



Racine EAA Chapter 838
Monthly Newsletter
October 2015 Volume XXVII Issue 10
<http://eaa838.org/>

Meetings Third Thursday's 7:00 pm
Social at 6:30 pm

Welcome again to ***your*** EAA Chapter 838 monthly newsletter. I need your assistance with articles. Please email anything that you would like me to include in a future newsletter to me at newsletter@eaa838.org.

President's Corner

Fall is here. Temps have dropped, and with October, it seems ceilings have dropped as well. It's the start of the end of the flying busy season.

We still have one more Young Eagles event this year in November. We'll hope for the weather to clear up by then. Young Eagles in October was the same day as our annual fund raiser, Monopoly Night. Last month I talked about the importance of this event to the Chapter, from a funding perspective. It's very important to the health of the Chapter, so I hope you supported this great event.

October is also the beginning of the Chapter Officer election process. If you would like to help lead the Chapter, please consider volunteering for the Board. We have 3 Director positions and the President and Vice President positions opening. If you are considering joining the Board, please contact me directly.

Next Meeting

Mark the date for a special presentation. October 15 – Harvin Abrahamson and fellow veterans will do a presentation on their experiences as B-17 flight crew serving with the Eighth Air Force in WWII.

Note from Dave Finstad

Thanks to everyone who has responded to my letter about renewing your membership. For those of you that have not responded, please do so ASAP to remain in good standing with your membership.

EAA Chapter 838 Special B17 Presentation

On Thursday, October 15th, EAA Chapter 838 has invited some welcome guests to our monthly meeting. A few members of the Eighth Air Force Historical Society will be at the EAA Chapter 838 Building to discuss their experiences as B17 crew members during World War II. They have presented a forum at AirVenture in Oshkosh each summer for over 10 years.

The presentation will begin at 7:00 pm, with refreshments at 6:30pm.

Location: 3333 North Green Bay Road in Racine, WI. (It is one driveway north of the Batten International Airport terminal)

The Southeastern Wisconsin Aviation Museum will be open before and after the presentation. See <http://eaa838.org/museum/> for more information about the museum.



B-17 Boeing "Flying Fortress"
A four-engine, low-wing, heavy bomber
Specs for model B-17G:

- **Crew: 10**
- **Length: 74 ft**
- **Wingspan: 103 ft**
- **Range: 2000 mi**

photo source: Air Force Historical Research Agency <http://www.afhra.af.mil/>

The Eighth Air Force Historical Society was created in 1975 to preserve the legacy of the "Mighty Eighth", and the part it played in American history during WW2. Over the years, it has become a strong organization with an emphasis on remembering and honoring our comrades who served with distinction: the men who flew, the many thousands of ground crews, and those who worked in the background. One of the many activities we honor these great men is at our annual reunions.

These Veterans, born in the 1920's, were members of the greatest air armada of all times. They numbered 350,000 men and women with over 54,000 either killed in combat or taken prisoner.

Their children and descendants, who are representatives of these Veterans, saw the need to keep the history and experiences of these warriors alive. Their goal is to preserve the Legacy created by their relatives who went before them, not because of the vanity of their accomplishments, but rather for the preservation of Democracy and Civilization, for maintaining the values of honesty and patriotism exhibited by their generation.

<http://www.8thafhs.org>



Chapter 838 Young Eagles for 2015

We have had several scout groups make plans to join us at various rallies over the summer, so we are looking forward to a busy season. I invite everyone to join us on the second Saturday of each month at 0900 for fun, flying and frivolity – and you might even learn something if you sit in on the ground school that our Explorers teach! Pilots are especially welcome – and desperately needed!

Any questions, contact Tracy Miller at milltracy@hotmail.com or 847.420.5098.

In general, we have our Young Eagle Rallies the second Saturday each month from March through November. This is a great time for you to inform any relatives, neighbors, or friends that are between the ages of 8 and 17 about Young Eagles.

November 14th is our next and final session of the EAA Chapter 838 2015 Young Eagles season.



Aviation Explorer Club Post 5218

This is part of our youth education, and is for co-ed middle school students.

Unfortunately we have decided to take a year off for our program in 2015. The response I received was the best that we have had in the four years that we have offered this program. However, over 50% of the kids do not stay with the program by the end of the year. It takes a lot of effort to provide a program like ours. There are also some family circumstances that may make some presenters unavailable throughout the year.

We will send an email out again in March or April 2016, to see how much interest there is to offer the program again next year.



Aviation Explorer Post 218

East Troy is an awesome event that Post 218 gets the pleasure of helping out at each year. This year was a unique experience since it was extremely foggy out the whole day. Even though no planes could land, pilots that usually come to the pancake breakfast still came by car. Though the weather was gloomy it could not damper the fun of East Troy. The usual planes from the hangers at the airport were out for people to look at and people of the community brought their old vintage cars and newer ones for the car show that was held. This year the Post got the privilege of having a booth while there to recruit new members. Like always, East Troy was a pleasure to help out at and hopefully next year the weather will work in everyone's favor.



Winter's Coming - Get Your Plane Ready!

By Scott Sherer

In Wisconsin we take Winter seriously. At home we caulk our houses, seal window leaks, get our snow blowers gassed and tested, get the anti-freeze checked and filled in our cars along with an oil change, new windshield washer blades and some of us put our snow tires on. Most of my aircraft owning friends don't really do very much to their airplanes, however. Some of my friends lockup the hangar and don't come back till Spring. But I'm not one of those! I use my plane frequently when it's cold out. For those of you that don't experience the serious cold season, however, consider yourself fortunate. Even Lyn Freeman would give you a high five! As for those of us in the colder climates, here's a checklist to get your airplane ready for fun Winter flying.

1. Clean and oil the lock on your hangar door and grease/oil your tracks and bearings on your door. The time to make repairs is before it gets cold outside. If you've ever come back from a trip on a cold winter day and not been able to get to the warmth and safety of your hangar and car, it's not fun! Make sure that you can get that door unlocked and open.
2. Clean and test your hangar furnace or other heater before you need it.
3. Wash your airplane. Get the bugs off the wings, windshield and engine nacelle(s) before it gets cold outside.
4. Vacuum the aircraft interior. Get the dust out of the airplane before wet shoes turn it to mud.
5. Check your tire pressure and pump up your tires if necessary.
6. Check and test out your tug. If it needs maintenance, this is the time to do it. Also, check the tire pressure and pump up if necessary. And don't forget to put on your snow chains, if you need them.
7. Weather permitting, remove your aircraft from your hangar and away from the door. If you have a leaf-blower, this is the quickest way to clean out your hangar. Three minutes and you're done. If you don't have one and can't borrow one, use a broom. This will help keep dirt and dust out of your airplane.
8. If you own a Seneca, Navaho or Saratoga don't forget to install your hotplate for the season. This is a good time to clean and wax your de-icing boots, too.
9. Check your oil. Is there any in the airplane? Do you need an oil change? Do it now before it gets cold out. Check with your A&P mechanic to see if a multi-viscosity oil will make it easier to start your engine(s) in the winter. This is important, nothing on the plane costs more than an engine. And don't forget to put on your Oil Cooler Winterization Plate(s)!
10. Do a very thorough preflight check. Check everything that you gloss over and take shortcuts on during the summer. Specifically, look closely at your pitot and static vents. Make sure that they are clear and don't have any bugs in them. Partially blocked pitots and static vents can clog much quicker on a cold day with snow or slush hitting the plane. Also, TEST THE PITOT HEAT! Don't assume it works, check it. And if you have a de-iced airplane, test those prop heaters, inflate those boots, turn on your hotplate and check for heat on those pesky stall vanes. All of this is hugely important in the Winter!
11. Thoroughly test your fuel at each drain for water and contaminants. My plane, for example has ten, count 'em, ten fuel drains.

12. Check those ailerons, flaps and stabilators for looseness, missing safety wires or bolts, missing bonding straps or missing static wires.
13. Check your battery. If your battery is over three years old, keep an eye on it. Keep the fluid level up (if your battery allows you to do this) and keep an appropriate battery charger in your hangar. You may need it. If you're in doubt about battery maintenance, check with your mechanic or look at the instructions that came with the battery. You do have those, right? If not, check the website of the battery manufacturer as the same documentation will be there.
14. Does your heater work? If you have an exhaust muff, take the engine cowl off and check it as best you can. A good investment is a carbon monoxide detector. Flying on a cold day on a 400 mile cross country isn't a good time to find out that your heater doesn't work or that it's producing carbon monoxide. Same goes for those of us with Janitrol or similar furnaces.

Finally, I love Winter flying. The plane takes off and climbs faster, cruises faster, too. The sky is an intense blue and there's no thermal convection to take the fun out of your low and slow flights. Personally, I like flying in the Winter better than the summer. Whatever your personal likes, get up there and fly this Winter.

Welcome New Chapter Members

See Dave Finstad's article on page 2

Monthly Meetings

Board Meetings: Second Wednesdays 7:00 pm

Chapter Meeting: Third Thursdays

Social 6:30 pm

Meeting 7:00 pm

Shop Night Every Monday 7:00 pm

Explorer Post 218 Second Thursdays 7:00 pm and Fourth Thursdays 7:00 pm

Young Eagles Second Saturday 9:00 am (March - November)

Upcoming Meetings & Speakers

October 15 – Harvin Abrahamson and fellow veterans will do a presentation on their experiences as B-17 flight crew serving with the Eighth Air Force in WWII.

PAST:

July 16th- Chief Joseph Forro of the Milwaukee County Fire Department talked about fire and rescue operations and training at General Mitchell Airport.

June 18th-Chris Forncrook of Flight For Life gave us a presentation on the aircraft and operations of Flight For Life, our region's medevac provider.

May 21st-Doug Tomas gave a presentation on his great uncle's B-24 Bomber (Ready, Willing & Able) crew in WWII. Looks very interesting.

Apr 16th - Jim O'Connor gave a presentation on Drones, their history since the 1700's and current issues with their increasing numbers in the sky.

Mar 19th - Wayne Peach told us some war stories about aircraft maintenance during AirVenture, where Wayne has volunteered for over 25 years.

Officers

President Daryl Lueck 414-333-4228

Vice President: Vacant

Secretary Tracy Miller 847-420-5098

Treasurer Oliver Kottke 262-939-5567

Foundation Jerry Baker262-939-0091

Committee Chairpersons

Programs Rick Goebel 262-886-4171

Monday Shop Jerry Bovitz262-639-8583

Librarian Eddy Huffman 262-639-8301

Membership Dave Finstad 262-752-0086

Newsletter Ken Sack 262-554-9714

Young Eagles Tracy Miller 847-420-5098

Directors

Jim Hantschel..... 262-637-3376

Ken Sack 262-554-9714

Roy Stuart 262-884-0371

Eddy Huffman ... 262-639-8301

Alex Clement

Nick Fisher

Chapter Messaging (262) 634-7575

Location: 3333 N. Green Bay Rd.

Racine, WI 53404