

EAA Chapter 18 Minutes from March 25th 2025 Meeting

The March meeting was called to order by President Thad Pinkoski at 7:30pm at Crites Field in Waukesha.

Building Reports: Jeff Wisneski completed building a large stainless steel oven for curing powder coated parts. He passed around samples of coated parts. Jeff also used a CAD program to design engine baffling components for his Wiaex airplane. He said the parts fit perfectly. Ryan Koenke was installing avionics on his Bear Hawk aircraft. He only had one wiring problem that he had to correct. He also completed the window installation and fabric work. John Nate finished working on the aileron hinge installation on the Defiant. The original plans had some errors. John needed larger hinges and he found that Boeing made them. Now that he has one side done the next will go easier. Mark Matelski has been working on building the center section of the top wing of his Hatz Classic Biplane. He is building a jig so he can laminate the semi-circle cut out. Wood strips will have to first be steamed and then glued and placed in the jig until the glue dries. He has been experimenting with many different glues. Inaccuracies in the plans had him doing additional engineering work. Mark Gries has completed the fuselage on his RV-14. He purchased the project from another builder. Mark had to drill out and install new rivets on the tail surface, about 600 rivets.

Flying Reports: Tim Meyer was on a commercial flight that had to do a go-around because of crosswinds.

Young Eagles: Cindy Robinson announced the next Young Eagle event will be at Milwaukee's 128th Air Refueling Wing on Sunday April 13th. Cindy is still looking for pilots and ground volunteers. Capitol Drive Airport YE event on June 28th. Timmerman Airport YE event on August 23rd. Events will run from 9am to 1pm.

Ray Scholarship: Jonah Fayen is prepping for his Private Pilot check ride. On Wednesday he is scheduled for a solo cross country covering just over 300 miles. President Thad presented Jonah with his last prepaid credit card for his flight training. Thad also announced that the next Ray Scholarship pilot has been selected and they will be introduced at the April Chapter meeting.

Announcements: Glen Botsford is accepting dues for the 2025 calendar year. The dues are still only \$10. Glen reported that 85 members have paid their dues.

New Business: Paul McAllister announced that he is teaching flight training on the simulators at EAA Museum in Oshkosh. Paul said he really enjoyed training on the simulators as it is less stressful than actual flight training. He encouraged the chapter members to make a reservation and check it out.

Program: EAA Life Member Mike Hance presented the program via ZOOM. The focus of the program was his many years of flying Blimps. Mike flew for Airships International which operated airships for companies like Budweiser, MetLife, Fuji Film and Ameriquest. Mike flew the airships all across the USA. The average cruising speed was 35 knots. The highest they can fly a blimp is just over 5,000 feet. Pressure inside the envelope was a mere 1.5 inches of water. And the pressure was controlled by separate air bags, one in the front and one in the back. When a new air ship is built the lighter than air gas called Helium is pumped in from the semi tanker truck. The Helium will remain in the air ship for about 15 years without having to be topped off or replaced. The blimps are based out of Elizabeth City North Carolina. Their hangar can hold up to 8 air ships of various sizes. Twice a year a ship will be washed, and about 100 to 150 pounds of dirt will be removed. When away from their home airport, 7 trucks are required for crew and equipment. A Mast Truck that weighs 35,000 pounds is used to moor the air ship. All air ships use the same mast mounting hardware so any blimp in the world can use it. The blimps are used to video baseball games, football game and car races. And even air shows like EAA Oshkosh. They also can carry an array of surveillance cameras and equipment. Mike said don't do anything in a car, camper or tent within 3 miles of an event that you don't want government to see.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10pm.
Respectfully submitted by Ken Ceranski