



SPEED'S NEWS

SAINT PAUL



PRESIDENT Earl Wirth
V-PRES Jack Hickey
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St. Paul, Minn
Feb '72

FEBRUARY MEETING

The monthly meeting will be held Monday Feb 13 at 7:30, Northern Airmotive. The Speaker will be John Robb of the Lightning and Transient research lab. He will talk about what happens when light aircraft and lightning mix.

MID MONTH MEETING

The mid month meeting last month was snowed out. We will meet at Vern Clark's BD 4 project at 7:30 on Feb 28. Address is 1025 S. Century, phone 739 7574.

SHEET METAL FORUM

January 22 saw the start of chapter 54 "Forums 72" program. Flora Sullivan, Al Amsden, and Bob Larsen gave instruction to 5 people in the art of working with aluminum. The highlight of the morning was Al Amsdens demonstration of forming soft aluminum into compound curves to make cowlings and fairings. Al does not believe in fiberglass and he made a few converts that morning. All participants got to drive rivets, make ribs and learn how to layout parts.

WELDING FORUM

A forum to teach basic welding skills will be held Feb 26 at 9:00 A.M. Saturday morning. Probable location will be Northern Airmotive.

BALLOON RACE

Great Balloon Race ! Chapter 54 played an important role in putting on the very successful balloon race for the St. Paul Winter Carnival. In contrast to last years fiasco this years event was expertly run by the aviation oriented people of the EAA. Perfect weather greeted the pilots and crews early Saturday morning (most of our EAA crews were up before 6:30) and launch came off on time at 9:30. Many pilots commented on the expert way in which our inexperienced volunteers helped launch their balloons. We are now experienced. One pilot was ready to give up because of the cold and mechanical problems, but our people did the right things and got him in the air.

Ken Rovie played a key part in the race by providing the room for storage of the balloons, and meeting areas for the crews. Ken was also right there when help was needed.

Bill Hart drove truck and along with Jim Gevey crewed the winning balloon flown by Dennis Fliden (Capt. Fogg) Appropriately enough the losing balloon was hauled around by Jack Hickey. Joe Krieg also helped crew this award winning pilot as the MSAA presented the pilot (Dave Clagget) with a special trophy. The trophy was built up by MSAA president Gus Limbach and consisted of a well polished plumbers torch crowned with a slinged red balloon.

Other chapter 54 members participation were Tom Zeller and Ray Wyland who provided their trucks and snowmobiles. The snowmobiles worked slick in getting the balloons out of the landing field. E. Keenan and Vern Clark provided strong backs as members of the launch crew.

Jerry Willendrer as the race safety officer directed CAP cadets at the launch site and then besides patrolling the landing area managed to haul out a few balloons. Gus Limbach and Gary Wirth were active before and after the race keeping the whole thing moving.