



President's Corner – January 2009

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Now that the holiday rush has subsided and the decorations have been put away there is little left to do but embrace the winter or hunker down and await the first signs of spring. Over the years I have realized that the winters here seem to be longer and longer. I suspect that this is due to the fact that I no longer participate in many of the winter recreational pastimes that I once did. With that in mind, we have made a commitment to get out of the house more and find interesting things to do. Since we live on a lake this invariably includes ice fishing which we have been doing quite a lot of lately. Now fellas, I'm here to tell you that the ONLY way to get your wife to enjoy this sport with you is to provide several essentials, namely shelter, heat, refreshments, snacks and services such as the baiting of hooks and the removal (and cleaning) of fish. The benefit of all of this is an occasional meal of fresh Walleye which we have also been enjoying.

Our winter party was quite a success with an attendance of about 40 people and ample food to go around. Our guest speaker, Mr. Ben Mukkala provided us with a very interesting and humorous evening with his aviation adventures and deeds of daring do. Ben is a very charismatic speaker and kept his audience entertained as well as providing many a laugh during the evening. Following his presentation we all kept him busy autographing copies of his many books. The food was delicious and there was quite a selection to choose from.

Our silent auction was again a success with a variety of items at a good price. My thanks to the following donors of goods for the auction:

Donations:

2 David Clark Headsets: Roger Bentlage
Sawyer International Airport Jacket: Keith Kaspari
Wooden Airplane: Fred Joyal
Aviation Books: Ava Bennett (in remembrance of Ralph Bennett)
Chapter 850 shirt & cap: EAA Chapter 850
Leather A2 Jacket: Ted K (awe shucks, weren't nothin')

The 50/50 drawing was won by Scott Schulz and netted the chapter \$48.

Thanks to Phil & Ruth Spade for planning the meal and room and also to Fred & Ann Joyal for taking care of the registration, silent auction and 50/50 drawing.

If you attended the party you were able to see the recent addition to the chapter's aircraft fleet, the P-51 pedal plane which has been completed and is ready for ground testing. We're anxious to "fly off" the 40 hours so we can get it certified but we haven't found any qualified test pilots yet! Thanks to Dave Vandenburg, Bill Landry, Wayne Moilanen and all the chapter members who helped make this project a reality.

We will have our normal monthly meeting this Saturday at 10:00am in the Boreal Conference room.

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