



VORTEX

MICHIANA CHAPTER 132

FEBRUARY 2009

VOLUME 45 NUMBER 2

2009 CALENDER

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| February 26 | Regular Chapter Meeting – Chapter House – 7:00PM |
| March 12 | Board Meeting – 7:00 PM – Chapter House |
| March 27 | Honoree Banquet – Golden Egg |
| April 9 | Board Meeting – 7:00 PM – Chapter House |
| April 21 – 26 | Sun N Fun – Lakeland, Florida |
| April 30 | Regular Chapter Meeting – 7:00 – Chapter House |
| May 14 | Board Meeting – 7:00 PM – Chapter House |
| May 28 | Regular Chapter Meeting – 7:00 PM Chapter House |
| June 6 | Young Eagles Day – Chapter House |
| June 11 | Board Meeting – 7:00 PM Chapter House |
| June 12,13,&14 | Annual Frasca Fly In – Urbana, Illinois |
| June 25 | Regular Chapter Meeting – 7:00 PM – Chapter House |
| July 9 | Board Meeting – 7:00 PM – Chapter House |
| July 17,18,19 | Oshkosh Work Party Week End |
| July 27 – Aug. 2 | AirVenture – Oshkosh, Wisconsin |
| August 16 | EAA/Duck's Picnic – Duck's Pasture, Adamsville, Michigan |
| September 10 | Board Meeting – 7:00 PM – Chapter House |
| September 24 | Regular Chapter Meeting – 7:00 PM – Chapter House |
| October 8 | Board Meeting – 7:00 PM – Chapter House |
| October 29 | Regular Chapter Meeting – 7:00 PM – Chapter House |
| November 12 | Board Meeting – 7:00 PM – Chapter House |
| December 5 | EAA Christmas Party – Hostetler's Hanger, Nappanee, Indiana |

BREAKFAST – Every Saturday morning – 7:30 to 9:00 – Chapter House – Pancakes, Eggs, & Sausage – Lots of Coffee & Hanger Talk!! Come join us.
Some Saturdays - We are going to Sam's Hanger after Breakfast to work on the Plane.

THURSDAY – Chapter House & Sam's Hanger – Airplane work night & Hanger Talk.

ITEMS OF INTEREST:

FEBRUARY CHAPTER MEETING

February 26, 2009

Australia Trip

We are going to Australia with Ted & Eleanor Woodill. They went down and took a flying tour around Australia. We are going to enjoy their pictures and hear of their adventure.

See you at the Chapter House at 7:00 PM

Mark your calendars for March 27th! That will be our Honoree Banquet this year at the Golden Egg Restaurant. Who will be honored this year? The menu and reservation form is included in this issue of the Vortex. Please get your reservation back to Sam so we can get a count into the Golden Egg.

ANNUAL FRASCA FLY-IN

JUNE 12, 13, & 14

Frasca's are again having their Fly – In at Urbana, Illinois. We have RSVP papers that need to be sent in if you are planning to attend. It is just kind of a laid back week end of looking at airplanes and lots of Hanger talk. On Saturday night there is a dinner and movie. There is dry camping if you want to take a camper down.

Because of the Frasca Fly – In we had to change the Young Eagles Day to June 6, change your calendars.

THE JOYS OF AIR TRAVEL

In December, a Flybe Airline flight from Cardiff, Wales, was preparing to land as scheduled at Charles de Gaulle airport in Paris when the pilot announced that they had to return to Cardiff because, he said, "Unfortunately, I'm not qualified to land the plane in Paris". Because of the heavy fog, the plane would have to be instrument-landed, and the pilot had not yet completed certification.

In September, after a Chinese Shandong airline flight landed safely in Zhengzhou, the engine died, and the airline was forced to enlist some of the 69 passengers to help employees push the plane to the gate.

Printed from the South Bend Tribune

"Are your Dues paid?? Jerry Kosteller is now accepting 2009 dues."

Honoree Banquet

When: Friday, March 27th

Where: The Golden Egg – 3421 Plaza Court, Elkhart
(behind Aldi's on Cassopolis)

What time: 6:00 pm gathering
7:00 pm dinner will be served

The cost this year is \$15 per person which includes entrée, salad, choice of potato or rice, rolls and butter, coffee or other beverage, dessert, and expenses. Come celebrate the accomplishments of our Chapter!

Send or email your reservations to (or drop it by the Chapterhouse):

Sam Pavel
1349 County Road 6 W
Elkhart, IN 46514
Sam.Pavel@gmail.com

Name(s): _____

Entrée selection: ___ ½ Roast Chicken with Dressing

 ___ Roast Sirloin of Beef

Potato or Rice: ___ Baked Potato
Selection

 ___ Mashed Potatoes with Gravy

 ___ Rice

Idle Chatter, by Sam

This has been a really tough winter. I'm not talking about the record cold and snow. I escaped to Phoenix during the worst of it. A few more days of sunshine would be nice though. I'm talking about the state of general aviation in general and at EKM specifically.

As most of you know, when I'm passionate about something I tend to jump in with all four feet with a no holds barred attitude. An example that many Chapter members can relate to is our volunteering to help set up Airventure. We don't go up early because we enjoy getting up before the sun and doing the grunt-work that the other volunteer groups don't want to do. We believe in the principles of the EAA and cherish the friendships that developed over the years through this common goal. I feel the same way about our local EAA Chapter and the Elkhart Municipal Airport.

Over the past 15 years I've watched our Chapter and EKM develop into something to be proud of. Through the many conversations I've had with chapter leaders from all over the nation, I've concluded we have something special here. You see this when you walk into the Chapterhouse and see kids of all ages flying the Flight Simulator, and not just on Saturday mornings. You see this when you can't find a place to sit for breakfast because so many people drove or flew in. You see this when a Chapter project takes to the air for the first time.

EKM used to be the bright spot in Indiana aviation. We were selected as Airport of the Year in 2004 by the Aviation Association of Indiana. The AAI recognized the contribution Chapter 132 makes to the airport and gave us \$500 to help with our outreach programs such as Young Eagles and the like. I used to drive around the airport and see people sitting in their hangars. You'd pull up and they'd offer you a Coke and you'd spend the afternoon telling lies and other flying adventures.

Today, the hangar doors are closed. Three Experimental/Ultralight aircraft were driven off the field. What was once a thriving aviation community seems more of a ghost town. EKM seems more of a place to fly from, than fly to. The worst part is I'm not sure what can be done about it. It kills me to watch a place I'm so passionate about fall into disarray.

Then I walk into the Chapterhouse on Saturday morning and see people telling lies and other flying adventures. I eat my pancakes and eggs, cooked to order. I walk down to my hangar and put a rib stitch in the Cub's wing, or pull a pop rivet. And just for a brief moment, the world doesn't seem like such a bad place after all.

Happy Aviating!

Sam

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MEETINGS

Board Meetings: 2nd Thursday of each month

19:00 at the Chaperhouse

Building Meetings: Thursdays

19:00 at the Chapterhouse

Regular Meetings: Last Thursday of the month

19:00 at the Chapterhouse or

Other planned events

No regular meetings in November or December.

Breakfast and Building: Saturdays 8:00 Chapterhouse

GUESTS AND NEW MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

Karen Duck

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