

EAA CHAPTER 1128

Two Harbors Helgeson Airport

www.1128.eaachapter.org

It's a little dreary at the lake today but after weeks of hot and dry it feels good to put on a shirt. I'm sure it will be warm and sunny again at our next meeting. We will be firing up the grill again for burgers and brats on **Thursday, August 5th in Hangar #40 at 5:00.** Some chapter business might be accomplished cordially. Invite your friends.

Last Meeting

We had a good turnout for our first chapter BBQ of the year. Folks flew in from Duluth and Superior and it was good to see their smiling faces again. I didn't take any notes but I did take a nice, juicy bratwurst.

ETC.

A good friend said recently, "Every day I don't fly is lost forever." I have been taking that to heart and spending lots of time with Miss Chaos. Returning from a flight the other day I heard a pilot announce downwind for 15. Most folks don't use the grass strip so I paid close attention. He flew a precise pattern and stabilized approach. I was going to stretch my downwind leg a little so he would have time to land, turn around and taxi back until I witnessed one of the shortest landings I'd ever seen. He was already off the runway before I turned base. As I slid down final I saw the invasion stripe paint job and I knew it was Jake Hayes. Chatting by the hangars he told me about his recent trip to Arkansas checking out little grass strips tucked in the hill country around Bentonville. On one landing he suffered a catastrophic failure of his tail wheel resulting in a ground loop. Fortunately he and his passenger escaped injury but his Carbon Cub did not. He showed me some video of a static test after the fact and it was plain he didn't have a prayer after a failure like that. He had to replace several wing parts including the rear spar but first he had to track them down. CubCrafters offers many nice kits but their tech support is a little lacking at the moment. Jake persisted and the results are as good as new. The really disturbing part of the story is when he posted his adventure on line he got several replies saying this also happened to them. The culprit was a fancy aftermarket tail wheel that many have bought and, apparently many have suffered failures. What flabbergasted us both was why in the world nobody had mentioned it before. A simple post could have saved Jake and maybe others from all the work and expense not to mention potential bodily harm. Lets watch out for each other out there.

You may notice this missive arriving earlier than expected this month. Can you guess why? Yes it's Oshkosh! I have been packing the van all week and my excitement level is really ramping up. For more than thirty years this has been my only vacation and it gets better every year. Eleven days sitting in a cow pasture might not sound like fun to you but it is heaven to me and I can't wait to get there. I'll tell you all about it at the Chapter BBQ on August 5th.....

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