



EAA CHAPTER 83

Terre Haute, IN.



A Non-Profit Organization operated for the Advancement of Aviation Education, Homebuilt Aircraft, and Private Aviation and dedicated in the memory of John Blouch, Garland Wadsworth, Curt DeBaun, and Tom Flock

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Idle Chatter

Well, the weather is improving and we're seeing an increase in flying time. Before the last meeting, 6 of us went to Purdue to their Flight Club fund raiser and fly in. They had a larger crowd than expected and were overwhelmed with aircraft. They also ran out of food, not a good thing when pilots are involved. On the bright side, they had a F-18F on display and some other cool things.

Also in the recent past, Matt, John V, and I stopped in to visit Don Bussart. Then last weekend, 4 aircraft and 9 people went to French Lick for brunch. We needed to walk to the dome hotel after the buffet, but we didn't cause SOB and Rocket Matt had to be back to head for Mt. Comfort. They both attended the Ramp Rat training sessions and hope to work the Indy show with that group. The training session was excellent complete with two written tests and a practical test. As rookies, we don't get heavies or jets, even though we've both done them many times. They just want to get a look at us in action to make sure we're a good as I said we are! Looking forward to the Blues in Indy, and seeing Fat Albert on the show ramp.

I know last weekend Matt, John W, and John V did some flying, but I didn't so I don't really know where they went. The forecast was for rain all weekend, but it turned out pretty nice, so now I'm sorry I scheduled all that indoor work. Oh, well, next weekend I'm going to Bussart's and that will be fun.

As I've said more times than you want to hear, this newsletter can only be as good as the news and pictures I get from you all, so share your fun stuff and we'll make you famous.

The Last Meeting - Jeff Wellum

SOB was late. He blamed it on Purdue. Said they ran out of food. Unlike most times though, this time he has witnesses.

Our meeting was in the Dixie Chopper FBO conference room. Big thanks to John Layne and his staff for allowing us to use his great facility and for being such a great supporter of GA! Putman County airport is the best. Great line service, reasonably priced fuel, a good restaurant and hotel on site, a nice pilot lounge, clean rest rooms, good weather and briefing area, and all sorts of interesting aircraft on the ramp. Dixie Chopper is what GA is all about!

We lead off with introductions and attending this month were: Bill Foraker, Jeff Wellum, Eric Hettlinger and Son, Frank Hettlinger (our speaker), Jack Underwood, Wayne Sanders, Jenny Bothwell, Vern 'Egg' Bothwell, Duane Skoog (President of EAA Chapter 1374), Jack Sutton (1374 VP), Pat Bothwell (1374 Treasurer), Vern Bothwell Sr. (USAAF



The F/A-18F, Super Hornet at Purdue

Pilot training graduate Class 42K), George Bakken, Laurel Bakken, David Bakken, Steve Laribee, Ken Lorenz, Chat, Nick Mahurin, Michael King, Jerry Badger, Kelvin Roots, Betty DeBaun, Jeff Tucker, Matt Throckmorton, Jim Fisher, John Watler, Mike Wonder, and maybe some stragglers that I didn't get signed in. I counted a total of 29 in attendance.

There were 11 aircraft on the ramp that flew in for the meeting. Bill Foraker and Jeff Tucker in the Comanche, Wayne Sanders and Betty DeBaun in the RV6A, Steve Laribee in the Dragonfly, Jim Fisher and Ken Lorenz in the 182, Chat in his 152, Nick Mahurin in the Bonanza, Mike King and Kelvin Roots in the Cherokee six, Jerry Badger in the Mooney, Matt Throckmorton in the F1 Rocket, and John Watler with Jeff Wellum in the 172.

Several people attended the pancake breakfast at Purdue University Airport in Lafayette before the April meeting at Putnam county. The great turnout was helped by the beautiful flying weather. I had the opportunity to ride with John Watler in the 172. The panel in that thing is awesome but I have no idea what all the buttons do! I hope it didn't spoil me too bad for my upcoming cross country training when I will have to use an actual paper sectional. After an extended tour of the Purdue Airport taxi ways (good story), SOB and Jeff arrived at breakfast only to wait in line behind the band. Playing music must work up an appetite because I think all the pancakes were gone by the time Bill and Jeff got to the front of the line. Matt was in attendance with his F1 rocket that always gets a lot of attention. Kelvin Roots and Mike King were there in the Cherokee six. Mike was definitely pushing his luck wearing that Indiana shirt to a Purdue function. Nick Mahurin was also in attendance in that beautiful Bonanza.

□ But the real fun of this meeting was our speaker. Presenting on his aviation career was retired Major General Frank Hettlinger (USAAF Flight Training Graduate Class 52H) who has almost 10,000 hours of military flying in aircraft including the T-6, the P-51, the F-80 (T Bird), the F-84F, the F-86 D, the F-86E, the F-100, the F-102, the F-104, the F-4C & E models, and he C-46. He started his air guard career flying P-51's in Pennsylvania and then moved to Terre Haute as an F-86 instructor. He told us of his career in flying and related several stories including going to 53,000 ft in a T-Bird, flying Mach 2 in an F-104, landing a heavy T-Bird in less than 5,000 feet, losing a headset in T-6 training, his first flight in a P-51 (too much power too soon), and teaching accidental aerobatics in an F-100 in the practice area between Crawfordsville and Greencastle. He says the most nimble aircraft he flew was the F-86E and the trickiest was the F-100 because of its adverse yaw tendencies.

Sadly, General Hettlinger lost 2 brothers to military aviation incidents. He lost one brother in an F-4U Corsair night fighter incident and another in an F-104 failed ejection near Phoenix.

General Hettlinger capped off his career as Commander of the Indiana Wing of the Air Guard. We very much appreciate his time with us, and honor his many years of service to our country. You should have been there...



Three Generations of Hettlingers. MG Hettlinger, our speaker, flanked by son and grandson at the Dixie Chopper FBO.

Chat at his first meeting in his 'new' airplane. He looks confused but he did find the meeting.



Young Eagles Report – Jeff Tucker

As mentioned at the last meeting, Boy Scout Troop 434 has requested help in completing their aviation merit badges. In addition to a Young Eagles ride, I would like to see us help them complete a few of the other merit badge requirements. The idea would be to set up several stations the boys could cycle through in about 30 minutes (or less) per station. The stations would include things like performing a pre-flight briefing, a tower tour, learn and demonstrate how control surfaces affect the aircraft, etc. I think we could do this in about four hours on a Saturday morning. The tentative date for this would be June 13, with a rain date of June 20. I will be sending out more detailed info on this project soon.

In other YE news, EAA Young Eagles and Sporty's Pilot Shop have teamed up to provide every Young Eagle with a special log book and free access to the Sporty's online Complete Pilot Training Course. Sporty's is providing a special "Young Eagles" logbook that pilots can present to their passengers following the Young Eagles flight. The logbook's first entry is designed to record the details of the flight. It also provides an opportunity for the pilot to show the Young Eagle how pilots record their flight time. In addition, pilot should encourage their Young Eagle to record other aviation experiences in the logbook, such as attending an air show or a Chapter event. It does not need to only record flight time, although the logbook is designed to meet FARs. Along with the logbook is a unique access code a child can use to access Sporty's Complete Pilot Training Course on line. Instructions for registering for the class are also included. This is a great new program that will enhance the Young Eagle experience, and hopefully help to promote interest in aviation.

Also, Chapter 83 has 13 earned Young eagle credits left over from last year. These have a dollar value of \$65.00. We can use these credits to sponsor a youngun' to the EAA Air Academy this summer, give the credits back or to another chapter, or use the dollar amount to purchase YE stuff from EAA. We talked about this at the meeting, but no decisions were made. □

Web Report – Jeff Tucker

Several changes to the website are in the works. The title banner on the home page has been changed to include Curt DeBaun and Tom Flock in the Chapter 83 dedication, in addition to John Blouch and Garland Wadsworth. The animated logo has also been changed. After five years on the website, I suddenly realized the plane orbiting the logo was a high wing. The plane on the original logo is a low wing. Now there's certainly nothing wrong with high wing aircraft, but I thought it should be changed to match our logo. My thanks go to Sean, the graphics guy at work, for rendering the new animation for me. He was able to render the new animation in about 10 minutes using his "super computer". This would have taken my home computer about two days to complete. I now owe Sean two tickets to the new Star Trek movie. He's the only person I know who has a 1:10 scale Enterprise hanging in his office (complete with working navigation lights), has a life sized R2D2, and wears a light saber.

Other changes to the website include updates to the Young Eagle page, and deleting some unused pages. No one has used the "Guest Book" page for nearly three years. No one has used the "Swap Meet" page since 2004. I'm thinking about deleting these pages. Please let me know if you think that's not a good idea. It's been a long time since the Young Eagles page has been touched. I need to bring it up to date, especially since it looks like we will have more YE activity this year.

Last but not least, I will be adding an "Upcoming Events" section to the home page. This will display events coming in the next four weeks or so, kind of a "Week End Flying" update. SOB will be the guy updating this new section, so you'll probably get more information than you can stand. Well, I mean, it will be up to date and detailed. The regular calendar page will still be in operation if you need to look for future events.

Recent Sightings – Member News

Mike Wonder is working on his latest project and is looking for Cont C-85-12F or Cont. -200 parts. If you have any or know where he might local some, please let me know. If you can't get him, just email me.

BIG NEWS! We found out that both **Jeff Wellum, our Chapter Secretary, and Duane Skoog, Chapter 1374 President, have recently soloed! WOO-HOO!!!** Congratulations to both these guys for that great accomplishment. Now they get to learn cross country navigation...

Eric's Tiger is waiting on a rebuilt engine. ETTFA (estimated time to flying again) is 6 to 8 weeks, but that's what he said 2 weeks ago. In the meantime, if you have a seat, give the guy a ride...

Last month, Matt's made a trip to NAS Pensacola and Mobile, AL. He saw the Battleship USS Alabama, several other things at Battleship Park, the Naval Air Museum, and a motorcycle museum. It was quite a trip and Matt saw lots of cool stuff including the Blue Angel practice show. Ask him about it when you see him. Also ask him about driving the Smart that far...



The Blues lining up for a practice show from Matt's trip south...

Chapter Business

Vern 'Egg' Bothwell reported that Indiana State will be hosting the National flight team competition, the NIFA Nationals, at HUF in 2010. The event will run May 13-23 and can include over 30 schools with 90 to 100 aircraft participating. With the cancellation of Victory Days this year and no TH Air Fair, the ISU flight team is looking for ideas for fund raising events, so let Vern know if you have ideas. They will also be looking for many volunteers and some judges for this event. We need trustworthy pilots for judges and several members have already disqualified themselves with comments made at the meeting.

President Bill Foraker made a motion to add the names of Curt DeBaun and Tom Flock to the dedication of EAA Chapter 83. Our Chapter would certainly not be what it is without the dedicated contributions of these two gentlemen. In fact, there might not even be a chapter 83. These names will be in addition to John Blouch and Garland Wadsworth. The motion passed unanimously.

Local Notams (Upcoming Events)

Friday, May 15, Open cockpit night at the Air Force Museum. Check their web site for details. Some of us may be going over if the weather is good. There might even be a Saturday trip in the works on the heels of the museum visit. John W is heading that trip up, so see him for details.

Saturday, May 16. Armed Forces Day Pancake Breakfast at Frankfort Municipal Airport (FKR), Frankfort, IN. The FKR Flyers Aviation Enthusiasts invite you to celebrate Armed Forces Day with pancakes and sausage at the Frankfort Municipal Airport! Planes on display, aviation fellowship, and more. Donations benefit a planned observation shelter on the airport grounds. Contact: Becky, Phone: 765-654-6275 Email: FKR@montgomeryaviation.net

Sat – Sun, May 30 – 31, KMCX White County Airport Monticello, Indiana, USA, Grand Opening 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM. The White County airport just got its new terminal completed at the end of 2008. We would like to invite the public to celebrate the opening of our building with us. Contact: Derek Shannon | townsendaviation@comcast.net | 574-583-9900

Saturday, June 6, Meeting at BMG. Our June meeting will be a joint meeting with chapter 650 and will be at BMG. You'll get more info before then, but now you can hold the date. Matt and Chatter will be working the Indy show, so they won't be there, but we can have fun without them.

June 6 & 7, Saturday and Sunday, Indy air show. More details at: <http://www.indyairshow.com/>

June 6th & 7th, Saturday and Sunday, 6th Annual Charlie Wells Memorial Aviation Scholarship at Abe Lincoln Capital Airport in Springfield, IL. More info at: www.WellsScholarship.com Fly-in/drive-in 7:00 AM to Noon, Pancake & Sausage Breakfast, tell the controller you're going to the breakfast on the Southeast Ramp.

Sunday, June 7, Olney-Noble Fly In / Drive In Breakfast, 08:00 AM - 11:00 AM, Olney Area Pilots Association at Olney-Noble, OLY, Featuring World famous Airplane Pancakes, Sausage Patties With Biscuits and Gravy, Coffee, Juice, Milk, and great company. Also view Home Built, Light Sport, and Vintage Airplanes. Contact: Tom Baker, 618 393 2967

June 14, 2009, Sunday, Sinful Sunday at Lee Bottom, and he's a great idea. They need about 12 volunteers to do the Sinful Sunday event. What about making it a Chapter 83 fly-out volunteer day? Anybody interested? If so, let me know and we'll work up a plan.

Our Next Meeting...

Will be on May 9, at NOON at Don Bussart's airport, aviation museum, and home. If you've ever been there, you know what I mean, and if not, you need to attend this meeting. Whether you fly or drive, you'll have a good time. Don's wonderful grass strip is in Kansas, Illinois, Our rain date, and we might need one, will be the following Saturday, May 16. Don has plenty of chairs, but you need to carry one out and put it away, or you can bring your own if you have a favorite.

Before going to Don's at Noon, we'll have lunch at DEC at 1000. We haven't been there in a while (well, I haven't, but I have come to understand that Matt and several other miscreants went last weekend without me) and it's always a good place to stop. We're not doing lunch at Don's because his wife having hip surgery soon and we don't want to wear her out.

If you are driving to Don's, you're on your own. I've never driven there. If you're flying, it's on the abandoned rail siding that runs from Paris to Charleston. Just fly the siding and look for aircraft on the ground. Seriously, email or call me if you really can't find it and we'll get you the info. I have the coordinates, but can't remember them.

ALL TIMES ARE INDIANA TIMES (so we're actually meeting at 11 am at Don's). PLEASE USE YOUR SUPERIOR PILOT INTELLECT AND TRAINING TO ADJUST AS NECESSARY. DON'T MAKE ME START USING ZULU TIME OR WE'LL ALL BE SORRY!



Nick and Matt on the way to Purdue. The only pictures I have of Nick are from the back. I couldn't catch him. Matt slowed down.



Don Bussart's from the air. It may not have the T-6's for our meeting.
Cool shot of a Spitfire and Hawk with retro paint...