



## President's Corner - August 2009

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Oshkosh 2009 has come and gone and I can't believe how fast that happened! Each year we wait and plan for our EAA vacation; we clean and repair our old motorhome for it's yearly 400 mile trek in the hopes that it will make it there and back once more. As the event nears we start getting the "Oshkosh Fever" and try in vain to depart even earlier than the year before. We arrive three days before the start and think to ourselves "now we have plenty of time to kick back, shop the local stores and relax" but all of a sudden zap...bang! The week is over and we're back home with just fantastic memories of another great year.

Lynn K and I were fortunate to be selected as tour guides in the Airbus A-380 airliner that was one of the main attractions at AirVenture this year. We attended a training session early in the week and worked with the French onboard the massive airliner where almost 15,000 people toured during the planes brief stay. We were also lucky enough to get some time in the cockpit where pilot Terry Lutz explained and demonstrated the various information displays in the all glass instrument panel.

Several of our chapter members also volunteered for the week and I'm sure they will come forward with an article (I know who you are and I expect it) for our next newsletter! As many of you may recall, one of our departed chapter members used to drive the Make-a-Wish Tram each year until his passing. This year that tradition was carried on by Bill Landry in memory of Ralph Bennett.

The Young Eagles banquet was also one of our highlights during the week and was held in the Eagle Hangar of the Museum where there was a record crowd of over 900 Young Eagle pilots and volunteers. The meal was excellent and Harrison Ford was there to speak and visit with the participants. Unfortunately, Harrison will be stepping down as the Chairman of Young Eagles and we are all wondering who the next chairman might be.

There have been a few changes made in the Young Eagles program; most notably, the partnering with Sporty's Pilot shop who will be providing a FREE online flight training program to all Young Eagles following their flight. The course is valued at \$199 and provides the training and knowledge for students to pass their written, oral and flight tests. We will no longer be printing certificates for the kids after their flight but instead, we'll be giving them a logbook and signing off their first flight. The kids can then use these logbooks to record future flight training or other aviation experiences as well as signoffs for each phase of flight training. I have just received a shipment of logbooks so we can start using them this Saturday for our YE participants! Now we have an answer to that much asked question: "What's next?"

EAA is also helping us chapters to recruit new members by providing a complimentary trial membership program. Basically, new chapter members will be provided with a free 6 month EAA membership as a kind of "get to know you" type of incentive. They recommend that we also give the potential member a 6 month trial chapter membership to build a bond with our chapter.

Saturday's meeting will be in the new chapter room in the old fire station where we will be cooking up some pancakes for **BREAKFAST** starting at 8:30am or so.

Please come out and participate in our brief meeting and the Young Eagle flights following.

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