

The Beacon

The newsletter of Chapter 54 Lake Elmo, Minn.

MARCH 2009

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THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM WILL BE ON MONDAY MARCH 9, 2009.

- Social Hour starting at 7:00PM.
- MEETING AT 7:30PM. CHAPTER HOUSE, ENTRANCE B, LAKE ELMO AIRPORT.
- AT THE NEXT CHAPTER MEETING:
- The evening's program will be presented by representatives of the Minnesota Air National Guard Museum. They will describe the museum's mission, aircraft collection, exhibits, and restoration projects. The museum is operated by the Minnesota Air National Guard Historical Foundation, Inc., a private, philanthropic organization chartered as a nonprofit corporation.

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Chapter Member goes to Sebring

By Jim Pearsall



Last month I attended the Sebring Light Sport Expo that is held at the Sebring Regional Airport (SEF) airport adjacent to the famous Sebring racetrack. My mission was to examine many and get demo rides in a few of the Light Sport Aircraft, expanding my experience beyond the Flight Design CTSW I flew to get my Sport Pilot rating. To prevent idle time, keep me focused on airplanes, I signed up to volunteer for the event as well.

Carlos Bessa of SeaMax-USA and Jim Pearsall

I arrived at the Sebring area on Monday with plans to fly the Brazilian Amphibian, the SeaMax, out of Plant City and the home base for SeaMax USA. Tuesday morning the wind is blowing near gale, so this was rescheduled to Wednesday after the demo pilot; Carlos Bessa had re-positioned the aircraft to SEF for the show.

Wednesday started out cold, with the lowest temperatures seen in the area for nearly 20 years. I was very glad I threw the pair of spare gloves in my bag as my wife Carol suggested at the airport curb. At 9:00AM I reported for volunteer duty, sign detail, installing signs deferred from Tuesday due to wind. Signs up, I move to assist with drilling tie-down bolt holes in tarmac. Things were busy for a couple of hours, exhibitors aircraft arriving at a high rate, placed where the vendor wanted and if there was not a hole nearby, we would drill one.

After a free volunteer lunch, Carlos arrives with the Sea-Max, time to go fly. Leaving SEF on wheels, Carlos gave me an hour demo of a very nice little flying boat. Two landings, some high speed taxi work on a couple of nearby lakes, and too quickly we are back, taxiing into the exhibitor arrival line. I spent the rest of the day lending a hand where I could while having a chance to preview the show.



SeaMax Amphibian from Brazil

Continued on Page 4



FROM THE FLIGHT DECK (PRESIDENTS REPORT) BY DALE SEITZER

How many people are tired of winter? Raise your snow shovel if you have had enough of winter! In Minnesota we must pay for the beautiful fall and wonderful spring by making it through the long dark cold winter. The days are getting longer and the sun is warmer so spring is right around the corner.

Soon the ground will thaw and dry enough so we can start the building addition. Put April 25 on your calendar as the first day of framing so many volunteers will be needed. We have a donated power nailer lined up, we still need hand tools, ladders, saw horses, extension chords and tarps. We expect to have a potluck dinner for the workers so let's get people to help provide a lunch too.

Our speaker last month was fascinating; we had a full house to hear from Len Bergers from the American Wings Aviation Museum.

The ground school is deep in their curriculum. Special thanks to our instructors who are sharing their experience and knowledge. Members can sit in on any portion to sharpen your skills and mentors and teaching assistance.

Welcome back to two renewing members -- Don Black and Roger Westerberg

I really appreciate our newsletter editor Tom Gibbons – because the newsletter is appreciated by our members. Not everyone can come to each meeting so the comprehensive newsletter is appreciated by members for news and information. I have looked at other club newsletters and ours just looks better and is consistently very good.

Members are also looking forward to the series of Young Eagle events coming up this spring and summer. We are always looking for volunteers – both pilots and ground crew.



EAA CHAPTER 54 TREASURER'S REPORT BY PAUL RANKIN

February 2008 Financial Summary

Total	\$14.313.09
Investments	\$7,166.47
Cash on hand	\$40.00
Checking Account	\$7,106.62

Income

Total	\$1.355.00
Membership Renewals	\$380.00
New Members	\$0.00
Donations	\$35.00
Ground School	\$900.00
	\$40.00

Expenses

Club House Addition	\$406.50
Ground School Expenses	\$7.48
Young Eagles Banner	\$70.00
Newsletter & Mailing	\$36.23
Utilities - Electricity & Gas	\$245.13
Total	\$765.34

Net Cash Flow \$589.66

One last reminder of winter flying!





Chapter 54 Directory

President
Dale Seitzer
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Young Eagles Director Dave Becker youngeagles@eaa54.org

Newsletter Editor Tom Gibbons Newsletter@eaa54.org.

Chapter member 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 21D Unicom: 122.8 21D AWOS: 120.075 TPA: 1932' Runways: 4-22 (2497' x 75') 14-32 (2850' x 75') Thursday morning started with a scheduled demo of the Sting Sport, a composite LSA often called the little Cirrus, and one that is actually for sale. The Sting was a beautiful handling airplane but does not fit my 6' 3" frame, just too small. I spent the rest of the day surveying all the other aircraft, connecting with my friends, including my instructor Scott Johnson from LSA North that was working the Flight Design booth. Of particular interest was a chance to look at the ZJ-Viera Ultralight and Randal Fishman's electric.



On the left is ZJ-Viera Ultralight

On the right is
Randal Fishman's Electric



Friday morning after the frost of another cold morning, I took the Remos G-3 up for a demo. After 30 minutes of giving another sweet flying comfortable airplane a try, we spent 10 minutes orbiting looking for an opportunity to slip into traffic. This is what they mean by a saturated tower frequency. Giving that up, the demo pilot took the controls and entered the tight show pattern and landed on the short show runway.

Leaving demo flights for a little while, I attended Phil Lockwood's seminar on Rotax 912 maintenance. This was the best hour I spent on the ground at the show. Lockwood Aviation, based here at SEF really knows these engines. If I end up with a Rotax powered airplane, I think I will spend a few days here at Sebring attending Lockwood's 912 maintenance class.

Looking for some lunch I wandered down the tarmac off the show grounds and ran across the twin A-36 Vulcan based on the LSA A-20 Vista, all originating form the Ukraine, made available by another operation on the field at Sebring, Float Planes and Amphibs, otherwise known as FPNA. This outfit has a lot going on, and after visiting for awhile with one of their reps I was convinced to give their aluminum fabric and clear plastic LSA the A-22 Valor a try. This time it was a quick trip around the pattern, but in just one landing, I could see how this flying slow stuff could be fun.



A-20 Vista



A-36 Vulcan



A-22 Valor

I wrapped my visit to Sebring up with the volunteer dinner and a great show put on by the famous show and stunt pilot J.W. "Corkey" Fornof, speaker. If you have not seen Corky talk about his aviation exploits, I would highly recommend you do if given the opportunity. Having an early flight out of MCO, I left Sebring behind, thinking next time I will take time to attend the whole show, and given the benefits, do the volunteer thing for sure. My conclusions, water makes a fun runway and I think I need to take another look at the slower flying end of the LSA spectrum.



Chapter 54 Meeting Minutes

February 9, 2009

By Bettie Seitzer

Visitors: Ray Anderson, flying for about 40 years, just built a Challenger II with his Grandson and it is done, just waiting for final inspection. Then he will hangar it on the field. Paul Anderich, was a member, hasn't been here in a while, but hoping to get back into it. He is a welding hobbyist, his experience is in a variety of single engine aircraft. Randy is a current ground school student; he works at 3M and noticed our ground school sign. He has a lot of flying time and will finish ground school and work on his flying time. Bob Hays has a plane on the field, used to be an A&P, but has different work now. We have a good group of ground school students. Members can audit any of the sessions. We will also need some help with the sessions on charting and work with the E6B.

Treasurer's Report: The report was approved as published.

Secretary's Report: Secretary's report was printed and handed out prior to the meeting. Minutes approved as written. A copy will be added to the newsletter.

Old Business:

2009 Calendars are still available for \$10.00. Remember to notify a club officer of tools that the club owns. Also, tools can be donated to the club or made available for loan.

The club has an engine hoist. We also have a nicopress tool.

New Business:

We need a member to take on the job of "Keeper of the Tools" having a list of tools and where they are. CHAIRMEN REPORTS:

Member committee has two volunteers, we would like two more. The committee will review ideas and brainstorm additional ideas for enhancing the member experience Building date is April 25th, rain date is May 2. Dave will lead the teams in a modular construction process. A copy of the plans is posted on the clubhouse bulletin board for anyone who would like to review what is coming.

Dave needs a couple of large tarps to cover materials that will arrive in advance of the construction date. Also need some sawhorses.

We have been approached about hosting a 16 hour lightsport inspection class and using our clubhouse. We would allow them to use our building for a rental fee. Candidates for Air Academy should submit a letter to the club requesting scholarships to the camp. We have funds available to send kids to camp.

Farnsworth school has increased their enrollment and expanded their programs through support received by organizations like ours and donations from businesses.

Young Eagles (Dave Becker): Starting in April - second Saturday of the month

Flying Start and Education (Art Edhlund): We have 11 students, the course has just started.

Membership (John Renwick) 6 new members from the ground school. We have 134 members

Newsletter Editor (Tom Gibbons): Articles do not write themselves, people! Get busy and submit some interesting articles about your experiences, share your lessons learned. Pictures are a great addition to every newsletter. We would like to feature members and members' planes in articles.

Newsletter@eaa54.org

Publicity (Leif Erickson):

Meeting adjourned. At 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Bettie Seitzer Secretary EAA Chapter 54

Pilots Lounge

Welcoming new Members!

Scott and Maria Anderson live in Woodbury. Scott is a project manager at Thomson Reuters.

Bill Bjorum is from Stillwater. He's an Education Administrator at Saint Mary's University.

Randy Delfel is a Network Infrastructure Analyst at LCI/3M, and lives in Center City, MN. His hobbies are R/C airplanes, pinball, fishing and boating, and motorcycling. He's handy with electronic gizmos, and has volunteered to try to fix the flight simulator hardware in the clubhouse. So please don't be alarmed if you see him digging into it!

Jeff Murphy lives in Burnsville. He lists aircraft maintenance as his skill.

Eli Nord and **Tyler Trudell** are high school students from Stillwater and Hugo, respectively. Eli likes flying, racing, and music.

Please welcome our new members when you see them in the clubhouse!

I haven't verified this myself, but it is being reported on other lists:

Effective March 9, 2009 at 0700 CDT (1200Z):

Anoka Tower frequency will be 132.4

Anoka Tower frequency 126.05 will be decommissioned and no longer available.

Blue Skies, Jeff Hove

Also from Jeff:

The chapter has some nice items that have been purchased, donated, or are on loan. It doesn't seem like there are records though of what property we own and where it currently is.

I made up a form we can use to record the info about these items and a ring-binder in the clubhouse to hold these. If you know the whereabouts of any chapter property that is not in the clubhouse, please fill out a sheet about it with as much detail as you know and either email it to me or add it to the ring-binder. These are especially important for any items that are on loan to us and need to be returned at some point, for example the large Fokker Tri-plane hanging from the ceiling.

Another purpose of these is to record the history behind the items so we can better appreciate them and their donors. It would be especially nice to document those nice model airplanes donated by Jack Portlance.

Hanger Talk

Happenings and Classifieds from around the field compiled by the editor

FOR SALE:

COLLINS VHF 251 COM , COLLINS VIR 351 NAV , TWO KING ADF'S , KR 86 AND KR 85 AND INDICATOR, NARCO 840 LORAN , ALL FOR \$300 O.B.O.

CALL MARK AT 651-982-6275

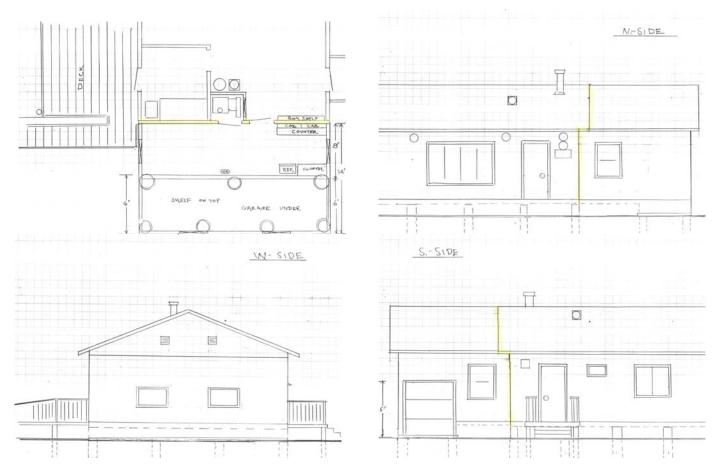
HANGER FOR SALE OR RENT

Hangar for sale or rent. Dry and comfortable, insulated, sheetrocked, and heated. 55×50 with a 45 foot door and 14 foot sidewalls. This hangar is of the 110 mph wind resistance construction with large posts and all knee braces. It has an attic. Nice high East and West windows allow enough light in the daytime that you don't even need the dozen eight-foot HighOutput fluorescents. It has 200 amp service and plenty of outlets and is wired for telephone or DSL.

Please call Bob or Ileen Waldron 952-652-3000 (local call)

CHAPTER HOUSE EXPANSION PLANS

Below is copies of the planned club house expansion plans. Plan to help out on Saturday, April 25 if you can.



Speaker Notes: January 12, 2009

By Bettie Seitzer

American Wings Air Museum at the Anoka County Airport, 763-786-4146

They have three flying Mohawks, it takes about 3 people for every flight hour to keep the planes flying.

The museum was formed in 1985, Mike Langer, who had flown Mohawks in Viet Nam. He found a Mohawk being sold for scrap, and it turned out to be one that he had flown in the service, the two of them bought the plain, brought it back to Minnesota and began rebuilding it. The two of them were already working on a restoration project, but decided to tackle this one, too. The plane they purchased was an early model, considered by many to be underpowered, having short wings and challenging flight characteristics. The plane was used mainly for reconnaissance; cameras and booms were mounted on the plane and used to spot activity.

They also get aircraft in on short term loan from time to time. A lot of the planes on display are owned by members. There are planes available from the government, but there are costs involved and can be quite high. Moving planes that are not airworthy can be an interesting experience, permits need to be acquired, movement has to be done very late at night.

In the early days, the museum was in a smaller hangar still owned by the museum. The museum had early members who had planes, expertise, money and time to donate. In 1997, the current display facility was opened. It is 20,000 square feet, and the collection continues to grow.

The organization conducts tours, and has an educational outreach program. They work with scouts to acquire their aviation merit badges, young eagles and other programs that promote understanding and interest in aviation. The organization offers specialized tours to scout troops, schools (including Farnsworth), vo-techs, high schools and other groups interested in aviation. The US Navy Sea Cadets also make good use of the facility and services of the museum. There are currently 26 or 27 kids enrolled in the Cadets. They are able to offer tours to young people at no charge. They have several aircraft that kids can climb into to get the feel of a cockpit.

The museum closes for the winter months – heating costs have gotten prohibitive. All of the work is done by volunteers, and they work hard not only to raise money, but to provide the services that the community enjoys.

They are open Saturdays 10 - 4 until after the open house in Blaine, then they are open Thursday, Friday and Saturday 10 - 4 for the remainder of the summer months. Blaine aviation days are usually held the second weekend in May, the museum group participates by holding an open house and conducting tours of the museum.

Hours and contact information are available on their website. They are willing to open the museum to EAA Chapters by request.

The hangar was built by volunteer labor, the large concrete floor needed to be watered for curing, they called the fire department who came and used it for practice. 20,000 gallons of water can't be delivered by just anyone.

There is some challenge regarding hangar rent on the field, they pay the commercial rate even though they are a 501C3 organization.

Local Flying Events

Compiled by Paul Hove and pulled from the Website

March

March 14 2009, 8:00 to 13:00, EAA Chapter 919 Annual Chili-Feed Fly-In!, Rushford Municipal Airport,(55Y), Walk, drive, or fly to Rushford MN for a great bowl of hot chili! This annual event has several different types of chili to try so...fire up that plane and join us!, Russ Marsolek, 507-452-6888,

April

April 4 2009, 7:30 to 11:00, Steve Wittman Birthday Party Fly In-Hosted by Chapter 252, www.eaa252.org, Wittman Regional Airport, (KOSH), Come help celebrate Steve Wittman's 105th birthday! Pancake breakfast fly-in and car show, R/C demos, Young Eagle rides & special appearance by Miss Oshkosh. All you can eat pancake breakfast for \$6., Charlie Becker, 920-426-1854,

April 4 2009, 11:00 to 14:00, Fort Dodge IA , , Fort Dodge Regional Airport,(KFOD), Chili Fly-in , , , icheton@lvcta.com

April 18 2009, 10:00 to 16:00, Commemorative Air Force, MN Wing Hangar/Garage Sale, www.cafmn.org, Fleming Field Airport,(KSGS), Join the CAF for a Hangar/Garage sale. We will have many items for sale from airplane parts to household items! Don't miss your chance to great a deal on just about everything! All proceeds from the sale go towards the CAF (a local 501c3). Come and enjoy some food while you shop!, Amy or Roby, 651-455-6942, info@cafmn.org

April 25 2009, 11:00 to 15:00, Annual Spring Chili Feed Fly-in/Drive-in, www.eaa996.org, Chisholm-Hibbing Airport,(KHIB), Hosted by EAA 996, , ,

April 25 2009, 7:00 to 12:00, Second Annual FVTZ Pancake Breakfast Fly–In, www.Fvtc.edu/aviation, Wittman Regional Airport, (KOSH), Pancake breakfast, open house for all aviation programs, Jared Huss, 920-232-6024, huss@fvtc.edu

Mav

May 1 2009, to , Minnesota Seaplane Fly-In Cragun's 5/1-5/3, www.seaplanes.org, East Gull Lake, (Y92), Cragun's Lodge on East Gull Lake, Minnesota (9Y2) The 2009 Minnesota Seaplane Pilots Safety Seminar will be held at Cragun's Lodge on East Gull Lake, Minnesota starting Friday May 1st and ending Sunday May 3rd. Details about the lodge can be seen on their website: www.craguns.com. There is plenty of sand beach and a grass strip (East Gull Lake) walking distance away or the lodge will pick you up in their van., Kevin Rebman, 612-940-0971, kr01@cybercrafts.org

May 2 2009, 10:00 to 16:00, 100th Anniversary of the 1909 Gnome Omega rotary engine, , Anoka County Airport, (KANE), Witness the running of a 100 year old

1909 Gnome Omega 7 cylinder 50 HP rotary engine. There will be 3 runs each day at 11 AM, 1 PM and 3 PM. You will also see the original One-Of-A-Kind 1911 Steco aircraft that this engine was used on, along with the 1909-12 Steco Cyclecar.,,,

May 16 2009, 7:00 to 16:00, Blaine Aviation Weekend, www.DiscoverAviationDays.org, Anoka Airport,(KANE), Pancake Breakfast, Aircraft Display, Two museums, Hangar Dance., , ,

May 30 2009, 20:00 to 0:00, Spring Swing Big Band Hangar Dance, www.cafmn.org, Fleming Field Airport,(KSGS), Doors open at 6pm, Free Dance Lessons 7pm. Dance begins 8 to Midnight., , ,

June

June 20 2009, 8:00 to 18:00, Davenport IA Quad City Airshow 2009, www.quadcityairshow.com, Davenport Municipal Airport,(KDVN), Theme 'From Props to Jets see it all on the line in 2009'. Performers US Army Golden Knights John Mohr Barnstorming Bob Carlton Jet Sailplane...

June 21 2009, to , La Crosse Deke Slayton Airfest, , La Crosse Municipal,(KLSE), , , ,

June 21 2009, to , Duluth Annual Int'l Cessna 170 Assn, , Duluth Sky Harbor Airport,(KDYT), , , ,

June 27 2009, 8:00 to 13:00, Annual Mines & Pines Fly-in/Drive In Breakfast, www.eaa996.org, Chisholm-Hibbing Airport,(KHIB), Hosted by EAA 996, , ,

June 28 2009, to , Caledonia Houston County Airport Fly-In, , Houston County Airport,(KCHU), Free to PIC, , 507-450-2095,

July

July 18 2009, to , Eden Prairie Air Expo 2009, www.wont.org, Flying Cloud Airport,(KFCM), . . .

July 19 2009, 7:00 to 12:30, Preston MN Country Fly-In Breakfast, Fillmore County Airport, (KFKA), Build your own omelets served with donuts and beverages by the Fillmore County Pork Producers., Kent Dornink, 507-765-2582, kjdhills@yahoo.com

July 26 2009, 8:00 to 12:00, Center City Flyers Pancake Breakfast, , Marshfield Muni Airport,(KMFI), Pancake breakfast with many airplanes to view and to admire. Many are on their way to Oshkosh for the Fly-in there. \$6.00 for all you can eat, Great meal with all the trimmings, David Le Voy, 715-676-2282,

July 27 2009, to , Oshkosh EAA AirVenture 2009, www.airventure.org, Wittman Regional Airport ,(KOSH), For seven days, the aviation world descends on Oshkosh to create the World's Greatest Aviation Celebration. Nearly every aspect of flight is represented in one way or another -- from ultralights to the heavy iron of the Warbirds, AirVenture has it all., EAA, 920-426-4800,



Young Eagles Report by Dave Becker

Editors Note: Dave sent me an e-mail saying he has nothing new to report this month and to leave his page out this month. It is understandable as the Young Eagles program has nothing going on the past months but I have to say it is a well deserved break for Dave. He does a really good job of coordinating the Young Eagles program and he always sends me great information for the newsletter. Often, he takes pictures of the speakers and sends them to me. Also, when there are not enough pilots for the event, he flies one of his Tailwinds Club aircraft. He has said he would rather coordinate on the ground to oversee the operation but he will fly if he has to. To you Dave I say, THANK YOU for the hard work you do as the Young Eagles Coordinator!

So let's help Dave out when the Young Eagles Program starts up again next month!



Dave Becker on left with Education Director, Art Edhlund



TAXI TALK

{Interesting happenings compiled by the editor}

HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S Day! To all you Irish and those who like to be Irish on this day, the 17th of March.

A Word of Thanks but......

I would like to thank President Dale Seitzer for his nice comments in his article this month. I must say I enjoy putting YOUR newsletter together every month but I must tell you, it sure is easier when I get input from the members. I sometimes put in stuff that happens around me and my silly happenings in aviation but I know you REAL pilots have a lot more to report about. Sometimes I think I am more a dreamer than a doer but I am coming close in the completion of my Pulsar and hope to fly a lot more when it gets done, that will be the fun part. Yes, I work around planes, live around planes and have a plane in my basement but still I know you all have more to report than I. So here I go...... I NEED YOUR IMPUT FOR THE NEWSLET-TER! It can be anything from a neat flight somewhere to working on your bird to just visiting interesting aviation places. Members want to know what is going on with chapter members. Like I have said before, send me your article via snail mail, e-mail or leave it at the clubhouse and I will be sure to include it in an issue. One thing that is fun for me too is if you send me an article I sometimes look up info on the web to see if I can post a picture. Sorry to preach here but I did go to a forum at AirVenture last year and they said we need to DEMAND information from the members when you need too.

Planning for AirVenture '09

I am already planning for AirVenture this year. I just got my vacation switched around to be able to have two weeks together. I always like to take a week before and get things ready. This year I noticed on my "Oshkosh Express" A-liner camper that the floor is soft so I may have to replace it. I hooked up with a yahoo group on A-liners and I am getting all sorts of neat information on how to do it. That will be first priority and I am anxious to start but it is still too cold to even think about it. Also, I sure would like to start spraying paint on my plane in early summer before I head there.

I usually spend the whole week there and have just a relaxing time and this year I plan to volunteer again for the Flight Line Operations. I had so much fun last year directing and watching all the planes taxi by me. It was fun to identify them when they passed by. I consider my AirVenture time the most relaxing vacation. Hope to see any members that attend there this year again.



Contact Information for Newsletter Stories

E-Mail: newsletter@eaa54.org

Thomas J. Gibbons 2685 Manning Avenue North Lake Elmo, Minnesota 55042-9690 Phone # 651-777-5887



QUOTE OF THE MONTH

Ignorance is the curse of God; knowledge is the wing wherewith we fly to heaven.

-William Shakespeare.