

2023 YEAR IN REVIEW: *(Sit back & enjoy the review of 2023).*

EAA Chapter #878 is putting a ‘wrap’ onto a wonderfully productive year. The number of new men, women youth, pilots and non-pilots have energized the current crop of veterans. There were activities every month of this year. Many of our members had a hand in the overall success.

January:

Winter snows came early and often. Between the city of Maple Lake, Peter Radintz and other volunteer EAA members, numerous snow drifts were swept aside. Our final installment was made to Lauren _____ through the Ray Foundation grant. A great article appeared in the chapter newsletter about “known icing”.

February:

Remodeling efforts really got-underway in February for our new Maple Lake EAA hangar. A ceiling was installed with metal generously donated by member Dick Borrell. With the help of a local contractor, the metal sheets were put-in-place and the many tenticals of the hangar door supports were boxed in.

March:

The hangar ceiling was completed in early March. At March's regular membership meeting, pancakes were flipped. The chapter had previously decided to postpone the idea of a chili feed fly in event at Buffalo, when the State's health department would not allow us to sell our homemade wares.

April:

In April, the chapter (as it usually does) went back to a Tuesday evening meeting schedule. The board of director's executive committee also began holding separate meetings. The chapter had evolved from a half-dozen regular members attending meetings many years ago to a regular crowd of between 20-30 pilots. Much of the mundane chapter business was now being handled at these board meetings. As you'll note, our regular membership meetings included speakers that brought interesting aviation tid-bits to us.

May:

One such speaker, author Ken Tuvman spoke at our May membership meeting. Ken's retelling of his own father's experiences in World War 2 captivated our group.

May is also GMAG Month. GMAG---Great Minnesota aviation gathering was held here at the Buffalo airport and brought a great crowd during the weekend of May 20th. We provided breakfast and lunchables as a ways-and-means project for the chapter.

Towards the end of the month, chapter members came to Maple Lake with gloves-on and cleaned the old EAA C-5 hangar. A 10 yard dumpster was filled-up with old unused items.

June:

June continued to be a busy month as we tried to rebuild our coffers with needed funds. The Buffalo Days pancake breakfast brought in another nice crowd. Later in the month, what's become a rather-annual-June tradition, members and partners/friends made a road trip and fly-out to Fagen's Aviation Museum in Granite Falls, Mn. We experienced plenty of military aircraft in pristine condition. History came to real life with exhibits of World War Two holicost manequines, barracks and ready-rooms. Realistic battled field scenes also dotted the numerous hangar museum buildings.

July:

Then at our July membership meeting, two of our scholarship winners attended. Spencer Peterson and Lucy Schaeffer told us of their educational and flight accomplishments. Lucy even assisted in the July Young Eagle's flying.

July means Air Venture. We had a very nice showing of 878 members in Oshkosh. *Brown Arch.

*Betty & brown arch.

*Mike Reid.

*Kyle & Amy Weatherly.

*Group photo.

Planes of all shapes and sizes show up each year.

*NASA's Super Guppy.

*Hump back Dreamlifter

Views from the announcer's stand where we again broke attendance records. *Crowd.

Sixty Five Hundred people volunteer at some point of the week to make AirVenture happen. Here is Wayne Flury displaying his 30-plus year plaque. *Wayne & plaque.

I thank Wayne each summer for guiding me on the announcer's stand near taxi-way Papa. *Wayne & GT.

He also knows how to 'hob-knob' with celebrities...something that I'm still learning. Here he is sharing stories with country song writer and artist, Aaron Tippin. *pix.

And of course, a standing room only crowd gets to see the Wednesday & Saturday night fireworks.

August:

At our August meeting, Harold Greseth told us—and shared photos of his experience in selling the floats on his GlasStar. His buyer came all the way down from Alaska. Another crop of Young Eagles flew with our crew of pilots. And, sketches of the proposed classroom in our new hangar began taking shape.

September:

September had long-been on-our calendar to host a super Young Eagles day at Maple Lake. Kyle and Amy organized a great morning of activities. Seven or 8 planes were fueled and ready for flight. Burgers and brats were served to the participants and really--- anyone that wanted to attend.

On September 12th, three members of the Minneapolis air traffic control facility gave our chapter information from their point of view on flying through Minneapolis airspace. We started the meeting with another cook-out by using-up the chapter's left-overs from earlier fund raising events. And of course, September begins the many flights for yours-truly to my favorite hunting grounds to the North West. There's Fargo from 6,000 feet.

October:

In October, construction on our hangar's classroom began in-earnest. Lumber and metal had-been stockpiled and now found a new home in our hangar.

During this same time period, Henry Williams and Tom Rammel began meeting semi-weekly with students and constructed a model plane under EAA's "Build-to-fly" program. (recognize students & their parents).

Following a few cold snaps, late October brought more remodeling.

NOVEMBER:

Slow-but-sure: that's the motto of the half-dozen or so members that persistently trudged forward with classroom construction.

Our November meeting brought in Maple Lake pilot and member, Mike Reid. Mike is one of only a few individuals certified to judge aircraft at AirVenture. His informative talk gave all of us another reason to thank the volunteers that show-up to Oshkosh. Mike spends numerous hours biking-around the airport grounds and trying to find the best planes in each class.

December:

Tree of Hope toy gathering kicked-off December just one week ago at the St. Cloud airport. Many of our members are assisting in either flying toys or driving toys to various hospitals in the upper Midwest. This year over _____ hospitals were given large bags of toys.

That brings us full-circle to where we are today. Whew! All of you contribute to the success of 878. Volunteerism and some fun-times make us one of the nation's top chapters.

On behalf of the betterment of aviation, I thank each and everyone of you. It's been a pleasure guiding this journey.