



January 2015

	WHEN:	WHERE:	PROGRAM:
JANUARY MEETING	Thurs. the 8th 7:00 pm	FISHER COMMUNITY CENTER	WWII Flight Checkout Building Tips

WHAT'S FLYIN' THIS WAY !!!

Happy New Year! Looking forward to a great year of fun flying activities, but first we have to get through the cold stuff. Just can't seem to avoid it here in Iowa.

First we have our meeting on Thursday at the Fisher Community Center. Beginning this month, we will have our first Building Tips program. For January, Paul Adams will be talking about parasitic drag. We will also have a video about WWII flight checkouts. And don't forget about gathering at Taco Johns right across the street from the Community Center at 6 pm for those who can make it that early. Hope to see you there.

With January also comes the first Iowa Fly-in of the year! Hopefully the weather will be flyable between you and Greenfield, Iowa where the Iowa Aviation Museum Chili Fly-in will take place on the 31st between 11am to 2pm.

WHAT FLEW BY !!!

As has become tradition, our winter meetings begin at Taco Johns with an informal gab fest. It had been a while since we met there and TJ's has changed! Mostly, the furniture changed color and style. Hopefully the food doesn't change too much as the Marshalltown Taco John's has been a consistent award winner within the TJ's franchise.

Anyway, our regular meeting began at 7pm with Prez Paul Adams handing out awards for the past year, and updates on our scheduled activities for the upcoming year. We also viewed a video on WWI aircraft being recreated exactly as they did during the period to be able to analyze actual flying traits and quirks.

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Happy New Year

CALENDAR

Jan 8	7pm	Fisher Community Center	EAA 675 - WWII Flight Checkout / Building Tips
Jan 31	11am-2pm	Greenfield Airport	Iowa Aviation Museum Chili Fly-In
Feb 12	7pm	FCC/T	EAA 675 - The Airplanes of Airventure / Building Tips
Apr 21-22		West Des Moines	Iowa Aviation Conference www.iowaairports.org

Special Note to Members...

I've been asked to forward the following message in reference to the Iowa Aviation Conference:

As in past years, a pilot safety seminar will be taught on Tuesday, April 21, 2015, 7-9 pm, at the Sheraton West Des Moines hotel as part of the Iowa Aviation Conference. This year, a free Pinch Hitter course to introduce your flying companion to flying an airplane will also be taught concurrently so consider bringing your spouse/flying companion with you. The Iowa DOT-Office of Aviation will provide the room and Yasmina Platt with the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) will teach the course. Discussion will include the possibility of the pilot becoming incapacitated while in flight and the need for the non-pilot to take control of the airplane. In addition, when the non-pilot is well-versed in the operation of the airplane, it enhances safety and increases the enjoyment of flight. Some of the topics to be covered include: aircraft parts and instruments, basic navigation using GPS, radio usage, traffic patterns and landing, and emergency procedures. If you are interested in learning more about this as more details come in and/or want to RSVP your flying companion for the Pinch Hitter (space may be limited), please send me the following information to zstubbs@westbankstrong.com

- 1) Name
- 2) Contact info (best e-mail and phone number)
- 3) Passenger experience in small (GA) aircraft
- 4) Aircraft most often riding in
- 5) Personal reasons for taking the course
- 6) Expectations of the course (what they want to learn)

**I do need to provide numbers to Yasmina, so please let me know.
All the best!**

**Zach Stubbs
zstubbs@westbankstrong.com**

"Science, freedom, beauty, adventure: what more could you ask of life? Aviation combined all the elements I loved. There was science in each curve of an airfoil, in each angle between strut and wire, in the gap of a spark plug or the color of the exhaust flame. There was freedom in the unlimited horizon, on the open fields where one landed. A pilot was surrounded by beauty of earth and sky. He brushed treetops with the birds, leapt valleys and rivers, explored the cloud canyons he had gazed at as a child. Adventure lay in each puff of wind.

I began to feel that I lived on a higher plane than the skeptics of the ground; one that was richer because of its very association with the element of danger they dreaded, because it was freer of the earth to which they were bound. In flying, I tasted a wine of the gods of which they could know nothing. Who valued life more highly, the aviators who spent it on the art they loved, or these misers who doled it out like pennies through their antlike days? I decided that if I could fly for ten years before I was killed in a crash, it would be a worthwhile trade for an ordinary life time."— Charles A. Lindbergh



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Now that's a Coincidence

It's amazing how some things come together. During the Christmas party Doug Boyd showed me a book and asked that I look at a picture. The book was bought by his daughter in Washington DC at a used book sale. The picture Doug pointed out showed four pilots standing in front of an F4 Phantom. I immediately looked to the pilot second from the left. I knew him! So do you! Here is the picture, you can see if you recognize someone.



Now there has been some time past since the picture. The guy second from the left with DARK hair, yet still slender is none other than Wilbur. You say 'Who's Wilbur?' Well we know him as Joe. Joe Latham that is. I called Joe about the picture and got the following update. First, why Wilbur? Wilbur is actually Joe's first name and that was what he was called in Vietnam where this picture was taken. Why the hand shake? They had just returned from a mission during which two Mig 21's were shot down and Joe was one of the pilots who bagged one of the Migs. If you look close you can see a missile rail that has no missile. The F4 pictured is Joe's plane from the mission they had just flown. The pilot to Joe's left was his back seater, a pilot not that long out of flight training and thus flew as a back seater at the beginning. The pilot shaking Joe's hand was the flight lead on the mission with his back seater to the far right. I believe they shot down the other Mig but I am not positive. Joe went on to explain that after the mission they actually landed at Udorn, Thailand. At Udorn the mission was debriefed and they then flew back to their home base at DaNang. The picture was taken at Udorn. When they finally arrived back at DaNang, the squadron he flew with was partying and had been partying for a while. They were celebrating a successful mission although the actual participants weren't there. Gotta love those Air Force dudes!

continued on next page

Joe also sent me some pictures that some saw during his presentation to the chapter. I have included them below, a picture of a F4 painted like Joe's from the above mission. However this is not his actual plane. The original was destroyed in a mortar attack after Joe departed Vietnam. Joe also mentioned the paint wasn't shiny like that for obvious reasons. You will notice on the side Joe's name under the front canopy were the pilot sits. I wonder if they got it wrong, shouldn't it read "Wilbur"? The plaque picture is at least correct.



To Wilbur Joseph Latham the Third, hats off, job well done. Plus thanks for letting me have a little fun. Oh did I mention Joe was awarded the Silver Star for his part in the successful mission?

-Paul