

THE PYLON



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF EAA CHAPTER 252 OSHKOSH WISCONSIN
STEVE WITTMAN CHAPTER

President's Report— Carrie Forster

As I write this, yesterday was the day that Governor Evers issued his #StaySafeAtHome order for the next 30 days. I hope that when you read this newsletter that you are doing well. It's difficult to comprehend what may happen in our state and in our country in the coming weeks. John and I are both working from home. You may remember that I teach fourth grade. I've been contacting parents and students and interacting with Google Classroom. Although I love technology, it doesn't begin to replace human interaction and I miss my students.



As we previously notified you, all of our chapter gatherings for April have been canceled. We have yet to make a determination for May and will contact you once that decision has been made.

The topic I had planned to write about this month was the Ray Scholarship. Our chapter has been fortunate to receive a scholarship again this year. We had two exemplary candidates apply - both of whom have already begun their flight training. The scholarship committee (myself, Serena Kamps, and Jim Cunningham) had the pleasure of sitting down to talk with each of the candidates about their flight training and goals. We had a very difficult decision to make since we could only put one candidate forward for the scholarship. That candidate is now in the process of being approved by EAA. Once that step has been completed, we will announce the name to all of you.

The board didn't want our other candidate to walk away empty handed, so we have awarded a \$500 training scholarship to our runner up to be applied to their flight training. At our March gathering, I announced that the chapter would happily accept member donations toward this student pilot's training as well. There are other chapters who have done something similar to help support a young person from their chapter in learning to fly. Now that we are in the midst of a pandemic, which is also filled with financial uncertainty for many, it no longer seems like a great time to ask for donations. However, if you are interested and able to donate anything toward flight training, we would be happy to accept it. No amount is too small. If you would choose to, you can mail your donation to Fred Stadler, 1742 Hunters Glen Drive, Oshkosh, WI 54904.

April Chapter Gathering: CANCELED

April Chapter Gathering on Thursday, April 9: Our planned chapter gathering for April has been canceled due to ongoing health concerns with the Coronavirus.

Save the date!

April 9 Chapter Gathering

CANCELED

April 18: Spring Pancake Breakfast and Young Eagle Rally

CANCELED

Inside this issue:

POH and Manual Season	2
Chicken Wings Comic	2
New Airport Deputy Director	3
Sport Aviation Archives Available Online	3
EAA Youth Protection Policy Reminder	3
Wisconsin DOT Bureau of Aeronautics Presentation	4
Wittman Chronicles	5
Taxiway A Construction Project	6
50 Years Ago: EAA Construction Begins	7
Board Meeting Minutes	8

It's POH and Manual Season

Jim Cunningham

“Do you still know all your V speeds from memory like you did last fall? When was the last time you looked at your engine failure checklist?”

Most of us have done little or no flying the last several months and, let's face it, we're rusty. There are still unflyable days ahead, so why not take one of them to study your airplane's Pilot Operating Handbook (POH) and manuals for your avionics and phone/tablet apps? Odds are that there are numbers and procedures in your POH that you need to review. Do you still know all your V speeds from memory like you did last fall? When was the last time you looked at your engine failure checklist? Can you recite it from memory now? Do you remember the details of op-

erating your autopilot?

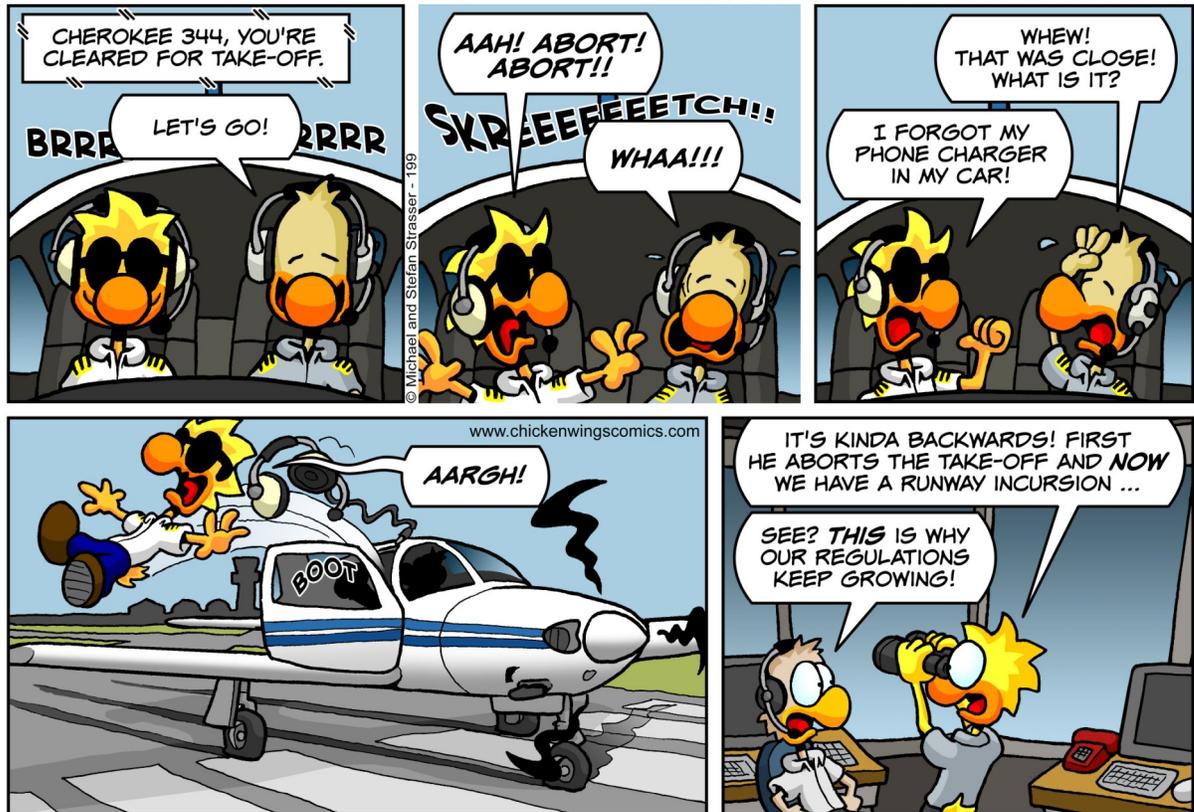
Then there are our navigator systems. How much do you remember other than "DIRECT TO"? When you don't use a system frequently, it's easy to get lost in a maze of button pushing and knob twisting and not having much or any idea of where you are. This is never a good thing, but if it happens at a busy time such as when you're trying to load or activate an instrument approach in the soup, it can be a really bad thing.

Last but not least most of us have one of the popular aviation apps on our iPads or phones now. Companies such as ForeFlight and Garmin are constantly trying to

add new and more sophisticated features to stay ahead of their competitors. During flying season you probably saw the alerts for each upgrade one at a time. In the off season, however, alerts to new features or revisions to the app were probably annoying pop-ups that you clicked "OK" on without reading about. Now you are several updates behind in your understanding... do you really want to fly being that far behind with a critical component of your aircraft? Take part of a rainy afternoon and go back and read about all the updates at a minimum, or better yet try them out in your favorite comfortable chair instead of in flight.

CHICKEN WINGS®

BY MICHAEL AND STEFAN STRASSER



New Airport Deputy Director

Jim Schell, C.M.
Director, Wittman Regional Airport

I'd like to take a moment and introduce a new member of the airport's staff, Charles Sweet. Charles is the newly appointed Deputy Airport Director. He comes to us with a wealth of experience, most recently as the Superintendent of the Sheboygan County Airport. We'll be

making the rounds over the next few months to introduce him to as many folks as possible.

As we transition into a busy construction season, you'll be receiving a number of updates throughout the spring and summer regarding our TWY Alpha reconstruction project, new General Aviation terminal project and a few

others. Many times these communications will come from Charles to keep all of our users as up to speed as possible.

Here's to wishing everyone a warm (and hopefully dry) Spring!

"As we transition into a busy construction season, you'll be receiving a number of updates throughout the spring and summer."

Sport Aviation Archives Available Online

Looking for something aviation-related to help pass your newfound time at home? Did you know that every issue of EAA's *Sport Aviation* is available online to members? Every single page from the first typed and mimeographed issue up to the most recent is at your fingertips, with all of the helpful articles on building and restoring, stories from each and

every EAA convention (in the early days this included lists and photos of every aircraft attending), stories of member builds, history, and lots more. All told through the filters of the time like the inclusion cigarette lighters in home-builds and the miraculous addition of on-site four hour film developing on site during convention. Over 60 years of fascinat-

ing and informative reading are at your fingertips at no extra cost. Dig in!

<https://eaa.org/eaa/news-and-publications/eaa-magazines-and-publications/eaa-sport-aviation-magazine/sport-aviation-archive/sport-aviation-browse>

"Over 60 years of fascinating and informative reading are at your fingertips at no cost. Dig in!"

EAA Youth Protection Policy Reminder/Renewal

Like other organizations that have activities involving youths under 18, EAA implemented a Youth Protection Policy several years ago. This policy applies to all chapter Young Eagle events and involves online training and a background check. The background check is performed by EAA and there is no cost to the member. From the EAA policy summary:

"All YE pilots, YE coordinators, and YE field representatives are required to complete the online training and background check. This takes about 15 minutes. The training and background check need to be renewed after three years. There are no exceptions for this group. Rally ground crew are encouraged to complete the training and background check."

Please note the three year renewal requirement! If it has been three years since you completed the online training and background check, you will need to do so again before participating in any of our upcoming events.

You can take the online training, sign up for a background check, renew, and learn more about the policy at <http://eaa.org/>

"The training and background check need to be renewed after three years. "

Wisconsin DOT Bureau of Aeronautics Presentation at March Chapter Gathering

“With the ever-progressing transfer from hard copy to electronic media, the bureau makes all of its publications available in electronic format now, including the ubiquitous and highly useful Airport Directory. “

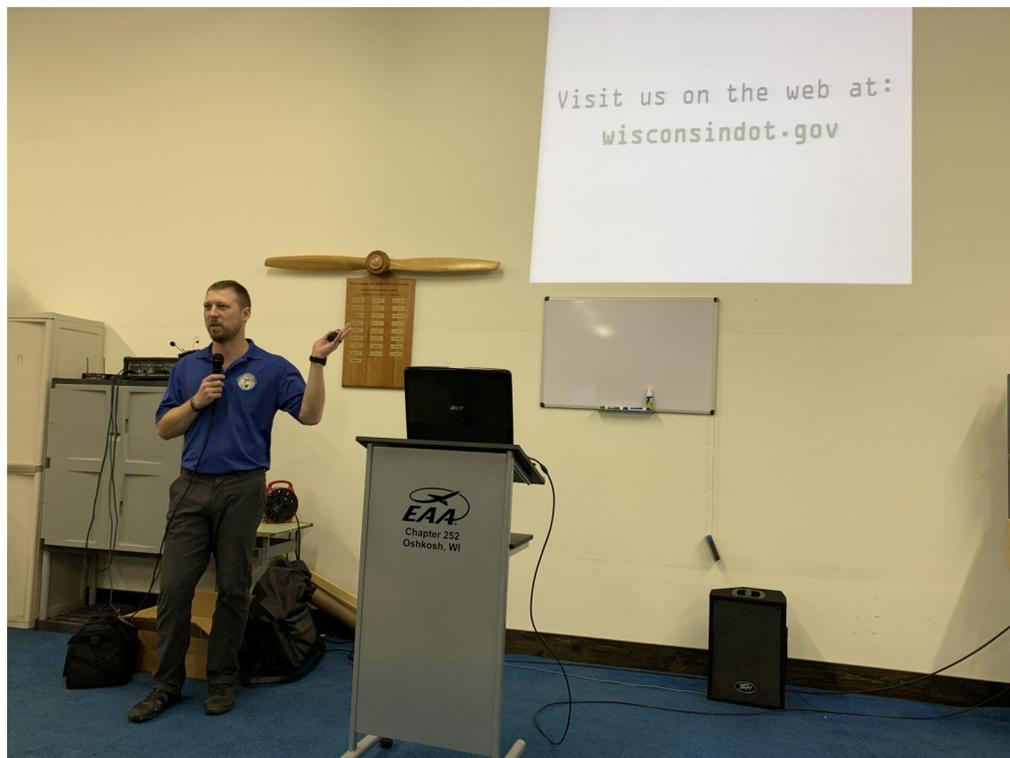
Levi Eastlick, Chief Pilot with the WI DOT Bureau of Aeronautics, was our guest speaker for our March chapter gathering. There are currently 123 public use airports in Wisconsin and 540 permits of all types in total. There are 5,494 registered aircraft, 9,584 pilots, and 7,991 other FAA certificate holders (A&P, etc.) registered in the state. The Bureau has responsibility of making sure that airports in the state are kept in good order. While many airport projects such as runway and taxiway maintenance and improvement are 90% federally funded, items such as snow removal equipment are state funded.

The Bureau publishes a variety of items such as the

state aeronautical chart, which will be undergoing an extensive overhaul for the 2020 edition. With the ever-progressing transfer from hard copy to electronic media, the bureau makes all of its publications available in electronic format now, including the ubiquitous and highly useful Airport Directory. Other useful documents available via their web site include the Points of Interest Near Airports, Seaplane Information in Wisconsin, Protecting Your Airport, as well as all manner of technical and legal information and handbooks. And, of course, everything you need to know for the popular Fly Wisconsin Airport Passport Program is also available online.

Levi stressed the need for communication. If anyone finds an error in any of the directories, charts, or anywhere else in their documentation, please contact them and let them know... they cannot correct errors that they have not been informed about. One of their biggest challenges is in protecting small, private strips from obstacles. If a strip is not registered with them, they cannot limit approval of a Tall Structures Permit that could interfere with operations.

For more information on all of this and much, much more, visit their web site at <https://wisconsin.dot.gov/Pages/doing-bus/aeronautics/default.aspx>



The Wittman Chronicles: Coming Home After Racing Victory in Miami, January, 1932

Jim Cunningham

Steve Wittman won the All-American Air Derby in Miami in January of 1932, and his home town of Oshkosh was electrified. Weather delayed his return in *Chief Oshkosh* for several days. He eventually got to Joliet, Illinois, and finally a clear day dawned in Oshkosh.

The phone at the airport began ringing early the next morning. "When will Wittman be coming home?" was the question of the day. Airport personnel could only communicate that Steve would be home as soon as the weather cleared. At 11:40, the phone rang again. This time it was the airport personnel at Fond du Lac—*Chief Oshkosh* had just been sighted over the city and was shooting north at high speed. A pilot had been standing by to greet him aloft, but before he could get in the air Wittman arrived overhead "like

a streak of greased lightning through a clear blue sky."

Steve darted over the city in triumph as whistles and bells below heralded his homecoming. People thronged to the airport to greet their new hero. An estimated 600 were on hand when Steve taxied in, and police had mixed results in their attempts to contain them. Airport officer Richard Lutz greeted the Wittman when *Chief Oshkosh* stopped, but asked him to go back up and show the plane to the people arriving at the airport. Steve obliged and before long the *Chief* was tearing up the sky once again.

When he finally landed, Steve exited his creation and, displaying a tan he acquired while in Florida, shyly acknowledged the applause while being escorted to a platform where he was met by Oshkosh

Mayor T.G. Brown. "In behalf of the citizens of Oshkosh, I want to congratulate you, Mr. Wittman. Your achievement has been a distinct honor, not only to yourself and your plane, but also for the city of Oshkosh. We want the fame of Oshkosh spread far and wide throughout the land, and I think you and your plane have done that remarkably well."

Wittman, ever shy and modest, simply smiled and said "Thank you." He then huddled with family members ranging from his mother to a bewildered two year old niece. Those within earshot were astounded to hear him talk to airport personnel "just as casually as if he had returned from a practice flight of only a few miles" instead of flying halfway across the country after winning an air race. "How's everything?" he asked the airport staff.

"Steve darted over the city in triumph as whistles and bells below heralded his homecoming. People thronged to the airport to greet their new hero."



Wittman's "Chief Oshkosh" in an early configuration.

Upcoming Wittman Airport Taxiway A Construction Project

NOTICE TO ALL TENANTS & USERS OF WITTMAN REGIONAL AIRPORT

TAXIWAY ALPHA (TWY-A) RECONSTRUCTION

PROJECT NO: AIP 3-55-0061-36

Please be advised, work on Phase 1 of the Taxiway Alpha reconstruction project is scheduled to begin on March 30th, 2020. The scope of work for this project includes the full reconstruction of TWY-A. This work is to include but not limited to all removals, grading, hauling, pavement, electrical work, drainage work, joint sealing, landscaping, and all incidental items to complete the work and re-open the taxiway.

This project is to be completed in 3 phases as denoted in the attachment

named Exhibit A. Be aware of the following timelines, taxiway & runway closures.

PHASE 1:

Begins March 30, 2020 - Ends July 3, 2020

TWY-A closed from A6-A4 with access from TWY-D maintained on the "By-Pass Taxiway".

RWY 18/36 will be closed from "7AM-5PM" for a total of two days with sufficient prior notice given to all tenants.

PHASE 2:

Begins August 3, 2020 - Ends November 13, 2020

TWY-A closed between TWY A4 and A2.

RWY 18/36 will be closed for a total of 7 work days, but must remain open on

weekends.

PHASE 3:

Begins March 29, 2021 - Ends June 11, 2021

TWY-A closed between A1 and A2.

At the close of each phase all work must be completed and that impacted taxiway section re-opened for operational use.

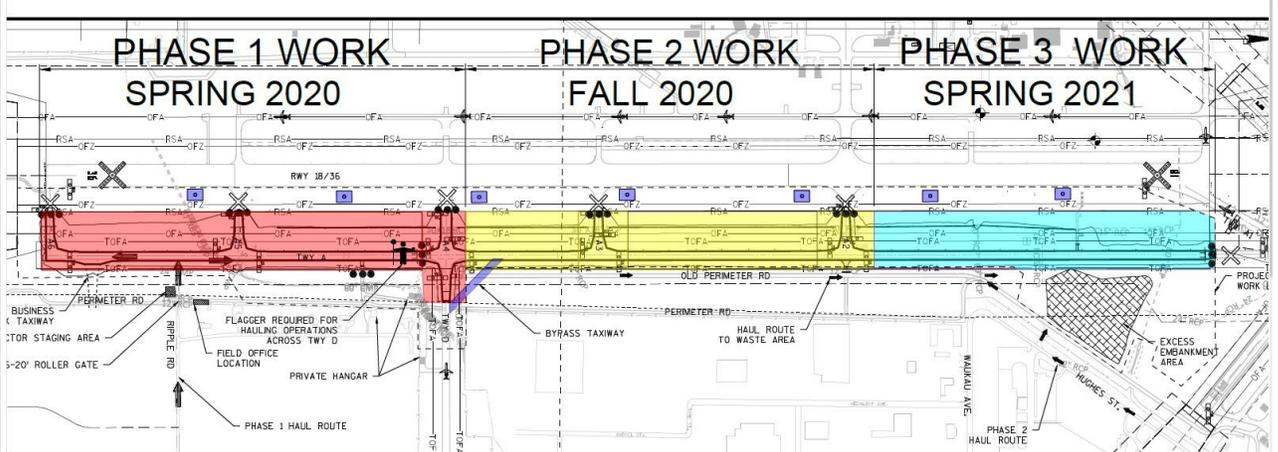
If you have any questions feel free to contact Deputy Director Charles Sweet through his contact information listed below.

Thanks,

Charles H Sweet II, C.M.

Deputy Director, Wittman Regional Airport

**920-236-4935 (Office)
920-420-8271 (Cell)**



50 Years Ago: EAA Oshkosh Convention Site Construction Efforts Begin

(Editor's note: This is from the April 1970 edition of Sport Aviation. President Paul Poberezny describes efforts to build the first components of the convention site we all know so well.)

Enthusiasm for this year's annual OSHKOSH International EAA Fly-In Convention is very encouraging. The cooperation shown those of us here at Headquarters, that have the responsibility of insuring a success, has in many ways made our task a bit easier. The appeal to chapters for assistance in locating equipment needed for the campsite (street lights, wire, switch boxes, etc.) has begun to show results. Even our request that each chapter sponsor the cost of an eight to ten foot poplar tree for the campground has brought forth good results with some chapters forwarding funds for as many as ten trees. Val Brugger and I have completed the drawings of the various areas we will utilize. The general display area, the homebuilt, antique and warbird parking area and the campsite area are all included. We even went so far as laying out and naming the streets in the campsite. The fly-by patterns have been agreed upon with FAA and as soon as the frost is out of the ground we hope that the long hours of planning, the 10,000 miles of travel to and from and around Oshkosh area will enable us to begin the physical effort needed to insure efficiency and success for the next fifteen years.

A 36 x 96 foot metal building, that will serve as a warehouse throughout the year will be constructed. During convention time it will serve as Headquarters for EAA, the Finance Division as well as the EAA Sales Area.

A water well, pumps and water system to the food tents and campsite will be needed.

Black topped surface for the tents is required. Complete electrical power for all areas, including lighting for the campsite and general display area must be installed. There will be the trees to be planted. Many acres of land that were under cultivation last year will need seeding. I guess our greatest need is for plain old labor.

Weekend work parties at the site will begin in April and held every weekend until convention time. Already many members have volunteered to fly and drive to Wittman Field, to assemble and paint picnic tables (we bought fifty new ones at a good price, and could use more), to help with grading, fencing and to install and erect street signs.

Members and chapters are looking for light fixtures, telephone poles and wire. Chapter 241 of Sycamore, Illinois has volunteered to furnish the material and construct a 40 x 60 foot pavilion that will serve as outside storage for much of our material, and then during convention time be converted to the campers country store.

We will need help and advice in building showers, an outdoor theatre screen and

assistance in installing underground telephone and electrical wire to key spots. We've got to build a city, and with your help, we will. Probably the biggest challenge of all is to accomplish this with the very little capital that is available.

Oshkosh will install the hard surface areas, do considerable grading, and have made arrangements for seeding the areas. They will install some \$3500 worth of permanent fencing as well as two miles of snow fencing. Services and materials in the amount of \$25,250 will be given this year. EAA's planned pre-convention expenditures are estimated to amount to nearly \$30,000. This does not include many items that members and chapters are donating. If any of the members want a list of items needed to improve the site, drop a note to Headquarters, to the attention of Val Brugger, our Convention Coordinator.

We have received a number of requests to furnish as many details as possible relative to this year's convention. Our members desire information such as airport diagrams, traffic patterns, campsite information, typical daily schedules, forums, points of interest in the area, costs and so forth. We will provide this information by having a four page tear-out insert in the June issue of Sport Aviation.

“We've got to build a city, and with your help, we will. Probably the biggest challenge of all is to accomplish this with the very little capital that is available.”

February 2020 Board Mtg Minutes
Thursday, March 5, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.
EAA HQ - Leadership Classroom

Attending: Carrie Forster (President), David Leiting (Vice-President), Fred Stadler (Treasurer), Jakob Brouillette (Board Member), Jim Cunningham (Newsletter Editor), Serena Kamps (YE Co-Coordinator, Ray Scholarship Coordinator), John Forster (YE Co-Coordinator), Jim Casper (Chapter Historian, Board Member), Joe Sonnleitner, Dennis Moehn, Wayne Daniels, Charlie Becker, Doug Milius (Membership Chair)

Old Business:

Ray Aviation Scholarship - Serena

We have been awarded a 2020 scholarship - next steps
Scholarship Committee (Carrie Forster, Serena Kamps, Jim Cunningham)

Meeting with to candidates on Wednesday, March 11

Motion by Fred Stadler, seconded by Serena Kamps to offer \$500 to the runner up once they've passed their knowledge test plus any additional funds donated by chapter members

Pancake Breakfast/YE Rally on Saturday, April 18

Joe Sonnleitner and Jerry Pulvermacher will co-chair

David is bringing them up to speed

David submitted food permit to the country, no reply yet but he will follow up

YE registrations are coming in

Leadership Academy that weekend, so they'll come over for breakfast

David contacted potential display people, including pedal planes

Other Events

Flying Start - Saturday, May 16

Contact flight instructors

Online registration for Flying Start - we'll be beta testers

Flying Hamburger Social - Tuesday, June 2

Weeks Hangar - David will ask

RC Youth-Build-Fly program

Joe Sonnleitner is helping

The kit is at the hangar

Recruit kids and volunteers at gathering - volunteers have to do youth protection

Hangar Expansion Discussion - continued from last month

Motion by Charlie Becker to meet with Jim Schell to determine viability of a move and if that's not viable to secure current parking, David Leiting - Carrie will contact Jim Schell

Monthly Gatherings:

Ideas:

CFI talk about how to prepare for a flight review

Weather information sources - what constitutes a legal weather briefing, Foreflight, other resources

2020 Chapter Gatherings	Topic/Presenter	Food/Person responsible
Thursday, March 12	Levi Eastlick, WI DOT	
Thursday, April 9	Joe Scheibinger, pre FAA inspection inspection for his Zenith project	
Saturday, April 18	Pancake Breakfast/YE Rally	
Thursday, May 14		
Thursday, June 11		
Thursday, July 9		
Thursday, August 13		
Thursday, September 10	Annual Corn Roast	Munsil's Farm/Airstrip
Saturday, September 12	Pancake Breakfast/YE Rally	
Thursday, October 8		
Thursday, November 12		
Thursday, December 10		

2020 Board Mtgs	Location	Confirm Date?
March 26	EAA leadership classroom	CANCELED
April 23	Chapter Hangar	
May 28	Chapter Hangar	
June 25	Chapter Hangar	
July 23	Chapter Hangar	AirVenture - no board meeting
August 27	Chapter Hangar	
September 24	Chapter Hangar	
October 22	Chapter Hangar	
November 26	EAA leadership classroom	Thanksgiving - change date
December 24	EAA leadership classroom	Christmas Eve - change date

EAA Chapter 252 Directory

Chapter 252 Hangar

817 W 20th Ave Oshkosh, Wisconsin 54902

Find Us Online!

www.eaa252.org

www.facebook.com/EAA252

Join the 252 Family!

Annual Membership (Calendar Year) Dues are \$20 (\$10 for partial year, July - December). Student Memberships are \$10. Dues in the amount of \$20 can be given to Doug Milius or mailed to him at:

**Doug Milius
1305 Maricopa Dr.
Oshkosh, WI 54904**

The Pylon is the monthly newsletter of EAA Ch. 252 and is published monthly. Digital copies are emailed to each chapter member. Hard copies are mailed upon request to those without email access. Current and past copies can be accessed from the chapter website at www.252.eaachapter.org. If you have submissions for the newsletter, please send to editor Jim Cunningham no later than the 20th of each month preceding the issue month at jlcunni6@yahoo.com. Submissions received after the 20th will be included at the editor's discretion in the next month or held for a future publication.

Submissions in either Word or similar format, and photos in .jpg format are appreciated.

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