

EAA Chapter 1128

Two Harbors Helgeson Airport

www.1128.eaachapter.org

It is unseasonably warm at the lake tonight, skiing has suffered but comfort is good too. Our next meeting will be on **Thursday, March 6** at **6:00** in the **Community Room** at **THHS**. Lets celebrate the coming spring.

Last Meeting

Mike thanked Mike Shannon and Bud Gorman for accomplishing Chapter Renewal, Bud will stay on as Treasurer this year. We welcomed Seth back as Veep and he displayed his mastery of the big screen with the agenda, our favorite Dave Matheny cartoon and some great pictures from his visit to the Lone Star Flyer Museum in Houston, Texas. Mike updated Dave Smith's engine conversion on his 185 float plane. He is installing a Continental IO-520 and moving the O-470 to the 180 currently on skis. He (Dave) is also a new grandfather. Bill Norman is working on his Stinson including new baffles, lots of plumbing and a repaired nose bowl. Engine is still chasing electrical issues on Rooby, learning as he goes. Dave Engesath sold his Piper Tri Pacer to new member Arvid Nielson who docks it at hangar #7. Mike Busch's new Grumman AA-1B was still stuck under the Pacific Northwest's constant winter cloud cover but all the maintenance has been completed so she's ready to come home when the weather clears. Brennan over at 100 Octane Aviation in Superior named his new son Jet (Jett?) and it was suggested his middle initial be "A" since Jet A is a common turbine fuel. Mike Shannon reported that his traditional Presidents Day ski plane fly in will be on February 22 this year due to conflict with another fly-in. Mike B. and Seth distributed a letter to City Administrator Patty Nordean on chapter letterhead thanking the City for the financial investment to the airport including the new A/D building, the new airport beacon and improved snow plowing. Members attending the meeting signed it and it will be posted Friday in a "Thank you" card to Patty. Basically there were no complaints about the airport The letter forgot to mention the new paving, striping and ongoing maintenance by Terry Wick. We discussed the possibility of holding our meetings in the new A/D building when the weather gets nasty next winter. Meanwhile, we appreciate Seth's hospitality at Hangar #40 which will hopefully start our BBQ meetings in April. We are also grateful to THHS for allowing us to use the Community Room during winter months. It was a good meeting and we are all looking forward to some nice Spring flying weather.

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All three sister chapters were well represented at Mike and Liz Shannon's fly-in and the food was delicious.

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Mike Busch's new Grumman has finally found her way across the Rockies and fits in his hangar nicely. Dressed in accurate Navy livery she shines like a new dime and is plush on the inside. I had to step back so I wouldn't drool on her. He told me he knew Jim Bede who designed this series of Grumman aircraft and Roy LoPresti who made them faster. Mike is such a huge repository of aviation

lore and history and one of the nicest fellows you will ever meet. He deserves a beautiful plane and we are very lucky to have him as our fearless leader.

Mike and Liz Shannon's chilli extravaganza was another great success this year. A dozen ski planes flew in to their beautiful home on Fish Lake. They are also two of the sweetest people you'll ever meet and they really put on a great event. I was planning on making the long drive when, on Friday night Dave Smith invited me to take the right seat in his C180 for the trip. How lucky can I get? The flight over was just a cruise but the trip back was a thrill ride. He gave ice fishermen on several lakes a close look at his plane and circled 3 moose in the woods. A skilled and careful pilot, he took advantage of the fact that a plane on skis in a Minnesota winter is virtually always over an acceptable landing spot should the need arise. And of course he picked me up and dropped me off right in front of my dock. How lucky can I get?

Rooby is getting some cool nose art thanks to my artist friend Phyllis who also painted Fifi's iconic face. I would consider flying Rooby back to Oshkosh to show her off if it didn't take six hours each way. I know there will be some fun flying adventures just around here when it warms up and I can hardly wait.

I hope you are planning to spread your wings soon and.....

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