



# The Beacon

The newsletter of Chapter 54  
Lake Elmo, Minn.

AUGUST 2011

## AUGUST 2011

THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM WILL BE ON  
MONDAY AUGUST 8, 2011.

- SOCIAL HOUR STARTING AT 7:00PM.
- MEETING AT 7:30PM, CHAPTER HOUSE, ENTRANCE B, LAKE ELMO AIRPORT 21D
- AT THE NEXT CHAPTER MEETING:

Members will share their experiences and photos of this years AirVenture. So bring your photos and tell the members what you found interesting this year!

## Chapter Historian on Some Historic Aircraft at Lake Elmo

*By Jeff Hove*

History is not only from long ago, it lives with us. Many of the hangars at Lake Elmo hold historic aircraft and are owned and maintained by equally interesting people. One local group in particular has worked for decades to restore and operate some unusual airplanes.



Chapter 54 member Jim Anderson and his family and friends started collecting and restoring interesting planes without any real plan to build a flying museum, Jim kept finding good deals and the collection just grew. Together they formed the EAFB, "Elmo Aircraft From Basement", a reference to a newspaper article about their restoration shop in the basement of Jim's office building in Stillwater. The group now operates five airplanes at Lake Elmo, including three "warbirds":

- 1941 Piper J-3-65 "Cub",
- 1941 Navy N3N-3 Biplane  
(aka the "Yellow Peril")
- 1943 Cessna "Bobcat" UC-78B/T-50  
(aka the "Bamboo Bomber")
- 1943 Aeronca O-58B/L-3B "Grasshopper"

*Continued on Page 4*

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

HISTORIC AIRCRAFT AT LAKE ELMO	1
PRESIDENT'S REPORT	2
CHAPTER DIRECTORY	3
FARNSWORTH TRIP	5
MEETING MINUTES	6
PILOT'S LOUNGE	7
CHAPTER BILLBOARD (NEW)	8
AVIATION DAY POSTER	9
YOUNG EAGLES REPORT	10
TAXI TALK	11
QUOTE OF THE MONTH	12



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

*BY LEIF ERICKSON*

Let me start by saying that I am getting very excited. I'm writing this on Monday, July 25, the opening day of AirVenture 2011. I'm excited because this year I will be attending the event for the very first time. I've been to the museum and grounds several times, but never for Air Venture. It should be a great experience. I think I am most excited about attending each day's afternoon air show.

Aviation Day, our annual fly-in/drive-in pancake breakfast is now less than three weeks away. This is our big fundraiser for the year. The proceeds support scholarships to next year's Air Academy. With this year's uncooperative weather, our number of Young Eagles flights is dramatically down. That means we will have fewer Young Eagles credits available for next year's Air Academy scholarships. The credits help offset our financial commitment to scholarship recipients. That puts extra pressure on this year's Aviation Day to make sure it is a financial success and brings in extra revenue. Jim Pearsall and his team have been working diligently to make this year's event special.

I hope that all chapter 54 members help support the event. One way to show your support is to encourage everyone you know; family, friends, relatives, neighbors, etc. to attend. We do a lot of advertising to increase exposure, but the greatest advertising resource we have is word-of-mouth. I'm guessing most of the people that attend have a relationship with someone in Chapter 54. We need to capitalize on that source of advertising.

The second way to help is to volunteer for a committee. Jeff Hove, our volunteer recruiter, will be contacting everyone in the chapter with a request to make a commitment to help on Sunday, August 14. We have many volunteer opportunities from parking cars, to frying pancakes, to cleaning up after the event. Please, when Jeff calls you, say Yes.

The Nominations Committee has determined that we need candidates for the following positions; Vice-President, Young Eagles Director, and Education Director. The term of office will be from 2012 to 2014. I'm making a blanket offer to all Chapter members to volunteer for this opportunity to serve Chapter 54 in any of these three positions. We need at least one candidate for each position. Dave Fiebiger volunteered to serve another term as Housing Director, Paul Rankin will continue as Treasurer, Dale Seitzer as Secretary, and John Renwick as Membership Director. If anyone is interested in being a candidate for any of these four positions, please contact me and I will place your name on the ballot.

The August meeting will be on Monday, August 8 with a social gathering at 7:00 PM followed by the regular meeting at 7:30. Bettie has another great program prepared so plan to attend. Details of the program are found elsewhere in the newsletter.

Just some  
neat pictures from  
AirVenture '11



## EAA CHAPTER 54 TREASURER'S REPORT

BY PAUL RANKIN

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)

Editors Note: These great pictures/calendars are pulled from the EAA website, [www.eaa.org/wallpaper](http://www.eaa.org/wallpaper). They can be used for your screen savers!



## Chapter 54 Directory

President  
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Vice President  
Bettie Seitzer  
[vicepresident@eaa54.org](mailto:vicepresident@eaa54.org)

Treasurer  
Paul Rankin  
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Secretary/Class IV Director  
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Membership Director  
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Young Eagles Director  
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Newsletter Editor/Director At-Large  
Tom Gibbons  
[Newsletter@eaa54.org](mailto:Newsletter@eaa54.org)

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 printed on the first Monday of every month. Parts of the newsletter may be reprinted with appropriate credit.  
21D RCO 118.625, Unicom: 122.8  
21D AWOS: 120.075, TPA: 1932'  
Runways: 4-22 (2497' x 75')  
14-32 (2850' x 75')

Continued from Page 1

- 1956 Piper PA-23 "Apache" twin
- In addition, Jim's sons Patrick and Paul own a Cessna 172.



UC-78 at Alexandria, MN 2011 Salute to Veterans

The EAFB's primary activity is a social gathering each Saturday morning to enjoy a hangar-made breakfast, talk with the veterans and other old-timers, and plan the maintenance and flying tasks for the day. Most recently they have undertaken a concerted effort to bring these historic aircraft to local fly-ins to let wider audiences appreciate them. At every show there someone will walk up and start a conversation with "I flew one of those back in the war" or "My father trained in that type before he flew B-17s ". The opportunity to hear their stories is priceless.

Many of the EAFB members are builders and pilots of Radio Control models, and have built magnificent models of the J-3, UC-78, and N3N. The first EAA Chapter 54 Pancake Breakfast was held in Jim's hangar, and EAFB aircraft have been regular attractions in subsequent events where the J-3 and UC-78 models were displayed next to their parents.

Thanks to untold hours of delicate work by these volunteers an R/C model of the N3N was completed just days before this year's Airventure and after five years of construction, made its public debut on the Oshkosh Warbirds flightline nestled under it's full-scale N3N parent.

A few rows over, the EAFB Bobcat interrupted a line of Beech 18's and was the only representative of its type on the field this year. Another highlight of Oshkosh 2011 was the participation of the Bobcat in Tuesday's airshow, where Paul Rankin flew passes along with a C-47 that had participated in the Normandy invasion.

So, if you have an interest in aviation history, it is closer than you may think! Just check what's in the hangars next door. In following articles we'll peek into a few of those hangars.

Jeff Hove  
EAA Chapter 54 Historian



N3N and J-3 at 2010 Forest Lake fly-in



Typical EAFB breakfast in Jim's hangar

## Chapter Donation for Farnsworth

These are the Farnsworth kids that went on a field trip to Oshkosh in May with the \$1000 we donated. The kids letter is one of 46 that they wrote to us.



6/6/11

Dear EAA Chapter 54,

I was a chaperon on the Oshkosh trip 5/4-5/6. I would just like to tell you what a beautiful place Aviation Camp is. We all loved it!

You would be so proud of the students who went on this trip. They used everything they know about aviation and applied it to activities during camp. I'm sure the kids will tell you all about the things they did during their stay. So I won't go into detail.

The museum is so beautiful, so many colors! There was one more unique than the next!

Thank you for giving funds to help send so many kids to camp, myself included!

Sincerely,  
Ruth Barnett

Dear EAA Chapter 54,

Thank you for giving us money for our trip to Aviation Camp. I really appreciate it. My favorite part was the wing rib construction. It was my favorite because we got to use saws without some one helping, and we got to wear aprons, and safety goggles. I also liked Houston...we may have an omelet? I liked that because we got to experiment with eggs and the second time it worked. I learned about light years and Newton's third and different aircrafts. The food was good and the teachers were really nice!

Thank you sooo much!!!

Love,  
Elise





## Chapter 54 Meeting Minutes For July 11, 2011 *By Dale Seitzer*

The meeting was called to order by President Leif Erickson. Bettie Seitzer and Paul Rankin were in attendance. Two guests introduced themselves – Paul Taylor and Ray Bissonette.

Everyone agreed the name tags are working to help everyone get to know each other.

Luke Sinclair, our representative at the EAA Air Academy, gave a detailed slide show of his activities during the week. He confirmed a member observation that there seems to be a good percentage of girls in the photos. His parents are Debbie and Jim Sinclair. Luke is in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade at Stillwater High School. His favorite activity was the flight in the Cessna 172.

Jim Pearsall is the Aviation Day coordinator. He indicated help is needed to distribute the flyer and volunteers are still needed for many positions. We are all hoping for good weather on August 14, 2011 from 7:00 AM to Noon. He reported there are many confirmed feature participants – We will have a Waco plane selling rides, the Ford Model A Club, Rotor craft group, street rods and many planes.

Mark German was the speaker and we were lucky to see his Rans S7 that he flew in from his home airport, Forest Lake. The plane has a Rotax 912S, Warp Drive Prop and glass panel. The most interesting part of his build was the Stewart covering system that uses a water based finishing system with a much safer system. The only disadvantage is that auto fuel can soften the adhesive and 100LL does not damage it. His plane was a nice shiny white with blue accents.

Following a break to go outside and inspect Mark's plane, the business portion of the meeting commenced.

The Treasurers Report was approved and the Secretaries report was approved by unanimous vote.

The clubs laptop computer has malfunctioned—it must be replaced so we discussed the use of the computer (for speakers and Young Eagles) and the options (donations, used or new laptop or desk model). It was decided to ask for a contribution of a used computer and if we do not get one, we will consider a new purchase. There is a budget for office supplies and equipment.

The EAA chapter at Fleming field has suggested giving rides to Air Academy participants to enhance the experience. They would fly them if the club would pay for half the fuel. There were no positive comments.

STEM – Science Technology Engineering and Math is a summer program is looking for volunteers—contact Leif if you can help out with model building, building a wing

### **New Business—**

The nominating committee is Paul Rankin, Bettie Seitzer, Dave Becker, Tom Gibbons, and Leif Erickson. The openings are President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer and a couple Class II Directors. Also we need to find a Young Eagle Coordinator.

Young Eagles – Dave Becker reported July 16 was a makeup date. August 13 is the next regularly scheduled event—looking for volunteers. He also reported they have given rides to small groups during the week. Still need ground crews for Young Eagles—Talk to Dave if interested.

Tom Gibbons asked for newsletter items to be available two weeks before publishing.

Jeff Hove, Club Historian reported the Bamboo Bomber will attend other flyin's in the area.

Dave Fiebiger Housing Director reported the deck needs a new coat of stain, a 50 foot electrical cord is needed for the trimmer. We have a push mower available to use to mow the grass close to the house. Linda Amble has been pulling weeds—more help is needed. With all the rain the shrubs and trees are doing great but the rain falls on the weeds too.

After calls for new business and old business went unanswered, the meeting was adjourned.

Dale Seitzer  
Secretary

## Pilots Lounge

### For Sale:

4130 Gas Welding rods - 36" X 1/16" - I have 7 pounds of new rods I can part with. Each rod stamped with alloy ID. \$10 per pound or offer for the 7 pounds.

Vertical Card Compass lighted model - Precision Aviation, Inc - stamped 6/23/2004 \$50 or offer. Dave Syverson dsyverson@comcast.net or see additional contact info in Membership List.

### For Sale:

60' x 48' Hanger, 54' door, small office, bathroom, well, holding tank, natural gas heat, 18' high ceiling, and 5HP compressor.

Asking \$80,000.00 or best offer.

2006 CT-SW Light Sport with about 200 hours

Total time. Has everything on it.

Asking \$90,000.00.

Call Jim Michalski at 612-618-1011 or see all of this at 13C Alfa Lane at the Lake Elmo

Airport (21D)

E-mail is Jmkreps@comcast.net .

### Deluxe Hanger For Sale:

40 X 50 with 44 X 11 Door

Fully carpeted, insulated, gas unit heater with S.S. flue, electric baseboards, F.G. ceiling, textured walls, some attic platform storage, attic trusses are reinforced and double "X" braced. Wall ventilator with humid stat, two season wall vents, tool room with shelves & separate thermostat. Screened storage above. LAV room with single tub, cistern & storage above. Holding tank. Coffee room 4' above floor with finished storage below. Completely finished with A.C. and large hanger view window. Anderson permashield casement window. Door 2 3/4 S.C. Oak with steel frame. Includes furniture, microwave, refrigerator, coffee bar cabinets with Formica. Main floor windows have jail bars. Perimeter has rock border & ramp is flared. There is an electric aircraft winch and a custom oak work bench as well as a desk and a glazed book cabinet.

Price is \$69,900 Firm Plus any MAC fees.  
NORM DUPRE 651-439-7688

### Rotax 912 Update from chapter member Dale Seitzer

Rotax has developed a new fuel pump after problems have arisen with their subcontractor. Some kit manufacturers have reported intermittent fuel pressure fluctuations. The Rotax fuel pump is similar to auto mechanical fuel pumps. It is driven off a cam on the gear reduction box and is a simple set of valves and diaphragm. The new pump is around \$160.

Rotax has also developed a new oil filter with a check valve to reduce the amount of oil that could flow from the oil reservoir back into the crankcase. The 912 series engine uses a dry sump, all oil is returned to a oil reservoir beside the engine. When the engine sits for long periods or in some tail low applications, oil can seep back into the crankcase--this is why Rotax recommends hand turning the prop to move the oil back into the reservoir before checking oil levels.

Rotax has approved up to 10% ethanol use in their engines. Before using ethanol blended fuel make sure you verify ethanol does not damage the airplane's fuel storage and delivery system. The engines can handle the ethanol -- I like blended fuel because it absorbs small amounts of moisture and allows it to flow through the engine. Auto fuel does not have as long a shelf life as avgas so auto fuel is recommended if you fly a lot and avgas if you don't fly frequently. I also recommend using a fuel stabilizer such as Seafoam for all auto gas. I put some in when ever I buy fuel.

Brand new 912s now come with 2,000 hour TBO. They continue to make improvements to the engines, my engine is an older one and has 1400 hours TBO. That is still a long time--100 hours a year will take 14 years to reach. The new 912S is around \$20,000 -- the improvements and quality come at a cost.

**Chapter Billboard**  
Special ads allowed by the chapter

**LAKE ELMO MN (21D) SLSA**  
**Flying Club Forming**

Looking for individuals interested  
in membership in a Flying Club featuring  
a Flight Design Light Sport Aircraft

**Contact Jim Pearsall**

Phone: 651-494-4579

E-mail: [pjpearsall@gmail.com](mailto:pjpearsall@gmail.com)



**Turbo Arrow III FOR SALE - Call 651-982-6275**

**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 Piper aircraft. Our goal and philosophy are to fly great airplanes inexpensively. We strive for consistency in equipment among our three airplanes. Visit [www.Tailwinds21d.org](http://www.Tailwinds21d.org) for more information.

To inquire about membership, please send an [e-mail to Mark](#) or call 651-982-6275.



# AVIATION DAY

SUNDAY AUGUST 14TH

## *Fly-In / Drive-In Pancake Breakfast*

Lake Elmo Airport 7am - Noon @ Valters Aviation



Adults \$7

Children \$3

**PIC's Eat Free!!**

### Breakfast Menu

Sturdiwheat Pancakes,  
Brines Sausage, Scrambled Eggs,  
Orange Juice, Coffee, Milk.



Sign up for a  
Young Eagles Flight



*Proceeds help fund scholarships to the EAA Air Academy in Oshkosh, WI*

**Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 54**

**On the web at: [www.eaa54.org](http://www.eaa54.org)**



# Young Eagles Report

*by Dave Becker*



It was another month of being weathered out on two Young Eagle events. So far this year, we have been weathered out on five events including regularly scheduled events and special or back up events. We have only completed two Young Eagle events. I sure hope we can make up for it during the remainder of the events scheduled for the summer.

I attended the annual Young Eagle coordinators meeting at Oshkosh last week and EAA is doing a great job of improving the Young Eagle programs and sponsorships for kids. They also are very appreciative of all the work



and help by the pilots and ground volunteers who really make the Young Eagles program a success. Next year they will continue to improve the Young Eagle Flight Plan with the first step being a Young Eagles Flight then free EAA Student Membership, Sporty's Complete Flight Training Course, Free First Flight Lesson, and other Flight Training Scholarships. Also new on the horizon is an adult flight program based on the existing Young Eagles program. More information about these new programs will come out later in the year.



program based on the existing Young Eagles program. More information about these new programs will come out later in the year.



Our Young Eagle events are scheduled every second Saturday of each month from May through October starting at 9:00 a.m. Parents should pre-register their children for an event ahead of time by going to [www.eaa54.org](http://www.eaa54.org) and clicking on the Young Eagles page to sign up for a flight. To view the many great Young Eagle photos, go to: <http://www.eaa54.org/YEPhotoGallery/YEGallery.html>

If you would like to become actively involved in our Young Eagles program, contact Dave Becker or come to Lake Elmo on the second Saturday of the month and see what Young Eagles is all about. You can also indicate on your yearly chapter renewal form that you want to be involved with our Young Eagles Program.





**TAXI TALK**  
*{Interesting happenings compiled by the editor}*

**AUGUST IS HERE!!**

Unbelievable how the time is flying by! AirVenture '11 is over and what an event that was! Now we have another big event coming up for the chapter, our Annual Aviation Day-Fly-in Breakfast. I hope all are contacting Jeff Hove to help out where ever you can as it is the members that make this event successful.

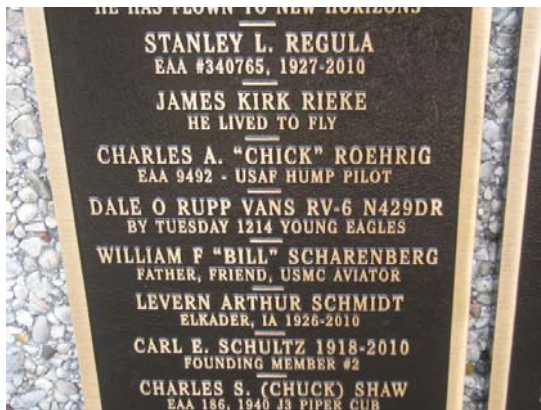
Sorry for the delay in this month's newsletter as I am barely organized from returning from Oshkosh. AA sent me to Chicago on Tuesday after I got back from OSH, to train for Deicing our aircraft during the winter season. It is just plain -ole scary that we are thinking of cold weather and snow already!



*Missing Man formation flown over the Memorial Wall Event*

**Dale Rupp Memorial Wall Event**

I managed to make it to the annual EAA AirVenture Memorial Wall Ceremony this year on Sunday, the last day of the event. Of course Chapter 54 donated the funds to have long time chapter member Dale Rupp inducted during this event. I met up with Leif Erickson and his wife for the very nice ceremony.



**AirVenture Fun!**

Had a great time as usual at the airshow camping on the grounds, meeting up with my very nice friends whom I camp with every year. Volunteered every day except two of the days at Flight Line Operations flagging the aircraft. Just a great time doing it, so fun to be near the aircraft as they taxi by, busy many times but fun!

Also met up with my great friends from Oshkosh, Mary and Rick, whom I volunteer with and we went to dinner one night north of town called Primo's and had a great time!



**Contact Information for Newsletter Stories**

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**E-Mail: [newsletter@eaa54.org](mailto:newsletter@eaa54.org)**



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## QUOTE OF THE MONTH

**To most people, the sky is the limit.  
To those who love aviation, the sky is home.**

*-Anon.*