

EAA Ultralight Chapter 75

North Central Wisconsin Lite Flyers

PO Box 12 • Schofield, WI • 54476

Editorial Notes by Rich Prange

Ford Tri-Motor

“Ooooh, the wheels on the bus go round and round...”

And, so did the wheels of the Ford Tri-motor aircraft that delivered school children to and from a school down in the island communities of southwestern Lake Erie. The islands of Kelley, Middle Bass, North Bass and Rattlesnake were the home base of Island Airways

Milton “Red” Hersberger, an early barnstormer, established Island Airways in the mid 1930’s to service the needs of the island residents as well as growing tourism. During peak air time Milton’s two, sometimes three, Fords averaged as many four take-offs and landings per hour flying island guests and freight.

During the heyday years of this S.W. Lake Erie island group there was of course a significant school kid population. Some kids got to class on foot, some by boat and a few by airplane. One short hop from Rattlesnake Island was so quick that the Ford wheels would still be spinning at the next landing. **“Ooooh, the wheels on the bus....”**

Along with many other aviation related issues and facts, this writer did not have a clue about the Ford Tri –Motor. The original platform started out as a Stout Monoplane

powered by a single Liberty engine.

All the flyers that I hang out with give full credit to Hank Ford and company. Henry bought the Stout Company



and all design rights from William Bushnell Stout in 1925.

In that same era the “PIC” of these flying machines thought they had to be out there in the breeze for the sensation of flight; Ford changed that notion with a closed cockpit and also added two engines. The **“Tri-Motor” was off to production--Henry Ford assembly line style.**

Fast forward to NC8407 now based at EAA headquarters--what a work history. Model 4-AT-E, number 146 of 199, built and sold to Pitcairn Airways then leased to Cubana as part of their national fleet, next sold to the Government of the Dominican Republic. The remainder of this aircraft’s resume’ would be numerous tours of barnstorming, a prop for several movie sets, borate bomber and a smoke jumper ride for the USFS, and crop sprayer. In 1973, hauling rides at a Burlington, WI, air show



the Tri – Ford got totaled in a fierce rain storm.

EAA bought the wreckage and after a twelve year restoration project, brought the old Ford back to duty as one of the mainstay features of AirVenture. When working at the Oshkosh sea plane base I see the Ford Tri-Motor as one of the first and last airplanes at work during the air show.

HF Tools

Harbor Freight shamed? Do you find yourself scheduling your purchases at the local **“HF”** timed early in the morning or late, just before closing, maybe in disguise?

This writer makes no confessions but he was spotted at the 2020 spring clearance sale in Wausau. Actually there were three items in the most recent **“HF”** catalogue that caught my attention. Top on my next shopping tour is a laser guided paint brush; no masking tape required. A 16 ton hydraulic nail unbender will get a lot of service in my shop – comes with an extended warrantee. As a gardener/pilot, the last item for purchase is a 50 ft. combination garden hose-extension cord. **It’s rated for up to 75 psi @ 110/120 volts.** I cannot forget to clip my discount coupons.

Keep your needle in the green.

Vol 25, Issue 12

December 2020

Inside this issue

Editorial Notes	1
Officers	2
Membership Form	2
Flying 2020	3
Next Chapter Meeting	3
Buy Trade Sell	4
Calendar of Events	4
Other Chapters	5





**North Central
Wisconsin**

Lite Flyers
PO Box 12
Schofield, WI
54476

2
0
2
0
N
C
W
L
F
O
F
F
I
C
E
R
S

President

Steve Krueger
715-536-8828

Vice President

Dan Marlenga
715-573-6220

Secretary

Madonna McMahan
715-359-8616

Treasurer

Larry Wenning
715-536-5326

Newsletter Editor

Rich Prange
715-536-1704

Web Editor

Tom Voss
715-892-0900

Videographer

Ron Detert
715-845-1340

Safety Directors

Pat Kenny
715-479-5036
Jack LaSee
715-223-4540

Board Members

Paul Buss
715-253-2490
Lyle Banser
715-493-8016

Fly Night Coordinator

Dick Neitzel
715-891-7213



NCWLF Treasurer Report December 2020
Submitted by Larry Wenning

<u>Checking</u>		<u>Savings</u>	
Balance Forward	\$ 1,397.78	Balance Forward	\$ 20,678.42
Checking Deposits		Interest	.17
Checking Payments		<u>Savings Balance</u>	\$ 20,678.59
<u>Checking Balance</u>	\$ 1,397.78	<u>Total Cash</u>	\$ 22,076.37

EAA ULTRALIGHT CHAPTER 75

North Central Wisconsin Lite Flyers
Application Form for Membership and Subscription

Mail Check Payable To:
NCWLF

P.O. Box 12 Schofield, WI 54476

May we Send you an Electronic Version of the Newsletter? Yes No

e-mail _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

EAA # _____

Type of plane you fly _____

Membership Dues Schedule

- \$ 15 May
- \$ 12 August
- \$ 9 November
- \$ 6 February
- \$ 14 June
- \$ 11 September
- \$ 8 December
- \$ 5 March
- \$ 13 July
- \$ 10 October
- \$ 7 January
- \$ 4 April

Payment of dues affords me voting privileges, and a subscription to news updates.

Send dues to: NCWLF P.O. Box 12 Schofield, WI 54476

This newsletter is a monthly publication of the North Central Wisconsin Lite Flyers and is free to all club members. Send items you would like included in the newsletter to:

Thomas L. Voss

138213 Short Lane Dr Marathon, WI 54448

Items received by the 5th are considered for that months' publication.

Send comments, questions, suggestions, etc... to tvosswi@gmail.com



Flying 2020



Our next stamp collecting adventure kicked off on 7/23/20 with a later start than we wanted because of ground fog. By a little after 9am we were off to Reedsburg airport to meet the flyers for this day. Upon arriving at Reedsburg Paul, Lyle, Larry (pogo) and I walked across the street for a bite to eat. When we returned Brandon Buss had arrived to join us today for this version of lets see what the airports in southwest Wisconsin were like.

We departed the Reedsburg airport en route to the 3 castles airpark in Wonewok. This airpark has cabins for rent and they seem to be expanding the grounds to bring in campers with weekend activities planned. After a little visit with the airpark manager it is was off to Viroqua Municipal Airport. We landed in Viroqua on a nice wide grass strip and went into the terminal building for the stamp. There were an few locals hanging around and after a brief visit we were off to Boscobel. After landing at Boscobel we gathered our stamp and we headed next to Prairie du Chien. This area of Wisconsin is so beautiful, with the tiered crop land, the bluffs, the Wisconsin River Valley emptying into the Mississippi.



The Mississippi River near Cassville

Next stop would be Cassville airport tucked away in the river bed of the Mississippi. This airport has homes along the side of the runway overlooking the river, very nice setting. We departed next for Lancaster airport which is

showed us the big M carved in the hillside near the college. Iowa Co. airport in Mineral Point was our next stop. Stamp and go next to the Tri Co. Regional airport in Lone Rock Wis. We had been warned that Lone Rock was



Paul Buss, Brandon Buss, Dan Marlenga, Lyle Banser, Larry Gordon

located 4 miles from the city in the middle of corn fields. After a stamp and gas we were again en route to Platteville Airport where there was a big Ag spray operation in progress. We watched the spray operation reload, in and out with several Ag Cats and a helicopter, pretty impressive! Brandon Buss attended college here in Platteville and

under water and it sure was! Some of both runways were flooded and the ramp was partially under water. We taxied through water on the ramp to get our stamp with the use of a pair of boots left near the gas pumps.

A short hop away was our next stop at Richland Center.

(Continued on page 4)

Next NCWLF Meeting Canceled

To the great Members of Chapter 75. Unfortunately due to the pandemic and concern for the safety of our membership we have canceled our gathering's until spring of 2021.

We truly miss seeing all of you and hope you understand in these trying times. Your board of directors will evaluate if things turn around. Our membership remains strong and we look forward to a more normal life style. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Sincerely,

Steve Krueger and EAA UL
75 Board of Directors



Calendar of Events

December 12 Chapter
Meeting Canceled

Flying 2020

(Continued from page 3)

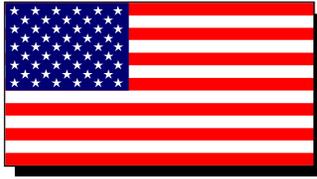
There were a few local pilots and planes there, but no stamp available. We took some pictures for our proof of landing and then off to our last stop of the day. We arrived next in Sauk Prairie Airport in Prairie du Sac, try saying that fast 3 times in a row? We pulled up to the newly installed Swift fuel pumps and topped off for the 110 mile last leg home. A few locals were grilling out by their hanger and came over to us with bottled water. We were very thankful for the fuel and refreshment. Paul, Lyle and myself departed Sauk Prairie first heading north towards home. Larry and Brandon had a shorter trip home going to

Wild Rose and Fond Du Lac home bases. Even after a late start we were able to land at 12 airports today. I had 7.4 hours on the hobbs and got home with a little daylight to spare! Everyone had a wonderful time and a safe day. Can't wait till the next adventure, after a day or so for rest!

Humbly submitted,
Dan Marlenga

Buy Trade Sell

-  1990 Kolb Firststar 503 Rotax \$4,500 David Berger 920-410-4671
-  1947 Lacombe 8A Half interest Qualifies Light Sport S/N 5689, N2962K Continental 65hp (A-65-8) Aluminum/blue, Cleveland brakes, New tail wheel, Skis, Sport's A300 Trans, ext ant, push-to-talk, intercom. Airframe TT 3164 hours. 787 SMOH. STC auto gas (SA730GK, SE634GL) Current annual 6/2010 Hungered Stevens Point, WI \$8,000 Charley White 715 344-5646
-  Aero Vie VW engine that appears to be 1700 CC. Needs some TLC to make it airworthy. Spring landing gear with wheels, tires and cable brakes. Tinted canopy 6' x 2' approx 18" high. Ron Lurch 715-891-7234.
-  Type 8, B gear box, 2.58:1 ratio with 16.2 hours of run time. Bret Tallinn 715-341-4093 . bta-plin@msworldnet.com



Other Area EAA Chapters

EAA UL 1 Milwaukee
Steve Magdic
262-820-9938
steve.magdic@1psg.com

EAA 41 Oshkosh
Greg Burneske
greg.burneske@gmail.com
(920) 415-1584

EAA 640 Wausau
Scott Feldbruegge
feldbruegge@charter.net
715-573-5199

EAA 992 Marsh-
field
Chris Owens

EAA 1577 Three
Lakes
Elliot Halyburton
815-474-2774
eea1577@gmail.com



<https://chapters.eaa.org/u/75>

Schofield, WI 54476

PO Box 12

ULTRALIGHTS

EAA UL Chapter 75