



# Illinois Valley Beacon

August 2007

Chapter 563 Chartered in 1976

Volume 14 Issue 8

**The first breakfast** will be held on the First Saturday, August 4th, in the EAA Hangar from 8:00 to 10:00.

**The regular meeting is canceled this month. The annual picnic will be held on the 11th at Sam Sisks same as last year. Gather at 4:00, eat at 5:00. The Chapter will provide the meat and drinks, bring something to share.**

**The second breakfast** will be held on the Third Saturday, August 18th, in the EAA Hangar from 8:00 to 10:00.

**Directors meeting** The meeting will be held on the Third Thursday, August 16th, at the Chapter Hangar at 7:00P. All members are welcome to attend.

## Secretary's Reports

### MEETING MINUTES – 12 July 2007

President Steve Bonfoey called the meeting to order at 7 pm in the chapter hangar. Minutes of the June meeting were approved as previously printed. There was no financial report.

Steve reminded us of several upcoming events, including the Prairie AirShow, and its need for volunteers. He reminded us that the Chapter Picnic will be held Saturday August 11 at Sisk International. There will be no August membership meeting, as that would be only two days removed.

We were reminded of the annual Wings Weekend, and that our regular hangar breakfasts will be on Saturdays August 4 and 18.

Tech Counselor Al Lurie gave us a summary of the recent Pekin Airport Board meeting.

Our speaker for the evening was John Backer, Assistant Director of GPAA, who told, and showed us, of his experiences in Special Ops during the years 1990-2000. He flew in helicopters on a wide variety of missions. In hostile territories they flew low, day or night, over land or water, they would insert and remove tactical teams. Night vision goggles were essential, and what he told us of their navigational and electronic capabilities was amazing. Humanitarian missions were also flown, but getting shot at was part of the package. John answered a barrage of questions and received a nice round of applause.

Respectfully Submitted, Bill Engel, Secretary

## **PRAIRIE AIR SHOW - 2007**

This year's P.A.S. went better than any within memory. The weather was perfect, the attendance was very good, the performers were exciting, and our EAA chapters flew over 100 Young Eagles!

The show was better organized and better publicized than the last time we participated in 2005. We had great help from members of our chapter as well as from Canton and Havana chapters. Some of our members volunteered for general show help as well as for our EAA effort.

The results should bode well for local charities who will benefit from the net show proceeds. The show is now planned and conducted strictly by volunteers, and in spite of the few inevitable hitches, it came off splendidly.

If you were one of the hard working EAA563 members who participated, THANKS! If you didn't make it to the show, try to do it next year. It ought to be even better!

The directors meeting was cancelled this month due to the Chapters commitment to the Prairie Air Show.

Dewey Fitch, Gerry Peacock, and Chris Tate have agreed to serve as the nominating committee for officers and directors for the upcoming year. If you would like to be a part of the Chapter in an official position, please make your self known to one of the nominating committee. If you feel someone would make a good candidate for one of the Chapter offices, please make your suggestion known. We are all volunteers, as members, as officers, and as active members. Be part of your Chapter. Volunteer

***I'll run this column one more time in hopes of getting a few more of you back into the fold***

## **Membership Drop-outs**

I don't know if you realize it or not but, you members listed below have not paid your 2007 dues and, as per the Chapter bylaws, will be dropped from the mailing lists at this time of the year.

In an effort to keep you as Chapter members I am listing your names here and hope you resolve the problem with our Treasurer, Jerry Pilon.

If you have paid your dues, and my records are not up to date, (very possible), please ignore this appeal.

Kathy Arkwell  
Don Berrier  
Bill Blake  
Pat Carroll  
Joe Fox  
Mac McLaughlin  
John Minor  
Dale Shaw  
Dave Skinner  
Dale Slater

**We had a good response from you folks this last month. The list is getting shorter. I know it is easy to forget the dues thing. I try to remind you several times in the first six months of the year but it doesn't always work. Thanks for supporting your local Chapter 563.**

## From the desk of your editor.

The Prairie Air Show, for our part (Chapter 563) was a blatant success. Our primary purpose was to fly Young Eagles and that part went off very smoothly, thanks to the effort of Bill Engel. Bill went above and beyond to make every effort for a successful event.

I must admit I was very dubious about flying kids at this event and Bill stepped in and made it happen. Over 100 kids were flown in two days and many more have called to schedule another date in the future.



My grandsons GB was a big hit with the passer bys in front of our tent.

We also signed up several new members, one who is building an RV and had never completed his flight training.

All in all, a very satisfying experience. The weather cooperated as well.

## The Air Show



The “air” show was very good despite not having one of the service teams.

The static displays are shown in the pictures. I personally spent an hour with one of the Air National Guard members discussing the radio equipment in one of their jeeps (humvees) and comparing my experience as a radio operator in Korea.



What a shock. Most of the equipment I used in Korea, he never heard of. That was 55 years ago and this guy was in his 30's. They can communicate anywhere in the world and I was lucky to work five miles. What a change.



## 2006 Chapter 563 Officers

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