



**EAA Chapter 850 Newsletter**  
**August 2007**  
**President's Corner**

It is with great sadness that I begin this month with the news of the death of our current Vice President and former President, Ralph Bennett. Ralph was a true leader within our chapter and led us through some difficult times while serving as President. He was a strong advocate of the Young Eagles effort and was the first to step up when a volunteer was needed. We will all truly miss Ralph!

EAA AirVenture has come and gone again this year and I am in my usual state of post convention blues. It doesn't seem possible that the two weeks we spend there every year could go so fast but when I think back as to all the activities we participated in while there I can see where the time went. Our yearly Oshkosh chapter party was a great success with a record number of members and guests attending at our campsite in Camp Scholler. Aside from the deluge of rain we received at the end of the night it was a very enjoyable evening. My thanks to all of you who contributed with a dish or donation as we certainly had a good variety of food.

The Young Eagles 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration was held on Wednesday evening during the convention in the Eagle Hangar at the EAA AirVenture museum. The event, which was by invitation only, was attended by over 700 guests and included drinks and hors d'oeuvres as well as presentations by Tom Poberezny, Cliff Robertson and Gen. Chuck Yeager. A video clip from the current YE Chairman, Harrison Ford who is on location in Hawaii for his upcoming film, Indiana Jones IV was also shown. Lynn K. and I were fortunate to be the greeters for the evening but found ourselves a bit "hoarse" after talking with so many people. It certainly was a fun evening and we had quite a few of our chapter members in attendance. The event was so successful that EAA plans to make it a yearly part of the AirVenture schedule.

Our chapter board of directors will meet this week to discuss upcoming events including our Air Academy day which has been postponed from its original date. Upcoming events which will be discussed include the following:

- Air Academy Day
- Grey Eagles Event
- Young Eagles Flight Rally
- Land-O-Lakes YE request (Sept 29<sup>th</sup>)

Our next chapter meeting will be held on this Saturday, August 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am in the Boreal Aviation Conference Room. Our original plans of having the Air Academy during that day have been postponed.

As they say at AirVenture, "You've **Got** to be There!"

Ted Kirkpatrick,  
President