



President's Corner - June 2008

June 16th and my furnace is still coming on during the night. We sure don't have to worry much about succumbing to heat stroke here in the U.P.

A few weeks ago we held our first fly-out of the season to St. Ignace (Mackinaw County Airport). It was a clear morning when we launched from Sawyer and a westerly wind was just starting to build. The temperature was pleasant while we pulled the Comanche from the hangar as a few of our members were already taking the runway for departure. It was a picture perfect flight with good visibilities and scattered cumulus clouds along the route. At twenty miles west of the straits we tuned to the local CTAF and there was a buzz of activity as planes were arriving from several directions. Time for us to pull back on the power, enjoy the scenery and allow the swarm ahead of us to land. As we approached our destination we could also hear the arrivals of several planes into Mackinac Island airport. This was a sure sign that the summer tourist season has begun. As we landed and cleared the runway Lynn popped the door open for some "fresh" air and it was certainly all of that ... about 50 degrees and blowing strongly from the northwest. I guess we should have packed warmer clothes. The meal more than made up for the harsh conditions though as the steaks were good and the desserts even better!

On Saturday, May 31st our chapter held a Young Eagles flight rally. As usual, the weather was a factor but we were able to give 18 kids their first flight experience. The skies were overcast (but mercifully above minimums) and the winds a bit gusty as we took to the air but the kids all loved the flights. TV6's [Nick Kanczuzewski](#) was on hand to cover the event. Our pilot numbers were down this year with only Fred Joyal and I flying but we were able to handle the less than expected turnout of kids. Hopefully we will get better weather for our next event.

Our next chapter adventure begins this weekend as we head to Oshkosh for our pre-AirVenture Chapter 850 work weekend. This is taking place in lieu of our monthly meeting so if you're standing in the Boreal lounge on Saturday and wondering where all the other members are, then I'm guessing that you haven't been present at past meetings and you are not checking our chapter website on a regular basis.

Most, if not all, of our participating chapter members will depart for Whitman Field on Friday afternoon and either set up in Camp Scholler or stay in the bunkhouse for the weekend. Lynn and I are looking forward to the weekend as it's a chance for us to meet again with old friends and become part of the EAA family. Saturday evening after dinner we have been again promised a tour of the Sonex aircraft facility and hopefully we will finally get to see the place as last year the tour was cancelled due to a power outage.

Please check out our Calendar of Events section on our website (www.eaa850.org) to see our upcoming activities and fly-outs for the summer!

One month to AirVenture and counting!!!

Ted Kirkpatrick