



A Grassroots Kind of Day Is Always Good

Many people talk about the importance of grassroots aviation to the American experience. Something that is a unique and vibrant aspect of our culture. However, as in most areas of life, talk is cheap and frankly sometimes just not enough to feed the soul. That's why when the opportunity comes to hitch an airplane ride you have to seize it and make the most of it.

One such opportunity came to me several weekends ago when 252 Member Charlie Becker gave me a call and asked if I'd like to go flying. Of course I said yes. Charlie is a busy person like most of us and when a guy is willing to share his brand of aviation with you its hard to say no. Nay, even stupid.

Charlie and another 252 Member Joe Norris, have a Super Cub that they hangar in the North-T's on Wittman Field. It's a great little plane decked out in red and white. It s a simple plane made for simple, no frills flying. You know—grassroots flying.

No GPS, glass panels, turbo props, retractable gear, or auto pilot. Just an airplane that you know is an airplane. Just a stick and rudder that allow you to actually feel the experience of flying. Low enough and slow enough to drink in the landscape and enjoy the journey. Fast enough and nimble enough to remind yourself that man does not live by minivan alone - nor does he have to! (continued on page 2)



Chapter Calendar Dates

Your comments and suggestions regarding chapter activities is much are appreciated. Please submit your ideas to Steve Lark at 688-2941 or skylark7@aol.com.

<i>April 12</i>	Chapter Meeting 6:30 PM Sonex Hangar Event: Aviation Communications Clinic
<i>May 10</i>	Chapter Meeting 7:00 PM Sonex Hangar
<i>May 16</i>	Chapter Fly-Out EAA 838 Breakfast Racine, WI
<i>June 14</i>	Chapter Meeting 7:00 PM Sonex Hangar
<i>June 16</i>	Chapter Fly-Out EAA 1331 Klunkenfarten Fly-In Wuatoma, WI
<i>July 23-29</i>	EAA Airventure NO MEETING
<i>Aug</i>	NO MEETING
<i>Sept 15</i>	EAA 252 Pancake Fly-In Oshkosh, WI
<i>Sept</i>	Munsil's Annual Corn Roast
<i>Oct</i>	Wayne Daniel's Annual Chili Bash Wayne's Hangar
<i>Nov</i>	Chapter Meeting 7:00 PM Sonex Hangar

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It was a great day to fly too. The sun was out, the wind was moderate, and the snow receding!

Charlie gave me the choice of destination and I decided on Hartford on the off chance I would run into CFI Steve Krog. I have been interested in getting some tail dragger training and Steve has a great reputation.

In getting ready for the flight Charlie asked me to climb in hold the brakes while he hand-propped the Cub. The battery had drained for some reason so he had to hand prop. Note to all who read: If asked to sit in a plane and depress the brakes, make sure that the heels of your big feet in those rigid work boots are actually engaging the brakes and not just pushing the rudder pedals forward. I'll tell you more about it at the next chapter meeting. Lets just say Charlie and I are a little grayer and a bit smarter for the experience.

Once we got in the air it was a great flight. Not much chop at all and good visibility. Once we got over Hartford we could see the typical stirrings of a small airport on a nice day. Hangar doors were open, planes were on the ramp, and a few folks were walking around. The weather was good so the little airport was coming to life.

We landed, parked the plane, and walked around a bit. For those of you who have never been to Hartford, it is a small town airport with one grass strip, an asphalt strip and handful of hangars. Simple, clean, and homey.

Its amazing what a person can see and do in a small airport. We met a father and son who arrived in a



Not the L-39 we saw. This is a photo of Bill Jansen's Albatross in Minnesota.

recently completed and not yet painted Zenith. They were visiting a person on the field restoring another plane. Next door there was a gentleman preparing his Acrosport for a flight. While our initial conversation was winding down we noticed a yellow Cub doing pattern work on the field. As it turned out it was Steve Krog and a student getting some time in.

Eventually the Acrosport got into the air and was putting on an aerobatics exhibition high and over the area north of the field. While watching the show we noticed an L-39 preparing for take-off.

Steve and his student eventually landed and taxied over to his hangar. We were surprised to learn that his student was actually John Livingston, President of the Wisconsin Soaring Society.

What a day. I got a free, two-way ride in an airplane. I got to talk about tail draggers with an experienced CFI, met a father and son sharing their passion for aviation, saw an L39 take off from a small airfield, got a terrific sales pitch on the joys of soaring, watched some aerobatics performed by a Paul Poberezny designed plane, and talked with some great people—aviation people. I even got to share lunch with a good friend so we could talk about flying even longer.

I could have spent the weekend watching my basketball teams get decimated in the tournament, but thanks to Charlie I got to DO something and experience something.

What are you going to do this weekend? **EAA252**



This is a photo of the Acrosport P-8 at the EAA AirVenture Museum.

Changes to Chapter Meetings Make Things More Social

In an effort to actually spend time talking with one another and enjoy the company of other 252 members, the officers of Chapter 252 have made some changes to the meeting format.

Last week we instituted the post meeting social and held it at West End Pizza. This new practice will continue, but will be held at either West End Pizza or at the Sonex hangar. Location of the post-meeting social will be announced during the monthly meeting.



Dale Walker of the Green Bay FSS speaking at March chapter meeting.

We will also start having a pre-meeting social period from 6:30 to 7:00 PM. This will allow you to grab a refreshment and a chair before the meeting. Beer, soda and popcorn will be provided in the pre-meeting social and the post meeting social if held at Sonex. If the post meeting social is held at West End Pizza you will have to purchase your own refreshments.

To support this we have asked Jim Casper to volunteer as Chapter Refreshments Coordinator. Jim and the officers of the chapter will be seeking additional volunteers to support Jim and share responsibilities for getting refreshments and setting up prior to meetings. As is our tradition, all members will help with clean-up.

There are a few important notes related to this: (1) Please try not to come too early to the meetings.



Jim Casper holds court with fellow 252 members.

It is important for us to remember that Sonex is not our "clubhouse". It is a place of business that John Monnett is generously providing us access to for our meetings. (2) Active members who do not wear their name tags to chapter meetings will be obligated to buy drinks for new members and guests at post meeting socials—not really, but maybe we should start this.

To volunteer for the Refreshments Committee, contact Jim Casper or Ken Osmond. **EAA252**

Fox Valley Aero Club Seeks New Members



FVAC Cherokee Cruiser



FVAC Beechcraft Sundowner.

The Fox Valley Aero Club is a small, non-profit organization that has been in operation for 25 years. The FVAC is based at Wittman Regional Airport and is located in the East T's.

They currently have two aircraft. The first is a 1980 Beechcraft Sundowner. This is a 4-place, 180 HP, fixed gear IFR certified aircraft with a Garmin 430 GPS. The second aircraft is a 1975 Piper Cherokee Cruiser. A two place, 150 HP, fixed gear aircraft.

Both aircraft have hangar and have engine heaters as well as cabin heaters to keep the planes ready for flying during the winter

season.

FVAC also has two FAA-certificated instructors.

The aircraft are accessible 24 hours a day and can be reserved through the club's online reservation system. The club also boasts a liberal overnight and weekend reservation policy.

The next meeting of the FVAC is scheduled for Monday, May 14 at 18:15 to 19:30 on the second floor of the airport terminal building. For more information contact FVAC President, Barry Yarbro, at 232-0833- or to join the club visit: www.foxvalleyaeroclub.com **EAA252**

Aviation Communications Clinic At Next Chapter Meeting—Improve Your Skills

Our next meeting will feature an aviation communications clinic by 252 Member Jim Kress. As most of you know, Jim is an active CFI



Air Traffic Controller Jeff Moore at Rogue Valley International Airport

as well as a Designated Pilot Examiner for sport pilots. The clinic will refresh your memory on proper ATC communications when operating in Class B, C or D airspace as well as communications with ATC centers during en-route cross country flights. The clinic will be especially beneficial to Sport Pilots who are interested in obtaining the communication privilege described in FAR 61.325. Please bring your logbook for endorsement. **EAA252**

Reminder:

What: Chapter Meeting
When: April 12
Time: 6:30 pm
Where: Sonex Hangar
Speaker: Jim Kress, CFI
Topic: Aviation Communications Clinic

252 Chapter Member “Drops Trou” For Good Cause

A fundraiser was held on March 25th for EAA staffer and local aviation friend Gregg Deimer.



Gregg & Trish Deimer after buying their home several years ago.

Gregg and 252 Member Adam Smith co-own a Clip Wing Cub.

In fall of 2005, Gregg was diagnosed with Melanoma in the lymph nodes of his right leg. His treatment included surgery, which removed 40 nodes, and a clinical trial that involved frequent trips to Madison. This past November, Gregg fell ill again and was diagnosed with a large brain tumor that necessitated emergency surgery. He survived the surgery and is now on a fol-

low-up treatment schedule.

The event, held at the American Legion Hall in Oshkosh, was intended to help Gregg and his lovely wife Trish with some of the enormous expenses incurred during Gregg’s fight against the disease. It was billed as *Sunday Funday* and provided those that attended with music, children’s activities, a silent auction and of course food and drink. Several chapter members were in attendance and also volunteered.

One of the unexpected events was a bidding war to encourage 252 Member Adam Smith to show off



Adam Smith entertaining the crowd.



Adam Smith rocks the house along with Copper Box.

his AC/DC underwear. It should be noted that many bids were also offered to encourage him not to.

Anyway, Adam is a terrific sport who raised additional monies for a wonderful young family. More photos can be found at:

www.sundayfunday2007.org

If you would like to make a donation to support Gregg and Trish you can send your donations to:

Friends of Deimer Fund
c/o FNB Fox Valley
PO Box 2346
Oshkosh, WI 54903-2346

Thank you for any support you can give. **EAA252**

Chapter Fly-Out Scheduled for May 12th

As part of our continuing effort to make the chapter more active, a chapter fly-out has been scheduled for the morning of May 12th.

The destination is the second stop on the 2007 Midwest EAA Chapter's Poker Run. It is also the site of EAA Chapter 838's Pancake Breakfast. Both events will be held at John H. Batten Field (RAC) in Racine, Wisconsin.

Chapter 252 Members Charlie Becker, Mark Ballwanz, Ken Osmond and Steve Lark have already indicated that they will

have seats available to fly members to the event and back. We are also seeking additional pilots from the Oshkosh Pilots Association, the Fox Valley Aero Club and the Freedom of Flight Flying Club to join us.

So far the planes confirmed to be available are a Cessna 172, a Super Cub, and a Piper Arrow. If you would like to obtain a seat on any of the available aircraft, please contact Ken Osmond at 233-2655 or speak with one of the chapter members mentioned to

reserve a seat.

If you plan on flying to the following information will be important:

Meeting Place: Orion

Meeting Time: 8:00 AM

Depart Time: 8:15 AM Sharp!

Return Time: Around Noon

Note: Bring your own headset if possible.

You can also drive to the event, but we recommend an earlier departure if you want to arrive at the same time as the those members flying. **EAA252**

252 Chapter Fly-In Needs Volunteers

We are still looking for volunteers to participate in the planning and execution of this fall's *EAA Chapter 252 Fly-In Pancake Breakfast*.

We hope to make this a strong annual community event and part of the *2007 Midwest EAA Chapter's Poker Run*.

Our success will depend greatly

upon the level of volunteer support needed to prepare for, promote and execute the event.

If you are interested in volunteering for the event contact any of the chapter officers during the meetings or contact Steve Lark, EAA Chapter 252 President.

The event is scheduled for September 15, 2007. **EAA252**

252 Welcomes New Members

EAA Chapter 252 would like to welcome some of its newest members: Loren Larson, David Cook, and Matt Essman.

If you see them at the next meeting, please introduce yourself and welcome them! **EAA252**

User Fee Threat Still Looms Over GA

The fundamental issue is how the White House feels the FAA's annual operating budget and capital improvement initiatives should be funded, who should have control over revenue and how the money is spent.

The Bush Administration believes that a "new funding mechanism" is needed that "ties revenues to costs." As a result, the Administration has proposed radical changes in the way the FAA is both funded and controlled. Their idea is to implement a user-fee funding mechanism, significantly increase fuel taxes for GA, and a dramatically

reduce the general fund contribution (from all taxpayers) to fund FAA operations. This approach would effectively shift the financial burden of the national air-space system to the direct users of the system, ignoring the value of air transportation to the nation's economy as a whole.

EAA has always been actively involved in government advocacy efforts on behalf of everyone who enjoys aviation. But user fees threaten the freedom to fly at the very core of recreational aviation.

Help EAA and other general aviation groups by becoming in-

formed about the user fee issue and participating in efforts to stop this legislation. eaa.org/govt/index.html

EAA252

Poker-Run Events Calendar

May 6 **EAA 22 Fly-In Breakfast**
Courtesy Aircraft
Rockford International Apt (RFD)
Rockford, IL

May 12 **EAA 838 Pancake Breakfast**
John H. Batten Field (RAC)
Racine, WI
**EAA 252 Fly-Out*

May 19 **EAA 60 Spring Fling**
All-You-Can-Eat Breakfast
Beloit Airport (44C)
Beloit, WI

EAA 252

Steve Wittman Chapter

PYLON

Newsletter

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About Us

Our chapter is named after famed aircraft designer, airplane racer and Oshkosh resident Steve Wittman.

EAA Chapter 252 offers the opportunity to share the spirit of aviation with a group of local EAA members.

Our members are mostly people who enjoy the company of others who love aircraft, are fascinated by flight, and appreciate the history of aviation in America. They include r/c enthusiasts, pilots, aircraft builders, and aircraft owners.

Join Us!

Regularly meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM. Dates are subject to change, call to confirm, visit us at www.eaa252.org. Annual dues are \$20 for all current members of the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA).



Fellowship in Flight.