



Illinois Valley Beacon

April 2003

Chapter 563 Chartered in 1976

Volume 10 Issue 4

Breakfast- will be on Saturday May 3 at the EAA Hanger at Mt. Hawley Airport from 7:30 till 9:00.

Meeting - will be one week later on Thursday, May 8, at the hanger at 7:00 P. The program chairman for the meeting is Sam Sisk who will introduce the manager of the Greater Peoria Airport, Solomon Balraj. I don't know what his subject will be but it gives us the opportunity to ask all the questions we may have about the health and future of both Mt. Hawley and Greater Peoria Airports.

Put this date on your calendar folks. A large group of members at this meeting will help emphasize our position in aviation in this area. Remember, the B-17 visit in July is just around the corner and PIA's cooperation is very important.

Secretaries Report

The Chapter secretary and I (editor) were not present at the last meeting so I am making up the minutes from rumors and comments overheard while in the men's room at a local tavern. If you don't agree with them, vote no when asked to approve the minutes at the May meeting.

MINUTES - April 10, 2003 MEETING

The meeting was called to order at the Chapter hangar by President Jerry Pilon. The minutes of the March meeting were approved as printed in the Beacon.

Finances were approved as presented by Treasurer Jim Hooker. He reports 59 paid members as of 4-23-03.

Jerry passed on the information he had on the B-17 sponsorship and related that the program chairmen's names had been sent to headquarters and they should be receiving information soon.

Jerry and Joe Fox were the speakers for the evening relating their experiences at Sun and Fun.

Young Eagles

For those of you who were not there, and I was one of you, the Young Eagle event was not as successful as I'd planned. This tends to happen when you have to cancel the original date due to weather and fall back on the rain date.

The rain date fell in the Easter vacation period for the school children and caused one group to cancel and a second group could not make the date so we ended up with just the third group of Cub Scouts from Dunlap.

Paul Ernst was their leader and I understand they all had an excellent time. I believe 10 children were flown and a few of the adults.

I want to thank everyone that took part, I asked Jerry to fill in for me, and I understand we had four or five pilots, as we usually do, expecting a crowd of kids.

I hope you guys are not getting burned out with the small showings we have had the last couple of events. Believe me, I am not trying to save your gas. It appears to me that the goal of one million by the end of the year is going to be difficult to reach. I'll try to do a better job of coordinating in the future.

The Reason I Wasn't Here

My wife, Sharon, and I finally took the vacation we have been planning for many years. I tried to get the Young Eagle event done before I left but the weather didn't cooperate.

We booked a cruise with Grand Circle, a tour company we had heard a lot about, but had never traveled with. We have wanted to go to the Netherlands during the spring flower season to visit the flower auction at Aalsmeer and Keukenhof Flower Park. This park has 70 acres of tree shaded grounds with ponds, winding paths, and it is carpeted with flowers. Mostly tulips, daffodils, and hyacinths. The park is only open in the Spring when the flowers are in bloom.

This area is surrounded by the tulip bulb growing

farms. It's mind boggling to see a 100 acre field with 10 acres of brilliant red tulips and next to them 10 acres of purple hyacinths and next to them 10 acres of bright yellow daffodils. Field after field of color.

The sad part is, the bulb growers are only interested in the bulb. So after the flower blooms they get out a mowing machine and cut off the blossoms so the bulb gets all the nutrients. One day the field is a beautiful bright red and the next day all that's left is the green leaves.

The flower auction is where cut flowers are auctioned to brokers that supply florists around the world. The cut flowers are delivered to this building, 160 acres under roof, early in the morning and are auctioned in a highly automated bidding arena. Approx. 200 bidders are setting the price and buying flowers as they are run through the arena on automated train cars. Millions of cut flowers are handled every day. All the flowers are sold by noon and any not sold are destroyed. The purchased flowers are delivered to the buyers that afternoon and are shipped around the world the next day. This takes place every day, supplied by green houses that surround the area.

This was the highlight of the trip. We did spend about 6 days in different cities in Belgium and 7 days on a river boat cruising the rivers of the Netherlands. All in all, a great vacation.

If you see me coming with a pile of pictures in my hand, run the other way.

For Sale

Al Lurie is cleaning out his hanger/garage again and has this item for sale.

Volkswagen flange and prop hub with bolts for \$70.00

Fly-In Breakfasts

Jerry Pilon, my pilot in command, and I flew to Rantoul for a pancake and sausage breakfast last Sunday. I feel it is our duty to check out our competition in order to keep our gastronomic symphony in tune.

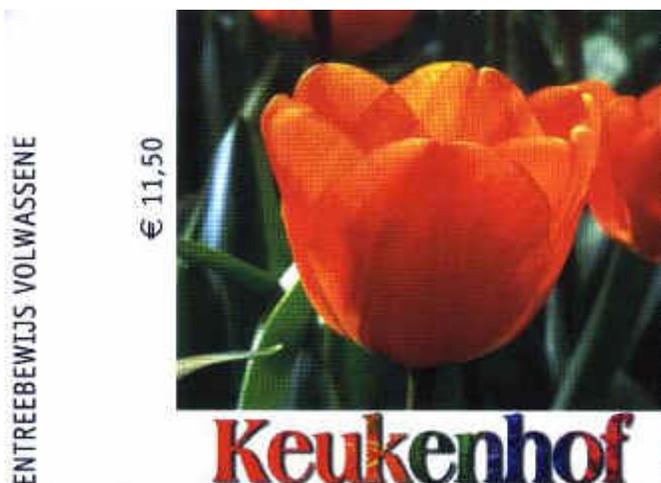
It was a beautiful morning. We rolled the plane out at 7:00 A.M. and departed in the direction of Logan County Airport to refuel on the way. Landed at Logan on the grass runway 14 and turned off at the gas pump.

Pumped 15 gal., 2'45" flying time, and took off for Rantoul. Arrived there about 8:30 and landed on 18. You have to taxi down 27 to the end to get to the museum where the breakfast was held and back taxi all runways to leave.

The breakfast was set up in the museum under the military iron parked there. The cost was \$7.00. A little steep for just pancakes and sausage links, OJ and coffee. But when you throw in the museum it's not so bad. We spent an hour looking at all the stuff. I haven't been there for a couple years and I think it was Jerry's first time. He pointed out several aircraft that he was familiar with from his service on the Bonhom Richard aircraft carrier during the Korean War.

You see, he was out there in the Japan Sea eating like a king and sleeping on clean sheets and I was 100 miles West eating C Rations and sleeping in a fart sack in a tent with no heat. But then, I got a medal and he didn't so I guess we're all even.

Fly-in breakfast season is here once again. Jerry and I have a good deal. He buys breakfast and I buy the gas. Believe me, it's worth every cent to be able to continue to fly and without Jerry's generous offer to be pilot in command I would be grounded. The FAA works in mysterious ways and ours is not to wonder why, ours is just to continue to fly. In any way we can. Keep looking up.



Keukenhof
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Calendar of Events 2003

May

- 3 Chapter 563 Breakfast
- 8 Chapter 563 Meeting
- 10 Pancake Breakfast, Decatur, IL
- 16-18 Midwest Aeronca Fest, Kewanee, IL
- 18 Airport Day Fly in Breakfast, Ogle County, IL
- 18 Chapter 15 Annual Fly-In Breakfast, Lewis University Airport (KLOT)

June

- 1 Pancake Breakfast, Olney, IL
- 1 Pancake Breakfast, Lansing, IL
- 7 Chapter 563 Breakfast

- 6-8 Blue Angels, Davenport, Iowa
- 8 Pancake Breakfast, Rock Falls (Whiteside County)
- 12 Chapter 563 Meeting

July

- 4 Fly-in Breakfast, Mt. Morris, Ill
- 4-6 Prairie Air Show, Thunderbirds, Peoria, IL
- 5 Chapter 563 Breakfast
- 10 Chapter 563 Meeting
- 15-17 Aluminum Overcast, Peoria, IL
- 29-8/4 EAA AirVenture, Oshkosh, Wis

August

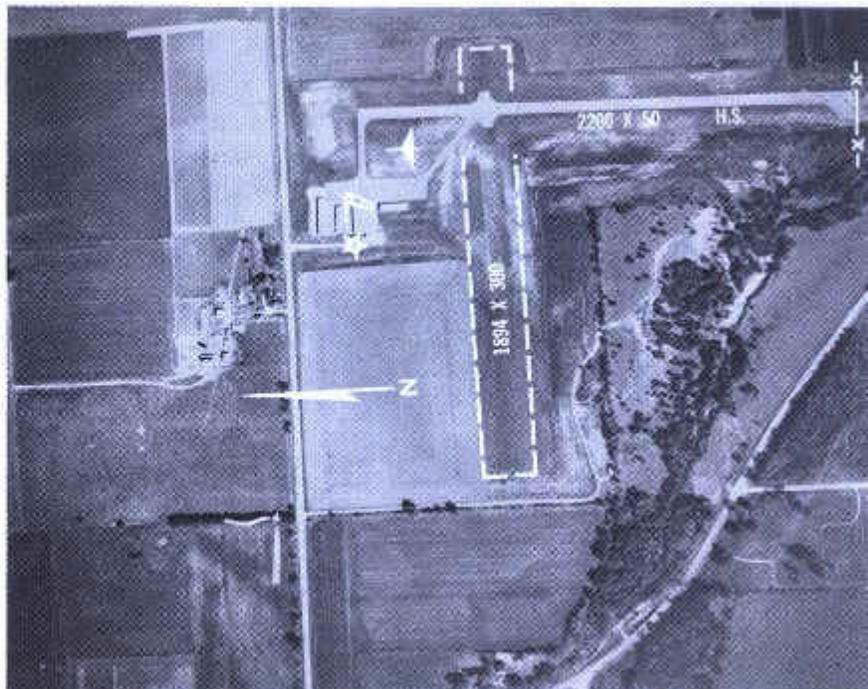
- 1-4 Oshkosh

If The Name Was Covered Up, ??????????????????Could You Identify This Airport

LACON — MARSHALL COUNTY

Elevation: 554'
 From City: 2 mi. E of Lacon
 Operator: Lacon Aero Service
 Manager: Arthur J. Blase
 Landing Pattern: Left 600'
 Runway Surface: Bituminous and Turf
 Lighting: Runway N-S, Beacon
 Telephone: AC 309, 246-7560
 Repairs: Yes
 Fuel: 80/87, 100/130
 Weather Service: Phone Peoria—
 AC 309, 697-0412
 Meals: No
 Remarks: Unicom 122.8

LACON — MARSHALL COUNTY



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