



LAKE IN THE HILLS, ILLINOIS

Winds Aloft

EAA Chapter 790

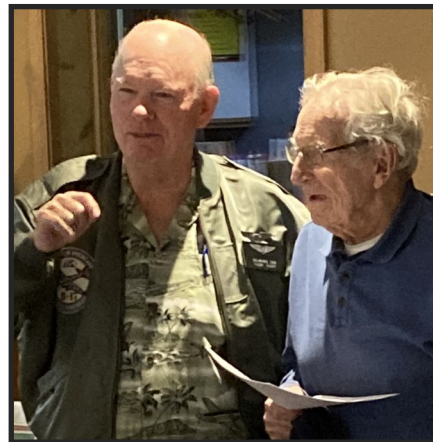
Lake in the Hills, Illinois

790.eaachapter.org

November 2023



October Chapter Meeting



Tom Solar and Ed Berthold

Long time chapter member Ed Berthold was in attendance at the meeting-and for good reason! We were able to celebrate his 104th birthday. Ed's aviation roots began in the Army Air Corps serving as a B-24 Liberator pilot during World War II. As a side note, he stays in shape at the bowling alley twice a week. His 80 year bowling streak began in Iceland on the ice when his crew was idle there for a month.

Before the VMC Club program for the meeting, Dave Stokes noted the November meeting will be a pot luck night-more to follow.





Next, Ole and Paul started the VMC Club presentation. These programs are flying scenario-based topics to educate and promote an active discussion about human factors, safety, flying techniques, etc. Ole chose a situation of VFR mountain flying. In this scenario, you have embarked in a Cessna 150 from KBJC heading west across the continental divide to Rifle with a fuel stop at Eagle. Unfortunately, the visibility has deteriorated at airports along your route of flight and you are unable to contact FSS for updated conditions en route. One of the solutions presented by Ole was to climb to save fuel which may also improve radio comms due to line of sight issues.

The EAA VMC/IMC Club presentations are a great way to elevate hangar flying by promoting discussion for the many situations we are confronted with in our flying.

At the meeting, Tom Solar, our Ray Aviation Scholarship Coordinator, mentioned that Megan Pranczke had submitted an essay to receive a Lightspeed Zulu 3 headset. Looks like they liked it at EAA headquarters as Megan will have a brand new headset soon!

Megan Pranczke Essay

Aviation had crossed my path by total accident. Before aviation until age 13 I was a competitive gymnast who often placed first or second at competitions. Gymnastics was my passion and I loved it more than anything. When I was happy, I did gymnastics. When I was sad, I did gymnastics. I used gymnastics as a way to help me feel free from the every day stressors of life. Unfortunately, my gymnastics career had to be cut short upon my diagnosis of ehlers danos syndrome. (Don't worry I did my FAA medical and can still fly with this condition) This means that my ligaments are naturally very loose, which made me a very good gymnast but also a very breakable gymnast. By age 13 I had broken my foot 3 times, sprained my ankles 5 times, sprained my back once and also had strained my back once. I had broken all my fingers and my toes before besides my left thumb. With injuries becoming a constant in my gymnastics career it was clear to everyone around me that I needed to quit in order to preserve my body. Gymnastics is an extremely physically demanding sport which is hard on the body, and with my condition gymnastics only made it worse. However I did not want to quit, gymnastics was my everything. I remember the day I officially got told by a doctor that I had no option but to quit gymnastics and I said no, screamed, cried for hours. I was absolutely heartbroken. It felt like a huge piece of me had died.

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One Saturday, when I would usually be at practice I was feeling especially upset about gymnastics my mom decided to take me to 3ck for a free young eagles flight. This is something that we would never normally do, however decided to do on a whim because of the circumstances. I had been struggling with finding a place to feel that same relief that I felt with gymnastics anywhere else, and this ended up being fate. I had one flight and immediately fell in love. It was as if all of the pain that quitting gymnastics has caused me had literally “lifted off” of my shoulders. From that moment on I knew that aviation was for me.



From that moment on whenever I needed relief from those every day stressors, I always looked to aviation, and I still do so to speak. Whenever I have struggled with issues in my family, or school I use aviation as a place to relax and feel truly happy.

Recently my biggest struggle has been recovering from a double shoulder surgery that I had to get on my left shoulder from an injury that I got at work. Recovery from shoulder surgery was absolutely horrible. I lost almost 40 lbs in 2 months because of how sick I was from all the meds. I went to physical therapy 3 times a week for a full year in order to get better, and physical therapy is no walk in the park when it comes to shoulder surgery. I was in so much pain and honestly at some points thought that I would never recover. However the main thing that kept me motivated to keep going to physical therapy and keep myself in check was the thought of being able to get back to flying. I truly do not know how I would've recovered from surgery if it weren't for aviation because it was the only reason I fought so hard to get back to my fully functioning self.

Therefore aviation has positively impacted me in many different ways. It has given me a happy place to go when life gets inevitably tough, and it has given me a will and drive like no one else I know. So I thank aviation and everyone who has supported my aviation career for helping me through all the things I have been through and allowing me to thrive as I am today, because I couldn't have done it without aviation.

Megan Pranczke



Chapter Meetings

Chapter 790 meetings are held the fourth Tuesday of every month. The meetings are generally held at the Lake in the Hills Airport Office lounge at 6:30 pm. From May until October, the meetings also consist of a cookout to enjoy the nice weather. Matt will keep everyone posted via email of exact times, location, guest speakers, etc.



Fly Out Scheduling

A great way to enjoy a Saturday morning and some camaraderie are the fly-out events. They are typically held the third Saturday of the month at 9am. If the weather isn't satisfactory, it will be rescheduled to the following Saturday. Paul Ranieri will keep everyone posted as to the destination and date via email. If you are interested in going and need a seat, you can respond to Paul's group email prior to the upcoming fly-out.

Young Eagles

Beginning in May and running through October are the Young Eagle events. They are held the first Saturday of the month at either Schaumburg Airport or Lake in the Hills Airport. There is no better way for kids to get some flying experience. Before each event, chapter members will receive an email outlining the various volunteer opportunities. These consist of helping to register the kids and their parents, being on the ramp to park airplanes, and flying the kids of course!



Builders Log

Sweet RV-12

As Randy Sweet has referenced before, even though you have completed construction of your experimental airplane, you are never REALLY done. Of course, the next phase is learning about maintaining your aircraft. Erring on the side of caution, he is addressing a slight vibration in his Rotax engine. By matter of elimination, the gearbox is the #1 suspect especially given Rotax has had issues with these in the past. While not an immediate cause for concern, it's better to have it inspected now to determine if indeed it is the culprit. So, off comes the gearbox to be examined by a Rotax technician in Wisconsin. Sounds good– address a potential problem when it's small before it gets big.



Thompson RV-14A

Our RV-14A project is progressing steadily. The small assemblies are quickly becoming large ones. One last big riveting session remains-the bottom wing skins. Before we tackle the skins, wire routing for AHRS, pitot heat, lighting, etc. will be installed.



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Short final into 3CK with Ole



EAA Chapter 790 Calendar of Upcoming Events

November 18	Flyout	Palmrya 88C
November 28	Pot Luck	LITH Airport Office
December 5	Board Meeting	Barrington Library
December 13	Holiday Party	Matt's House
December 16	Flyout	TBD

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January 20	Flyout	TBD
January 23	Chapter Meeting	LITH Airport Office
February 6	Board Meeting	Barrington Library
February 10	Chapter Banquet	Cary Country Club

