

Thoughts Aloft~::~



EAA CHAPTER 383 NEWSLETTER

This Month's Meeting

Firman Balza from Green Bay will be the featured speaker at our March meeting on Wednesday night.

Firman will present some of his personal experiences of living through the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7th, 1941. It's a rare privilege to listen to and be able to question somebody who was actually there on that day. So do your best to try and attend the Wednesday meeting.

“Open Cockpit Weekend”

Dick Bronson and Bruce Morton spent Saturday, March 4th at the AirVenture Museum helping museum visitors get an up close and personal look at selected display aircraft. The planes available to crawl into were the B-25, P-64, Harlow PJC-2, RV-6A, and an Acrosport. Plenty of people took advantage of this opportunity.

When the shift was over and lunch was out of the way, it was off to the Weeks hangar to check out the B-17. The “Aluminum Overcast” is mighty close to flying status. Last year this time it looked pretty sad with a lot of belly skins removed and needing

replacement. Now those have all been replaced and it looks great.

The plane was also open for spectators so the opportunity was not ignored. In all, it was another good day.

Runway update

As construction begins on the rebuild of runway 17/35 right after the Airshow, the intersection of the north/south and the east/west runways will be the first part to be worked on. This is estimated to take about three weeks. The point is to try and have the intersection reopened before AirVenture so that Oshkosh traffic will be able to use the airport.

Next, that part of the runway north of the intersection will be rebuilt. This still allows the runway south of the intersection to be used. Only after the intersection and the runway north of the intersection are done will the south end of the runway be out of commission. During these early stages of construction the south end of the runway will be available for use. Apparently it will be okay to land and take off over the construction area.

Banquet next month

What started out as a January inauguration banquet way back when, gradually crept out of hand and got ever further into the springtime season. First, there were complaints that January weather was too cold and unpredictable. Well, February didn't turn out to be much better. March wasn't too bad—if somebody remembered to call and book a reservation.

This year we're back on top of things. The festivities will be held at the Seven Lakes Golf Course (just two miles south of Whitelaw) on April 22. April is a nice month for a banquet—not too cold and icy and probably not much snow. Weather should be no excuse for not making it to this one!

383 THIS MONTH

- MAR 7 TUE Nagiroc Flyers-1930 hrs
- MAR 8 WED EAA 383 meeting-1930 hrs
- MAR 16 THU Airshow 2006 meeting-1830 hrs
Lakeshore Aviation
- MAR 25 SAT Fly-out to Wautoma

All meetings are at the Chapter Clubhouse unless otherwise noted – Second Wednesday of each month

From the PRESIDENT -

Finally, spring's just around the corner. There's probably one good blast of old man winter yet, but at least the calendar thinks it's about time for a change. So do I.

We continue with our guest speaker series at the monthly chapter meetings. This month, stop in for a very special presentation by Firman Balza from the Green Bay chapter. Firman is a WWII Veteran who was stationed in Pearl Harbor in December of 1941. He's going to share some memories of what it was like to be there on that infamous day. This should be a very interesting talk.

Don't forget to mark your calendars and make reservations for our annual dinner. This year it will be on Saturday, April 22nd at 7 Lakes Golf Course. Cocktails start at 6:00pm with dinner at 7:00. It will feature family style pizza, chicken and beef tips, along with stuffing, potatoes, rolls, veggies, milk & coffee all for one low price. We will be on the lower level, and will have a guest speaker. That lucky person doesn't know who he/she is yet, because we don't either! If you have someone you'd like to suggest, please let me know.

That same day, April 22nd, is the first-ever Model R/C Airplane Day at the Manitowoc Airport. This will be co-sponsored by the Airshow and the local R/C club, and the chapter will likely help out, too. Part of the runway will be closed that day, so tune in for the appropriate NOTAM's. Up-to-the-minute information will be available on Unicom and AWOS.

Fly Safely,

Curt

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Happy St. Patrick's Day!

EAA Chapter #383 meets regularly on the second Wednesday of each month in the Chapter clubhouse at Hangar #22 at the Manitowoc County Airport. Meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. and visitors are always welcome.

-----Minutes-----

EAA CHAPTER 383 MEETING

February 8, 2006

The meeting was called to order by chapter president Curt Drumm at 7:30. Something always good to see at our functions are new faces of which we had many. To start with Curt told us he was able to inform the realtor selling Joe's about what a selling point it is for a restaurant to be within walking distance of an airport. March 4-5 will be open cockpit days at Oshkosh, which opens up many volunteer opportunities. Dick Bronson and Bruce Morton both indicated that they would be going, and that extra help is always welcome. Although Curt Drumm wasn't elected to the EAA board of directors, he was asked to be on the Seaplane Pilots Association board of directors.

Next was the runway construction update from Chuck Behnke. He said that the airport will remain open during the entire construction process, and that there might be a break during the week of AirVenture. Curt reminded the chapter not to forget about the \$50 pool for those wanting to set aviation goals to work on during this year. Of all those who achieve their goals there will be a drawing to see who will win.

In order to save the chapter a fairly large amount of money annually, we will start posting the newsletter online, and only sending it to those who do not have access to the internet.

Curt told the chapter about training opportunities available to us in the near future. They included a fast paced instrument ground school on February 25-26, a free night flying seminar held at Lakeshore Aviation on February 9, and a private pilots ground school overview that will be offered at Lakeshore Aviation beginning March 7th, with a field trip to several control agencies in Green Bay, including the soon to be gone FSS.

Last was a status report from several members who are in the process of making their own planes. The motion was made for the meeting to adjourn and next was a presentation of videos from a man whose son is a C-17 pilot in the Air Force.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kevin Wehner.

More publicity

On a Tuesday afternoon last week Dick Bronson was interviewed by a reporter from the *Lakeshore Chronicle*. Dick explained the history of the chapter and the acquisition of the hangar and subsequent construction of our clubhouse. He also discussed our attempt to collect and preserve some of the aviation history of Manitowoc County. Notable in this area is his collection of the names of military service personnel from Manitowoc County who served in military aviation.

He also pointed out the fact that in 1929 the Invincible Metal Furniture Company of Manitowoc produced an airplane. An accurate seven foot wingspan scale model of the aircraft hangs in the meeting room of the clubhouse. As it turns out, 1929 was not a good time to introduce a new aircraft so the plane was not put into commercial production. Nonetheless, this is a part of Manitowoc's aviation heritage.

When the interview will appear in print is unknown but I'm sure Dick will be sure to mention it.

No "Green Hangar" meeting on Wednesday

Owners of the eight T-hangars in the long green building were originally scheduled to have a meeting on Wednesday night before the Chapter meeting. This meeting has been postponed until next month since we do not have any insurance quotes or legal information to discuss.

Hopefully in another month we will have enough info in hand to make some intelligent decisions.

March fly-out

The folks at Wautoma have scheduled a pancake breakfast for Saturday, March 25. This runs from 8:30 – 12:00. According to Gary Huempfer this is a pretty good spot to fly off to for a little breakfast. Should work out fine if the weather cooperates.

They also have kind of a neat website: www.y50.org.

Bruce Morton
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FBO CORNER----

Lakeshore Aviation, your locally-owned FBO, is pleased to announce the addition of Dennis Goodwin as head of our maintenance department. Dennis has been working part-time with us since December, and will join us full-time in mid-March. He has his A&P and IA mechanics licenses and has about 20 years of experience, including running his own shop in California. Most recently he has been working at Gulfstream Aerospace in Appleton, and has experience in single and multiengine piston and jet aircraft. (He also has his Private Pilot License and looks forward to getting back in the air soon!)

Dennis will be glad to work with you on your plane for owner-assisted annuals, flat-rate inspections or just day-to-day repairs. He promises quick turnaround at a competitive price, and will work on your plane in our hangar or yours. We recently reduced our hourly shop rate to be more competitive, and will be offering some maintenance specials starting next month...keep your eyes open. Dennis lives with his wife, Heather, and three sons, David, Robert & Nicolas, and is looking forward to his new opportunity.

In other matters, we're starting another \$99 Private Pilot Ground School next week. If you know of anyone interested, send them over. Seaplane training starts April 1st, or whenever the ice goes out. (Rumor has it that Lynn Vandevort is making good progress on his new seaplane project and will be Curt's first student this year.) Auto-Gas continues to sell well at the FBO, so it will continue to be available, hopefully with a new, larger tank this summer. Finally, if you're headed to Sun & Fun, order your charts early...the FAA advised us last week that some issues are already running low. Sounds like we've got a record number of Manitowoc people headed down there this year.