 11:00, Milaca Fly-in/Drive-in Breakfast, , Milaca Municipal Airport,(18Y), Fly-In/Drive-In Breakfast by Milaca American Legion, Gary Judd, 320-492-8246,

August 9 2009, 7:00 to 11:00, La Crosse MN Fly-in Belgian Waffle Breakfast, , La Crosse Municipal,(KLSE), Fly-in/Drive-in Belgian Waffle Breakfast. , Becky Brockman, , bbrockman@mba-architects.com

August 9 2009, 7:30 to 12:30, Walker MN Pancake Breakfast, , Walker Municipal Airport,(Y49), Tri-County CAP Breakfast, , 218-652-2700,

August 9 2009, 10:30 to 15:00, Chetek WI Annual BBQ Charity Fly-in, , Chetek-Southworth Municipal ,(Y23), , , 715-456-8415,

August 9 2009, 7:00 to 12:00, Humbolt IA Breakfast, , Humbolt Municipal Airport,(0K7), Sponsored by The Rotary Club , Dave Dodgen, 515-332-1863 , dave@growthland.com

August 15 2009, 10:00 to 16:00, Forest Lake Fly-in and Open House, , Forest Lake Airport,(25D), Late morning/early afternoon fly-in. All-grass runway, brats, ice cream, Young Eagles rides hosted by EAA Chapter 237. Always an interesting antique or two., John Schmidt, 651-776-1717,

August 16 2009, 7:00 to 12:00, Lake Elmo Aviation Day, www.eaa54.org, Lake Elmo Airport,(21D), Lake Elmo Aviation Day, featuring a fly-in/drive-in pancake breakfast and aircraft display. The event will feature static displays of modern, vintage, experimental, and light-sport aircraft. There will also be displays of aircraft restoration and home-built projects, and KidVenture. Sign up for Young Eagles flights., Lief Erickson, 651-439-5040,

August 16 2009, 7:30 to 12:30, Mankato MN EAA Chapter 642 Fly-in/Drive-in Breakfast, www.flymankato.com, Mankato Regional Airport,(KMKT), Fly-in/Drive-in Breakfast. Pancakes, Sausages, Eggs to Order, and Beverage (coffee, milk, juice) Rain or Shine. Breakfast free to Pilots in Command (PIC) and children under five years of age., John Barsness, 507-345-1510,

August 22 2009, 10:00 to 14:00, Glencoe MN Sweet Corn and Bratwurst Feed, , Glencoe ,(), , , ,

August 22 2009, 8:30 to 12:30, Marshall MN Rotary Sunrise Fly-in/Drive-in Pancake Breakfast, www.marshallsoundsofsummer.com, Marshfield Muni Airport,(KMML), Marshall Rotary Sunrise Fly-in/Drive-in Pancake Breakfast. PIC free, Linda Erb, 507-537-1865,

August 23 2009, 8:00 to 12:30, Pipestone MN Annual Fly-In Pancake Breakfast, , Pipestone Municipal Airport,(KPQN), All you can eat! PIC's Free!, Rob, 507-562-2473,

August 23 2009, 7:00 to 11:30, Boyceville WI Pancake Breakfast, , Boyceville Municipal Airport,(3T3), Pancake Breakfast, Richard Nerling, 715-643-6100, nerlingaviation@centurytel.net

August 29 2009, 12:00 to 15:00, Guttenburg IA Abel Island Fly-in, Float-in, Potluck & BBQ, www.abelisland.com, Guttenburg Abel Island Airport ,(IA23), Experience the fun of landing on a well maintained 2600 turf airstrip on an Island in the Mississippi River or land your float plane and pull up on our sandy beach. , Gary Fisher , 319-480-0913, FlyinEyeDr@aol.com

August 30 2009, 7:00 to 11:00, EAA Chapter 631 Annual Fly-in/Drive-in Pancake Breakfast, , Cumberland, WI ,(KUBE), Breakfast will include Louie's Meats Breakfast Sausages. Camping on field, either by your plane or drive-in camping. Rutabaga Festival in town, call 715-822-3378 for entertainment schedule Check notams for frequency, we will have a temporary tower operating., Al Seierstad, 715-204-4474 , kube@centurytel.net

August 30 2009, 7:00 to 12:30, Iowa City IA 31st Annual Fly-In Breakfast, , Iowa City Municipal Airport,(K1OW), Hosted by: Iowa City Sertoma Clubs, Jim McCarragher, 319-338-9222, jamesm@meardonlaw.com

September

September 5 2009, 7:30 to 11:30, Shell Lake WI Town and Country Days Flight Breakfast, , Shell Lake Municipal Airport,(KSQ), Flight Breakfast, Neil Petersen, 952-935-3598, daneth1@earthlink.net

September 6 2009, 9:30 to 12:00, Mondovi WI Log Cabin Fly-in, , 44-34-29.8700N 091-32-49.5600W,(), 9:30 am Lunch at Noon, Doug Ward, 715-287-4205,

September 12 2009, 8:00 to 16:00, Osceola WI Wheels and Wings, , L.O. Simenstad Municipal Airport,(K0EO), Pancake Breakfast Aircraft on display, craft show and classic cars, Jeff Meyer , , meyer-erjk@centurytel.net

September 13 2009, 11:30 to 14:00, Maple Lake MN Pork Chop Dinner Fly-In, , Maple Lake Municipal,(KMGG), EAA Chapter 878 & Wright Aero are having a Pork Chop Dinner, Wayne, 763-670-6021, wflury@wh-link.net

September 18 2009, 13:00 to 23:00, Faribault MN Airfest and Balloon Rally 2009, www.faribaultairfest.com, Faribault Municipal Airport,(KFBL), Please join us as we celebrate our 25th Anniversary! Friday, September 18th & Saturday September 19th 2009. Friday there will be aerobatic practice, hot air balloon launch, media & student day. There will also be live music after dark., Dick Schulz, 612-618-5883, dick@blueskyaerobatics.com

September 19 2009, 18:00 to 23:59, South Saint Paul MN Fall Bombers Moon Ball, www.cafmn.org, Fleming Field Airport,(KSGS), Fall Bombers Moon Ball \$10.00 donation per person Music by the Roseville Big Band. Free Dance lesson from TC Swing & The Swing Cats Doors Open at 6, Dance lesson at 7, Dance starts at 8 goes till Midnight Music, Dancing, WWII Aircraft and Vehicle on Display, Food, Prize Drawing., Amy or Roby , 651-455-6943, info@cafmn.org

September 19 2009, 7:00 to 18:00, Faribault MN Airfest and Balloon Rally 2009, www.faribaultairfest.com, Faribault Municipal Airport,(KFBL), Pancake breakfast fly-in. Then static displays, air show, balloon launch, & much more. Minnesota's first Aerobatic Air Race! Pilots will perform for points and awards. PIC Free, Gate \$7.00 for adults, 10 and under Free. Parking Free, Current Military Personnel free with ID, Shannon Geer, 952-607-7164, shannon@blueskyaerobatics.com



Young Eagles Report by Dave Becker



We had three Young Eagle events in July with 5 kids flown on July 8, 23 kids flown on July 11, and 6 kids flown on July 23 for a total of 34 Young Eagles flights. Col Kenneth Wofford, of the Tuskegee Air force gave an excellent talk about his experiences and the history of the Red Tail name to all volunteers and Young Eagles at the July 8th event.

I attended the annual Young Eagles Coordinator meeting at Air Venture again this year and the focus EAA is moving to is in expanding opportunities for Young Eagles to continue in aviation and to nurture their interest in all aviation fields. The Log Book and free Private Pilot course provided by Sporty's that we are currently giving to the kids is one of those opportunities.

Our Young Eagle events are scheduled every second Saturday of each month from May through October starting at 9:00 a.m. Parents should pre-register their children for an event ahead of time by going to www.eaa54.org and clicking on the Young Eagles page to sign up for a flight. To view the many great Young Eagle photos, go to: <http://www.eaa54.org/YEPhotoGallery/YEGallery.html>

If you would like to become actively involved in our Young Eagles program, contact Dave Becker or come to Lake Elmo on the second Saturday of the month and see what Young Eagles is all about. You can also indicate on your yearly chapter renewal form that you want to be involved with our Young Eagles program.



Speaker Notes for:

July 13, 2009

By *Bettie Seitzer*

Lindsay Meyer of Girls with Wings

Lindsay is a pilot with Mesaba Airlines; she has been with them for a year. She wants to stay in touch with the general aviation community. The camaraderie and community at the small airports are unique.

She attended UND and worked with the EAA chapter and participated in Young Eagle events there. As a youngster she was interested in aviation, her dad and his friends were active in aviation and she had flown with several of them. Even as a young girl she wanted to fly. Her mom was a teacher and encouraged her to fly. On her 12th birthday she received an introductory flight lesson and was hooked!

She got involved in a Boy Scout Explorer Post and their aviation program. She got her pilot's license at 17 and then went to UND. She was a member of the flying team (Captain in her senior year). She also took the time to be involved in a broad range of activities to maintain balance. She went to Hawaii for her multi-engine training; her favorite runway is Kalopapa airport on Molokai Island.

Girls With Wings is an educational and awareness program targeted toward girls, pushing the power of S.T.E.A.M. :Science – Technology – Engineering – Aviation – Mathematics

Girls with Wings has role models; women who have the desire to inspire and want to help girls to achieve their full potential through encouragement, support and activities. Research shows that the best way to open girls to the possibilities is to have them meet a role model – a real life example of women who have met their goals and realized their dreams.

The Girls With Wings presenters have packaged presentations, games and activities that they use to introduce girls as young as 8 to aviation. They use a Cessna control panel poster, game pieces and radio call games to role play a flight to Florida.

With older girls they talk more about specific careers in aviation flight. The presentation is generally adapted to the age of the group, but generally middle elementary through high school.

Penelope Pilot is a character that they use as a teaching tool. This is a branded marketing effort that will include a book and a doll. This is a step to keep girls involved and interested with a doll that offers a positive life model for girls. www.penelopepilotproject.org has more information about the project.

Girls With Wings offers scholarships to young women planning a career in aviation. Young women are considered based on dedication to the field as well as financial need.

There is a website www.girlswithwings.com that provides role model profiles and contact information, forums, mommies with wings, online store, ezine. The connection between girls and roles models offers a valuable resource for questions, learning opportunities and story sharing.

This will be an exciting new opportunity for our club to partner with Girls With Wings to add activities and programs to our pancake breakfast, and perhaps some specialized Young Eagle events.

Flying team participates in two big competitions each year, precision landings, navigation, ground events,

The group needs role models; they get an overwhelming number of requests for presentations and have trouble meeting the demand. They also appreciate donations.



TAXI TALK

{Interesting happenings compiled by the editor}

Whew, I made it!!!!

Yes, I managed to get my "A" frame camper floor replacement project all done and made it to AirVenture as planned. But not without a fellow Chapter member making a great suggestion. Member Gary Schmidt came by the house after last month's meeting, I was going to go to the meeting but just had too much work to do that day and kept working on it. Gary was one of many members who swung by the house on Saturday the 18th of July after our Young Eagles event to help me lift my camper body and slip my new floor in place. Thank you to all who helped that day! Anyways, when Gary came by that Monday night to check on how my project was going, I showed him how things were going and he came up with a neat suggestion on how to lower the camper body, with new floor attached, to the camper metal frame. He said maybe you could use steel rods somehow to align the camper body to the frame as I lowered it. The next day I purchased two six foot, 3/16" steel rods and cut them into two foot sections. I slipped them in various areas where screws are used to secure the body to the frame. Once I applied the Liquid Nails adhesive to the frame I slowly lowered the body down to the frame. The body was in perfect alignment to the frame and I was able to screw in all the attachment screws. Gosh I was happy! I went "Yeah!!!" and pumped my fist.



Thanks again Gary!!!

This was a big step in completing this project. That week I was able to finish many things and the week

before AirVenture was the start of my two week vacation for the show. Long story short, I managed to finish the whole project on the eve before I was to leave the next day, Thursday, July 23. I started packing that night a little and finished up on time for my planned 2PM departure for Oshkosh. I had no problems driving there and it was just a comfortable drive as it normally is. With a stop at the Tomah exit for my usual Subway, I was off for Oshkosh. I arrived there at around 7PM and got my normal spot, just behind the Outdoor Movie theater. I started to set up my campsite and realized that I forgot the canvas portion of my canopy set up. Panicking a little, I remembered that a buddy of mine was coming to AirVenture too so I called him and asked if he could pick it up for me which he did and I had it on Saturday. Whew! I got it just in time before a big rain fall.



That night I had some battery charging issues but the next day I was going into town anyway so I managed to get a new one from Mills Fleet Farm. It was a brand new battery in June so they replaced it free. Whew again!! The problem I think was with the heater system that I think I connected wrong so I just disconnected it and I had no more problems.

Crazy stuff but at least I got there and had just a great time. Next month I will describe my fun time volunteering on the flight line!



Above shot is of my "Stealth" canopy, as they called it, then below is my real canopy installed!

Contact Information for Newsletter Stories

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E-Mail: newsletter@eaa54.org



EAA CHAPTER 54
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LAKE ELMO, MN 55042

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

No bird soars too high, if he soars with his own wings.

—William Blake.