



The Beacon

The newsletter of Chapter 54
Lake Elmo, Minn.

APRIL 2015

May 2015

NEXT MONTH'S PROGRAM WILL BE ON

MONDAY May 11, 2015

- Annual Spring Picnic 6:00PM.
- Come early and socialize
- CHAPTER HOUSE, ENTRANCE B, LAKE ELMO AIRPORT 21D.
- Please invite friends, family and neighbors to share your love of aviation
- Attendees need not bring anything but any dishes to share would be welcomed

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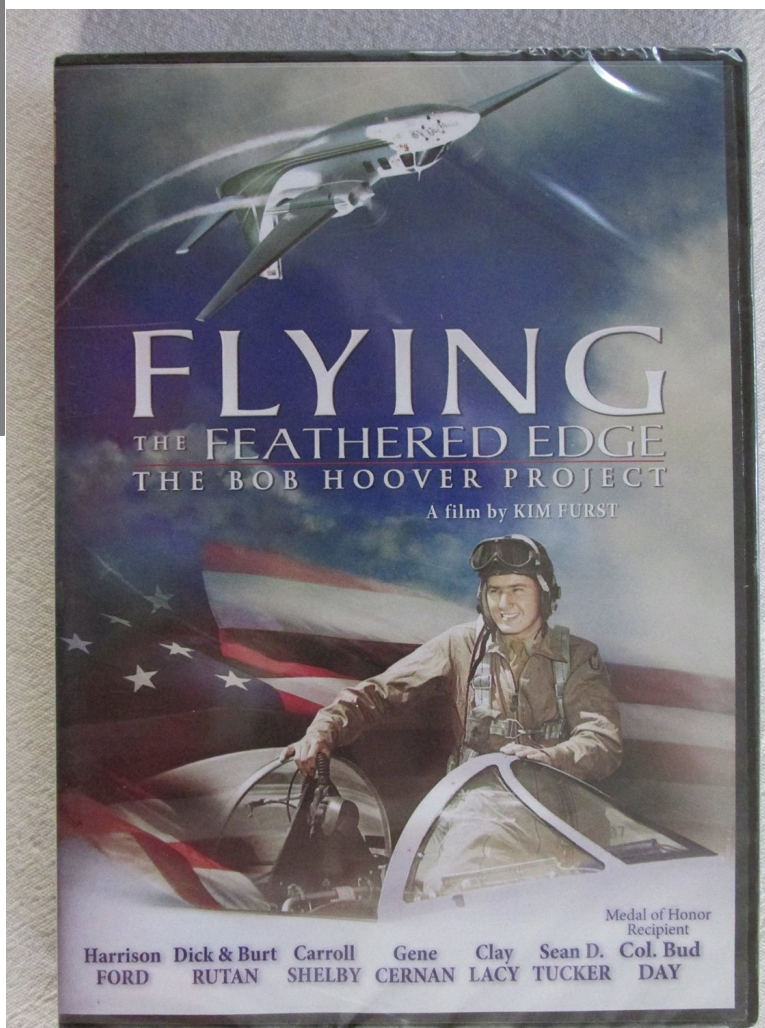
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Upcoming Events

1. Next meeting May 11, 2015
2. Oshkosh Work Party May 1-3, 2015
3. Next Young Eagles event May 9, 2015
4. Next Landscaping Chapter Club House Work Party (After the Young Eagles) May 9, 2015
5. Aviation Day Pancake Breakfast August 16, 2015
6. Farnsworth Hangar Tour May 21, 2015

At the last meeting—

WWII veteran, prisoner of war, accomplished test pilot, pace plane for the Unlimited Reno races, air show pilot - Bob Hoover is considered by many to be one of the founding fathers of modern aerobatics. Jimmy Doolittle called



him "...the greatest stick and rudder man who ever lived." Flying the Feathered Edge preserves the stories, the friendships, and the legacy that surrounds this man who quietly touched the trajectory of aviation's many developments - and who, due to his piloting skills, judgment, decency, luck, and just flat out ability to fly, is considered THE BEST. *Written by Kilo Foxtrot Films*

We viewed possibly the best aviation movie ever made Robert A. "Bob" Hoover, age 92, is considered by many to

Only Flying Fairey Gannet Left in the World Finds Home in Western Wisconsin

By: Ellen McNamara

The first British plane with nuclear capabilities flew during The Cold War; it's called the Fairey Gannet and was used to fight the Russians. Western Wisconsin is now home to one of those planes and it is the only one in the world that still flies.



The Fairey Gannet, called Janet, is one of eight that flew during The Cold War. It is an impressive sight with a wing span nearly 60 feet long. When the wings fold up, the span is 22 feet long. "She's quite unique," Pilot Harry Odone said. "Out of all of them, she's the granddaddy. She's the longest serving Gannet in the world. Quite an amazing article to have. I'm very proud of her."

Shannan Hendricks, who is now Odone's wife, bought the plane after the museum it was in closed. Figuring out how to get it from Canada to Minnesota and then to New Richmond was a chore. The plane sat in Canada for years. Then, others wanted it and stole the plane's parts.

"We had to use the FBI, Canadian Police, CID (Criminal Investigation Department) in England, to try and track down what was going on because it was organized crime," Odone said. Eventually, the

Canadian government called saying the aircraft was illegally parked. The couple had to move fast.

"It was too big to go onto the road and be trucked back to the United States," Odone said. "It couldn't be hauled, and couldn't be taken apart in any significant manner because it was too big to go on the road." Ironically, they found a Russian company that makes massive cargo planes to fly it to Minnesota.

"To move the airplane alone, we're talking about \$200,000," Odone said. That price was even discounted. Once inside the hangar, Odone had to restore it. "I have over five and a half thousand hours myself on the maintenance on the aircraft," Odone said. "I spent six months soda blasting the airplane, taking every inch of paint off the aircraft."

Right and above: Paul Rankin is one of the pilots — Photo from Airventure 2014



Lockheed Martin F-35 “Lightning II” At Airventure 2015

The Lockheed Martin F-35 “Lightning II,” the fifth-generation fighter that will be used by multiple U.S. service branches, will make its initial appearance at the [EAA AirVenture Oshkosh](#) fly-in this summer. It also marks the first civilian U.S. air show appearance by this unique jet.

The 63rd annual edition of the Experimental Aircraft Association’s fly-in convention is scheduled for July 20-26 at Wittman Regional Airport in Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

The F-35 is designed as a versatile, high-performance multirole fighter that combines stealth, sensor fusion, and unprecedented situational awareness. The aircraft can handle a variety of missions with advanced integrated avionics and aerodynamic performance. Along with replacing U.S. Air Force fighters such as the F-16 and A-10, the F-35 is also projected as a successor to the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps F/A-18s, the Marines AV-8B Harriers, and the Harrier GR.7s and Sea Harriers flown by United Kingdom military forces.



“EAA AirVenture attendees have often seen the latest military aircraft make appearances at Oshkosh over the past 30 years, a list that has included such cutting-edge aircraft as the F-117 Stealth fighter and the F-22 Raptor,” said Rick Larsen, EAA’s vice president of communities and member services, who coordinates AirVenture features and attractions. “The addition of the F-35 as a highlight further fortifies AirVenture as an unmatched event to see a group of aircraft in one place that you can see nowhere else in the world.”

The airplane, an F-35A model, is based with the U.S. Air Force’s [33rd Fighter Wing](#) at Eglin Air Force Base in Florida. It is scheduled to arrive midway through AirVenture week and remain on display throughout the remainder of the fly-in. Exact arrival and departure times will be announced as they are finalized. The F-35 joins the list of current military aircraft scheduled for EAA AirVenture 2015 that already includes the B-52 Stratofortress and F-22 Raptor.

The “Lightning II” nickname was given to the F-35 in honor of the legendary P-38 fighter of the World War II era. The first F-35 made its initial flight in 2006, with the first production model flying in 2011. Deliveries of the aircraft began later that year

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources’ fleet of wildfire-combating airplanes has doubled this year, and not a moment too soon.

Dozens of wildfires have local and regional firefighters in full alert across the state. Ron Stoffel, the DNR’s wildfire suppression supervisor, estimated his department responded to “about 50 or 60” different wildfires across the state Thursday alone, with the six new FireBoss airplanes helping combat 15 of those fires.

“Yesterday was a real snappy day for us statewide with wildfires,” he said.

Gov. Mark Dayton signed Friday an emergency executive order directing the Minnesota National Guard to join the fight as dry and windy conditions have persisted throughout the week.

Prior to this year, the DNR owned two CL-215 airplanes to combat fires. But it was getting harder to find parts, service and low-lead fuel for the 1950s engines.

“They were based on technology from World War II,” Stoffel said. “The engines were last manufactured in 1953. They were very good aircraft, but Bombardier, the manufacturer, doesn’t support them anymore.”



be our greatest living aviator, and has influenced generations of pilots with his precision flying and gentlemanly demeanor. Nicknamed "The Pilot's Pilot" by his peers, Bob is largely unknown outside aviation circles despite his



staggering accomplishments. In *Flying the Feathered Edge*, Director Kim Furst captures every nuance of Bob's amazing life story by skillfully interweaving vintage still images, rare historic footage, and exclusive testimonials from other flight legends, past and present - bringing this legend's incredible life and story into the limelight.



A legend of the greatest generation, Robert A. "Bob" Hoover is demonstrably the most beloved figure in aviation today. Considered "The Guru" "An Icon" and "A God" by many of his peers, this humble 92 year old is a graduate of both the Navy and Air Force Test Pilot schools, and ate from Air University, the ship center of the Air Force. His accomplishments are the military and respectful test pilots, where he has been twice the president.



Bob dreamed of being a fighter pilot but was too tall, with poor eyesight and a bad case of air sickness. With determination and out-box thinking, this WWII veteran escaped enemy aircraft and went on to become an accomplished experimental test pilot, participant in breaking the speed of sound and launching the world into the Jet Age.

With determination and out-box thinking, this WWII veteran escaped enemy aircraft and went on to become an accomplished experimental test pilot, participant in breaking the speed of sound and launching the world into the Jet Age.

In his later career as an air show pilot, Hoover performed in front of more people, in more countries, in more different aircraft, than any individual before or since.

In *FLYING THE FEATHERED EDGE* Bob Hoover tells his own story – and shares, with his trademark charm, the hard earned wisdom of a life spent pushing the edge of the envelope while contributing to aviation's many developments.

<http://www.thebobhooverproject.com/>

EAA CHAPTER 54 TREASURER'S REPORT

BY TOM GIBBONS

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



Ground School another Great Success

Thanks to Class Leader Paul Rankin and all the volunteers instructors for presenting another effective and informative ground school.

The ground school supports the club's mission and vision — we support people who are interested in aviation, we share our joy of flying, educate the public and have fun at social events.



Oshkosh Work Party

Last year we took down a wall and build a new wall in the Federal Pavilion.

The work is not glamorous, but like other volunteering, it makes you feel warm inside.



FROM THE FLIGHT DECK (PRESIDENTS REPORT)

JIM PEARSALL

Greetings Flying Fans of Chapter 54,

Spring is upon us, flying is possible without gloves or pre-heaters. This week the fly-in season starts down in Lakeland. The coming summer will bring many more events and you will surely hear more about them in the newsletter, in this letter and other outlets soon. For now, I want to focus on the flying part and share a realization and some observations relevant this time of year.

If your life is anything like mine and I imagine in this regard many are similar, there are many barriers to exercising our favorite activities like flying. Life, weather, the complexities of the equipment are all hampers. Flying is a beautiful experience. Its level of challenge and diversity give it, I believe, an aspect that makes it infectious. The more you do it, the better at it you are, the more fun it is.

A couple of weeks ago I heard one of our chapter members talking about how when he flies regularly, a little wind does not bother him. No bother, more fun. Every year at Oshkosh, we see the large diversity of aircraft. Tail draggers, float planes, cruisers, aerobatic or just for sport. Each one takes time to master. Lots of choices, more fun. Our weather reports, around here anyway, are unique. We operate in an ever changing medium of air. Always changing, interesting.

So flying is fun. But why do we as a chapter focus on the flying? To introduce others to flying primarily young people through Young Eagles. And there is such a diverse world of aviation we need a bunch of people to fly, to learn how to do it well in all its forms. We as a group have many experiences but like snowflakes the variety is infinite.

So this season, let's go learn, have fun, share fun. Repeat.

Oh and come out for the Picnic in place of our next meeting May 11th, and I cannot help it, August 16th for the 2015 edition of 21D Aviation Day.



Tailwinds Flying Club Partnership Welcomes New Members

Tailwinds Flying Partners is based at Lake Elmo airport. We are a non-profit corporation of 39 pilots who equally own three aircraft and one hangar (25E). Our goal and philosophy are to fly great airplanes safely and inexpensively. We currently have a Cirrus SR20, Archer II and Cherokee Six. Some of our members belong to EAA 54 and we love to fly Young Eagles. Please stop by and visit us anytime! To inquire about membership, please email or call Mark at 651-983-6206. www.tailwinds21d.org



Chapter 54 Meeting Minutes

By Bettie Seitzer, Chapter Secretary

April 13, 2015: Chapter 54 meeting

Aviation Day August 16th; 8:00 – 1:00: Jack Miller will chair.

- Need Sub-Committee Chair people.
- Phone callers to recruit helpers will be the first step.
- Additional Subcommittee chairs are needed Phone for Jack 651-631-9613
- Program and Logistics team to go through the checklist and prepare for a great event. This is a great way to build our chapter strength and have a great time Tables and Chairs are reserved
- Do we want to have Presentations? Perhaps a FAST Team event?
- Commemorative Air Force will come in to do rides. A B25 will fly by.
- There is an AOPA event the following weekend; we may get some bump from that.
- The Forest Lake fly-in will be August 15th, but we do not expect much competition from that event.
- Last year's flyer could be used with a simple change of date.
- We will invite the same vendors that participated last year.

May BBQ

- Monday May 11th – Rain or Shine!
- 5:00 to 6:00 Social hour and set up Food served from 6:00 – 7:00
- Chapter will provide burgers and Dogs, Buns, Beans and Salads
- \$5.00 donation per person; friends and family are welcome. Members are invited to bring side dishes and desserts to share.

Air Venture Work Party

- There is a group planning to go on May 2. Get in touch with Jim Pearsall to let him know if you would like to join the group. Plan to bring weather appropriate clothing and tools for tasks you enjoy doing. The group will report on their adventure at the BBQ

Dave Fiebiger is recuperating at home from some health issues. Please take a moment to send him a card. The Chapter will send him a card.

Board meeting minutes will be reviewed at the next meeting and published after that. The next board meeting will be in June.

Ground School is going very well, the students are doing well. 14 students started, 12 have attended regularly. We have also had regular audits by chapter members.

Farnsworth Hangar Tour is May 21st. Leif has recruited hangar owners, extra volunteers are welcome to come and help out. Get in touch with Leif if you are available and interested in helping out.

First Young Eagle event is Saturday, May 9th volunteers should arrive at 8:00. Flights will begin at 8:30 this year to take advantage of calmer air in the morning. Pilots and ground crew are needed to help keep everyone safe and happy. A new sign has been ordered for Young Eagles and there are new business cards that can be shared.

May 9th after the Young Eagle event there will be grounds keeping, painting and general clean up. Volunteers will be needed beginning at around 10:00.

Program was an excellent movie about the life of Bob Hoover, "Flying the Feathered Edge". If you get a chance to see it, you will really enjoy it!

New Books available in the Chapter Library:

The chapter library seems like it is growing. I know old—outdated instructional videos have been removed. We have also received EAA magazines from the 60s and 70s — I encourage everyone to check them out.

The Sound of Wings is about Amelia Earhart, Letters From Home describes the experiences of WASP pilots and Ann Morrow Lindbergh is an biography from a local writer and past club guest speaker, Kathleen Winters.



Last Year the Oshkosh Work Party made skid runners from 2 x 8 boards for this building which was moved from its previous location

[HTTP://WWW.EAA54.ORG](http://www.eaa54.org)



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