



# Pilots Progress

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## “BOING” Spring has sprung!

**The April meeting will be on Tues. the 12th, 7pm in our hangar.**

Chris from Elkhart tower will be our guest speaker. We will discuss spring projects and events, including, hangar updates, Hi-Max, compass rose, Young Eagle Rally. There will be refreshments.

### March Minutes

Meeting was called to order by Bill Baird at 7:10, March 7, 2011. Reading of minutes by Bob Baird was approved. Treasure's report was given by Ivan. Funds are low & Ivan requested that those who

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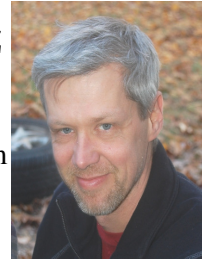
I think it's now warm enough for us to get serious about spending some quality time with our hangar. It's been setting there all winter long, waiting. And now, the waiting is over!

Seriously, I was thinking about how our committees are not working. Yes, not working. I wondered why. Well, I think I know. Nobody wants to step on anybody's toes. So no decisions are made and not much gets done. I would like to suggest something that used to happen. One of us would see something that needed to be done. He (or her), would get permission from the board (many times it was a Board Member), buy the materials, get a few buddies, and do it. This just happened

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## The Prez Sez

By  
Bill Baird  
justabillbaird@aol.com



One thing great about learning to fly and being around aviation types is all the people you meet. Bright people, smart, got their act together. So you don't see any pilot types with about 10 inches of their purple and red under pants showing their pants hanging off their but. I haven't met a pilot who walks around hunched over with his

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3TR used to have a 'compass rose'. It was painted by a bunch local pilots, led by Dave Swift and Marty Mottweiler. It has disappeared, but an article in the March Sport Aviation, has inspired my son Jeff to want to replace it. He is a Landscape Architect who has designed many of them and would like to involve some young people in the project. We'll need the blessing of the Airport Board and a committee to do the details.



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Herb Schwelnus listens to Roger talk about his experiences as a young F-86 maintenance tech with the Operation Squadron at the USAF Academy in the 1950's. He recalled crawling up the tailpipe to check for cracks, almost losing his arm to a canopy and helping Bob Hope climb out of an F-100. We definitely want Roger back for more stories.

*(Meetings, Continued from page 1)*

have not paid dues please do so to help the treasury. Ivan has also volunteered to donate an extra \$100 to the funds.

Old business was discussed. Ralph brought up that the HiMax was a valuable project and should be brought to completion this summer to boost the chapter's income. Ralph mentioned that some HiMax's are selling for \$6000 on Ebay.

Bob Baird brought up to begin the Saturday morning work parties, 0800 to 1000, again beginning in April as the weather clears up. Bob Baird also brought up liquidating some of the stuff the club has accumulated to help organize the hangar. There was a brief discussion on spicing up the next fly-in with some variety. Bob Baird also brought up completing the heated work area along the North wall.

The date for the FAA SAFE meeting was briefly discussed. No date was set yet. The meeting was

*(Spring, Continued from page 1)*

with our sign. I would like to see it happen with the Hi-Max, the room decorating, the work shop, the bottom of the hangar door, etc.

What it takes is one person to say, let's do it. Other members will join in, ala our sign, and the job gets done. Believe me, there will be no repercussions. Just admiration for a job well done. Oh, did I mention, it's a lot of fun and satisfaction. So do your wives a favor, get out of their hair, over to our hangar, and get busy.

Ralph



*(Prez, Continued from page 1)*

hands in his pockets (to hold up his pants) and a black hoodie on and all kinds of woman's jewelry piercing his nose, ears, tongue and eyebrows. You don't see pilots with their wallet pocket clear down to the back of their knees and a baseball cap on sideways. And what's with this, "Dude!" This and a few other four letter words seem to be the only adjectives they seem to know. Pilots don't need to make fashion statements that way.

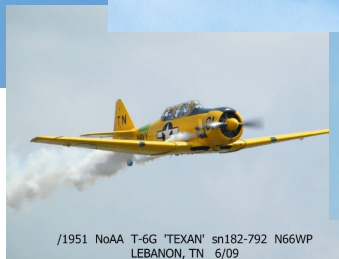
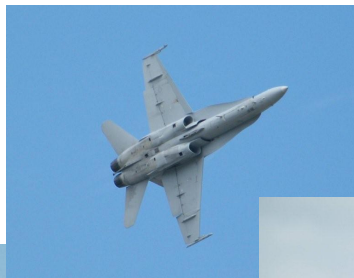
Talking about meeting people, the other day, out with Dad as he was practicing flight maneuvers in a Piper Arrow, we taxied onto the North Ramp at Elkhart. Dad said to control tower, "Is this Chris?"

ATC came back to us, "Yeah! It is." Dad returned, "I've been wanting to meet you. Can we come up?"

"Sure, come to the tower and ring the buzzer." I was excited I always wanted to see the inside, up on top, part of the tower and see what the controller looked like.

Well, we had a good time with Chris up in the Elkhart Control Tower. He is another one of those fascinating aviation types that we seem to meet everywhere we go whether in Elkhart, Niles, or Oshkosh.

Chris is going to be next week's



**Pictures  
courtesy of  
Dave Bragdon**

Chapter speaker. Fascinating guy, Chris does a lot of volunteer work at Grissom Museum and other places, is an ATC controller, and a pilot. Don't miss the next meeting.

Anyway, arriving back at the South Bend Atlantic Aviation Ramp we meet another neat guy. Dad talks to everybody like they are an old friend and he comments to a guy on how nice his business jet looks. The guy lights up and says come aboard and take a look. He had a friendly hand shake and a great deal of satisfaction on his face. "Go up and meet the pilot," He said, "He's rough old geezer but he's ok and was a B-2 pilot and flew B-52's." So here's another moment that just pilot types get to share together. We were kindred spirits there in the small cockpit of the Hawker 800, you see it in the eyes as pilots talk. It doesn't make any difference if it's a seasoned B-52 pilot talking to a student, they are kindred spirits in their passion of flight. Their hand motions demonstrating flight principles, a certain look, and being in the technological intoxication of the Hawker cockpit. Yup! There's something special about being around pilots and airplanes that's special.

See Ya at the meeting on Tuesday.  
Bill

**Excerpt from the 'Aw-Ja-Magic Pancake Breakfast', by Stephan Wilkinson**

The Experimental Aircraft Association, by far the world's largest organization of sport pilots, estimates that 10 to 20 major EAA-sanctioned fly-in breakfasts are held in the country every weekend between early April and the end of October, with countless more held by unaffiliated local groups such as the Dundee Flying Club. Fly-in breakfasts are just one manifestation of the American lightplane pilot's seemingly constant quest for food—a quest so unremitting, in fact, that it is an effective inflation index: what in the 1930s was called "the 50-cent hamburger" had by the 1960s become the \$20 burger and is today \$100 on a bun. It is the greasy patty served at any airport cafe somewhere over the horizon, half an hour's flight—and the expense it entails—away. And this despite the fact that some of the vilest, plainest, unrepentantly unhealthiest food in the United States is served at small-airport cafes. They are the last bastion of Route 66 home cooking. In fact, one explanation for the popularity of fly-in breakfasts may well be that the lanches at airport restaurants in the early days of general aviation were so bad that pilots generally made their cafe jaunts in search of breakfasts, which were harder to ruin. <http://www.seqair.com/Hangar/Wilkinson/Pancake/Pancake.html>

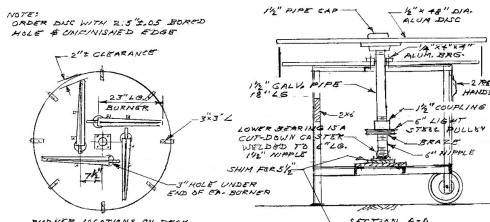
**Flange a lightening hole**

Use one of the most reasonable and easy-to-fabricate tools yet - the "Bob Stick", to flange a lightening hole in a sheet metal rib, this is the simplest and cheapest way to do it. The tool is affectionately named after Bearhawk designer Bob Barrows, who encourages Bearhawk builders to use it. The "Bob Stick" can be made in your own shop from several types of materials. Such as a broom stick, dowel, or nylon rod. Simply cut a notch in the end to the desired depth of your flange and lubricate. Then use the notch to slide around the lightening hole at ever increasing angles, till you get the angle that you want. *Thanks to: Robin Berglund (photo) and Tim Hoversten (EAA HQ video)*



**Spinner cut outs / Paper Mache** *From homebuiltairplanes.com*

Hey Guys, I haven't heard of it done this way...But my "Cut out" for my Spinner/Prop Clearance wasn't very good... I needed a better "Mock up" So I covered my Spinner in plastic, and then covered it in Paper Mache....After, I coated it with Elmers Glue....It is helping get a better idea about the cut outs needed for the clearance needed...Just thought I'd share some pictures. Gotta Fly...Mike & "Jaz" in MN



**Bob Crowley and the Magnificent Pancake Machine**

Long time Chapter member Bob Crowley, is hard at work, scrounging parts and building, a magnificent pancake machine for our Chapters annual breakfasts. Bob hopes to have it done in time for or June Fly-In. He has most of the parts, but needs to obtain the 1/2"X48" round aluminum cook top, seen in the above drawing. If you would like to help Bob, with verbal or monetary support, you can reach him by email at, [bcrow128@yahoo.com](mailto:bcrow128@yahoo.com)





BOEING B-17G/P-1G 44-85838 'YANKEE LADY' LEB. TN 6/09



1940 SPARTAIN 7W 'EXECUTIVE' sn30 N17664 EAA71



1931 GREAT LAKES 2T-1A 'SPECIAL' sn249 EAA71



1945 SPARTAIN 12 sn1 N21962 &  
1929 SPARTAIN C3-165 sn149 NC705N EAA71

Above are more pictures from Dave Bragdon's collection. Dave was kind enough to send these to me, so that I can share them with you. Ralph

## Calendar of Events

May 14, 2ND Annual Elkhart Airport Fly-In Breakfast  
 May 21, EAA Chapter 104 Fly-In Breakfast, Valparaiso  
 June 26, EAA 865 25th Annual Fly-In Breakfast, Niles  
 July 2, EAA Chapter 585 Steak Lunchin, Watervliet  
 July 3, EAA 966 Fly-In Breakfast Michigan City  
 July 8 to 10, EAA Ford Tri-Motor Tour, Elkhart  
 July 25 to 31, AirVenture, Oshkosh  
 Sept. 3, 21st Annual Fly/In Cruise/In Breakfast, Marion, IN  
 Sept. 10, EAA Chapter 865, Salute to Veterans, Fly-In  
 Breakfast, Niles  
 Sept. 17, EAA 938 Apple Fest and Wings and Wheels,  
 Nappanee  
 Oct. 16, EAA 585 Chili Hop[ Fly-In, Watervliet

**FOR DETAILS ON ABOVE EVENTS CALL  
 RALPH @ 269-684-0972**

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