



The Beacon

The newsletter of Chapter 54
Lake Elmo, Minn.

JANUARY 2018

January 2018

NEXT MONTH'S PROGRAM WILL BE ON

MONDAY February 12, 2018

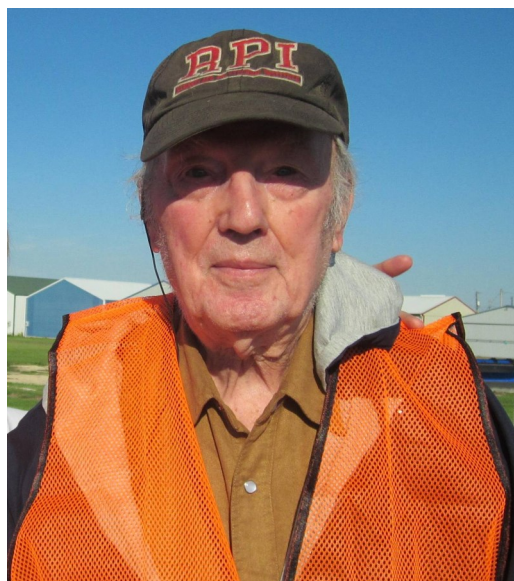
- Social Hour 6:30 PM
- Meeting begins at 7:30 PM
- CHAPTER HOUSE, ENTRANCE B, LAKE ELMO AIRPORT 21D
- Our Chapter Web site address: www.eaa54.org

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Charter Members Jesse Black and Norm Weston Recognition

Norm has been a volunteer at the Young Eagle events and every Aviation Day. He was one of the Charter members when Chapter 54 was established in the 50's.



He is a former military pilot and flew General Aviation aircraft in the past. Norm is most proud of his experience with the primary glider both as a pilot and as an adult helping others learn to fly. He has come up with many unique aircraft model designs and is constantly looking to expand members ideas for aircraft and materials.

Aviation Day / Pancake Breakfast Date Set. Mark your Calendar — August 12, 2018



Jesse Black is also a Charter member of EAA Chapter 54. He is a long time pilot who had a Piper Clipper and recently a Bellanca. He still lives on the family farm in Kandyohi County. Jesse has been a regular volunteer parking cars during the Aviation Day Pancake Breakfast



Pilot shows girlfriend his marriage proposal — etched on snow-covered Minnesota lake

By [Forum News Service](#) | PUBLISHED: January 10, 2018 at 6:32 pm | UPDATED: January 11, 2018 at 9:20 pm



NEVIS, Minn. — Gavin Becker has set the bar for “most romantic” marriage proposal sky high — literally. With the help of his family, the 2015 Nevis High School graduate carved the message “MARRY ME” onto Eighth Crow Wing Lake. On Sunday, Gavin flew his longtime girlfriend, Olivia Toft, over the gigantic proposal in north-western Minnesota.

An aviation student in Grand Forks, Gavin will graduate from the University of North Dakota this spring as a commercial pilot. Olivia is a 2014 Nevis High School graduate. She graduated from Moorhead State University with a degree in social work. A few weeks earlier, he enlisted the help of his parents to find an engagement ring. They plotted inventive ways he could pop the question.

“We decided, in pilot style, he should propose in an airplane,” said father Ed Becker. “I actually proposed on this lake in a boat 28 years ago.” Ed and wife Sara Becker own In-We-Go Resort on Eighth Crow Wing. For Christmas, Olivia asked Gavin to give her an airplane ride, “so she didn’t suspect a thing,” he said. Gavin originally planned to propose on New Year’s Eve — but both he and Olivia came down with strep throat. “So we punted until this weekend,” Ed explained. She said “yes!”



FROM THE FLIGHT DECK (PRESIDENTS REPORT)

JACK MILLER

“We are shaped by where we have been and defined by where we are going” Anon
 Please complete the survey here and either send directly to the Chapter President,
president@eaa54.org

Name: _____ City: _____

Member of EAA (Yes or No): _____ Visitor (Yes or No): _____

Private Pilot: _____ Student Pilot: _____ Inquirer: _____

Email Address: _____

Contact Phone: _____

What do you want from our Monthly Chapter Meetings? _____

What can you contribute to the Chapter? _____



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



EAA CHAPTER 54 *THE BEACON*



Gavin Becker and Olivia Toft take a selfie during his aerial proposal over Eighth Crow Wing Lake near Nevis, Minn., on Jan. 7, 2018. (Courtesy photo via Forum News Service)

Gavin's parents, sister Katie and Katie's boyfriend woke early Saturday morning and spent 4½ hours toiling on the lake message. Using a 200-foot tape measure, Ed said they figured out the top of each letter, then walked the line and eyeballed the bottom of the letter. Each letter measured 25 feet tall and 15 feet wide. Ed used a Toro snowblower to scrape away the snow. "It was very easy," Ed said. "It was really fun."

Meanwhile, Gavin rented a Cessna airplane, but thanks to 25-below-zero temps, it wouldn't start. "The whole thing was a little bit of an adventure," said Ed, adding that Gavin is a driven, independent do-it-yourselfer. The fact that Gavin asked for the family's help — "that's what's so exciting for my wife and I." On Sunday, the Beckers "polished" up the message and Gavin made his second attempt at flight.

The couple flew over at 2 p.m. "I was really impressed how well they did it," Gavin said of his family's jumbo messaging technique. "When my dad does something, he doesn't do it lightly."

While in the air, Gavin said he tried his best to hide the proposal until the perfect moment. "Trees hid it a little bit. You could

read it pretty well," he said. When Olivia saw the lakeside love note, she exclaimed. "She looked at me a second, then looked again at the message a second, then back at me. In my head, I said, 'Now's the time to do it.' I fumbled for the ring," Gavin said. He had a speech prepared.

"In the moment, all I was able to get out was, 'Will you marry me?'" She said yes. Gavin described Olivia's reaction as "happy, excited, shocked." The couple has not yet set a wedding date. For now, they are simply enjoying the moment.

BasicMed Resource Center

After the release of [FAA's Alternative Pilot Physical Examination and Education Requirements \(Advisory Circular 68-1, aka "BasicMed"\)](#), overall reaction has been very positive. As with any change or new procedure, the questions are inevitable. EAA's staff has received numerous questions about what the new law means or what may happen when it becomes effective on May 1.

EAA put together this Resource Center to make it easy for you to access information on BasicMed. After reviewing these materials, please contact us if you have further questions.

The FAA BasicMed includes three core requirements:

EAA Technical Counselors

EAA Technical Counselors are experienced airplane builders, restorers, and mechanics who volunteer their time to visit other EAA members who are in the process of building or restoring their own aircraft.

The goal of EAA's Technical Counselors program is to help members present a "zero defect" aircraft at final inspection by the FAA. It's aimed at providing experienced builders to help you make the right choices during construction.

If you are building or restoring, tap into this member benefit early in the project to save time, money, and aggravation! Get the peace of mind that can only be had from an experienced builder looking over your work to provide you with a best path forward.

To receive Tech Counselor visit reports forms, email EAA Safety Programs at SafetyPrograms@eaa.org.

Mail a request to EAA Tech Counselor Program:

EAA Aviation Center
P.O. Box 3086
Oshkosh, WI 54903-3086
Or Call 1-920-426-6864

EAA Flight Advisors

EAA Flight Advisors can help you find the right path to get you flying efficiently and, most importantly, safely.

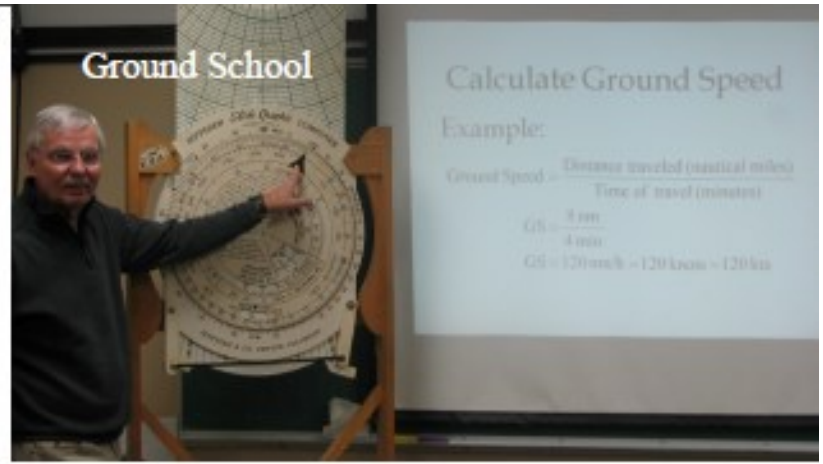
The Flight Advisors program is designed to increase sport aviation safety by developing a corps of volunteers who have demonstrated expertise in specific areas of flying and making them available to EAA members who may be preparing to fly an unfamiliar aircraft.

Access EAA's Flight Advisor program if you are:

- Considering purchasing an airplane or ultralight
- Preparing for flight in a newly built or restored aircraft
- Looking to transition to a high performance or unfamiliar aircraft

Advisors can help you plan your first flight, and determine if additional training is needed. Often, members who access this program qualify for more complete insurance, like "first flight" coverage under the EAA Aircraft Insurance Plan.

<https://www.eaa.org/en/eaa/aviation-communities-and-interests/pilot-resources/eaa-flight-advisors-program>



Private/Sport Pilot Ground School

Starts February 1, 2018
6:00 — 9:00 p.m.

EAA Chapter 54 Clubhouse
Lake Elmo Airport

Register online at eaa54.org



EAA BasicMed Resource Center

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The FAA BasicMed includes three core requirements:

- Comply with the general BasicMed requirements (possess a U.S. driver's license have held a medical after July 15, 2006).
- Get a physical exam with a state-licensed physician, using the [Comprehensive Medical Examination Checklist](#).
- Complete a BasicMed medical education course (Approved Courses: [Mayo Aerospace](#) & [AOPA](#)).

Airventure Photos



More Photos from Airventure 2017



A Restored CUB at the Vintage Area.

EAA Member Flies 1,000 Young Eagles in Minnesota

[November 30, 2017](#) by [Ti Windisch](#)



Young Eagles pilots around the world help EAA spread The Spirit of Aviation to younger generations, and Dave Jennen, EAA 613225, is no exception, as he has flown exactly 1,000 Young Eagles flights over the last 17 years. Dave didn't know a lot about EAA when he began flying, but his local airport manager got him involved with Chapter 1174 meetings, and he started flying some Young Eagles around 2000. One thing led to another, and a few years later when the chapter needed a new Young Eagles coordinator, Dave was picked for the job.

He agreed to his new post, but with a condition: Dave wanted to fly more than the kids who were able to make it out to the airport. He knew that there were students in local schools who would benefit from the freedom that flight provides who, for one reason or another, wouldn't be able to get to airport themselves. "I spent 37 years working in law enforcement, and spent a lot of years around kids whose parents weren't the type to bring them to the airport," Dave said. "I said I'll do it, but I want to go to the schools."

Since beginning that program, Dave and Chapter 1174 have expanded their reach to five or six schools, including one in neighboring North Dakota. Along the way to flying 1,000 Young Eagles, Dave said his favorite part has been the joy on his young copilots' faces. "The look on the kid's face when you push off the ground, the wheels come off the ground and they realize they're flying [is my favorite part]," Dave said. "And the overall enthusiasm when they've had a chance to control the airplane. I guess it's the smiles on the kids' faces when we get back on the ground."

In addition to those magical moments, Dave said getting the chance to get kids who otherwise might not have a chance to do something like fly an airplane drives him to keep on going. "I haven't had anybody who wasn't excited," he said. "That's part of the reason I continue to do it. The other reason is giving kids whose parents aren't actively engaged a chance to get involved." People from his local community often recognize Dave because he either flew them or flew someone they know. His attitude of getting anybody who wants to fly in the air is a big part of that. Dave said students with conditions like muscular dystrophy who have expressed interest in getting a Young Eagles ride have been able to as part of his group's efforts. His mantra is simple, yet powerful. "The answer is always absolutely," Dave said. "We'll take them flying ... there's always room for those kids."

FOR SALE

Stratoflex clamps PN 10781-4-22CR - SS clamps used for securing firesleeve over hose assemblies. I have 6 of these - \$2 each or offer (new price is \$4.35 ea at Aircraft Spruce) ddsylverson@comcast.net

Tailwinds Membership, \$4,000 see ad below. Josh Tocko (Owner) FLIGHT LEVEL 510 DESIGN 651.587.0999 design@fl510design.com

I am in a partnership on a 1958 Champ at Lake Elmo and one of the partners recently decided to sell his share and we would like to find a replacement. [Chip Berniard <eberniard@gmail.com>](mailto:ChipBerniard@gmail.com)

I have a share of the Hobo's Flying club for sale. Each share is worth 20% of the club (There are 5 Members). The plane is a 1971 Belanca Champ
Monthly dues: \$60
Wet hourly flying rate: \$50
Club Initiation fee: \$200
Asking price: \$6000 / obo
wschanks@gmail.com



WANTED

"Working Partner" to develop Durand Mark V as a Kit plane, working knowledge of Solidworks or CAD. An A & P background is desired...Investment is negotiable Contact Jim Swatosh 956-607-6088 jswatosh@hotmail.com www.durandmarkv.com

WANTED

Tanis heater for 200 HP Lycoming 360 needed in Mooney— Good used is okay if you know of someone that has one. Yes, this means I finally bought a plane. Thank you for any response.
Roger Barcus 651-246-8028

WANTED — TO RENT

Hangar space to rent at Lake Elmo Airport for final assemble of Zenith 750. High wing about the size of a Cessna 152. Ed Trudeau 651-303-4936. N750ET@gmail.com



Chapter 54 Directory

Housing Director	
Dave Fiebiger	
housing@eaa54.org	
Membership Director	
John Renwick	
memberships@eaa54.org	
Young Eagles Director	
youngeagles@eaa54.org	
Newsletter Editor/Director At-Large	
Dale Seitzer	
Newsletter@eaa54.org	
Chapter Historian:	
Jeff Hove	
21D RCO 118.625, Uni-com: 122.8	
21D AWOS:120.075, TPA: 1932'	
Runways:	
4-22 (2497' x 75')	
14-32 (2850' x 75')	



Tailwinds Flying Club Welcomes New Members

Tailwinds Flying Club 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! North side, Fairchild Lane, Hangar 25E. To inquire about membership, please call 612-584-1740 or visit www.tailwinds21d.org.