

# ***SKYWRITINGS***

EAA Chapter 439  
Central U.P. of Michigan

September 2022  
Home of the Yoopers



***Next chapter meeting this coming Saturday, September 17th  
09:00AM central held at the chapter hangar!***

***Contact Bryan Granholt on availability to fly young eagles  
He needs to create a flight schedule.***



# The Prez Sez!

Tom Sullivan

toms1@chartermi.net

We are just a week away from our 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Ford Airport Day (FAD). This year is looking like it will be one of our best, with a lot more kids activities and a much better sponsorship level going in than ever before. So, what's the reason? I have my take on it; it's Will Kroger's fault. Did I say that? Yes, I did. Why? Will took the overwhelming job of taking on the lion's share of prep work for FAD many years ago, when I was starting to lose steam. A lot of our membership (especially me) leaned on him to "get it ready". We all stepped up during the event but, truthfully, the success of these events was in the planning and pre-work as much as it was the actual show. So..... Will, as you see what appears to be a pretty great event coming up this year, realize giving me (and others) a break for all those years allowed the enthusiasm to come back just as you were stepping away (well, actually moving away). Also, the reality of our event continuing was very sobering after losing you. THANKS FOR EVERYTHING YOU HAVE DONE FOR EAA CHAPTER 439 over the years!!

Another major contributor to getting the funds to host a great event has been Craig Nowak. He has pounded the businesses like we've never done before. Craig has literally approached 60, 70, maybe even 80 businesses for sponsorship, with amazing results. David Pasihow has had awesome success finding us the "Big Donors", and securing another "Brought to you by" sponsor (\$3,000) in Boss Snowplow. David has also been instrumental (and donated) several new options for kids, including the Kiddie Train AND Drones (in enclosed tents). We will clearly need more hands on deck next weekend, but the show should be a lot of fun, for both the public and our chapter! Just as we finish the exterior of our new hangar (and we've gotten this far without ANY debt), we're seeing some renewed excitement in our chapter. In my opinion, this is just the start of a new "Chapter" (pun intended) of fun and activities for EAA Chapter 439!

After much discussion and in person meetings, the Chapter has agreed (as well as the DCPA, Dickinson County Pilot's Association) can use our facility for monthly meetings going forward. The DCPA has been declining in membership and activities, mostly because we're not getting an influx of new members. The fixed costs to own and maintain a facility (taxes, insurance, utilities, etc.) have been eating on the dwindling reserves. The county, with an interest in keeping the DCPA alive (they are the oldest established pilot's club in Michigan) asked us to take them in and intend to renovate and repurpose the DCPA Club house. With that request, the county has designated \$30,000 in funds for Chapter 439 to get a great start at completing the interior work, likely allowing us to finish the west section (bathrooms, mechanical room, meeting and storage rooms, and heating and plumbing for those areas as well). Insulating and completing the main hangar can be a second phase when funds allow.

Membership has had a drastic improvement over the last 6-9 months. Thanks everyone who has stepped up and gotten current again. That issue was more our fault than our member's fault. We were doing a marginal job in advising when members expired. Hopefully the manner in which we are getting the newsletters out is keeping our membership informed. We appreciate it.

We are going to have a meeting at 9 AM at our chapter hangar on Saturday morning. We have a lot of things to discuss in our final preparations for FAD. Hopefully we will see a good turnout!!

Tom Sullivan



# Editor's Section



Hello everyone, I don't know about you but it's been a very busy last few weeks for myself. I always have a hundred things going on all at once but these past few weeks have been more hectic than normal. If you would like to know you can read all about it on the next page. Ford airport day is right around the corner and I know Bryan is still



looking for Young Eagle volunteer's. If you have an airplane and would like to donate your time connect with Bryan and let him know, his contact information is [bryangranholt@yahoo.com](mailto:bryangranholt@yahoo.com). If anyone takes pictures during Ford Airport and would like to share them for the newsletter send them my way, my contact information is [bruce.stonge@outlook.com](mailto:bruce.stonge@outlook.com); more pictures the better.

# Behind the door

This month I'm not going to be talking much about behind the actual aircraft door but how to get to that front seat with a moving view; or my journey to get there. I started flying when I was still in High School, I was fifteen-years old when I took my first flight lesson. I remember it like it was yesterday, in a little red and white Cessna 150 with a N- number of 10106; funny how we can remember those numbers. Fast forward to where I applied to my first airline job of Great Lakes Airlines and I flew the EMB-120 also called the Brasilia, it also has another name by pilots who flew it we called it the killzillia; that story for another day. Now most would think you would make more than being a baggage handler. At that time there was an excess of pilots and not a lot of pilot jobs. I actually made more money throwing bags for Northwest (Delta) than I did flying for Great Lakes. My first year I made just a little over fourteen thousand dollars yes, you read correctly one-four-thousand dollars. My airline career has taken me in all different directions between the 2008 recession, the age 65 rule, covid-19, and now another recession that's not really affecting the airline much thank goodness! I've been very lucky in my career to fly everything from a Cessna 150 up to a Boeing 747. Traveled the world, but even though the 747 is a pilots airplane I knew I didn't want to do that forever. It was just during Covid I flew the 747 for a cargo airline to merely have a job; a cool job at that where I saw the world. After the cargo airline I went to Southwest and a great opportunity that was because I wanted to spend more time with my son. At the cargo airline I was gone seventeen to twenty days and home for ten. When Southwest called I went for a better quality of life and to spend time with my son and to this day I say thank you for Southwest for that! Just recently, I found my way to my dream job one of the major three legacies. I'm proud to say that I'm part of the American Airlines family. It still hasn't hit me that I work for American because it's a dream come true. Just like my old N number off my airplane that I used to own 508BD. The BD stood for Bruce's dream and now that has been fulfilled. A very long eighteen year dream but now I can say mission accomplished! The mission would not been accomplished without the support from friends and family! I could type a fifty-page paper on all the steps I took to become an American Airlines pilot but that might bore some of you, so if anyone wants to know the full story and not the cliff notes I would be more than happy to talk about it especially those who are in high school wondering on what it takes.

## EAA Webinars

**Register at: Webinars** <https://eaa.org/eaa/news-and-publications/eaa-webinars>

*All webinars are 7 pm CDT unless otherwise noted*

9/21/22*	FAA Enforcement Process	James C. and Allan F,
9/28/22*	Flying with Datalink Weather	John Zimmerman
10/5/22**	Maintenance Cost On a short lease	Mike Busch

*\* Qualifies for FAA Wings credit.*

*\*\* Qualifies for FAA Wings and AMT credit.*

*Did you miss a webinar? Here's the webpage so you can watch the recording* <https://www.eaa.org/Videos/Webinars>



## Fly-In's

***All times are central time unless noted***



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9/21/22	1700-1900	Fly-in Food Fest	Watertown, WI
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9/24/22	0800-1200	Breakfast Fly-in	Cable Union, WI
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10/1/22	1000-1300	YE Rally	Waukesha, WI
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ONTONAGON COUNTY AIRPORT-SCHUSTER FIELD (OGM)  
35932 Airport Rd. Ontonagon, MI 906-884-6214 [airportmgr@ontonagoncounty.org](mailto:airportmgr@ontonagoncounty.org)

Join us for our 2nd Fall Color Fly-in/Drive-in; **ALL ARE WELCOME!**



Come and enjoy the beautiful fall colors as you fly or drive along the shores of Lake Superior  
Saturday, October 1, 2022, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.(EST)  
Lunch \$5.00



### 20-MINUTE AIRPLANE RIDES

\$50 adults/\$45 Children

Provided BY Scenic-AirRides.com (Duluth, MN)

**EARLYBIRD RIDES STARTING AT 9:00 a.m.**



**FREE RIDES** (first time introductory flights) for the first 25 youth-possibly more if time permits, ages 8-17;  
Rainchecks available for future rides.

Enter our drawings at the event for a chance to win one of many great prizes

- \* One lucky **"fly-in"** winner will receive a certificate for a future 2-day car rental from Al's Auto, a \$100 motel certificate at Scott's Superior Inn & Cabins, along with a \$15.00 gift certificate from UP North Café.
- \* Another lucky **"fly-in"** winner to receive a certificate for a future 1-night stay At Griswold's Lodge, along with a \$25.00 Syl's Cafe certificate.
- \* Two lucky **"drive-in"** winners will win a free 20-minute flight by Scenic-AirRides.
- \* Win one of two \$15.00 Gift Certificate for Connie's Place or \$15.00 Gift Certificate for Randall Bakery
- \* Gift Certificate for Vollwerth's King Of Meat Sampler Gift Box
- \* Sweatshirt from Yooper Casual or Item from Yooper Shirts

Displays by: M-64 Aero-Squadron Model Airplane Club  
Guardian Flight & AirMedCare Network  
Michigan State Police Patrol Car

Show Cars/Trucks  
SONCO AMBULANCE  
Additional may be added

**PILOTS 20-30 MILES FROM OGM CAN NOW KEY YOUR MIC 4X FOR LOCAL WEATHER-122.9**  
**VIEW ON FOREFLIGHT OR WEATHER UNDERGROUND:** <https://www.wunderground.com/dashboard/pws/KM1ONTON23>

Donations by: Al's Auto, Bread Of Life, Coca-Cola (Hancock bottling), Connie's Place, Griswold's Lodge, Ironwood Wal-Mart, Palo Popcorn Pat's Food, Pepsi Bottling (Houghton), Randall Bakery, Scenic-Rides.com, Scott's Superior Inn & Cabins, Sunday Lake Market, Syl's Café, Up North Café, Vollwerth's, Yooper Casual, Yooper shirts



Sunset Pictures by Tom on his test flight of his Mooney Rocket





**EAA Chapter 439**  
**P.O. Box 264**  
**Quinnesec, MI 49876**

**EAA CHAPTER 439 OFFICERS**

**Chairman of the Board:** Whitey Jensen N3079 E-Bar D RD Iron Mountain, MI 49801 906-774-5550 [tljensen13@gmail.com](mailto:tljensen13@gmail.com)  
**President/Treasurer:** Tom Sullivan P.O. Box 264 - Quinnesec, MI 49876 906-774-0098 [toms1@chartermi.net](mailto:toms1@chartermi.net)  
**Executive Vice President:** Chad Kubick, 400 Vulcan St, Iron Mountain, MI 49801 906-779-5500 [chad@kubickaviation.com](mailto:chad@kubickaviation.com)  
**Vice President:** Scott Trask N4592 Bass Lake Road, Iron Mountain, MI 49801 906-779-9157 [sctrask@icloud.com](mailto:sctrask@icloud.com)  
**Secretary:** Will Kroeger P.O. Box 159 Felch, MI 49831 906-241-9070 [wkroeger@alphacomm.net](mailto:wkroeger@alphacomm.net)  
**Newsletter Editor:** Bruce StOnge PO Box 292 Quinnesec, MI 49876 906-282-7647 [bruce.stonge@outlook.com](mailto:bruce.stonge@outlook.com)  
**Web Editor:** Mike Betti W8310 Johnson Road Iron Mountain, MI 49801 906-779-1368 [mbetti59@charter.ne](mailto:mbetti59@charter.ne)  
**YE Coordinator:** Scott Trask N4592 Bass Lake Road Iron Mountain, MI 49801 906-779-9157 [sctrask@icloud.com](mailto:sctrask@icloud.com)  
**Membership Coordinator/Nominating Chairman:**  
**Board members:** Officers + Dean Hensel, Craig Nowak, Walter Charter, Dave Houseman, Maxine Nowak

**Dues are \$15.00 a year (\$25 for mailed newsletter)! From August 1st Please send them to above address.**  
**Website:** <http://chapters.eaa.org/aaa439>.