



## *The Maple Lake Flyer*

A newsletter of EAA Chapter 878, Experimental Aircraft Association

*EAA Chapter 878: a part of the aviation community in Maple Lake, Buffalo and surrounding areas of Minnesota since 1986.*

November, 2016

- **EAA CHAPTER 878 EVENT and MEETING NOTICE**

### **Regular Monthly Meeting, Tuesday, November 8**

**At the Maple Lake Airport hangar of Tim Bond (center hangar in the first row of hangars parallel to the runway)**

**Meeting starts at 7:30 pm**

**(Note: you can bring leftover Halloween candy to share and for disposal, but only if it's the GOOD stuff!)**

**Be sure to VOTE before you come to the meeting! Plus, you get to vote at our meeting for chapter officers for the next two years.**

- **FLIGHT TO SUCCESS**  
by Greg Thomes, Chapter President

Flying in general aviation offers many positive attributes, not the least of which is a chance to clear one's mind. I enjoy flying because it gives me a chance to think. Now, I try to control the day-dreaming to time spent on the ground and not while P.I.C. But, when airborne, many earthly problems are literally 3,000 to 8,000 feet below me.

How in the world can someone float along in their plane without allowing their mind to wander a little bit? I say flying is time and money well spent...better than a \$250 therapy session!

As we transition into another 'winter wonderland', take the opportunity to fly or take a flight with a friend. It may just give you a chance to "get your head right!"

May your skies be bright and breezes light.

Greg



**NOTE: See "Table of Contents" on Page 2**

## Current Month Newsletter Table of Contents

This Month's Meeting Location and Time Info.....	Page 1
President's Column.....	Page 1
Minutes of Previous Meeting and Treasurer's Report Summary.....	Page 2
Maple Lake Fly-In Wrap-Up Report.....	Page 5
Chapter Non-Profit Status.....	Page 5
Bill Mavencamp, Sr. Nomination to MN Aviation Hall of Fame.....	Page 5
IMC Club Report.....	Page 6
Upcoming EAA Chapter 878 Aviation Events.....	Page 6
Young Eagle Flights.....	Page 7
Wanted – Stories.....	Page 7
Chapter RV-4 Builder Report.....	Page 8
Tree of Hope.....	Page 9
EAA Memberships.....	Page 9
What I Did On My Summer Vacation (Part 2) – South Dakota Air & Space Museum.....	Page 10
EAA Chapter 878 and Maple Lake Flyer Info.....	Page 13
The Funnies.....	Page 13
Tree of Hope flyer.....	Page 14

### ● MINUTES OF MEETING – October 11, 2016 by Wayne Flury, Chapter Secretary

October meeting of EAA Chapter 878 was held at the home workshop of Wayne Flury. Members and guests were treated to an “October appropriate” dessert (pumpkin bars and apple cider).

Before the meeting, Wayne updated members on progress of his Sonex project (wings mounted, ready to be removed for final deburring and riveting of mounting angles, spar tunnel and rear spar carry-through).

Members assisted in the removal of the wings so Wayne can finish the construction process in this area.



(photos by Kurt Pennuto)

Meeting called to order at 7:35 p.m. with 15 members and one spouse (Joyce) in attendance.

### REPORTS:

Secretary's Report by Wayne Flury for September, as printed in the October newsletter; motion to approve by Kurt Pennuto, second by Tom Rammel; no discussion; approved.

September Treasurer's Report by Dick Burns was included at the end of the September Secretary's report and had been verbally approved in September. Treasurer's Report for October was presented verbally by Dick, with no questions or comments. Motion to approve by Patti Sandusky, second by Fred Jude; no discussion; approved. October Treasurer's Report to appear in November newsletter. Dick noted that he is

still getting bills from the fly-in, so does not yet have a final report. He estimates approximately \$1000 profit. See the summary of the general treasurer's report at the end of these minutes.

## **COMMITTEES:**

- Young Eagles:** Chapter Young Eagles Coordinator Tim Bond has flown seven YE's this month. Chapter member Mike Schmitt has a group of Cub Scouts from Delano. He and Tim will fly this Saturday, with help from others.
- Chapter Webmaster:** Website Coordinator Dan Hanson not present.
- RV-4 Project:** Tom Rammel brought and displayed a partial set of plans for the RV-4. He has the rudder at his home and working on it. Needs to build a jig to drill the rudder frame holes. Need two volunteers to take charge of building the wings. Tom presented a list of items needed. See the "Builder Report" elsewhere in the newsletter for more detail.
- Fred Jude volunteered to build plywood jigs. Wayne Flury lent Tom a rivet spacing jig. Fred will also attempt to make contact with another EAA chapter that has built an RV-4 and try to set up a joint meeting.
- At the conclusion of the meeting, Tom played a promotion video about the RV product line.
- I.M.C. Club:** No one present from IMC
- STEM Programs:** Kurt Pennuto – no update. Just getting started at Rockford MS.

## **TABLED BUSINESS:**

**Chapter Build or Acquire a Structure (Hangar or Garage) at Maple Lake Airport:** Greg Thomes trying to meet with Larry Prybl about his hangar which is currently available (open front hangar in first row of hangars as you enter the Maple Lake Airport ramp area from the vehicle entrance). Larry may lease or sell this 30' x 40' hangar. He is only in town a couple of days a month.

**Jump Club:** Fred Jude. No update.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Maple Lake Fly-In:** Chairman Kurt Pennuto and committee met last week. Kurt presented a verbal review of the fly-in. See a "Wrap-Up Report" elsewhere in this newsletter.

**Non-Profit Status, 501(c)(3):** Wayne Flury advised that he has done background investigation and discovery of information about the process. Will be contacting local chapters that have completed the process to see if they have guidance. Chapter by-laws will need updating, and need to verify if we have Articles of Incorporation. He will be checking with EAA Chapter Office for guidance.

- Compass Rose:** Chapter member Patti Sandusky noted that she has made a presentation to the City of Maple Lake as a representative of the 99s about painting a compass rose on the airport ramp. Waiting for the Airport Commission to approve.
- Tree of Hope:** Elaine Morrow reported on current status. There will be a Friday afternoon set up work party. Tree of Hope event is on Saturday, December 3. Will need more drivers to deliver bags of toys this year due to more hospitals on the distribution list. See the "Tree of Hope" article elsewhere in this newsletter, and the flyer attached.
- American Flag Pole:** Tim Simmon not present. Per Greg, we should work on acquisition and installation of a flag pole at the Maple Lake Airport for next summer.

## NEW BUSINESS:

- Christmas Party 2016:** Chapter Christmas Party is scheduled for Saturday, December 17 at Huikko's in Buffalo. Wayne Flury will check into a speaker for the after dinner program.
- Election of Officers:** To be held at November meeting. Greg Thomes will be out of town; Pete Radintz to conduct business.

**ADJOURN:** Motion to adjourn by Tim Bond; Seconded by Elaine Morrow; approved.

## Other:

- 50/50 Program:** Tim Erickson not present, no 50/50 raffle tonight.
- Chapter PIC Hours:** Chapter President Greg Thomes passed around the PIC sheet for attendance and for record of chapter member flying hours and building hours to date.
- Meeting Locations:** Suggested to hold next meeting at the Arrival/Departure Building at Buffalo Airport; Greg to check availability. (Secretary's note – it was not available for November).
- Future Meeting Program Suggestions:** January – Kurt Pennuto will discuss his involvement in the Recreational Air Force (RAF) and what it is.  
March – host a FFAST meeting

## Treasurer's Report Summary:

Monthly Treasurer's Report by Dick Burns For September:			
Opening Balance			\$8184.70
Income: Dues	\$	25.00	
Total	\$	<u>25.00</u>	
Expenses: Wayne Flury – stamps	\$	9.40	
Tom Rammel – RV plans		12.99	
Fly-in, Maple Lake			
Cash		600.00	
T&R Meats		1116.90	
Connie Erickson – chili		167.90	
Total		<u>\$1907.19</u>	
Total Gain/Loss:			<\$1882.19>
Ending Balance - September			\$6302.51

- **MAPLE LAKE FLY-IN 2016, WRAP-UP REPORT**

by Kurt Pennuto, Fly-in Chairperson

Our committee has had a debriefing meeting about the 2016 Maple Lake Fly-In. The following are the comments and ideas for the future. Some of the ideas for next year's fly in are just that – ideas – and are not set in stone or confirmed.

I hope this gets others excited for a bigger and better event for next year!

1. What went well: band was good; good location for music; people seemed to like the night activities.
  2. What didn't go well: Bon fire too far away from activities. Possibly have multiple fire rings for people to gather around; maybe propane fires to limit the smoke. Chili went too fast – have more chili next year. Buffalo paper didn't come out. Get a second trough for drinks.
  3. What can we improve/ideas for next year: have both chicken chili and beef chili; promote for the event more – flying mags; for camp out on Saturday – look for more things for non pilots; pre-flight activities; F.A.S.T. Team; wings seminars (track down contact). Organize tent camping location; cross wind alternate airport with shuttle; dumpster; not now on having scouts; have an ambassador each year – for next year maybe honor pilots that do "donor flights;" flag pole; handicap parking; hand held radios for parking cars and planes. Have pre-event meeting for plane marshals. S.T.O.L. Comp or demo with Jason Ericson; seaplane base for next year; tree for Tree of Hope signage to promote.
  4. Next year dates: Sept. 9 & 10, 2017.
- 

- **NON-PROFIT STATUS FOR CHAPTER 878**

by Wayne Flury

I'm learning way more about 501(c)(3) non-profit status application than I ever thought or hoped or wanted to do! I have learned that Chapter 878 had a set of By-Laws, but they are sadly in need of updating – and then we need to follow them for conduct of our chapter business. Back in 1986 when the chapter was formed, we also filed for Articles of Incorporation which was approved. The EAA Chapter Office helped to find this record.

Somewhere along the line we stopped updating the Articles and our status with the Minnesota Secretary of State, but in a conversation with a person at the SoS office I learned that it is an easy process to reinstate the chapter, and there is no fee for doing this (at least, for organizations such as ours). We do, however, need to have both a mailing address update (our old address of record was Wright Aero) and an email address contact for future contact by the SoS.

I have corresponded with an attorney, Patti Arthur, who is on the EAA Chapter Advisory Board, about the process and estimated costs. More detail on this will follow and I'll have more info at the next meeting.

---

- **RE-NOMINATION OF BILL MAVENCAMP, SR. TO MINNESOTA AVIATION HALL OF FAME**

by Wayne Flury

Last year the chapter supported an effort to get Bill Mavencamp, Sr. inducted into the Minnesota Aviation Hall of Fame (MAHF) by submitting a "Letter of Recommendation" on behalf of the members of EAA Chapter 878. Joe Mavencamp prepared and submitted the required nomination paperwork.

Unfortunately, the Selection Committee did not pick Bill for this year's induction. Joe is resubmitting an application and has asked that the chapter resubmit a letter of support. I have edited and updated our letter from last year, and will have it at our November meeting for signature by chapter officers.

However, this is a letter from the chapter only. If you agree that Bill Sr. deserves to be remembered in this way, and you had some personal interaction or experience with Bill, I encourage you to write your own personal Letter of Recommendation to provide your unique support and perspective. Letters need not be formal or elaborate, but should be heart-felt! Let the Hall of Fame selection committee know why you feel Bill Sr. was a person who deserves this recognition.

The nomination paperwork must be received by the selection committee before November 30, 2016. However, they won't evaluate the nominations until June, 2017 and the awards banquet won't be until approximately April of 2018.

Address letters to: Jim Hanson, Nominations Chairman, Minnesota Aviation Hall of Fame, 73950 275th St., Clarks Grove, MN 56016. Plainly indicate in the letter that it is a letter of affirmation of support for Bill Sr.

**Note:** for new members or folks new to this area, Bill Sr. was a Flight Examiner for many, many years, based out of Wright Aero at the Maple Lake Airport. He was a long time resident of the Maple Lake area and was instrumental in developing and promoting the Maple Lake Airport. The Maple Lake Airport was recently renamed in his honor as Maple Lake Municipal – Bill Mavencamp Sr. Field.

---

- **IMC CLUB**  
by Wayne Flury, Newsletter Editor

Chapter member Dave Borrell attended the last IMC Club meeting and sent a list of names of IMC Club members for integration into EAA Chapter 878. All IMC Club members are invited and encouraged to take part in Chapter 878 programs and activities, and current Chapter 878 members are to have access to IMC Club programs.



The following IMC Club member names have been added to the Chapter 878 newsletter mail list and, for several, this will be their first *Maple Lake Flyer*. Please help to welcome them into our chapter:

Tom Minder, Steve Saveraid, Ambyr Peterson, John Hill, Dave Wendt, Jamie Graham, Rob Latta, Ray Svobodny, Steve Kickert, and Laura Herrmann.

According to David Wendt, President of the IMC Club, their meetings are held at Elliott Aviation (KFCM) on the 4th Tuesday of every month. For exact location, start time and program content each month, please contact David at [DaveWendtInsurance@gmail.com](mailto:DaveWendtInsurance@gmail.com) or 612/272-4600.

---

- **CHAPTER 878 AVIATION EVENTS – 2016**

Nov 8	EAA Chapter 878 meeting. Election of chapter officers for 2017-19.
Dec. 3	Tree of Hope toy collection and distribution, at Maple Lake Airport
Dec 17	EAA Chapter 878 Christmas Party, to be held at Huikko's Entertainment Center in Buffalo.
Jan 14	EAA Chapter 878 meeting (Note: Saturday morning date)
Feb 11	EAA Chapter 878 meeting (Note: Saturday morning date)
Mar 11	EAA Chapter 878 meeting (Note: Saturday morning date)

Note: this generally will not detail the many pancake breakfasts and other fly-ins or local aviation events because they are already well documented on other sites which are dedicated to that purpose. If I did try to list them, I risk the possibility of missing one or slighting someone if I fail to list their event. I will make an exception for some special events.

For aviation events throughout the area, see the various Calendars of Events in magazines, websites and bulletin boards, plus I recommend subscribing to the free email alerts through <http://www.flyins.com> and [www.socialflight.com](http://www.socialflight.com).

- **CHAPTER 878 MEMBERS FLY YOUNG EAGLES**

**Tim Bond, Chapter Young Eagles Coordinator**

On Saturday, October 15, EAA Chapter 878 members Tim Bond and Greg Thomes flew several youngsters from the Wolf Cub Scouts of Delano Pack 273. Chapter member Mike Schmitt assisted with ground school instruction, using his Cessna 206 on amphibious floats as a teaching device. Flights took place from the Buffalo Airport. Several scout parents attended the event as well, and prepared a picnic lunch for all.

Shown below are the Cub Scout members, plus chapter members (L to R) Greg, Mike and Tim standing alongside Greg's Cessna Cardinal. This photo by Linda Althoff appeared in the Oct. 27 issue of the Wright County Journal-Press.



Remember that you, as an EAA member, can always fly a Young Eagle. You don't have to wait for an "event" like this one. If you don't have the Young Eagles paperwork forms, give me a call. Just be sure that you have completed and comply with the EAA Youth Protection Plan requirements, a simple set of guidelines to protect both you and the youth. Most organizations that have adult/youth interaction have similar policies.

- **WANTED...YOUR PHOTOS AND STORIES**

**by Wayne Flury, Newsletter Editor**

Where did you go, what did you do this last summer flying season? Or, what are you planning to do this coming winter flying season? And if you're not flying, did you go someplace interesting (i.e., a museum, etc.)? Did you have some work done on your airplane (upgrade, modification, fix a problem, etc.)? Did you buy something for your airplane? Was it worth it? Are you doing anything about ADS-B?

Send me a photo or two, along with a story or at least a brief explanation. Don't worry about the words...I can help on that. Then I'll put it in the newsletter so others can share in your enjoyment of flying!

- **CHAPTER 878 RV-4 BUILDER REPORT**  
by Tom Rammel, Chapter Build Project Coordinator

### **HISTORY:**

One of our EAA Chapter 878 members, Glen Morrow, passed away recently. Glen was the Chapter Young Eagles Coordinator and flew many young people, giving them their first airplane flight experience. Elaine, we are sorry for your loss.

Many of his assets went up for auction and one was the RV-4 kit airplane that he and Elaine started building in the 1980's. Most of our members didn't know that he was building the RV-4 including myself. I attribute that to him not wanting to be asked all the time, "When will it be done?" Chapter 878 bid on the RV-4 kit and had the high bid. Glen had most of the tail feathers started, and now our chapter has the remaining RV-4 to build. So now you have the history of how we got started on this RV-4 build journey.

### **The Journey:**

Credit and thanks needs to go to many of our members. Thank you, Tim Bond, for handling the bidding, picking up, storing the kit parts and loaning us some riveting tools. Thank you Dave Swanson, for loaning us the 3X rivet gun and squeezer. Thank you, Fred Jude, for building the rudder jig and bending the rudder trailing edge. Thank you, Wayne Flury, for loaning us the fan hole marking tool and (after we are 501(c)(3) certified, for donating) the pneumatic blind rivet gun. I received word this week that Dave Swanson and Harold Greseth have volunteered to start building the wings.

Since our chapter does not own a hangar, we are building parts at member's residences. This is not the ideal situation since it does not lend itself well to group building, but we will have to make it work for now.

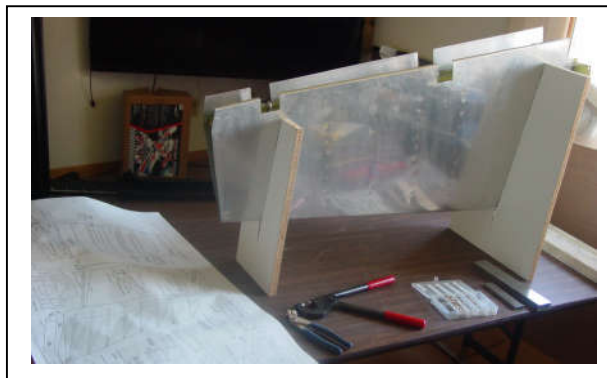
So the journey has started. Stay tuned for the progress as we take this journey together.

### **Needs:**

Zinc Chromate primer (green aerosol); two strips of sheet aluminum, 2024-T3, 1 1/8" x 15" x 0.032" thick.

### **Progress:**

The rudder has been started, about 150 flush solid rivets are installed and another 150 to go. Mark, drill, cleco, de-burr, dimple, rivet, repeat until done. Sounds simple, right? OK, maybe not that simple! I had to find a smaller bucking bar for some of the harder to reach rivets for the rudder frame where the controls attach.



(photos by Tom Rammel)

- **TREE OF HOPE**  
by Elaine Morrow, TOH Co-Coordinator

Attached to the newsletter you will find an updated Tree of Hope flyer for 2016. Please copy and post it on your travels!

The date for toy collection and distribution this year is December 3, from 9 am to 1 pm, and is at the Maple Lake Municipal – Bill Mavencamp Sr. Field (KMGG). Please come and volunteer to help collect, sort, bag and distribute toys. This year we will be delivering toys to over 35 hospitals within Minnesota. Refreshments will be served!



Donations to the Tree of Hope (toys that are new and unwrapped, or cash for purchasing toys or batteries or packaging materials and labels, etc.) are always accepted and very much appreciated. Please see the flyer for information on donations (welcome any time of the year).

We also need drivers to deliver bags of toys to the following hospitals at the following locations: Brainerd, Duluth, Owatonna, and Minneapolis Hennepin County Medical Center. Toys should be delivered within a week of the collection date. If you can help with this or have any questions, please contact me at the email or phone number shown on the flyer.

And, we have a volunteer mechanic through GMAG who is willing to donate time to work on planes so people can fly toys!! Let me know if you need any mechanical work for TOH and I will send you the contact information.

---

- **EAA MEMBERSHIPS**  
by Wayne Flury

Our chapter has been lenient about assuring that chapter members are also EAA national members (a requirement for all local chapters, by EAA national HQ). But, there are solutions...see below and contact me or any other officer to learn more and get the process started to become a national member.

### **Student Membership**

An EAA Student Membership is available FREE of charge to any young person age 8 – 18 who has completed a Young Eagles flight.

Membership is free and includes:

- FREE first flight lesson\* (\$120 value).  
    *\*Upon completion of the first three volumes of the Sporty's Learn to Fly Course*
- Access to valuable flight training awards, education scholarships, and Air Academy camperships.
- FREE admission to 300+ science and technology museums.
- FREE Academy of Model Aeronautics Student Membership
- FREE electronic copy of *EAA Sport Aviation* magazine.
- FREE access to Sporty's Learn to Fly Course (\$199 value).

### **Chapter Trial Membership**

Through the Chapter Trial Membership program, we can give prospective chapter members a free 6-month EAA general membership trial, which includes the full set of EAA membership benefits at no cost! This is truly a full EAA membership as newcomers will receive *EAA Sport Aviation* magazine, access to the members-only area of the website, membership discounts on programs like EAA SportAir Workshops, EAA AirVenture Oshkosh, and more.

- **WHAT I DID ON MY SUMMER VACATION (Part Two)**  
**A visit to the South Dakota Air & Space Museum, Ellsworth AFB, Rapid City, South Dakota**  
by Wayne Flury

Joyce and I departed Minot and the Dakota Territory Air Museum on August 30 to continue our drive westward through North Dakota, skirting the edge of the oil fields but yet close enough to get a sense of the scope of change this economic driver has had upon the state, and then to the historical town of Medora (<http://www.medorand.com/>) where we spent the night, had dinner at the “Pitchfork Fondue” (good steaks!) and attended the Medora Musical.

This country is truly the beginning of “The West,” an area Teddy Roosevelt loved and popularized, with panoramic views of the North Dakota Badlands and a horizon that hovers in the infinite future. Towns are few, farms or ranches are expansive by economic necessity, and roads stretch forward from the windshield as an example of an artist’s “vanishing point” perspective. Pilots are treated to a similar view as we rise above the ground and our horizon extends but, for earthbound drivers accustomed to a restricted horizontal field of view, it can be disconcerting and intimidating.

In this country, yours may be the only vehicle on the highway for tens of miles, and the approach of another car or truck is reassurance that you are not alone in the universe. The answer to the question of whether a life here is one of isolation or freedom is very much a reflection upon the perception of your purpose in life.

Leaving philosophical thoughts behind, we crossed into South Dakota, paralleled the Black Hills to Rapid City and then slightly east to Ellsworth AFB where Paula, our younger daughter, and her family make their home. Our son-in-law, Justin Walker, is a USAF Chief Master Sergeant recently assigned to Ellsworth.

**Some historical background:** Ellsworth AFB began life as Rapid City Army Air Base in 1941, with construction of temporary wartime facilities completed in late 1942. Its first assignment was as an Operational Training Unit for B-17 bomber crews and, later, training of replacement personnel for deployed units, including pilots, navigators, radio operators and gunners. This was just one of several airfields established by the U.S. War Department in South Dakota during World War II for the purpose of training pilots and aircrews. Others were at Mitchell, Sioux Falls, Pierre, Watertown and Aberdeen.

As the Army Air Forces were demobilized following the war, Rapid City AAB was placed on standby status. During the next few years the base fluctuated in official status and duty assignment. In late 1945 it was designated as a permanent facility by the United States Army Air Force and hosted the P-61, P-38, P-51 and B-25 before receiving the B-29, and later the B-36 bomber.

Following the formation of the United States Air Force on September 18, 1947, the base became a USAF asset. In early 1948 the base was renamed Weaver Air Force Base, but reverted to Rapid City Air Force Base after only about 6 months due to local public appeal. In June, 1953 the base was renamed Ellsworth AFB in honor of Brig. General Richard E. Ellsworth, commander of the 28 Strategic Reconnaissance Wing at Rapid City. Ellsworth and all crew members died in March, 1953 in the crash of a RB-36 in Newfoundland returning from a training mission in Europe.

Ellsworth AFB has been home to B-52 bombers, KC-135 tankers and hosted crews for Titan I, Minuteman I and Minuteman II intercontinental ballistic missiles. It’s currently home of the 28<sup>th</sup> Bomb Wing, operating B-1B Lancer bombers. A tenant unit, the 89<sup>th</sup> Attack Squadron, remotely flies MQ-9 Reaper drones. Other groups provide mission support, operations and maintenance, and services to make Ellsworth a home for the men, women and families who make this base the “Guardian of the North.”

After spending some quality time with family, and getting reacquainted with the scenic treasures of the Black Hills (and, some of the excellent restaurants, wineries and brew pubs in the area...just sayin’!!), I convinced my grandson Jason (age 7½) to come with me to the South Dakota Air & Space Museum (<http://www.sdairandspacemuseum.com/>). It was a short trip since the museum is immediately adjacent to the AFB main gate.

According to their website, the South Dakota Air & Space Museum was founded in 1992 as a Field Museum of the USAF. While it's titled as the "South Dakota Air & Space Museum," its primary displays are USAAF and USAF related. Most of the 30+ aircraft on display are in a well kept outdoor park. Interior displays feature aircraft models, cockpit displays for "flying" by young and old alike, an AGM-28 Hound Dog cruise missile, plus a Minuteman missile control display and the cockpit of a B-1B. There is a section dedicated to the South Dakota Aviation Hall of Fame and I noted familiar names of civilian pilots.

One display in the museum features the "Stratobowl," an area of the Black Hills so named because its natural formation provided protection for launching man-carrying helium balloons. In 1934 and 1935 the Army Air Corps and National Geographic Society launched balloons that rose over 72,000 feet into the stratosphere. This led to this area being known as "The birthplace of the space age," something you may not have expected to learn about South Dakota!

More recent flights have been made from here by balloonists attempted to fly around the world, including Steve Fosset in 1996. Hot air balloons also launch from here, though due to the rugged terrain their flying is considered to be "extreme" ballooning.

Jason's tolerance level for museum displays is age typical and thus fades quickly, but the gift store held him in unbounded fascination. We (I) compromised on his desire for me to buy him something at the gift store with a dinner-appetite-busting visit to Dairy Queen, also conveniently located adjacent to the museum and main gate! Yes, of course I had a chocolate dipped cone too! It was delicious.

If you are vacationing in the Black Hills area of South Dakota, this museum is a great place to visit. The walking path through the outdoor displays is a great place for youngsters to burn off some energy, and then there is that next door DQ to enjoy!



Jason and me under the nose of a B-1B "Lancer" bomber at the entrance to the museum. Ellsworth AFB is home to the 28<sup>th</sup> Bomb Wing, one of only two B-1B bases in the world (the other is the 7<sup>th</sup> Bomb Wing at Dyess AFB in Texas).



The four-engine, blended wing/body B-1B long range bomber is a big aircraft (146' long, 34' tall, and wingspan of 137' when wings are extended forward). It makes an impressive sight (and sound) as they train in the South Dakota sky. I don't have the background of this particular airframe to know why it was relegated to "guard duty."

This is a supersonic capable and features variable-geometry wings (may be positioned forward or swept aft, depending upon operational mode). The first production unit was flown in 1984. They were designed and configured for nuclear weapons, but under the original START treaty of 2007 were modified to be limited to conventional weapons only. Its maximum takeoff weight is 477,000#, of which 75,000# is payload.



A future commander, no doubt!

As I noted at the end of the “Background” inset of this article, an Air Force base is much more than airplanes and pilots, though they are the most visible. Museums generally can’t explore this element well. Without the work of support, operations and maintenance personnel, airplanes and missiles would never see the sky.



An L-5 Sentinel observation aircraft display.

The museum is immediately adjacent to Ellsworth AFB and not on the base property, so access onto the base is not necessary. Parking and admission is free, though there is a charge for the bus tour of the base and to a Minuteman missile silo. Just be sure to keep a firm hand on your wallet as you stroll the aisles of the gift store, particularly if you have grandkids with you!



The museum is home to the South Dakota Aviation Hall of Fame display, honoring South Dakota’s aviation pioneers and notables.



A Minuteman-II ICBM. Not as big as you might expect, but deadly. This 3-stage, solid fuel missile with nuclear warhead had a range of approximately 8100 miles, is just under 60’ long, 5’-6” wide at the 1<sup>st</sup> stage base, and weighed 78,000# fully loaded. On my next visit I’ll take the bus tour from the museum to a now unused underground silo (where missiles were positioned with their launch crews).



The mighty “Buff”...the B-52. Still active in the USAF inventory, but no longer based out of Ellsworth.



A prime example of the awesome B-29!

Next month: Part 3 – A Visit to the Air Force Museum at Dayton, Ohio

## ● EAA CHAPTER 878 and MAPLE LAKE FLYER INFO

The *Maple Lake Flyer* is published monthly by Chapter 878 of the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) for the use, education and enjoyment of Chapter members and others to whom it is provided. No claim is made for the accuracy of materials presented. Editorial content is the opinion of the contributor and does not necessarily reflect the position of Chapter 878 nor the EAA.

Submissions for publication are encouraged and should be sent to the attention of: Newsletter Editor (see address below).

Send "change of address" information, email address and phone number changes to Newsletter Editor.

Permission is granted to other Chapters to reproduce any or all of this publication, with credits to be acknowledged, excepting "The Funnies" cartoon which is the intellectual property of Wayne Flury.

Chapter meetings are normally held at 7:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month (except for the winter months of January – April when we meet at 9:00 a.m. on the second Saturday morning). Meeting location and time may vary each month, depending upon the meeting program. Our December meeting is a family social event held at a local event center, with date, time and place to be determined annually.

Dues are \$10 per year for members up to 35 years of age, \$25 per year for age 35 and over.

### Current Officers and Officials of EAA Chapter 878:

<b>President:</b>	Greg Thomes	763-443-7039	greg@thomesinsurance.com
<b>Vice-President:</b>	Peter Radintz	320-963-1980	peradintz@hotmail.com
<b>Secretary:</b>	Wayne Flury	763-670-6021	wflury@wh-link.net
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Dick Burns	952-473-1887	dickburns1@aol.com
<b>Newsletter Editor:</b>	Wayne Flury	763-670-6021	wflury@wh-link.net
<b>Young Eagles Coordinator:</b>	Tim Bond	612-961-3257	timlbond@gmail.com
<b>Technical Counselor:</b>	Dick Burns	952-473-1887	dickburns1@aol.com
<b>Chapter Librarian:</b>	Harold Greseth	763-682-5486	hjpgreseth@gmail.com
<b>Chapter Roster Monitor:</b>	Wayne Flury	763-670-6021	wflury@wh-link.net
<b>RV-4 Build Project Coord:</b>	Tom Rammel	320-286-5283	Tom.Rammel@zeiss.com
<b>EAA Chapter Advocates:</b>	All Members		
<b>EAA Chapter 878 Website</b>	Dan Hanson	612-508-0357	dhanso312@gmail.com <a href="http://eaa878.com">http://eaa878.com</a>

## ● THE FUNNIES by Wayne Flury



"Based upon the current campaign season rhetoric, I highly advise putting all your liquid assets into aluminum foil manufacturing."

11/2016



[www.holidaytreeofhope.org](http://www.holidaytreeofhope.org)

Like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TreeofHopeMn>  
Read about us in the *Minnesota Flyer* magazine – Oct and Nov Issues.

<b>Tree of Hope Date</b>	<b>Saturday – December 3, 2016</b>
<b>Time</b>	9:00 AM to 1:00 PM
<b>Snow Date</b>	Sunday
<b>Collection Site</b>	Maple Lake Municipal Airport, Minnesota (7 miles west of Buffalo, MN)

**WHAT IS THE TREE OF HOPE?** Since 1990, the Tree of Hope has collected toys which are distributed to over 35 Minnesota hospitals by the aviation community, including EAA chapters, Flying Clubs, Minnesota 99s, Zuhrah Shrine Flyers, WAI, and MN Pilots Association, and the general public. It started when we found other toy collections did NOT give to hospitals at holiday time, and often the families could not afford presents with the financial costs of seriously ill children. All expenses are covered by the coordinators and volunteers, so 100% of the donations go to gifts for hospitalized children.

#### HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- Collect unwrapped new toys
- Donate money to purchase gifts- 100% of donations go to toys for the children
- Volunteer to help collect, package, and deliver the toys!

Monetary donations can be made by check, made out to **Tree of Hope** and mailed to volunteer Elaine Morrow (address below). Donations can also be made by credit card on the Tree of Hope web site via the *Donate* button.

**WHAT DO WE NEED?** Gifts for children—infants to 18 years of age. Something to help keep them busy while in the hospital—a toy, game, craft items, etc., and gift cards are appreciated for teens. Anything that will bring a smile to a young person's face is welcome.

**WHEN AND WHERE?** Bring your gifts to the Maple Lake, Minnesota, Airport on the first Saturday of December to see volunteers in action – or volunteer yourself – labeling and packaging the gifts for over 35 hospitals. Refreshments provided!

If there is no collection box near you, gift donations can be dropped at the Maple Lake Airport, or call one of the contacts below to make arrangements for pickup. **Donations are accepted all year long!**

#### Tree of Hope Contacts

<b>Elaine Morrow</b> (Minnesota Chapter 99s) E-mail: <a href="mailto:pilotelaine@aol.com">pilotelaine@aol.com</a> H: 763-777-9276      Cell: 952-913-2356 1172 Willowbrook Circle, Delano, MN 55328	<b>Howie &amp; Deb Klier</b> (Zuhrah Shrine Flyers) E-mail: <a href="mailto:n6870j@aol.com">n6870j@aol.com</a> H: 952-898-5735      Cell: 612-802-8441
--	--