

EAA Mount Rainier Chapter 326 Newsletter

Thun Field – July 2010

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Meeting Notice

**Tuesday, July 13th, 7 PM
CAP Building, Thun Field**

Program: TBD

Refreshments: Sandy Liebman

From the Secretary

June 8th 2010

EAA326 Monthly meeting - Cross Country Planning

Kevin called the meeting to order at 7pm sharp.
Lee Woody provided the refreshments this month.

Arlington Airshow is July 7th through 11th. Chapter members are camping at WB18 - WC22.

We will be having the chapter potluck on Saturday afternoon. Burgers are provided, please bring other items.

Young Eagles 114 already signed up. We need more people to sign up to volunteer. Sunday the 13th at 2pm for a planning meeting. June 26th for the event. See post event debrief for more details!

Visitors

Ryan Albritton - Randy's son - learning to fly.

Randy Riggs - visiting from South Prairie.

Barry Jespersen - building in Olympia.

The Stuarts paint system seminar went well. Kevin is considering doing another session if there is enough interest.

John Brick gave a good mini seminar on cross-country planning & weather considerations.

Andy Karmy
Chapter 326 Secretary

Young Eagles Rally

Three hundred and one Young Eagles took to the sky on 26 June backed up by a large group of hardworking volunteers from our chapter. We had twenty four pilots and more than thirty ground support people. The weather was a little iffy early in the morning, but the clouds lifted as time went on and it turned out to

be a beautiful sunny day. Mt. Rainier shown in all its splendor for most of the day giving our Young Eagles a thrilling view during their ride.

Late in the morning Pierce County Search and Rescue had a real operation that called for refueling their helicopter on the field. Fortunately there was room on the other side of the parked DC-3 for their operation that was well clear of our activity with the exception of the first refueling approach. They were able to safely recover two lost scouts for a happy ending.

It was a thrill for me to see all of the activity. A good bit of the day we were using runway 16 which provided a great view of our planes in the pattern. And often the pattern was quite full. There would be one plane on final, another turning base, a third on downwind and a fourth entering the pattern. There was a constant buzz of Young Eagle 1, Young Eagle 2, Young Eagle 3, etc. as our pilots negotiated the pattern. Late in the morning my wife brought our grandson over to watch the action. He is 6, too young to fly as a Young Eagle, but he stayed the whole day to watch the airplanes.

We had a wonderful collection of aircraft providing Young Eagles exposure to home built, standard certificated and classic aircraft. They provided a number of photo ops for parents and children.

Now for some incredible numbers:

Pilot	Aircraft	Flights	Kids
Chris Anable	Piper PA-28	2	6
Joseph Andrews	Aronca Champ	9	9
Nate Andrews	Globe Swift	12	12
Dave Atkins	Cessna 172	9	18
John Brick	RV-4	5	5
Tom Brown	Cessna 182	11	33
Todd Cameron	RV-7A	12	12
Doug Clough	Luscombe 8A	10	10
Scott Cutler	RV-6	6	6
Bruce Finney	Thorp T-18	8	8
Jason Hills	KIS TR-1c	9	9
Andy Karmy	Kitfox 7	11	11
Gordy Klawitter	Piper PA-28	7	18
Mike Michalak	Gruman AA1B	11	11
Steve Myron	Cessna 172	11	33
Harry Nelson	Cessna 150	11	11
Lenn Richter	Piper PA-28	6	18
Marv Scott	Cessna 182	10	30
Harold Smith	RV-6	13	13
Tom Staggs	Long-EZ	5	5
Dave Vermeersh	RV-9A	1	1
Greg Williams	RV-7A	3	3
Lee Woody	Cessna 172	5	10
Paul Yarbough	RV-9A	9	9
24		196	301

Young Eagles arrived from Redmond to Battle Ground. As expected, the largest number came from Puyallup but several other communities were well represented.

Algona	1	Lakewood	14
Auburn	11	McKenna	3
Battle Ground	2	Milton	1
Bonney Lake	8	Olympia	4
Burien	4	Orting	8
DuPont	5	Puyallup	90
Eatonville	4	Rainier	2
Edgewood	5	Redmond	2
Enumclaw	1	Roy	2
Federal Way	4	Spanaway	31
Gig Harbor	1	Sumner	16
Graham	13	Tacoma	47
Kent	1	University Place	6
Lake Tapps	1	Yelm	14

A reporter from *The Herald* stopped by and talked with several of our members, Young Eagles, and parents. A little later a photographer from the paper arrived. I look forward to seeing the coverage this week.

I have gotten several emails and the first letter today thanking us for the event. I will pass these on to specific individuals if they are identified and will share them with the membership at our meetings.

I plan on holding a post ops session but it may have to wait until the middle of July given holidays, Arlington and other schedule conflicts.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the members that helped make our rally a success. I also would like to thank the pilots from outside our chapter that provided much needed help. Two are from Chapter 406, two from Chapter 1440 and three are unaffiliated. We can return the favor in September when Chapter 406 will be holding a Young Eagles Rally during the Labor Day weekend at the Bremerton airport. Len Richter, their YE coordinator, has asked if some of us could help fly their Young Eagles.

Dave Fritzsche

Sometimes Ya Just Gotta Be There

I took an 11-year-old girl up and she was all talk, looking outside, spotting all kinds of things, telling me all about her summer plans, just chattering away. Then all of a sudden she gets very quiet, turns and looks at me and says "Do you go to church?" to which I say "yep." She returns to her stream of chatter and enjoys the rest of the flight. Apparently it's safer if you have a church-going pilot! :)

I had a 10-year-old boy flying with me. He had the buzz cut, flight jacket, sunglasses and the ever-encouraging dad. As we took off you could tell he was very nervous, not saying much as I fired a string of my usual material at him... when we hit little bumps he would tense up at the surprise. Then about 10 min into

the flight he says, "can you do a two G turn?" to which I say, sure if you want to! So at the turnaround point over the tide flats we crank it around and pull.... he says cool, you know I want to fly F18's in the Navy. I say cool... :)

Andy Karmy

There was one ten year old boy who kept repeating "This is just awesome. It's like a map." I assured him that I thought it was "just awesome" also.

I haven't done Young Eagles every year, but I can never remember having so many kids and parents expressing their appreciation so many times. One third of my kids had never before flown in an airplane of any kind.

Joseph Andrews

Mom, my fear of heights is cured!!!

What! You flew the plane?!!!!!!!

Nate Andrews

One group of kids said, "this is like being Super Man." I agreed... they were right.

Another group, as we got to altitude said, "Hey this is GOOGLE EARTH." How times have changed.

Marv Scott

My first group of kids had two brothers. One was a little taller than the other and I thought he might be able to see over the dash, so I invited him to sit in the front of the 182. As I got the kids strapped in and ready to go, he changed his mind and wanted to sit in back with his younger brother. So we swapped seats. He had a little fear thing going, but I told him he'd have a great time, and his brother said he was scared last year, but that now he thought it was fun. He would take care of his brother. So as we taxied out and I heard a question are we flying yet? No not yet. After the checks and runup, we were rolling down the runway and I heard a whine as loud as the engine, I'm scared! Brother assured him he'd be fine. I'd love to report that he ended up having the best time of his life, but it wasn't to be so. He distracted all of us with his continual whining and was afraid to look out of the window. Finally I cut the flight short and returned interphone off so I could hear traffic and not be distracted by the whining. But as he got out of the plane, he was fine, had his picture taken and all.

We had a lot of kids that didn't have English as their native language this year. One teen I flew was from a family of 5 from Kiev. Mom had divorced and they were all out to get a free flight and experience the opportunity that is in America. So David sat in the front seat, got to handle the controls a little and enjoy the view of Puyallup. His siblings flew with other pilots. So I met mom during he photo shoot afterwards. She thanked all of us for taking her kids up as life had been hard lately with trying to feed and clothe the kids. She teaches nutrition for her job, but doesn't have much left for the kids, so this was a welcome adventure. So it was the last flight of the day, and I asked if she'd like to go flying too, since I was taking the airplane back to Spanaway. She thought she'd scream all the way, but after my earlier kid who

was afraid, I told her I'd just turn the interphone off. Anyway she had a great time too. Her son David drove the other kids over to Spanaway airport. She said it was the nicest thing that had happened to her family in years. They just can't stop talking about how much fun they all had. She sent pictures to her friends in Russia with pictures of "her airplane." So anyway it's nice to know we make a difference in peoples lives. And yes that did make up for the earlier whiny kid.

Tom Brown

I had the privilege, along with Bill Lucas and Daryl Sams of conducting ground school for the 300 plus young eagles that flew with us on Saturday. It was a very uplifting experience to see the level of excitement most of the kids exhibit. My observation was that the kids fell into three categories. About 5% seemed apprehensive, nervous or just outright scared. These were mostly the very young kids and it made me wonder if their parents weren't forcing them to go for a ride. I tried to be reassuring in the flight brief and for the most part they seemed to settle down. Another 5% seemed bored and distant. These were mostly the older kids, girls in particular, and they seemed to not be paying attention and looking around with a disgusted look on their faces. For the most part though the kids were eager, attentive, respectful, and seemed to absorb what I was telling them about how airplanes fly.

UNTIL.... the black Bell 500d helicopter came onto the field. That is where I lost it all and several kids went to the registration desk all excited to find out if they could ride in that.

Randy & Kerry Albritton

I told one young girl that my job was to be sure that she had a good time and to ask if there was something she would like. As we flew north of the Tacoma Dome she suddenly asked if we could do a turn to the right so that she could see the boats and the sun reflecting on the water. We did a slow lower altitude turn to the right looking at the colored waters as the Puyallup river mixed with Puget Sound and the sun reflecting in the cat paw wind patterns on the water. On return her mom asked what she liked best about the ride and was stunned as her daughter related the request and described the view. I could see the Mom looking through her daughter trying to imagine something what she herself had never experienced.

One young fellow let on that he had done this young eagle ride thing several years now. He clearly thought of himself as a fighter pilot so I let him control the plane. He did a magnificent job but as we walked back he let it escape that he had never had a plane bounce 2000 fps when he touched the stick and guessed that he did have a little yet to learn. I was there and could have stopped the show at any point, but I but did let the plane shoot up to see if he would make a clean correction. He did, and he dropped the attitude and became a beautiful respectful student in about 2 seconds. It was a fun to see the attitude change and the emergence of a wonderful young kid. I let him fly most of the way as he was respectful and doing such a great job. I enjoyed the ride.

Todd Cameron

On one of my flights I had 8 and 12-year-old brothers. There was something about the younger one that impressed me right away. I asked the older if he minded if the younger one sat in front with me. He smiled at me knowingly and agreed. This little guy never shut up the whole flight. Mostly questions and observations. What was so astonishing was how intelligent this kid was. He asked very intelligent questions about the instrumentation, communications, speed of the aircraft, did we need oxygen, on and on. Then he remarked to his brother about the topography of the earth as seen from above. It just went on for the duration of the flight. I was amazed and enjoyed this young man and his brother. Their father told me he is blessed with two very intelligent boys that have indeed been identified as gifted.

I have had many, many pleasant experiences in the 15 years I've been flying Young Eagles as I'm sure the rest of our members have. That's why we keep on doing it.

Gordy Klawitter

I Think They Liked It

On the 18th of June, Kevin Behrent, Mike Salmon, Dave Fritzche, Harold Smith and John Brick, went to Frederickson Elementary to present the dedication day formation picture. We got a tour of the school from principal Ellen Eddy... quite a place with model airplanes and aviation stuff befitting their 'Frederickson Flyers' school name.

Although the dedication event and flyover was last October, this day was the sixth grade graduation, the first class to graduate. The five of us were called up on stage before an auditorium filled with three sixth grade classes and their parents. We presented the picture and invited the kids and parents to Thun Field for Young Eagles Day. We left promptly and did not stay for the rest of the ceremony.

Here is an email I got from the principal the next day:

It was so much fun to have you visit us. I wish you could have seen everyone gather around the picture during the reception. Many parents took pictures of the picture and of their students next to it! I will take it around the classrooms tomorrow on our last day of school to share with the rest of the students. It will be displayed in a place of honor in our school and be the pride of the Flyers for years to come. Thank you so much for this beautiful gift. Would it be too much trouble to send us the names of the pilots as they are positioned in the other formation too? I suspect there may be some 6th grade Flyers visiting Thun field in the near future, at your invitation. Thank you again, so very much.

Soaring to Success at Frederickson!
Ellen Eddy
Principal

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