



EAA 252 OSHKOSH Steve Wittman Chapter

Issue
May 2009
May 4, 2009

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

Next Chapter 252 Meeting

May 14th

Doors Open at
6:30 PM
Meeting starts at
7:00 PM

**The Airplane
Factory**
(near the EAA farm
house complex/
camping area)

From the EAA Museum go south on the East frontage road. Turn left (east) on Schaick Ave. (first drive south of the main campground entrance) to enter the EAA grounds. Go East on Schaick, and turn left at Doolittle. You'll see a collection of port-a-potty's and trailers on your left. Look for a red and white building.

Snacks & treats always appreciated!

To Join EAA Chapter 252

Annual membership is \$20.00, and is payable each January 1st.

Contact:
Chapter Secretary
Janet Davidson
3218 Bellfield Rd
Oshkosh, WI 54904

May Meeting At “The Airplane Factory”

Paul Poberezny, Founder and Past Chairman of the Board of EAA, has agreed to host the May Chapter meeting at his shop, “The Airplane Factory”. Chapter members will get to see the projects currently in process, as well as many other interesting and historical items that are on display.

Over the years a number of airplanes have been built or restored in the shop by Paul and his friends. Past projects completed include a Curtiss Robin, PT-3, and Swallow. The latest project in process is a Gere Sport Biplane project, right out of the old 1933 Flying Manual.

It promises to be an interesting evening, don't miss out on the opportunity.

Aeromart Update

Your Chapter officers and members who have volunteered to help manage this event have met several times to review the project. Some discussions with EAA management and members of the West Bend Chapter who previously operated it have taken place.

As mentioned at the last meeting, this is a big project for the Chapter. Your time and support will be needed before, during, and after AirVenture. Watch future newsletters for more information.

Lindbergh Foundation Award Celebration

Scheduled for May 16, 2009, at the EAA AirVenture Museum. The event is open to the public; tickets are \$80.00 for EAA members. For more information, and to make a reservation for the event, visit: www.lindberghfoundation.org and follow the Awards and Events link to Lindbergh award.

The Lindbergh Foundation is recognized for encouraging a reasonable balance of technology combined with concern for the environment.

Town of Byron Celebrates Steve Wittman's Birthplace On May 25th

For Byron, WI, their Memorial Day events will start at about 9:00 A.M. with a short memorial service provided by the area veterans. Chapter member Arden Hjelle will then provide a talk about S.J. “Steve” Wittman. A fly-by of several aircraft is being planned by Tim Hjelle and Warren Baier to pay tribute to the event.

Arden Hjelle worked closely with Wittman for many years. He built a fine example of the Tailwind, and his engine and machine shop would often come in handy when Wittman would need parts made or engine work performed.

Chapter member Bob Baier, himself a machinist who would make parts for Wittman, is also from the Byron area and mentioned how pleased he was to see the community and EAA interest in this project. Baier commented, “Steve probably never received the local recognition that he should have gotten. Many of the local Byron residents are not really aware of what he accomplished.” Baier remembers Wittman as “a person who was easy to be around – and he didn't forget where he came from”.

Two large roadside signs identifying Byron as Wittman's birthplace will be dedicated. The signs will be placed along Hwy 175, one on each end of Byron, and are being provided courtesy of Chapter 252. The Byron Historical Society will provide the mounting frames and installation.

The Town Hall will be open until 2:00 P.M., where Cindy Baier Boelk has placed information on Wittman for display.



2009 Chapter Calendar and Wittman Airport Events

May 14th

Chapter 252 meeting
The Airplane Factory

May 23rd

Fly-in breakfast, Orion Flight
Services, Wittman Airport

May 25th

Byron, WI
Memorial Day observances and
tribute to Steve Wittman's birthplace
and home town.

June 11th

Chapter 252 meeting
Pioneer Airport

July 27th – Aug. 2nd

Aeromart 252
EAA Air Venture

September 10th

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

September 12th

EAA Chapter 252 fly-in breakfast
EAA Weeks Hangar

October 10th

Chili bash, Wayne Daniels (7th
Heaven) hangar

November 12th

Chapter 252 Meeting, TBD

December 10th

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)

Orion Fly-In Breakfast Saturday, May 23

Orion Flight Services announced they
would be hosting a fly-in breakfast on
Memorial Day weekend, Saturday May
23rd.

In addition to the breakfast, Orion is
also planning other aviation related
activities for the day.

From 8:00 A.M. until about noon a
fare of pancakes, sausage, Texas toast
and beverages will be offered. The price
will be \$6 for adults, and a reduced rate
of \$3 for children (ages 3 - 17) and the

Welcome New Members



252 may be the first EAA Chapter that
Cindy Baier Boelk (EAA #356990) has
joined, but she is by no means a new comer
to EAA. Her dad is Chapter member Bob
Baier (EAA #746) of Brownsville, who has
been associated with this chapter since it's
earliest days. As a young child Cindy
tagged along with her father as he attended
meetings with both the Oshkosh and
Waupun Chapters. She has been attending
EAA Convention's with her family since
1959.

Cindy took flying lessons at an early
age, and has always had a strong affection
for aviation and many of the people
involved in it. Since her family was from
the same area as Steve and Dorothy
Wittman, and they shared common
interests, the Wittman and Baier family's
became good friends. Cindy recalls that
the Wittman's would attend many Baier
family events, and so when she talks about
the Wittman's now she does it with same
feeling as someone else who might
reminisce about their favorite Aunt and
Uncle.

Cindy still has easy access to airplanes,
as her father (The Flying Farmer of
Brownsville), and brother Warren continue
to fly and own one or more aircraft of their
own. They operate out of private grass
strips located on their own respective farms
near Byron.

Cindy and her husband Lonnie have
two daughters, and live near Oakfield.



Steve Buss (EAA #317080) grew up in
Manitowoc, not too far from the airport.
While growing up he always noticed
airplanes flying around the house, and at
the age of 7 or 8 he and his father shared
his first airplane ride experience during an
airport open house. That airplane ride
impressed upon him the desire to someday
be a pilot himself, however, that would
have to wait for quite a few years. In the
meantime he satisfied his airplane curiosity
by riding his bicycle over to the airport to
watch the airplanes.

He became interested in EAA after
covering the fly-in in the early 80's as a
reporter for a local Oshkosh radio station.
That exposure to the airplanes and
EAA'ers re-kindled his old interest in
aviation. Steve started working for the
EAA in 1988 and presently manages the
Chapter and Young Eagles programs.

Steve has no immediate plans for
building an airplane, realizing he is more
interested in the flying aspect of aviation
rather than the building process. He started
taking flying lessons in 1992 out of
Hartford, WI in Steve Krog's Piper J-3.
He soloed in the Cub, and finished up his
flight training at Dodge County Airport.
He's been an active Young Eagles pilot
having provided 211 rides so far.

In 1981 Steve moved to Oshkosh to
attend UWO. He lived in Beaver Dam for
a while, but in 1998 returned to Oshkosh
where he and his wife Julie now live.

P-I-C and passengers of homebuilt and
light-sport aircraft who fly in.

They've advised that Steve Ruby
is organizing an annual Helio (STOL
aircraft) conference on May 23rd at the
airport, and arrangements have been made
to have examples of those unique aircraft
on display.

They have also arranged for a

reduced admission fee for non-EAA
members who would like to visit the
museum on that day. Free transportation to
the museum will be available.

President's Message



By Wayne Daniels

I want to give a HUGE thanks to EVERYONE who participated in our Chapter Pancake Breakfast/Steve Wittman Birthday celebration on April 4. Many hands make light work, and we had so many people step up and make this event bigger than we had imagined. I don't want to risk leaving anyone out so won't mention specific names, however I do want to recognize John Egan for coordinating the entire effort. Everything went without a hitch, the only exception being that there was no way to estimate the attendance. We served far more than expected and made numerous trips to replenish supplies for the steady flow of pancake connoisseur's!

Miss Oshkosh even spent some time with us and took her turn flipping flapjacks too. There were many aircraft that brought hungry pilots on the ramp as well as two Young Eagle pilots that kept busy with a number of flights for the young folks in the crowd.

Again, thanks to everyone that either assisted with the many duties required in an event like this and to those that simply came to enjoy a good breakfast. It was a huge success by any definition!

Our next big effort will be the planning for the chapter's managing of the AeroMart tent at AirVenture. We will be meeting soon with members of Chapter 1158 of West Bend who have operated the tent for the past 9 years. This is going to be a significant undertaking by the chapter and I would ask that anyone that would like to participate please contact any of the board members or Jim Kress at (920) 233-5660, or jim.kress@att.net.



Miss Oshkosh Site Features Chapter Fly-in Photos



During the Chapter's recent Wittman Birthday Fly-in, Wayne Daniels took a number of pictures of the new Miss Oshkosh Chelsea Hammett (our fly-in was her first local event as Miss Oshkosh!).

As can be seen by this photo, Miss Oshkosh really got into the spirit of the event, and she did a great job representing her community.

See the other photos submitted by Wayne and read about Miss Oshkosh at: http://missoshkosh.com/appearances_chelsea_09.htm

Bob and Noel Warner Provide Donation to Chapter 252

Back in the January 2009 issue of this Newsletter Bob and Noel Warner announced that their fabric covered hangar was for sale, and if sold; their intentions were to donate 1/2 of the proceeds to the Chapter.

The hangar was sold and Charlie Becker recently announced that Bob provided the Chapter with a check for \$500.00.

Thank You Bob and Noel for the donation!

Poor Weather Affects Attendance For FVTC Fly-In Breakfast

Despite the cold, wet weather, a number of local pilots, parents of students, and general public turned out to take advantage of the school's open house.

Visitors were allowed to visit the classrooms and shop areas, and there were plenty of students and instructors on hand to answer questions.



Rich Bongers of Neenah discusses a Beech Baron engine installation with 2nd year A&P student Adam Bents.

Aircraft used for the school's flight programs were on display in the main shop area, and flight instructors were available to discuss the airplanes and the schools flight programs. Simulators were also available for visitors to try out.

Avionics students and instructors had an example of one of their recent projects on display, a dual Garmin panel that is intended for future use with a simulator.

The A&P shop is a nice facility, with plenty of room and project airplanes for the students to work on.

Chapter member and A&P instructor Dennis Moen has offered to host a future Chapter meeting at the school.

Oconto Airport Fly-In May 30th

EAA Warbirds Badger Squadron 6 is helping to host a fly-in on May 30th from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

It's being billed as a family event, with warbird displays, and other aircraft of all types. Food and beverage will be available. Admission is free. Call 920/246-5620 for more information.

Chapter Members Pitch In During Wittman Birthday Fly-In

The recent Chapter fly-in was well attended by the public; much better than we anticipated. Event Chairman John Egan, and the Chapter officers, would like to thank everyone; Chapter members and non-members alike, who contributed their time and effort to make our first annual Wittman Birthday Fly-In a successful event.

We tried to capture the names of all the individuals who pitched in to help, but please let the editor know if we missed anyone. In no particular order:

Young Eagles - Eric Von
 Young Eagles Pilots- Adam Smith
 (Cessna 180), and Syd Cohen
 (Ercoupe, non-Chapter member).
 General help & clean up - Joe Norris,
 Terry Novak and many of the others
 listed here
 Plane Parking - Jim Casper, Doc
 Mosher, Dennis Moehn, Dave Coan
 Cooks and helpers - Paul Votava, Doug
 Milius, Jim Streblov, Fred Behlendorf
 Cash Box - Mollee Egan
 Servers - Al Follendorf, Charlie Becker,
 Jim Soyk, Verna Soyk
 Car Parking - Lon Nanke, Mike Butler
 Coffee and Espresso - Ken Osmond,
 Barry Elk
 Photography - Randy Novak
 Pilot Briefing and Food Prep- Janet
 Davidson
 Steve Wittman slide show – John
 Monnett
 Good Will Ambassador -Wayne Daniels
 Folks at Orion -Toby Kamark, Larry and
 Debbie Last, Will Sullivan
 Wittman Airport - Peter Moll
 Pancake Grill - Bill Rewey, Larry
 Landucci (members of Chapter 1389,
 Middleton, WI)
 Flying Models – Alden & H.G.
 Frautschy (non-Chapter members)
 Static model Flying boxcar - Leon Genz
 (non-Chapter member)
 Wittman Presentation – Jim Cunningham
 (non-Chapter member)

1st Steve Wittman Birthday Party Fly-In A Success

Good weather certainly helped, but the universal appeal of an event to honor a historical local hero and aviation legend all helped to make this event a successful one.

Chapter officers estimate that around 250 people were served the all you could eat pancake breakfast, and about 35 airplanes flew in to help contribute to the head count.

The Chapter officers and event planners recognize that a fly-in/open house with a theme like this has real potential for turning into a good annual event. The big unknown for April in Wisconsin is always the weather. This time, everything worked in our favor.

A group of members met the night before to plan the lay out and set up as much of the equipment in advance as they could. This preparation helped things get off to a smooth start the next morning. Likewise, plenty of helpers stuck around after the breakfast was over to clean up the area.

The Terminal building again worked out well, and many thanks to Airport Manager (and Chapter member) Peter Moll and his staff for all of their help, use of equipment, and patience.



Paul Votova shakes his spatula at the photographer while Middleton EAA Chapter 1389 members Bill Rewey and Larry Landucci prepare their pancake grill. Larry and Bill were great sports to come up the night before; help us set up, let us use their equipment, and then cook pancakes all morning the next day!



Toby Kamark stands in the center of the display provided by Orion. An interesting combination of Remos Light Sport, plane tent, and associated camping gear – all of which would fit in the airplane! The Orion display added quite a bit to the overall atmosphere, and give the visitors something to look at and talk about.



The terminal area offered plenty of room for displays, serving and eating areas; and the Wittman Tailwind hanging overhead helped provide the proper atmosphere for the occasion.



John and Mollee Egan. Mollee was greeting our guests and watching over the cash box. John was Chairman for the event and did a great job in keeping the team members on track. Word on the street is he has also agreed to head up the construction of our own large grill for pancakes and such (similar to the one we used that day, provided by the Middleton Chapter guys, Larry and Bill).

Wittman Birthday Fly-In



Miss Oshkosh, Chelsea Hammett, got into the spirit; and donned apron and spatula to try her hand at flipping pancakes.

She was a great sport about it, and along with the other cooks seemed to have a lot fun with the experience.



The coffee shop Planet Park was a sponsor of the event, providing coffee beverages (we're spoiled now). Thank you to Ken Osmond (Planet Perk) and Barry Elk (who spent all morning serving coffee).



One of our newest members, Jim Soyk (see April newsletter) along with his wife Verna, got into the act, serving out pancakes and sausage.



The weather cooperated, allowing about 25 airplanes to come in for the event. Of course, a couple only taxied over from the other side of the field...



Syd Cohen flew down from Wausau to volunteer as a Young Eagles pilot. He is a member of Chapter 1640, Wausau.

Syd has a beautifully restored stock configuration C-85 powered Ercoupe. The 6 year restoration project begun in 1994 during which he replaced all the skins. He has had the aircraft for 27 years.

Syd, shown here doing a pre-flight with a future pilot, enjoys giving Young Eagle rides.



Author Jim Cunningham flew his Piper Arrow up from Bloomington, IL that morning to meet people and speak about Steve Wittman. Cunningham is working with Aaron King to possibly co-author a book about Wittman.



Indoor model flying added to the morning's entertainment. Adam Frautschy was exercising his new electric RC helicopter. H.G. Frautschy shows young Carter Crone and his mom Fallon the simple joys of flying indoor rubber band models.



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**Newsletters Are Available
 On-Line at www.eaa252.org**

Items for submission are welcome and must be received by the newsletter editor no later than 3 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. Annual dues are \$20 for all current members of the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA).

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