

# **EAA CHAPTER 1128**

## **Two Harbors Helgeson Airport**

[www.1128.eaachapter.org](http://www.1128.eaachapter.org)

The ice is finally gone from my little lake but it took my dock with it when it blew out. It's raining today but at least it's not snowing. We have moved our meetings back to the airport so come on over to **Hangar #40** on **Thursday, June 2** at **5:00** to eat BBQ and join the meeting that follows.

### **Last Meeting**

The first outdoor get together of the year enjoyed perfect weather and many visitors. Seven or eight planes flew in to enjoy food and hangar flying and it was great to see so many friendly faces again. After the feast Mike convened the business meeting. Jon reported \$3173.50 in our account and wrote a check for expenses from the Oshkosh 2021 story. Members voted to revive our Heritage Days pancake breakfast and Seth volunteered to bring a sign-up sheet for pancake flippers and sausage rollers to our next meeting. We changed the price to \$7.00 but pilots in command (PIC) will still eat free. Mike asked Scott to contact the local hot rod clubs to see if they would bring their cars for display at the fly-in. Dave mentioned upcoming fly-out destinations including Breezy Point, Lake Vermillion and Bowstring. Seth said meetings will happen here at the hangar through September and Scott said he might make a pot of chili to add to the menu. Mike brought a box of aviation books for us to pick through. Plenty of members hung around for the clean up.

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It was fun seeing members from 1221 and 272 at the BBQ and I'm sure we will see more as the summer progresses. This is a huge benefit of Seth's ongoing commitment to hangar meetings.

### **ETC.**

Our friends up the shore at the Arrowhead Eagles Aviation Organization have awarded their second scholarship. This year's recipient, Amy Kloster of Silver Bay has been working on her private certificate for a year and is excited about the benefit from the AEAO gift.

Mike said his Rocket engine is going back together and the prop will be back in June. Dave is making progress on his Cessna project and Bud has begun wiring the instrument panel for his Sonex. I have begun the spray coats on my new girl (Ruby) There are three different products to be applied to the fabric and lots of pieces to move in and out of the paint booth. Once again I am learning a new skill by trial and error and I hope to become a competent novice by the time I'm done. So far the results do not look like Mike Shannon's award winning work but my goal is the perfect 10: looks okay from 10 feet away.

Miss Chaos has lifted me away from my cares many times this month and although each flight is similar in profile they are remarkably different in effect. On May second I needed a warm jacket and gloves but found significant lift over the shore. Lifting air is most often caused by solar heating at the surface causing bubbles or even streams of warmer air to rise. On this cold and cloudy day Miss Chaos was seeing 600 to 800 feet per minute of altitude gain for extended periods. Thermals can also be

bumpy and uneven but this air was smooth as butter even out over the cold water of Lake Superior. Talking to Bud later on the ground he attested to the same effect so I know I wasn't dreaming.

The next day the sun was out and the winds light so we went for another adventure. The weatherman had issued flood warnings the night before so we charged up the shore to see the run off. Where each river and creek entered the big lake there was a plume of sediment painting huge swirls against the clear blue water. Streams that usually wind serenely through the forest were all raging white water and open fields had become marshes. Gooseberry Falls developed a mist that rose several hundred feet into the sky. Upon returning to the airport I saw a bunch of whitetails feeding on the grass strip so I had to make a noisy low pass to chase them off. They did scatter but the low pass was so satisfying I had to do it again. I log those passes as touch-n-goes. Miss Chaos loves the pull up at the end.

After our Chapter BBQ and meeting on the fifth Bud and I both launched for an evening tour and we both headed down toward the Knife River. It took about five minutes to get there and about twenty five to get back. Bud said his airspeed was 100 mph and he was passed by a school bus. The wind wasn't much on the ground but it was howling at two thousand feet.

On the tenth of May it was almost 80 degrees and the wind was very light. I opened my window vents for the first time and took my girl for a twirl. Smooth air makes her really want to dance and I did not inhibit her exuberance. We got to do some more deer herding and with the windsock hanging down we did landings in both directions on the grass strip.

We have enjoyed some other adventures this month and each one invigorates, educates and fills me with wonder. I have been dreaming of the sky since I was very small but I always got the impression that operating an aircraft was for the well off lucky few. Thanks to EAA and the home building community I have found a way to swap determination and effort for dollars and I have made my dearest dreams come true. I am fortunate beyond reason but I am not alone. You can make your dreams come true too, just believe in yourself and take that first step.

I wish you well and.....

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