



The Spirit of Aviation™



Granite City Flight Lines

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Chapter 551, St. Cloud Mn.



February 13th, 2022

Thomas Joseph Hammer, Age 67

Becker, MN

August 10, 1954 – January 22, 2022

Thomas Joseph Hammer, age 67, died Saturday, January 22nd, 2022, at the St. Cloud Hospital.



Tom was born on August 10, 1954, in Brooklyn Center, MN, the son of Thomas and Marie (Becker) Hammer. He grew up in Brooklyn Center and Tom's dad moved the family to Becker, MN in 1969, and started Hammer Potato Company. He graduated from Becker High School in 1972, and was president of the senior class.

In 1979, Tom and his brother Gary started a partnership where they farmed 20-30 acres of potatoes, which was T&G Farms. In 1980, Tom renamed the farm TJ Farms and started growing potatoes on his own. In 2017, Tom started Precision Rain of MN and became a Reinke Irrigation, Great Plains Equipment, and Becks Seed Dealership.

Tom found great joy in giving back to his community by being a part of many organizations, such as: Centra Sota Cooperative board member, past President and member of St. Cloud EAA, past President and member of the Clear Lake Lions, past President and member of MN Area 2 Potato Council, and past President of the Clearwater Food Shelf. "Can do" was an understatement for his ambition.

In 1990, Tom married the love of his life Penney, and accepted Jesus as his Lord and Savior. He loved his family deeply, and had a passion for farming. Like his dad, he loved to work. Tom considered all his employed guys the best of friends. They built buildings together, installed irrigation, and even helped him build one of his airplanes.

He loved buying insurance salvage equipment, cars, boats, semi trucks, and tractors to name a few. He also loved flying his airplanes with his brother Jeff and friends. He enjoyed spending time at the Pine River deer cabin, and attending the Oshkosh air shows with his brothers and sons. A big highlight every year was the annual snowmobile trip to West Yellowstone with his sons, brothers, and friends. You could always find Tom with a Diet Coke on ice. Tom loved meeting and visiting with people. He made everyone he met feel important and treated them truly as a friend, with love and respect.

Tom is preceded in death by his father, Thomas, and his mother, Marie.

He is survived by his wife Penney, and two sons Hunter and Tanner. His three brothers: Jeff (Lynda) of Princeton, MN, Stephen (Mary Jo) of Mary Esther, FL, and Gary (Kris) of Glenwood, MN. Tom is also survived by his 4 nephews and 6 nieces, as well as his great nieces and nephews.

Tom truly was larger than life and will be greatly missed by all who loved and knew him.

A private family funeral service was held Thursday, January 27

Next EAA 551 Event: 2/21/2022

2/21/2022– EAA Chapter 551 member program. SCSU Aero Club Hangar 6:00 PM, food for a nominal donation, all are welcome and social hour. Program at 6:30 PM. **Paul Huls will be presenting about model aviation.**

EAA 551 Sponsored Coming Events

2022 Young Eagles Rally Dates: STC 5/21/2022, LXL 6/18/2022, 9/17/2022

3/7/2022 – EAA Chapter 551 board meeting. SCSU Aero Club Hangar 6:30 PM. Everyone is welcome. Light meals are available at 6:00 PM for a nominal donation.

3/21/2022– EAA Chapter 551 member program. SCSU Aero Club Hangar 6:00 PM, food for a nominal donation, all are welcome and social hour. Program at 6:30 PM. Steve Null from GE.

4/4/2022 – EAA Chapter 551 board meeting. SCSU Aero Club Hangar 6:30 PM. Everyone is welcome. Light meals are available at 6:00 PM for a nominal donation.

4/19/2022– EAA Chapter 551 member program. SCSU Aero Club Hangar 6:00 PM, food for a nominal donation, all are welcome and social hour. Program at 6:30 PM. Army Guard base tour. **TUESDAY MEETING**

Food Prep for Program Meetings: Do you enjoy grilling, cooking or entertaining? We want to try something new with people interested in preparing food for our monthly program meetings. This is your chance to show your cooking knowledge, work with others, and build community. Contact Greg Bednark at 320-282-1274.



Non EAA 551 Events:

ICEPORT 2022

MAC'S Twin Bay
LAKE MILLE LACS

Da Boathouse
IN DA BAY

TANIS
AIRCRAFT PRODUCTS
Aviation Safety Starts with Tanis Preheat

A sincere "Thank You" goes out to [Tanis Aircraft Products](#) for their continued generous support of this unique, family-friendly event!

For the latest ICEPORT event updates, please visit:
[Facebook.com/CreateLift](https://www.facebook.com/CreateLift)

- Pilots monitor: 122.9
- No fee for this event (Donations are highly encouraged to offset Mac's Twin Bay plowing expenses)
- Plowed iceway (Skis & wheels welcome)
- GPS coordinates: 46.17N/93.48W

"Look for the orange safety cones depicting the landing zone"

VENUE: ICEPORT 2022 Fly-in Brunch (Mille Lacs Lake, MN)
DATE/TIME: Saturday, March 5th, 2022 10:00am - 3:00pm (Prize drawings @1:00pm)
LOCATION: Mac's Twin Bay www.macstwinbay.com/da-boathouse-restaurant
CONTACT: Mark Priglmeier (320) 200-8050 CreateLift@gmail.com

Chapter 551 members, if you see other aviation related events that would be fitting to have in this section, please forward them to me, Ryan Rask, at RyanCRask@gmail.com, or tell me about them in person. I will add them as I get them if they are fitting, thank you for the help!

News and Notes:

YOUNG EAGLE FLIGHTS

Did you know that you pilots can still give Young Eagle flights (free flights to youth ages 8-17 years old) even when there is not a Young Eagle Rally? Pilots can find all of the information at <https://www.eaa.org/eaayouth/free-ye-flights/ye-volunteers/ye-volunteer-opportunities/eaayoung-eagles-volunteer-pilots>

Young Eagle forms, Certificates of Young Eagles Flight, and Sporty's Log Book with access code to the Sporty's Online Ground School Program (\$249 value) are available to pilots to the right as you enter the Aero Club Board Room (Kitchen area).

The Young Eagle form to be completed in its entirety prior to flight, including parent/guardian signature.

Be sure to turn in your completed (flights given) Young Eagle forms. There is a file drawer below the TV in the EAA Chapter 551 Board Room marked for this. Pilots who are in compliance with giving Young Eagle flights and with each fully completed Young Eagles form, EAA Chapter 551 will be given \$5 in Young Eagle credits for each flight. EAA Chapter 551 can then spend those funds on items to support future Young Eagles Programs.

T-Hangar Space at the St. Cloud Regional Airport. T-Hangar space is very tight at the St. Cloud Regional Airport. If you are in need of a T-Hangar or plan to purchase a plane and will be in need of a T-Hangar, please email **both** Bill Towle (William.Towle@ci.stcloud.mn.us) and Lynn Hoff (Lynn.Hoff@ci.stcloud.mn.us) to get your name on the T-Hangar Waiting List.

It's time for you to fly! Complete your SCSU Aero Club application today! The website has changed for scheduling, info, and registration. The new website is: www.scsuaeroclub.org

*****PLEASE DO NOT PARK ANY VEHICLES IN FRONT OF HANGERS***** **EAA Chapter 551 membership dues are \$25.00 Dues can be submitted/mailed to EAA 551's Treasurer: Kenneth HT Olson CPA LTD. PO Box 335, Sartell, MN. 56377**

EAA 551 chapter programs are held on the 3rd Monday of every month @6:30 p.m, dinner at 6:00 p.m. Please reference our EAA 551 monthly newsletter for details: <http://www.eaa551.org/newsletters.php>

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Chapter 551 Member's Corner

What's happening around the chapter? Go somewhere cool in your airplane? Go flying with some friends?

Want to see it here? Send pictures (and a description) to RyanCRask@gmail.com with "551 Member's Corner" in the subject line

Submit projects you are working on and/or project updates to Steve Reisdorf at sreisdorf@charter.net for publication in the newsletter.



2022 EAA Chapter 551 Directors (Voting Board Members)

Class 1 Directors:

President: Chip Sauers
Vice President: Kathy Warzecha
Second Vice President: Duncan Sauers
Secretary: Angie Olson
Treasurer: Ken Olson
Young Eagles Coordinator: Chip Sauers
Immediate Past President: Tyler Gohmann

Class 2 Directors:

Dale Field
Dave Tannehill
Dean S.
Chip Sauers (Young Eagles Coordinator)
Rob Jahnke (Webmaster)
Ryan Rask (Newsletter Editor)

EAA Chapter 551 Appointments

Young Eagles Coordinator: Chip Sauers
Webmaster: Rob Jahnke
Newsletter Editor: Ryan Rask
Membership Coordinator: Ken Olson
Scholarship/Fundraising Committee: Greg Bednark,
Ken Olson and Angie Olson

Board Minutes:

EAA 551 Board Meeting

Date: 02/07/2022

Attendees: Chip S., Ken O., Kathy W., Dave T., Greg B.

Called to order: 18:40

January minutes read/approved: Dave T. – moved, Steve R. – seconded M/S/P

Treasurers Report: Ken Olson

- o Scholarship Fund: \$1,755.62 (Including \$600 earmarked for Cade S.)
- o Ray Aviation Fund: \$0
- o General Fund: \$10,356.00
- o 31 paid members
- o Clarification that dues are collected for the calendar year.

Treasurers Report approved: Dave T. – moved, Steve R. – seconded M/S/P

Scholarship Committee: Greg B., Ken O., Angie O.

- o Chip S. spoke with VFW about fund raising and discussion on ways to raise money (what businesses to approach)
- o Greg B. will contact Dave L. (with Young Eagles) with ideas
- o Ray Scholarship
 - Duncan is a candidate
 - Would like more candidates
 - Generate interest for candidates at Granite City Days

Web Master:

Rob J.

- o We have been hosting with “Just Host” for 12 years and that expires next week.
- o EAA has a new website which they are going to use starting in February.
- o EAA 551notam@gmail.com (new email)
- o Encourage board members to respond to emails received and it may bring new members
- o Pay Pal converted to a gmail address
- o EAA551scholarships.com (new email for scholarships)
- o EAA551@gmail.com (general administrative email – not used much so Rob J. will check on this)
- o New email will be on facebook
- o Ryan and Heidi have made some updates on facebook

1, 3, 5-year plan:

- o No updates

Young Eagles Report

- o STC event
 - 05/21/2022
 - 09/17/2022
- o LXL event
 - 06/18/2022 (confirmed with Judy Buckings)
- o More outreach (through flyers and radio announcements) to engage with rural youth this year

New Ratings and Accomplishment Recognition:

Kathy W. landed on Lake Mill Lacs for the first time!

Meal Assignments

- o February Program
 - Tacos – Greg B. will bring tacos and fixings
 - Dessert – Dave and Kim T. will bring dessert
- o March Program
 - Catered by Sauk Rapids/Rice Culinary Program

2022 Programs:

- o March
 - Adaptive Engineering – Steve Null, GE Engineer
- o April 19th (Tuesday)
 - Army Guard Base tour
- o September (tentative)
 - Jake Heffron
- o October (tentative)
 - John Ricard crop spraying
- o November (tentative)
 - Mark P. about winter flying

Events:

- o A “fly-out” for EAA members – Poker Run

Old Business:

- o **Thank you to Jake Heffron for his wonderful presentation in January!**
- o **Submit projects you are working on and/or project updates to Steve R. (srreisdorf@charter.net) for publication in the newsletter**

New Business:

- o Card of thanks to Program speakers – get addresses

Meeting Adjourned: 20:22 . – moved, Steve R. – seconded Ken O. M/S/P



LEADERS FLYING SERVICE, Clear
Lake, Mn

Maintenance, Aircraft Rental

(320) 743-2294