

# Illinois Valley Beacon



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## MERRY CHRISTMAS

**Breakfast** Saturday, December 2nd at our hangar at Mt. Hawley Airport, beginning around 8:00 AM. **See you at Saturday!**

**Christmas Holiday Banquet** Our Annual EAA Chapter 563 Holiday Banquet will be Thursday evening, December 14th at 7:00 p.m. at Avanti's Ristorante, 2320 E. Washington Street, East Peoria. (Next to Fondulac Plaza).

The dinner is a buffet, which includes three (3) entrees: Spaghetti with meat or marinara sauce, Lasagna and Fettuccini a la Alberto; the meal will also include Italian vegetables, tossed salad, pasta salad, Avanti's bread, butter, coffee, tea and soft drinks. The cost is \$10.00, which includes gratuities and taxes. Make your reservations no later than **DECEMBER 8th** by phoning Dave Cook at 309/ 682-6074. Please pay at the door.

Our special guests will be Elizabeth (Toby) and Robert (Bob) Lehnhausen. Bob will discuss his "Experiences in Combat" as a member of the 44<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group of the U.S. Air Force during WW II. This includes the low level mission over the Ploesti oil fields.

In the early hours of August 1, 1943, 177 B-24D's from the 376<sup>th</sup>, 93<sup>rd</sup>, 44<sup>th</sup>, 389<sup>th</sup> and 98<sup>th</sup> Bomb Groups of the IX Air Force took off from their bases in Libya and headed north on an ambitious plan to cripple the oil production of the Third Reich. This operation, code named "Tidal Wave," targeted the refinery facilities at Ploesti, more than a thousand miles away in Romania.

Thus began the famous 1943 raid on Ploesti. The planes

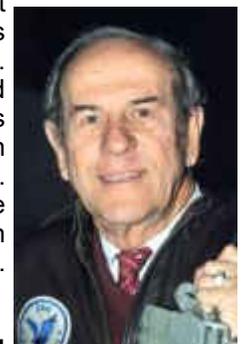
attacked at treetop level -- flying into flak, machine gun fire, fighters, and barrage balloons. Their aim was to shut off German petrol supplies. When it was over, almost half of Ploesti's oil production capacity was destroyed, but at an incredible cost.



Of 177 planes and 1,726 men who took off on the mission, 54 planes and 532 men failed to return. This mission alone resulted in the award of 5 Medals of Honor, the highest military award given by the United States armed forces. Three of these medals were awarded posthumously.

Make your plans to join us and out special guests, Toby and Bob Lehnhausen, for a delicious meal and interesting conversation. Phone Dave Cook at 309/ 682-6074 for reservations.

**Paul Poberezny Retires** The man who started the Experimental Aircraft Association is retiring from the EAA's governing body, the EAA Foundation. "It's been a great education serving and learning about my fellow human beings through my work with the EAA Aviation Foundation," Poberezny said. Poberezny will continue to serve on the EAA Board of Directors and work with his own Sport Aviation Association. From AVflash 6.48a



## November Meeting

We assembled on Thursday, November 9th at 7:00 p.m. Vice President Rick Woldow called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Chapter hangar at Mt. Hawley.

Our President, Bob Thompson, has been unable to attend the last several Chapter events. To facilitate future Chapter business, it was recommended by the nominating committee, consisting of Don Wolcott, Sam Sisk, Joe Fox and Morrie Caudill, that the slate of officers being voted upon at the November meeting take office at that meeting.

Nominated were: President - Dennis Mellen, Vice



Low level B-24D bombing run over the oil fields of Ploesti



# HAPPY NEW YEAR

President - Ric Woldow,  
Secretary - Jack Frost,  
Treasurer - Morrie Caudill,  
News Letter Editor - Dennis Mellen  
(until a transition can be made),  
Flight Advisors - Jim Hannemann, Sam Sisk and Ron Wright,  
Technical Counselors -

Alan Lurie, and Sam Sisk. The vote was unanimous for the new officers as presented. We welcome them aboard and look forward to the New Year.

Our guest speaker at the November meeting was Morrie Caudill. Morrie reported on his cross country trip back to his roots in North Carolina, a neat new program called [aeroplanner.com](http://aeroplanner.com), which he found on the Internet, and a medal he recently received from the Republic of Korea for his participation in the Korean War.

**FAA Proposes Rocket Rules** Knowing that you lie awake at night worried about stray rockets landing on your head, the FAA recently issued proposed rules that set forth requirements for obtaining a license to operate an expendable space launch vehicle. The 203-page tome includes issues that the FAA will worry about for you, such as "Electro-explosive device all-fire energy level verification." From AVflash 6.48b

## Santa and the FAA – To all in the Holiday Spirit

It was Christmas Eve at the North Pole and Santa was preparing for his big annual trip when a knock came at the door. When one of the elves opened the door Santa was surprised to see his local FSDO Operations Inspector.

"I just happened to be in the area and I remembered you are due a check ride and I figured we could get it out of the way tonight." the Inspector said. Santa, being a good airman, as well as having a good relationship with the FAA, quickly agreed. "I'll be out in the sleigh, see you there." responded the FAA man.

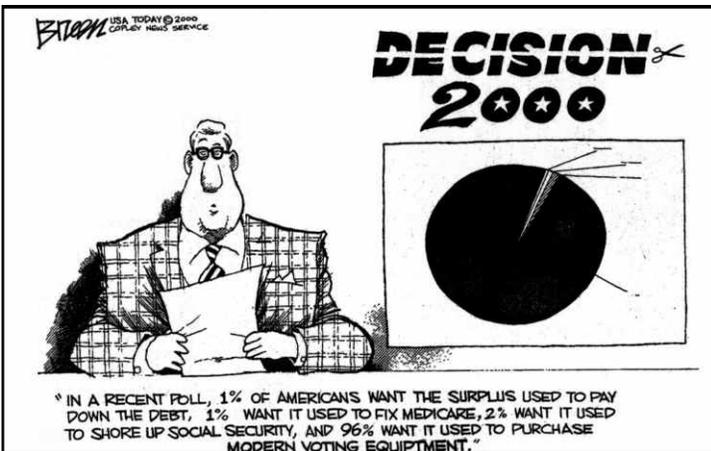
Santa revised his W&B, changed his manifest and made a final review of his paperwork. With everything in order he headed out to the sleigh. Santa noticed that the Inspector was in the right seat so he made a careful walk around checking the reindeer's harnesses, the sleighs runners, and the payload strapdowns.

Mounting up in the left seat Santa strapped in and began his checklist. As Santa began his taxi the Inspector reached under the seat and pulled out a 12 gauge shotgun.

"What the heck is that for!" Santa exclaimed. "Well, I'm not supposed to tell you this." the Inspector said as he winked. "But your going to lose one on takeoff!" **Forwarded by Jim and Nancy Rinkenberger.**

**Newsletters by e-mail** Each newsletter cost the Chapter approximately 65 cents to reproduce and mail. Postage is going up another penny next year.

This newsletter is sent electronically to members who provide an email address. If you have an email address and no longer require a printed copy of the newsletter, please notify editor Dennis Mellen at [dennis.mellen@mclcd.com](mailto:dennis.mellen@mclcd.com) Thank You!



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