

**FOX VALLEY SPORT AVIATION ASSOCIATION  
EAA CHAPTER 579**



***The Propwash***

March, 2013

**Chapter Meeting**  
**Thursday, March 21**  
**Sugar Grove Firehouse**  
**Directors: 6:45 PM**  
**Business Meeting: 7:30 PM**

**Special Events 2013**

**Annual Pizza Party** December 13

**2013 Meeting Schedule**  
All meetings at the Sugar Grove  
Firehouse unless otherwise  
notified

April 25  
May 16\*  
June 20\*  
July 18\*\*  
August 22  
September 26  
October 24  
November 21\*\*  
December 19\*\*

\* The Sugar Grove Firehouse is not available on the Fourth Thursdays in March, May and June. The Third Thursday has been booked, but we will also look at the possibility of alternate locations.

\*\*Meetings the Third Thursday in July, November and December due to Airventure, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

**2013 Young Eagles Schedule**

KARR – Aurora Municipal Airport  
Pilot briefing ~ 8:45 AM  
Flying: 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

**Sunday May 19**

**Sunday June 23**

**Sunday August 25**

**Sunday September 22**

**Sunday October 27**

The Bowling Outing on March 2 was attended by Dave and Jann Smith and their son; Alan and Donna Shackleton; Joe and Sandi McBride. The turnout wasn't great, but we enjoyed the bowling, the pizza and the company.

If you have anything of interest to the chapter, please email me at [joeemcbride@gmail.com](mailto:joeemcbride@gmail.com): fun places you have flown to, progress on your special project, an interesting plane you have flown, good places for the ~~\$100~~ \$200 hamburger. Let us all know about it. Pictures are always welcome. I will also include chapter news, minutes of the previous meeting, comments from Dave and any upcoming events. The goal is to get this out each month early in the week of the next meeting.



## Dave's Dialogue...

### Welcome EAA Chapter 579 Fox Valley Sport Aviation Members and Guests:

Reminder to the chapter our March meeting is this Thursday, 3/21/13, one week earlier due to scheduling conflicts with the SGFD. Directors will meet at 6:45 pm, with the business meeting at 7:30 pm. Refreshments will be provided.

Several of our chapter members attended the Jeff Skiles EAA town hall get together last Monday at the Hilton Garden Inn. The room was packed with better than 200 in attendance. Jeff gave away a few door prizes based on EAA trivia and discussed his role in EAA. He answered a few questions from the crowd before giving a presentation of his and Sully's Miracle Landing on the Hudson. (See Mike Bower's article for more details.)

Looking forward to seeing everyone on Thursday.

Dave

---

## Minutes of February 28 Meeting

A Directors meeting was held prior to the Chapter Meeting.

The meeting was called to order by Dave Smith, President, at 7:35 PM. 15 members and one guest were in attendance.

Larry Shaw is in Florida, but his financial report was read by Dave. The organization remains solvent with all bills paid. There are 58 paid members. Members may renew or new members join at any time by filling in the form in this newsletter and sending it along with a check for \$20 for an Annual Membership to the address on the form.

We received \$1,550 in Young Eagles credits for 2012. This money is in a draw account at EAA and is available to cover Young Eagles expenses.

A bowling outing is scheduled for March 2 beginning at 6:00 PM . at Idle Hour Lanes in Sandwich. Cost: \$15 per person - includes 3 games of bowling and pizza. Shoe rental, soda and adult beverages are on your own.

After a short coffee break a presentation was made by Nick Selig on Lost Airports of Chicago. The presentation covered information taken from the book he wrote on the same subject. It was very interesting to find out about so many airports that used to be in this area and about the origins of many that are still in existence.

Submitted by: Joe McBride

---

## An Evening with Jeff Skiles

By: Mike Bowers

The EAA had been sending out notices about the Grassroots Pilot Tour. The last notice I saw was for an evening with Jeff Skiles, EAA's Vice President of Youth Education. He was to lead a discussion on the latest on what the EAA is doing to inspire the next generation of aviators.

The Event was held as part of the monthly meeting of the Chicago Flight instructors Association, at the Hilton Garden Inn, on Monday, March 11, in St. Charles, Illinois. The program was to begin at 7:00pm. They were hoping for around 200 people to show up for the event. I got there about 20 minutes early, and took one of the last 12 seats available. For the next 20 minutes, maintenance kept bringing in chairs for the stream of people that continued to arrive. All in all, there were probably a little over 300 people in attendance.

The program was kicked off by Vern Jobst, current President of the CFIA. He's also the pilot who checked out Sully and Skiles on the DC-7, and had nothing but high praise for the skills and professionalism of the two "Miracle on the Hudson" pilots. About the DC-7 checkout... "It was like the two of them had been flying the DC-7 for years!"

As any of you that have had the privilege of hearing Jeff speak up at Oshkosh, you know he's a talented and entertaining speaker. He started the evening with some trivia questions (complete with EAA Gift Certificates as prizes), and explanations of what his job entails, up in Oshkosh. Jeff is on sabbatical with US AIR for at least another two years, right now he is working full time for the EAA.

Mr. Skiles is Co- Chairman of the Young Eagle project, as well as being the VP of Youth Education (the latter title puts the EAA's Museum under his direction). He says he's still trying to figure out how all that works.

## An Evening with Jeff Skiles (cont'd)

The presentation of the “latest on what the EAA is doing to inspire...”, was pretty much a PR overview on what the EAA is, a great overview for the uninitiated, but by a show of hands, the crowd consisted of 97 to 99 percent EAA Members. That being said, it was a very good presentation (complete with a Power Point slide show).

Moving on to a Q&A session, Jeff clarified some points, and let us in on some news from Oshkosh. Things like; THE Thunderbirds were scheduled to be at Oshkosh for the first time. But the fools in Washington (my term, not Jeff's) and their sequestration have probably scrapped that deal. Well, that and the minor detail of getting an entire neighborhood to leave their homes for an afternoon, to provide a route that the Thunderbirds would need to turn around. There is precedence for evacuating an entire neighborhood in Oshkosh. An aerobatic group of Cessna jets, calling themselves the Snowbirds (before my time as an EAA member), needed room to make their turns during the air show. Legend has it Paul Poberezny convinced the entire neighborhood to move out for the afternoon!

Speaking of sequestration, a question was asked about how the shutting down of control towers would affect Airventure. The answer.... “We Don't Know.” “Sun & Fun will have to figure it out before we do.” The room went totally silent. People were stunned. I don't think anyone had thought this federal budget mess would stretch out that long. Time will tell.

The next bit of news from Oshkosh will certainly make our own President Dave smile. Due to pleas from EAA chapters from around the world, Oshkosh will be sending a 20 – 22 minute videos on different subjects, to be shown ONLY at EAA meetings. It seems not all chapters are as fortunate as we are in coming up with good speakers and subject matter month after month (thanks Dave, we know how hard you've been sweating it at times). What kind of video, you ask? One of the subjects Jeff mentioned was an episode on the Spruce Goose.

The presentation finished up with a video recreation of the “Miracle on the Hudson” flight, with Jeff giving a play by play description of the events. Not just a description, but insights into what they were thinking at the time. This is the third time I've been fortunate to listen to Mr. Skiles talk about the flight, and it's always entertaining and informative. And each time I come away with something new, or a different angle. This time he spent more time talking about the aftermath. How many of you know that there's a post emergency check list? It covers important stuff. Like, “Item One: Is the emergency brake set?” “Hmmm... Not really applicable.” Next? Have the engines stopped spinning? “Well, one of them is on the bottom of the Hudson River”, and so on.

Jeff also spoke about dealing with the media, the politicians, and the review boards. He spoke of US Air's own reps and investigator's making sure they got to the hospital. Not because Jeff or Sully were injured, but to put a buffer zone between them and the chaos that surrounded them. Once you pass through the doors of an emergency room, no media, no politician, NOBODY can follow you inside! Yes, they had to get checked out, but just as important, it gave everyone a chance to catch their breath, and get a handle on their next move. He also spoke about Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome. Fascinating stuff.

The event lasted about two hours, and it was time well spent. If you ever get a chance to hear Jeff Skiles give a talk, GO! You won't be disappointed.

---

## A (should have been) Rotary Flying Adventure by Bill Schertz N343BS

As most of you know, I have installed a Mazda Rotary Engine in my KIS Cruiser. As part of the building process I have been a member of two e-mail newsletters. One of the groups likes to host a Rotary Engine fly-in each year to gather the like-minded rotor-heads and compare notes. This year, the fly-in was hosted by Charlie England, who lives on an airport property in Mississippi – Lower Slobbovia Outernational Airport (MS-71). Really folks, that is the name.

I made plans to fly down in my plane, with Phil White, who is building a RV-10 with a three rotor Mazda engine. Day of departure there was a nasty line of weather between KARR and MS-71, and it didn't look like it would clear over the weekend, so Phil and I drove down.



The picture above shows Dennis Havarlah's RV-7a with a 2 rotor RX-8 engine (green trim in distance). Dennis lives in Austin Texas and his wife came with. The red RV-8 in the foreground belongs to Tracy Crook, and has a 3-rotor engine it it. Tracy lives on the Shady Grove airport near Bell, Florida. His wife also came with him.

## Rotary Flying Adventure (cont'd)



The photo above is an RV-10 with a super-charged 2-rotor engine constructed by Bobby Hughes of Austin Texas. He came via way of Maryland, since he had a business trip out there just prior to the fly-in.

As with any fly-in, sharing ideas is part of the process.



The photo above shows Dennis's very creative intake manifold plumbing. This is a tuned intake to give him max power/efficiency at cruise settings. His engine is a stock 2-rotor out of an RX8 automobile. It is very quiet in comparison to other rotaries due to an innovative exhaust system made possible by the RX8 exhaust configuration.



This picture is Tracy Crook's cooling inlet, attention to detail on the shape and contours of the inlet were critical to getting the 260+ HP engine to cool effectively.



Of course we stood around and talked 'things rotary'. Left to right – Tracy Crook, Steve Boese (can only see his shoulder), Charlie England (the host), Bobby Hughes, Dennis Havarlah (Blue Stripe shirt), Phil White (my driving companion).



Above are the significant others from the group, the lady friends of (L to R) Steve, Dennis, Charlie, Tracy, and a neighbor lady from down the airstrip.

Steve Boese arrived by car from Wyoming, having spent several weeks touring prior to the fly-in. He gave an excellent presentation on a phenomena called SAG (*Sudden Attention Getter*) the Rotaries all seem to have – after some hours of operation, the engine suffers a sag in power that is corrected by reducing power momentarily, and can be cured by changing sparkplugs. He has traced the likely cause to corrosion around the electrode causing pre-detonation.

The England's were wonderful hosts, and we hope to do it again next year. Weather permitting; I would like to fly my plane down there.

**Fox Valley Sport Aviation Association**  
**EAA Chapter 579**  
**Membership Application or Renewal - 2013**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ EAA# \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal          Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Annual Membership = \$20.00**  
**Checks made payable to EAA Chapter 579**

**Please mail this application and your check to our treasurer:**

**Lawrence O. Shaw  
147 N. Buckingham Drive  
Sugar Grove, IL 60554**

To join or renew your membership, please fill in the form above and mail it to The address at the bottom with a check for \$20.