

# The Flypaper

Promoting Sport Aviation in Central Illinois for More Than 58 Years

## Homecoming Flight from SC

For several months, I'd been planning and hoping to make a flight back to BMI from my new home airport of GRD in Greenwood County, SC to visit family and friends. A week of clear skies and high pressure allowed me to do that on September 24th recently in my new to me Piper Cherokee 180. Leaving GRD around 1215Z, I crossed the Appalachians at 8500' MSL westward with a slight headwind of 8 knots, nearly directly over Clingman's Dome which is the highest point in TN and third highest in the Eastern US. The Appalachian's are beautiful from the air!



Around 3 hours after take off, my fuel stop at EKX in Elizabethtown, KY went as planned, and a little over two hours after that I was touching down on RWY 20 at Bloomington with some gusty winds, thankfully right down the runway.



(see Bruce Page 2)

## October 129 Meeting

With the Fall weather upon us, our October meeting featured a variety of soups and dishes provided by members. Many thanks to our speaker David Wilson who told his story of a low level practice flight in Arizona in his A-4M during which one of the three planes in the exercise was lost. Years later, David worked with the Forest Service to locate the spot where the plane went down and hiked up to the spot and found a number of parts from the plane. David further worked with the State of Arizona to get the area named for the lost pilot.



David's A-4M can be seen at the Prairie Aviation Museum.



## You Have Information November!

### November Membership Meeting

Thursday, November 18 at 6:00 PM

Member's soups will be the main course. Please bring a dish to pass.

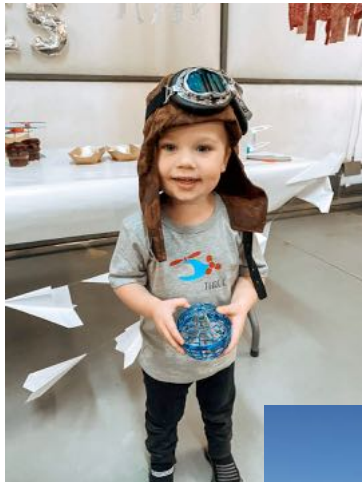
Speaker at 7:00 PM TBA

Fall has fell - bring your favorite soup recipe to share!



## An Aviation Birthday Party

This is Ellis. He is my Grandson. The EAA Chapter 129 hangar hosted a Birthday party for Ellis on Sunday afternoon, October 17th. He is three and loves airplanes. There were over 30 people in attendance and a good time was had by all. Airplane rides were given by my good friends, Jim Heidebrink and Fred Thomas. Many thanks to these two. The party was such a success, I am planning on having my retirement party in the EAA hangar in December. Thanks again for the use of the hangar.



~ Jim Anderson

### *(Bruce from Page 1)*

I enjoyed catching up with family and friends, including breakfast at the Chapter 129 hangar on Saturday morning of course! On Tuesday, after some low ceilings and visibility were kind enough to move out to the west, I departed VFR mid-morning to the east for my return flight to SC with



another pit stop at EKX. With a bit of a tailwind, and cruising at 9500' MSL, I was back at GRD by mid afternoon. I feel so fortunate to be able to enjoy the aviation freedoms in our country and to be able to turn what would otherwise be an 11 1/2 drive into a 5 hour flight!

It was good seeing y'all!

~ Bruce Jackson





## *The Smith Termite Comes home*

Many thanks to the Prairie Aviation Museum for providing a temporary home for the Smith Termite. The plane has been on a long journey back home from a barn near LeRoy, IL to its roots at Chapter 129. The family of J. Garrie Burr own the plane and have donated it to our chapter.

The original Termite was designed and built by Wilbur Smith in his basement in Bloomington and now hangs in the Oregon Space Museum in Eugene Oregon. He developed and sold plans for the Smith Termite, and another Bloomington resident, Jimmy Chestney built this plane in 1962 from Wilbur's plans and flew it for 30+ years.

Wilbur Smith and Jimmy Chestney were founding members of Chapter 129 in Bloomington. They hosted a number of fly-ins for homebuilders, including a visit from EAA's founder Paul Poberezny in 1963. Wilbur was an active member of EAA, working at the annual event with Paul.

Wilbur Smith was recently inducted into the Illinois Aviation Hall of Fame for exemplifying the spirit of the EAA by designing, building and restoring aircraft, sharing his skills and mentoring others, while supporting aviation events both locally and nationally.

Our longer term plans for the Termite are still uncertain, but at a minimum we will want to preserve this part of Chapter 129's history.

Thanks to Bob Coverdill, President of Chapter 29 in Champaign for his efforts in working with the Burr family to retrieve the Termite from the barn and for researching its rich history.

Also, thanks to 129 member Doug Reeves for his efforts in providing the background information for Wilbur Smith, where this whole story began. The Chestney Termite is currently in Doug's horse barn awaiting its final trip to Bloomington. Doug provided truck and trailer to transport the Termite from Bob's hangar at Paxton to his barn, awaiting for space at PAM.

More to come on this journey!



# Chapter 129 Elections

Please give some thought to your participation in leading our chapter in 2022. We are looking for volunteers to fill the following positions for our chapter to help with Chapter 129 events next year and beyond. We will hold elections at the November meeting.

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary/Media
- Treasurer
- At-large Board Mbr 1
- At-large Board Mbr 2
- At-large Board Mbr 3
- Newsletter Editor
- Young Eagles Coordinator

## 2022 Annual Dues

Yep, it's that time of year again. Our chapter relies on our dues to pay for our EAA corporate insurance and fees. Please get your annual \$30 fee to me at your convenience.

## Wanted

Your stories, events, travel adventures, builder updates for our next issue of **The Flypaper**.

Email them to:  
cmbates50@gmail.com

Join us at the EAA Chapter 129 hangar for our Gathering of Eagles breakfasts Saturday mornings 7:00 am to 9:00 am for some great food and some hangar flying at its best.



## Cooks Needed!

Chapter 129 Members, Please sign up to help with our Saturday breakfasts. The sign up sheet is on the counter.



## Chapter 129 Officers

Charlie Bates-President, Treas  
Jason Jording-VP  
Josh Andracki-Sec'y, Social Media  
Ben Schneider-Board Member  
Don O'Neill-Board Member  
David Pfister-Board Member  
Rachel Henderson-Young Eagles Coord  
George Wilts-Tech. Counselor  
Mike Todd-Web Editor

