

## Chapter Meeting at the Sky Ranch

Yes, we are having a July Chapter meeting. Bob Warner has agreed to play host to previously unscheduled meeting of Chapter 252. Originally, we were taking the month off due to AirVenture as we normally do, but what the hey? Lets, meet and check out the Sky Ranch.

The EAA Chapter 252 - Oshkosh meeting will take place on July 11th, beginning at 6 pm.

Please RSVP to: noel@noelmarshall.com so they have a head count for food and drink. If you plan on flying in, let them know that as well so bob can brief you.

Price of admission will be (1) a \$3 donation for the chicken, (2) a food dish to "pass", (3) Your own lawn chair(s).

Bob, Noel and the Sky Ranch will supply the runway, open-air meeting space and drinks. **Please bring your family or a guest!**

If you drive, enter by the "Ranch

House" (6289 County Road E) driveway; go behind the garage and out the mowed path.

If you plan to fly in and are not on the "approved list" (if you have not landed at 2WN8 yet), please contact me for instructions and official permission. Bob needs RSVPs from everyone planning to fly, so he can give you the final OK for runway conditions on Tuesday.

All chapter business will be discussed. Specifically, we will have a discussion on the possible establishment of periodic "Sky Ranch Wednesdays" or some other type of frequent summer chapter activity. This will be discussed in the larger context of making our summer events more participation oriented, while we still focus on the speakers series during the colder months.

This is your chapter, help us formulate a calendar of events that has something for everyone—especially YOU. **EAA252**

## Chapter Calendar Dates

Your comments and suggestions regarding chapter activities is much appreciated. Please submit your ideas to Steve Lark at 688-2941 or [skylark7@aol.com](mailto:skylark7@aol.com).

NEW	Chapter Activity
July 11	Sky Ranch Fly-In and Cook-Out
Aug	NO MEETING
Sept 15	EAA 252 Pancake Fly-In
Sept	Munsil's Annual Corn Roast
Oct	Wayne Daniel's Annual Chili Bash Wayne's Hangar
Nov	Chapter Meeting 7:00 PM Sonex Hangar
Dec	Chapter Meeting 7:00 PM Sonex Hangar



Above—Directions to the Sky Ranch from Wittman Field.

**70 DAYS  
 UNTIL  
 OUR  
 CHAPTER  
 FLY-IN**

Please think about how you would like to contribute to an event important to the future of our chapter.

# The Benefits of Opening Your Home for EAA

OSHKOSH—(The Ballwanz Family) Fifteen years ago, our families understanding of EAA was that for 1 week each summer, it took a little longer to maneuver around Oshkosh & you cooked at home because every restaurant was busy. As new homeowner's that year, we decided to open up a few rooms for people attending AirVenture to stay, and in the process, make a little extra money.

During our first year, we had a couple from Texas and a single woman from Canada. We really didn't know anything about the aviation field at this point, and really didn't have a desire to learn more. These folks were polite & kept to themselves. The positive was that we earned some money. So, we decided to open up our home the following year. We registered with the Convention Bureau and received a curious call from a potential couple from Michigan. They asked, "How old is your home?" We had just built our house, so we were happy to say "Two years old, why?" As we would later learn, this couple had previously rented from some college students, in a home near the UW-Oshkosh campus. Need I say more?!

After staying with us, they asked if they could "book" our house for the following year. They continued to stay with us for the next 7 years & became part of our family. And, as part of our family they were welcome to stay as long as they liked, at no charge. They knew us when it was just Mark & I (and our cat Kelly). They saw the addition of our dog Max to our family, as well as our daughter Alex. Our daughter refers to them as "Uncle Al & Aunt Ginny".

Al & Ginny's enthusiasm for aviation was contagious. They invited us to attend the air show & took the time to show us around the grounds. Al is a CFI, who taught both of his sons to fly as children. They used to camp out at AirVenture underneath the wing of their plane. Both of these young men

are currently pursuing their aviation careers in the U.S. military. Al also inspired Mark to consider taking flight lessons. Although not initially too keen on this, Mark chose to follow-up on an ad in the paper from a local FBO. He was one of eight students to take ground school classes. His flight instructor assessed the students & Mark was the least likely person he expected to return for more instruction. Mark saw flying as a challenge & has been hooked ever since his initial instructions. Al was one of the first people Mark called upon receiving his license. He hopes to some day pass along his enthusiasm to our daughter who is now 7 years old. He may have his hands full with that goal!

Al & Ginny have since retired & no longer make the yearly trek to AirVenture. However, we were lucky enough to stay with them a few days during a recent family trip to Florida.

We have continued to open up our home to a number of aviation enthusiasts from Hawaii which we met while vacationing there, a helicopter pilot from Cincinnati who does medical transports, and several gentleman from England that Mark flew with on a recent visit to the U.K.

Although our own EAA "venture" started out as a way to make a little extra money in the summer, it has blossomed into much more. We have made some wonderful friends!! And, Mark has found a hobby that he truly enjoys & loves to share with anyone who wants to fly with him. [EAA252](#)

*(Editors Note: Mark Ballwanz currently serves as your Chapter Secretary and is doing a great job. He lives in Oshkosh with his wife and daughter. He is an active pilot who frequently rents at Orion as well as flying with other chapter members. Make a point of stopping Mark at the next meeting and saying hello.)*

## June Speaker

At Right: Fred Stadler, EAA 252 Member and accomplished local pilot, speaks to the membership about the Swallow and its history. [EAA252](#)



## Meeting Reminder:

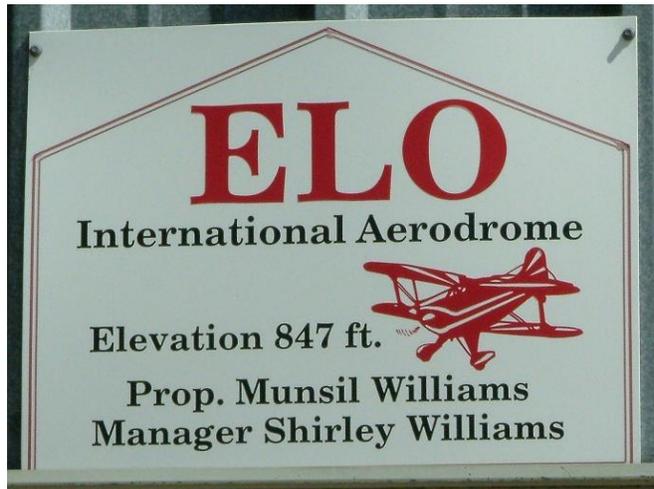
**What:** Chapter Meeting  
**When:** July 11  
**Time:** 6:00 pm  
**Where:** The Sky Ranch

# Chapter Photo Roundup for June 2007



## Strike a Pose

At Right: Charlie Becker shows off his legs during pre-flight. However, no matter how hard he tries, his personal aesthetic does not detract from the cool little airplane behind him. At Right: Munsil Williams greets visitors to Elo with Charlie Becker. [EAA252](#)



## A Tale of Two Towers

Left: The ATC tower currently under construction at Wittman Regional Airport. Right: Mark Ballwanz standing in front of aircraft near the Elo silo (tower). Above Right: The sign above the hangar at Elo. Above Left: On Final at

**EAA 252**

Steve Wittman Chapter

**PYLON**

**Newsletter**

---

**President**

Steve Lark, 920.688.2941

**Vice President**

Ken Osmond, 920.233.2655

**Secretary**

Mark Ballwanz, 920.688.5031

**Treasurer**

Charlie Becker, 920.426.1854

**Young Eagles Coordinator**

Steve Lark, 920.688.2941

**Membership**

Ken Osmond, 920.233.2655

**Newsletter Editor (Interim)**

Ken Osmond, 920.233.2655

**E-Mail Questions To**

eaachapter252@aol.com



---

**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](http://www.eaa252.org). Annual dues are \$20 for all current members of the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA).*



*Fellowship in Flight.*