

EAA Chapter 54

News

Speed Holman Chapter

Volume 40, Issue 6

JUNE MEETING

DATE: 6-9-97

TIME: 7:30 PM

LOCATION:

Chapter meeting room, Hanger 11C, Alpha Lane, Lake Elmo Airport

PROGRAM:

Gil Leiter and his Playmate aircraft.

Many years a building and many years of waiting for this opportunity.

See On The Move, page 4

JUNE YOUNG EAGLES

JUNE 7

TIME: 9:00 AM

LOCATION - The old Elmo Aero site.

PIG ROAST

TIME: 2:00 PM, ish.

LOCATION - Bravo Lane. It should not be difficult to locate. Follow the smell of a roasting pig.

Please plan on bringing your own lawn chairs or card table and chairs, plates, etc.

Steve expects about 100. Lets not disappoint him.

WORK PARTY

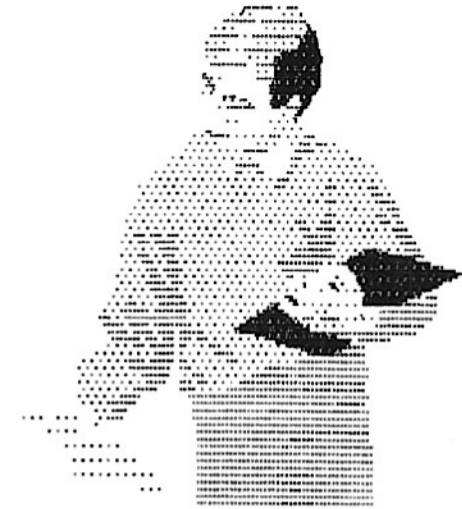
The weekend of May 5 and 6 again was a test of ability. The ability to be able to move on Sunday morning after working all day Saturday. There were many mons and groans.

Chapter 54 was represented by 11 members. Actually only 10 to begin with by we gained one new member over the weekend. More on the new member later.

Those that made the trip were; Steve Ogborn, Al Kupferschmidt (now called lucky Al), Dave Fiebiger, Gil and Barb Leiter, Art Edlund, Jerry Sarracco, Dick Wicklund, Dale Rupp, C. John Oison, (see C. John, C. John Who, on page 2) and last but not least our Florida correspondent Jack Doke. Jack hopped a United flight to Milwaukee to join in the fun.

Again this year the project was build sheet rock fire walls in a new 200 x 200 Butler bldg. Since the usual group from Indiana was not present less was accomplished. We only did a little over half the bldg.

(Work Continued Page 4)



MAY MEETING RECAP

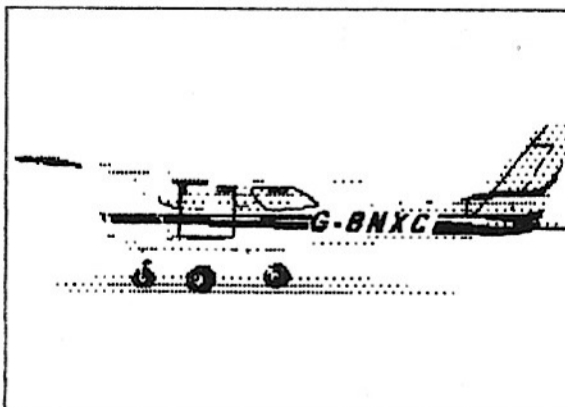
The May meeting was a tour of the Ballistics Recovery Systems (BRS) facility at Fleming Field, South St. Paul.

Chapter 54 previously toured BRS about 3 years ago. Since that time they have moved, now is one of the old Navy hangers, a larger facility.

In addition to the systems for Ultra-lights and a few homebuilts they are working with Cirris Aircraft of Duluth for a recovery system. Cirris will include a BRS chute in all of their single engine aircraft.

BRS is also working on a program with NASA and will have a display in the NASA building at Oshkosh '97.

Today there are 100 recorded saves attributed to their system. All, or most, Ultra lite aircraft. No certified aircraft have recorded any saves due to their system.



C. JOHN C. JOHN, WHO

By Art Edlund

C. John Olson is the newest member of Chapter 54. So new that very few members have met him. In fact only a limited number have ever met him.

Why is this. Because he lives many miles away from the Lake Elmo Airport. John lives in St. Charles, Illinois with his wife Ginny, who probably has met only one member of the chapter.

John is a double first cousin of the contributor.

Living in St. Charles gives John only a moderate drive to the 54 hanger on Alpha Lane.

Presently his is about 1/2 done with a Kit Fox project. The Kit Fox is intended to stimulate his memories of his U. S. Airforce days and flights in the F-86 during the Korean conflict - MAYBE.

John grew up in Fairmont, MN. He has been a enthusiastic EAA member for a number of years. He donates much time as a volunteer at Wittman Field (Where your newsletter editor and others met him.)

John began to appear at the work parties a few year back. He enjoyed the sessions with the members in attendance and this year announced that he wanted to become a member.

John completed a membership information card, actually a 3 x 5 card, and paid his dues right then.

John and I both received our initial inspiration and interest in flight from Uncle Charles Rodina, a original flying farmer from Minnesota. Uncle Charles had a Minnesota pilot listing as #100. Uncle Charles died at the age of 88 and was still flying a Champ up until his death.

BIT'S AND PIECES ABOUT UNCLE CHARLES.

BY rww

When Art submitted the above he also talked some about Uncle Charles. Uncle Charles learned to fly in I believe he said a Camel. Purchased a factory new Eaglerock and flew it home to Minnesota.

Perhaps C. John and Art could write about this interesting Uncle.

PROJECTS 1-2-3

Most every member knows 54's own Gene Frank. He is Rosemarys private chauffeur.

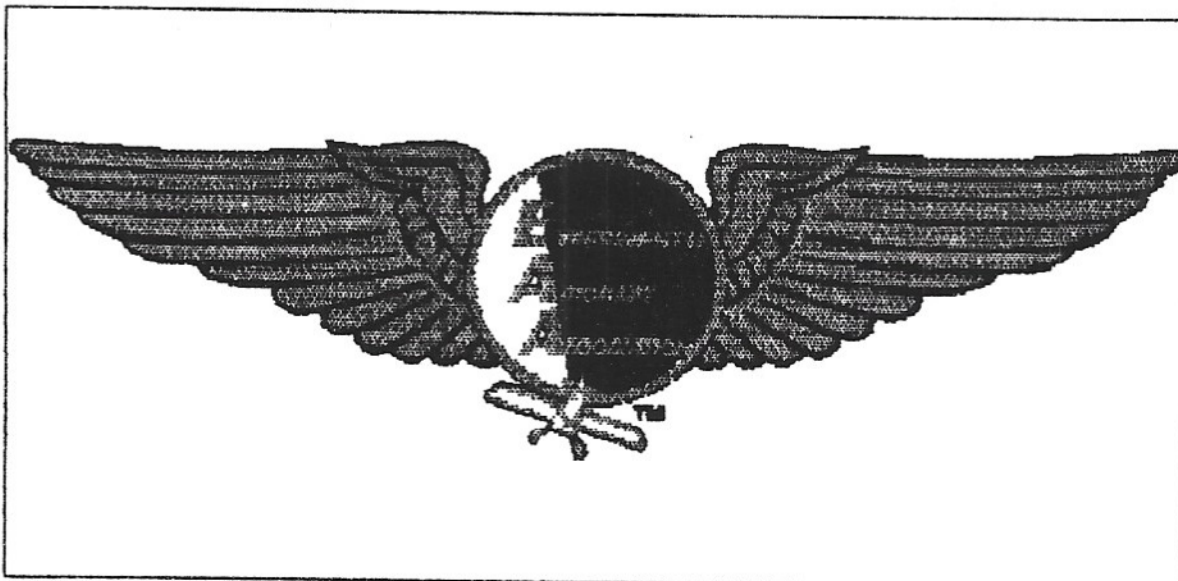
How many know that Gene has built not, not 2, but 3 homebuilts. He puts most of us to shame.

In 1972 Gene completed building a Benson Gyrocopter. Built completely from scratch and enjoyed for 10 years. He not only flew it but flew it all over the state and out of state. Yes, he did cheat a little and trailer it around from place to place. One time it was parked between a KC135 and a B52. This was at Kincheloe Air Force Base in Michigan. What a thrill for Gene, what a sight it must have been.

At Oshkosh '75 Rosemary got a ride on a "Breezy!! And what a thrill that was! Next question she had was "Gene, can you build one of those? Yes! Plans were sent for and in 1982, the Breezy was completed. It was 7 years in the building and built so Gene could share his love of "open air" flying. The Breezy was enjoyed by Chapter 54 members, their families and friends for 12 years. One very special ride was to Rosemary's mother Emma, age 80.

But, something was missing. Gene had a desire to build a "real" airplane. After much searching and consideration, the RV-6 was determined to be "the" real airplane.

(1-2-3 Cont'd page 3)



EAA CHAPTER 54

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Submissions for publication are encouraged and should be sent to:

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Permission for other EAA Chapters to use portions of the publication is granted as long as credit is acknowledged. Chapter 54 meets the second Monday of each month at hanger number 11C, Alpha Lane, Lake Elmo Airport, Lake Elmo MN.

Dues are \$20.00 per yr.

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777-9257

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Past Pres. - Dale Rupp

653-1054

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Dale Rupp 653-1054

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Bill Shanks 654-2420

Program Coordinator

Steve Ogborn 439-6956

PANCAKE BREAKFAST & FLY-IN

Chairman, Dan Parker and his committee recently met and set the date for this event. It will be Saturday August 16, with a rain date of the 17th. They also decided that PIC's would receive their breakfast free. Hours for the fly-in were set for 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

The committee determined that this year profits from the fly-in would be shared 50/50 with the Stillwater Area Early Childhood program.

Volunteers from this program will assist chapter 54 with the kitchen detail, as they have in past years.

Jerry Sarracco is in contact with FSS for the Mode C waiver. Once received he will contact Minnesota Flyer to have it published. Jerry has also contacted the Radio Control group regarding a display again this year. They indicated they will be here.

The National Guard has been contacted by Gary Miller regarding a display. Local fire and ambulance groups have also been contacted regarding their interest in setting up displays.

Members will be contacted regarding heading up some of the sub-committees. **NOW IS THE TIME TO CALL DAN AND VOLUNTEER.** This saves him valuable time. Along with this major responsibility Dan is also in the process of moving into a recently purchased home.

Valters Aviation has volunteered the use of its facility for the fly-in. Thanks Gatis.

The committee has already received promises of items to either raffle off or use as prizes.

Posters are expected soon.

The next committee meeting will be June 28 at Dan's hanger.

Hints and Tips by Gatis

As I write this blurb Bob Burroughs is preparing for his second trip to recover the Grumman Tiger he put down between two corn fields near Cardova, IL. Bob's discomfort initially occurred last month when his Lycoming O-360 swallowed a valve. Pieces of the broken valve rattled around inside the affected cylinder destroying piston, plugs and cylinder. This was accompanied by a violent shaking of the engine which necessitated an emergency landing.

Shortly after the incident Bob and an A&P friend returned to IL to replace the piston and cylinder. They also removed several pieces of the broken valve.

Repairs and run up completed, on the take off roll severe missing and vibration occurred. An initial examination revealed the spark plug electrodes were damaged. Subsequent cylinder removal indicated that a piece of the original valve had migrated from the first bad cylinder into the intake tubes and upon high power run up into an adjacent cylinder.

Since this incident we have received much advice about conducting a thorough examination on the complete intake and exhaust system whenever foreign material has been introduced into a cylinder. This advice may be too late for Bob, but a worthy consideration for any other pilot or A&P.

Gatis is the owner operator of Valters Aviation, Service Station, Inc. Lake Elmo Airport. Gatis can be contacted at 777-1399 daily.

(Work continued from Page 1)

As has been the tradition, Saturday evening was spent touring the museum. Perhaps it is the repetition of the tour, but, it just seemed to be less interesting.

The Docunt from last year was again on duty. He is interesting and does a good job. To me it just seemed flat. Perhaps it was just being overly tired.

As this is the year of Volunteer recognition EAA is attempting to do a few extra things. One addition was a drawing of 4 or 5 names for a ride in the Ford Tri-motor, scheduled for Sunday. At lunch Sunday it was announced that due to some unforeseen changes to the schedules the winner of the drawing would not get their ride. The good side of this was that everyone there got a ride.

This years ride was a trip around the city of Oshkosh, a photo pass down the strip and than landing. Lucky Al, aka Al Kupferschmidt, had the bad luck of being seated in the co-pilots seat. He runs faster. This meant that he had to fly the Tri-motor on the tour of the city. I am sure he still feels bad about this. Our pilot this year was Cody Walsh who is a Captain flying with Northwest Airlines.

Bill Shanks and Rae Kupferschmidt your talents were missed in the kitchen.

Since our return the following "Thank You" was received;

"Dick

Chapter 54's Volunteer effort this past week-end, is truly appreciated. The accomplishment in our new Exh. bldg. D is great.

Thanks again for the help."

Vern Lichtenberg

A SEPARATE "THANK YOU" FROM YOUR CHAPTER PRESIDENT.

If you have never taken part in the annual work party you are missing a good time. Plan ahead for next year. First weekend in May is the traditional time.

ON THE MOVE

Tuesday, May 20, 1997 was moving day for Gil's bird. This also meant a busy day for some of the more or less retired members of chapter 54.

At 8:00 AM Jim Anderson, Dale Rupp, Jerry Sarracco, Dave Fiebiger and Dick Wicklund met at Jim's hanger. Purpose, pick up Jim's new trailer. Destination, Gil Leiders home on the Eastside of St. Paul. Gary Miller joined the group at that point.

Shortly after 8:30 AM the job of loading Gil's Playmate homebuilt on to Jim's trailer began. Unfortunately it took three trips to make the move. If it had not been quite so windy perhaps one trip would have been sufficient.

Upon arrival the Playmate was unloaded and moved into a rented hanger. The final unlading was not completed until about 11:30 AM.

Now Gil can begin the final assembly of his plane.

All in all a heavy schedule for the retired group.

EAA CONVENTION NEEDS

EAA Oshkosh is looking for tram drivers and conductors. Dates of operation July 28 to August 5.

There are two shifts 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM and 2:00 PM to 8:00 PM.

To volunteer contact Jim Sternant, Tram Chairman at EAA, PO Box 3086, Oshkosh, WI 54903-3086 or call him at 800-236-4800, extension 7860.

AN INTERVIEW WITH AL AMSDEN

By Rosemary Frank

Al Amsden joined EAA Chapter 54 in June of 1965, 32 years ago! He is now and always has been a member of the chapter as well as EAA Oshkosh. Al remembers paying 50 cents a meeting!!

Al started flying in 1944 and holds Commercial, Instrument, Land and Sea ratings. He is also qualified as an aircraft "repairman". Al flew in the military about 6 months but since then has logged over 1500 hours.

Al built a Midget Mustang and has enjoyed flying it for 25 years. For 20 years he has owned and flown a Cessna 140.

Al enjoys the camaraderie, the activities and involvement in EAA and especially EAA Chapter 54.

ROBERT WESTERBERG

Interview by Rosemary Frank

Robert Westerberg joined EAA Chapter 54 in 1979, over 18 years ago. And --- he is still a very active, very valuable member of the Chapter. In 1979 the meetings were held at Sanborn Aviation, Downtown St. Paul Airport.

Robert started flying in 1960 and has recorded 2,550 hours PIC, all as a private pilot.

Robert flies a Luscombe 8A and has enjoyed this aircraft for 33 years! (Chapter members -- is that a record!)

Robert is also a member of the National EAA and he and his wife, Dorothy, make the pilgrimage to Oshkosh frequently.

Robert served on the Chapter Board of Directors for many years.

Robert was a big help to his son, Roger in building a Cassutt. He tells me this whole project would have been much more difficult without the expertise of various members of 54.

Robert and Roger received help through welding classes and A/C woodworking. A special thanks here to Bill Schanks, of 54 for his fabric expertise.

Robert has especially enjoyed the Show and Tell meetings, the Oshkosh Work Parties, the Banquets, the Picnics, Air Adventure Days and Young Eagle Flights.

EAA FLYING START PROGRAM

A few months ago Bill Steier submitted a article about the AOPA Student Pilot mentoring program. At that time your editor commented about after "Young Eagles".

What your editor did not know was that EAA Oshkosh along with one or two chapters was in the process of developing a program that could be titled "After Young Eagles". In fact it will be called "EAA Flying Start Program".

Chapter Seminar Handbooks are in the process of being written. Recently a copy of the program was forwarded to the chapter president, at his request, for review. Unfortunately due to schedule conflicts it has not been digested yet. A brief overview seems to indicate a interesting program.

More on this new program latter. Hopefully Chapter 54 will be able to sponsor a first seminar this year.

TAX RELIEF

Jerry Sarracco, President, Lake Elmo Pilots Association and your chapter President are members of a MAC committee that is working on taxation.

As all hanger owners know, and renters should, there is a Personal Property tax on all hangers. Portions of this tax go to the local school district and to Baytown Township.

Since there are no children sent to schools, as with lake cabins, and the township does not maintain any portion of the airport this committee is looking into the possibility of being relieved of these tax dollars.

St. Paul airport as well as Mpls/STP International have received such consideration.

As this program continues, looking at the 97/98 legislative session, help will be required. Meetings will be needed with representatives of the school district and the township to explain the pontial legislation and it minimal affect on them.

Any member that knows members of the school board or township board and interested in assisting with this project please contact Jerry or Dick.

THE OTHER HALF OF THE WESTERBERG STORY

Interview by Rosemary Frank

Roger, son of Robert, joined EAA Chapter 54 twenty four years ago and has been very active in the chapter, recently volunteered to work on the upcoming Pig Roast. A good example for newer members.

Roger and his father, Robert, go to Oshkosh for the big convention frequently. Need directions? Need to find something or someone at the convention? Just ask Roger.

Back when Roger joined 54, meetings were held at Sanborn Aviation, St. Paul Downtown Airport. Dues were \$7.50. The chapter had a monthly newsletter, mid-month meetings, work parties, picnics and banquets, sponsored the EAA Air Adventure Days and of course held the required election of officer, but only every two years.

Roger, being a nice guy, would soon be voted in as the Chapter Secretary/Treasurer. Roger says and I quote "Rosemary came along and ran a better campaign than I did so I lost the election". So, in order to be an officer, he had to run for president. He won the election and did a darn fine job.

Roger was "the kid" in the chapter. He started flying in 1966 and holds a private SEL rating. He has 1,050 hours PIC.

Roger's dream was not only to fly airplanes but to BUILD one. He decided to build a "Cassutt". A fast, single place, single engine airplane. Of course, Roger received a lot of help and some good advice with the building of the Cassutt from chapter members. After 15 years of hard work and shared ideas, Roger's dream has come true and he says "thanks" to his father, Robert, and to all the members of Chapter 54.

Roger has been flying and enjoying the Cassutt for 8 years now. Congratulations, Roger.

Roger says the best part of being a member of Chapter 54 is the many, many friends.

Rosemary will be continuing to request interviews with members as part of our year long celebration of 40 years as a chapter.

Again, it is easier for her if you make the contact and volunteer to be interviewed.

As chapter historian, as well as secretary, Rosemary will see that these interviews become part of history.

FOR SALE

1944 L3B Aeronca "Defender". An affordable WARBIRD for \$19,500. Contact Green Castle Aero Club 319-645-2101, Oxford Iowa. OWN A PIECE OF HISTORY.

25% ownership of a 1974 Piper Cherokee Warrior and a Lake Elmo hanger.

Newly formed trio seeking a fourth person to join in the ownership of the above aircraft and hanger. Cost to be the fourth person is \$18,500.00.

For further information call Mike Schick, work # 715-247-3500, evenings 715-386-9356

Lee Ayde, former long time member of 54, has a offer available to anyone interested. Lee has a VW engine available for FREE. He intended to use this engine in a KR-2 that he hoped to build. Lee has had the crankshaft magna fluxed.

For more information call his son, Jim Ayde at 222-4541, evenings.

WANTED

Jerry Sarracco has a used sofa at his hanger that wants a new home. It is in good condition. Price is right FREE.

Contact Jerry at 429-1049.

Chapter 54 has openings for additional members. Think about the people you know that fly out of 21D but might not know that the chapter exists.

Spread the word. Invite guests,

PROMOTE - PROMOTE

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

1997

June

7 Chapter 54 Young Eagles Day and Pig Roast

7 Pancake breakfast Fly-In, Wheels & Wings Air Fair, L.O. Simenstad Field, Osceola, WI.

7 Breakfast & Open House. Windom Mun Arpt. 7:00 a.m.-12:00 noon.

8 Fly-In Breakfast, PICs free, Albert Lea Mun Arpt (AEL). 7a.m.-12:30 p.m.

9 Chapter 54 meeting night.

14 International Young Eagles Day

14 Fly-In Breakfast, Amery Airport (AHH), Amery, WI. Jet displays.

15 Fly-In Breakfast,

PICs free, Dodge Center Mun Arpt (87D).

15 Fathers' Day Fly/Drive-In Breakfast, PICs free, LaCrosse Mun Arpt, Cakes by Big Jake's. 7 a.m.-12 p.m.

15 Fly/Drive-In Brunch, Princeton Mun Arpt (PNM)7a.m.-1p.m.

15 Fly-In Breakfast, Fergus Falls Mun Arpt (FFM), Chapter 1174, Fuel discount to fly-ins. 8am-12pm

15 Fly-In Breakfast, PICs free, Stanton Airfield (SYN). 7am-12pm

21 Fly-In Breakfast, Moose Lake - Carlton Cnty Arpt (MZH) 7:30 A.M.-11A.M.

21-22 P-47 Thunderbolt Flight, Flying Cloud Arpt (FCM), 2 p.m. both days.

22 Fly-In Breakfast, PICs free, Faribault Mun Arpt (FBL). 7am-1pm.

29 Breakfast & Lunch, Aitkin Flyers & Country Road Classics, Auto Show, Swap Meet & Flea Market. Aitkin Mun Arpt (AIT)

29 Fly-In Breakfast, PICs free, Pine River Mun Arpt (MY41). 7:30 am - 12pm.

29 Fly-In Breakfast, PICs free, Springfield Mun Arpt (D42). 7am-12pm

July

4-6 Starbuck Fly-In & Camping, Starbuck Mun Arpt (D32), West end Lake Minnewaska.

5 Lumberjack Breakfast & Fly-In, Cloquet Mun Arpt (COQ)

5 Fly-In Breakfast, Marshall Mun Arpt (MML), City of Marshall 125th Anniversary. Arpt Imp. Ded. & Airshow. Barnstormer John Mohr, Joe Dooley, Ron Fagen & his P-51.

5-6 Sunday Breakfast, Tail Dragger Club's 9th Annual Tail Dragger Fly-In, Emmetsburg, IA (EGQ). 7am-12:30 pm.

13 Pancake Breakfast, PICs free, St. Cloud Arpt (STC), 7a.m.-1p.m.

27 Wild Rice Pancake Fly-In Breakfast, EAA 875, Grantsburg Arpt (GTG)

30-Aug 5 EAA Oshkosh '97, Wittman Field, Oshkosh, WI

August

3 Fly-In/Drive-In Pancake Breakfast, Red Wing Arpt (RGK) 8a.m.-12p.m.

3 Fly-In Breakfast, PICs free, Reedsburg Arpt (C35).

7-10 EAA Giant Scale Radio-Controlled Airplane Races, Wittman Arpt (OSH), Joe Schumacher 414-426-6524.

16 Chapter 54 Fly-In Breakfast.

Location: Valters Aviation hanger.

Time: 7:00 a.m. - PIC free.

Some interesting items are being made available to be used as door prizes, etc..

17 Fly-In Breakfast, Litchfield Arpt, (LJF formerly 43F) 7a.m.-12p.m.

17 Fly-In/Drive-In Pancake Breakfast- (MKT) 8a.m.-12p.m. Boyceville Arpt (W120) 7:30a.m.-12p.m.

17 EAA 642 Fly-In Breakfast, Mankato Arpt 8am-12pm.

24 French Toast Breakfast, EAA Chapter 300, Owatonna Mun Arpt (OWA). Ultralight aircraft flying. Check NOTAMs for runway condition and construction update. 7am-1pm.

31 Fly-In/Drive-In Corn Feed, Paquette Pavilion, McGregor Mun Arpt (17Y). 12pm-5pm.