



# SPEED'S NEWS



**SPEED HOLMAN CHAPTER-54**  
ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

MAY 1991

## WORKPARTY RAISES THE ROOF

About 15 Chapter 54 members attended the Oshkosh work party the first weekend in May. Chapter members erected a roof on the youth activities center in the corner of the woods near the barn. Meanwhile, Chapter 54's official heavy equipment operator, Jerry Laundry, worked on a new taxiway being built from Whittman Field to the Museum. Museum visitors who fly in will eventually be able to taxi right up to the museum.

## ANGELO DePONTI, AVIATION PIONEER, DIES

Angel "Shorty" De Ponti, a pioneer Minnesota aviation businessman who knew the greats of flying history, died April 19 in St. John's Northeast Hospital, Maplewood, of a heart attack. He was 81.

DePonti was born in St. Paul and in 1927, when he was 17, started working as an errand boy for Universal Air Lines at the site of an old automobile racetrack that would become Wold-Chamberlain Airport and eventually Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport.

In 1928, De Ponti started his aviation business, an enterprise that eventually would encompass nearly every aspect of aviation. He operated the business until selling out in 1973.

DePonti started with a small used aircraft parts shop but soon started servicing aircraft and renting hangar space. He eventually bought a larger hangar and expanded his service to include aircraft sales, engine and aircraft overhaul, aircraft rental and flight instruction.

He also received a franchise from Piper Aircraft Corp. and by 1940 led the nation in sales of the company's Piper Cub aircraft.

When World War II broke out, De Ponti's Piper Cubs were used for training military pilots, and his facilities were

designated as an official government repair station. He also became the exclusive fueling agent for military aircraft and employed 450 people at the peak of the war.

When the war ended, De Ponti consolidated some of his operations. In 1971, he had a hunch that traffic would expand at the airport and joined the Metropolitan Airports Commission in leasing and operating the terminal's Green Concourse.

De Ponti was a member of the OX-5 Aviation Pioneers and the Quiet Birdmen. In 1989, he was among 13 people who were the first inductees into the Minnesota Aviation Hall of Fame. Last year he received the Speed Holman Award for Achievement in Aviation from the Minnesota Sport Aviation Association. (reprinted from the Saint Paul Pioneer Press)

#### NEW RECRUITS

Chapter 54 welcomes two new members. Jeffrey B. Allen is a computer consultant who lives in Centerville. He has a Private Pilot license and plans to build a Corby Starlet.

John C. Thomas is a computer service technician who lives in Oak Park Heights. He has a Commercial ticket and plans to build a Wittman W-10 Tailwind.

#### AIR ADVENTURE DAY

The Chapter's Air Adventure Day is scheduled for Saturday, June 29. Al Kupferschmidt is in charge of this year's event and welcomes any suggestions for improvements over last year's Air Adventure Day. Suggestions for publicity are also welcome.

#### WHAT MEMBERS ARE UP TO

The Westerbergs' got their Luscomb up flying again this week. The engine had undergone a major overhaul.

Dale Rupp is looking for volunteers to rebuild the Colt. Please call Dale at 653-1054.

George Mathiesen has managed to program the Twin Cities area into his Microsoft Flight Simulator. Hope to hear more about it at this month's meeting.

### STEERMAN RIDES

A new air ride business has opened at Flemming Field. It's called "Landon Flying Circus" and they offer rides in an Steerman biplane. Gift certificates are also available. The phone number is 227-1807.

### MODE C TRANSPONDERS GET REPRIEVE

The FAA has cleared the way for manufacturers to continue producing Mode C transponders until July 1, 1992. The manufacture and installation of the transponders were to have been prohibited after January 1, 1991.

After the new deadline, aircraft owners must install new-technology Mode S transponders when replacing an existing transponder or installing a transponder in their aircraft for the first time.

### ANNUAL FLIGHT REVIEW RULE POSSIBLY KILLED

A requirement that most pilots receive an annual flight review has been delayed by the FAA and may finally be rescinded.

The agency issued a final rule recently that would extend until August 31, 1991, the effective date for the requirement that recreational pilots and non-instrument-rated private pilots with fewer than 400 hours of total flight time receive an annual flight review.

The FAA said the final rule precludes the necessity for thousands of pilots to take this additional instruction on a yearly basis at an estimated total cost of \$6.4 million.

Opponents to the annual flight review measure included in the recreational pilot final rule have argued that the 400-hour criteria has no factual basis or statistical support. Indeed, some findings have shown that pilots with fewer than 400 hours have the same accident profile as other pilots and are not a unique group that deserves special attention.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

May 18-19: Fleming Field Days, CAF Open House and U.S.O. Dance featuring a 20 piece "Big Band" of the 1940s.  
May 19: Blaine Aviation Day, EAA Chapter 237 Fly-In Breakfast 7am - 1pm, Anoka County Airport. Overnight camping the evening of the 18th.

May 19: La Crosse, WI Area Flyers Fly-In, Drive-In Pancake Breakfast. See Bill Blank and his Super Decathlon, door prizes, rides, static displays.  
June 1-2: Grand Opening Celebration, Nary National Airport, Minnesota's newest airport, six miles southeast of Bemidji, Pig Roast, Funtime, 218/751-5302  
June 2: 2nd Annual Fly-In, Drive-In Pancake Breakfast, Crystal Airport.  
June 2: Luverne Rotary Fly-In Breakfast.  
June 9: Fly-In Breakfast, Madison, MN.  
June 9: Princeton Lions Fly-In Breakfast.  
June 9: C.A.P. Fly-In Breakfast, Lake Elmo, 8am - 1pm at American Legion Post with shuttle service to and from C.A.P. hangar.  
June 9: Fly-In Breakfast, Benson, MN.  
June 9: Rotary Club Fly-In Breakfast, Redwood Falls, MN. Spot landing contest on first touchdown. Transportation to Jackpot Junction Casino, Inventors' Congress.

#### NEXT MEETING

Next meeting is Monday, May 13, 7:30 pm at Lake Elmo Airport. Roger Westerberg will bring a couple of AOPA videos- one on Aircraft Collision Avoidance, and another on Icing.

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Chapter 54 Officers:  
President.....Roger Westerberg.....458-0708  
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