



AirVenture 2017

This year's Oshkosh was one of the better ones. Jerry and I drove the motor home as far as Tomah the first day and stayed in the Wal-Mart parking lot. Headed to Camp Scholler the next morning and parked at the normal chapter 39 campsite. Thanks again to Betty and Milo for reserving camping for Jerry, Me, Terry, John and Marty. The weather was one of the highlights of the trip – Perfect! Great for arrivals, great for shows, and great for evening movies. Jerry and I were looking this year for avionics for the RV10. The Chelton systems are getting old, 14 years, so time to think about upgrading. Turns out the Garmin system might be the way to go. We had our group run to Wendt's on the Lake for the perch fish fry. Excellent as always. The Monday night concert this year was 'Bare Naked Ladies'. I think Jerry was expecting something else and I had to explain to him that they are a music group. Didn't recognize any of their songs, but it was sure a big crowd. The night show was spectacular as always. It ended just as the rain started pouring. We waited it out under Bruce's Cub wing. Great evening! We had a great chapter meal at the campsite Wednesday night. We headed home Thursday afternoon and made it as far as the Mitchell Wal-Mart and then got home Friday morning. Start planning to join the group next year! The more the merrier! Rick



Photos by Jerry





50 Years of Fly-Ins



Scott Christiansen has been flying to EAA fly-ins since Rockford days

Scott Christiansen, EAA 43627, hasn't missed an EAA fly-in convention since he was 18 years old, 50 years ago. He's flown into the convention each year since, and by Scott's own estimate, a maximum of three of those flights were in certified airplanes.

Scott, who prefers classic and experimental aircraft, is certainly a living, breathing example of the experimental part of the EAA spirit. Scott has built two airplanes, a Piel Beryl and an Explorer Ellipse, and took one of the two to Oshkosh for roughly 40 of the 50 years he's attended.

From 1980 until 2010, Scott's Beryl got him to Oshkosh, which became EAA AirVenture Oshkosh in 1998. Since 2010, he's brought the four-seat Ellipse, a Dean Wilson-designed kitbuilt. This year, there was some concern Scott would have to miss his first Oshkosh in five decades, as his cancer treatments left Scott concerned he might not pass a class three medical exam.

When you look at the checklist of the BasicMed, there's nothing on there that talks about anything that you've had in the past," he said. "You just have to be healthy when you're going through the physical exam. Then, from that point forward, it's up to me to know that I'm safe to go flying. I think that's the way it should be."

Scott had arranged a ride for himself just in case he couldn't get certified soon enough to fly in, but found out just a few weeks before AirVenture 2017 that those plans fell through. If Scott hadn't gotten his BasicMed sorted out a week and a half prior to AirVenture — on July 14 — his consecutive attendance streak would have ended at year 49.

Last year could have been Scott's 50th convention, though. A good friend invited him to go in 1967, but Scott, not knowing much about the fly-in at the time, couldn't figure out why he should attend.

"It could have been 51," Scott said. "I had no clue what Rockford was all about. He brought back pictures and said, 'This is what you missed,' and I said, 'Wow, maybe I should've gone after all.'"

Although he isn't always a huge air show fan, Scott said some of the military flight teams that have graced AirVenture in recent years, including the Blue Angels, who will appear in the air show tonight, draw him in.

I'm not one to always watch the afternoon air show, but the Thunderbirds were, and the Blue Angels will be, a must-see," he said.

The air show might be one of the most publicized parts of AirVenture, but Scott is a good reminder that it's not all that goes on in Oshkosh. Even though he may not spend much time out on the flightline, the vendors keep him coming back year after year, even before he worked at the FAA, a job he's since retired from.

"I think that all the years that I've come to Oshkosh, it's always been to get familiar with new technology, new equipment that's available, stuff that would help with my FAA position as a maintenance inspector," Scott said.

In addition to this being Scott's 50th convention milestone, the 25-year anniversary of the Young Eagles program ties him to EAA, too. Scott has flown more than 50 Young Eagles since he began working with the program.

He can't give you an exact number, because he doesn't know it himself. Scott only knows that it's more than 50 because he got a letter from EAA headquarters once he hit that mark. His Young Eagles connection goes back before the 25th anniversary the Young Eagles program reached at this year.

"You could probably say I was a Young Eagle at one time before the Young Eagles got started," Scott said. "I went for a ride with my best friend when he was taking a flight instruction. I sat in the back seat of a 172, and they went up and did stalls and deep turns and stuff like that. After that, I started my flying lessons when I was 17 years old."

One year later, Scott started attending EAA fly-in conventions, all the way until this year's show. His beautiful green-and-white Ellipse's spot in Homebuilt camping sits as testament to the dedication Scott has to Oshkosh each year.



Submitted by Dan B.

A golden eagle grabs a flying drone during a military training exercise at Mont-de-Marsan French Air Force base, Southwestern France, February 10, 2017. REUTERS/Regis Duvignau - RTX30HM1
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Following incidents of drones flying over the presidential palace and restricted military sites – along with the deadly 2015 Paris terror attacks – the French air force has trained four golden eagles to intercept and destroy the rogue aircraft. Aptly named d'Artagnan, Athos, Porthos and Aramis – an homage to Alexandre Dumas' "The Three Musketeers" – the four birds of prey have been honing their attack skills at the Mont-de-Marsan in southwestern France since mid-2016.

Coming Up:

Benkerts' Annual Fly- n/Drive-in Picnic

October 7

More info to follow



Next Meeting:

Tuesday, July 12

at Chapter 39 Clubhouse

6:00 Burger Burn

Please bring salad, dessert, or munchies to share. (Donations also appreciated to cover expenses.)

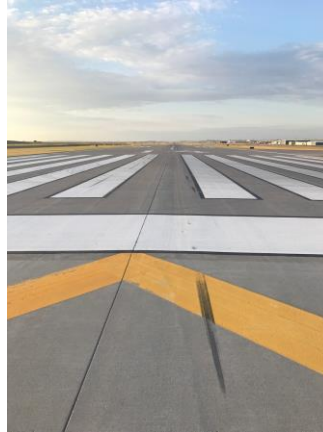
7:00 Program

TBA

Followed by meeting



September 9, 2017: SD Aviation Hall of Fame ceremony & SDPA meeting at Black Hills Airport – Clyde Ice Field (SPF), Spearfish, SD. SDAHf Event Chairman Ted Miller, Black Hills Aero (605-642-0277). All activities at Black Hills Aero Hangar. The list of events is at <http://www.sdpilots.com/Events.asp>



Rapid City Regional Airport...this summer...touchdown a little short...you think?

Submitted by Darrel

September Birthdays:



Pete Shouldis—6th
Curt Groote—11th
Les Mittleider—13th
John Glasford—24th

Chapter 39

Officers

President	John Glasford
Vice President	Arie LaCroix
Secretary	Gary Schroeder
Treasurer	Scott Christiansen

Volunteers

Newsletter & Web Manager	Molly Benkert
Young Eagles	Brenda Nolan
Safety Officer	Jerry Densmore

Tech Advisor Jerry Densmore

TREASURER'S REPORT

By Scott Christainsen

Balance brought forward.....	\$8786.10
Income:	
Burger Burn.....	65.00
Balance on hand.....	\$8851,10

August Minutes

By Gary Schroeder

The burger burn started as scheduled at 6:00.

- John called the meeting to order at 7:01.
- Treasures report given \$8786.10
- Steve Sethney visited us tonight.
- Bruce told us about his J3 Cub vs a DC3 at Oshkosh.
- Scott received the Silver Lindy Award for 50 consecutive years flying into Oshkosh.
- No open house this year so we need to start planning now for next year.

•Upcoming events

- Sturgis fly in breakfast Sept 9th.
- SD Hall of Fame will be in Spearfish September 9th
- Labor Day campout and fly in September 2nd, at the Calvin Coolidge Campground, Breakfast will be from 9:00 to 11:00, Call for a ride from the airport to the campground and back.
- May have a Young Eagle event in September.
- Dan and Molly's fly-in will be October 7.

Meeting adjourned 7:33



Planes, Puns, And Politics - Who Has A Right To The Wrights?

By Ben Chapman

This article should have been a joke. My goal was to write a satire piece that would make a mountain out of what I had anticipated was a mole hill. Unfortunately, it seems I've been beaten to the punch by none other than three state governments, a federal government, and some New Zealanders. I had naively believed that at most this first flight thing would be a minor kerfuffle. I was wrong. It's a major kerfuffle. [Read more.](#)

Curt's Trip West



Tent at West Yellowstone



Johnson Creek just to the right of nose. Approach is from the opposite direction.



Johnson Creek just to the right of nose. Approach is from the opposite direction.

