

# CORBEN COURIER

## Chapter Meeting May 21 at Middleton Airport



Please plan to attend our next monthly meeting on May 21 at 6:30 PM at the **Middleton Airport**. Jeff and Patty Plantz are hosting our meeting at their hanger. We are hoping to have Ted Davis as our featured speaker for this meeting. You have probably seen Ted's beautiful 1929 New Standard biplane at the Middleton Airport. If everything works out as planned we will learn about Ted's aircraft and see it in action. There will also be other interesting aircraft in action so don't miss this meeting! Treats will be provided. Please come to the security gate around 6:15-6:30 to enter the hanger area. Someone will be there to let you in. See you there!

- Rob Tweed

## Chapter 93's New Home?

I recently had the pleasure of speaking with Jeff Davis, Director of Operations for Wisconsin Aviation, about a number of topics, not the least of which being an inquiry on the status of our proposal we submitted a number of months ago. This proposal calls for Chapter 93 to lease upgraded space in Wisconsin Aviation's large blue hanger on the South ramp. Jeff responded that his organization would like to take our proposal to the next step and he invited Chapter 93 to prepare a layout of how we would like to configure the space for our needs. He also requested that we obtain several quotations for the construction work that will be required. Needless to say I was delighted to hear this news. We are finally moving our project forward!



Now, before we all get too excited please understand that this is a long way away from being a done deal. We need to first prepare the construction quotes and the

figures need to be reasonable. We also need to receive approval from Wisconsin Aviation's top management. Based on our excellent relationship with Wisconsin Aviation and the fact that they would like to see the space used by a viable organization, I am reasonably encouraged that our request will be granted. I suppose there is always the potential for other influences to hamper our efforts, such as Dane County Regional Airport management, but let's not go there. Let's have everyone send out positive karma and see what happens.

As for the space itself, we couldn't ask for a better opportunity. The space that is offered for our consideration is located in the northwest corner of the building. It presently consists of four rooms with windows along the north side of the space. A glass door opens to a walkway that joins a huge apron on the south ramp. Our intention is to divide the space into two large rooms. The west room can be set up as a shop for project work and storage. The other room will be configured as our meeting room but it could also be set up for other needs as well. The total size for the space is approximately 1,100 sq. ft.



Financial details for the space will be forthcoming and these numbers will be primarily tied to the cost for improvements. While a definitive agreement still needs to be created, Jeff Davis is thinking Chapter 93 could potentially cover the cost of the improvements in return for free rent until the total cost of the improvements is reached. Obviously the lease term in such an agreement will need to be of sufficient length to enable Chapter 93 to fully receive the value of its investment.

We will immediately begin the process of preparing construction quotes. Stay tuned for more exciting developments as our proposal moves forward. Fingers crossed! I look forward to creating another year of flying fun with all of you. Thanks so much for all of your support to Chapter 93!

*- Rob Tweed*

## **EAA AirVenture Chapter 93 Work Weekend**

June 6-7 has been selected as our Chapter 93 work weekend for this year's AirVenture event. If you have not yet attended a work weekend, please consider joining in on this fun activity. You will meet some new friends, learn some new skills, eat some great food and have lots of fun! It is also a very rewarding activity, knowing that you are helping to make the world's greatest aviation event even better. Our desire is to get a group of Chapter 93 members to participate on the targeted June 6-7 weekend. The more the merrier, as they say. All is not lost, however, if

you can't make that weekend. Your support will be welcome anytime between now and AirVenture so plan to head up to Oshkosh and lend a hand. You'll be glad you did!

- Rob Tweed

## Heavy Bombers Weekend 2015 Update

Greetings Chapter 93 members from the planning desk of HBW 2015! We are just 2 months away from the 2015 event and it is shaping up to be a dandy once again. Our participating aircraft are listed on the website at [www.heavybombersweekend.splashthat.com](http://www.heavybombersweekend.splashthat.com), and there are a few aircraft that are still in the works, yet to be announced. Watch for those updates on the website, and social media pages [www.facebook.com/madisonHBW](http://www.facebook.com/madisonHBW) in the weeks to come.



*Photograph of B-17 from EAA's website*

Our vendors are falling into place nicely as well. The vendors are listed on the website, with possibly one or two more add-ons yet to be announced. We recently added Kona Ice and are also working on a second sweets vendor. We are waiting for the CAP to get back to us about helping with parking. David Deal is working to bring in our WWII Reenactors and Radio Communications. Greatly appreciated David! Don Ripp is working hard to arrange transportation for EAA and CAF flight crews, and also ensuring we have a VIP golf cart. Jim Lins will be coordinating the event finances pre-event, during, and post-event. A lot of time and energy goes into these "behind-the-scenes" activities that make the event possible and as successful as it is. Earl Martin will be overseeing the EAA Booth distributing information about our chapter and becoming an EAA member. We may be receiving help from the American Legion Post of McFarland with volunteers who have military aircraft operations background.

Our HBW sign-up sheets will be available at the next two chapter meetings so please consider helping the days and times where you are able, we need a strong commitment to make this another fun, safe, and successful year.

Event posters will be handed out to Chapter 93 members willing to post a few around the communities in which you live. Take as many, or as few as you would like to for posting. I will distribute the posters at the Middleton Airport meeting on the 21st. Please remember "sign hanging etiquette" and always ask property owners for permission, unless it is an obvious public bulletin board. Great ideas for posting locations include restaurants, VFWs, American Legions, bowling alleys, community centers, libraries, grocery stores, and just about anywhere else there is heavy foot traffic. The sooner we can get these posters up, the more visibility we will receive in the final weeks leading up to the event. I will also be doing a media blitz with local newspapers, radio stations, and TV stations in the final month leading up to the event. If you have any great ideas about getting the word out, please let me know.

A short HBW safety briefing will be provided at the June and July meetings. The briefing will include ramp hand signals, and aircraft movement areas, people movement areas, vendor areas, and restricted areas. Study up on your aircraft history for each of the participating aircraft so that you can share some facts with those people attending the event, or answer their questions, e.g., How many pounds of bombs did a B-29 carry? How much fuel? How many horsepower are the engines, etc.?

Lastly, the Chapter 93 Board elected Frank Smidler to fill-in as an Event Coordinator along with me for the 2015 event this year with Rob being away. Frank and I will be the go-to people for issues, emergencies, and crisis management. But we all know a "crisis" means a 5 year old dropping a Snow Cone at Heavy Bombers Weekend. :) I'm looking forward to this historic event and working with you all again this year in Madison, July 16th - 19th (July 16th as Media Day from 2pm to 5pm - followed by EAA Chapter 93 HBW Pot Luck Dinner at 5 p.m. that evening for all volunteers. Thanks to Scott Nolinske for the pulled pork from UW Provisions). Thank you for your support. Please contact me with questions or comments, Pete Buffington, [avitengineer@yahoo.com](mailto:avitengineer@yahoo.com), 913-850-1522 cell.

*- Pete Buffington*

## **Chapter 93 First to Sponsor** **Classroom Visit!**

I recently spoke with Tara Parkhurst at EAA about our classroom sponsorship. She clarified that the Thank You note was sent to our chapter to express her thanks for participating in the program. She has not yet scheduled a classroom visit. She said most schools are so busy at the

end of the year that with testing and graduation, they can't find the time to do a field trip. She said it will most likely be the beginning of the new school year before she can get a classroom visit scheduled.

She understands that we'd like to be notified when a visit has been scheduled so that some of our members can come join the kids. The target age group seems to be high schoolers but I did not ask specifically to verify that.

I asked if we were, in fact, the first chapter to participate in the program. She contacted Robin Cassell, head of Donor Donations. Robin verified that we are not only the first, but the ONLY chapter that has stepped up to sponsor a classroom. The only other sponsors have been individuals. Tara said she is trying to figure out the best way to get the word out and encourage other chapters to participate.

- *Patty Plantz*

## **Seaplane Challenge - Victory**



- *Jeff Plantz photo*

Hello fellow members. I am happy to report that I have finally figured out our sea plane. I did a solo flight last night, first one of the season. I really enjoyed my time alone in the air. I flew to one of my favorite spots, the Wisconsin River. Cruised along over the winding river and sand bars. Marveled at the beauty of the sculpted sand in the shallow areas. I dipped and turned, circled and did a little dancing in the sky. It was

peaceful and relaxing. I've been waiting for that feeling for an awfully long time!

After the river, I flew towards Mt. Horeb and circled around Tyrol Basin ski area - where our family has spent many years on the slopes. (Jeff has been a ski patroller there since 1993.) There were still three patches of snow sitting in the shady areas.

Then it was back to Morey's and an uneventful taxi to our hangar. Most people take taxiing for granted. Not so with this airplane, it was a beast to maneuver on the ground.....until our pilot friend, Jeff Russell, figured out a cure. He suggested adding shims and casters to improve the steering capability. A miracle cure! Thank you Mr. Russell!

Thanks also to my amazing builder husband Jeff. What a guy - he took a fuselage, a set of floats, and a dream. Then he built an awesome seaplane!

We are looking forward to many fun years of exploring Wisconsin and the U.S. by air and water. Next month, we head to Idaho for some back country flying with a Cub group. Main destination is the Johnson Creek Fly In. For those of you that were at

Jeff Russell's presentation about the trip (back in March), we were hooked after that night. We'll have many stories to share when we get back.

Happy Flying, whether real or imagined.....

- Patty Plantz

## Chapter Officers & Committee Chairs

Rob Tweed, President, 608-213-8271, [rbtweed@charter.net](mailto:rbtweed@charter.net)

Scott Nolinske, Vice President, 608-273-2586, [scott.nolinske@gmail.com](mailto:scott.nolinske@gmail.com)

Jim Lins, Treasurer, 608-271-8079, [jwlins@facstaff.wisc.edu](mailto:jwlins@facstaff.wisc.edu)

Earl Martin, Secretary, [martine@splpharma.com](mailto:martine@splpharma.com)

Jeff Plantz, Membership Coordinator, 608-251-6912, [cruzair@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cruzair@sbcglobal.net)

Pete Buffington, Board Member at Large, 913-850-1522, [avitengineer@yahoo.com](mailto:avitengineer@yahoo.com)

Frank Smidler, Board Member at Large, 608-279-0531, [fsmidler@stoughtontrailers.com](mailto:fsmidler@stoughtontrailers.com)

## Calendar

May 21 – Chapter Meeting at the Middleton Airport

June 6-7 – Chapter 93 work weekend for EAA AirVenture Oshkosh 2015 at Wittman Regional Airport, Oshkosh

July 16 – Media Day, Heavy Bombers Weekend and Pot Luck Dinner for volunteers at Dane County Regional Airport, Madison

July 17-19 – Heavy Bombers Weekend at Dane County Regional Airport, Madison

July 20-26 – EAA AirVenture Oshkosh at Wittman Regional Airport, Oshkosh

August 8 – Young Eagles Event with Chapter 1389 at Morey Field, Middleton

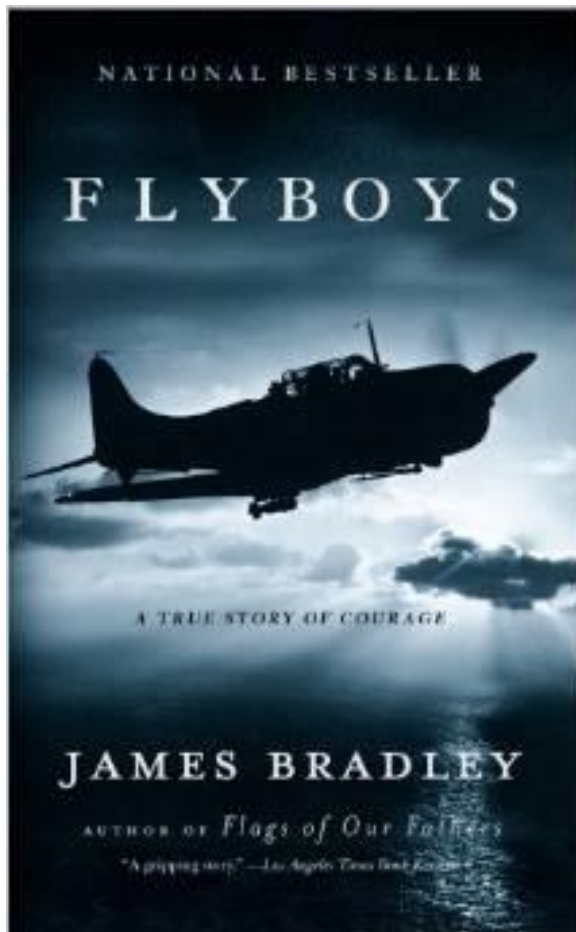
October 3 – Young Eagles Event with Chapter 1389 at Morey Field, Middleton

- Al Kurth

## Thank you

Thanks to the following contributors to this month's newsletter: Rob Tweed, Pete Buffington, Patty Plantz, Jeff Plantz and Fred Leidel.

## Book Review



“Flyboys” by James Bradley, 2003, Time Warner Book Group, 342 p. plus acknowledgements, notes, bibliography, and index. Included in the text are photographs and maps.

Basically, this is a very readable account of WWII War in the Pacific. Pearl Harbor has happened, and the Americans are getting even.

There are some familiar stories, such as Jimmy Doolittle leading a group of B-25s on the bombing raid on Tokyo, and George Bush parachuting from his disabled plane and getting rescued by a submarine.

Some of the stories are horrible, such as our napalm bombing of Japanese cities to eliminate not only Japanese factories, but also the homes of the workers, the number of condoms issued to Japanese airmen, often used on their own Japanese women. There were many stories of Japanese cannibalizing downed American pilots, often removing the livers of live Americans without the use of anesthetics, and even eating other parts such as leg meat. The Japs didn't believe in God, but were doing such acts to please the Emperor.

The book was sent to me by my brother Don. It was my second reading. The first was some years ago, a birthday present from my son Jim.

- Fred Leidel