

# SKYWRITINGS

EAA Chapter 439

MAY 2011

Central U.P. of Michigan home of the Yoopers!

[www.eaa439.org](http://www.eaa439.org)



## F-22 Raptor & P-51 Fighter Honor Flight At Sun 'N Fun 2011

### Save the Date!

May 7 10:00 AM  
ESCANABA TIME  
TERRY GLIMN'S  
HANGAR ESC

May 21-22  
Oshkosh Work  
Bee!  
Sign up for it  
Now!

Ford Airport @  
IMT JUNE 11  
YE FLIGHTS &  
LEARN TO FLY  
DAY, ADULT  
FLIGHTS NEW  
THIS YEAR!

### Tentative Meetings

May 21 International Learn to Fly Day  
July AirVenture Jul 25-31, 2011  
Schwinefest Theme is "SPACE"  
Aug 6, 2011 Escanaba Area  
Sep 17, 2011 Ford Airport Day @ IMT

# The Prez Sez!

Tom Sullivan

toms1@chartermi.net

The meeting at Mike Betti's shop went very well. We had a light, but reasonable membership turnout. As usual, Mike is ripping right along on his new project. The tail feathers are done, and he's already working on the wings with a vengeance. He better slow down or it will be done so quick he will be out of a project again.

We discussed the new EAA program, Learn to Fly, which will be featured nationwide in May. Since the timing was too quick for us to muster this together this quickly, we decided to look at a combined event in June. We will conduct a Young Eagles Day, a Learn to Fly day, a pancake breakfast and Chapter "Fly In" on June 11<sup>th</sup>. I asked my wife, Beth, to help us with the breakfast, but she reminded me that day is my son Cory's graduation Party. It will run from 4-8 PM, so I will be available for the morning, but she has too much going on to help us. I already sent in the "Event Notification" to EAA and have received the insurance approval.

I also sent in a request for a packet EAA supplies relating to the "Learn to Fly" day. That arrived this week. We need some help updating the bi-fold signs we set out at the 5 major intersections around town. I will try to get some radio minutes with Aaron Harper and a press release to the newspaper about our event. It would be great to get a simple flyer drafted up (hint, hint Jim &/or Lloyd) and get some posted around town, as well as to Chad to set out for local pilots coming through. We could even encourage pilots flying to nearby airports to take the flyer and post it up at those airports. I guess we should ask Chad if we will be able to work out of the front half of his hangar for this event. We can set up a tent on the ramp if that is an issue.

I've had a few members ask what happened with the trailer we were going to purchase for storing our chapter equipment. Apparently those on-line trailer companies promote special deals when their production lines are running slow, and as soon as they get a bit busy, they either quit selling them on line or the price goes up significantly. I was simply uncomfortable about spending too much money on something we will get little use from.

Jim mentioned at the last meeting that the local radio club had a trailer for sale; stored at Schultz Equipment. I stopped by and talked with Paul Schultz, a current (or prior) member of our chapter. He showed me the trailer but it simply won't work for our situation. We need a 7' wide door to get the simulator plane in it, and that trailer has only 3'- 4' wide doors.

Scott and I never made the trip to Sun & Fun. After seeing the mess from the storm during that event, I'm thinking we may have made a good decision. I put a bunch of time in on the Lancair that week so, in the end, I felt good about that decision. I have a friend, Larry Capra, that owns the wind turbine I'm flying right now (I restored it, but he owns it). He likes to stop by when the wind is blowing to check on it's production. He has a key for my shop, and is free to stop by anytime. Talking with him after my return from Punta Cana D.R. about wind turbine production while I was gone, he commented on my Lancair project (he checks progress on that frequently too). His comment was pretty indicative of building airplanes. "Well, I see your working on it every day (he also checks out my builder's log). I've got to say, progress on a project like that is PAINFULLY SLOW". (My reply was; "Amen").

Tom

**Ford Airport "YE" and "Learn to Fly" Day! Both on June 11<sup>th</sup> 2**

# A Day at the Museum!

By: Inez Riverside

On Thursday, March 31, 2011 I was at the Florida Air Museum at Sun 'n Fun answering phones. Many of the calls were concerning the weather, which was supposed to clear up. In a big white tent outside of the museum the WWII WASPS and 99's were gathering for lunch. In the Pavilion next door a large group was also lining up for a lunch meeting.

Then the weather warnings began to come in. The warnings were taken out to the tent and Pavilion but the wind began to blow and the tent began to come down. Two gentlemen tried to hold the tent up but couldn't so everyone dove under the tables--those WASP ladies are tough! They can meet any challenge, although one of them said she would have been able to handle it better when she was young.

The people from the Pavilion and the tent were herded into the museum. Then the power went off and it was got dark in the museum and water poured from seams in the ceiling. We tried to catch most of it in garbage cans and wiped up the rest, using a few flashlights for lighting.

We helped people find the restroom (emergency lighting there, thank goodness), get water and find a chair. The WASP ladies found a room and nonchalantly went ahead and had their meeting.

Three Junior High School tour groups found a space in the museum with their teachers and sat on the floor, hoping that the weather would clear up. One student went around interviewing classmates asking, "What do you think of this school tour?" Some were scared but they behaved very well in a difficult situation.

The food for lunches finally found its way into the museum and everyone was able to have lunch. The school kids cheered when their bus driver brought their lunches in.

The storm went by, leaving debris and blown over chairs in the Pavillion, the big white tent was totally collapsed and tree limbs were down. The police wouldn't let anyone leave for quite a while because there were trees and electric lines down on the exit roads.

Eventually people were able to leave and were given rides by the Museum Director, Ernie Sanborn and Education Director Joyce Sanborn and other staff people. We cleaned up the museum, straightened up the chairs, got rid of the garbage and were ready for the next day. By 5:00 PM the museum was empty and closing, leaving only a few people to lock up and again answer the phones.



**WASP & 99 Tent is in the lower left corner of this picture.**

# The Storm at Sun 'N Fun

From notes by: Sue Gerencher & Karen Duck

Sue Gerencher & Karen Duck, who are Chapter 439 members as well as Chapter 132 members were selling tickets at the East Gate at Sun n Fun, which is down at the East end of the Airfield. This is their story!

All week we would get reports of storms in the area, but all that we got was some rain and a little wind. On Thursday, we got a report that a big storm cell was coming and to seek shelter. We were told that we had 20 minutes. We closed up the booth, got on a golf cart and headed for the Main Registration Building which is about half way across the airport.

We had driven only a short way when it started raining, then more rain & wind, then hail. We saw a Gentleman in a red shirt running with a small suitcase. We slowed down, yelled to him "jump on". About half way back it was raining so hard you could not see, plus we had wind and hail. We saw the guard shack across from the Ultralight Area, ditched the golf cart and ran for the building. Karen was in first, the man in the red shirt, and then Sue, crowding the Security Guard who was already there.

Karen remembers the man holding out his arms and pulling Sue in. That is the last she remembered until they were laying on the ground. Sue said the Man told her, you are safe here, no more wind! But Sue remembers that the nice and safe shack decided to fly. It could have used a few more lessons though, because it couldn't even keep the sunny side up and landed on it's back, with the women on the bottom of the pile.

The next thing Karen remembers is some Men telling me "Don't lay your head down, it is all glass". I remember Steve laying his raincoat under my head. The building was laying on it side - the roof was off and the rain was pouring in on us. Karen moved her toes, they worked, I moved my legs and they moved, next I took a deep breath. it hurt but I could breathe. My right side, pain! Sue's back, pain! They started pulling Sue out of the shack, - I remember yelling to them "Get a back board, her back is hurt" (I guess that was my EMT training coming out) Anyhow they pulled us out, loaded us on a 4-wheel vehicle and took us to Emergency services on the field. We were checked out, Sue & I were on the first ambulance out to the Lakeland Hospital.

Sue was x-rayed, she had a Strain/Sprained back. She was treated and released.

Karen had a CT scan, her right side they described as "Eggplant" color. They kept me until Friday about 5:00 PM, they were worried about a blood clot on my Kidney. We both ended up with all kinds of bruises and were both very very sore.

When we both got to sit down and talk about what had happened we were told there was No man in the red shirt. Steve said there was only the 3 of us in the building. What happened to the Man in the Red Shirt?? Was this our Guardian Angel? We will never know, but someone kept us from being hurt worse than we were and we are here to tell about it. Thank God there were no more injuries or worse ones then there were. We heard that seven people were taken to the Lakeland Hospital.

It does make us stop and think how fragile life is and how fast things can happen. We both Thank all for the good help and care we were given at Sun n Fun.

# Misc. Stuff!

## LARRY JENSEN HAS A GARMIN 495 GPS FOR SALE!

I have a like-new Garmin 495 GPS that I need to sell and am wondering if I could get it in the 439 newsletter.

I've used it 7 or 8 times .... (no damage history). It comes with everything that came in it's original box. Although Garmin has discontinued making it, I still see it advertised for \$1299 in Trade-A-Plane. I am asking \$900. I am moving up to Garmin's new 510 GPS with XM weather. Call me at:

Home 906 563-5860

Cell 906 396-2745

Thanks, Larry Jensen

**Jim...I have entered the homebuilding community and have a Zenith CH 750 under construction. I am looking for a Continental O-200 core for overhaul, or one that may be low time, Could you post this. Dave Pasahow. Contact him at: [dpasahow@bluelineadvisors.com](mailto:dpasahow@bluelineadvisors.com)**



Zenith CH-750 in flight photo.

Ed's Note: Just had to find a picture of it!

# Editor's Notes

**Jim Riverside 906-458-0773 yoooperpilot@gmail.com**

Here we are back in the Northwoods, still waiting for spring to come back for more than a day at a time. My foot is mostly back to normal, and I can get around on it good, but I am still taking pills and putting salve on it to clear up the last of the redness and light swelling that still comes back at times. So, life is returning to normal again, still trying to catch up with things at home.

We had a good look at Mike Betti's RV-7 project at the April 16<sup>th</sup> meeting at his shop. He is doing his usual great workmanship on the project and has a good start toward his RV-7. See some photos of the wing a horizontal stabilizer taken at the meeting on page seven.

Donna Sisk needs the names of those who are going to Volunteer at AirVenture by May 10<sup>th</sup>. So, if you haven't let her know that you are going, be sure that you do. If you don't, your credentials won't be waiting for you at the gate when you arrive there.

We discussed EAA's new "Learn to Fly Day" for adults coming up on May 21<sup>st</sup>, but decided that we would try to combine it with our "Young Eagles Day" at Ford Airport on June 11<sup>th</sup>, partly due to some of our Chapter members will be going to Oshosh for our Chapter Work Week End on May 21 & 22. EAA said it can be done, on the same day, but that the Learn to Fly Flights and Young Eagle Flights must be done separately. A Young Eagle Form must be filled out for each Young Eagle, and a waiver must be signed for each adult on the Learn to Fly Flights. A Certificate will be filled out for each adult given a "Learn to Fly Ride", similar to what is done for each Young Eagle we fly. If you want more details about "Learn to Fly Day", log into EAA's Website! Please contact Scott Trask if you if you are going to fly "Young Eagle" flights for the Chapter ASAP. Contact me or Tom Sullivan if you are interested in doing "Learn to Fly" flights, so we have some idea how many airplanes we will have available for flights **JIM.**

# Secretary's Notes

**Mike Betti 906-779-1368 mbetti@uplogon.com**

**April 16th, 2011 Meeting Note Mike Betti Workshop Iron Mountain, MI**

Chapter 439 Members present:

Mike Betti            Tom Sullivan            Whitey Jensen  
Jim Riverside            Aaron Gustafson Jim LeFevre

The group met at 9:00AM and talked about various projects, SNF and the latest at the airport for several hours

No meeting was officially opened

Jim Riverside talked about Young Eagles and Learn to Fly Day. Tom Sullivan and the group decided on a combined event in June

Coffee and sweet rolls were served

Meeting was adjourned 11:30 PM.



**Mike Betti's RV-7 Wing**



**RV-7 Horizontal Stabilizer**



**A few of the 60+ tornado damaged aircraft at Sun 'n Fun 2011**

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**Dues are \$15.00 a year! From August 1<sup>st</sup> Please send them to our treasurer'**

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**Website: [www.eaa439.org](http://www.eaa439.org)**