



April 2024 Newsletter

From the President

It is April 9th. Last week and this have been quite crazy, attempting to determine the nature of our April meeting! As it turns out, among such alternate activities as Sun 'n Fun in Florida, a significant number of those chasing down locations and airplane parking spaces for the now-complete solar eclipse, and some very bad colds and such, no interesting and ready aviation-related program was available. So, given the continuing desire for social gatherings, this Thursday we will return to Brad Shafer's restaurant, Kathy's Kitchen, 34500 US 45, in Third Lake. Begin gathering at 7 PM or so, and do at least one, and hopefully both of the following for free food.



One, bring a friend, preferably someone who is interested in aviation and/or EAA. And two, sit with, get to know and converse with chapter members and their friends you do not know well (or at all!). The recent Member Satisfaction Survey revealed that for Chapter 414, the most important activity was "connecting with other aviation enthusiasts." This is an obvious focused opportunity to do just that.

Overall

Some things in the chapter are moving along well, while other parts of our schedule and "mechanism" are still in flux, as quite a bit of this newsletter will reveal. The "mechanism" most in need of attention and volunteer help is "Program," building and executing interesting monthly gatherings that will meet the desires and needs of a significant part of our membership each and every month. As an individual, I am very much at a loss in this unless many of you at least submit ideas, and some also step up to help convert their ideas into reality. As mentioned above, the most important chapter activity in our survey was "Connecting with other aviation enthusiasts." We'll try that one again this Thursday.

The second important chapter activity in our survey was “Young Eagles.” YE rallies are being well handled by Patty and her crew, and additions are always welcomed. However, the actual rallies do not appear until the weather is more predictable. We might choose to expand our YE involvement, implementing one or both of the non-flying programs, “YE Build and Fly” (intensive building and flying an RC airplane), or “YE Workshop” (in some respects a one or multiple day experience for 11-17 years olds that could be considered to be similar to ground school at an appropriate level.) Both require interested chapter members to step up, organize and execute. Doing either would give us another activity credit to change our recent recognition level from “Bronze” to “Silver.”

More feedback

As mentioned above, we recently received our chapter’s results of the 2023 Chapter Member Satisfaction Survey. A fair number (24) of you responded, a much larger number did not. Again, the most important chapter activity chosen was “Connecting with other aviation enthusiasts,” followed closely by “Young Eagles.” Of the other opportunities mentioned, the only really unpopular one had to do with RC/control line modeling and flight. The area of building experimental aircraft, the fundamental beginning activity of EAA, was in the middle, with some with real interest and some with no interest.

A different question asked what one thing would a respondent recommend to improve the chapter. Most of the answers focused on a higher level of involvement by a greater number of people (!), which is the curse of all volunteer organizations. And finally, one question asked about the gatherings and their subjects, and the overall results were “fairly satisfied”. Might probe in that area more as we move along.

The fundamental conclusion is that there are a number of ways to improve and grow our chapter. As time goes by, I’ll be asking many of you generally about that in this letter, and individually, along with how you would like to participate.

EAA 414 VMC/IMC CLUB



Chapter 414 VMC/IMC clubs are monthly meetings where real scenarios are presented followed by group discussion, with the goal of promoting safety by sharing knowledge and experience.

Meetings held **third Wednesday of the month**. All skill levels welcome. For information, visit

chapters.eaa.org/ea414/vmc-club or email Sam Battaglia imc-vmc@ea414.org



Membership

We are maintaining our size of membership, currently at 81 paid members, including 3 new individuals so far this year. Paul, Josh and Joe. Find them at the next gathering and make them feel welcome! Discover what their primary interest might be, and introduce them to members who can address that interest. We are all a part of the membership committee! I think we can do a better job at this. Fifteen people who were members last year, some new, have chosen (so far) to not renew for 2024. We apparently have not satisfied their expectations in some way. Arkady, our Membership Coordinator and I would appreciate some feedback on that

Program

So far in 2024 we have had three gatherings, all quite different. January was a structured conversation about MOSAIC (LSA aircraft and Sport pilots), at the Warbird Heritage Foundation hangar at KUGN. There were ~ 15 attendees, including the presenter, and there was food.

February was an experiment in social gathering, at member Brad Shafer's restaurant in Third Lake. There were ~ 35 -40 attendees, and we seemed to ideally meet the desired activity of "Connecting with other aviation enthusiasts." There was no structured program, only people meeting old and new friends, and excellent, and free food (the chapter paid).

Our third gathering in March was an informational presentation by several air traffic controllers in different locations and of differing responsibilities.

Included was significant detail about flying into Oshkosh for Airventure, along with discussion about the process of how people actually become air traffic controllers, and the challenges in that. There were perhaps ~ 25 - 30 attendees, plus several presenters, and including a fair number of new people. In addition, in order to handle a reasonable number of people, and have the space to do so, it was at Margie Freeman's hangar at KUGN. And there was pizza.

The question remains, which of these met the wants and needs of the membership, and was appropriate for an EAA chapter gathering? What should we do next? I have some proposed possibilities around building aircraft, around paying attention to your aircraft after the limited activities of our wintertime, and a possible dual presentation about the pros and cons of Rotax and Continental engines. I also recently have had my first real experience with a reasonable flight simulator, and wonder if a group trek to the new educational center at Oshkosh would be possible and popular. And we haven't had a tower visit in a very long time.



Who will step up to make some of these happen?

Airport(s) etc.

We are very fortunate to be headquartered at KUGN, and close to a similar airport, KENW (only 11 miles away), where a number of our members hangar their aircraft, and some chapter activities occur.

KUGN's leader, Skip Goss, is approachable and has been very supportive of our chapter and activities, and continues to be so. His current specific request of us is to find individuals who have the time and inclination to do some upkeep on the F-111 at the entrance. Some paint repair is becoming necessary, along with adding some drain holes for getting rid of water build-up, etc. In addition, there are construction and repair projects that are planned, but without real schedules at present, which could cause some changes in our activities. On that list are the South Ramp parking lot, and the entire ramp area around Skill Aviation, and perhaps others.

Briefly, there will be no 2024 Waukegan Air Show, but the possibility of a 2-day one in 2025. Stay tuned.

One of our members, Margie Freeman, has a significant hangar and additional spaces at KUGN that she is willing and eager to have us use for some of our activities. We're in conversation about what that might look like. More to come.

Epilogue

So this is longer than I anticipated. Yet it is important. Flying season is sporadically upon us, so we all will be spending more time at it. And my hope is that this month's letter has given many of you some things to think about, and perhaps include Chapter 414 in your aviation activities at a higher frequency. Let me know (e-address and phone # below).

See you Thursday!!

John Cecilia, EAA Chapter 414 President
312 524-2912 cell/text
jlcecilia96@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

See chapters.eaa.org/ea414/event-calendar for event details. All are welcome at our chapter meeting and IMC/VMC Club events regardless of skill level. New or prospective chapter members are especially encouraged to attend!

Chapter meeting

Thu 04/11, 7pm

Kathy's Kitchen (change of location)

34500 US-45, Third Lake, IL 60030

IMC/VMC Club meeting

Wed 04/17, 7pm

Board of directors meeting

Thu 04/25, 7:30pm

From the Web

[Doc 360: B-29 Takeoff from Amarillo, TX.](#) "A 360 camera view of B-29 Doc taking off from Amarillo's Rick Husband Airport, April 17, 2023."





DUES & MEMBERSHIP

Send dues to

Matt Koschak
23391 N. Birchwood Lane
Deerfield, IL 60015-1256

Make checks payable to

Lake County Chapter, EAA 414