



# The Beacon

The newsletter of Chapter 54  
Lake Elmo, Minn.

July 2023



**21D** RCO 118.625 COM 122.8 AWOS 120.075 Elev. 932'  
Runways **4-22** (2497' x 75') **14-32** (3500' x 75')

## Chapter House, South Airport Entrance at the Beacon

Chapter Meetings 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of Each Month

7:00pm social 7:30pm Meeting

Ch.54 Phone# 651-515-3464

[www.eaa54.org](http://www.eaa54.org)

### Who's currently who in Ch.54:

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Paul Hove, Bill Schanks Jr.

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### Inside this Issue:

From the Flight Deck	1-2	Website Update / AirVenture	4-6
From the Right Seat	2-3	LEACC/RAAC	6-9
Chapter Meetings	3-4	Editor's 2¢	9

### From the Flight Deck (Leif Erickson)



#### June Chapter Picnic Recap

Let me extend my sincere thanks to Bill Schanks Jr for organizing another great outdoor summer picnic. And a big thank you to everyone else involved in making this a stellar summer social event. The food was great, Dale Seitzer's music was delightful, and Kevin's trike on display added extra interest. Makes we think we should do this more often than just once a year ... winter months are excluded.

#### AirVenture 2023

The world's great aviation gathering is now just a few weeks away from opening. Again, this year, Chapter 54 will have a designated chapter campsite location. Our versatile member Bill Schanks Jr is also organizing

the campsite experience. Vicky and Pat Moore will be the on-site campsite representatives. If you are not a camper, but still attend AirVenture, make sure to locate chapter 54's "Beachhead". The location may vary, so stay in touch with Bill, Vicky, or Pat to find the exact location.



#### VFR Transponder Checks

Chapter 54 member Jay Schrankler and his business Perceptive Avionics, located at KRNH, is offering a special deal for chapter 54 members. Have your VFR transponder check done by Perceptive Avionics for \$150 and \$50 of that cost will be rebated back to the chapter. This is a win-win. A great fundraiser for the chapter and Perceptive Avionics.

The tentative date for the transponder check event is Saturday, August 5 starting at 8:30 AM. The rain date is Aug 19. The event will be at the East Metro Jet Center ramp at KRNH. Coffee and doughnuts will be available while you wait.

Please make an appointment for your check. This will help avoid extended wait time if everyone shows up at the same time. Do yourself, your airplane, and chapter 54 a favor all at the same time. This is a very generous offer from Jay. Let's show him we appreciate the offer.

### ACE Camp

This summer Chapter 54 sponsored a young person Noah Dahl to attend an aviation camp in MN rather than the EAA Air Academy at Oshkosh. This is because registrations for the 2023 Air Academy were already filled.

ACE stands for Aviation Career Education. The camp is a week-long event here in MN. Please check out their website for more information about the camp, Minnesota ACE Camp ([mnacecamp.org](http://mnacecamp.org)). The experience looks amazing. It focuses on an introduction to a wide range of aviation career opportunities.

Funds for the camp will be provided by Chapter 54's Dardis Scholarship Fund. Noah's parents will pay \$200. EAA will reimburse the chapter over \$500 of Young Eagles to help offset our costs.

Noah will attend our July Member Gathering to give us a summary of his experience.

### September Member Gathering at KRNH

Yes, you did read that correctly. Chapter 54 is planning to host the September Member Gathering

at KRNH rather than our clubhouse. Jay Schrankler proposed the idea because KRNH does not have an EAA Chapter, and the number of airplanes based there exceeds that at Lake Elmo. This will be a large audience and source of new EAA and Chapter 54 members. We may also include airplane owners from the Osceola and Amery airports.

Planning is still in progress. Tentatively, we plan to host the gathering and include a hangar tour that includes a Piaggio Gull, a Huey helicopter (that saw action in Vietnam) and a Bell helicopter.

Watch for more details as they are finalized. This should be exciting and a wonderful opportunity for Chapter 54 to broaden its presence beyond Lake Elmo.

### Chapter 54 Elections

Just a heads up that elections of Chapter 54 Officers and Class III Directors will be at the November Member Gathering. It is also the annual Membership Meeting. According to our bylaws, the election of officers and class III directors will be held in odd-numbered years. These are two-year terms. The newly elected candidates will assume their responsibilities at the adjournment of the November 2023 Membership Meeting. The terms will end in November 2025.

In July, the officers and class III directors will be canvassed to determine their desire to continue in their current position.

At this point, there are two known open officer seats, president, and vice president.

Leif Erickson

## From the Right Seat (Robyn Stoller)

### EAA 54 Exciting Programs Coming Up!

**Monday, July 10, 2023, 7:30 p.m.**

Hello everyone,

The lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer are here...a perfect time for our EAA 54 July gathering.

You're invited to an enjoyable, laid-back evening to hear from our MN ACE Camp scholarship winner Noah Dahl as he shares his camp experience and



what he liked most about it. MN ACE camp (Aviation Career Education) is an FAA-approved, intense week-long camp offered annually in the Twin Cities. It typically includes meetings with staff from major airlines, MAC, ATC and others involved in aviation career planning. Will be great to hear Noah's perspective on this year's camp.

Jim Pearsall will follow with an Air Venture news and update presentation. Whether you're a first-time attendee to Air Venture, haven't attended yet or have been going for years, you're sure to gain good information from Jim's presentation to help plan your next Oshkosh adventure.

The meeting will be held at the EAA 54 clubhouse, Lake Elmo Airport, 3275 Manning Avenue North, Lake Elmo, MN 55042. Snacks will be served.

Hope to see you there!

Robyn Stoller

#### Also coming up:

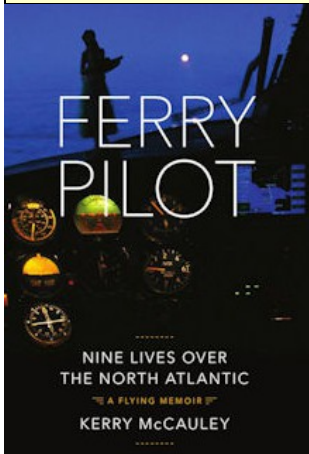
#### August 12 – EAA 54 Corn Feed at 21D

Chapter fundraiser and Fly In. Volunteers needed!

#### September 11 – EAA 54 Meeting travels to RNH

(See Leif's column)

### Spring Chapter Meetings



The April 10<sup>th</sup> meeting featured **Kerry McCauley** speaking of his adventurous flying career which included serving with the MN National Guard and working as an international ferry pilot with over 100 ocean crossings. He is the author of a #1 bestselling book "Ferry Pilot – Nine Lives Over the Atlantic" and is a professional skydiver with over 20,000 jumps. Kerry has been a UH-1H "Huey" crew chief and corporate jet pilot. He's flown ~50 aircraft types and has over 9000 hours of flight time, and stars in two seasons of the Discovery Channel's series Dangerous Flights. Kerry lives in Wisconsin with his wife Cathy where they own and operate a skydiving school along with their children, Claire and Connor. Kerry stayed after the presentation to sell and sign books and talk further with members. If you missed it, you can also find his books at [kerrymccauley.com](http://kerrymccauley.com)



The May 13<sup>th</sup> meeting featured our very own Paul Rankin presenting "What I have Seen from the Air". Paul has over 22,000 flight hours as a General Aviation pilot, Navy Carrier pilot, Corporate and Airline pilot. Flying as we all know gives us a unique perspective of our world. Things on the ground, as well as things in the air,



look different when seen from the air. Some things can only be seen from the air. This presentation showed some of the unique things, both natural and man-made Paul has seen in his 55 years of flying. We were treated to a great selection of highlights Paul has captured by photograph from all around the globe during his decades in the cockpit.

The June 12<sup>th</sup> meeting again featured our annual picnic, cook-out, and silent auction. It generated a great turnout featuring burgers, brats, salads, baked beans, chips, cookies, and veggies, all enjoyed while listening to a creatively curated and well performed music set by past president and talented musician Dale Seitzer. The weather was perfect and it was an evening to enjoy and remember.



### Chapter 54 Website Updates (Bob Collins)

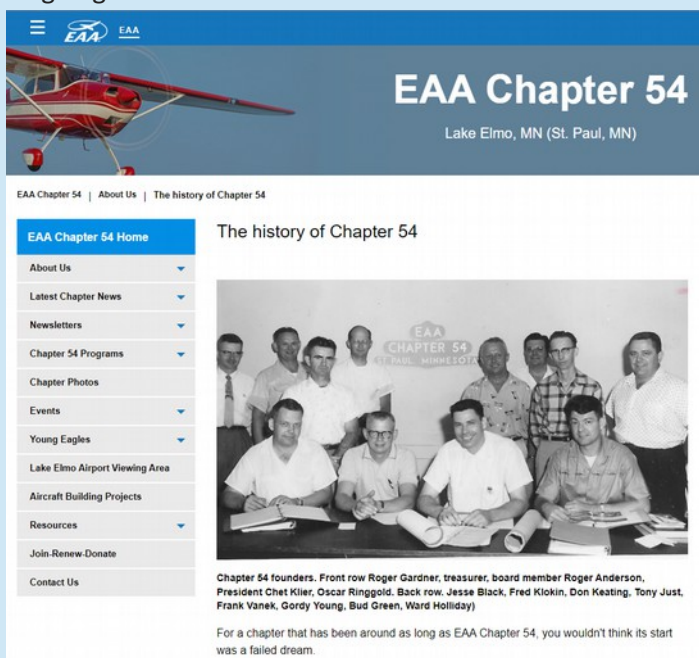
Last spring, Robyn Stoller asked me to help out with Chapter 54's website. She was interested in migrating Young Eagles images from Flickr to the site hosted by the national EAA, particularly as the end was near for the old EAA54.org site.

I'm retired now but made my living in its latter stages in the golden age of online news, when we were able to try lots of new and creative things before the bosses noticed what we were doing. Those days are over now that websites are the most popular introduction to an audience that any brand has.

So, looking at the possibilities, it was clear there were lots of things we could do with EAA's website software, called SiteCore. Among the first steps was to figure out who our audience is. Is it EAA 54 members? Is it the public. And the answer to both is "yes."

What do we want it to accomplish? From a chapter branding standpoint, we want to attract new members. And we do that with not only being a vibrant and engaged group of members, but to make our website evoke that vibrancy. The result off that thought process is where the website stands today.

One of the first things I did was try to digitize a lot of the things that are on scraps of paper and loose leaf binders at the chapter house. The result is the history of Chapter 54, which goes back to the late '50s. This narrative is intended to be a living document which will be updated on an ongoing basis.



It's important, at least to me, to recognize where we come from as a Chapter, and to understand that we're entrusted

with carrying on all that dozens of others worked hard to build over the decades. You can find this narrative [here](#).

The front page of the website alludes to this history but for the most part, it's intended to scream "news"! It will always have just-updated information for members and the public, and it will all link to an entire page of chapter news. In addition, it will have details of the program that Robyn has put together for the next meeting.



The website is "responsive", meaning it will display properly whether you're using a PC or a smart phone.

The navigation pane on the left side (or the top left if you're viewing on a smartphone) is the guide for getting around. Each category also has sub-pages. For example, under "About Us" you'll find the history of Chapter 54, biographies and backgrounds of the Chapter leadership, a history of the Chapter House.

The "Latest Chapter News" will feature a full page of updated news of the chapter, the latest Board of Directors minutes, and the EAA Chapter Video each month.

I may at some point, nest The Beacon, Chapter 54's newsletter, under this section, but for the moment it has its own section. All of the issues back to 2002 were rescued from the old website before it was lost. Each decade of newsletter has its own page and each issue listed also has a synopsis of the content in that particular newsletter.

By far the most work has been on upgrading the Young Eagles section. This is an area with significant non-member visibility and usefulness so we wanted to make it as robust as possible. So there is now a description and page for the next Young Eagle rally, and a section of photos for each previous rally (see the 76 photos taken at the June 10<sup>th</sup> rally [here](#)). We're also creating a page of biographies and

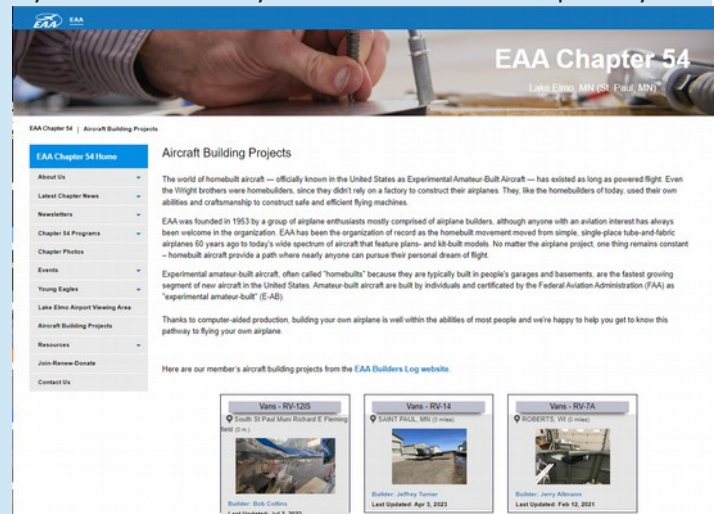
aircraft information for our Young Eagles volunteers. And we have a page with a step-by-step guide for how you can be a Young Eagles pilot.



For our members there's [a calendar](#) of regional flyouts, curated by Bill Schanks Jr., and updated and maintained by Paul Hove. And there's a separate calendar for important dates for Chapter 54.

We also wanted to increase visibility for the aircraft viewing area as an outreach effort to residents in our area. The "links" page is now known as "[resources](#)" and has been streamlined and expanded.

And, finally, we've added the Aircraft Building Projects to try boost the visibility of our members whose primary



interest is in building airplanes. The page pulls in data from

EAA's very excellent builder's log. If you use the log, just be sure to indicate you're a member of Chapter 54, and your log will be pulled in.

If there are more things you'd like to see added, please pass them along and we can certainly make that happen.

### Kudos for the website update (Tim Dahnke, EAA Field Rep)

(Editor: Bob's work on the website has not gone unnoticed by our members or by EAA HQ. Bob Collins received the following notice recently from the EAA's Tim Dahnke)

It is my sincere pleasure to announce that you have been chosen as a **2023 Chapter Web Editor Award winner**. Your hours of hard work contribute to the success of your chapter and foster the growth of sport aviation. Your contributions are recognized and appreciated by your fellow chapter members. You are truly deserving of this award. The chapter website is one of the most important tools of communication a chapter has to keep members and prospective members informed and engaged, for both the day-to-day, future events, and happenings of the chapter. Please accept my sincere congratulations for this great achievement.

You and other award recipients will be **honored at the 2023 EAA AirVenture Oshkosh Chapter Leaders Breakfast** on Saturday, July 29 beginning at 8:00 a.m. in the Founders Wing at the EAA Aviation Museum.

On behalf of the entire Chapters' team here at EAA in Oshkosh, I congratulate you.

### AirVenture 2023

The airshow runs from July 24<sup>th</sup>- 30<sup>th</sup> this year. Connect with [Bill Schanks Jr](#), [Vicky Moore](#), or Pat Moore to find out where the Ch.54 campsite gets located in Camp Scholler and when to find the gang there to say hello. Jim Pearsall will have more to say at the July 10<sup>th</sup> chapter meeting about what to expect at the show this year, but until then, here's the initial Warbirds in Review schedule and a pretty picture of a MIG in attendance last year.



US Military Aircraft in attendance will include:

Air Force: F-15, F-22, C-17, C-130, V-22

Army: CH-47, UH-60, MH-47, AH-6, AH-64

Navy: F-18, P-3, F-35C

Marine Corps: F-35B

WI Air Nat'l Guard: F-35A, KC-135R

Note that all variants of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter will be there including the F-35B vertical launch version.

### LEACC / RAAC (Marlon Gunderson)

#### Lake Elmo Airport Advisory Commission Meeting

The Lake Elmo Airport Advisory Commission second 2023 quarterly meeting was held on May 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Baytown Township Hall. The full power point presentation from the meeting is available at [this link](#).

Airport Manager Phil Tiedeman presented a construction update for the airport improvement activities that are nearing completion. He noted that 30<sup>th</sup> street would be closed in late May through mid-June to repave the western half mile of old road that connects to the new curve, and this work has been completed now. Old runway removals are continuing and new taxiway areas are opening up as they are completed. Phil also noted that the FAA has said they are on track to have the IFR approach to realigned runway 14/32 active on October 5<sup>th</sup>.

Judd Andrews was then spotlighted as an airport user.

- Monday, July 24**
  - 10 a.m. Piper L-4 Grasshopper *Rosie the Rocketeer*, with Rob Collings, Joe Scheil, Carol Carpenter Apacki, and Jim Busha
  - 1 p.m. Walt Ohlrich's North American SNJ-N502, with John "Pappy" Mazza
- Tuesday, July 25**
  - 10 a.m. McDonnell Douglas F/A-18 Hornet and Naval Aircraft Factory N3N, with Tammie Jo Shults
  - 1 p.m. North American P-51B and P-51D Old Crow Mustangs, with Brig. Gen. C.E. "Bud" Anderson
- Wednesday, July 26**
  - 10 a.m. Stinson L-5 Sentinel Miss Beverly, with Steve Seal and Chad Hill
  - 1 p.m. North American P-51C *Thunderbird* and Republic P-47D-23R, with Warren Pietsch and Bruce Eames
- Thursday, July 27**
  - 10 a.m. Vought F4U-7 Corsair and the *Devotion* story, with Adam Makos, Lt. j.g. Sam Clauzel, and Col. Joe McPhail
  - 1 p.m. Cessna L-19 Bird Dogs and North American T-28 Trojan, with Capt. Phil Phillips and Jim Hogdon
- Friday, July 28**
  - 10 a.m. Mikoyan-Gurevich MiG-21 and Douglas A-4B Skyhawk, with Cmdr. Randy "Duke" Cunningham and Cmdr. William "Willy Irish" Driscoll
  - 12:45 p.m. Bell Huey N14SD, Hughes TH-55, and Bell H-13, with Maj. Gen. Patrick Brady (followed by veterans salute and veterans flightline parade to Boeing Plaza, sponsored by American Airlines)
- Saturday, July 29**
  - 10 a.m. North American B-25, with Maj. John "Lucky" Luckadoo, Staff Sgt. Robert Holmstrom, and Lt. Carl Verbanac
  - 1 p.m. North American P-51C Tuskegee Airmen red tail Mustang, with Lt. Col. George Hardy, Lt. Col. James Harvey, and Brig. Gen. Enoch O. Woodhouse II EAA



Judd is known for his local business (Tire Pros) and the Tire Pros vehicles visible around town. He is a local Stillwater resident who grew up in town.

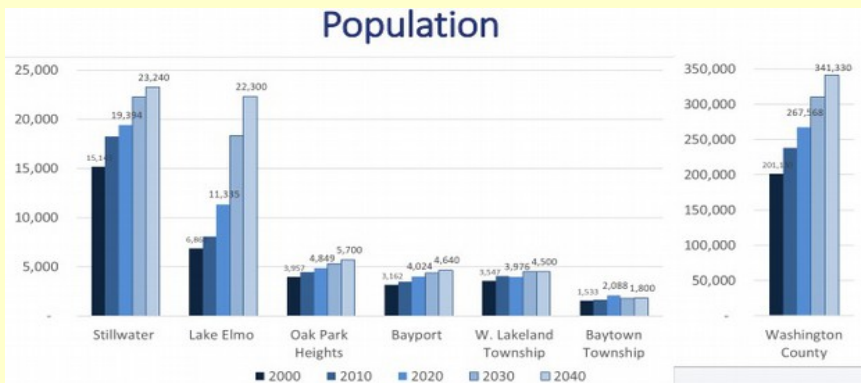
Aviation is a natural extension of Judd’s mechanical interests, and he achieved his private pilot license in 2019. Fairly new to flying and Lake Elmo Airport, Judd built a new hangar in 2021/22.

Today he flies a Mooney M20K with an FAA-approved Rocket Engineering 305 modification to enhance speed. So far Judd’s main use of the plane is for recreational purposes, visiting friends and family, and it’s a real “time saver” that allows him to visit people and places his work schedule would otherwise not allow.

Judd appreciates the quiet, laid-back nature of Lake Elmo Airport and you can find him out at the airport flying or talking to other airplane owners whenever he can on quiet evenings and weekends.

Population trends were shown for surrounding communities, seen here, with Lake Elmo accounting for the majority of the expected growth in the next 2 decades.

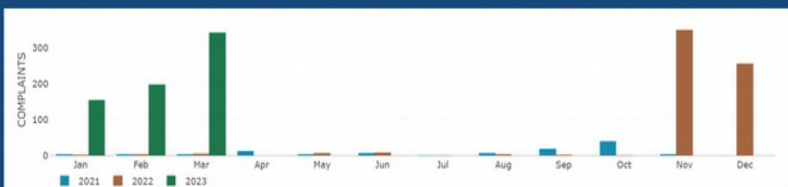
The community spotlight was dedicated to a description and history of Oak Park Heights provided by LEAAC member, and Oak Park Heights Mayor, Mary McComber. The current hot issue for the city is the retirement of Xcel



## Lake Elmo Airport Aircraft Complaints Q1 2023

### COMPLAINTS

2023	694 COMPLAINTS	6 LOCATIONS	15 NIGHTTIME COMPLAINTS	5 NIGHTTIME HOUSEHOLDS
2022	10 COMPLAINTS	4 LOCATIONS	5 NIGHTTIME COMPLAINTS	4 NIGHTTIME HOUSEHOLDS



Quarterly Reports available here: <https://customers.macnoms.com/reports/relievers.html>

Energy's Allen S. King Coal fired power plant. The closure of the plant will eliminate a large portion of the cities current tax revenues. The 179 acre site which includes almost a mile of prime St. Croix riverfront will provide a new premier location to be repurposed to the benefit of the city; that process is being carefully considered by a panel established by the City Council.

← Noise complaint data for Q1 2023 was presented by MAC Community Relations Coordinator Jennifer Lewis in context with prior quarters and years. The complaint numbers continued to be dominated by one new

household in Lake Elmo that called to complain several hundred times per month, making it a very high complaint quarter again.

Jennifer also gave a presentation on 'Aircraft Noise Basics' which included general and MAC specific information, including:

- 2022 flight operation numbers were similar at 21D, LVN, MIC, and STP, somewhere in the 30-40 thousand operations for the year. ANE was roughly double those numbers, and FCM was double that again at ~125K operations.
- 21D, LVN, and MIC are categorized as 'secondary reliever' airports, correlating to their untowered status and lower operations.
- There are 133 public airports in Minnesota and 'minor' airports like 21D are limit by state law to runway length of no more than 5000 feet.
- Public use airports are required to support night time operation by the 1990 Airport Noise and Capacity Act, and any restrictions to such operation requires federal approval.



The voluntary Noise Abatement Plan for 21D includes:

### NIGHTTIME MEASURES

1. Pilots are asked to avoid operating during nighttime hours (2200 – 0700 local) if possible
2. Training flights are discouraged between the hours of 2400 - 0700 local
3. Intersection takeoffs are discouraged at all times, and prohibited from 2200-0700 local
4. Any aircraft not meeting 14 CFR Part 36 is prohibited between 2200 - 0700 local

### DEPARTURE PROCEDURES

1. Intersection takeoffs at the airport are discouraged at all times
2. Departing aircraft should climb to 500 feet agl before initiating a turn
3. Avoid overflying noise sensitive residential areas if possible
4. Gain as much altitude as possible before overlying residential areas
5. Follow NBAA Noise Abatement Departure Procedures

### HELICOPTER PROCEDURES

1. Helicopter training in the traffic pattern area is prohibited from 2200 - 0800 local
2. Avoid flow of fixed wing aircraft
3. Avoid low-level training and repetitive activity over residential areas whenever possible

### ARRIVAL PROCEDURES

1. On approach to 21D, remain at Traffic Pattern Altitude or higher until descending via PAPI/VASI if available
2. Remain at an altitude at or above the approach slope indicator as much as possible
3. Stop and Go landings are NOT permitted
4. Follow NBAA Approach and Landing Procedures

The next LEACC meeting is scheduled same place for Monday August 28<sup>th</sup> at 3pm. These are open to the public so anyone should feel free to attend if they wish. Please confirm meeting time/place via [the MAC LEACC webpage](#).

### Reliever Airport Advisory Commission Meeting

The June 13th [RAAC](#) meeting kicked off with an introduction to the new Crystal Airport user Representative Jeff Long by Crystal Airport manager Rob Dockery. The airport managers then summarized activities at their airports, which included a flood wall deployment at STP for this spring's high running Mississippi River, a building demolition at ANE, service road construction work at MIC, work on the Environmental Assessment for planned improvements at LVN, and



the demolition of 5 older hangars at FCM to achieve regulation taxiway clearance. 21D activities amounted to more Phase 4 airport improvement work including ongoing taxiway and service road work completion which has now eliminated the need for back taxi, and reconstruction of the western portion of 30<sup>th</sup> street--the southern airport boundary road.

Kelly Gerads then summarized the 2022 Reliever Airport systems financials and noted that the ongoing review of rates and charges that is expected to wrap up later this year. On the revenue side, the reliever system took in roughly 5.9M from commercial and business activities, 2.6M from storage tenant leases, 2.0M from MSP contributions, and 1.0M from other (non-aeronautical related) sources. Expenditures totaled roughly 5.8M for personnel and maintenance.

The next RAAC meeting is scheduled for 7pm September 12 and the MAC building on 28<sup>th</sup> Ave S at MSP.

### The Editor's 2¢ (Marlon Gunderson)

I'll start with a big thanks to Bill Schanks Jr. for his work providing flying and social opportunities for Chapter 54 members, including the June annual barbeque and silent-auction fundraiser at the club house, and for organizing and participating in almost weekly fly out opportunities. Check [the chapter events page](#) for other upcoming fly out opportunities.

Thanks Bill!

If you're headed to Oshkosh for the show this year, look for the Chapter 54 campsite in camp Scholler, and look for me on the western side of the homebuilt camping area where you'll find me camped with my Cozy in a row or two of canard aircraft in that area. Also look for Dale Seitzer camped down at the Ultralight Red Barn with his SkyRanger and look for Paul Rankin with the Bamboo Bomber up in the warbird area. I'll wait to see how the weather shapes up that week before deciding when to head over and how long to stay – an advantage of being

less than 2 hours flight time away and prudent for those like me who don't carry hull insurance.



If you do head over to the canard camping row, look for Les Laidlaw of Mankato and/or his recently completed Cozy Mk4. It should be a contender for a plans built award and worth checking out for all the nice custom features and great build quality. Les just completed Phase 1 testing in June and promptly flew to Boise Idaho 8.5 hours non-stop to show family members who have participated in the build in various ways. It's a beautiful airplane!

Remember August 12<sup>th</sup>! We're having a chapter corn feed fly in at 21D. Please volunteer when the ask comes!