

Illinois Valley Beacon

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Breakfast

On Saturday, April 5th, approximately 25 members and guests met for breakfast at **Doc's Mt. Hawley Inn**, 8412 N. Knoxville Avenue, at 8:00 AM. Good food and plane fun was had by all!

Last Month

Our Chapter met on Wednesday, the 12th of March, at 7:30 p.m. in our hangar at Mt. Hawley Airport. Our guest speakers, Carol and Ken Lindstrom from Morton, treated us to a level of aviation opulence that is quite unfamiliar to most of us.

Carol and Ken took us very graphically around the world, describing some of their air racing experiences. They explained that an entry fee of **"30 G's"** and **\$15,000** in pocket change are just some of the requirements for entering an "Around the World Air Race."

Beginning in Montreal, the racers flew to St. John's, Newfoundland, stopped in the Azores and then went on to Greece. Their other stops included India, Vietnam, Japan, Korea, and Russia. Carol and Ken last stopped in Anchorage, Alaska, before returning to Montreal.

They flew a Cessna Conquest. Carol, who is type-rated and instrument-rated, shared some of the flying duties with Ken. They finished second overall and first in their category. There were many different types of aircraft in the race, including a Glasair, a Cessna 210, a Navaho, and even a Citation.

Thanks to Carol and Ken for presenting their travelogue to our chapter. Those of you who didn't make the March meeting missed a terrific presentation.

April Meeting

At the upcoming Chapter meeting there will be several items of business on the agenda. There is no scheduled program for April and it has been suggested that we should either solicit volunteers to provide a monthly guest speaker or chapter activity, or possibly conduct a lottery where the 12 unlucky winners would be responsible for providing a program for a specific month during the next year.

Secondly, we will receive a report from our hangar committee with recommendations on a course of action regarding the letter we received from the Greater Peoria Airport Authority, informing us that our rent on the hangar will increase by \$100 per month. Obviously, in

the short run there is little we can do, but either increase the amount our member tenants are paying or come up with a fund raising activity besides the B-17 visit, or both.

In the long run, it has once again been suggested that we might be more in control of our own destiny if we were to construct a hangar or meeting hall to meet our needs.

We would still have to pay rent, but it could be handled in one of several different ways. After a number of years the property could revert back to the airport authority or we might opt to pay rent equivalent to the number of tie down spots the structure occupies. Either option would probably be better than the periodic increases we now face. However, the earliest we could build anything is probably several years away. Let us discuss our options at the April meeting.

EAA B-17 last year on the Byerly ramp at Greater Peoria Airport

photo by Guy Snyder



"Aluminum Overcast"

One of the great airplanes of the World War II era - the Boeing B-17 "Flying Fortress" - will once again this summer be on display for a limited time, on the Byerly ramp at the Greater Peoria Airport.

The four-engine bomber, which was a part of the EAA Air Adventure Museum's "Eagle Hangar" collection until 1994, will be on display at Greater Peoria for four days from Thursday, June 26th, thru Sunday, June 29th.

The B-17 will visit Peoria as part of a national flying tour - its fourth tour in as many years. The B-17 "Honor Tour" will take off from Oshkosh in mid-April and return in for the Convention in late July.

The B-17 Aluminum Overcast, owned by the EAA Aviation Foundation, is one of only about a dozen of the more than

12,000 B-17s built that are still flying today. It has been more than 95 percent restored to its original state, as delivered to the U.S. Army Air Corps in 1945.

The airplane was donated to the EAA Aviation Foundation in 1981 after being used as a cargo plane, a high-altitude camera platform and an aerial sprayer. Restoration of Aluminum Overcast took more than 12 years.

Posters announcing the visit were distributed at last Saturday's breakfast and they will be available at the next Chapter meeting. Plans are already underway for hosting the visit. Chapter President Morrie Caudill will be the "Tour Chair", Joe Rex the "historical Society Chair," Joe Fox the "Equipment Chair," Dave Cook the "Volunteer Chair," and ? will be the "Promotions Chair".

At the January Chapter meeting when the idea of hosting the B-17 this year was discussed, someone in the front volunteered to be the "Promotions Chair". However, at that time Morrie failed to write down the names of the volunteers and now he can not remember who it was that so enthusiastically offered to serve as the "Promotions Chair".

Would the chapter member who offered to serve as "Promotions Chair" please step forward and assume those duties by contacting Morrie. While there is work to be done, EAA does provide detailed manuals on the functions of each Chair and on the major tasks everyone will pitch in to help.

In fact, it is not too early for a sign up sheet for volunteers to make the rounds. This year we want to be sure that members are present at all times during the B-17 visit!

An **Aviation Safety Program** will be held at Mt. Hawley Airport on Wednesday, April 16, 1997 at 7:00 P.M., in the maintenance hangar. The seminar is for pilots, flights instructors and other interested persons.

John Blohm, Safety Program Manager of the FAA Springfield, Illinois FSDO, will explain the "Pilot Proficiency Award Program" and will speak on the topic of "Causal Factors of Accidents." Tim Hungate of Illinois Central College in East Peoria, Illinois will discuss "General Aviation." Walter Forred, an Aviation Medical Examiner from Peoria, Illinois will cover the "Common Special Issuance Medical Program," and Personnel from the Air Traffic Control Tower at Greater Peoria Airport will discuss "Current Air Traffic Control Procedures in Controlled Airspace."

The seminar is sponsored by the FAA, AVEMCO Insurance, the Greater Peoria Regional Airport Authority and North Point Aviation, Inc. For further info contact John Blohm at the FAA Springfield FSDO, 217/744-1910 or Dennis Driscoll at North Point Aviation, Inc. 309/693-2372.

Young Eagles Morrie Caudill reports that recently he observed a Young Eagle that he had flown

several years ago named Dusty Green in the lobby at Mt. Hawley Airport with his mother Connie. Dusty was a neighborhood kid. Dusty, his mom Connie and his Dad Jim lived across the street from Morrie.

Now it seems that they were at Mt. Hawley inquiring about flight lessons for Dusty. This is the kind of positive impact that the Young Eagles program can have on the future of aviation.

Brian Briggerman, our Chapter Young Eagles Coordinator, reports that plans are underway for a local Young Eagles event to coincide with "International Young Eagles Day" on Saturday, June 14th. More details will be forthcoming, possibly at the next Chapter meeting.

Congratulations to EAA members Brian Briggerman, Dave Cook and Rosemary Emhoff for making the "Eagle Flight Honor Roll" last year by flying 10 or more Young Eagles.

PHILLIPS 66 Offers Fuel Rebates For 'Young Eagles' Program

For the fourth consecutive year, Phillips 66 Company is offering \$1 per gallon rebates on Phillips 66 fuel purchases used for flights in the EAA Aviation Foundation "Young Eagles" program. Those rebates will be available for aviation fuel purchases made in support of the program at Phillips 66 fixed base operators (FBOs) using Phillips 66 credit cards from April 6 through October 6, 1997. The rebate includes fuel purchases made for International Young Eagles Day on Saturday, June 14.

"This is a unique program in the industry," said EAA Aviation Foundation President Tom Poberezny. "We deeply appreciate Phillips 66's expanded interest in Young Eagles and the future of aviation. Through this program, volunteer Young Eagle pilots can save money while opening up the world of flight for a new generation. We hope others follow the leadership role Phillips 66 has taken for aviation's future."

In 1996, pilots throughout America took advantage of the Phillips 66 rebate program as the Young Eagles total surpassed the 270,000 mark. More than 15,000 of those young people were flown in conjunction with International Young Eagles Day in June. The Young Eagles program is dedicated to flying one million young people by the year 2003 - the 100th anniversary of powered flight and the 50th anniversary of the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA).

Jill Bogan, Phillips 66 Aviation Manager, confirmed the company's commitment to the program this year. "Phillips 66 is firmly committed to the Young Eagles Program because of the interest it generates in general aviation," Bogan said. "Our annual rebate program is an ongoing investment in the future of this industry. We are excited that each year the program has been in place, there has been a marked increase in the number of pilots participating in the program."

Any EAA member pilot or Chapter, or pilots from organizations authorized by the EAA Aviation Foundation, are eligible to participate in the rebate program between April 6 and October 6. Avgas purchases must be made at Phillips 66 FBOs with a Phillips 66 credit card. Fuel receipts or copies of those receipts must then be mailed to Pam Crawford at Phillips 66 Company, 617 Adams Building, Bartlesville, OK 74004, no later than Oct. 31, 1997. The fuel rebate is issued only through Phillips 66, not individual FBOs. The rebates are not available for purchases of auto or jet fuel, or other brands purchased with Phillips 66 credit cards.

Participating pilots are also asked to verify their use of fuel purchases by writing and signing a statement confirming the fuel was used in support of the Young Eagles program. That signed statement must be submitted with the rebate request.

The rebate program was initiated by Charlie Harris, a member of the EAA Antique/Classic Division Board of Directors. In 1994, he introduced the Young Eagles program to Phillips 66, and urged corporate support for the effort.

Phillips 66 credit cards may be applied for by calling 1-800-DO-APPLY (1-800-362-7759) during business hours, Monday through Friday (Central Daylight Time).

To Baja, Mexico with Smitty

by Sam Sisk

Smitty started out for Baja, Mexico from Peoria on July 16, 1972, with stops at Kansas City, Missouri; Gallup, New Mexico; Prescott, Arizona and then on down to Baja. When he stopped at Prescott, someone advised him that it would be rather bumpy to cross the desert during the day time, but he only had a gallon of water, which was not enough for safety. He not only had to cross the desert, but also a gunnery range. As he neared Needles, AZ, it was so bumpy he couldn't change frequencies on his radio. He finally made it to Yuma, AZ, where he stayed overnight.

From Yuma, he went on to Tijuana, Mexico to clear customs. As it was Sunday, everything was closed. He eventually talked a Mexican customs agent into allowing him to leave for San Felipe. If he were to take a message for the agent, he could continue on under the guise of government business.

So off he went. He took a message to a flight service station in San Felipe. Now the airplane belonged to Mexico, so the agent convinced him he didn't need Mexican insurance.

When he got to San Felipe, 250 miles later, he saw an aircraft on its back at the airport. He flew around the airport two or three times and finally landed and heard the story of the plane that was upside down.

Apparently, a US citizen and his son were going to go to Mexico. The son was to ride a motorcycle and the dad was to fly an airplane down. On the way, the dad found

his son's wrecked motorcycle, got extremely excited, landed short, and dumped the airplane on its back. The father was badly hurt and Smitty never heard what happened to the son.

At five-thirty a.m. one morning in San Felipe, Smitty went fishing for marlin, but found only sharks. He was convinced to get into an extremely dilapidated boat and was quite worried about the boat sinking. No life preservers or other floatation devices were aboard. When it came time to eat, all the group had for lunch was dried octopus, some fruit, and a community thermos of coffee.

As they left the harbor, Smitty noticed a man praying, and when they returned, the man was still praying. There was a story down there that once when the fishermen went out, a storm had obscured everything but the peak of a nearby mountain, and the peak was the only landmark that brought them home. Their return seemed to be an act of God, so a shrine with a cross was erected and someone prayed daily for the return of the fishermen.

While in Baja Smitty became acquainted with a constable from San Felipe. The constable came into the restaurant and asked who owned the new airplane at the airport. At first Smitty was concerned that he might have trouble, but after their initial conversation, he ended up taking the constable's son for a ride and they became good friends.

The constable was also a conservation officer and he told Smitty he didn't need a fishing license now, because he had already fished. They became so friendly Smitty was invited to the christening party for the officer's child.

While he was down there, Smitty saw a young American couple being prodded with rifles and the man slipped him a paper with a number on it. When he got back to Mexicali, Smitty phoned the young man's father in San Diego and told him that his son was in a Mexican jail.

On July 28th Smitty began the return flight back to Peoria. All told, he spent a total of 54 hours in his Cessna 150 and he was quite happy to be back in the good old USA.

Hooterville

Morrie Caudill reports that Hooterville is now open for the season, but that the grass runway is still soft.

Calendar

April 6th thru 12th — LAKELAND, FLORIDA

23rd Annual Sun 'n Fun EAA Fly-In and Sport Aviation Convention. Contact: 941/644-2431.

April 12th — CANTON, ILLINOIS

Fulton County Flying Club Breakfast Buffet. Contact: 309/245-4777.

April 16th — PEORIA, ILLINOIS

Aviation Safety Seminar at Mt. Hawley Airport at 7:00 P.M. in the maintenance hangar. Contact: 217/744-1910 or 309/693-2372

April 26th and 27th — SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

4th Annual Charlie Wells Memorial Fly-In Breakfast. Contact: 217/483-3201.

April 26th and 27th — CANTON, ILLINOIS

Temor Aviation Open House at Canton Ingersoll Airport. Contact: 309/647-6976.

April 27th — AURORA, ILLINOIS

EAA Chapter 579 Young Eagle Rally. Contact: 630/466-4193.

May 4th — ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS

EAA Chapter 22 Fly-In/Drive-In Breakfast. Contact: 815/234-4016.

May 4th — McNABB, ILLINOIS

FLY-IN/DRIVE-IN Breakfast, Sponsored by EAA Chapter 948, the first Sunday of the month, from 7-11 A.M. at Hartenbauer's Airport on McNabb Road, rain or shine. Contact: 815/882-2371.

July 11th thru 13th — MATTOON, ILLINOIS

WINGS WEEKEND '97 at the Coles County Airport (MTO) located between the cities of Mattoon and Charleston, Illinois. Sponsored by: FAA Springfield, Illinois Flight Standards District Office; Illinois Department of Transportation/Division of Aeronautics; AOPA Air Safety Foundation; Coles County Airport Authority and AVEMCO Insurance Company.

July 30th thru August 5th — OSHKOSH, WIS

EAA OSHKOSH '97 — 45th Annual EAA Fly-In and Sport Aviation Convention.

The EAA Fly-In Convention is the worlds greatest sport

aviation gathering! Thousands of airplanes, hundreds of thousands of people and the biggest names in aviation, all together for one week to share the world of flight. Get ready to make your trip to Wittman Regional Airport, the home of sport aviation. For EAA Fly-In Convention Information contact John Burton, 414/426-4800.

The best way to enjoy EAA Oshkosh is with an EAA membership. As an EAA member, you also receive big discounts over the admission rate paid by non-member aviation enthusiasts. Join prior to July 16th to receive the current member discount. To become an EAA member phone 1-800-JOIN EAA.

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