



# The Beacon

The newsletter of Chapter 54  
Lake Elmo, Minn.

AUGUST 2013

## August 2013

THE NEXT PROGRAM WILL BE ON MONDAY

**September 9, 2013**

- **Regular Monthly Meeting**
- **7:00 PM, CHAPTER HOUSE, ENTRANCE B, LAKE ELMO AIRPORT 21D.**

**9:00 am, Young Eagles — September 14, 2013**

**10:30 am, Clubhouse Landscaping — September 14, 2013**

**Noon, Young Eagles Chapter Picnic — September 14, 2013**

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<b>DAVE AND DALE'S ADVENTURE</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>PILOT'S LOUNGE</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>MEETING MINUTES</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>AVIATION DAY POST MORTEM</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>HAPPY BIRTHDAY</b>	<b>6</b>

## Dale & Dave's trip to Cherry Grove

By Dave Syverson.

Dale Seitzer and I had been looking for a window of opportunity to do a trip so they can exercise their planes on some neat and fun grass fields. Saturday July 20, 2013 dawned as the perfect day....so what are we going to do?...Talk or fly? Possibly the easiest decision that could be made by Sky Ranger and Kitfox owners became apparent!



Dale had already suggested a trip to Cherry Grove near Wana-mingo with a stop at SYN, another easy decision, since both of our planes have been pining for grass field operations! Both planes are well designed for grass and short field operations. Those familiar with Dale's proclivities know him as a person with considerable ultralight experience; and, Cherry Grove is, well, an ultra light airpark.

I have been making a habit of pretending the tar at 21D is 600 feet long when operating my Kitfox. Both pilots and both planes have been at SYN many times; however, I have never taken N128DD to a wet grass strip that is three blocks long....so this time it is for real.

The flight of two departed 21D at 12:37 Z to find the sky as soft and smooth as a person could ask for with the sun illuminating

the incredibly green countryside. The sun became less apparent as we progressed towards Wanamingo with increasing middle altitude clouds. What a great day to be out here! The moderate shade from the clouds kept the atmosphere from developing thermals so we could spend as much time sightseeing as possible without needing to constantly correct for those little rises and sinks as we went along. No need to burn gas at a rate that would only serve to get us back on the ground as quickly as possible so we settled in at a cruise of 70-75 mph and enjoyed our commune with nature, the elements and scenery from an AGL of 1000 "C 1500 feet.

Dale landed first at Cherry Grove and parked N51247 while I wandered off with N128DD to the south a couple miles and then came back for an approach to 31. The approach was configured and stabilized for a short field descent with full flaps and short field approach air-speed.....eight foot tall corn stops right at the beginning of the grass, so some runway needs to be sacrificed in the name

avoiding green stains and corn tassels on the undercarriage. Just before the wheels meet the wet grass is the point in time where it genuinely sinks in that far end of the runway isn't all that far away....but the performance numbers don't lie and it fits just fine with a short roll out due to minimum touchdown speed and wet grass. Google Earth agreed with Dale's advice on the runway length....yup....three blocks long.

Cherry Grove has to be one of the smoothest grass strips out there I can compare it to the golf green like texture; however, it is of a cozy length with its center being somewhat concave lengthwise and the corn clinging to the low rise you descend over on short final. Looking the opposite way down the departure end there is a flat field



road and some soybeans immediately after with a single pole off to the right a bit but not in the way as an obstruction unless one turns towards it intentionally.

The weather briefer indicated there was probably going to be some incidental moisture out there likely by late morning but not much information as to what that actually meant? Departing SYN for 21D towards what looked like a little virga found us moisture in the form of a light mist accumulating on the windscreens near Lake Billsby, but not enough to get the ground up bugs off! The ride back home was smooth and pleasant.

How can you beat a good day of flying?



# FROM THE FLIGHT DECK (PRESIDENTS REPORT)

*BY BETTIE SEITZER*

August 2013

The past few weeks have been very busy for Chapter 54! We had many members who made the trek to Airventure by car or plane, we had another great Young Eagle event and another successful Aviation Day and Pancake breakfast. None of these things could happen without the generous participation of our members.

Our Young Eagle events have become a very effective way for us to introduce the next generation of aviation enthusiasts to the joy of flying. Thank you to Linda for all the great organization and management of these events and thank you to all of the volunteers who make these events smooth, safe and fun. We need members to participate as pilots and ground crew, helping families to move safely around the planes. If you haven't helped out at a Young Eagle event you have another chance on September 14<sup>th</sup>.

**September 14<sup>th</sup>** will be an eventful day for the chapter!!! **Young Eagles** will happen at 9:00. We need volunteers that morning to help with **clubhouse clean-up** inside and out! eE will add mulch to the areas that need it, put in a few new shrubs, and do a thorough cleaning inside. Then we will have a **picnic lunch on the deck!** Linda and I will be cooking burgers and dogs. There will be chips and salsa and watermelon! Please join us!

Aviation Day started a little slow, probably due to the cloudy weather, but just a little later the crowds started arriving! We served a lot of delicious pancakes, sausages and scrambled eggs. Many folks commented that the food was very good – thanks to Leif who has spearheaded the campaign to use local, high quality products. The new addition this year was Pure Maple syrup – I have to say that was delicious! The vendor also had a good day selling bottles of syrup to folks who wanted to take some home and single servings to many more. I hope that we will be able to offer that again next year.

Aviation Day would not be possible without many many volunteers; thank you to everyone who helped out. Billie Rankin will be coordinating next year, when she asks for your help, I hope that you will say YES!

I would also like to give a special thanks to Al Kupferschmidt; he has been our table and chair coordinator longer than I have been a member of the chapter! This year he stepped up again and delivered the tables and chairs, helped with set up, tear down and then cleaned them all before returning them to the Lions. Please take a moment and thank Al. He and Dave also took care of the thorough cleaning and storage of all the equipment – it is a big job. We all owe them our thanks and a helping hand next year!

Have you noticed how nice our deck looks? Dave Fiebiger and Al took care of that as well. Old boards were replaced and the deck was stained – we will be enjoying the deck again at our picnic on September 12<sup>th</sup>.

October is the month for year the Class I officer election. President, Vice- and Secretary positions ing a nominating com- nominations from the should consider serving member; it is a great health and vitality of our



Check out the new re- house – after many the old one finally gave that is more energy effi- bigger. We need refrigeration not only for the food that we enjoy at Spring banquet and fall picnic, but for the eggs that we use for the pancake breakfast. Remember that you can enjoy a cold beverage at the meeting – just put your money in the can!

our annual election; this positions are up for elec- President, Treasurer will be open. I am form- mittee and accepting membership. All of you as an officer or board way to help ensure the club.

frigerator in the club- years of faithful service out. We now have one cient and just a little bit

I will send out email reminders for the coming events and hope to see you all again soon!



Left photo smooth short runway at Cherry Grove near Wannamingo.

Below are examples of the budget hangars on the airport—there are 11 small hangars.

The airport is owned by Jewel Ness — he uses a roller to keep the turf golf course smooth.

Stanton was busy with glider traffic and Light sport aircraft training.



## Pilots Lounge

**For Sale:** 60' x 48' Hanger, 54' door, small office, bathroom, well, holding tank, natural gas heat, 18' high ceiling, and 5HP compressor. Call Jim Michalski at 612-618-1011 or see all of this at 13C Alfa Lane at the Lake Elmo Airport (21D)

Contact Chip Andrews 651 248 9708

**For Sale:** Challenger I \$7,000, Rotax 503 DIDC, electric start, wood prop, EIS, 5x5 Azuza wheels and brakes less than 10 hours, built by Gil Leiter. Contact Dale Seitzer 651 329 2229 or Barb Leiter

**For Sale:** Hangar on 21D for sale -- \$45,000. Recently painted siding and roof. 35 x 75 feet with two 45 foot doors, electric openers, electricity and natural gas, two insulated workshop / office rooms, above floor storage,



## 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 aircraft. Our goal and philosophy are to fly great airplanes inexpensively. We strive for consistency in equipment among our three airplanes. We currently have a Cirrus SR20, Archer II and a Cherokee Six.

To inquire about membership, please send an [e-mail to Mark](mailto:mark@tailwinds21d.org) or call 651-982-275. Visit us at [www.tailwinds21d.org](http://www.tailwinds21d.org) to learn more.



## Chapter 54 Meeting Minutes

August 12, 2013

### EAA Chapter 54 July 2013 Meeting Minutes

President, Bettie Seitzer called the meeting to order. Paul Rankin, Treasurer, and Dale Seitzer, Secretary were officers in attendance – a total of 29 people attended.

Secretaries Report was approved, and after reviewing, the Treasurers report that was also approved.

#### Business Meeting

Housing: Deck boards have been replaced and stained. Thanks to Dan Bergstrom and Al Kupferschmidt did the staining. Dan and Dave Fiebiger replaced the worn boards. Paving blocks have been placed around the pergola around the pergola so the mowers can stay away from the posts.

Saturday Sept 14 is scheduled for the Club House landscaping, the same day as the Young Eagle event and lunch is included.

New Refrigerator has been purchased. It is energy efficient, freezer on top and it has a 1 year warranty.

Farnsworth Hangar tour—from May 2013. Thank you letters from the students were on the tables at the pancake breakfast and at the club house.

July 30 a Boeing B 727 was given to the community and it is being used for simulators and education will be stored at Holman Field

Young Eagles: Linda Amble. Please plan ahead to volunteer, always the second Saturday of the month during the summer.

Education: Rob Barros – Ground school is planned. Instructors and students sign up with Bettie or Paul Rankin. Need 15 students. Start in January, third Thursday and be a Monday and Thursday

Fall Picnic September 14 for Young Eagle participants, volunteers and members.

#### New Business

Sept 14, 2013 is the next Young Eagle event. Volunteers are always welcome—even if this is your first time, we will provide training and assistance.

Old Business – Pedal Plane kit needs an owner to finish it.

Newsletter Editor—Dale Seitzer: Please send articles and pictures and anything aviation and member related. Send to [newsletter@eaa54.org](mailto:newsletter@eaa54.org). The new plan for the newsletter is to release the newsletter right after the meeting to make it more meaningful.





## Happy Birthday Tom Gibbons!

Tom's birthday fell on our August chapter meeting day so Linda Amble brought cake and ice cream. I have never seen so many happy guys eating cake and ice cream.

Tom indicated he was one year older than he was last year and he is one happy guy.

### Aviation Day Post Mortem

- Comments that we have the best food—stay with those vendors.
- Food line went well, quick and very little waiting
- Consider raising the price for next year
- Vendors set up on the outside is a good arrangement
- Having the maple syrup was good—the syrup vendor would come again. He made money and we made a little
- More set up and more clean up help—most of the people already had worked and then did the clean up. No one showed up to help with the Saturday setup
- Clean the equipment immediately after the event instead of waiting for the next day
- Plane parkers—5 per shift is best
- Car Parkers – 3 per shift works best
- Bigger signs next year. The banner looks big inside but not big enough when it is outside
- Rent a yellow sign on a trailer put in the ditch. No coordinator this year, Lief did most of the work. In January someone must volunteer. We have a list of committee leaders, roles are defined. Without a Coordinator the event will slip a little each year.
- Recruit more of our airplanes to come out on the field. On airport airplane coordinator is needed to get all the member's planes out and on the flightline.
- Farnsworth students cleaned the tables and also helped serve the Senior citizens – they did a great job.
- Have an Eagle flight event for Farnsworth teachers and Administrators.

### **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/MEMBERONLY](http://WWW.EAA54.ORG/MEMBERONLY)



### Chapter 54 Directory

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

Vice President: Jim Pearsall  
[vicepresident@eaa54.org](mailto:vicepresident@eaa54.org)

Treasurer: Paul Rankin  
[treasurer@eaa54.org](mailto:treasurer@eaa54.org)

Secretary/Class IV Director  
Dale Seitzer

[secretary@eaa54.org](mailto:secretary@eaa54.org) or [Newsletter@eaa54.org](mailto:Newsletter@eaa54.org).

Education Director

Rob Barros  
[education@eaa54.org](mailto:education@eaa54.org)

Events Director  
Jim Pearsall  
[events@eaa54.org](mailto:events@eaa54.org)

Housing Director

Dave Fiebiger  
[housing@eaa54.org](mailto:housing@eaa54.org)

Membership Director  
John Renwick  
[membership@eaa54.org](mailto:membership@eaa54.org)

Young Eagles Director  
Linda Amble  
[youngeagles@eaa54.org](mailto:youngeagles@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 published about a week after the meeting..