

OCTOBER 2023

# Thoughts Aloft

Manitowoc EAA Chapter 383 Newsletter

## Chapter Logbook

by Chapter President Jim Zuege

The September meeting was the corn roast so we did not have a meeting. To quote Forrest Gump, "And that's all I have to say about that."

As most of you know, my wife is the writer/editor of the monthly chapter newsletter. Sometimes she throws ideas out there and hopes for a response. When someone responds she is thrilled. She loves to write but she needs something to write about. She thinks people are very interesting and her motto is: everyone has a story to tell.

Last month she was thinking about my first solo flight and she wondered what other people's first flights were like so she posed the questions. Thank you to Gene LeClair, Chris Gibson, and Charles Klunker for responding to the question. She was so happy when she opened the email and saw responses from you. Feel free to call my wife anytime and tell her an interesting story you have related to flight. She honestly loves to hear the stories and share them. Her phone number is listed in the gold box to the right.

Thank you and we'll see you on Wednesday.

Jim



### Monthly Meeting

2nd Wednesday  
6:30

KMTW

Chapter 383  
Hangar 22

1805 Freedom Way  
Manitowoc

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## When was Your First Solo

Your first solo flight was probably a crazy mix of emotion from excitement, fear, and relief. A few chapter members shared their firsts.

**Gene LeClair** said you're never too old to start flying. His first solo was December 5, 2018 in a Zlin Savage tailwheel. He was 68 years old and Jim Wheeler was his instructor. "I was originally planning to get a Sport Pilot certificate but when they took the Savage off insurance at the end of December, I had Jim take me up in a Cessna 172. It was a lot easier to land than the Savage so I decided to go for a Private Pilot certificate. Don't regret that decision a bit. I now have over 300 hours in my logbook, an instrument rating, and I'm a happy member of the Manitowoc Flying Club flying a 1975 Piper Archer II. Just wish I had started flying lessons at age 62 when I retired."

**Chris Gibson** started instruction in 1988 in a Luscombe he bought in Pulaski. His instructor was Mr. Holbrooks out of Clintonville. "I logged around 10 hours in it before it was sold. I bought a Taylorcraft and was getting time in it with my dad when on day he decided to solo me. My dad wasn't an instructor but just a talented pilot. The following day my instructor said, "today your ready to do your first solo"! He didn't realize that I had already completed that chapter, but I didn't say anything. Such a fond memory enjoying aviation with my wonderful father which I miss him dearly.

**Charles Kluenker's** first solo was November 23, 1971 at SBM. "PA-28-140 N8899N 2.8 of my 7.6 pre-solo hours were with Leon Sigman."



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## 2023 Wisconsin Airports Events



**October 15**

**Volk Field Air National Guard Base Fly-In/Drive-In and IFR/VFR Seminars**

**Volk Field (KVOK) 100 Independence Dr, Camp Douglas, WI Juneau County**

**0800-1600**

Don't miss your one chance per year to land at an active military airfield.

Events include facilities tours, FAA Safety seminars, WisDOT passport stamp, breakfast and lunch.

Special documentation and registration is required.

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