

Thoughts Aloft~::~



EAA CHAPTER 383 NEWSLETTER

Wisconsin DOT presentation

The Wisconsin DOT/Bureau of Aeronautics is sponsoring a Pilot Education Program at the Lakeshore Aviation hangar on Wednesday, April 16th at 7:00 pm. These programs are free and are open to anyone who cares to attend. Attendance also allows pilots to earn wings credit.

The subject matter will include Weather Decision Making presented by Jeffery Taylor of WisDOT--Bureau of Aeronautics and Getting your Seaplane rating...what it takes, by Curt Drumm of Lakeshore Aviation.

These presentations are always interesting and full of useful information. Not only that, but you get a chance to ask a lot of questions of the speakers. This is easier and faster than trying to dig answers out of a book.

New Airport sign

On March 21st the crew from Mr. Otek was busy on Menasha Avenue changing the airport sign from one

that required hand changing individual letters on the marquee to a nice modern electronic version.

The new sign is an LED display that is remotely controlled from a computer keyboard. No more teetering on the top of a ladder in a high wind or in freezing cold to change the message—just let your fingers do the walking—in the comfort of an office.



The animated sign is definitely an eyecatcher for anyone driving down Menasha Avenue.

The simplicity of changing the message is a definite plus when it comes to posting short term activities at the airport. Seems like a great way to advertise a fly-in pancake breakfast or other chapter activity.

New plane on the field

Art Thomas is now the proud owner of a Smith Mini plane. Well, an almost complete Smith Mini plane anyway. This one is a nearly complete in that it has the fuselage, wings and control surfaces finished and covered but there is still a lot of work ahead.

What's a Smith Mini plane? Well, it's a nice looking little single seat biplane. a

CALENDAR

- APR 1 TUE Nagirroc Flyers-1900 hrs
- APR 9 WED EAA 383 meeting-1900 hrs
- APR 16 WED Pilot Education Program-WI DOT Getting your seaplane rating--Lakeshore Aviation hangar-1900 hrs...FREE!
- APR 26 SAT Annual banquet-Machut's-1800 hrs
- MAY 6 TUE Nagirroc Flyers-1900 hrs
- MAY 7 WED EAA 383 meeting-1900 hrs

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

From the PRESIDENT -

Spring is here and the flying weather has improved greatly from a month ago .

Hope some of you made it to the Chapter 766 pancake breakfast in Sheboygan on March 29.

Clete Cisler, Chapter 651 Pres., And six members flew out to the Casa Grande, Arizona fly-in last month. Clete said they had a great time.

Al Forner's neighbor, Barry Paasch, gave a great presentation on Idaho back country flying in which he flies for the U.S. Forest Service. Some hairy places to get in and out of. Thanks, Barry & Al.

Air Venture 2008 will be here soon. Oshkosh is asking for Chapter work parties starting May through July. You can sign up at the meetings.

Dick Bronson is having more plaques made for our Military Memorial Wall.

April 26 is our banquet. Bruce will have more information

A reminder we should call our congressmen and complain of the outsourcing of our jobs and taxpayers money to have Air Force refueling tankers built by Airbus in Europe.

Keep 'em flying. See you at the meeting.

Mel

CHAPTER OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Mel Otto
7013 Dickinson Road
Greenleaf, WI
864-2449

VICE-PRESIDENT

Gary Huempfer
3826 Hwy. H
Cato, WI 54206
732-3777

SECRETARY

Kevin Wehner
915 North 8th St.
Manitowoc, WI 54220

TREASURER

Laura Braunel
4526 Broadway St.
Manitowoc, WI 54220
684-1362

Newsletter Editor

Bruce Morton
3712 Michigan Ave.
Manitowoc, WI 54220
683-3078

bjmorton@greenbaynet.com

Website

www.eaa383.org

Annual Banquet!

Saturday, April 26th at Machut's in Two Rivers.

Cocktails at 6:00, Dinner at 7:00. Food selection off the menu.

See you there!

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

March 12, 2008

The meeting was called to order by Chapter President, Melvin Otto.

There were no minutes from the previous meeting.

Under new business: Dick Bronson is looking for someone to take over his military service plaque. The job would require obtaining name, highest rank held, and where, if the person was killed in action, of anyone who has served in the Air Force or the Army Air Corps. Mr. Bronson has created a form that outlines all the required information. Some of the members recommend radio and newspaper advertisement, and more recommendations will be encouraged at the next meeting where the matter will be further discussed.

A general reminder was given to hangar tenants that the hangar is a museum, not a place to store tools.

The chapter will be sending out new questionnaires to update the membership information that the chapter keeps.

Lakeshore Aviation has received a donated WWII era drone that will be given to the chapter to go with its own. A motion was made at the meeting to attempt to assemble one whole drone from the pieces of the two partial drones.

Curt Drumm asked if the chapter would be interested in handling food if the airshow group decided to sponsor a musical performance—maybe a big band concert—this summer. More discussion on the possibility at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:53

View from the instructor's side

The two flight instructors at Manitowoc were born before the civil war and therefore aren't too computer knowledgeable. But when they found the Wisconsin Weatherstation machine was absolutely free, they both started taking advantage of this superb source of information. The State of Wisconsin Aeronautics Department provide these weather computers, and they are relatively easy to use. Just a click of the mouse will bring you a response to radar, satellite, winds aloft, forecasts, and types of precipitation, icing levels, current weather and forecasts for almost anywhere in the country. The list goes on with other potentials

available that need a little explaining from your instructor or office staff.

Use of the weather machine will make you that much more comfortable with cross-country planning. This is a sincere invitation to utilize something that is already yours.

My system is to look at the satellite images for thickness of cloud cover, then a peek at radar for precipitation information. I find it best to check weather in a hundred mile circle around the destination, which may be extracted by going to Metars and TAF's. Combine your computer information with a call to Flight Service (1-800-WX-BRIEF) and you'll enjoy a warm fuzzy feeling about your proposed trip.

Most important of all is my Grandma's advice..."Look at the forecast then expect something worse than forecast or better than forecast. You'll never be disappointed."

Leon, CFI

Last month's meeting

Barry Paasch gave an interesting talk about flying in the back country of Idaho. It seems like most of this involved mountain flying and although he showed pictures of sunshine-lit little dirt strips in the mountains, one can't help but get the feeling that that's not always the way the strip looks to the pilot on final.

There are just bound to be days when there is rain and maybe not very good visibility. I guess those are the kind of days when there is no time to be trying to get the plane on the ground and take a pretty picture at the same time.

Drone project?

For a good many years Chapter #383 has had the remains of a target drone that was fished out of Lake Michigan. These drone aircraft were used for target practice by the army at Camp Haven down near Cleveland during WW II. Whether downed by gunfire or not, a good many of these aircraft wound up at the bottom of the lake and many were retrieved by being snagged in fishing nets.

Lakeshore Aviation has recently come into possession of another partial drone and Curt Drumm has suggested that the two be combined to make one reasonably complete version to be put on display.

The club membership agreed to the idea and Art Thomas has already volunteered to check out the engine.

Sounds like a good way to preserve more local history.

Bruce Morton
3712 Michigan Avenue
Manitowoc, WI 54220



FBO CORNER---

