

# Thoughts Aloft~::~



## EAA CHAPTER 383 NEWSLETTER

### Winter's here!

We've gotten spoiled over the last few years. The winter seasons have been anything but winter-like in the old fashioned sense of plenty of snow and lots of cold air. This year we are in the middle of a reality check.

In early January the temperature bobbed above and below freezing on a pretty regular basis. This meant a little snow one week, then maybe a little rain the next. Nothing to make for any real discomfort.

Now, instead of a little snow shower every week or so, we are treated to about three inches every other day. Low ceilings. Poor visibility. Then, when it does clear up, winds go to gusting over 25-30 kts. Just plain poor for light airplane flying. At this point we have already accumulated more snow than we usually have during an entire winter season—and we are just entering the usual snow months of February and March.

Still, being creatures with poor short term memory, this will all be forgotten next summer when the weather is warm and soft breezes fan the face. It will

then fall into the I-remember-when category of distant happenings of long ago. Just watch.



A beautiful winter day, nice clear sky, picturesque to say the least. And only -7F with west winds gusting over 30 kts.

### Thunder on the Lakeshore

Yes, it's that time again. Planning meetings have begun for this year's extravaganza to take place on June 7-8, 2008. The next meeting is slated for Wednesday, February 27<sup>th</sup> and if you have an interest in being part of the biggest show on the lakeshore, please attend.

These meetings begin at 6:00 pm in the conference room at Lakeshore Aviation and usually last about one hour. We're always looking for help in virtually all areas of the show so stop in, take a look, and maybe you will find something you would like to get involved in.

Give it a try, you might like it!

### CALENDAR

- FEB 5 TUE Nagirroc Flyers-1900 hrs
- FEB 13 WED EAA 383 meeting-1900 hrs
- FEB 27 WED Airshow meeting-1800 hrs  
Lakeshore Aviation
- MAR 4 TUE Nagirroc Flyers-1900 hrs
- MAR 12 WED EAA 383 meeting-1900 hrs

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

## From the PRESIDENT -

January is behind us. Another month and we can look forward to spring and more flying time. This sure has been a cold month.

My apologies to Bob Vanover and Jerry Schlei for not mentioning their hospital stay. If you have time, stop and see Bob. He had a kidney transplant which was a success but his drugs left him dizzy and his eyes blurry. He can't drive so he's homebound a lot. Stop in.

Jerry Schlei was in a cycle accident in August. He spent six weeks in a wheel chair. He had pelvis injuries, a broken ankle and a lot of aches and pains.

Bruce Morton is also on our injured list. He slipped on the ice and broke his left wrist.

Mary Cross is still having some problems from her surgery.

Larry Gerroll is home and doing much better.

Doug Rohde's Storch is getting close to completion. Maybe we'll see it flying by the time you read this.

Also, Don Wunsch has his new engine block in. With the complete assembly just about done, he'll be flying soon. It's been a long drawn out affair for him.

I've bought a new set of struts for my Taylorcraft. Bought them from Big Lake Alaska Airframes, Inc. (907-892-8244). Lee was very nice to do business with. The struts came primed with two coats of epoxy. I saved a bundle compared to Univair or Taylorcraft. If you need struts for any airplane check his prices.

The Oshkosh ski fly-in was IFR but one plane made it after the weather cleared.

That's about it.

See you at the next meeting.

Mel

*Happy Valentine's Day!*

### CHAPTER OFFICERS

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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 January 9, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 by President Mel Otto. The November minutes were then approved and the treasurer proceeded to deliver the treasurer's report.

In the month of November the chapter made a total of \$380 in hangar rent, spent \$284 on electricity and water, supplies, and other miscellaneous items. In December the chapter brought in \$581 in hangar rent and other sources of income, and spent \$1632 on utilities, supplies, the annual party, cabinets, and other expenses. The membership moved to accept the report.

The cabinets are now installed in the kitchen area.

A motion was proposed and passed to eliminate from the mailing list non-members who are not expected to rejoin such as those who have not renewed for a length of time, or who have moved away.

The annual banquet will be held either in April or March, and many details will still be decided in coming meetings.

The Meeting was adjourned at 7:45

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Wehner

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## Annual banquet

After some discussion of our annual banquet, Lisa Callsen volunteered to check into some possible locations for this event. She will try to find a suitable place with an opening in either March or April that would suit our group. Right now we are open to any suggestions and by getting an early start maybe we can pick and choose from more than one spot.

It seems like the last couple of years we got underway a little late and the majority of Saturday nights were already booked.

We'll be looking forward to her findings and hopefully we will be able to make a decision at the next meeting.

## Dues are still due

And still only \$20 annually payable each January. You can pay at the meeting or mail a check to:

Art Thomas  
855 Neumeyer  
Brillion, WI 54110

Art has been taking care of membership information and dues collection for a couple of years now so you can just remit dues directly to him.

Thanks very much.

## View from the instructor's side

When there's a real emergency, the best thing to do is call 911. Who do you call when you have a nasty problem in an airplane? One number to always remember is 121.5. I've checked, and towers, center and approach control facilities do indeed monitor this frequency. They'll all offer assistance on an immediate basis. If you can give them even a rough idea of where you are, they will put you in touch with a radar facility. Be friendly with your transponder because to be effective, radar needs a squawk code. Radar is also in need of altitude...it operates on line of sight. Another good friend is the VOR, but many of our fellow pilots do a poor job of navigating properly to a VOR. Worse, most of us do not know how to *COMMUNICATE* with flight service via VOR frequencies.

Getting trapped on top, bad weather, fuel problems or mechanicals, whatever the cause, talk to someone if it be tower or unicom...someone can direct you to a helping hand and a friendly voice. I once heard a grown man cry because it was getting dark and he had zero night experience.

Study your maps, and seriously *LEARN* your GPS, VOR, and basic instruments. Have a good bull session about "what if". And don't hesitate to come over for coffee and ask Jim or Leon about how to.

Maybe we can help.

Leon

## Looking back---

As kind of a minor historical note, January of 2001 was one of those warm months we have been enjoying for the last few years. That was the year, and month, that we started construction of our clubhouse.

It was January 27<sup>th</sup> to be exact. No snow on the ground and daytime temps ranging in the 30s. That was the day we laid out the outside walls of the clubhouse, marking out door and window locations for the rest of the construction to come—and I've got pictures of Dick Bronson on all fours on the concrete with steel sill plate doing layout.

Naturally, once we started putting up steel studs the snow started and we spent plenty of time shoveling out our project on what seemed like a daily basis!

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**FBO CORNER---**



