

2007 Year in Review

Quite a bit has happened this year that we should take a moment to reflect on. Events have occurred that have touched us all as individuals and as a chapter.

As Americans we are all well aware that we are a nation at war. The implications of this are far too involved to address here, but nonetheless this fact does color or at least put into perspective the discussion. After all, most of the members of this chapter have served in the United States Armed Forces and many have experienced war first hand. It is a tendency for people like to be mindful of young men and women in harm's way. This fact above many others is what makes our collection of citizens, aviation enthusiasts, airport bums, and patriots so unique.

Other stories and events that mark the times were the i-Phone introduction, high gas prices, Virginia-Tech, Chinese product worries, troop surges and bridge collapses.

Moving on to aviation. The year saw massive air transportation snarls leading to near passenger revolts, record aircraft orders flowing into Boeing, embarrassing delays for Airbus, and a brand new push for

manned space exploration by NASA. At the same time NASA decided to release its air safety database to the media. On the lighter side, John Travolta sued his airport for not letting him use the runway for his 707 after he purchased a massive compound on the neighboring airport.

Perhaps one of the biggest stories this year involved a friend to aviation and it captivated the world. Steve Fossett, millionaire, pilot, record breaker, and adventurer went missing on a fairly routine trip this year. A huge loss to our community to be sure.

In our own neck of the woods, we experienced some change of our own. We had a very successful Pancake Breakfast Fly-in that was high in attendance and chapter volunteer participation. We began separating our events schedule into a warm-weather outdoor program and a cold weather indoor program. We added a social period to the beginning and end of each meeting so that we can actually spend time with each other instead of just listening to lectures. Members participated in fly-outs all over the state. The airport witnessed the construction of a new tower, runway improvements and navigational upgrades. EAA headquarters relaunched their website and retooled *Sport Aviation* magazine.

Interesting times to say the least. Regardless of the impact the importance of these events lies in the fact that we shared in them together. Members of fraternity that has no equal. **EAA252**



Photo—Steve Fossett

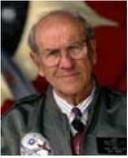
Chapter Calendar Dates

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

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|-----------------|---|
| <i>Jan 10</i> | Chapter Meeting
6:30 PM
Sonex Hangar |
| <i>Feb 2</i> | EAA252 Oshkosh Aviation Celebration of Flight Banquet
6:30 PM
Eagle Hangar
EAA Air-Venture Museum |
| <i>March 13</i> | Chapter Meeting
6:30 PM
Sonex Hangar |
| <i>April 10</i> | Chapter Meeting
6:30 PM
Sonex Hangar |
| <i>May 8</i> | Chapter Meeting
6:30 PM
Sonex Hangar |

**281 DAYS
 UNTIL OUR
 CHAPTER
 FLY-IN**
 (OOPS! We said 272 last month!)
 Please think about how you would like to contribute to an event important to the future of our chapter.

A Special Message from Paul Poberezny



November 30, 2007

TO: ALL EAA CHAPTER PRESIDENTS,
NEWSLETTER EDITORS

When I read through the history of your EAA, living every day for half a century plus, I truly know how time flies.

I want to share with you some of the thoughts of our members as they appeared in our *Sport Aviation* magazine back in 1963. The organization of dreamers, homebuilders and fellow aviation supporters building/designing their aircraft under the CAA/FAA 51% rule we worked so diligently for and earned is something to be treasured. One can build his or her airplane for educational and recreational purposes and friends can work with you for their own educational value. Really, we can build one half of it – the other half, such as engines, propellers, wheels, brakes, instruments, radios, items not normally within the capabilities of those who work with hand and mind can be purchased. Now we are faced with a situation of the FAA amateur building program being used for commercial purposes – from building complete aircraft or well over the half mark ... not within the intent of the program given to us by those CAA/FAA folks who believed in us. *Let's hope we don't lose this privilege.*

Sincerely,
Paul H. Poberezny
Founder and Chairman of the Board
Experimental Aircraft Association

Link to the Article: "Experimental Or Not" by [the late] Joe Kirk, EAA 2023

http://www.eaa.org/sportaviation/2007/november/1963_02_kirk.pdf

Published in *Sport Aviation* magazine; February 1963

Meeting Reminder:

What: Chapter Meeting
When: December 13th
6:30 PM
Where: Sonex Hangar
Speaker: Mike Krug
NCOIC of TERPS, Volk Field
Topic: [*Air Operations In Iraq*](#)

Excerpt from the article:



Experimental Or Not?

By Joe Kirk, EAA 2023
3405 Harrington, Rockford, Ill.

Let's stop and examine our collective conscience. By "up-grading" our organization, are we **truly** up-grading the direction of our movement? Or are we, without realizing, taking the easier down hill road to creeping conformism?

By eliminating the word "experimental," are we truly ridding ourselves of an imagined stigma, or are we unwittingly putting our foot in the door and holding it ajar for the moral, if not the physical, control of free-thinking and unfettered creativity? By so doing, are we alienating the up and coming Stits' and Maules', discouraging the future Wittmans', and consolidating a status quo for the conformist?

Is the Experimental Aircraft Association flexible enough to contain the enterprising individual, the free-thinking experimenter and tinkerer, the fun-loving sportsman as well as the general enthusiast whose sole enjoyment is lending moral support and watching new developments grow first-hand? Is the EAA big enough to contain the staid, the bizarre; the new, the old; the proven, the untried? Can the EAA be a haven both for the conformist and non-conformist? Personally, I believe that it can. But the real answer lies within you — it's **your** Association.



Celebrity Pilot of the Month:

Morgan Freeman turned down a partial drama scholarship from Jackson State University in 1955, opting to work as a mechanic in the United States Air Force.

2008 EAA252 Oshkosh Aviation Celebration

**EAA AirVenture Museum, Oshkosh, WI
Saturday, February 2nd, 2008**

Hosted by EAA Chapter 252 / Steve Wittman Chapter
Master of Ceremonies: John Monnett

Guest Speaker: Greg Cayon

Greg is a past Air Force One pilot and fly's as a corporate pilot for Kohler Corporation. Greg will share his experiences and stories from his days as a pilot for Air Force One.

**Cocktails at 6:00 pm (cash bar)
Catered Dinner by LaSure's at 7:00 pm
Carved Prime Rib and Turkey and all the trimmings!**

Come & join us for a memorable evening with
Aviators, Airplanes, Food & Fun!

Win great Door Prizes!

Participate in the "Silent Auction" of Aviation Items!

Invited guests and aviation legends include:
Paul & Audrey Poberezny * Gene & Dorothy Chase
Norm & Loretta Petersen * John & Betty Monnett
Bill Brennand * Munsil Williams

\$25.00 per person

(\$20 for dues-paid Chapter 252 members)

Please reserve your tickets no later than January 21st, 2008

Payment in advance.

RSVP to:

Charlie Becker, Treasurer, Chapter 252
3965 Sharratt Dr., Oshkosh, WI 54901
Phone (920) 426-1854 or eaapilot@sbcglobal.net

*Open to all EAA members, aviation enthusiasts, and friends.
Help make our annual event a night to remember!*

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

Bob Warner,
noelbob@netzero.com

Membership

Ken Osmond, 920.233.2655

Newsletter Editor

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. Annual dues are \$20 for all current members of the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA).



Fellowship in Flight.