



The *Maple Lake Flyer*

A newsletter of EAA Chapter 878, Experimental Aircraft Association

EAA Chapter 878: a part of the aviation community in Maple Lake, Buffalo and surrounding areas of Minnesota since 1986.

January, 2016

- **EAA CHAPTER 878 MEETING NOTICE**

Saturday, January 9 at 9:00 a.m.

at West Metro Aviation, Buffalo Airport

This will be a general business meeting to focus on our upcoming activities, actions and plans.

All members are encouraged to make an effort to attend this important meeting as we lay out the course of EAA Chapter 878 for 2016 and beyond.

- **FLIGHT TO SUCCESS**
by Greg Thomes, Chapter President

What do you wish to accomplish in 2016? Some of us will say good health, prosperity, survival. Ah, there's a word...*survival*.

In pilot circles, *survival* can mean anything from a safe cross-wind landing to being able to pay for your next annual. For me, *survival* also means bucking a trend that shows a shrinking pool of commercial pilots...especially for small regional airlines...many that serve rural America. St. Cloud and Brainerd come to mind right away.

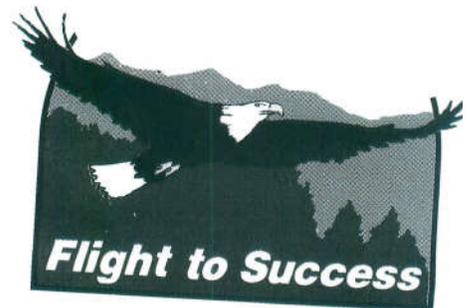
Congress has mandated the tripling of the number of hours it takes to be an airline co-pilot. Many of the smaller, lower paying regional airlines are already having difficulty filling co-pilot slots.

So, how does this affect you and me? What can we do? I feel that the key is to continue introducing others to the thrill of flying. You can donate an introductory ride to one of the many "silent auctions" being held by fund raising organizations like hospital foundations, chamber of commerce's and sporting banquets. You could also sign up to be a Young Eagles pilot. Or, you could take our chapter's flight simulator into a 5th grade classroom.

Let's all have a great 2016...*surviving* with aviation.

May your skies be bright and breezes light!

Greg



- **MINUTES OF MEETING – December 12, 2015**
by Wayne Flury, Chapter Secretary

The December meeting of EAA Chapter 878 was our annual Christmas party, this year held at Huikko's Bowling and Entertainment Center in Buffalo with 40 members, spouses and guests in attendance. The "minutes" for this month consist mostly of photos included elsewhere in this newsletter.

Our program for the evening was Jason Erickson who attended with his wife Keri and son Patrick. Jason showed photos and discussed the family flight they took earlier this year to Valdez, Alaska where he participated in the STOL competition.

Chapter President Greg Thomes addressed the gathering, discussing chapter activities and achievements of the past year and recognized several chapter members with EAA service pins for chapter officers and EAA certificates of recognition for members he described as "MVPs" (Most Valuable Pilots) for their contributions to the chapter.

Greg also noted that Maple Lake now has a "courtesy car" available.

Chapter member Elaine Morrow recapped the Tree of Hope toy collection held the previous weekend at the Maple Lake airport.

Chapter member Kent Peterson had a short report about his work with the Minnesota Pilots Association and the promotion of flying clubs.

Chapter Treasurer Dick Burns noted that dues for 2016 will become due in January and then passed out envelopes which members can use to make their payment. The outside of the envelope has spaces for member name, address, phone number and email address to facilitate keeping our member records current.

- **CHAPTER DUES**
by Wayne Flury

As we begin the new year of 2016, we all need to take a few moments and decide which activities, organizations and charities we are going to personally support. There are many that are very worthy of our time, money and commitment. I hope that EAA Chapter 878 is one of those that is close to your heart and that you will find it important to you to re-invest both in the national EAA organization and our local chapter through your dues and your personal contributions.

Chapter dues for 2106 become due at the first of the year. Chapter Treasurer Dick Burns will gladly accept your dues payment, but prefers it in the form of a check so that he has a record of who has paid (although cash WILL be accepted!). Dues are \$10 per year for members up to 35 years of age and \$25 per year for age 35 and over.

Note: only current, dues paid chapter members receive the "AvBits" emails.

- **CHAPTER MEETING PROGRAMS**
by Wayne Flury

We have programs scheduled for February and March, with a pancake breakfast tentatively scheduled for April. We need someone to volunteer as the "Pancake Coordinator" to set up a location for the breakfast and to arrange for cooking.

Programs for the following months need suggestions and volunteers to organize. What do you want your chapter to do?

EAA Chapter 878 Christmas Party!

Dec. 12, 2015



Chapter 878 President Greg Thomes greets the membership and welcomes everyone to this dinner and awards event.



A great evening of socializing, dinner, entertainment, recognition and awards to chapter members.



A table-top display of photos of favorite airplanes by Wyatt and Connie Erickson. Note the windsock and the fuel pump!



Jason Erickson (standing, and at left) described the adventures he and his family had during their trip to Valdez earlier this year. This was just one of many amazing photos.



Awards and Certificates

Chapter 878 President Greg Thomes presented various chapter awards and certificates of appreciation.

From upper left, clockwise:

Pete Radintz, Vice President and Chapter "Most Valued Pilot"

Dick Burns, Treasurer and Chapter "Most Valued Pilot"

Wyatt Erickson, Web Editor

Wayne Flury, Secretary & NL Editor and Chapter "Most Valued Pilot"

Connie Erickson, Banquet Chair

Elaine Morrow, Tree of Hope Co-ord.

Glen Morrow, Young Eagles Co-ord. and Chapter "Most Valued Pilot"

Kurt Pennuto, Fly-In Coordinator and Chapter "Most Valued Pilot"

Tim Bond, Chapter MVP, 2015 Most Valuable Pilot

Dave Swanson and Harold Greseth Pilot Mentors for 2015

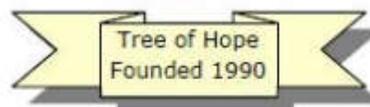
Kent Peterson, Chapter "Fly-Boy" Organizing fly-outs and work with Minnesota Pilots Ass'n with flying clubs



● **TREE OF HOPE, Dec. 5, 2015**
by Elaine Morrow, TOH Coordinator

Here are some facts, figures and observations about the Tree of Hope toy collection for 2015:

- 22 aircraft flew in - a record number of arrivals, probably because we had above-average temperatures!
- Mr. & Mrs. Santa Claus visited the Tree of Hope - a first!
- 108 bags delivered to 39 hospitals - a record number!
- 66 volunteers/donors visited Maple Lake - 5 less than last year, but many were experienced hands so still finished easily by noon!



Although we were short a number of bags (Ed. Note: the record number of hospitals requested more bags of toys than were immediately available), I pulled from my collection of grandkid toys/bought a number of gift cards to make several equivalent bags and delivered less to HCMC, with the understanding that if they ran short, I could deliver the balance in two weeks after getting the donations from St. Cloud EAA and Women in Aviation.

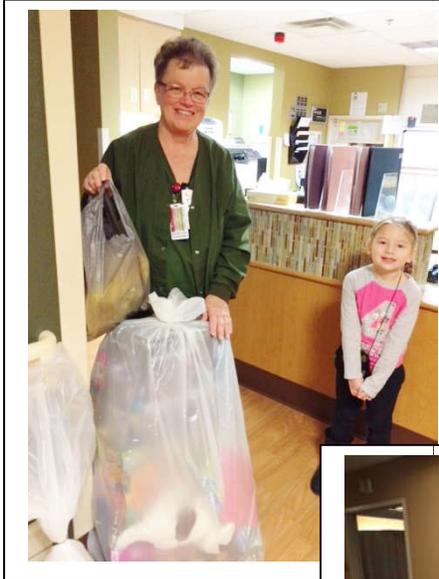
So even though we don't have many toys for next year (Ed. Note: usually Elaine has a supply of toys left over with which to pull from during the year, or to get a head start on the next years collection), the cash donations received the last few days will give a good start for Howie/Deb (Ed. Note: Howie and Deb Klier of Lakeville, the other TOH Coordinators) purchasing at the after-holiday sales. All in all a great year and hopefully some stories will be coming in from hospitals that I can share with volunteers.

THANKS!!



The weather was great for flying, and the spirits inside were high!

Toys arrived via cars and trucks and airplanes! Santa was there to be sure all the elf-helpers were smiling as they received, sorted, tagged and bagged the piles of toys! Next stop was to hospitals all across Minnesota to help cheer up kids who are in for care.



Helpers of all ages and from all over the state get a chance to share some love.

The bags of toys await the drivers (sleigh optional) for delivery over the next few days.



Hospital staff and their helpers were very happy to receive this bounty!

● **CHAPTER 878 AVIATION EVENTS – 2016**

- Feb 13 Chapter meeting with program by George Funk about the Funk Airplanes, at West Metro Aviation
- Mar 12 Chapter meeting with FAAST program at West Metro Aviation
- Apr 9 EAA Chapter 878 meeting with pancake breakfast for all members and family

Note: this generally will not detail the many pancake breakfasts and other fly-ins or local aviation events because they are already well documented on other sites which are dedicated to that purpose. If I did try to list them, I risk the possibility of missing one or slighting someone if I fail to list their event. I will make an exception for some events.

For aviation events throughout the area, see the various Calendars of Events in magazines, websites and bulletin boards, plus I recommend subscribing to the free email alerts through <http://www.flyins.com> and www.socialflight.com.

● **MINNESOTA PILOTS ASSOCIATION – Great Minnesota Aviation Gathering**

The 2016 GMAG has been announced to be held on Friday and Saturday, April 29-30 at the Anoka County – Blaine Airport at Golden Wings Air Museum. Mark your calendars for this event. Last year was well presented and this year should prove to be even better!

See: <https://www.mnpilots.org/>.

EAA CHAPTER 878 and MAPLE LAKE FLYER INFO

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Submissions for publication are encouraged and should be sent to the attention of: Newsletter Editor, at the postal mail or e-mail addresses shown on the newsletter, or c/o any chapter officer.

Send "change of address" information, email address and phone number changes to Newsletter Editor or Chapter Roster Monitor.

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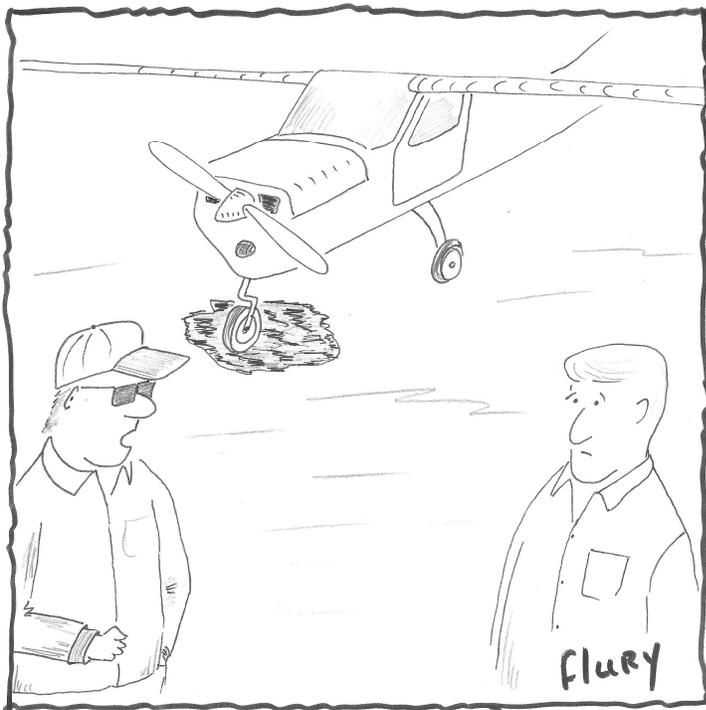
Beginning in September, 2014, our meetings will normally be held at 7:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month (except for the winter months of January – April when we meet on Saturday mornings). Meeting locations may vary each month, depending upon the meeting program.

Dues are \$10 per year for members up to 35 years of age and \$25 per year for age 35 and over.

Current Officers and Officials of EAA Chapter 878:

President:	Greg Thomes	763-443-7039	greg@thomesinsurance.com
Vice-President:	Peter Radintz	320-963-1980	peradintz@hotmail.com
Secretary:	Wayne Flury	763-670-6021	wflury@wh-link.net
Treasurer:	Dick Burns	952-473-1887	dickburns1@aol.com
Newsletter Editor:	Wayne Flury	763-670-6021	wflury@wh-link.net
Young Eagles Coordinator:	Glen Morrow	952-955-2802	Flyr177rg@aol.com
Technical Counselor:	Dick Burns	952-473-1887	dickburns1@aol.com
Chapter Librarian:	Harold Greseth	763-682-5486	hjpgreseth@gmail.com
Chapter Roster Monitor:	Tom Rammel	320-286-5283	Tom.Rammel@zeiss.com
EAA Chapter Advocates:	All Members		
EAA Chapter 878 Website	Wyatt Erickson	763-878-2568	tim56@tds.net http://eaa878.com

● THE FUNNIES by Wayne Flury



"I think my airplane is mad at me. I haven't flown her for a few Weeks, so she's leaking oil all over the floor!"

1/2016