

# CORBEN COURIER

## Chapter Meeting November 19 at Fitchburg Public Library



Please plan to attend our next monthly meeting at the Fitchburg Library, Thursday, November 19 at 6:30 PM. We will cover a number of important topics including Chapter 93 elections, 2016 HBW planning, new clubhouse status and more. Our speaker for this meeting will be Ben Senson, a science teacher at the James Madison Memorial High School. Ben is an author and highly praised educator in the field of science aviation. He is also a master instructor for Project Lead The Way, a national initiative to promote math, science and technology education in schools. Don't miss this meeting as I know you will find Ben's presentation very worthwhile. We have lots to cover at the November meeting and your input is greatly needed so please join in the fun. I look forward to seeing you there!

- Rob Tweed

## A Fall to Remember

Happy Thanksgiving to all of our Chapter 93 members, families and friends! I hope all of you have been able to get outdoors often this fall to enjoy our wonderful colors and weather. Fall in Wisconsin doesn't get much better than this!

For this newsletter publication I thought I would touch on a variety of topics since we haven't been together for a couple of months in a regular monthly meeting setting. We'll have lots to discuss during this month's meeting. Here are a few words on various topics that we will be digging into deeper...



## **Chapter 93 Annual Banquet**

Since our last newsletter we have had our delicious feast at our annual banquet. Approximately 40 people attended our event this year. Many thanks to all of you who joined in the fun. Congratulations to Sandy Hartwig as our grand prize winner of the flight in Jeff and Patty Plantz's seaplane. I would also like to thank Earl Martin for preparing the slide show, Jim Lins for purchasing our door prizes and preparing the certificates, Jeff and Patty Plantz for donating a ride in their seaplane and Scott Nolinske for making the arrangements with Rex's Innkeeper. Sincere thanks also goes out to Chuck Howard, DCRA ATC manager for his informative presentation. There's always room for more so, those of you who were unable to attend this year, please plan to attend our banquet next year. Hope to see you there!

## **2016 Heavy Bombers Weekend**

Last year's HBW event was a resounding success, especially from a financial perspective. We set a new record for revenue earned and the event was our best executed HBW to date. Tremendous praise was once again received from all the event stakeholders. We are definitely on a roll with our event now receiving national recognition. With everything going so well, one might argue, why mess with success?

The truth we must face is the fact that past success is not a guarantee for future success. Several factors come into play in this regard, not the least of which is "market over saturation" concerns. Madison is a relatively small market for a large event like HBW and many visitors will choose to not return to the event year after year. We may have experienced this concern coming to fruition for HBW 2015. Our visitor numbers were substantially down compared to our 2014 event despite considerably greater emphasis in event promotion. Thankfully revenues were up, as previously highlighted. This was due to more favorable contract negotiations with EAA and CAF. One of our major partners, the Texas CAF, has informed us that they will not bring FIFI to Madison in 2016 in light of these concerns.

Given these issues with the year over year viability of our Madison market, the Chapter 93 Board is in the process of exploring alternate venues for the 2016 HBW event. Prime consideration is now being given to moving the 2016 event to the Southwestern Wisconsin Regional Airport in Janesville. Initial reception from airport and FBO management has been very positive. With this approach, HBW would return to Madison for 2017 and then alternate back to Janesville every other year. The representatives from the Texas CAF wing are very enthusiastic about this new direction for HBW. Our intention is to engage other EAA chapters in the Janesville area and solicit their support. Yes, the Janesville airport is further away for most of our Chapter 93 volunteers but the layout of the facility is superior to Wisconsin Aviation's east ramp in many ways resulting in reduced personnel requirements.

These plans are continually evolving. Stay tuned for further updates. Please chime in with your thoughts during our meeting on November 19.

## **New Committee Chairpersons Needed**

Chapter 93, like every other organization based on volunteer support is only as strong and vibrant as the support it receives from its members. Looking ahead we foresee several opportunities where members could lead a variety of high impact initiatives. Examples include helping Chapter 93 develop financial assistance for Heavy Bombers Weekend participants, developing fun and interesting programs for monthly meetings, coordinating social gatherings, etc. We will discuss specific needs and opportunities for members as new committee chairpersons during our meeting on November 19.

## **Chapter 93 Clubhouse Status**

Wisconsin Aviation informs us that discussions are being held between the manager of Dane County Regional Airport and the CEO of Wisconsin Aviation pertaining to the future plans of the Coldstream building, the site of our proposed future clubhouse. These discussions must conclude prior to any decision being made on request for space in the building. Our proposal has been favorably received by Wisconsin Aviation and we are confident Chapter 93 will receive strong consideration providing the building is deemed viable for the long term. Other options are being investigated in the meantime. We will keep you apprised of our efforts.

## **Chapter 93 Chili Fly-In**

With Chapter 93's exit from Blackhawk Airfield we must determine how to proceed with regard to our long standing tradition of hosting the Tom Rebholz Memorial Chili Fly-In. Please give this some thought prior to our meeting on November 19 and help us decide how to proceed. Do we want to host the event this year? Where? When? Look for this to be a discussion point at our upcoming meeting.

*- Rob Tweed*

# **Pietenpol Project For Sale**

I am selling my Pietenpol due to lack of time and interest has faded. The following has been completed: ribblet ribs, fuselage, all tail pieces, center section of wing, and main landing gear. Project is sitting on the gear. Also have rebuilt Continental 65 engine 0 hrs. SMOH, Cleveland wheels and brakes, 600 x 6 tires and tubes, used master cylinders, control stick assembly and Matco tail wheel. Also the fuel tank is completed. I have a Corvair engine\_block that is suitable for conversion. Have struts and wing spars; spars came from Wicks. Much of the hardware is done. Have many extra items. I have all documentation pictures and many receipts. \$7500.00 for all. Contact Dave Jeardeau at 608-334-0112 or [djeardeau@att.net](mailto:djeardeau@att.net).



*Fred Leidel provided this copyrighted photo taken by Lad J. Vransy. This photo is available for sale in various sizes. Please see Fred for more information.*

## **Calendar**

Thursday, November 19, 6:30 p.m.  
Chapter Meeting at Fitchburg Public  
Library

July 25–31, 2016 – EAA AirVenture  
Oshkosh 2016

*- Al Kurth*

Monday, December 21, 6:30 p.m.  
Chapter Meeting at Fitchburg Public  
Library

## **Chapter 93 Dues**

Dues can be paid (\$20) anytime for 2016. Dues are free if you can recruit a new paying member. Bring a friend and save \$20.

*- Jeff 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)

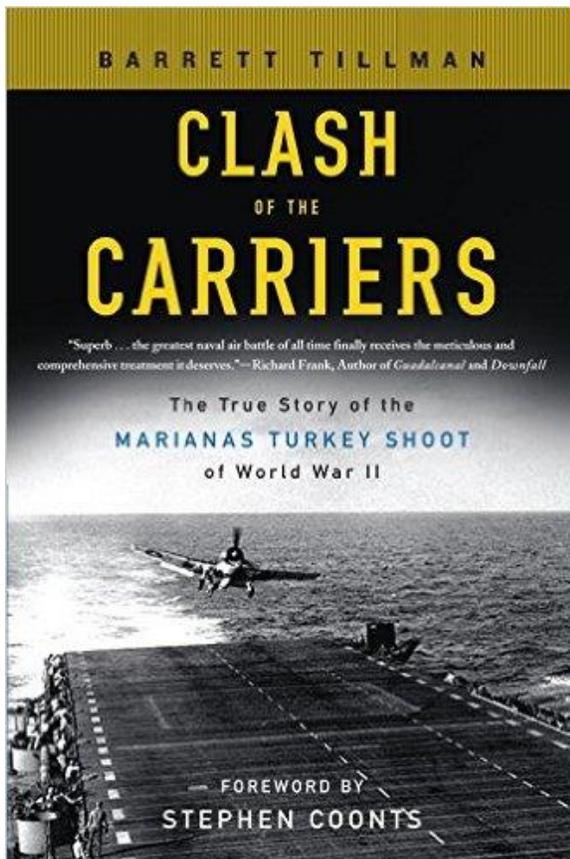
Jeff Plantz, Membership Coordinator, 608-251-6912, [cruzair@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cruzair@sbcglobal.net)

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)

## Book Review

*by Fred Leidel*



“The Clash of the Carriers” by Barrett Tillman, Penguin Books, 2005, 299 p. plus 23 p. of seven appendices.

This is a very readable accounting of twelve days of aerial warfare between the Americans and the Japanese during WWII. The tales of dogfights and bombings were reconstructed from interviews of both Americans and Japanese. During just two days of the combat, called the Marianas Turkey Shoot, American and Japanese carriers dueled, launching wave after wave of fighters and bombers against one another. When it was over, the pilots of the American Fifth Fleet claimed more than 400 aerial combat victories, and three Japanese carriers lay on the bottom of the Pacific Ocean.

The book I read belongs to Alan Sherwood, who once was the program

speaker at a Chapter 93 meeting, and was loaned to me by my son, Jim.

## **Thank You**

Thanks to Rob Tweed, Fred Leidel and Jeff Plantz for contributing to this month's newsletter. Please send articles for future newsletters to [a.kurth@sbcglobal.net](mailto:a.kurth@sbcglobal.net).

*- Al Kurth*