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EAA Chapter 569 Newsletter

Lincoln, NE



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Meeting Announcement

Date: Tuesday, February 6th **Time:** 7:00pm

Place: Duncan Aviation Engine Shop

Address: 5000 NW 44th St – Lincoln, NE

Program: Chris Stokes (rescheduled from last month)

Chris Stokes is a long time Lincoln pilot, CFI, and aircraft owner. Chris owns a classic 1942 PT17 Stearman, is a part owner in a 1976 A36 Bonanza, and is working on restoring a Viet Nam era Cessna A-37 Dragonfly fighter jet. Chris recently retired from the USAF Reserve in 2022, and flew three combat tours in the F16 and A10 in Iraq and Afghanistan. He is a current Boeing 777 captain at United Airlines based in San Francisco. Chris was recently elected to the Lincoln Airport Authority last year and is a champion for general aviation. Chris is married and has seven children.



**President's
Message
Tiffany
Thompson**

As we embark on the second month of the year, I am thrilled to extend a warm greeting to each of you. February brings a sense of renewed energy and enthusiasm, and I hope this letter finds you in good health and high spirits.

I just returned from the Nebraska Aviation Council's Aviation Symposium in Kearney. During the symposium, airports received a lot of great information. Seeing so many familiar faces, including some of our chapter members, Tom and Sharon Trumble, Mark Gaffney, Wayne Woldt, and Cristi Higgins, was heartening! The passion for aviation that binds us together is truly inspiring.

As we continue to build on the new year's momentum, I encourage each member to share their ideas, suggestions, and aspirations for our chapter. Your input is invaluable, and together, we can shape the future of our EAA community.

Let's make February a month filled with camaraderie, learning, and progress. Remember, our strength lies in our unity and shared passion for aviation.

I am excited about the journey that lies ahead for our chapter.

Book Review

FAMOUS PLANES AND PILOTS by *Charles H. Hubbell*

By Dennis Crispin



Last spring, I had the great honor of being selected for the Volunteer Spotlight recognition in *Sport Aviation* magazine.

When the lady from EAA Publications called me for an interview, her first question was “what was the first thing that got you interested in aviation?”

I replied that it was a book that my grandmother gave me when I was five years old.

The book, titled *Famous Planes and Pilots*, was a collection of watercolor paintings of the great aircraft of the time and short bios of the men and women that flew them.

I was totally mesmerized by the book, my mother read it to me time after time. When I got big enough to read on my own, it was the first “real” book that I tackled.

The pictures were of airplanes with intriguing names like Firecracker, Goon, Sprit of Saint Louis, Bonzo, Mister Mulligan and Gee Bee. One particularly fascinating picture, which was forever burned in my memory, was of a small white plane emerging from a rain squall over a dark and foreboding ocean – Willy Post’s *Winnie May*.

The pilots included many that were in the public consciousness at the time, Charles Lindbergh, Howard Hughes, Jacqueline Cochren, Amelia Earhart, Jimmy Doolittle and others.

After the EAA interview, the thought struck me that I should try to find a copy of that book. I had tried to find it about forty years ago and could not find any trace of it, even with the help of the Lincoln City Library’s research desk.

With the magic of the modern internet, I found that there were at least two copies in existence and for sale. I managed to purchase one of them.

The book is *Famous Planes and Pilots* by author/artist Charles H. Hubbel. It was published in 1939. It was intended as a kid’s book, written at about the junior high school level. I found that the same author created similar books about cars and ships.

Even though eighty-year-old memories can be highly inaccurate, I found that much of the book was just as I remembered from reading it in my youth.

Reading the book from a modern perspective, it gives a highly informative insight into the state of American aviation in the era immediately before World War Two.

The first illustration is of the Army’s then newest plane, the Lockheed XP-38 that flew with two 1,000 horsepower Allison engines. The craft had just set a coast-to-coast speed record of nearly 330 MPH.

Air racing was an important thing in the 1930s and most of the aircraft featured in the book are racing and record setting planes.

Airline travel was represented by the, then new, Douglas DC-3 and several other transports that have since been lost to history. The prototype four engine Douglas DC-4 was claimed to be the ultimate

passenger carrying craft. However, that plane was never put into production. A slightly smaller Douglas plane carried the designation of DC-4 to an illustrious history.

The four engine Boeing Strato-Liner had just been introduced. It was the first attempt to fly passengers in pressurized, high altitude over-the-weather comfort. Of particular interest was the Boeing Model 314 *Yankee Clipper*. The largest of the American flying boats, it carried thirty-two passengers in luxurious transoceanic service.

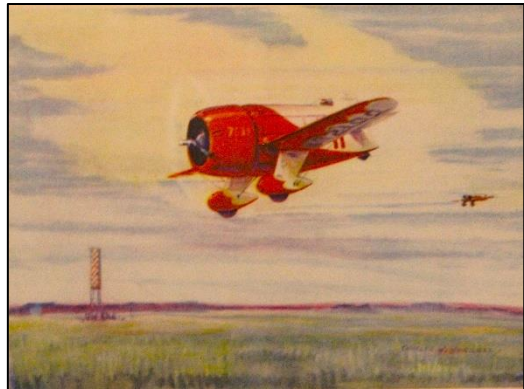
The one light aircraft illustrated in the book is an Aeronca Chief that flew from Los Angeles to New York on \$25.70 worth of fuel and oil.

Amelia Earhart's red Lockheed Vega, which she named *The Little Red Bus*, is featured citing the flights over the Atlantic and Pacific. Amelia's loss on the around-the-world flight rates only one sentence.

The military is represented with several Army and Navy fighters and the B-17. The principal Marine fighter was a Grumman biplane!

The pilots featured in the book are, for the most part, names that only the most serious modern student of aviation history will now recognize. Steve Wittman, included with his racer *Bonzo*, is a name that all EAAers know.

Reliving a childhood memory eighty years later is a wonderful experience.



In this illustration, Jimmy Doolittle rounds the pylons in the Gee Bee R-1 to win the 1932 Thompson Trophy Race. The Gee Bee R-1 had a reputation as a mankiller.

Tom Winter's 80th Birthday Party

By Dennis Crispin

Tom Winter celebrated his 80th birthday at the Unitarian Church of Lincoln on January 27th. Cristi Higgins told some jokes with several EAA 569 members present to help him celebrate.

Just a Reminder

To be a member of EAA Chapter 569 you must also be a current member of EAA national. This is spelled out in our Chapter by-laws. You can join EAA national by [clicking here](#).

Christmas Party Photos

Photos of the Christmas Party have been uploaded to the [Chapter Website Gallery](#). Thank you, Dennis, for sharing your photos. The Christmas Party was held on December 9th at the Country Inn & Suites. Looked like a good time was had by all.



[Click here](#) for a funny story from the birthday party.

Ed Siudzinski

Chapter 569 received the sad news that member [Ed Siudzinski passed away](#) on January 3rd. He was 84.

Ed joined the Air Force out of high school and was stationed at the Lincoln Air Force Base. He would work his way up to Crew Chief on the B-47.

Around 2014, Ed and his companion Marjorie Kehm connected with our Chapter. Ed was always willing to help with anything. Ed and Marjorie would help with various Chapter events including the monthly fly-in breakfast.

We put Ed to work grilling the bacon and sausage. He was quickly promoted to the pancake grill where he did a tremendous job, usually sporting his signature clip on tie.



Ed was a good ol' jolly guy that would love to zing you if you set him up.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Marjorie and the Siudzinski family. He will be greatly missed.



Minutes of the Club Meeting

The January 2, 2024 EAA Chapter 569 meeting was called to order at 8:06 pm, following a presentation by Bruce Mundie, president of Chapter 80.

Bruce reported on activities and plans of Chapter 80.

As Treasurer, Cristi Higgins reported the main checking account had a balance of \$8507.87. The breakfast account balance was \$2926.19. The chapter also has a CD with a value of \$10,000.

As Young Eagle coordinator, Cristi reported no events since November.

Secretary Jerry Mulliken reported that the roster is missing the EAA National number for several members. Members are encouraged to fill out the electronic or paper form to submit with their dues. As of this writing, 30 members have paid 2024 dues.

President Tiffany Thompson led a discussion on various online payment methods the chapter could use for dues and various other payments. Since EAA headquarters recommends PayPal for this purpose, there would be several advantages over other options that were mentioned. The payee is not required to have a PayPal account, and may use a credit card. Jerome Clinch moved the chapter to set up a PayPal payment method. Tom Trumble seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

Noah Philson passed the private written test 12/20/23. The second fund payment has not yet been received. Toby Jordan has scheduled his first flight lesson in January at Oracle Aviation. Funds received for Toby are \$4,400, paid to Oracle.

Doug reported that weather conditions limited the turnout for the December breakfast.

Service awards were presented by Tiffany to current officers and committee members. Their service is greatly appreciated by the chapter.

Aviation STEM Day will be held February 17, 2024, 11AM to 3 PM at Oak View Mall. Chapter 80 will have a booth, but the date is the same as our breakfast fly-in. Nevertheless, our members may wish to participate in the EAA booth.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerry Mulliken, Secretary



Service awards were presented at the January 2nd meeting. What a good-lookin' bunch. 😊

And finally ...

Winter flying



Winter can be a great time to fly. Smooth, crisp air. Unlimited visibility and best of all no bug splats to clean. Lycoming published some cold weather tips and can be [found here in a previous newsletter](#).

John Cox
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Checklist

AFTER LANDING

1. Carburetor Heat COLD
2. Wing Flaps UP
3. Transponder STANDBY
4. Pay EAA Chapter 569 dues . . [CLICK HERE](#)