

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

## President's Report— Carrie Forster



This month our virtual chapter gathering features Mike Strasser talking about his experiences as a helicopter firefighter pilot out west. Although I miss seeing everyone in person, I do enjoy the interesting variety of speakers our virtual meetings have afforded us. I am really looking forward to hearing about Mike's flying experiences. I enjoy flying my Archer around Wisconsin looking for a good breakfast; I can't imagine flying in the kind of conditions Mike will be talking about. I'm thankful for all those that take on this dangerous work and appreciate Mike taking time to share with our chapter.

EAA HQ has been releasing information about AirVenture 2021 and I know they are planning for many different contingencies. I am hopeful that the vaccine roll out can continue at a pace that will help us gather safely in July.

The board has made the difficult but necessary decision to not hold our April Pancake Breakfast and Young Eagle Rally due to the ongoing nature of the Covid-19 pandemic. We are hopeful that we will be able to hold this event in person in September. Our tentative date would be Saturday, September 11, 2021.

We plan to continue holding virtual chapter gatherings for the remainder of the winter and early spring. Once the weather warms up we are hopeful that we can safely resume some type of in person gathering. We are talking about what the logistics of that will look like and will keep you posted as decisions are made.

Chapter membership renewals are rolling in at a nice pace. If you haven't had a chance to renew your membership yet, there is information elsewhere in the newsletter about how to pay online via PayPal or by mailing a check to membership chair, Doug Milius. Thank you all for being a part of our chapter.

January has been a mostly dreary month, but we've had some nice sunny VFR days at the end of the month. Hopefully February will bring us some more good flying weather.

I hope to see you all virtually on Thursday, Feb. 11. If you have friends or family that would enjoy this presentation, please feel free to share the link. All our welcome.

Blue Skies,

Carrie

**Save the date!**

**February 11: Virtual Chapter Gathering Online**

**6:30 PM—8:30 PM**

**Mike Strasser**

Aerial Helicopter Firefighting

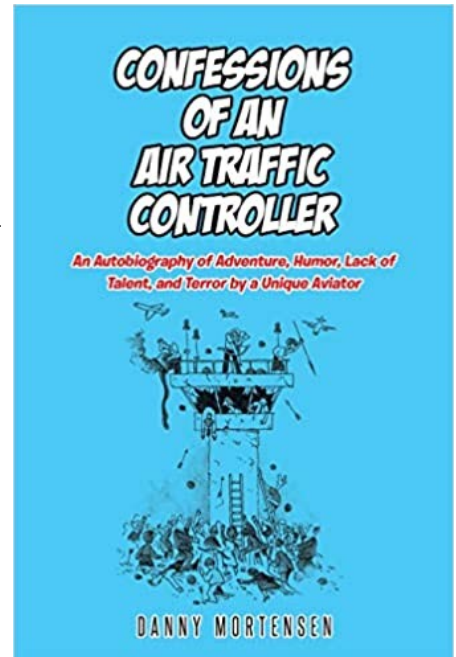
### Inside this issue:

<b>January Chapter Gathering Report</b>	2
<b>Ray Scholar News Flash</b>	2
<b>February Chapter Gathering</b>	2
<b>Brennand Fly-In Scheduled</b>	3
<b>McFam Cavalier Project Available</b>	3
<b>Chicken Wings Aviation Comic</b>	3
<b>Spirit of Elo Award</b>	4
<b>You're an Ambassador</b>	5
<b>Wittman Airport Update</b>	6
<b>Chapter Awards</b>	7
<b>X-1 Documentary</b>	7
<b>Board Minutes</b>	8

## January Chapter Gathering Report

Over 25 members joined us online for our January meeting featuring guest speaker Danny Mortensen. Danny was an air traffic controller for many years, most of them in past decades when matters weren't so strict and were more... interesting... and he had the stories to prove it. Danny is also a pilot and this came in handy at his day job for things like doing multiple touch and goes on long runways on breaks to help drive up airport usage statistics to doing 360 degree turns for spacing... but vertically. Commercial operations were also different, as was evidenced by his account of how one airline would do engine runups in their 727s near the airport visibility sensor when conditions were below minimums to increase its readings

enough to allow them to depart. His book, *Confessions of an Air Traffic Controller: An Autobiography of Adventure, Humor, Lack of Talent, and Terror by a Unique Aviator* is available at the EAA Aviation Museum store and online through vendors such as Amazon.



## Ray Scholar News Flash!

As this issue went to press, we learned that our chapter Ray Scholar, Lucas Pulvermacher has been accepted at Kansas State University, where he will

be attending this coming fall. Lucas will be enrolling in the Professional Pilot program, and will earn a Bachelor of Science degree. He is currently

working on his private pilot license with the Winnebago Flying Club. Congratulations Lucas!

## February Chapter Gathering: Online

Our February guest will be Mike Strasser. Mike is an aerial firefighter helicopter pilot who has flown aircraft such as the Erickson Air Crane (which you may have seen air AirVenture in previous years) and Chinook. Mike is also one half of the Chicken Wings Aviation comic published in a number of aviation publications.

EAA Chapter 252-October  
Thu, February 11, 2021 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM (CDT)

Link: COMING SOON VIA SEPARATE EMAIL

You can also dial in using your phone. United States: [+1 \(571\) 317-3122](tel:+15713173122)

Access Code: COMING SOON VIA SEPARATE EMAIL



## Brennand Fly-in Tentatively Scheduled

Our friends at EAA Chapter 41 at nearby Brennand Airport had to cancel their annual flyin in 2020, but have already tentatively scheduled August 14 for this year's event. Save the date! Details to follow as we receive them.



## McFam Cavalier Project Available



File photo— not of aircraft available. Wikipedia Commons photo.

low chapter member is interested. Contact Howard for more information.

Owner: Howard Campbell, "ACE"  
Phone: 920-667-4768

that the aircraft is 90% complete and that he has a stock of aircraft lumber that goes with the project.

Specifications (SA105 Super Cavalier)

Length: 23 ft 9.5 in  
Wingspan: 27 ft 4 in  
Wing area: 117 sq ft  
Gross weight: 1,850 lb  
Fuel capacity: 34 U.S. gallons main tanks, 22 U.S. tip tanks optional

Performance

Maximum speed: 240 mph  
Cruise speed: 200 mph  
Stall speed: 63 mph  
Rate of climb: 1,300 ft/min

Location: Dale, WI

Aircraft: MacFam Cavalier

This is a 2 person side by side wood aircraft. The company that owns the plans is based in Canada. Ace stated

Past EAA Chapter 252 member Howard Campbell contacted chapter member Dennis Moehn of FVTC about an airplane project. FVTC wasn't able to take on the project, but perhaps a fel-

## CHICKEN WINGS®

BY MICHAEL AND STEFAN STRASSER



Courtesy of Mike and Stephan at <https://www.chickenwingscomics.com/>



## 2020 Spirit of Elo Award: Jay Puestohl

**Carrie Forster**  
**Chapter President**

Every year since 2004 our chapter has recognized a member with the "Spirit of ELO Award." This award was created to recognize a chapter member with long standing contributions to aviation and is named for Bill Brennan's ELO airstrip.

Many, many years ago, area pilots would gather on Saturday mornings at Bill Brennan's FBO for coffee, donuts, and hangar flying. When Bill's FBO closed, the weekly gathering moved to the shop next to Munsil William's grass airstrip in Picket, WI. Munsil and his wife Shirley hosted this gathering for many years. Shirley passed away more than 20 years ago, and Munsil died in 2017, but the tradition continues thanks to their daughter, Vicki and others who meet to keep the tradition going.

This year we honor the late Jay Puestohl, a regular figure at Munsil's and one of those individuals who kept the Saturday coffee going after Munsil's passing. Jay did a lot of work out at the Williams' farm keeping the runway mowed and in shape for landing. Jay also finished the Buttercup that Munsil and Jack Wojahn started. Jay was a regular at the Friday lunches in Iola and at a lot of the fly-ins around the area. Jay was also a regular at chapter gatherings, often helping out with the monthly cook-outs and especially the annual Corn Roast at Munsil's every September.

Awarding Jay this year's Spirit of ELO Award brings the award full-circle, back to Munsil's farm and grass airstrip. Jay was passionate about flying and always around to help without seeking any fanfare or recognition. His contributions are very much appreciated and Jay is truly missed.



## Congratulations, You're an Ambassador

*Jim Cunningham*  
*CFII*

In January, 1932, Oshkosh's Steve Wittman won the Florida Air Derby, making him a contending air race pilot at the national level. It electrified his hometown, and hours after he returned his *Chief Oshkosh* racer was on display at the First National Bank downtown. Exhausted from the long trip, and not a fan of talking to large groups, Wittman just wanted to go home. Instead, he stood with his airplane and talked to many of the thousands of people-- over 2,000 in the first two hours alone-- who showed up to see it and him. Many had probably never seen an airplane up close before. Visitors were constantly touching the airplane, and some officials were concerned that its fragile fabric or other components could be damaged. Wittman, however, understood the need to allow the public some leeway in the name of promoting aviation and sharing in his accomplishments. "Yes, something might happen. The plane stood up in the terrific grind of race competition and I guess it can stand this," he said.

Wittman did this-- and many other things like it-- because he knew that like it or not, he was an ambassador for aviation. People would remember how he made them feel about aviation and transfer that to the entire sphere. It was important that he be pleasant, friendly, and answer their questions. And tolerate their occasional transgression instead of yelling at people.

The same is true today for each and every one of us. We all know about the threats to GA, from noise complaints from people who buy houses across the streets from airports to developers making cases for closing airports and replacing them with the latest big box store that will bring in lots of revenue for the town (and for them, coincidentally).

My hangar at my former airport sat next to the airport fence near the air-



port restaurant. Kids had a tendency to notice the airplane and run to the fence rather than stay with their parents going to lunch. I always asked, once their parents came to the fence after pleas to join them heading to the restaurant were ignored, if they would like to see my Arrow up close. No one ever said no. Parents were often astonished at the invitation. The kids would hop in and often played with the yoke. Unless they were getting too rough with it, I didn't object, thinking of Wittman's statement above. I'd use the time to answer the questions from the adults about the airplane and GA. Many had no experience with either, and it was an excellent opportunity to provide them with some basic information and correct misconceptions. And encourage them to come to a chapter meeting if they were interested. After using their phones to get pictures, they'd thank me and be off to lunch, usually with the children babbling away about what they'd just experienced.

Sometimes fellow pilots would come up to me afterwards and say that they'd never let a stranger close to their air-

plane to look at it or talk to them. This reaction always concerns me. Interest in an airplane is an excellent opportunity to show the public what we are about. Just as many people in 1932 had never seen a small airplane up close, people of 2021 may well be in the same category given the difficulties of airport access today. People will project the attitude you display as an aviation community member onto GA and beyond. If someone in the GA community is rude or uncooperative to them, they probably won't back you when a developer waves lots of money under the community's nose to tear down a bunch of hangars for a strip mall (an actual event at my previous airport which is happening again now) or to speak up for you when someone who bought a house across the street from the runway last week starts complaining about noise. Like Steve Wittman, we are all ambassadors for GA. And, like him, we need to be a positive force in promoting GA... even if it means we have to take some extra time and effort to do so when all we want to do is go home after a long day.



# Wittman Regional Airport Terminal Update



**Jim Schell, C.M.**

**Director  
Wittman Regional Airport**

The new General Aviation Terminal has been under construction since breaking ground on July 20th. Cardinal Construction of Fond du Lac along with the project team of Airport staff, Martin-Riley Architects and other County and State personnel have been in close coordination for many months to ensure the new aerial gateway to Oshkosh and Winnebago County is completed on time.

The beginning of construction started with demolition of the Terminal's 'West Wing' in order to make way for the

new terminal. Once demolition was complete in late summer, the site was prepared for the new building, which sits on a similar footprint as the former building. Filling the void of the West Wing's basement was the first order of business. Excavating for footings and foundation walls followed shortly thereafter and from there, a building began to take shape.

In recent months, build out of the new terminal's masonry walls and erection of structural steel have meant that the new facility has gone vertical and is readily visible from 20th Avenue, directly west of the existing commercial service terminal building.

As we descend into the winter months,

the race is on to enclose the building and utilize temporary heat in order to provide a climate controlled interior, inside which construction operations can continue during the colder months. Ultimate completion is scheduled for Mid-June 2021, just in time to welcome the world back to Wittman for the 51st installment of AirVenture in Oshkosh!

*(Editor's note: The airport Facebook page posted an assurance that it will not be purple when it's completed... chapter member Wayne Daniels, builder of the Sonex "Purple Haze," is reported to be "disappointed." Thanks to Fred Stadler for the interior pictures.)*

## Chapter Awards 2020

**Carrie Forster**  
**Chapter President**

A big thank you to all of our chapter members who have contributed to our chapter success in ways big and small, especially in 2020. It's been an unusual year.

"For dedicated service within your Chapter, this award is presented in recognition of your service and assistance to foster the growth of recreational aviation through Chapter activities."

Here are the chapter awards for 2020:

President: Carrie Forster  
Vice-President: David Leiting  
Secretary: Kurt Weina  
Treasurer: Fred Stadler  
Board Member and Chapter Historian: Jim Casper  
Board Member: Wayne Daniels  
Board Member: Jakob Brouillette  
Membership Chair: Doug Millius  
Hangar Manager: Jim Kress

Newsletter Editor: Mike DiFrisco  
(January - February) & Jim Cunningham  
(March - December)  
Web Editor: Charlie Becker  
Young Eagle Coordinator: John Forster  
Young Eagle Coordinator: Serena Kamps  
Eagle Coordinator: Kyle Voltz and Serena Kamps  
Scholarship Coordinator: Serena Kamps  
IMC Program Coordinator: Andy Miller

## Fascinating Mini-Documentary on the Bell X-1

**Jim Cunningham**  
**Newsletter Editor**

With the forecast being for more winter and COVID limiting most things social, why not spend some time enjoying a fascinating and informative aviation video? We all know that the Bell X-1 was Yeager's famous mount in which he broke the sound barrier, but it's remarkable engineering and systems are far less well known. AVweb correspondent Paul Bertorelli provides a fascinating look at the design of this aircraft which pushed the limits of available technology, sometimes through unusual means. Did you know it was rated for 12Gs, 18 ultimate? Or that the turbopumps for the liquid oxygen fuel weren't ready until



YOUTUBE.COM

### How This Illustration Fueled My Obsession With the Bell X-1 Reload

the later version flew years after Yeager broke the sound barrier? Or that it carried 12 liquid nitrogen tanks? Learn about these matters and much, much, more in a fascinating 24 minute

video at <https://youtu.be/V8p5N0k3eC4>. Or if you don't want to type all that in just look for the YouTube AVweb channel.

**January 2021 Board Mtg**  
**Thursday, January 28 at 6:00 p.m.**  
**Virtual - GoToMeeting**

**Attending:** Carrie Forster (President), Serena Kamps (Secretary), Fred Stadler (Treasurer), Doug Milius (Membership), Jim Casper (Board Member), Jim Cunningham (Newsletter Editor)

**Old Business:**

Ray Aviation Scholarship - Carrie

Application for next cycle completed and submitted; notification by end of February

Updates re: Lucas

Google Meet scheduled for Monday with Lucas to check in

Monthly Gatherings and Upcoming Events

February 11: Mike Strasser (Helicopter Pilot, Helicopter Firefighter, Co-Creator Chicken Wings Comic)

Ideas for other gatherings?

April 10 Pancake Breakfast and YE Rally - decision made to cancel due to Covid-19, hoping for September

Membership Renewals

Reminders in Pylon

Renewals coming in



<b>2021 Chapter Gatherings</b>	<b>Topic/Presenter</b>	<b>Food/Person responsible</b>
Thursday January 14		
Thursday February 11 (virtual)	Mike Strasser (Helicopter Pilot, Co-Creator of Chicken Wings Comic)	
Thursday, March 11		
Saturday, April 10	Pancake Breakfast/YE Rally	
Thursday, May 13		
Thursday, June 10		
July 25 - August 1	AirVenture Pancake Breakfast????	
Thursday, August 12		
Thursday, September 9	Corn Roast - Munsil's?	
Thursday, September 11	Pancake Breakfast/YE Rally	
Saturday, September 25	Flying Start?	
Thursday, October 14		
Thursday, November 11		
Thursday, December 9		
January 2022	Holiday Gathering at the Roxy?	

<b>2021 Board Mtgs</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Confirm Date?</b>
January 28	ONLINE	
February 25		
March 25		
April 22		
May 27		
June 24		
July 22		Week before AirVenture - cancel or keep?
August 26		
September 23		
October 28		
November 25		Thanksgiving— change date

## **Chapter 252 Hangar**

**817 W 20th Ave Oshkosh, Wisconsin 54902**

## **Find Us Online!**

**[www.eaa252.org](http://www.eaa252.org)**

**[www.facebook.com/EAA252](https://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](http://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](mailto: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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