



Winds Aloft

EAA Chapter 790

Lake in the Hills, Illinois

790.eaachapter.org

October 2023

September Chapter Meeting



Chapter President Matt VanBergen starts the meeting

Despite the gray skies and chilly weather of late September, the chapter meeting and cookout at Ted Lipinski's hangar located at Lake in the Hills Airport had a large turnout. The big news was about Megan Pranczke— Chapter 790's Ray Aviation Scholarship recipient. She soloed on September 14th at Galt Airport!

Chapter member Brad Delisle put together a presentation that took us through his aviation experience that began with watching airplanes at Lake in the Hills Airport while sitting on his bicycle to where he is today. The commonality of what Megan and Brad shared was the sense of accomplishment that occurs when overcoming steep learning curves that only aviation can present. Brad contended with almost tortuous external conditions and distractions while trying to do the job he was hired to do. Similarly, Megan dealt with a time crunch and compensating for a persistent shoulder injury.

We all have photos of an airplane on a ramp somewhere. But, it always seems to be just that— an airplane on a piece of concrete. What makes the story complete is the people associated with it, especially the ever present mentors behind the scenes. Brad and Megan conveyed that.



The meeting got underway after Dave Stokes put the fire out in the grill at Ted's hangar. Matt introduced new members Gregg and Vicki Dubin. Gregg is currently a Dispatcher with United Airlines while Vicki is pursuing a career in nursing. They are EAA enthusiasts and have enjoyed AirVenture for many years. Gregg is interested in the pilot side, while Vicki likes the technical side. Welcome to the chapter!

Next up was pilot mentor Tom Solar along with Megan to highlight her solo flight. Megan has doggedly kept at flight training despite having a hectic school and activity schedule. Perhaps the biggest obstacle was from an injury she suffered while assisting kids at a gymnastics class. The injury would lead to surgery on her left arm and shoulder as well. Megan said that being physically limited at a young age caught her by surprise and had to be contended with while flying— especially those power-off stalls. Megan still has to take the written exam, but with Tom's knowledge and teaching ability she'll do great. Her family joined the meeting to share in Megan's recognition.



Tom Solar presenting Megan her EAA "First Solo" T shirt

The next learning curve was to tackle IFR flying in a Beech C99 out of Buffalo, New York flying essential contract freight. And of course if you're flying the cargo, you will be loading and unloading it too. The next aircraft to master was the SA 227AC Metroliner III. Suffice it to say, the Metroliner has a long list of nicknames, many of which can not be repeated here.



Beech C99



Metroliner III



In 2015 Brad visited the Skywest Airlines table at AirVenture. Interviewing in a Hawaiian shirt and shorts, he was offered a pilot position. Not surprisingly, Brad has earned roles as a pilot recruiter and interviewer. He is currently a line check airman at Skywest.

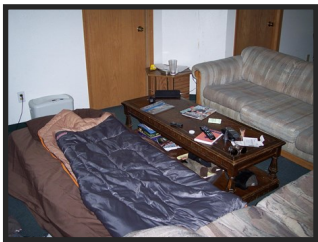
Brad's last slide of the presentation was a listing of various aviation websites such as Climbto350.com. Interestingly, one of the sites he listed was FMA- the Flying Musicians Association.

Like so many of us, his path in aviation appears to be random—but is it really? Thank you Brad from all the chapter 790 members and guests for sharing your story! Congratulations to Megan again on reaching the solo!

Brad Delisle Presentation



The speaker for the meeting was chapter member Brad Delisle. The topic was his path to his present position as an airline captain. It is fair to assume that it would be predictable with initial roots as a CFI, but when he couldn't decide between pursuing a career as a professional trumpet player or becoming a pilot, we knew his talk would be interesting! The aviation community is fortunate that Brad chose the latter. Initially, he couldn't shake a nagging feeling that he wasn't smart enough to be a pilot. He dipped his toe in the water by getting a job in dispatching at Sunline Services at O'Hare. He also worked at the Blue Skies Pilot Shop behind the counter. If you're a young person working behind the counter at a pilot shop, invariably you will go for an airplane ride. Throw in interactions with guys like Tom Solar, Ole Sindberg and Mike Perkins to name a few, something is bound to happen!



5 Star Accommodations

After Brad earned his ratings, the decision was at hand. Head south to play the trumpet on Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines, or head north to Alaska to fly. Before he knew it, he found himself working 15 days on, 15 days off for 67 bucks a day. There was an upside since lodging was provided— the downside is in the form of a couch, or the floor. Then it's up and at 'em early to beat the other pilots to the fuel truck in the minus 40 degree morning.

Brad made it over the top of the Alaska flying learning curve, so it was unknowingly time for another one. Next up were lessons in density altitude, coaxing underpowered airplanes into the air in Arizona. Toss in a few "one way in, one way out" airports as well as a 20 foot wide runway at Marble Canyon to further the challenges.



Cessna 207s in Arizona waiting to be coaxed into the air

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 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 time 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 the registration area for kids and their parents, being on the ramp to park airplanes, and flying the kids of course!



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EAA Chapter 790 Calendar of Upcoming Events

October 21	Flyout	Rochelle (K RPG)
October 24	Chapter Meeting	LITH Airport Office
November 18	Flyout	TBD
November 28	Chapter Meeting	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

