

EAA CHAPTER 1128

Two Harbors Helgeson Airport

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It's typical February cold at the lake tonight, they say a big storm is coming. Our next meeting will be special, Mike has arranged a visit from an actual Top Gun pilot. Details later. We will meet in the **Community Room at THHS on Thursday, March 2 at 6:00**. For more on the time change read on.

Last Meeting

The moon was brilliant in the cold, clear sky as we convened for the February meeting. Seth had the picture of Fifi and Miss Chaos up on the screen when I walked in. There was good attendance for a chilly evening. Mike welcomed our new treasurer, Krista Busse who reported \$3730.00 in chapter coffers and said the Chapter renewal fee had been paid to EAA HQ. We reviewed the Holiday Party, there were 35 attendees. We also reviewed the Airport Commission meeting that was visited by the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT). Michael Hartell said they could help facilitate plow training for City public works employees and address other safety related airport issues. Many of our chapter members were there. Krista talked about mentoring for kids in her son's age group. (Teens). Seth spelled out what Minnehaha school's principal Brett Archer was looking for as far as content to present to his K-5 students. Mike presented the Chapter Service awards to Bud, Dave, Seth and Engine and gave Seth a chapter check for \$150 as congrats for earning his Private Pilot Certificate. Seth thanked all present for helping him achieve his long held dream. He also talked about a potential revival of the Two Harbors Pilot's Association that he and Matt Ferrari are putting together. It would be unaffiliated with EAA or the City. Matt has created a mission statement. We reviewed upcoming fly-out events including Mike Shannon's Fish Lake chili feed and ones at Lake Mille Lacs and Aitkin. We also talked about member Brian Hubbard's business as CFI down in the Cities. Mike Shannon suggested we eliminate the staggered times for our chapter meetings. We originally set the Board meeting a half hour before the regular meeting to spare members the boredom of the business end of things but found ourselves creeping into topics before all were present. We voted to convene all members at 6:00. Mike Busch said he could get a Top Gun pilot to address a meeting in the future. Seth screened the monthly Chapter video from HQ including Charlie Becker celebrating the 70th anniversary of EAA and Hints for Homebuilders on topics of EGT and CHT instruments and magneto impulse couplings. It was a comprehensive and interesting meeting.

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Mike and Liz Shannon's fly-in drive-in chili feed was attended by members of all three chapters and was a roaring success. The weather couldn't have been more perfect and 13 ski planes landed on the ice. Actually conditions were so good two of them landed on wheels. The food was delightful and Liz had their lovely lake home set up perfectly for the event. I arrived just in front of Mike Busch and Kathy Cargill and as we walked up the drive I remarked, "Looks like we're the first ones here." When we got to the top of the driveway I saw a few folks gathered around an airplane down on the ice and said, "There are some people here after all." Kathy deadpanned, "Those aren't people, they're pilots." We checked out Mike's '40 Chevy hot rod and like all of his work it looked flawless.

The conversations were warm and animated and it seemed like a family reunion. Many risked the tricky trail down to inspect the aircraft in the warm sun. Gallons of chili were consumed along with cheese and crackers and cookies galore. Everyone departed with heavy bellies and light hearts. I'm sure I'm not the only one who thought it was the perfect break from a long, dreary winter and I can't wait to visit again next year.

ETC.

The speaker Mike recruited to address our next meeting is LCDR Gary, "Blackie" Black, US Navy (Ret). He is a member of the Society of Experimental Test Pilots and Flew F-14 Tomcats off aircraft carriers and at the Top Gun school. He also worked for Cirrus for 23 years. This should be a very interesting presentation. Be there at 6:00 sharp.

Like many of you I get messages from EAA HQ on Facebook. This week is virtual Ultralight week and the message today shows a picture of Fifi launching directly into the camera on a sunny Oshkosh afternoon. I was just tickled, I miss that girl more than words can say. If, as they say, "The good Lord is willin' and the crick don't rise." There will be pictures of Rooby doing the same thing next summer. That is my dearest dream. If it happens it will mark the fourth time I have flown to the big show and about the 25th year I have flown the ultralight pattern. I might have to hang up my Snoopy helmet and call it a good life.

So many of the outstanding moments in my long, strange trip have been enabled by the Experimental Aircraft Association and so many of the finest people I have met come from that experience. I have written this newsletter in service of the EAA for 27 years but I could never pay back what the Association has done for me.

I hope you find the same kind of bliss in your own way and.....

.....Happy Landings!.....