

# Corben Courier

EAA CHAPTER 93

Established 1962



Madison, Wisconsin

June 2017

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Frank Smidler's RV-6  
(see story on page 6)



## View from an Open Cockpit

Roger Stuckey, President



2017 IS A PIVOTAL YEAR for Chapters 93 and 1389 as we have completed the merger of our two wonderful chapters and emerge as a rejuvenated, sustainable EAA Chapter 93. While many may think this was a simple process, If it were not for the tireless work and attendance at numerous merger meetings of **Rob Tweed, Brian Terry, David Sherlock, Jim Lins, Lanny Smith, Earl Martin, Keith Doyon, Scott Nolinske, Dean Zakos, Larry Landucci, Scott Compton, and Al Kurth**, this merger would not have been completed. We owe a large Thank You to these dedicated Chapter Members.

Rob Tweed served you well in his tenure as your Chapter President, and I am very pleased that he agreed to continue as the Vice President during this leadership transition. Rob and I share the same interests in aviation and vision for our chapter, and we both enjoy the enthusiasm shown by the membership of Chapter 93.

In the coming month the Chapter Board will form new and invigorate existing committees. Our vision, based on your survey feedback, is to expand our

committees to include Youth Outreach, Chapter Flying Events, and Chapter Planning, and expand our Membership Committee. We will need your help on these committees so please let any of the Chapter Officers know if you are interested in serving on any of these committees, and we won't be bashful asking for your help either. Our Chapter survives and benefits from our wonderful volunteers, please be one of those who contributes as well as receives from our volunteers.

We start our summer meeting schedule off with a Hangar Hangout at Frank Smidler's hangar at Matson Airport, 839 US Hwy 51, Stoughton, WI 53589 (2WI6). The detail on locating Frank's hangar is located in Frank's article in this newsletter. We have an exciting summer planned and I look forward to seeing you all there.

Finally, the newsletter team (**Al Kurth** - Editor, **Keith Doyon** - Reporter & Backup Editor, & **Sandy Hufton** - Newsletter Design & Production) met in late May to begin merging articles and formatting from both chapter's newsletters into a new look and feel for the Corben Courier. The process will take a few months to finalize and we do want your feedback on the changes we are implementing. We are looking for chapter members to serve as reporters and photographers for the newsletter so please let us know you can help. 📷

## A Message from Sandy Hartwig to the Chapter Membership

### To EAA Chapter 93:

I want to let you all know how much you all meant to us over the 50-some years Dick and I belonged to this group. I look back over pictures from those years and always smile, except for the big rainstorms at Oshkosh when our family slept in tents. The picnics at Cottage Grove, the flour bombings, the yearly dinners: Thank You All so much for your support

to me since Richard's passing. He would want this memorial to go for your Scholarships.

Sincerely,  
Sandy Hartwig

*Please Note that Sandy donated \$400 to Chapter 93 for Youth Education.*

## First Meeting/Hangar Hangout – Stoughton, WI

Wednesday, June 21, 2017 — Hosted by Frank Smidler

It's a great honor to host the first combined Chapter 93 and 1389 meeting at my hanger at **Matson Airport (2W16)** on the East side of Stoughton. I would like to thank John Matson, airport manager, for graciously allowing us to meet here and lending a grill. I would also like to thank Myron Lokken, who has a hanger on the field, for lending a second grill and picnic tables. Many may not know it, but the first Chapter 93 meeting was held at the Stoughton Airport on July 16, 1961, so it seems appropriate that our newly revitalized Chapter meet here on this momentous occasion.

I will provide hamburgers and hotdogs, plates, plastic-wear and drinks. Please bring a dish to share. If you fly in and can't carry in a dish, don't worry, I'm sure there will be plenty. Our official **start time is 6:30**, but I will start cooking around 6:00 and will be there earlier if you want to arrive sooner. I have some chairs and picnic tables but likely not enough so please bring what you can.

Note: We only have an outhouse on the field so if you need more than that you will have to go a mile West to the nearest gas station. Sorry!

There will no formal program; the plan is to just socialize. However, if anyone wants to take other members for rides in their airplanes, that would be welcome. For those who are interested I will demonstrate how to check your airspeed indicators with a homemade manometer. I will use my airplane to show how the steam gauge airspeed indicator compares to my Electronic Flight Instrument. If we have time I can check other airplanes.



The hanger we will be meeting in was built by the late Roger Amundson for a bi-plane he built. As such it is too small for many general aviation aircraft but fits my RV-6 perfectly. Unfortunately, Roger was not able to maintain the hanger very well in his later years due to health issues so I have been working on fixing it up over the last couple months to its formal glory. Although I have made a lot of progress I have a lot more I plan to do. Just ask me and I will be glad to give you a run down.

Looking forward to seeing you all on the 21st.

### Driving Directions:

If you are driving in from Madison I recommend taking I39/90 to County Road N exit and take it South to Highway 51. There is construction at this intersection but traffic to the Sought is open. From the intersection of County Road N and Highway 51 on the East side of Stoughton, go East 3/4 miles and just before the crown of the hill the drive into the airport is on the right. Please park diagonally along both sides of the drive. My hanger is the one on the South end of the West row of hangers.

*continued on next page...*

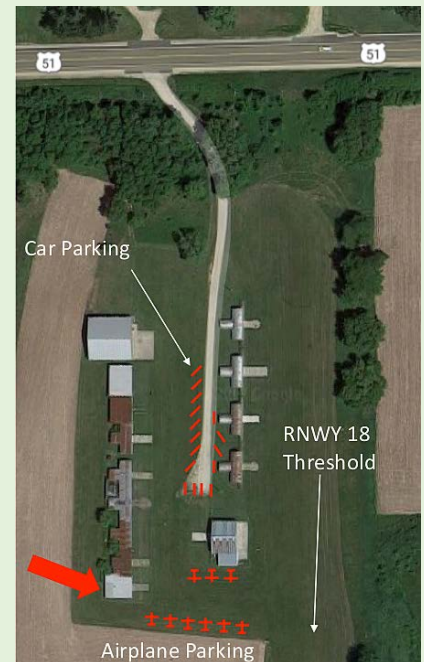
## Hanger Hangout (continued)

### Flying Info:

2W16 is on the sectional and has a **North/South grass runway**. It is a well maintained and smooth runway that drains well. There are tall trees on each end but the displaced thresholds allow plenty of clearance. The **2600 ft runway length** is between the displaced thresholds. Use **Left Hand Patterns** and **Unicom 122.9**. We don't have lights but fortunately sunset is not until 8:41 so you will have plenty of time to visit.

More information about Matson Airport can be found at:  
<http://www.airnav.com/airport/2W16>.

Google Maps Link: <https://www.google.com/maps/@42.9136131,-89.1862261,1283m/data=!3m1!1e3>



## Chapter Flies Clark Street Charter School Students

By Roger Stuckey

May 9th was an exciting day for five Middleton high school students (Hannah, Kat, Lid, Madison, and Kristen) who participated in our Young Eagles flights provided by **Rob Tweed, Larry Landucci, Skot Weidmann, Bob Ward, and Roger Stuckey** with **Jane Mooney** providing ground support and YE paperwork. Just another example of **What We Love to Do...**



## Heavy Bombers Weekend, July 21-23



**Our Heavy Bombers Weekend** event this year, scheduled for July 21-23 is a bit of a misnomer. For this event we will be reverting back to our past practice of hosting the EAA B-17 “Aluminum Overcast” as one of their many tour stops throughout the year. So, we will definitely have a heavy bomber on the ramp but the expanded version of the event that has included participation from the Commemorative Air Force will need to wait for a future event.

This scaled down version of the HBW event is primarily due to a number of key people involved in the HBW planning efforts being preoccupied with the many details of our recent merger of Chapters 93 and 1389. We also decided it might be best to throttle back from the resource-intensive event such as our HBW event in Janesville last year. The logistics and demands on our volunteer base at that event were quite challenging, to say the least.

We may have a couple of other interesting aircraft join the B-17 this year but this is dependent on our ability to successfully secure additional funding from

outside sources. Our request is still pending as of this writing, so stay tuned. Chocolate Shoppe Ice Cream will be on hand to provide delicious treats for our visitors and crew. Jaime Samuell from Sierra Aeronautics will join us again this year and provide helicopter rides to visitors.

With the event being scaled down this year, our need for volunteers will also be substantially less than last year. Visitors and passengers who have scheduled a ride on the B-17 will begin arriving at 9:00 AM each day. Four flights are planned each day beginning at 10:00 AM. Ground tours will be scheduled from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM each day. We will need volunteers to assist passengers getting in and out of the aircraft, answer questions from the flight deck and keep visitors safe while the aircraft is operating. Two shifts are planned each day for volunteers, 9 AM to 1 PM and 1PM to 5 PM. Approximately 8 volunteers will be needed for each shift. Several volunteers will also be needed for the media flight on Thursday, July 20. A sign-up volunteer sheet will be available at our upcoming hanger hang out at Frank Smidler’s hanger on June 21. Please sign up to support this event at that time. We will also need promotional materials distributed throughout the area at local businesses, libraries, etc. These items will be available for you at Frank’s hanger as well.

Thank you for supporting this great event. I look forward to lots of fun and smiles once again this year. And remember... volunteers at past events have been selected to fly on the B-17 back to Oshkosh at the end of the HBW event. Could this be your turn? 🛩️

### Chapter 93 Officers

**Chapter President**

Roger Stuckey  
*rogerstuckey@gmail.com*

**Chapter Vice President**

Rob Tweed  
*rbtweed@charter.net*

**Chapter Treasurer**

Jim Lins  
*jwllins@facstaff.wisc.edu*

**Chapter Secretary**

Keith Doyon  
*keith@keithdoyon.com*

**Newsletter Staff**

**Al Kurth**, Editor  
**Keith Doyon**, Reporter and  
Backup Editor  
**Sandy Hufton**, Designer

Please send contributions to:  
*a.kurth@sbcglobal.net*

## Member Profile

### Frank Smidler

**Frank Smidler** (pronounced Sm-eyed-ler!) grew up in Northern Indiana farm country, in a part of the world that is a little too flat. Maybe that's part of the reason that his father was so passionate about aviation. And even though dad never did much flying, and never got his pilot's licence himself, he instilled his passion in Frank. Frank clearly remembers his excitement about flying from his youngest age. Dad would bring home airplane magazines from the time Frank was a just a child and the two of them shared a life-long bond of their love of flight. Enough so, that with his dad's blessing and encouragement, Frank got his pilot's license in high school and was even president of his college's flying club during his college years.



But Frank also yearned to build. Ambitious, he first decided to build an airplane when he was 14 years old. He bought plans for a Rand KR-1 and actually started on that project, but at that age he simply didn't have the skills, experience or opportunity to stay with it. A few years later, he and his dad began working together on a Pober Pixie which they began building on the farm. That project provided Frank with good experience and important lessons, but it too was never completed. Not one to easily be deterred, when Frank was out of college he bought a partially built Monnett Monerai glider. Buying a partially built project certainly moved things along, but Frank realized that it wasn't really what he had been looking for and so he sold it, still incomplete, to another Monerai builder-pilot.



Like many of us, there were long stretches of time away from flying. Work, family, other interests all compete for our attention. But the sky was never far from his thoughts.

For many years while he wasn't piloting, Frank was an avid and passionate skydiver, becoming a Master Skydiver/Instructor (D-License Expert, #8913) with by now 900 to 1000 jumps under his belt, from more than 20 different airplanes; everything from a Piper J-3 Cub to a DC-3 to dropping out the bomb bay doors of a B-17! (See the April, 2017 issue of *EAA Chapter 1389's Builder Notes* newsletter.)

During all these years, indeed for almost his whole life, Frank has been going to "Oshkosh" (now AirVenture) every year. He was flying a Cessna 172 during the 1980s and in 1986 flew it to Oshkosh and saw his first Van's RV. You've got to admire a guy who just won't give up on a dream of building his own airplane! In 1994 Frank bought an RV-6 tail kit and went ahead and assembled the RV tail. With a family to support, kids to raise, and adult obligations he couldn't afford to buy a complete kit all at once but he kept buying pieces, parts, and kits and assembling them as he was able to afford. It has been said that "Nothing in the world can take the place of persistence..." Behold, 14 years later, in December of 2008, a fully completed Vans RV-6 emerged and took up residence in a hanger. The next month, in January, 2009, it flew, and Frank has been flying it ever since.

When he started the project, Frank's son was three years old, and Frank isn't hesitant about giving his son credit, during all the years he was growing up, for pushing Frank to get the RV finished. Now his son is a professional corporate pilot himself, and can

*continued on page 8*

## What Are Your Favorite Aviation Themed Movies?

By Dean Zakos (Part 1 of 2)

With the successful conclusion of our EAA Chapter 93 Movie Night in May, I thought I would write about aviation themed movies. Whenever a few pilots get together and the subject of movies comes up, it's almost certain that each can name his or her favorite aviation themed movie — and it's just as certain that each list will be different.



The list below is of MY favorites, roughly in order of my preferences. Like chili recipes, everyone's tastes are a little different. If an aviation movie educates you,

inspires you, or simply entertains you, it should be on your list.

**No. 1. The Right Stuff.** (1983) IMBD 7.9/10. Based on Tom Wolfe's best-selling book about test pilots and the Mercury Seven astronauts (Deke Slayton, born Sparta, WI), this movie makes you proud to be an American and a pilot. Fast jets, faster rockets, camaraderie, and heroism abound. "America was looking for a hero who had what it takes to become a legend. America found seven of them." Winner of four Oscars.

(Chuck Yeager's Glamorous Glennis hangs from the lobby ceiling of the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum on the mall in Washington, DC. The various original Mercury 7 capsules, all 7 of them, are displayed across the country, from the Smithsonian to Boston, Chicago, Florida and Texas)

**No. 2. The Great Santini.** (1979) IMBD 7.2/10. OK - I will acknowledge that there are only two McDonnell Douglas F-4 Phantom jet flying scenes in the entire movie. However, it is one of the best movies out there on the unique culture of the US Marine Corps

and, more importantly, the timeless value of family.

Story takes place in 1961. Robert Duvall is great in it. "I am Santini, the Great Santini." Outstanding movie for your family. Rated PG. Spoiler alert — this is not a Walt Disney movie and does not have a Disney movie ending.



(F-4 Phantom jets are displayed at several locations, including the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum annex at Dulles, the National Museum of the US Air Force in Dayton, OH, and the National Museum of Naval Aviation in Pensacola, FL.)

**No. 3. Gravity.** (2013) IMBD 7.8/10. Well, admittedly, there are no airplanes at all in this movie. There is, however, a space shuttle. That is close enough. "You just point the damned thing at Earth. It's not rocket science." Winner of seven Oscars.

(One of our surviving space shuttles is on display at the Smithsonian Annex at Dulles International.)

**No. 4. The High and the Mighty.** (1954) IMBD 6.9/10. Gripping story ("Get ahold of yourself..."); sometimes a little syrupy; accurate flying scenes of a Douglas DC-4 (movie screenplay based on Earnest K. Gann's novel); fun to watch. Almost unbelievable now to think that at one time commercial flights departed the gate with some empty seats, passengers were pampered — not pummeled, generous head and leg room existed in the cabin, lunch and dinner were served on fine china with real silverware, and no TSA. Wow! Best Music Score Oscar winner.

(Variants of the Douglas DC-4 are still flying today. The aircraft is also on display at, among other museums, the Pima Air and Space Museum, Pima, AZ and the March Field Air Museum, Riverside, CA.)

*continued on next page...*

## Upcoming Chapter Events

### JULY CHAPTER MEETING

Our next **Meeting/Hangar Hangout** is scheduled for **Wednesday, July 19, 2017** at **Roger Stuckey's/Jeff and Patty Plantz's hangar** at the Middleton Municipal Airport-Morey Field (C29), 8300 Airport Road, Middleton, Wisc. The hangar address is 3317 Delta Lane; the security gate will be open. This event will be hosted by **Roger Stuckey**.

### AUGUST CHAPTER MEETING

**Thursday, August 17** (yes, the third Thursday) at **Sugar Ridge Airport**.

See page 10 for EAA Regional Calendar

### PANCAKE BREAKFAST

**Sunday, July 9**

7 am - 12 noon; \$8 adults; \$3 children  
Middleton Airport, Morey Field

### HEAVY BOMBERS WEEKEND

**July 21-23** Madison (KMSN)

### YOUNG EAGLES

**Saturdays: April 29, August 19 & October 7**

Middleton Airport, Morey Field

9 am - 12 noon or last student flies

Flight scheduling: Christy (Stark) Beneke  
ccstark55@gmail.com

Let her know if you would like to volunteer as a pilot, greeter, ground instructor, safety crew, set up crew or clean up crew.

## Favorite Aviation Themed Movies (continued)

**No. 5. The Bridges at Toko-Ri.** (1954) IMBD 6.8/10. "Where do we get such men?" Based on a James Michener novel, great flying scenes of Grumman F-9F Panther jets with naval aviators flying off an aircraft carrier deck and carrying out their dangerous duty in Korea while most folks back home were blissfully unaware. William Holden, Grace Kelly, Frederic March

(born in Racine, WI), and Mickey Rooney (in a serious role). Best Special Effects Oscar.

(A Grumman F-9F Panther hangs from the ceiling of the Nat. Museum of Naval Aviation in Pensacola.)

### Editor's Note:

Part 2 of Dean's favorite Aviation Themed Movies, selections No. 6-10, will run in the next issue of the newsletter.

## Frank Smidler Profile (continued)

certainly take credit for playing an important part in the completion of Frank's gorgeous RV.

In 2010 Frank was hired on full-time at Stoughton Trailers. He was still living in Indiana and used the RV-6 to commute between work and home until he moved his family to Wisconsin a year later.

Frank has always been an EAA member and indeed is a past president of the chapter in Lafayette, Indiana where he lived most of his life. Until the just-completed merger of EAA Chapters 93 and 1389, Frank was a member of both, and he has long enjoyed

connecting with other aviators and being a part of the aviation community.

Frank has a lot of experience around personal airplanes. He is competent, capable, accomplished, and always willing to help fellow aviators in whatever capacity they might ask of him. He is definitely one member that every other member should take the time to get to know.

BE SURE to attend this month's Chapter Meeting, which is a "Hangar Hangout" hosted by Frank at his RV hangar at Stoughton's Matson Airport (2WI6) — info and directions on page 3.



## Book Review

By Fred Leidel

“Hughes” written by Richard Hack, copyright 2001 by Millennium Press, 391 pages plus notes, hard-bound.

This is the full lifetime biography of the first American billionaire, Howard Robard Hughes, pilot, playboy, eccentric character. You might remember him for his New York to Paris flight (after Lindbergh), his around the



world flight, or his building and one-time flight in the huge, wooden, eight-engine “Spruce Goose.” He also produced movies such as “Hell’s Angels,” and dated movie stars.

However, the bulk of the book deals with his peculiarities, his declining health and mind. At one point, he didn’t eat for weeks, let his fingernails grow to five inches long, and went without haircuts for over a year.

The life of Hughes was fascinating to read. The book is mine, sent to me by my brother Don. I would be pleased to loan it to friends.

## Classifieds

### Interest in Light Sport Aircraft Co-Ownership

Interested in owning an ELSA or SLSA but also want to buy groceries and make mortgage payments? Let’s talk!

Brent Corless, call or text: 608-332-9456

### Barn Find! Piper J-3 Cub Project for Sale

Completely disassembled J-3 Cub including what looks like all the parts necessary to assemble a complete Cub, including engine core (not sure about prop) and paperwork, plus an extra fuselage, extra set of wings, some misc extra parts. This would entail a ground-up restoration. Selling for a friend.

Contact Keith Doyon: keith@keithdoyon.com

### 1941 J-3L65 Piper Cub For Sale:

SN 7118; TSMO 1257; TTAF 3983; TTE 3114; 1180 Lbs Gross, 680 Lbs Empty. Stits recover 9/1989. \$29,500

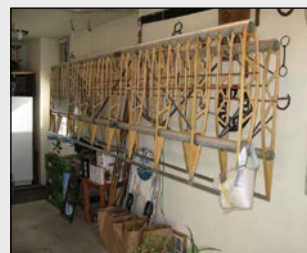
Contact Chris Lundell, clundell@wi.rr.com  
Phone or text: 262-337-1293



### Kitfox 5 Vixen Kit for Sale

This is the nose wheel version. Kit is roughly 50% complete, with wings and tail surfaces built. Complete with upgraded Grove landing gear, builders manual extensive hardware, and version 7 firewall forward kit for Rotax 912. Asking \$15,000.

Contact Dan Green at 608-770-7861 to see.



### Helicopter Partnership!

I’d be interested in a partnership in a helicopter.

Michael Wentland, 608-254-6600,  
Michael@wentland.us

### Warp Drive 3-Blade Prop!

Standard rotation, excellent condition, includes spinner & backplate! Great deal! \$650.00 Negotiable.

Keith Doyon, 608-204-9967, keith@keithdoyon.com

Please send your Classified Ads for the next Chapter 93 Newsletter to Keith Doyon at: keith@keithdoyon.com

## 2017 EAA Regional Calendar

Chapter	When	What (Event)	Where	Who (Contact)
1331	June 18	<b>EAA 1331 Chicken Fly-In Cluckenarten</b>	Wautoma Airport (Y50)	Paul Paris (920) 295-2525 cwsbstairs@centurylink.net
MAAC	Jun 18	<b>Palmyra Father's Day Pancake Breakfast</b>	Palmyra Municipal Airport (88C)	NEED INFO!
93	June 21	<b>EAA 93 Hangar Hang-Out</b>	Matson Airfield (2Wi6) Stoughton	Frank Smidler (608) 279-0531 franksmidler@tds.net
18	June 27 6:00 pm+	<b>EAA 18 "Show &amp; Tell Fly-In"</b>	Timmerman / Milwaukee (KMWC)	Jim Hatzy jimhatzy@aol.com
93	July 9	<b>EAA 93 Pancake Breakfast</b>	Middleton Airport (C29)	Roger Stuckey, EAA 1389 Pres (608) 335-3322 rogerstuckey@gmail.com
1414	July 9	<b>Pancake Breakfast &amp; Young Eagle Rides</b>	Poplar Grove (C77)	Dean May (815) 544-0215   deanvmay@frontier.com
431	July 20-23	<b>Pietenpol / Hatz Reunion Fly-In</b>	Brodhead (C37)	Ben Johnson, EAA 431 Pres (608) 214-9595 bmjohnson79@hotmail.com
93	July 21-22	<b>EAA 93 Heavy Bombers Weekend B-17 Tour Stop</b> (B-17 rides)	Madison (KMSN)	Roger Stuckey, EAA 1389 Pres (608) 335-3322 rogerstuckey@gmail.com
-	July 23-30	<b>EAA AirVenture</b>	Oshkosh (KOSH)	EAA National
1331	July 23	<b>EAA 1331 Pancake Breakfast Fly-In</b>	Wautoma Airport (Y50)	Paul Paris (920) 295-2525 cwsbstairs@centurylink.net
1414	August 13	<b>Pancake Breakfast &amp; Young Eagle Rides</b>	Poplar Grove, IL (C77)	Dean May (815) 544-0215   deanvmay@frontier.com
93	August 19	<b>EAA 93 Young Eagles</b>	Middleton Airport (C29)	Christy Stark ccstark55@gmail.com
-	August 20	<b>Community Appreciation Lunch &amp; Fly-In</b>	Albany Airport (54W)	Robert Johnson (608) 455-4701 albanyair@frontier.com
-	August 21	<b>Great American Total Solar Eclipse Fly-In</b>	Perryville, MO (KO2)	(573) 517-2069
252	September (TBD)	<b>EAA 252 Fall Pancake Breakfast and Fly In</b>	Oshkosh (KOSH)	Charles Becker (920) 426-6851 EAA252@gmail.com
1385	September 3	<b>EAA 1385's 14th Annual Fly-In / Drive-In Breakfast &amp; Lunch!</b>	Mauston-New Lisbon Union Airport (82C)	Dave Seitz (608) 547-6503 dcseitz2@frontier.com
1414	September 7-10	<b>Ladies Love Taildraggers Fly-In</b>	Chapter 1414 Hangar Poplar Grove, IL (C77)	Ed Myers eaa1414@gmail.com
-	September 8-10	<b>Midwest Antique Airplane Club Fly-In</b>	Brodhead (C37)	Members Only
1414	September 10	<b>Pancake Breakfast &amp; Young Eagle Rides</b>	Poplar Grove, IL (C77)	Dean May (815) 544-0215   deanvmay@frontier.com
475	September 10	<b>"Planes, Trains &amp; Automobiles" Pancake Breakfast Fly-In</b>	Freeport, IL (KFEP)	Timothy Mickel (815) 541-9509 chapt475eaa@aol.com
475	September 16-17	<b>EAA 475 4th Annual Mail Run Rally</b>	Freeport, IL (KFEP)	Timothy Mickel (815) 541-9509 chapt475eaa@aol.com
93	October 7	<b>EAA 93 Young Eagles</b>	Middleton Airport (C29)	Christy Stark ccstark55@gmail.com
1414	October 8	<b>Pancake Breakfast &amp; Young Eagle Rides</b>	Poplar Grove, IL (C77)	Dean May (815) 544-0215   deanvmay@frontier.com