

EAA Chapter 838 *Contact*

Volume XVIII, Number 8



August 2007

Picnic On The Eagle Overlook

By Scribo

August is our picnic month this year. At noon on 11 August, we'll gather on the Eagle Overlook at the chapter for our annual picnic. Please bring a salad, a vegetable or a desert to share. The chapter will furnish the beautifully grilled meat. In past years we have sometimes had corn, but this year corn is doubtful. Perhaps you would be willing to prepare the corn? If you can assist with food, fires, set up, or clean up, please send an email or phone call to Jerry Bovitz, our chef nonpareil, at jerrysaero@yahoo.com or 262-639-8583.

Here are some pictures from picnics past.





The President's Corner...

By: Jerry Baker

Fellow members of Chapter 838,

I am writing this after returning from a week at AirVenture in Oshkosh. As usual, the event was well attended and provided a great showcase of what general aviation is all about. Unfortunately, again this year, a fatality and a number of event related crashes (forced landings, etc.) marred an otherwise terrific experience.

I had a chance to visit the Explorer Base (which is partially supported by Chapter 838). I encourage all of you who attend AirVenture in the future to visit the Base and witness the great job being done by Ken Sack, Marla Smith, Adele Helmle and their associates. They are providing a wonderful opportunity for the Explorers to have a great camping experience (with terrific food!). At the same time, the young people are learning to accept responsibility for an important service to the event.

During AirVenture, EAA International organizes Chapter leadership and administration forums and seminars. Many of us from 838 attended these meetings. We came away with a number of new ideas for Chapter funding, activities, membership issues, etc. Our plan is to report to the membership at the September meeting and engage in a general discussion of these ideas.

I encourage all of you to attend the September meeting and join in on the discussions. The September meeting is also very important to all of you as the slate of new officers and directors will be offered by your Board. Elections will be held at the October meeting for the new officers and directors who will take office in January.

The August meeting is the picnic at the Chapter building. See you there!!

Jerry

It's Picnic Time; Do You Know Where Your Nametag Is?

By Scribo

A rather large order of nametags has arrived. They are in the library, and you should pick up yours and wear it to the picnic. And all of us **“experienced” members should wear our nametags, too.** Then new members like David Go, Ben and Carmen Church, and others will know us by name. It will be a help to those of us who sometime block on names, too.

Pancakes! My Favorite!

By Scribo

In concert with our lead article - which was about food - September will also feature a food-based event. Our ever popular Pancake Breakfast will take place on **8 and 9 September 2007**. And again we are part of the Midwest EAA Chapters Poker Run, thanks to the foresight of Bob and Marsha Helland.

Bob is sending an announcement to all EAA members who live nearby, and we hope several of them will join us - both at the picnic and in our chapter. So in addition to talking with your friends, please greet our visitors, and **make them feel welcome.**

You do know, of course, that it is even more fun to assist at the event, so call Bob or Marsha at 886-8577, or send an email to rhelland@sbcglobal.net.

As the wise lady said, “If you feed them, they will come.”



I included this picture of the Flynn family to remind you that you should invite your friends and family.



And I included this picture to remind you that it is more fun to assist in the festivities. These three are some of our usual suspects - and they're smiling.

O'Lena Insists He Can Fly It

Overheard Declaring "...LSAs Are For Sissies."

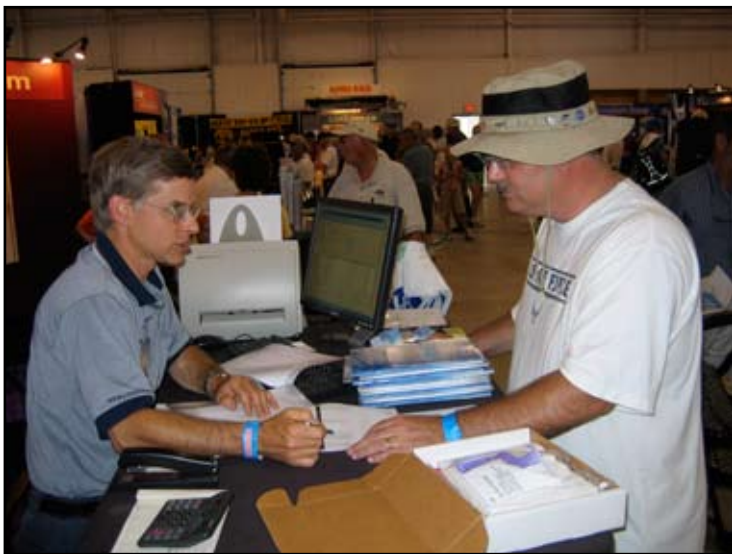
Says Real Men Fly SUVs

So What If It Requires A Little More Back Pressure

Includes A Garmin GPS



Note the smooth, white wing behind Brian. "This baby so wants to fly that they had to strap it to these concrete things."



Brian O'Lena negotiating to become a dealer for he path-breaking flying machine. "They doubted Orville and Wilber, too," he said

Evil Spirits Trip Up Tom Christensen

"The Sun Was In My Eyes"

Asks Doctor If He'll Be Able To Wingwalk After Recovery

Cancels Tap Dancing Demonstration At Picnic

Former president of this organization, Tom Christensen, suffered a fall at AirVenture that required a trip to a nearby emergency room. Tom was fortunate to be in the company of Jerry Bovitz and John Gengler, who hung out with Tom while he underwent medical attention. We're glad to hear that Tom is recuperating nicely, although his wingwalking and tap dancing activities are on hold indefinitely.



Photo by Jerry Bovitz

We're Greener

By Scribo

Thanks to several of our members we have new, more efficient lights and fixtures and at a 95% discount. The process started when Greg Heath talked with Phil Fountain [pictured at left with bulb]. They made the necessary arrangements to take advantage of WE energies' rebate for non-profits offer. Then Phil, Bill Wolff, and George Feichtner installed the hardware. They replaced all lighting in the chapter except for the museum and the hanger. It was a big job, and you should thank them, when you see them at the picnic.



Giving Thanks

By R.G. Blocks; Images by Virginia Military Institute Archives

Events occurred in Europe in 1916 that remain part of our lives today. The cheerful volunteer, the unexpected leader, a fellow that lead the way. This is one such testimony.

His name was Kiffin Yates Rockwell. He attended VMI and later, Washington & Lee University where he was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity.

Kiffin left school in 1911 and worked in advertising until 1914. He and his brother Paul volunteered to serve in the French Foreign

Legion shortly after WWI began. Kiffin served in the trenches and was wounded by an exploding shell in December of 1914.

Upon recovering Kiffin served with the 1st Regiment, Moroccan Division and was again wounded. Kiffin, afraid that he'd be discharged, requested a transfer to French aviation service. He was accepted by Service Aeronautique



Kiffin Yates Rockwell in WWI Trench a soldier in the French Foreign Legion

and began flight training in September 1915. He was assigned to a unit that we now know as the Lafayette Escadrille.

On May of 1916, Kiffin Rockwell shot down his first German airplane near Hartmannsvillershöpp in Alsace. *He was the first American pilot to shoot down an enemy airplane.* He would win the Medaille Militaire, the Croix de Guerre and be awarded three palms. He had thirty-four successful missions over Verdun alone and by September 1916 had shot down three more confirmed German airplanes.

His commander said, "Where Rockwell was the German would not pass but was forced rapidly to take shelter on the ground." By September Kiffin had seven additional possible kills. Then, he was shot in the face. Instead of giving up he returned to battle and shot down another German airplane. His attitude was that he was paying his part of America's debt for Lafayette and Rochambeau.

On September 23, 1916, he was killed by a German Albatros observation plane gunner (the two seat recon version C.1 was built beginning in 1915). Sergeant Kiffin Rockwell's Nieuport went down very near the place of his first kill. He had flown one-hundred-forty-one missions and is buried at Luxeuil-les-Bains, France. He was

promoted to Lieutenant after death.

Kiffin Yates Rockwell and his brother Paul were true volunteers. His brother, also wounded in the trenches, would live and become a Chicago newsman. Their lives impact ours in several ways.

The Rockwell brothers are distant cousins of my wife Marjorie Anne (Eaton) Blocks and were found in the course of my genealogical interests.



Pilot Rockwell in flying uniform at Verdun

Kiffin gave his life for the cause of freedom later joined by our then pacifist nation. He was a powerful example of the capability and

impact of but one.



Kiffin Rockwell in his Nieuport "Bebe"

I was planning the forth-fifth reunion of my Sigma Phi Epsilon class. Brothers of our pledge class had virtually to the

man volunteered and served in U.S. Army, Navy, or

Air Force. Our good fortune, yours, theirs and mine is that we are here to celebrate and write about it.

Written by Roger G Blocks February 8, 2007 while giving thanks to Virginia Military Institute Archives for use of these photographs. Also thanks to members and former members of our military for all they do and have done for our nation.

Tattooed Mystery Man Is In Our Midst

Gusty Winds Ground Young Eagles

By Brian O'Lena
Young Eagle Coordinator

Watch For Him At Chapter Picnic



Saturday July 14th dawned as an overcast morning, But all was still good, Then the rains came, But it was still good, Then the winds came and blew the clouds away, And that was good, However, unlike the rain, the wind grew stronger and stronger gusting to 20 knots, And that was not so good.

Nearly 40 kids hoped to fly, but mother nature had other plans as the gusty winds created a turbulent morning sky. Jim and Warren flew two test flights to check out the rides, and then we made the tough decision to cancel the flying due to winds and turbulence. After an excellent ground school taught by Lee Farnsworth, the kids received rain checks from Marsha, Donna and Tracy for a future Young Eagles flight. Thanks go to all the volunteers who showed up to help, including members of the Explorer Post and Jerry, Phil and Carl.

Our next Young Eagles event is **Saturday August 11th**. Hope to see you then.

August 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
Museum Open 10-4			Museum Board	Post 218 Meeting 7 p.m.		Museum Open 9-3
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Museum Open 10-4	Hanger Craftsmen 7 p.m.		Chapter meeting will be at Picnic			0900 Young Eagles 1200 Picnic Museum Open 9-3
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Museum Open 10-4	Marvels of Mechanical Mysteries 7 p.m.		7 p.m. Board	Post 218 Meeting 7 p.m.		Museum Open 9-3
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Museum Open 10-4	Aeronautical Apparatus Aficionados 7 p.m.					Museum Open 9-3
26	27	28	29	30	31	
Museum Open 10-4	Pacer et al Builders 7 p.m.					Museum Open 9-3

EAA Chapter 838 Board of Directors

President	Jerry Baker	262-763-3633
Vice Pres.	Bob Helland	886-8577
Secretary	Daryl Lueck	681-2370
Treasurer	Jim Hantschel	637-3376

Directors:

Past Pres.	Tom Christensen	414-570-0730
	Marsha Helland	886-8577
	Ken Sack	554-9714
	Carl Bumpurs	634-0534
	Carol Voss	262-902-4709
	Roy Stuart	884-0371
	Phil Fountain	639-9892

Committee Chairpersons & Trustees:

Programs	Frank Fonk	637-3610
Hangar	Jerry Bovitz	639-8583
Librarian	Eddy Huffman	639-8301
Membership	Ken Sack	554-9714
Young Eagles	Brian O'Lena	414-764-6478
Museum Trust	Tim Bass	497-9768
Chapter Trust	Steve Myers	681-2528
CHAPTER BUILDING		634-7575

Chapter Meeting

>>>> Saturday, 11 Aug 07 <<<<

At our picnic on Eagle Overlook
Noon

Chapter 838 Events:

Saturday	Noon.	11 August	Chapter Meeting
Wednesday	7 p.m.	15 August	Board Meeting
Mondays	7 p.m.		Hanger Builders

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