

# EAA CHAPTER 104 NEWSLETTER

## **EAA CHAPTER 104 MONTHLY MEETING**

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

*Meetings held in the EAA Chapter Room – Porter County Municipal Airport*

**4207 Murvihill Road, Valparaiso, IN 46383**

**MONTHLY CHAPTER MEETING TUESDAY- November 10, 2009**

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

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

**See you at the November 10th meeting. Bring a Friend!**

**Experimental Aircraft Association**

**Charlene Falkenberg, Editor**

**618 South Washington Street**

**Hobart, Indiana 46342-5026**

**Phone: 219-942-8887**

**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

November 2009

OK, I admit it, I'm a CoCoRaHS. Well I'm not really a CoCoRaHS but rather a CoCoRaHS volunteer observer. As a pilot, you are always involved with the weather and this is one of the reporting means used for our forecasts. CoCoRaHS is an acronym for Community Collaborative Rain, Hail & Snow Network. It is based at Colorado State University and includes NOAA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration as a major sponsor. Visit the web site at [www.cocorahs.org](http://www.cocorahs.org) to learn more about the organization. Basically, the volunteers attend a short training program, are given an accurate rain gauge, apply for a station name and number (I'm PT44 - Porter County Station 44), then report the daily participation either as rain or snow at their site over the internet. It's interesting to look on line and compare the different amounts received at the reporting stations.



This summer my wife and I toured the Grand Rapids National Weather Station facility with other CoCoRaHS volunteers then had a barbeque at the local County Extension office to celebrate Michigan's joining the group. The Grand Rapids NWS office does some aviation weather forecasts and reports and we were able to see the equipment and meet the staff as well as watching a very intriguing movie on tornados.

If you are interested in becoming a local CoCoRaHS volunteer observer, a training session is planned for November 14th at Valparaiso University. See the notice below from the Times:

Free training is offered for weather observers at Valparaiso University. A Valparaiso University professor of meteorology will present a training session in November for volunteers interested in joining a national network of backyard weather observers. Teresa Bals-Elsholz, assistant professor of geography and meteorology, will present a training session on Nov. 14 for volunteers interested in joining the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network (CoCoRaHS). Sponsored by the National Science Foundation, CoCoRaHS seeks to build a dense network of volunteer rain gauge observers to take accurate measurements of precipitation. The precipitation information is posted online daily and helps weather researchers and forecasters provide more accurate information to the general public and those who depend on precipitation for their livelihood. The Nov. 14 training session will begin at 1 p.m. at Valparaiso University in Kallay- Christopher Hall Room 112 at 1809 Chapel Drive. The training session will last between 60 and 90 minutes. Those planning to attend should send an e-mail to [Teresa.Bals-Elsholz@valpo.edu](mailto:Teresa.Bals-Elsholz@valpo.edu) or call (219) 464-6003 in order to ensure enough free rain gauges are available to distribute to volunteers.

FYI: Call (219) 464-6003.

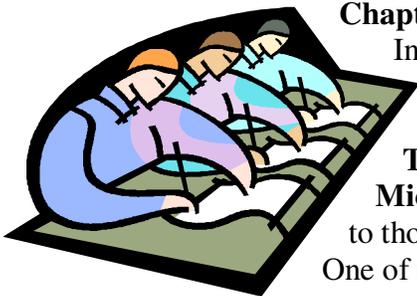
Please work, play and build safely.

Ed Hanson

## Eagle Aircraft Flight Rally by Dennis Funkhouser

Eagle Aircraft hosted its First Annual Flight Rally October 10, 2009. Pilot Paul Larson and his wife Vicky placed first by making the most accurate estimates of their time and fuel burn. The rally took place on a clear fall day and consisted of a roughly 120 mile course through Northwest Indiana. We were given three checkpoints to find for preflight planning and a list of questions to answer to verify that we flew the correct course. Bob Urschel and his son Rick won the Spot Landing contest at the end of the Rally. It was a good opportunity to dust off old flight planning skills. My E6B hadn't been out of its case in years, I had to ask my copilot for help using it at first. Eagle had cookies and barbecue sandwiches for the post flight comradely. Each pilot won a commemorative plaque, a current copy of the FAR/AIM and an Eagle Aircraft baseball cap. Thanks go to Eagle Aircraft for hosting a fun flying event.

**Young Eagle Flights** The weather didn't cooperate for our advertised October 24<sup>th</sup> Young Eagle flights which had to be cancelled. We were able to fly five Young Eagles on Sunday the 25<sup>th</sup> our rain date. We thank our pilots Dennis Funkhouser and Rick Schreiber as well as our staff volunteers for the two day effort. **Eagle Aircraft** intended to provide an aircraft and an EAA pilot on Saturday but the weather was just too bad. We look forward to seeing **Eagle Aircraft** help fly our Young eagles next year.



### Chapter 104 Ground School Finishes

Instructor **Pat Vacendak** finished our private pilot ground school on Wednesday October 14<sup>th</sup> and administered a practice test. The students that stuck it out and finished include; **Bob Ott, Dan Thomas, Rick Sirko, Scott Shriver, Ken Litko, Bob Litko, Michelle Bement, Nathan Nagle, and Judi Hanson**. Congratulations to those students who stayed the course towards earning their wings! One of the students submitted the following article.

Many came and made the first scene but only the brave and stout hearted lasted until the end. The drop out rate reminded me of skiers who made the scene but never left the bunny hill to ski down the slope. We started out with about 20 brave students and their cheering sections. By the time we had our final class and test we were down to nine potential pilots. Several dropped out due to family, job commitments or health reasons. No one ever said it would be easy.

Pat Vacendak is a miracle worker who kept us interested and informed. He related many personal experiences to bring the lesson home to us. Pat is a fun, interesting instructor with over a 90% pass rate for the FAA exam.

Our age group spanned from teen to social security. We came for the love and fun of flying, for a family member or friend and with our own "can do" attitude. We became late night coffee drinkers both at the Chapter Room and at home while studying. We became hangar pilots and developed a group of new friends who may be ready to go to the next step-the FAA exam and into an airplane for flight lessons.

Thanks to EAA Chapter 104 for sponsoring this complementary activity and to Pat Vacendak for his effort in helping us achieve our goal. Now that I have completed this class there will be a fight for the window seat when we fly commercial because I want to experience everything.

## **Chapter 104 Awards Banquet Saturday November 14<sup>th</sup> 7 PM**

Plan to attend our awards banquet at the chapter room and enjoy the evening with your fellow members and their families. The Chapter will provide chicken, beef and beverages. The members should bring a dish to share. **Jim Haklin** has offered to shop for the door prizes again this year even though he has a better offer for the evening and won't be in attendance. Please let president Ed Hanson know at the November meeting or 219.988.4879, or hansoncp@netnitco.net if you plan to attend and how many so we can get a count for the meat.

**Time to renew your dues** It's that time of the year again to think about renewing your Chapter 104 membership for 2010. Since we are going greener, we are not including a renewal sheet for you any longer. Simply give your fifteen dollar renewal fee to our treasurer **Rick Ray** at the meeting and save both paper and postage. If you can't attend a meeting, please mail your check to **Rick Ray**, 293 Ravinia Drive N., Valparaiso, IN 46385.

**Plan now** to support our troops by help **Cheri Cope** pack **Supplies for GI's** on Sunday afternoon November 15<sup>th</sup> at the Cope hangar. We also need to provide help filling out the required paperwork.

**Things you want to ask the FAA-** but are afraid to ask. This will be our program at the **November 10<sup>th</sup>** meeting. Retired FAA inspector Gene Hall and member **Dr. James Edwards** Senior FAA Medical Examiner will attempt to answer those touchy questions you always wanted to ask. You have time now to prepare a list for them.

### **Is a name change in order for our scholarship fund?**

Chapter president **Ed Hanson** and Chapter Young Eagles coordinator **Dennis Funkhouser** have been discussing the problem of accepting donations for our scholarship program at our Young Eagle events. We had to reject an offer at our latest event. Dennis emailed the following thought and asked to include it in the newsletter. Members, let's have some discussion at our next few meetings.

After thinking about our discussion this morning on donations I have come think that I could support donations at Young Eagle events under two conditions. First the chapter needs to change the name of the scholarship fund so that it does not contain the words 'Young' or 'Eagle'. It is too easy to confuse Eagle Soars with Young Eagle. I would suggest something descriptive like Flight Lesson Scholarship Fund. The second would be to set up a separate account for the Flight Lesson Scholarship Fund and account for the money. So that if we collect \$50 at a Young Eagle event we can show that \$50 went into the Flight Lesson Scholarship Fund. Obviously the donation can would need to be clearly labeled with the new name of the fund. And if we spend \$1200 on flying lessons we can show that it came from the Flight Lesson Scholarship Fund.

Keep in mind that all of the risk from the FAA for accepting donations at Young Eagle events falls directly upon the pilots and not the chapter. For this reason it is important to me that we not only avoid Young Eagle flight funding but that we also avoid any appearance of Young Eagle flight funding. All it would take is for one parent to complain and the FAA would be obligated to investigate. Even though we are not funding Young Eagle flights we still do not want an investigation. I have not checked with our pilots to see how they feel about this issue. Please put this in the newsletter and ask the chapter members to discuss.

Dennis

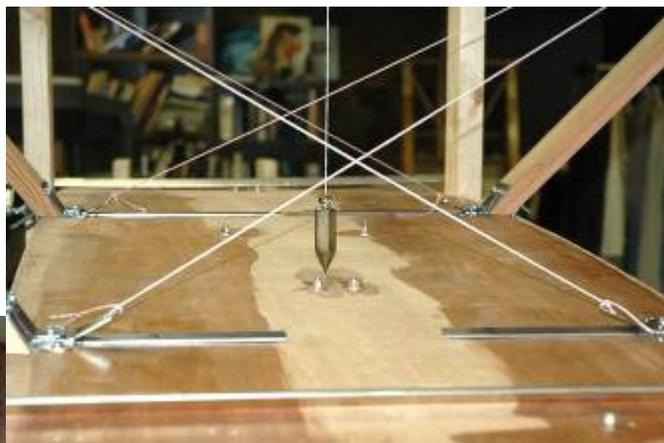
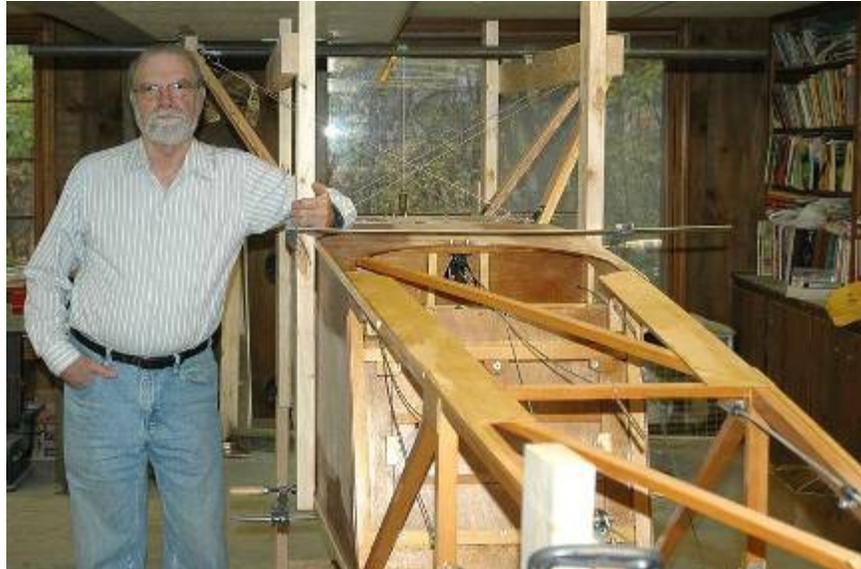
# Chapter 104 Landing Light On Member Rick Schreiber



Rick is building a Pietenpol Aircamper. His other plane is a Piper short wing Tri Pacer. He intends to install a Corvair engine along with basic instruments with a few enhancements. His favorite part of building so far has been laying out the wings and landing gear. Rick states the plans have a few things that aren't right. But you can correct them and internet help is great from other builders. Since Rick was a paint chemist in working life, all the coatings used to date are his own brew! His advice to members considering building is as Tony Bingelis advised – do something every day on the project to stay connected- even if it's just looking at it. Perhaps start with the wing ribs first to see how you like the building process.

Rick is also a gunsmith who builds flintlock rifles from the period 1760 to about 1820. This helps explain the exquisite detailed craftsmanship displayed on his project.

**Nice  
work Rick!**



**EAA WORLD OF FLIGHT CALENDARS** are available for the chapter to order. A quantity of 10-25 calendars cost \$8.50 each. Speak up if you are interested and we'll see if we can justify an order.



### **EAA Air Academy**

As discussed at our October meeting and included in the following meeting minutes, There is still space available to send a participant to the 2010 Air Academy. Let's discuss this at our meeting.

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### **EAA Chapter 104 Porter County Municipal Airport Valparaiso, IN**

Minutes of Monthly Meeting, October 13, 2009

The meeting was called to order and The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Ed Hanson at 7:00 PM

Welcome and acknowledgement of guest John Houser. John has relocated from the Ft Wayne area where he was active in the Vintage Aircraft Chapter.

#### **BUSINESS MEETING:**

##### **Old Business:**

The minutes from the September meeting were approved by the members.  
The Oshkosh Food Booth profit split with PCPA was discussed. Ed will present the PCPA with a check for their share at their next meeting.

The Treasurer's Report was given and approved.

### **President's Report:**

Ed talked to EAA about the mailing list we received having missed several members. They sent an unedited list with 570 names in our 30 mile radius. We must first make contact to these folks by mail and then can ask them for their email address. EAA will not provide email addresses. We will need to edit this list to our needs.

Ed also talked to EAA about the 2010 Air Academy. Space is available in all camps at this time. We need to send in a deposit for an unnamed attendee to hold a space and then name the attendee and gender by March 31<sup>st</sup>. There are three different age groups with different costs. Age 12 – 13 is \$600; 14 – 15 is \$800; and 16 – 18 is \$1,000.

The airport is conducting a public information open house on October 27<sup>th</sup> from 5 – 7 PM to discuss proposed improvements.

We are adding an FAA Medical Examiner, Chapter Member Dr James Edwards, to our November 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. We will also have a question and answer program with retired FAA Inspector Col. Gene Hall at that meeting. Start writing down your questions for them now. We will also invite the PCPA to attend.

The Awards Banquet will be November 14<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM in the Chapter Room.

We're continuing to go a little greener. If you would like to help the Chapter save money, ink, paper and postage, sign up for the electronic only copy of the newsletter. 23 members have signed up for the electronic only newsletter. We hope by the end of the year to need only a handful of printed copies that we could print on a home printer. We can see significant savings by doing this and help to keep the dues low.

We are out of sectional maps for our Young Eagles, please bring your old maps to the next meeting or somehow get them to us.

Ground school concludes at 7 PM tomorrow. 10 or 11 members will complete the Ground School with a Written Test.

### **Young Eagles Report:**

The next Young Eagle event is Saturday October 24<sup>th</sup> with the 25<sup>th</sup> as a rain date. Mark your calendar. We need to have a good complement of volunteers. We have received 50 logbooks for this event, and we have started advertising. The ramp we normally use is under construction so we may need to move the operation to the Terminal Building. Dennis needs at least 2 ground people on the flight line for the safety of all.

### **Webmaster's Report:**

The web site received 375 hits, the highest ever, last month. We are receiving inquiries about the chapter through the web site.

**Builder's Night and Project status:**

Builder's Night is every Tuesday except the monthly meeting night.  
The last few Builder's Nights have been at Ed's putting on the top of the fuselage, working on a filter air box, fuel and brake lines.

**Eagle Soars:**

Bruce is still looking for candidates for Eagle Soars. Also it is time to have the Eagle Soars candidates submit an essay. Bruce sent out a letter asking that an essay be submitted by November 1<sup>st</sup>. The award will be presented at the Award Banquet on November 14<sup>th</sup>.

**We Care:**

We received two cards of appreciation from the Larmon family.  
Ray Dolph had a successful heart procedure. He is home and Jane is taking care of his dog for now. There was also a surprise 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party for Ray that some members attended.

**Two Month Look Ahead:**

Please remember that Char is always looking for information to include in the newsletter.  
Build night is every Tuesday except meeting nights  
Next meeting is November 10<sup>th</sup> with guests Dr James Edwards and Col Gene Hall.  
Next Young Eagles event is Saturday October 24<sup>th</sup> with the 25<sup>th</sup> as a rain date. Mark your calendar.  
Chapter Awards Banquet is November 14<sup>th</sup>. Mark your calendar.  
Supplies for GIs is November 15<sup>th</sup>.

Respectively submitted,  
Pam Ray  
Chapter Secretary