

# EAA CHAPTER 104 NEWSLETTER

## **EAA CHAPTER 104 MONTHLY MEETING**

*Friendship & Flying – “For The Fun of It”*

*Meetings are conducted in the EAA Chapter Room – Porter County Municipal Airport  
4207 Murvihill Road, Valparaiso IN 46383*

**MONTHLY CHAPTER MEETING TUESDAY- February 8, 2011**

**Socialize & Coffee-6:30 pm – Meeting: 7:00pm**

**CHAPTER WEBSITE: [www.eaa104.org](http://www.eaa104.org)**

**Do to our January special activity we will NOT have a meeting January 11<sup>th</sup>. See you at the February 8th meeting. Bring a Friend!**

**Experimental Aircraft Association  
Ed Hanson, Editor  
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Crown Point, Indiana 46307-9117  
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**FIRST CLASS**

### **EAA CHAPTER 104 MISSION STATEMENT**

Foster, promote, and engage in aviation education.  
Promote, encourage and facilitate membership  
in the Experimental Aircraft Association.  
Support and promote the mission, vision, goals  
and objectives of the EAA.

# President's Page

Ed Hanson

January 2011



It seems odd to type in 2011 on this page but what really feels strange is to write 2012 on the membership cards when you pay your dues. I hope those of you who haven't paid your dues yet will take care of that by the next meeting.

The next meeting will be February 8<sup>th</sup>. We will *not* be having a regular January meeting due to our special activity "Flying To Alaska" which will be 7 PM, Friday, January 7 at **Eagle Aircraft**.

I hope to see a good turnout for this activity. We will enjoy an interesting presentation by **Joe Kurberka** followed by the **FAA** on Sport Pilot and LSA. You can satisfy part of your biannual flight review by attending. We thank the kind staff at **Eagle Aircraft** for providing a larger meeting venue for this activity. Come and check out their new Cessna 162 Skycatcher LSA.

On New Year's Day, my wife Judi and I traveled to Nappanee IN to attend EAA Chapter 938's Hangar Over Party. Despite the cold windy day, they had a respectable crowd. I passed out flyers for our special activity and pumped the flesh. The lunch time crowd was enjoying the good food and hospitably.

We have a new Young Eagle co-coordinator in transition.

**Rick Schreiber** has agreed to take over the duties from **Dennis Funkhouser**. We thank Dennis for his efforts in promoting the program and look forward to working with Rick in the future. Stay tuned for our Young Eagle events for this year.

Next month, we will also have a new newsletter editor as **Jim Haklin** will be takeover and give me more time to work on other chapter activities. Thanks Jim!

I see the dates for the 2011 Chapter Leaders Academy have been published and I encourage those chapter leaders who have not yet attended the academy to give up a weekend and enjoy attending the free academy. **Dave Thomas** and I enjoyed it very much. It's a great way to meet the EAA staff and they certainly take good care of you.

Finally, I received a very nice card and thoughtful letter to share with the chapter from **Tom** and **Michelle Uskert** thanking the chapter for the flowers we sent to their son **Ben's** memorial service and recounting **Ben's** strong desire to fly. With their permission the letter appears later in this newsletter. I believe you will enjoy reading it as I did.

Please work, play and build safely.

Ed Hanson

Chapter 938's Hangar Over Party, New Years' Day 2011  
Nappanee, IN  
Please support our nearby chapters' activities.



REMEMBER, we will not have a regular January meeting due to our special activity. The next meeting will be February 8<sup>th</sup>.

Since we will not be having a regular January chapter meeting, the December Chapter 104 meeting minutes will be published in the February newsletter.

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This is the coolest thing! Just move your cursor around the map and see what the current temperatures and weather conditions are in cities all over the country.

CLICK ON THIS

<http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/zoa/mwmap3.php?map=usa>

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Okay folks, here you are in the pilot's seat on your way to drop the "Big Boy" atomic bomb to end WW2 with Japan....

**B-29 Enola Gay...**

**National Air and Space Museum DRAG THE POINTER IN ALL DIRECTIONS CLICK:**

<http://www.davidpalermo.com/data/slideshow/4/index.html>

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**F-16 Deadstick into Elizabeth City, N.C.**

*This video is of a F-16 dead stick landing into Elizabeth City, NC. See if you can keep all of the radio transmission straight. Probably the coolest sounding voice in the whole mix is the actual pilot of the engine out aircraft. Just a reminder... an F-16 has only one engine. When it goes, you are coming down. It is just a matter of figuring out where the airplane will come to rest on terra firma. Nice job....cool pilot!*

<http://www.patricksaviation.com/videos/SUPERGT/3384/>



## Supplies4gis

On November 21st about 100 people came to hangar C9 to help package up Christmas boxes for our soldiers. We had so many goodies. We boxed up 360 Christmas packages. Most of the items were donated by the schools that partnered up with us. We had 4 schools in Crown Point, 5 schools in Valparaiso, and 2 in Demotte and Wheatfield. This is also where we got most of our soldier's names and addresses from. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Eaa Chapter 104 for sponsoring this great project monetarily, and all the help the members did with packaging up our boxes. It's so great to know that you have a heart for this project and are willing to help with postage, and with the packaging. I have so many people to thank, I don't know where to start, and I'm afraid I will miss some one. If your name is not mentioned please know how much each and everyone has been appreciated. I want to thank Ed for letting me use the EAA building and for asking for volunteers to help with the custom forms. After we get the boxes packaged and ready for mailing, I have to make a custom form (6 pages ea) for each box, and then I have to make an address label for each box, with each soldier's name. This year we only had 72 soldiers' names. Well, God must have known how big a project this was this year. Biggest mailing ever, and he sent me an angel helper. Pam Ray, yep, she was sent from heaven I'm sure. She was at every custom form day I had. She opened up the EAA chapter building early, and turned on the heat. We worked about 6 hours each day. Then she took all the custom forms and made out the address labels for each soldier. I asked her if she could make out a few extra of each soldier, in case I didn't have enough for all the boxes we had, and she did. Well, you know she found her own angel, yep; Rick jumped in and helped her do some custom forms and anything else she needed help with. Rick and Pam also paid for all of the label making material. Thank you sooooo much. I also want to thank Ed for letting me put Larry's 175 in his hangar. There were so many boxes this year, I couldn't put them in my living room, so I left them in my hangar, and Larry had no room for his airplane. Ed generously said we could use his hangar, until I got the boxes mailed. My little post office would only take 40 boxes a day, so I just got the last boxes in the mail 20th of December. I have had a request to give some boxes to 3 soldiers that were deployed Christmas week, so I have held a few back to mail them in about a week. If we mailed them now, the boxes would get to Afghanistan before the soldiers, so I will mail them after Christmas. Once again, I want to thank everyone for all your help and support.

Until next year.

God Bless our troops

God Bless America

Cherie Cope

*Cheri has provided us some letters of thanks she has received from the GI's. We have included portions of a few of these letters for your reading. They really like to hear we are thinking about them.*

Supplies4GIs,

>

> Thanks very much for the two care packages that you recently sent me. All  
> of us here appreciated the snacks, and the books and cards will definitely  
> help us pass the free time. It is nice to get these unexpected gifts from  
> folks back home who support us, it helps keep our spirits high, especially  
> during the holidays. From all of us here at Al Udied, thanks, and happy  
> holidays!

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Hi, my name is April Dawne Renfrow and my husband SFC James Eric Renfrow received the package you sent to him. We both want to say thank you so much for it! We both appreciate it a lot!! On your letter, it said it came from Valparaiso, IN & that someone who care about you or loves you very much gave you all his name. Well, I have an Aunt who lives in Valparaiso & didn't know if it was her or not. If so, tell her I said thank you as well. The letters that were in the package that were from students, they are so sweet! I would love to write them back & let them know who got their letters if that is at all possible. I don't know if you know who they are or anything, but if you know how I can contact them, could you please let me know? On a couple of them, there is a school address & I am going to write to them there & let them know how much they were appreciated & being thought of like they did.

We are originally from Morgantown, KY, but are now in Lawton, OK. He is stationed at Ft. Sill, OK now, which is in the town of Lawton. Before that though, we were at Ft. Campbell, KY. We have been here in OK since Sept. 2009 & have less than a year left here. For that, we are thankful. He is currently a Drill Sgt. In the U.S. Army & has been in the Army since June 1999. He has been deployed to Iraq three times, Kosovo once, & Korea once. Many other countless deployments here in the states as well. On Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>, we will have been married 10 wonderful & not so wonderful years. Wonderful when he is home and not so when he has to be deployed. Yeah, we hate deployments! Once again, thank you so much for what all you sent (I already used the carrots in homemade veggie soup I made last night). It was all so thoughtful & generous of you for doing that!! Have a Very Merry Christmas & Happy New Year 2011!!!!

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Dear Cherie

I have recently received your 'Supplies4GIs' package and wanted to personally express my gratitude. The packages brought a lot of smiles to a lot of people here in Southwest Asia. We have a mission here where wounded soldiers come from all over the AOR to get surgery and I passed a lot of what you sent to them. They were very very great full for your support. They come here with next to nothing, get fixed up and then sent back down range so what you sent was greatly appreciated.

I am from Northwest Indiana. I was born in Munster, IN but live most my life in the small town called Lake Village. I graduated from North Newton in 1999. I went to nursing school and got my LPN. I met my wife Barbie at a nursing home I was working at and the rest is history. We now have 3 children.

I joined the US Air Force in 2006. I am currently stationed at Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland. My job in the Air Force is Biomedical Equipment Technician. Which means I repair and calibrate all medical equipment from thermometer to Cat Scan machines. It is a very precise job and a lot of patient lives fall on the equipment we calibrate so precision is a must. At times it is stress full but all good things come with a little bit of stress. This is my first deployment and being it over the major holidays made it extremely hard for me. I have never missed a holiday with my family and thank the good lord for Skype, it has been a life saver.

I am due home in early May and back to Indiana shortly after to visit the rest of my family. It would be my pleasure to meet up with you all and speak at one of your meetings. I'd like to send a special thank you to all the Vets. It's because of them I still have the right to fight for our freedom. Once again thank you and your program for all it does for our troops all over the world. My wife asks me sometimes how I keep going everyday and I tell her that all I need to know is that somewhere out there people still believe in freedom and they still stand for the Red, White and Blue.

If there is anything else I can be of assistance with please let me know. Thanks again for all you do!!!

Jason Weigl, SSgt USAF

Certified Biomedical Equipment Technician (CBET)

Medical Maintenance

This is the letter received from Tom and Michelle Uskert.  
Very nice!

EAA Chapter #104,

12-17-10

Thank you very much for the flowers you sent to Ben's memorial service. They were greatly appreciated. The Chapter has been so good to us.

We were remembering the other day of the time when the Chapter came out to interview Ben for Eagle Soars. Ben and his mother had made it home just in time for the interview. You see....Ben had smashed his little finger that day at his job. (This was before his ARS Aviation job with Jim Bowers). Ben was using the log splitter that day and caught his little finger between the log and the bottom plate.

Mom had to rush to the hospital with all the insurance forms to get Ben stitched up!! The Chapter guys couldn't believe Ben had kept his interview, being in such pain. But you see.....BEN REALLY WANTED TO FLY!!

His mom and I couldn't talk Ben out of keeping the interview, no matter how much pain he was in. The only thing Ben would even take were a few Tylenol, because he didn't want to mess up his interview. Sometimes we wonder if Ben received the scholarship on his determination alone!!

It was Ben's destiny to fly and it was his wish to be a missionary and he chose to fly with MAF. It didn't matter where he was, flying was his life.

It was also Ben's enjoyment to go surfing. If there was water and waves he was going. And that day, Ben and a friend were taking 3 orphans surfing in knee deep water, when 2 older kids asked to join them, of course Ben said yes!

The two older children got out in too deep of water and the one fellow went after the one and Ben went after the other. Now...Ben being who he was he would never have thought of not going after the boy!! Our son was that kind of a person! The boy was never found. But by God's grace, Ben was brought back to shore, we feel by God's hand alone.

It's to our great sorrow that Ben is gone. And we don't share this with you for you to feel sorrow....no...we share this with you in gratitude for what the Chapter did for Ben. For the scholarship you gave him, and for the friends he made. What's the saying off of "It's A Wonderful Life"? "You were born old". And Ben was indeed born old. He was glad to make friends of any age. And more glad to have his elders take him under their wings. He was eager to be taught by young and old alike. (Old, because they knew more!!) But anything you could share with Ben about planes, he then was in his element!

So again we thank Chapter #104 for all your support and flowers, and for the Eagle Soars Program, it gave our son his start.

Sincerely Tom & Michelle Uskert