

# Thoughts Aloft~::~



## EAA CHAPTER 383 NEWSLETTER

### Snowy December

Winter showed up well before it's official date in 2008. In fact, aviation was pretty well limited to hangar flying for the whole month. If it wasn't snowing, the wind was too strong to enjoy the ride so most folks simply sat it out, waiting for better days.

The County crews spent a lot of overtime hours trying to keep the runways in shape for the corporate traffic that needed to keep to some semblance of a schedule. There were times when it really turned into an uphill battle because it seemed like the snow never wanted to let up to give the guys a break. There were a couple of days when the airport was closed because of the snow.

Green Bay set a new snowfall record for December of 45.6 inches. This broke the old record of something over 38 inches set in 1887! Maybe now we won't have to listen to the old timers tell us about how much more snow there was when they were kids.

Well, now January comes along and the snow has let up. That's fine except it also brought rain. Well, rain turns to ice, which turns an airport (which is nice and

flat) into a giant skating rink with a half inch thick coat of ice on runways, taxiways and ramps. And when this is followed by plenty of cold temperatures, the ice is especially hard to get rid of.



An everyday sight for the entire month of December!

At this stage of the game all we can do is stick with it and wait for signs of an early spring. Just keep the snow shovel handy.

### CALENDAR

- JAN 6 TUE Nagirroc Flyers-1900 hrs
- JAN 14 WED EAA 383 meeting-1900 hrs
- FEB 3 TUE Nagirroc Flyers-1900 hrs
- FEB 11 WED EAA 383 meeting-1900 hrs

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

### Dues are due

Just a little reminder that it's time to write out that \$20 check to EAA Chapter #383 and re-up for another year. You can do this at the regular meeting or send it to:

Arthur Thomas  
855 Neumeyer Ln.  
Brillion, WI 54110-9315

And Art will make up a nice membership card to acknowledge receipt of your money.

Thanks very much for your support.

*Keep 'em Flying!*

## From the PRESIDENT -

**Greetings**, and a Happy New Year to everyone. Hope you are healthy and enjoyed your family and friends over the holidays. Year 2008 was a year of change: some things for the better and some for the worse. Let's not forget our members who are ill or who have had some tough times. A call or a visit would be nice!

EAA members are fascinated with "Flying". They're like birds who rise up and hover above the world. They enjoy the view and the splendor of it all. We enjoy it immensely. Let's share a little of our joy during 2009 with at least one family member (a son, a daughter, a brother, a sister, wife), a relative or close friend. Invite one person this year to join our Chapter and share your vision. It's really people more than airplanes, you know!

Like to share some ideas about our EAA 383 facilities. As a member it's your club house, your hangar. Do you like to hang out and meet other members not just at monthly business meetings? How about having breakfast together in our clubhouse just for us on Saturday morning. This coming Saturday, weather permitting, January 10<sup>th</sup> around 8 am I'll have some coffee brewing and hot chocolate ready. There's eggs, OJ, etc. in the frig. Bring your kids and grand kids. We'll have a movie or go flying if the weather is good. Instead of going to the Senior Center, us old farts can have lunch together occasionally. How about Friday the 16<sup>th</sup> 11 am-2 pm? If that doesn't work for you, pick another time to meet, socialize and hang out. You own a fine building and the price is right. Why not use it more often.

See ya on the 14<sup>th</sup> if you can make it. Still looking for a full time treasurer. Your VP, Jerry Fichtner wants to write an article next month. Look for his column!

Al Forner

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## *A Happy and Prosperous New Year to All!*

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 pm and visitors are always welcome.

## -----Minutes-----

### **EAA CHAPTER 383 MEETING Meeting of December 10, 2008**

Actually, since this was the occasion of our annual Christmas potluck there were no minutes recorded. And a good time was had by all!

### **View from the instructor's side**

#### **The Fifth Passenger**

Once upon a time, when pilots were younger, when Cessna Skyhawks had no riveted patches and students weighed less than 190 pounds, Danny Dimwit was working as a flight instructor. Danny had a strong desire to build enough hours flight instructing knowing that a major airline would then eagerly hire him. Now anyone who ever had a cup of coffee at any FBO knows this condition is normal and the lust to be an airline pilot is as strong as a salmon swimming up stream.

Another fact is that every 172 I've ever seen has only four seats and only one engine. If you look deeply into the Pilots Operating Handbook it will advise you that the Skyhawk is really a three place aircraft. Save that fact for the balance of the story.

Danny was scheduled to fly with his favorite student of 11 hours dual who also aspired to be an airline captain. At about the same moment, Danny was told there were two passengers who needed an urgent ride from northern Door County to an unspecified airport near Madison. Danny's virtue is that he is a great guy and what a wonderful way for his student to garner some free cross-country. When they landed at the pick up airport Danny and the student were very surprised to find that there were indeed three passengers—big passengers—famous professional football players. Danny promptly told his student he would take his three people to their destination and return to retrieve him.

You are already concluding that our passengers were at a golf outing having lots of fun, telling dirty jokes, with plenty of food and libations. Our famous three then cajoled, kidded, advised, threatened and taunted Danny to take his student on the same trip. He could sit in back; lean toward the front between the two seats for better weight distribution.

I don't do church stuff because I don't want to pay dues or attend meetings but I do believe there was a fifth passenger, that being the good Lord who is capable of making way overweight and way out of balance airplanes fly. Danny, our future airline captain and Danny's passenger manifest, with the help of divine assistance and the trim wheel rolled full forward, got off

the ground with a 50 foot per minute rate of climb and was able to complete the mission. They got away with defying the laws of physics and common sense but were scared enough to realize they'd never try it again. With luck, a lesson learned.

By the way, there is one aircraft at MTW that's so underpowered that it is necessary to remove the lead from the fuel in order for the aircraft to get off the ground.

Look before you turn.

**Leon**

### **Christmas potluck---**



Here are some of the fun seekers doing what they do best—sit around and talk.

Anyway, it was a fun time and once again we had a good turnout of members and guests to make it a great evening.



### **Treasurer, anyone?**

That's right, we're still looking for someone to accept the job as treasurer. We have a few people who are willing to help out with the task but, so far, nobody has volunteered to take on the title.

So, please, if you have any inclination in this direction, we would sure like to hear from you.

Thanks in advance.

Bruce Morton  
3712 Michigan Avenue  
Manitowoc, WI 54220



**FBO CORNER--**