

Thoughts Aloft~::~



EAA CHAPTER 383 NEWSLETTER

Christmas potluck

-Dining starts at 6:00 pm-

It's hard to believe, but another year has rolled around and the Christmas season is once again upon us. This means that it's time to trot out your favorite dish-to-pass to share with your friends at the 383 clubhouse.

The Christmas tree is up and decorated, tables and chairs are arranged and seasonal tablecloths grace the tables to add to the festive atmosphere. All that remains is to fill the clubhouse with hungry chapter members and friends to complete the picture.

Don't forget, this all happens on our regular meeting night Wednesday, December 12th commencing at 6:00 pm. Do your best to attend—it's a lot of fun!

Last month's meeting

After a brief business session in which Mel proposed that we alter our insurance policies to eliminate some of the coverages we were carrying (like dropping coverage for the aircraft in our hangar)

we were treated to an interesting talk presented by Keith Myers of Ripon. Among other things, Keith is a DPE (Designated Pilot Examiner) who is among that elite group of pilots that has the power to certify you as a genuine private (or other grade) pilot. We do see him at our airport from time to time putting apprehensive prospective pilots through a pretty exhaustive oral and flight test.

This time, though, he was not grilling us but offering some insights on flying with his talk on "Ten things every pilot should know". It was a very informative and interesting session that all in attendance could understand and appreciate. Each point in his talk was emphasized with a slide presentation that brought home the concept being talked about. Like any good teacher, he invited plenty of audience participation so it amounted to a good give-and-take session that everybody enjoyed.

Although the presentation was aimed primarily at the pilots in the group the information was easily understood by non-fliers as well. It was very well done.

CALENDAR

- DEC 4 TUE Nagirroc Flyers-1900 hrs
- DEC 12 WED EAA 383 meeting-1800 hrs
Christmas Potluck!
- JAN 8 TUE Nagirroc Flyers-1900 hrs
- JAN 9 WED EAA 383 meeting-1800 hrs

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



Sunday, December 9th and the meeting room in our clubhouse is all set for our informal potluck dinner on Wednesday, December 12th. You're invited to show up to fill up one of these chairs!

From the PRESIDENT -

The deer season has passed along with turkey day. Hope you had a nice Thanksgiving and a successful deer season.

For the November meeting Al Forner recruited our guest speaker, Keith Myer of Ripon. He had an excellent program. Bruce will have more on Keith.

Larry Gerroll is at Rivers Bend nursing home. Hope he is home by the time you read this.

Don't forget our Christmas meeting potluck in December.

At our November meeting we reduced our hangar insurance coverage but not our liability. We were working for the insurance company for the last few years. A thanks to our members for voting this policy out. We still have two policies which we need.

Hope you'll have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Thanks to Bruce and Jerry for the great job on the kitchen cabinets.

Mel

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Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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 7:00 p.m. and visitors are always welcome.

-----Minutes-----

EAA Chapter 383 Meeting of November 14th, 2007

After a brief business meeting the evening was turned over to our guest speaker, Keith Myers of Ripon who is a DPE (Designated Pilot Examiner). Keith gave an excellent presentation entitled, "Ten things every pilot should know". His talk was well received by pilots and non-pilots in attendance and topped off an interesting evening session.

Apparently nobody took minutes but this is the gist of what happened.

New kitchen cabinets

Finally, after what seems like years of waiting, the new kitchen cabinets are finally stained, varnished and hung on the wall. Now all that remains is to load them with stuff and they will look like they've been there forever. Empty space just seems to invite overloading even though it may seem like we don't really have anything to put away right now. It just happens.

Anyway, the cabinets are in place so that's another item accomplished.

New projector

Following our last chapter meeting, Al Forner was authorized to go out and find us a projector so we wouldn't have to rely on borrowing one every time we invited a speaker. It seems that having a projector available is the latest requirement to attract a speaker to one of our meetings.

Well, Al found one at Office-Max on sale so he bought it. It seems to have more features than you can shake a stick at. As part of the deal they threw in a pull-down screen as well so we are pretty well set in the visual aids department (finally).

Jerry Fichtner hung the screen during the week so things are ready to roll. Now we can solicit other speakers without wondering if we can find a projector for their use.

View from the instructor's side

How would you like to attain the age where people call you a dirty old man? As a pilot, you'll be happy to hear that jibe and happy to have reached senior status. You will reach that ripe old age if you keep your head out of the cockpit while continually looking for items you might bump into. Any interior tasks should be

limited to a max of 15 second segments. The FAA suggests that your outside scan take 90% of your time. If you should see an aircraft moving in any direction through your wind screen, it is something you won't hit. If the suspect aircraft is standing still, then there's a 50% chance it's coming right at you, so start evasive maneuvering right now.

Don't depend on TECAS as a defense...the target aircraft must be transponder equipped and don't depend on radar/flight following. Radar might have electronic glitches as well as human errors. Better to enlist the eyes of your passengers when looking for hazards.

Most students are eager to please. When I ask, for example, for a turn to a heading of 270, they do so promptly but---whoops, they didn't do a visual before the turn. I usually say, "you almost hit a school bus, a battleship or a Canadian National locomotive..." Yep, it's absolutely silly, but it works. Always figure there's something big that could ruin your day if you hit it. Always think school bus, battleship, or locomotive and then someday you'll be able to get coffee at McDonald's at a senior citizen's price.

Leon Sigman

P.S. The battleship was the TURPITZ.

New hangar progress

The fourth, and last new hangar to be constructed this year is well on the way to being finished. This final, and largest belongs to former chapter president, Curt Drumm and is rapidly nearing completion. There was some holdup last week when some very windy conditions prevented the construction crew from installing the roof trusses. Once the winds subsided, the trusses went up in short order.



Here's Curt's hangar on Sunday, December 9th. By now it is nearly finished.

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