



# EAA 252 OSHKOSH Steve Wittman Chapter

Issue  
April 2009  
April 3, 2009

Oshkosh – Sport Aviation Capitol of the World Oshkosh – Sport Aviation Capitol of the World Oshkosh – Sport Aviation Capitol of the World Oshkosh – Sport

## Next Chapter 252 Meeting

No Regular  
Meeting in  
April.

## Steve Wittman - Birthday Fly-In -

The event is only a day or two away. As reported previously, our Chapter is hosting a fly-in to commemorate Steve Wittman's 105<sup>th</sup> birthday this Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, and **your help is needed. If you can't help out by working at the event, gather up your friends and family and bring them out for breakfast!**

The breakfast will be held in the Airport Terminal building. It's being promoted as a combination pancake breakfast fly-in; car show, R/C demos, Young Eagle rides, etc..



## Chapter 252 Aeromart!

As discussed at the last regular meeting, our Chapter was presented with the opportunity to take over management and operation of the Aeromart at EAA Airventure. A motion was made by Doc Mosher and seconded by Paul Votava, and voted upon - so it's official! President Wayne Daniels recently advised EAA that Chapter 252 would take over Aeromart, and Jim Kress has volunteered to help manage it (Co-Chairman). Members of the board will be meeting with members of the West Bend Chapter (who previously operated it) to discuss the hand over. It is estimated that Aeromart requires about 6 people per shift to man it, so your assistance will be needed!

Chapter 252 is not entirely on their own in this operation. Charlie Becker announced that EAA normally stores items that are left over after the air show, and they do get a 50% cut of the net profits. He also mentioned that Aeromart would be moved from its most recent location in the fly-market area to somewhere near Camp Scholler.

At the meeting it was recommended that EAA consider putting up a more permanent structure to house at least a portion of Aeromart.

The Chapter officers are looking for an additional person who is interested in participating in the Aeromart project as a Co-Chairman. Contact President Wayne Daniels if you are interested.

## 2009 dues are now past due.

Dues must have been received **before** **March 31<sup>st</sup>** to avoid being dropped from the Chapter membership.

Contact Janet Davidson  
3218 Bellfield Rd  
Oshkosh, WI 54904  
to reinstate your membership.

## Wanted – Chapter 252 Historical Information and Memorabilia

This editor would like to write up the history of our Chapter 252. Anyone having old newsletters, stories, etc. about the Chapter are requested to contact the Newsletter Editor. Of particular interest is information about the very early days of the Chapter. We believe the Chapter was not always located in Oshkosh –

but need information to document it. Information and documents will be returned.

Also, the Chapter is seeking out examples of old, and not so old, Chapter memorabilia that could be used as part of a display for the new Founders Wing section of the EAA museum. If you have something that would be suitable, and are willing to see it become part of the display, please contact Vice President Doug Milius or one of the other officers.

## 2009 Chapter Calendar and Wittman Airport Events

### April 4<sup>th</sup>

Steve Wittman Birthday,  
Chapter 252 fly-in  
Wittman Terminal Building

### April 25<sup>th</sup>

Fox Valley Tech airport campus  
Fly-in breakfast

### May 14<sup>th</sup>

Chapter 252 meeting  
The Airplane Factory

### May 23<sup>rd</sup>

Fly-in breakfast, Orion Flight  
Services, Wittman Airport

### June 11<sup>th</sup>

Chapter 252 meeting  
Pioneer Airport

### July 27<sup>th</sup> – Aug. 2<sup>nd</sup>

Aeromart 252  
EAA Air Venture

### September 10<sup>th</sup>

Corn roast and pot luck at ELO  
International, 6:00 PM

### September 12<sup>th</sup>

EAA Chapter 252 fly-in breakfast  
EAA Weeks Hangar

### October 10<sup>th</sup>

Chili bash, Wayne Daniels (7<sup>th</sup>  
Heaven) hangar

### November 12<sup>th</sup>

Chapter 252 Meeting, TBD

### December 10<sup>th</sup>

Chapter 252 Meeting, TBD

For Wisconsin aviation events check out  
the calendars at:

<http://www.eaa.org/calendar/>

[http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/travel/air/  
fly-ins.htm](http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/travel/air/fly-ins.htm)

## FOR SALE:

Homebuilt Great Lakes project,  
including the following; Fuselage  
(essentially complete, only lacking some  
final brackets and fittings), Landing Gear  
complete including shock struts, welded  
steel tail feathers, complete set  
homebuilt wing ribs, complete set of  
struts, wing fittings, fuel tank firewall,  
and other miscellaneous items. **Let's  
make a deal!** Contact Joe Norris at  
[tailwheelpilot@hughes.net](mailto:tailwheelpilot@hughes.net) or 920-426-  
6806.

## Fox Valley Tech Fly-In Pancake Breakfast

On Saturday April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009 join the  
students and instructors of the airport  
campus for their second annual fly-  
in/drive-in pancake breakfast and open  
house.

Scheduled to run from 7:00 A.M. until  
Noon. The menu includes pancakes; eggs;  
ham, bacon, or sausage; coffee or juice,  
and fresh made mini-donuts. The price is  
\$6.00 per person.

From 10 until 11:00 A.M. the school  
will also host a safety seminar: Using the  
WSI Pilotbrief Online Weather System, in  
room 104A.

This is a great opportunity to support  
the school and its students, get a tour of the  
facilities, and enjoy breakfast with friends.

## UW-Madison Pilot Simulator Study Volunteers Needed

**Attention General Aviation Pilots!  
Help promote GA safety by  
participating in a Pilot Simulator Study!**

The University of Wisconsin-Madison  
is conducting an FAA-supported research  
project to evaluate pilot flight skills and  
decision-making during cross-country  
flights. They are currently seeking **private  
pilots (single engine land) that are not  
instrument rated** to participate in a brief  
simulator session.

Participants will be asked to "fly" an  
advanced PC-based flight simulator located  
on the University of Wisconsin-Madison  
campus. Participation in this study would  
require you travel to the campus for a 1½  
to 2 hr session. This session would involve  
filling out a questionnaire about your flight  
experience and completing a short cross-  
country flight in the flight simulator.

Participants will be compensated  
\$10/hour for their participation and  
reimbursed for some travel expenses. Your  
participation will be kept completely  
confidential.

The project is sponsored by the FAA  
through a grant with the University of  
Wisconsin – Madison. Participation is  
voluntary and you are free to discontinue  
participation at any point during the  
experiment with no loss in payment for the  
time invested up to that point. All

## Welcome New Members

### Jim Soyk

Jim is not a current pilot but comes to the  
Chapter with a significant aviation  
background.

He moved to Wisconsin from northern  
Idaho. While living in Lewiston, Idaho he  
served as a member of the airport  
commission, and was an organizer of the  
local air show.

He came to the Oshkosh area in 1998 to  
take a job position with EAA where he is  
now the Senior Videographer Editor.

Jim did solo in fixed wing, took  
helicopter lessons, and owned an Ercoupe  
for a while. His latest thoughts have been  
about maybe building or buying a Light  
Sport airplane – something like a Sonex  
might do nicely!

Interest in aviation runs in his family as  
well. His wife Verna has indicated she  
would like to learn how to fly someday,  
and their youngest son Steven is interested  
making a career out of aviation.

Jim and Verna live in Ripon with  
their oldest son Steven. They have another  
son who is presently serving with the  
Marines in Iraq, and a daughter who lives  
in Idaho with her family.

## Chapter Hangar Planning

Your Chapter officers have formed a  
committee, lead by Steve Lark, to  
investigate the options available for a  
permanent Chapter clubhouse/hangar.

At this time they are establishing a list  
of project requirements, the needs of the  
Chapter. They are also investigating the  
options available for building locations on  
Wittman Airport, and basic structure  
configuration.

The goal is to be able to provide the  
Chapter with a firm recommendation near  
year's end.

information obtained through this  
experiment will be kept confidential.

If you are interested, please contact  
Professor Douglas Wiegmann at (608)  
890-1932 or via email at  
[dawiegmann@wisc.edu](mailto:dawiegmann@wisc.edu).

Pass this information along to your pilot  
friends even if you do not wish to  
participate or don't qualify.

## President's Message



By Wayne Daniels

Spring has Sprung!! At least the calendar sez so. Our March meeting had an excellent presentation from Keith Myers. As an FAA Accident Prevention Specialist Keith reminded us of many things that may have escaped our thought process over the long winter. As the days become warmer and longer and the airplanes come out of the hangars the review was both entertaining and thought provoking. Ya'll fly safe now!

April 4 is our next big chapter event in the Steve Wittman Birthday celebration and pancake breakfast. I hope everyone will participate in some way to make this a successful event for the chapter. Hey, remind your family and friends to come out to the terminal for some pancakes!

As was discussed at the last chapter meeting, we are taking on a huge project in running the Aeromart tent during AirVenture. The West Bend chapter has decided to no longer manage the Aeromart and this would be a terrific loss to the annual convention. Many EAA members depend on this to obtain that difficult to find part for their project. This project is a great opportunity for the chapter to generate significant funding toward our goal of a chapter hangar. Of course this will require some effort by our membership. I would like to see every member make a commitment to work at least one shift during the week to make this a success. Of course if you want to work more, I am sure we will have slots available. In the coming weeks a committee will be meeting with the West Bend chapter to learn about the requirements in operating the Aeromart. I want to thank Jim Kress for volunteering to co-chair this project. Please give him the help he will need.



## 2009, Anniversary of S. J. Wittman Retirement, Wittman Airport Dedication & Air Show

This year, 2009, marks the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of S. J. Wittman's retirement as the manager of Winnebago County Airport. To acknowledge his long service to the community, the County honored Wittman by re-naming the airport in his name, as **Wittman Field**.

That same year a large air show was held on Wittman Field as part of the dedication. The event was sponsored by the S.J. Wittman Airport Committee, the National Experimental Aircraft Assoc., the Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce, the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors, and EAA Chapter 252.

It was a grand air show, a predecessor of things to come for Oshkosh. All of the EAA air show regulars performed: Nick Rezich and Bob Lyjak (the Polish

Airforce?), Bob Hoover, Dale Crites, Carroll Dietz, Pete Meyers, and others – including Paul Poberzny in the P-64.

It was reported that in the early days of Oshkosh aviation, small landing fields were located in various locations near the city. The first airplane in Oshkosh, built by Harry Powers and Arthur Leupold in 1912, and was photographed at the Winnebago County Fairgrounds. The present airport location was established on 100 acres of land in 1927. The Winnebago County Board of Supervisors purchased the airport in 1940, the same year that Wittman was named the official manager. Commercial air travel and freight service were initiated in 1948 by North Central Airlines.

**AIR SHOW**  
PROGRAM FOR DEDICATION  
**S. J. WITTMAN FIELD**  
JULY 26<sup>TH</sup> - 27<sup>TH</sup> 1969  
MILITARY AND NAVY DISPLAYS!  
E.A.A. FLY-IN! AERIAL ACROBATICS!  
MIDGET PLANE RACES!  
WARBIRDS! HOME-BUILTS!  
SOUVENIR PROGRAM 75¢

## Steve Wittman Recalls History As Manager of Oshkosh Airport

*In our family aviation files we re-discovered a file on Steve Wittman, and the early days of EAA. This file contained a detailed biographical sketch of Wittman's aviation history compiled by an unidentified author, date unknown but is believed to have been accomplished in conjunction with the airport dedication. Part of the biography includes this first hand account of Wittman's history as airport manager.*

I came to Oshkosh in 1931 to manage the airport. From 1931 to 1940, I ran a flying school, built racing airplanes, did a great deal of racing, and also built a conventional two-place experimental airplane.

Between 1940 and the month of November, 1943, one hundred three War Training and Civil Pilot Training students were given 35 to 45 hours of flight training, and received their pilot's license at my flight school.

Beginning in May, 1943, I started an Army Indoctrination Course which was given to 699 students. Each student received 10 hours of flight instruction. In addition to the C.A.P., W.T.S. and the Army Indoctrination students, the school also had 103 private students, of which eleven received their Flight Instructor Rating.

Since 1940, I have been a Flight Examiner for the Civil Aeronautics Administration. I gave flight tests to all of the C.A.P. and W.T.S. students and to all the private students that took enough flight instruction to qualify for a private or commercial license. In addition, I gave 26 Flight tests for private pilot licenses to students who received their flight training at other airports.

In giving this training, we flew 17,865 hours, which is equivalent to 1,339,857 miles, with only four minor accidents and no personal injuries.

During the War Training Service and Civil Pilot Training Programs, I was obliged to furnish my own airplanes, and assume all responsibility as to maintenance and insurance. Our school had six training ships and five instructors were employed up to the time the Army Indoctrination started.

When the Army Indoctrination Course started in May, 1943, I was obliged to rent

training ships from the Government and was forced to dispose of my own ships to make room for the Government ships, of which there were eighteen. I assumed all responsibility for the maintenance of these ships and any damage to them. In the winter of 1942, I was obliged to give up my 4-passenger Cessna airplane to the government for advanced training.

During the Army Indoctrination Program, I employed fourteen flight instructors, one licensed airplane and engine mechanic beside myself, five mechanics helpers and three line men. During the Army Indoctrination, four hundred eighty-nine students were given 10 hours of flight instruction each. In addition, we also trained fifty-two private pilots, twelve flight instructors, and eight students from other airports received their private pilots license. During this period of training we flew 5,640 hours, which is equivalent to 423,000 miles, with no accident whatsoever. The Army Indoctrination Course closed May 1944.

Since the war, Wittman Flying Service has gone back to a normal airport routine of Flight Instruction, Charter Work, Aircraft and Engine Maintenance, Recertification of Aircraft, Racing, Air Show Work, Designing and Building Airplanes.

1957 I sold my Flight Service to Warren Basler, now known at the Basler Flight Service. I retained my position as manager of the Winnebago County Airport. I still hold my F.A.A. Aircraft and Engine Authorization Certificate for inspection Aircraft and engines. Do a bit of designing, building of aircraft and racing.



*Wittman looks over the EAA Baby Ace.  
Photo taken in 1955.*

## Chapter 252 in 1969

Our Chapter and its members have had a long history of supporting Wittman Airport and it's activities. From the dedication of Wittman Field, to establishing what we hope to be an annual event of honoring Steve Wittman on the date of his birth. Long before EAA Headquarters moved into the area, Chapter 252 was a focal point for aviation activity for individuals in the Oshkosh, and surrounding area.

In 1969 our Chapter, the Steve Wittman Chapter, was lead by officers: President Joe Poklasny, Oshkosh V.P. Glen Moore, Waukau Sec. Jerry Poad, Winneconne Treas. Clifford Karrels, Oshkosh On the Board of Directors were: Don Perry, Appleton Steve Wittman, Oshkosh.

In addition to the officers, the chapter membership list consisted of: Ardan Hjelle, Oakfield Jim Pinkerton, Brandon Richard Birkholz, Van Dyne Ray Koval, Fond du Lac Earl Grunski, Neenah Joe Wissink, Neenah Robert Bair, Brownville Jim Martin, Neenah Jack Wojahn, Oshkosh Dick DeCramer, Sheboygan Falls Art Gunderson, Neenah Dick Hanselman, Neenah Jerry Trettin, Kaukauna Dick Verhoven, Kaukauna Fred Rayner, Green Bay John Dowd, Green Bay Donald Krake, Shiocton Jules Drover, Ripon Bob Parmentier, Green Bay Henry Goodearle, Appleton Ron Kositzke, Appleton David Jameson, Oshkosh Jack Dengel, Appleton Larry Southard, Waupun Kenneth Long, Markesan Ken Corbett, Oshkosh Don Tuchscherer, Oshkosh Don Ford, Fond du Lac Milton Colden, Clintonville Allen Bernette, Omro John Jones, King Jerry Christl, Waupun Elsworth Bentley,

# EAA Chapter 252 Meeting Minutes

## March 12th, 2009

Location: Sonex

Board Members present: Charlie Becker, Wayne Daniels, Janet Davidson, Doug Milius, Randy Novak, Eric Von, Jim Casper

### Proceedings

- Wayne Daniels introduced guest speaker, Keith Myers. Keith gave a very informative and entertaining presentation on brushing off the winter cobwebs – accident prevention and a general flight review. Some snippets from Keith's presentation include:  
*"Accidents are usually caused by a pilot trying to do too much too soon, followed by too little too late"*  
Accident figures 2007/2008 for Wisconsin give some food for thought.... Of 73 reported accidents, of which: 30 fatal, 42 general aviation aircraft, 20 experimental aircraft, 7 helicopters, 4 commercial aircraft.
- Wayne continued the evening with welcoming guests and new members, including a couple of guests from the local area, and new members – Bob Baier's daughter, Cindy.
- Steve Wittman's birthday/fly in/pancake breakfast –**
  - John Egan has done a lot of work on this and gave an update to members on the progress being made. He had a sign up sheet available for volunteers, and is looking for more volunteers to help on the day. He can be contacted at [johnegan99@yahoo.com](mailto:johnegan99@yahoo.com) or 920-419-5631.
  - Eric Von is taking care of YE flights that day, and Janet Davidson will be the pilot coordinator/briefer. Randy Novak has offered to do the pre-flight briefing for the YE on the day.
  - John Monnett offered his power point presentation of Steve Wittman for display at the event.
  - Jim Casper is in charge of aircraft parking, and is putting together a team of volunteers.
- Byron, WI Wittman sign** – Jim Casper and John Egan have been helping to design a sign for the town of Byron, Wittman's birthplace. The sign will be in place by Memorial Day and Jim is hoping EAA will be able to help with a flyover during the ceremony. Chapter 252 has helped with the funding for the sign. Jim will be at Byron to give a talk on Monday, March 16, 2009.
- Hangar construction** – Steve Lark has put together a committee to take forward the plans to build a chapter hangar at Wittman. The committee is Doug Milius, Jim Casper, Randy Novak and Joe Norris.
- Aeromart** – Charlie Becker outlined the future plans for the Aeromart at AirVenture. The West Bend Chapter, who ran it up until 2008, have decided to pull out, and it was decided that Chapter 252 could pick up the challenge of continuing with this very popular part of AirVenture. It will take a lot of hard work and strong involvement from volunteers, but the financial return should put the Chapter in a strong position to take on the financial responsibilities of the proposed hangar.  
Wayne Daniels is in charge of the plans, along with Jim Kress. Please contact Wayne if you would like to be involved in running Aeromart.
- Calendar for 2009**
  - April 4<sup>th</sup>** – Steve Wittman's birthday/fly in/pancake breakfast – Wittman Airport
  - May 14<sup>th</sup>** – presentation by Paul Poberezny – at the Airplane Factory
  - June 11<sup>th</sup>** – Bill Ziert to do a presentation on helicopters at Pioneer Airport.
  - July 27<sup>th</sup> – Aug 2<sup>nd</sup>** – Aeromart at AirVenture
  - September 12<sup>th</sup>** - fly-in breakfast – probable location, EAA Weeks hangar
  - September 10<sup>th</sup>** - corn roast/brat fry at Munsils, 6:00 PM, also potluck
  - October 10<sup>th</sup>** - chili bash at Wayne's hangar (7<sup>th</sup> Heaven)



Minutes submitted by secretary, Janet Davidson





641 Bowen St.  
Oshkosh, WI 54901



**Newsletters Are Available  
On-Line at [www.eaa252.org](http://www.eaa252.org)**

Items for submission are welcome and must be received by the newsletter editor no later than 2 weeks prior to the monthly meeting date.

**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).*

<p><b>President – Wayne Daniels</b> 3778 Red Oak Ct Oshkosh, WI 54901 (920) 233-0410 wedan444@sbcglobal.net</p> <p><b>Vice President – Doug Milius</b> 1305 Maricopa Dr Oshkosh, WI 54904 (920) 231-9237 drmilius@sbcglobal.net</p>	<p><b>Secretary/Membership – Janet Davidson</b> 3218 Bellfield Rd Oshkosh, WI 54904 (920) 232-9238 gbvfx@hotmail.com</p> <p><b>Treasurer – Charlie Becker</b> 3965 Sharratt Dr Oshkosh, WI 54901 920/426-1854 eaapilot@sbcglobal.net</p>	<p><b>Young Eagles – Eric Von</b> 983 Cozy Ln Oshkosh, WI 54901 (920) 230-6403 evon@eaa.org</p> <p><b>Newsletter Editor – Randy Novak</b> 641 Bowen St. Oshkosh, WI 54901 920/426-2763 randyknovak@hotmail.com</p>
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