

# The Beacon

The newsletter of Chapter 54  
Lake Elmo, Minn.

April 2020



**21D** RCO 118.625 COM 122.8 AWOS 120.075 Elev. 1932'  
Runways **4-22** (2497' x 75') **14-32** (2850' x 75')

**Chapter House, South Airport Entrance at the Beacon**

Chapter Meetings 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of Each Month

7:00pm social 7:30pm Meeting

## Who's currently who in Ch.54:

[www.eaa54.org](http://www.eaa54.org)

**President:** Leif Erickson

[president@eaa54.org](mailto:president@eaa54.org)

**Vice Pres:** Gregg Adler

[vicepresident@eaa54.org](mailto:vicepresident@eaa54.org)

**Treasurer:** Tom Gibbons

[treasurer@eaa54.org](mailto:treasurer@eaa54.org)

**Secretary:** *your name here?*

[secretary@eaa54.org](mailto:secretary@eaa54.org)

**Education Dir:** *your name here?*

[education@eaa54.org](mailto:education@eaa54.org)

**Housing Dir:** Dan Bergstrom

[housing@eaa54.org](mailto:housing@eaa54.org)

**Membership Dir:** John Renwick

[membership@eaa54.org](mailto:membership@eaa54.org)

**Young Eagles Dir:** Scott Hanson

[youngeagles@eaa54.org](mailto:youngeagles@eaa54.org)

**Newsletter Ed:** Marlon Gunderson

[newsletter@eaa54.org](mailto:newsletter@eaa54.org)

**Webmaster:** Michael McKinnon

[webmaster@eaa54.org](mailto:webmaster@eaa54.org)

**Directors, Class2:** Dave Syverson,

Paul Hove, Jeff Hove

**Social Media guy:** *your name here!*

[socialmedia@eaa54.org](mailto:socialmedia@eaa54.org)

## Inside this Issue:

Editor's Intro	1	RAAC Meeting Report	4-5
President's Desk	2	21D Airport Improvement Update	5-6
March Meeting Notes	2-3	Sport Aviation Appreciation	6-7
Membership Introductions	4	3/9/20 Business Meeting Notes	7-8
EAA COVID-19 Guidance	4	Jan and Feb Meeting Notes	8-9

## Editor's Intro (Marlon Gunderson)

Chapter 54 has been fortunate to have a string of talented and accomplished newsletter editors. At the March chapter meeting last week I spotted 3 emeritus newsletter editors in attendance: Bob Collins, Tom Gibbons, and Dale Seitzer who together have carried the newsletter for most of the last 20 years (I can only remember one other during that time--Bob Waldron). All of these guys deserve much gratitude from our members for their service to the chapter in years past. It's been almost a year since a newsletter went out and even longer than that since the editor's job has been vacant, so it looks like the perfect opportunity for me to land a job for which I have little talent and no qualifications. I promise to challenge your tolerance for poor writing and media presentation no more than once per quarter and to willingly surrender this position to the first of you who realize you have the talent and destiny to do this job as it was meant to be done.

I've been a Chapter 54 member since Y2K when I moved to Lake Elmo, joining under the storied Bill Schanks administration, who became my flight instructor, trained me in my own airplane, and sent me to my grilling by Waldo Anderson for my private pilot flight examination 16 years ago. I've seen a procession of dedicated presidents in the last 20 years at Chapter 54: Bill Schanks, Dale Rupp, Paul Hove, Dale Seitzer, Leif Erickson, Bettie Seitzer, Jim Pearsall, Jack Miller, and Leif Erickson again, along with a host of dedicated directors in all variety of posts. During these two decades, I have contributed only in smaller ancillary roles, from Chapter House fund-raising chair, to webmaster, to Aviation Day 2<sup>nd</sup> shift kitchen manager, to Aviation day flag person, to MAC 21D Community Engagement Panel member, with some extended hiatuses in between when other

commitments made it tough to even make it to the meetings. But with the nest empty for a while now (and in a social isolation experiment) and with Leif's recent appeal to "take your turn" backed up by his own self-sacrifice (another round at the top), this seems the right time for me to find a way to contribute more to the chapter. I encourage each of you out there waiting to 'take your turn' to consider one of the other open posts at the chapter: secretary, education director, and social media specialist. I'll also add that, like my predecessors, I am depending on you to send content of local interest my way to share with the membership. The newsletter is much better with input from all of you, and the frequency of it's production will depend on the content that comes my way.

Chapter 54 members are a talented and friendly group who have helped me enjoy the hobby of aviation and to become a safer and better pilot. I've enjoyed visiting with you at the club house, around the field at 21D, and all across the state at pancake breakfasts, out for the \$100 hamburger, and over at Oshkosh for the little show EAA puts on in July. We all have our own particular focus in our EAA involvement and appreciation. Mine is sharing the fun of aviation with other pilots and learning from each other to keep our airplanes safe and our flying skills current. I look forward to another safe and memorable flying season with you all. You'll hear about some of it in newsletters to come.

### **President's Desk (Leif Erickson)**

Thanks to all who attended the March Meeting and to Jeff Hove for taking/providing notes. The presentation by Kevin Gruys was well received. Please see Jeff's notes below for a brief summary of the information Kevin presented. The "Notes" are not the official "Minutes" of the meeting. Official Minutes are generated by a duly-elected Secretary. Since we still do not have a secretary, there are no official minutes. Folks, we still waiting for someone to step up for this position. Remember to be a successful organization "Everyone takes a turn".

A BIG SHOUTOUT to our Housing Director Dan Bergstrom and board member Jeff Hove.

For those of you that attended the meeting, you noticed a HUGE improvement in the clubhouse entryway. Dan did something that has needed doing for many years. He cleaned up, and removed all the stuff/junk/whatever you want to call it, from the shelf on the right side of the entry, as you come in. Dan, the entry looks 1,000% better. Watch for more improvements still in the works.

Turns out there were two items on the shelf that required extra attention; one was a partially built pedal plane, and the other a engine cowl part for a Bonanza (at least that was the consensus). With Jeff's help, the pedal plane was able to find new home. Hopefully someone who was willing to finish the project. There were no takers for the engine cowl part. Someone suggested whomever wants the part merely has to find several thousand other parts and they will have a new Bonanza. Now ... that being said, is anyone interested???? If no takers it may wind up on ebay or the dumpster.

Regarding the current COVID-19 Pandemic and National Emergency: Our board will follow the recommendations/guidelines received from EAA, including those copied in this newsletter below. If the treatment of COVID-19 continues to increase over the next few weeks, the board will evaluate the status of the April meeting ... it may have to be cancelled? We will keep you informed.

### **March 9 2020 7:30pm Chapter Meeting Notes (Jeff Hove)**

Gave away pedal plane.

Have bonanza cowl panel free to anyone who needs it, else we could try to sell online.

**Young Eagles Build & Fly:** cooperative with Sodbusters R/C club Robert Zarraccina also Anderson's R/C club at Lake Elmo

**Membership:** Chapter roster moving to EAA site

**Website:** migrating to EAA HQ supported site New website now using EAA's Young Eagles registration site for all chapters

**Flying Start Learn to Fly day:** May 6, 2020. Time TBD. Partner with LEA. Seminar and flights. Watched promotional video

**EAA Spirit of Aviation Tour:** June 13 & 14, Chippewa Valley, WI (KEAU) Need volunteers to staff the exhibit trailer and promote EAA Chapters Contact Gregg Adler (vicepresident@eaa54.org)

**VMC/IMC Clubs:** Nate Ruedy from LEA is Club Coordinator

**Greater MN Aviation Gathering** (MN Pilots Assoc) in Buffalo, MN (KCFE) Apr 24-25

Need volunteers [www.mnpilots.org/gmag/](http://www.mnpilots.org/gmag/)

**Vacant Positions: Need: Secretary, Education Director, Newsletter Editor, Social Media**



**Program: Kevin Gruys Aircraft & Marine Insurance Agency Tips (video plus commentary):**

1. Make sure if plane is registered to LLC that the named insured are listed.
2. Policy covers intended uses.
3. Let agent know if plane is modified: esp floats, skis, t/w conversion
4. Any changes that change the value of the plane
5. Where and how stored
6. Records: need proof of hours if have a claim. Esp if complex.
7. Liability Limits: LLC might not protect you. Get enough coverage. a. LLC can be “pierced” if not running as a corporation
8. Time in type
9. Hull Value. Claim is with A/C in as-is condition you can’t just take the new items back off
10. Policy Territory. Might not cover international, etc. Some exclude Alaska.
11. Contract. Let relatives know who your insurance is with.
12. Named pilot vs Open Pilot: If meet requirements, covered either way, but named policy will not subrogate but could for open pilot. E.g. open pilot. Even just a phone call before could be enough to add them so covered.
13. Hangar Insurance: Why sudden increase? Fewer providers and some very large claims due to storms

## Membership Introductions (John Renwick)

**2/11/2020** Ed Schaefer joined our chapter. He's a private pilot, retired, and lives in Edina. Welcome, Ed!

**3/12/20** Please welcome new member Harry Fahl. He and his wife, Jean, live in Williamsburg, VA, but he's a

good friend of Dave Volker, and likes to camp with our chapter at Oshkosh. I met him there a couple of years ago, and he's planning to join us again this summer. Harry is a master gardener, and he's worked on restoring a B-52 at the Yankee Air Museum at the former Willow Run airport near Detroit. He gets around!

## EAA GENERAL GUIDANCE TO YOUNG EAGLES RALLIES/CHAPTER EVENTS REGARDING CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) (3/11/2020)

A number of EAA chapters have contacted headquarters regarding guidance, options, and cautions regarding chapter events, particularly Young Eagles rallies and fly-ins, in conjunction with the coronavirus. Here is some general guidance for those chapter leaders:

1. Communicate with your local public health officials (city, county, etc.). They will have the best overview on the local situation regarding public events. If there is low risk in continuing, decide accordingly. If there are situations such as school district closings, advisories against large gatherings, and so forth, postponing your event might be prudent.
2. Assure Young Eagles parents and your volunteers that if the event goes as planned, extra health precautions will be in place. Some of those suggestions are listed below. Make sure all volunteers follow them.
3. Volunteers who do not feel well should not participate in a chapter event.
4. Emphasize that the safety and health of all is the primary priority in any decision that is made.
5. In the case of Young Eagles rallies, additional steps such as wiping headsets, control yolks/sticks, and commonly touched surfaces with disinfectant wipes after each flight may be an excellent option.

These are general guidelines. Your local chapter has a better gauge on the situation in your community than we at EAA headquarters.

We will continue to advise chapters of the latest information we have available.

## Reliever Airports Advisory Council meeting report (John Renwick)

Hi everyone,

We had a pretty interesting RAAC meeting at the MAC headquarters this evening. Joe Harris became director of reliever airports last summer, and he's doing some good things.

Dana Nelson, who used to work in the MAC Noise office, now heads a new department, Stakeholder Engagement. That's us, plus airport neighbors, and others. Dana gave us a schedule of events for this year (attached), which includes an Airport User Appreciation BBQ at Lake Elmo Airport, Tuesday, July 14, 5-7PM. Y'all come! :-)

The MAC is always trying to find revenue-producing uses for property they own that can't be used for

aeronautical purposes. This kind of revenue would go to support the reliever airports. There's a possibility of a solar farm in vacant land north of the airport, between the railroad tracks, Manning Avenue, and 40th Street. This may or may not come to pass; it's very early in the process.

MAC has plotted out eight new building lots in the field across the road from the EAA54 clubhouse, where Mayer Aviation used to be. A row of four lots for 50x50 hangars on the north side of the field, and four more for 60x60 hangars to the south. They've all been spoken for by people who were on the waiting list. The ninth on the list was disappointed, of course, but they'll be building a new hangar on the lot currently occupied by the hangar that collapsed under

snow load last year, on the SW side of the airport. I don't know when construction of the new hangars will begin; That's up to the individual leaseholders. BTW, there are also new building lots at MIC, LVN, and FCM, so things are looking pretty good in that area.

On the 21D runway improvement project: This year will be devoted to the construction of the new 30th street, and preparing the ground for the new runways and taxiways. Actual construction of those won't be until 2021. I asked about the connector road between the north and south sides, but unfortunately that won't be done this year either. They didn't say when. Joe understands how difficult the left turn onto Manning Avenue can be; he did it yesterday.

The final Lake Elmo Joint Airport Zoning Board meeting will be on 3/25. Details later.

Robert Dockry has been conducting hangar inspections. He sent letters to all tenants in January, asking us to meet him at our hangars during two weeks in February. He got positive responses from about 40% of us. As those who responded now know, it's a very pleasant conversation with our landlord's representative. It's not an environmental inspection: he doesn't care how many gas cans you have. But it is a compliance inspection. The MAC wants to make sure tenants are using their hangars for aviation, and not living in them -- that's about it, besides just getting to know tenants a little better, and understanding better what's going on at the airports. So if you've got an airplane in your hangar, and you don't have a bed there, make an appoint with Robert. You won't be sorry.

Joe Harris got more than 500 responses to his reliever airport user survey. Thank you all who responded! It's in the hands of an outside company to analyze the results, which Joe will report at the next meeting.

Lastly, tragedy. There was a fatal accident with a hangar door at FCM a couple of weeks ago. A tenant's son was standing under the door while it was being raised. The gearbox failed, and the door fell. Accidents like this don't need to happen. How old is your hangar door, and when was it last looked at? Nuf said.

Happy landings!



**2020 MAC Events**

April 14 – Downtown Airport Advisory Council (DAAC) Kick-Off Social Event

- 4 pm – 6 pm
- STP airport terminal
- Free food

April 15 – Anoka Airport Advisory Commission Kick-Off Social Event

- 4 pm – 6 pm
- Lynx FBO
- Free food

Great Minnesota Aviation Gathering, Buffalo

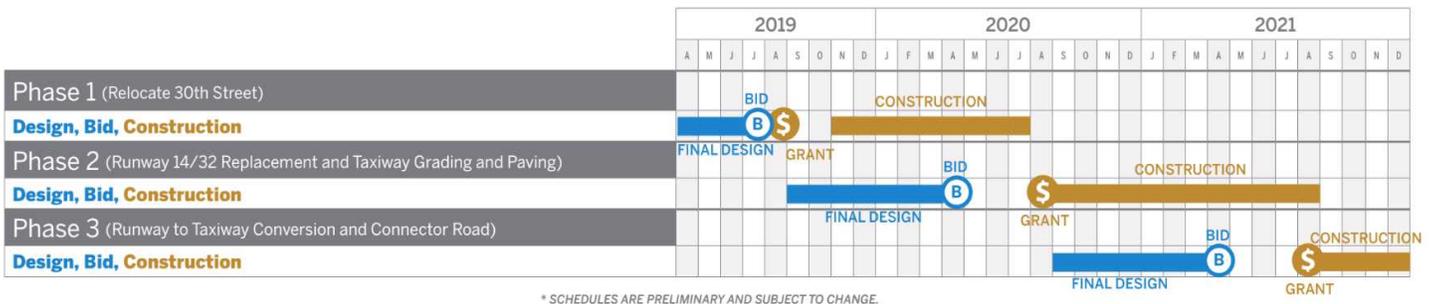
- April 24-25
- 9am – 5pm both days

Airport User Appreciation BBQs

- Flying Cloud – May 20 (5-7p)
- St. Paul Downtown – June 16 (11a-1p)
- Crystal – June 24 (5-7p)
- Lake Elmo – July 14 (5-7p)
- Airlake – August 5 (5-7p)
- Anoka – September 14 (5-7p)

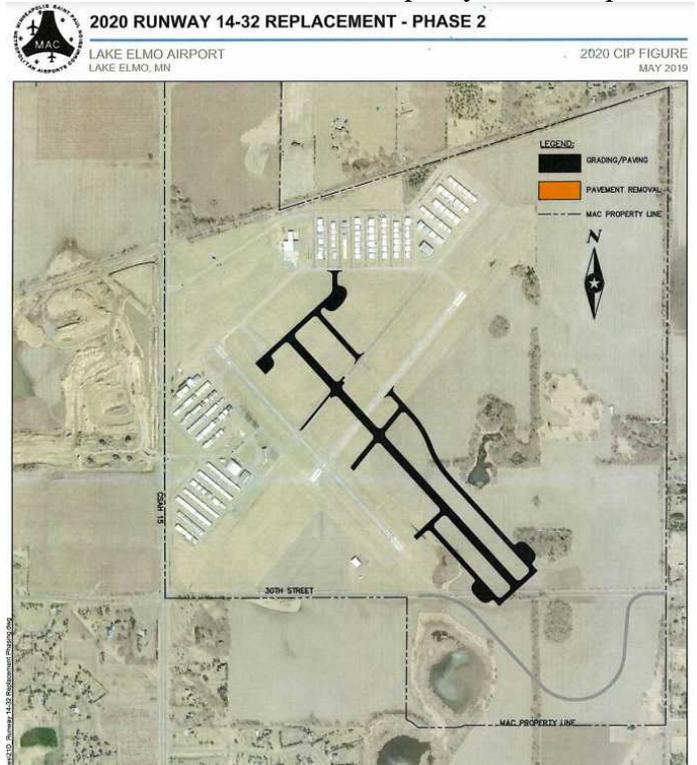
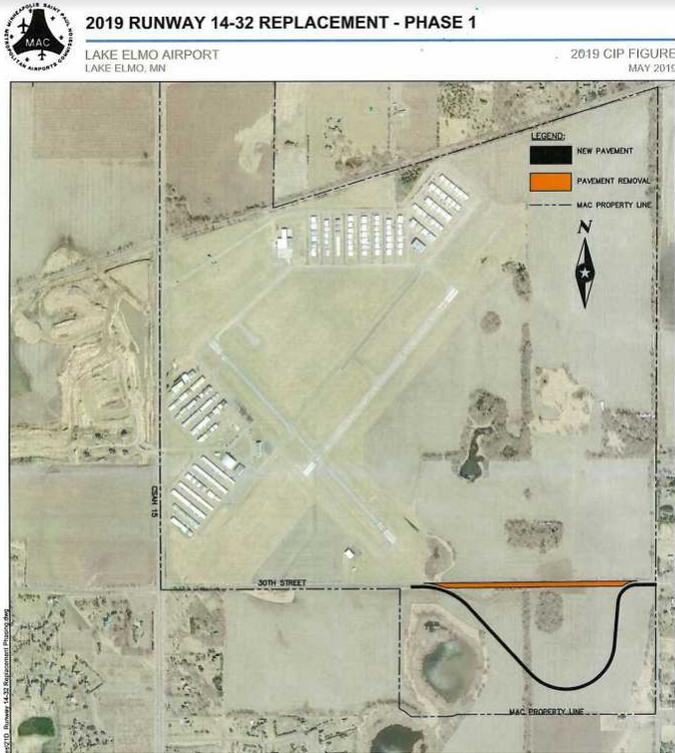
Oshkosh AirVenture, MAC booth

- Partnering with MnDOT Aeronautics
- July 21 and July 22 (Tues-Wed) from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. both days



# Lake Elmo Airport 21D Improvement Report

We should be mid-way through Phase 1 according to the preliminary schedule, and from John's RAAC report it sounds like we should complete Phase 1 this year and parts of Phase 2, which looks to be pretty much on plan.



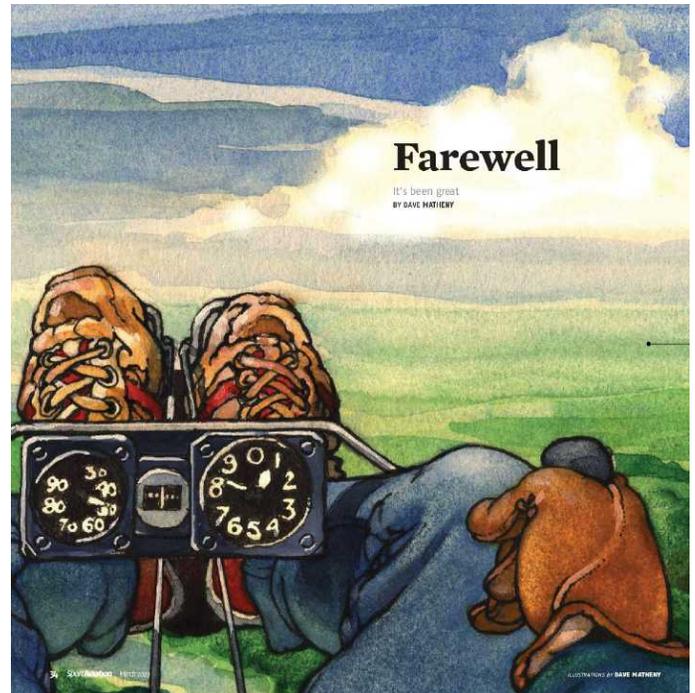
## Appreciating Sport Aviation (Marlon Gunderson)

One of the activities that helps me enjoy, or at least survive, a winter in Minnesota is having the time to more thoroughly read the monthly Sport Aviation magazine courtesy of our national EAA membership. I particularly enjoyed and savored the March issue, reading it cover to cover. By July, I'm usually so busy enjoying the outdoors and daylight that I only cursorily scan it and toss it on a pile that I never get back to.

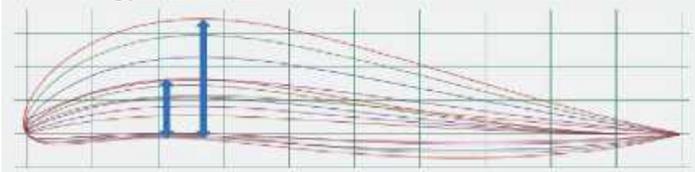
The March issue sadly included the final column from local treasure Dave Metheny. His artwork and humor have been a staple of the magazine for nearly two decades and much appreciated by folks like me who started out in ultralights. A few of us in the chapter had the good fortune to share adventures with Dave via the MN UL Assn and the group at the Northern Sun Ultralight Airpark on the south edge of Lake Elmo, the one now hemmed in by housing on all sides, and closed.

My favorite contributor to the magazine to date, Jeff Skiles, also left last year when, probably best for him, he went back to his commercial flying career after his

detour through fame alongside Sully. We were lucky to have his humor, broad flight experience, passion for being in the air, and excellent story telling. I felt he was a modern day Ernest Gann, one of my favorite aviation authors.



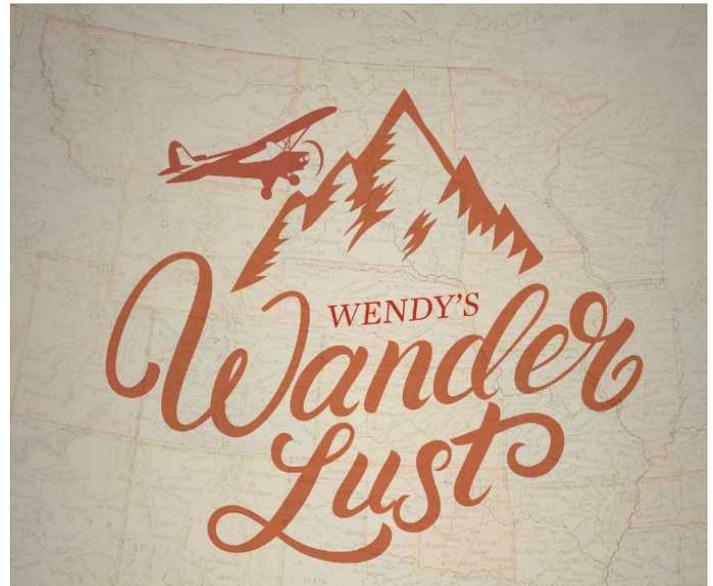
Fortunately we seem to get a continual stream of fresh voices coming to Sport Aviation. Beth Stanton joined the staff recently and has put out a string of very well written articles including *three* in the March issue, one fascinating article on morphing wing technology,



one great story about the forty year history of the last flying Variviggen, Burt Rutan's first EAB design, of which only 20 were ever completed,



and a fun article, Wendy's Wonderlust, about a woman late to aviation who has now widely traveled the country in her Piper Super (Duper) Cruiser.



I believe Beth Stanton is the same Beth Stanton who wrote for the IEEE Spectrum magazine that came monthly with my membership to that organization and where she also distinguished herself with excellent technology articles for a general audience of engineers. She says she 'majored in English because it involved the least amount of math, [and] finds it hilarious that now she is a pilot and writes stories about airplanes and technical stuff.'

Hal Bryan also contributed a page turner in March with his story about the budding career of NOAA P3 Hurricane Chaser pilot Kevin Doremus. I'll look forward to more stories by Hal.

### **EAA54 Business Meeting 03/09/2020 5:45pm (notes from Jeff Hove)**

In Attendance: Leif Erickson, Jeff Hove, Dan Bergstrom, Paul Rankin, David Syverson, Gordon Leighton Thron and Nathan Ruedy from Lake Elmo Aero Scott Hanson Tom Gibbons (joined later)

Previous meeting Minutes: Minutes from February meeting: approved

Finance: (No Report)

**OLD BUSINESS:** EAA Young Eagles Build and Fly program Paul Anderson (informal R/C club based at Lake Elmo) interested Sod Busters says yes. Would like to host an EAA day. EAA provides \$500 cost-sharing for the kit

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. VMC/IMC Clubs Nate Ruedy, Leighton from Lake Elmo Aero:

- FCM has these clubs and very popular: 50 people/WEEK.
- Nate suggests monthly meeting, alternating between VMC and IMC
- Guided Discussion, Different discussion topic each meeting
- LEA instructors are ready to support

- Start by May or earlier. Ok to use Clubhouse.
- Dates to be determined – coord to avoid conflict with other chapters.
- Jeff H: combine with fly-out events? E.g. plan and brief a trip, emphasizing certain skills, take the trip, then debrief

## 2. Flying Start: May 16

- Watch EAA promotional video
- EAA PowerPoint program
- Combine with LEA. EAA provide coffee/donuts.
- Advertising – Leif has
- Need volunteer pilots to give rides
- Greg: have promo material ready for April mtg so members can take and distribute Leif will use EventBright on FB page, GoogleGroup email to contact members EAA Press Release templates to send to local newspapers Greg: cooperate with Forest Lake EAA chapter Motion to proceed: Greg and Scott: approved unanimously Leif volunteered to give the Presentation about EAA, let LEA do the Learning to Fly

**Eagles Flight:** Once person passes written test, will be reimbursed \$150

**OLD BUSINESS: Membership:** (No report, John not present)

**Website:** (Mike not present, represented by Scott Hanson and Jeff Hove) Secure “SSL” Certificate needed \$60/yr Scott: We continue to host our old site on Network Solutions and still need it for hosting our photos and newsletters. By getting SSL Cert we can embed links on new EAA hosted SiteCore site, to link back to our old site for photos. Required to be in “a secure method”. This will convert our old site to https. Motion by Paul Hove, 2nd by Tom G, vote approved unanimously. Paul H? who will fill out app: Scott: Mike McKinnon Tom G: how will we get billed? Scott: billed through Network Solutions

**Young Eagles:** Scott H 13 signed up, Using new site’s sign up feature

**Spirit of Aviation Tour at Eau Claire:** Gregg Adler (to promote EAA)

- Gregg: plan to advertise EAA54 at the event.
- We would man the EAA HQ trailer. Be there to discuss chapters.
- Jun 13-14
- Jeff H: would be nice to have website chapter locator to help visitors from anywhere

**Greater MN Aviation Gathering:** GMAG2020 Buffalo, MN Apr 24-25

Need volunteers to man EAA booth

**Eagle Flight:** Dave Syverson

Applicant: Mathew Simanski Note: Learn to Fly day May 16. Dave: on-track now. The Registration form must be completed before the flight. No longer on-line pdf. Have to order forms. Once person passes written test, will be reimbursed \$150

**Future:** Fund-raiser, Corn Feed, Grill repairs, Club-house: Back room cleanup, Jeff H: Pedal Plane project is free to who wants it. Complete except for nose, spinner, sheet metal and some decals. Found website still selling parts. Picnic: Kevin

**Motion to Adjourn:** Scott, Jack, approved.

6:47p meeting adjourned

## February 10, 2020 Chapter Meeting Notes (Marlon Gunderson)

The February meeting of the Speed Holman chapter featured Colonel Dick Leighninger, from the South St. Paul Commemorative Air Force Minnesota Wing. This was an entertaining and informative account of the history of the CAF and Minnesota's CAF 'Wing' at Fleming Field. Ch.54 member Danny Bergstrom is also a member and frequent volunteer with the wing, and provided some color from a pilot and mechanic's perspective (Dick is neither and is more on the

organization side).



The SGS Wing has restored and maintains a small fleet of WWII era aircraft consisting of an L-5 Sentinal, an

L-17 Navion, a Ryan PT-22, a BT-13 Vultee, and “Miss Mitchell” their pristine B-25 medium bomber. The Vultee is nicknamed “The Vibrator”, more indicative of what it did to building windows than to a pilot's body.



There were a small number of visiting guests at this meeting and unfortunately I was only able to speak with one visitor long enough to pick up some background to share. I spoke with Tim Sullivan who is a transplant from Southern California living in Lakeville who came to visit Chapter 54 to try find a more active club than ones available nearer to him. Tim is building his second Zodiac EAB aircraft and deep into restoring an O-290 engine for it. We hope Tim will join us again.

**January 13, 2020 Chapter Meeting Notes (Leif Erickson)**

Chapter 54 members who attended the January meeting enjoyed three great presentations and food. The first presentation was by Sharon (did not get her last name). She promoted a Spaghetti Dinner and Flight Expo Inc, a non-profit group to engage young people in learning airplane building skills. See the attached flyer and brochure. The second presentation was by Dave Retka. He represented the Isle Airport Association. He described their efforts to preserve the Isle Airport (MY72) from closing. The airport is located in Isle, MN along the SE shore of Mille Lacs Lake. See the attached brochure. They are looking for help. Interested? You can support their efforts by joining the Isle Flying Club. Finally we had an hour-

long presentation by AME Dr. Randle Corfman. He talked mainly about the benefits of the new FAA BasicMed program and answered many questions from those in attendance. See his attached business card from the Minnesota Pilots Association. In addition, we started the evening being treated to delicious Texas-Style chili prepared by our new Vice President Gregg Adler.

We had a great turn out of members. The clubhouse was nearly packed. They key word there is “nearly”. There was a chair available for you ... had you attended. You would have enjoyed the food and all three presentations. The presentations were entertaining and informative.

**Calendar of Events, Shared by Kim of Benson EAA Chapter 745**

Mar 21, 2020	EAA 745 Coffee and Donuts 9am-noon White Bear Lake MN (6MN9)
Apr 18, 2020	EAA 745 Coffee and Donuts 9am-noon White Bear Lake MN (6MN9)
Apr 24-25, 2020	Great MN Aviation Gathering Buffalo MN (KCFE)
Apr 25, 2020	EAA 919 Chili Feed 8am til Gone Rushford MN (55Y)
Apr 25, 2020	CAP 132 Hangar Dance Silent Auction 7-10pmOwatonna MN (KOWA)
May 16, 2020	EAA 745 Coffee and Donuts 9am-noon White Bear Lake MN (6MN9)
Jun 14, 2020	Pancake Breakfast Flyin 8am-2pm PIC Free Rush City MN (KROS)
Jun 28, 2020	Rotary Club Flyin Breakfast 8am-noon Redwood Falls MN (KRWF)
Jul 3-5, 2020	Starbuck flyin Starbuck MN (D32)
Jul 5, 2020	Lions Pancake Breakfast PIC Free 7am-1pm Austin MN (KAUM)
Jul 11-12, 2020	Mille Lacs flyin Saturday-Sunday Isle MN (MY72)
Jul 18-19, 2020	Wings of North AirExpo Flying Cloud Airport Eden Prairie MN (KFCM)
Aug 2, 2020	EAA 965 Pancake/Brats Breakfast 8am – 3pm Aitkin MN (KAIT)
Aug 9, 2020	MN Seaplane Pilots Flyin Surf Side Lino Lakes MN (8Y4)
Aug 9, 2020	Airshow 10am – 3pm Paynesville MN (KPEX)