

# THE LANDINGS

Newsletter of Chapter 75

Quad-Cities of Illinois and Iowa, USA

August 2007

THE EXPERIMENTAL AIRCRAFT ASSOCIATION

## President's Notes



From all reports, Airventure 2007 was a success. All of our Chapter 75 personnel returned safely. The staff at the Emergency Aircraft Repair Facility did an outstanding job and all had a good time in the process.

Roy Fisher is representing our Chapter at the Ad-

vanced Air Academy this year.

Dolores Neunteufel received the first Dorothy Hilbert award for the outstanding female EAA volunteer. Many of you know, Dolores is the President and driving force behind the North Central Fly In at Rock Falls each year. She also chairs the assistance center at Oshkosh each year. Congratulations Dorothy.

I was unable to attend Airventure this year. The Davenport Police Department is in the process of moving into our new police station, and my police volunteer group has been set at high RPM for the duration.

Some of you may know John Jessen. A few years ago, he received the Wright Brothers Award for 50 years as a pilot. Late this spring, his gyros tumbled and he ended up in the hospital, then a rehab facility for several months. The decision was made for him to move to Palmer Hills retirement facility. He lived alone and had no one to assist him in the move. Several of our EAA members answered the call, and, in true EAA fashion, pilots helping pilots, we got him relocated to his new headquarters. In 1945, John participated in the invasion of Okinawa as a combat engineer, so he is well on the north side of 80. Thanks to all who worked at Airventure and all who helped with John's move.

I kept the Archer moving this past month with trips to Minnesota and Wisconsin to visit family and to attend a high school mini-reunion. I was able to share the flight experience with some of my classmates and family. I feel bad when the plane moves with an empty seat. Keep telling the general aviation story when ever you have the chance. It all helps in the user fees battle now on going. Have a safe summer, and we hope to see you at Blue Grass in August.

Richard Lowe, President

## August Potluck



The August potluck, scheduled for August 11th, will be held at Steve and Cinda Beert's residence in Blue Grass, IA., lunch to start serving at Noon. Bring your own table service and a dish to pass.

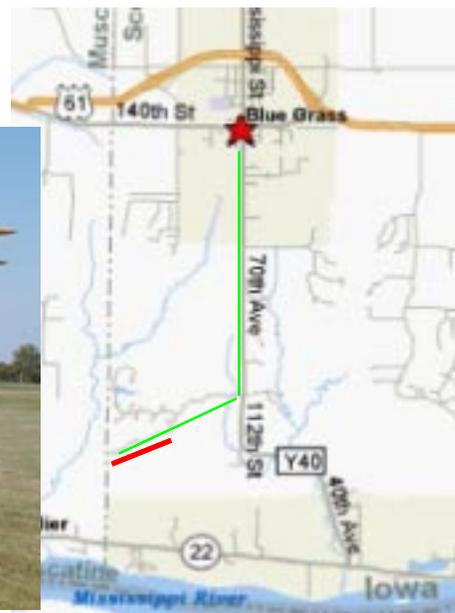
Steve says: "The lunch menu is still the same as last year. We are providing the grilled chicken breasts and drinks, and my partners in the planes we own are providing the sweet corn!"

"Parking is on the street, in the cul-de-sac, both sides of the drive way and the side yard on the east side of the house!"

"See you next Saturday!"

To get to Steve's take Hwy 61 to Blue Grass, then south on Y-40 about a 1.5 miles. Turn west and follow road to end.

Flyers, monitor 122.75. Fly left traffic pattern for 24 and right pattern for 06. Avoid flying over the subdivi-



Saturday, August 11th • Fly-In/Drive-In Pot Luck • Steve & Cinda Beert

# Fly By Wake-Up Call



**Luke Air Force Base** is west of Phoenix and is rapidly being surrounded by civilization that complains about the noise from the base and its planes, forgetting that it was there long before they were. A certain lieutenant colonel at Luke AFB deserves a big pat on the back.

Apparently, an individual who lives somewhere near Luke AFB wrote the local paper complaining about a group of F-16s that disturbed his/her day at the mall. When that individual read the response from a Luke AFB officer, it must have stung quite a bit.

## The complaint:

”Question of the day for Luke Air Force Base: Whom do we thank for the morning air show? Last Wednesday, at precisely 9:11 a.m., a tight formation of four F-16 jets made a low pass over Arrowhead Mall, continuing west over Bell Road at approximately 500 feet. Imagine our good fortune! Do the Tom Cruise-wannabes feel we need this wake-up call, or were they trying to impress the cashiers at Mervyns early bird special? Any response would be appreciated.”

## The response:

Regarding “A wake-up call from Luke’s jets” (Letters, Thursday): On June 15, at precisely 9:12 a.m., a perfectly timed four-ship flyby of F-16s from the 63rd Fighter Squadron at Luke Air Force Base flew over the grave of Capt. Jeremy Fresques. Capt. Fresques was an Air Force officer who was previously stationed at Luke Air Force Base and was killed in Iraq on May 30, Memorial Day.

At 9 a.m. on June 15, his family and friends gathered at Sunland Memorial Park in Sun City to mourn the loss of a husband, son and friend. Based on the letter writer’s recount of the flyby, and because of the jet noise, I’m sure you didn’t hear the 21-gun salute, the playing of taps, or my words to the widow and parents of Capt. Fresques as

I gave them their son’s flag on behalf of the President of the United States and all those veterans and servicemen and women who understand the sacrifices they have endured.

A four-ship Flyby is a display of respect the Air Force pays to those who give their lives in defense of freedom. We are professional aviators and take our jobs seriously, and on June 15 what the letter writer witnessed was four officers lining up to pay their ultimate respects. The letter writer asks, “Whom do we thank for the morning air show?” The 56th Fighter Wing will call for you, and forward your thanks to the widow and parents of Capt. Fresques, and thank them for you, for it was in their honor that my pilots flew the most honorable formation of their lives.

*Lt. Col. Scott Pleus CO 63rd Fighter Squadron Luke AFB*

**To his credit, the complainant, Mr. MacRae, tendered a written apology which was published in The Republic:**

I read with increasing embarrassment and humility the response to my unfortunate letter to The Republic concerning an Air Force flyby (“A wake-up call from Luke’s jets,” Letters, June 23). I had no idea of the significance of the flyby, and would never have insulted such a fine and respectful display had I known.

I have received many calls from the fine airmen who are serving or have served at Luke, and I have attempted to explain my side and apologized for any discomfort my letter has caused. This was simply an uninformed citizen complaining about noise. I have been made aware in both written and verbal communications of the four-ship flyby, and my heart goes out to each and every lost serviceman and woman in this war in which we are engaged.

I have been called un-American by an unknown caller and I feel that I must address that. I served in the U.S. Navy and am a Vietnam veteran. I love my country and respect the jobs that the service organizations are doing. Please accept my heartfelt apologies. Tom MacRae.



# THE BIGGEST FLAG WITH THE SMALLEST DIMENSIONS



This is a true story about a spontaneous idea that sparked something important for a small group of people who in turn fanned that flame and warmed the hearts and souls of thousands from across the world. It's a story about the biggest flag with the smallest dimensions.

Many of you know my love of aviation.

As pilots and aircraft builders, my husband and I volunteer at the Experimental Aircraft Association air show at Oshkosh, Wisconsin each year. It is the largest non-military air show in the United States and the second largest world-wide (second to Paris, France). Like exotic birds, pilots, builders and aircraft restoration buffs from around the world join the annual migration and land at Whitman Field. There can be as many as 9,000 planes parked on the field and thousands of campers, tents and converted busses from various destinations across North, Central and South America on the grounds. With visitors from every corner of the world, the airfield population swells to over 25,000 by the end of the week. Each day the show starts with our National Anthem while the famous Liberty Parachute Team escorts the American flag to the ground. And here begins our story.

Bjarne Sorensen is a long time friend of my husband and a member of the Liberty Parachute Team. Several hours before Saturday's featured performance, we were listening to Bjarne describe the Liberty Team's upcoming tribute to Old Glory. When he said he'd be escorting the Betsy Ross flag, I was struck by a sudden idea. Overcoming my reluctance to ask a personal favor of someone I'd barely met, I asked if he'd be willing to tuck a small flag into his flight suit during the jump. I explained I would like to send it to my son stationed in Iraq. "I'd be glad to – but make it a *small* flag because I don't have a lot of extra room in my suit," he grinned. "Maybe you could sign it so he'd know who carried it for him." I ventured. "No problem – I'll even get the team to sign it for him!" Bjarne continued. We made arrangements to meet at the

performers' briefing building and I set out on a mission - to buy a small American flag.

Julian Hood at Horizons Ltd. had six American flags flying along the top of his kiosk. Assuming he sold them, I asked to buy a flag and told him what I was going to use it for – further explaining the size he had displayed would be perfect. "But I don't sell flags here" he responded. Disappointed, I turned to leave and he continued, "but that doesn't mean I can't help you out!" Cutting loose one of the supporting flag poles, he lowered a flag, handed it to me and said, "You take this one. Tell your son it flew over Oshkosh during the entire show, and that we want him to come home safe." He wouldn't take anything for the flag and I actually had to ask him for a business card so I'd be able to send him a thank you note. In addition to his generous gesture, you could read it in his eyes and hear it in his voice - Julian had been touched by the "why" and just wanted to do what he could to make it happen.

When I arrived at the briefing building, Bjarne wasn't there. Several performers saw my carefully folded flag and immediately came over to talk. Little did I know, moments before my arrival Bjarne had shared what he was going to do during the performer's briefing. While waiting for him, I shared the story of how I acquired the flag. I was stunned by the enthusiasm and level of participation. All the performers were excited and wanted to be involved. Debbie Gary had just flown her last aerobatics performance the day before (she's retiring) and started things off by getting a piece of tag board and penning a personal note above her autograph. By the end of the afternoon the page contained messages and autographs from every air show performer present - including each of the Liberty Parachute Team members. (A real prize for my skydiving son!)

Before I left the briefing area, I was asked to once again tell the story of how I acquired the flag – this time over the PA. I took the opportunity to publicly thank Julian, the air show performers, the Liberty Parachute Team, and especially, Bjarne. What started as a small idea had truly grown and grown, until it literally touched the hearts of thousands. Keep reading - it gets better!

During the opening ceremony the Liberty Team exited their plane, canopies opened and their historic flags unfurled. It wasn't until the announcer came over the PA to identify the individual team members that I learned the Liberty Team had also dedicated their commemorative jump to Konrad!

You'd think this story ends here wouldn't you? Not so. Sunday morning while we were packing up, my cell phone rang. It was my son calling from Iraq. (He's fine – just checking in!) Talk about timing!

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*Christine Nitz, PCC, CPCC is a Professional Certified Coach who works with people willing and able to make changes in their lives. She helps them make successful transitions, find balance, reduce stress and achieve goals or accomplish things they have been putting off. She is also a trainer, author and keynote speaker.*

## Remaining 2007 Chapter 75 Programs

Month	Primary	Alternate
September	John Eagles	Nick Anagnos
October	John Vahrenwald	Blaise Stoltenberg
November	Mike Nass	
December	Santa Clause and his Rooftop Reindeer	

The topic should be aviation related or something that would be of interest to members. Topics include technical methods useful to aircraft builders, aviation history, trips you may have made to a fly in, museum or aviation historic site. Guest speakers you know and can arrange are great programs. This is your chance to blow your own horn to a captive audience.

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### *Internet Links You Might Find Interesting....*

Although not aviation related, I found this world clock to be unique:

<http://www.poodwaddle.com/worldclock.swf>

This site contains a video on how a spinner/propeller/engine combination is dynamically balanced. Click on the video link, then scroll through the videos. RealPlayer required.

<http://160knots.com/>

This site is new and very good for flight planning. The owner says he has no intention of ever charging for its use. Suggest you "Take the Tour".

<http://flightcentral.net/>

**"I don't make jokes. I just watch the government and report the facts."  
-Will Rogers**

## Looking for a home site...?

**President Rick Lowe is sharing this letter with the members to poll your interest.**

Richard,

Wow, this summer if flying by so fast!! Amanda and I have been here in Davenport now since June and still have not made it to any of the local EAA events. I understand that there is not an official meeting until Sept? Are there any events coming up this month? Amanda and I would very much like to become involved with Chapter 75.

One of the other things I'm working on is a residential airpark in the QC area. This has always been a dream for Amanda and I to live on an airpark and it doesn't seam there are many options in the area. I have spoken with Roy Harper and doesn't seam like there is anything out near the Blue Grass area available. So I'm trying to get an idea of how many people in the area might be interested in something like this? Nothing is for sure and I'm open to all suggestions. Ideally I would like to see a 2500-3000 foot turf strip with approximately 25-50 or so 1-2 acre lots.

If you have ideas or know anyone who might have enough land for this please let me know. Feel free to share my contact info with anyone you think might be interested in a residential airpark.

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# JULY POTLUCK



**OUR HOSTS, ROBERT OLDS AND JIM SMITH**



**FRIENDS GATHERING**



**GUESS WHO!**



**AND SHARING**



**ROGER AND MIKE NIGHTINGALE'S RV-9A**



**AND FEASTING**

# Some of the many planes (and people) we helped at AirVenture '07



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*The Leader In Recreational Aviation*

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