



# The Beacon

The newsletter of Chapter 54  
Lake Elmo, Minn.

JUNE 2014

## June 2014

THE NEXT PROGRAM WILL BE ON MONDAY July 14, 2014

- 7:00 PM Social Period
- 7:30 PM, Chapter 54 Club House
- Gate B, Lake Elmo Airport
- **THERE WILL BE A SHORT BUSINESS MEETING FOLLOWING THE PRESENTATION**

## Upcoming Events

- July Chapter Meeting July 14, 2014
- July Young Eagles July 12, 2014
- Aviation Day Pancake Breakfast Aug 17, 2014 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM

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## June Off Site Event at Sod Busters Radio Controlled Airport.





## **FROM THE FLIGHT DECK (PRESIDENTS REPORT)**

*BY JIM PEARSALL, CHAPTER PRESIDENT*

Greetings Sport Flying Fans,

As I am writing this according to the schedule, Chapter 54 should be gathering to host our June Young Eagles event. Not today, called due to weather. Elsewhere within a short distance aeronautically speaking and enjoying the weather we had yesterday, EAA Pioneer Airport is having an Ultralight Fly-in. This looks like fun. Just for this event, it makes me want to get an ultralight. Let's see, trailer, airplane a little camping gear, no en-route weather hassles? Hmm, there is another story for the future.

Elsewhere, last month, Anoka had their Discover Aviation Days at ANE. I stopped up to check it out on Saturday and was amazed at the attendance. Focus of the displays was on historical aircraft, the museum was the center with possibly the largest collection of tri-motors anywhere. One of note on display and doing some flybys I believe was a Dee Howard design from recollection and a after a quick internet search, possibly a model 350. I wish I had gotten a picture or N Number not sure I have ever seen one of these. Also on display was a UK developed cross between an airplane and a helicopter designed to get everything out of the way of the observer to give a great view called an Edgley EA-7 Optica. Very interesting besides the view, it has a real-life as in flying in a real AC a ducted fan.

Back to Oshkosh. Besides putting next year's ultralight Pioneer Airport event on the calendar, I am scoping out what AirVenture is planning. I understand it is the 50th anniversary of the Homebuilt Breezy RLU-1. If this is not familiar, look it up. Trust me when I say when it comes to visibility it definitely gives the EA-7 a run for its money. To commemorate an anniversary gathering is planned complete with at least a coordinated arrival. There is evidence of almost 1000 of these in existence around the world. I do not think I have seen more than three or so on an airfield at one time and that was at OSH 10 years ago so THAT could be a rare sight.

If you are making plans for AirVenture, I would like to have the rest of the chapter know of these. Already we know Dale Seitzer will be presenting on the Sky Ranger, I know this is a not to miss for me. Many members will be flying in. Whatever you are planning, you should share with the chapter. I will be setting aside time at our July meeting to let folks share what they will be doing, who they plan to see or what they might shop for this year.

If you will be flying in, showing a UL from a trailer or plan to have a strategic location in the campground please let me know so I can put in your hands the large format poster to promote our Aviation Day event. This year we are producing some larger versions for your windscreen, pilot's seat, camper, whatever. Also helpful is to learn if anyone plans an early arrival to post flyers around the site bulletin boards. If you fit any of the above descriptions, see me at the July meeting or as always, email to [president@eaa.54](mailto:president@eaa.54).

See you on the flight line!



## What is an Eagle Flight

Everyone knows that Young Eagle flights are introductions to flying for youth from age 8 to 18. Our chapter is very active with Young Eagles and we have seen those who receive a Young Eagle ride go on to get their pilots license.

An Eagle flight is an introduction to flying for adults that follows some of the same guidelines. We want to share the joy and challenge of learning to fly with kids and adults. I've given 4 Eagle flights and it has been a positive experience for me and the Eagle flight participants. They complete the Eagle flight form which connects them with EAA so they get follow up email and postal mail that encourages them to pursue aviation.

They all took a lot of photos and one took some video and then shared on their social media outlets so hundreds of people saw his excitement and enjoyment so Eagle flights can yield much more positive impact than just the person getting the ride.

We always start with a general overview of the theory of flight, the plane and airport operations. We review the mission, where we will go and what we will do. I enjoy going to Forest Lake so they can see a big green turf runway. Just like Young Eagle flights, I wait for fairly calm weather usually early morning or evenings.

Mani Shanmugavel (top photo) is a former co-worker who is an IT project manager and Six Sigma Black belt from India. He lives in Woodbury and has said he wanted to learn to fly—his flight was very easy. He was already primed and liked the opportunity to see Valters and we talked about the training planes available. I gave a push for the Light Sport license and flying the Pipistrel Alpha trainer as a moderately priced option. I gave Mani the controls and he flew for about 15 minutes doing some gentle turns on our way from Forest Lake. The flight was about 45 minutes and we both had fun.

I also gave an Eagle flight to Innocent Mfalgundi. (Lower photo) He is a musician I have worked with since 1991. He was much more timid and cautious. He knew I flew airplanes and always expressed interest but declined until I offered the Eagle flight. He seemed more relaxed when I explained the flight would be a part of a larger initiative to increase awareness of the fun of flying and actually liked the fact that he needed to read, complete and sign the Eagle form. Innocent did not want to take the controls, he watched closely what I did and listened carefully as I explained the instruments and safety procedures.

I look forward to giving them both more rides—it is fun to share the activity that I find satisfying and rewarding and I hope they too can follow through and complete the process to learn to fly.

EAA Eagle Flights Link: <http://www.eaa.org/en/ea/aviation-communities-and-interests/aviation-beginners-and-newcomers/introductory-flights-for-free/ea-eagle-flights-program/learn-more-about-eagle-flights>



## EAA CHAPTER 54 TREASURER'S REPORT *By TOM GIBBONS*

I added a new drop box in the clubhouse today that will allow members to drop off their membership dues into if they choose to. Also you may add anything into the box that needs my attention. Inside is also a folder for the Membership Director to collect his forms. I have a note on the box stating that you please do not open unless you are a chapter officer not that anyone really needs to look inside.

I was thinking of having Dave Fiebiger mount it on the wall if possible.

Please let me know your thoughts if you have any.

*EDITORS NOTE: AS DISCUSSED AT A RECENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, THE TREASURER'S REPORT WILL NOW BE ON OUR WEBSITE AT [WWW.EAA54.ORG/MEMBERSONLY](http://WWW.EAA54.ORG/MEMBERSONLY)*



## Education Committee Report June 2014 by Leif Erickson.

The Farnsworth Hangar Tour for the second grade class was held on Thursday, June 22. Mother Nature treated the kids, Farnsworth staff, and Chapter 54 volunteers to a delightful spring day. This year over 100 kids participated. My thanks go to Dave Syverson, Joe Harris (and Brad) from the MAC, Bettie Seitzer, Dan Bergstrom, Dave Becker, and Marvin Sanderson (and fellow SodBusters RC Flying Club members) for their participation in the event. Dave Volker, Chip Berniard, Tom Gibbons, and Norm Weston also showed up to volunteer where ever they were needed. The highlight of the tour was Dan Bergstrom's flight demonstration in his Experimental Tailwind. It was very exciting for the kids to watch Dan do a takeoff, high-speed low-pass down runway 32, and a landing. Check out Dave Becker's photos in the Photo Gallery on the Chapter's website.

On Thursday, May 29 I helped judge the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade Science Fair Projects at Farnsworth. There were over 180 projects to be judged. Experiments ranged from determining the size of a crater generated by falling objects of different weight, to determining whether or not a person's heart rate is affected by listening to different styles of music. All the students were required to use the scientific method to conduct their experiment. The scientific method involves; 1) formulating the experiment in the form of a testable question, 2) developing an hypothesis, 3) choosing appropriate variables to collect data, 4) presenting the data in tables and graphs, and 5) drawing a conclusion, based solely upon the data, that either proves or disproves the hypothesis. The students were evaluated on; 1) their use of the scientific method, 2) their presentation skills (being articulate and maintaining eye contact when describing their work), 3) demonstrating knowledge of the scientific principles involved, and 4) the quality of their display and difficulty of the project. Overall it was a fun and rewarding experience both for the kids and the evaluators.

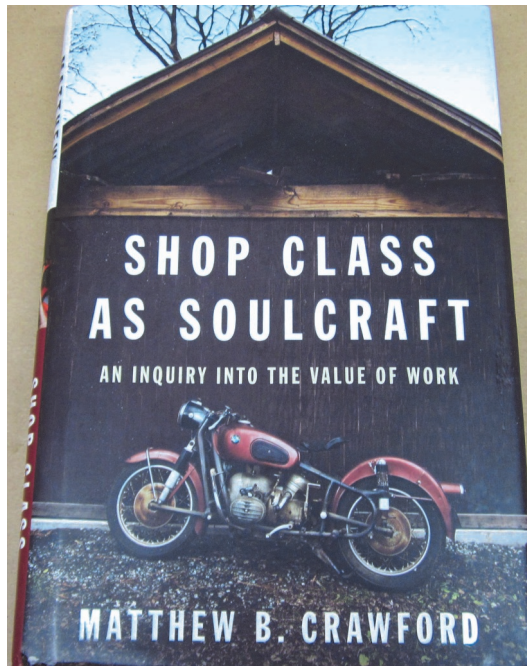
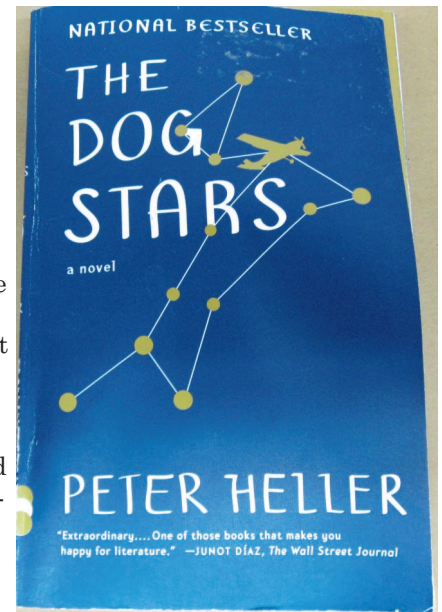
Finally, work is progressing on reconfiguring The Learning Jet from a FEDEX B-727 cargo aircraft to a classroom. The photo shown below indicates the progress being made on the walls. Volunteers are always welcome to help with the conversion. Contact Leif at 651-433-6755 if interested. Watch for The Learning Jet display at Flying Cloud Airport's Air Expo on July 19, 20, and the State Fair's STEM on the Stick exhibit on August 25. Check out the current status of the aircraft at [www.mnawa.org](http://www.mnawa.org) or on FaceBook and Twitter.





## Thumbnail Book Reviews — Recent Additions to the Chapter Library

The Dog Stars is a post-apocalyptic action book where the main characters are a man, his dog and a Cessna 182. The story which includes flying is very well done, excellent aviation sequences that really held my attention. The writing style tries to emulate a diary or weblog style. Very fast read and worth the effort.



Shop Class as Soulcraft is an exploration of the downfall of society as we have more machines which need so little care that we have forgotten that idiosyncrasies are the things that make the machines endearing to users. The author makes his point while telling stories of working on old motorcycles. This is more of an intellectual exercise but it definitely makes one pause and think.

Dependable Engines, The Story of Pratt & Whitney. This is a factual historical book about. I learned much about their piston engines but what was more fascinating was the development of the PT6 turboprop engine. Really cool story of the competition to design the early turbo-props inside and outside the company. The lesson is sometimes adversity

can force the team to be more creative and product better products.

Spitfire is a coffee table type book that has tons of neat photos and plenty of technical specifications. It is a little dry with fewer colorful stories but extremely accurate with a detailed, almost day by day description of its development and military action.



### Farnsworth Hangar Tour Thank You!

Dear Leif and EAA Chapter 54-

What a great day yesterday!! I met the busses when they returned each time and staff and students alike were very excited and impressed! Look for some student thank you letters soon!

Jill Wall, Program Manager

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## Airventure — EAA Convention

You find unique and interesting aircraft at Airventure in Oshkosh.

Did you know that volunteers can camp free during the show?

Did you know most of the grounds now has WIFI?

## Pilots Lounge

**HEATED HANGAR LAKE ELMO (21D) • \$55,000 • ACCEPTING OFFERS** • 40' x 40' heated hanger on North side of airport (27F). 36' electric bi-fold main door, 10' rear garage door with opener. Major remodeling done in 2012-2013 including: new blown in insulation - 24" in ceiling area, updated electrical, lots of new drywall and 6" fiberglass insulation in walls. Natural gas infrared heater (the type used in hockey rinks) Small office and storage area. Finish out the way that you want. Great hangar for a homebuilding project or two as you can work year around. Health issues require that we sell. All reasonable offers will be entertained. • Contact [John R. Weigel](mailto:john@theweigels.us) ([john@theweigels.us](mailto:john@theweigels.us)) • Telephone: 715-222-4777

## Tailwinds Flying Club Welcomes New Members

Tailwinds Flying Partnership is based at Lake Elmo airport, 21D, in Lake Elmo, MN. We are a non-profit corporation of 38 pilots who equally own three aircraft. Our goal and philosophy are to fly great airplanes inexpensively. We strive for consistency in equipment among our three airplanes. We currently have a Cirrus SR20, Archer II and a Cherokee Six.

To inquire about membership, please send an [e-mail to Mark](mailto:mark@tailwinds21d.org) or call 651-982-275.

Visit us at [www.tailwinds21d.org](http://www.tailwinds21d.org) to learn more.



## Chapter 54 Directory

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Chapter Historian: Jeff Hove

Chapter members meet on the second Monday of every month at the Chapter House, Entrance B at Lake Elmo Airport (21D). The House is at the base of the airport beacon. The newsletter is published about a week after the meeting..