

FEBRUARY 2023

# Thoughts Aloft

Manitowoc EAA Chapter 383 Newsletter

## Chapter Logbook

by Chapter President Jim Zuege

The January meeting was attended by about 30 people; that was nice to see!

We did not have a formal meeting, instead we had a great speaker from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Safety in Milwaukee. Jurg Grossenbacher talked about how to mitigate complacency in flying to stay safe. His key takeaway was that no matter how old or your years of experience you should occasionally fly with a flight instructor to keep your basic skills proficient.

Check out this website <https://faasafety.gov/> for seminars, webinars, and other great information. You will see the Seminars & Webinars tab on the top to search for things in our area.

We applied for a Rahr Foundation grant for a build and fly program. We were turned down.

Please pay your membership dues if you haven't yet.

Please come to the February meeting prepared to talk about what we want to accomplish in 2023.

Jim



### Monthly Meeting

2nd Wednesday

6:30

KMTW

Chapter 383

Hangar 22

1805 Freedom Way

Manitowoc

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## The Sole XBD-2 is in Manitowoc, WI

The XBD-2 was an experimental prototype created by Jim Bede and first flown in 1961. It had a unique engine arrangement and a complex system of belts and clutches to enable any combination of power settings to be used for flight. It also integrated a Boundary Layer Control (BLC) and a shrouded propeller.



Photo Credit: Jason McDowell

The performance of the XBD-2 was impressive. She logged over 50 hours of flight time before being permanently retired. Today the sole XBD-2 is on permanent display at the Manitowoc County Airport in Manitowoc, Wisconsin. [Credit: Flying}

Madison based private pilot, Jason McDowell, loves researching obscure aviation history. He featured Manitowoc's XBD-2 in Flying Magazine. [Here is the link for the full story.](#)



Photo Credit: Max Platts

