

# LEADING EDGE

## ARMY WINGS AND WHEELS

June 8 - 10, 2007



Photo by Nancy Allen

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# **EAA Chapter 1414**

P.O. Box 399  
Poplar Grove  
IL 61065

## **President**

**Steve Langdon**  
(815) 874-5432

**slangdon51@hotmail.com**

## **Vice President**

**Lee Hilbert**  
(815) 271-5166

## **Secretary**

**Frank Herdzina**  
(815) 544-6727

## **Treasurer**

**Bernie McLean**  
(815) 547-4224

## **Website**

**Scott Ross**  
**eaal414.org**

## **Newsletter**

**Glenda May**  
(815) 544-0215  
**mayge46@verizon.net**

## **Mission Statement**

**Promote,  
encourage  
and facilitate  
an environment  
that fosters  
safety, education  
and high standards  
in the design,  
construction,  
restoration and  
operation of all  
types of recreational  
aircraft, as well  
as, nurture  
camaraderie  
and friendship  
amongst all  
members!**

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**



*Steve Langdon*

### **What a Success !!**

For those of you who made it you know I am speaking of the Army Wings and Wheels event co-sponsored by Chapter 1414 and the Poplar Grove Wings and Wheels Museum. The event was held Saturday, June 9<sup>th</sup>, and featured approximately 15 WWII liaison aircraft, army re-enactors, and military vehicles.

We began receiving planes, vehicles and re-enactors Friday evening. The strong winds of the previous few days, I think, kept some that may have otherwise made the trip from coming. If memory serves me we had only one plane make it in Friday evening. The military folks were a bit more reliable. The HQ compound was set up and pretty well in order before dark. I understand a convoy was conducted to the local Culvers for dinner.

Saturday we conducted the Chapter pancake breakfast setting a new record for numbers fed, somewhere around 285! Beginning at 7:00am we fed right up to 11:30 and then moved right into the Museums dogs and brats lunch. The lunch was a smash success as well with close to 300 lunches being served. We cooked all of the 100 hotdogs and 200 brats that were purchased.

During the day flying contests were held. Airplanes and vehicles were judged. An assault was made on the bridge over the pond by courageous American forces, wresting control of the crossing from a determined bunch of Germans.

During the awards ceremony awards were presented to the winners of the flying contests and the "best of show" for airplane and vehicle. The award for the longest flight to the event went to an intrepid flyer from Austin Texas.

Dr. Welton Taylor PhD an artillery liaison pilot 1944 spoke to the group relating his experiences as an artillery spotter. Dr. Taylor spoke for over two hours and the crowd still wanted more.

After Dr Taylor's talk and the awards ceremony the group adjourned to the "mess hall" for a wonderful dinner and music. A great time was had by all.

My hat is off to Tom Murray. Tom spent countless hours organizing this wonderful event. Many others also spent a great deal of time and effort in making this event the success it was. I am not going to try to name them all for I would surely forget someone. This said, I do feel I need to specifically thank Frank Herdzina for the generous donation of his hangar for the entire weekend. Without Franks generosity the event would not have been possible.

Financially the event was a great success as well. We are waiting for Bernie's return from Scotland and a subsequent meeting between him and Kip Kirkland for the final numbers. I have been assured by Kip that both the Chapter and the Museum did very Well.

I have received some good news since the events conclusion; Tom Murray has agreed to take on the task again next year. **YOU DA MAN !!**

The word from all attendants was very positive. The flyers felt the turnout would be greatly increased next year, as did the military contingent. I'll be there.

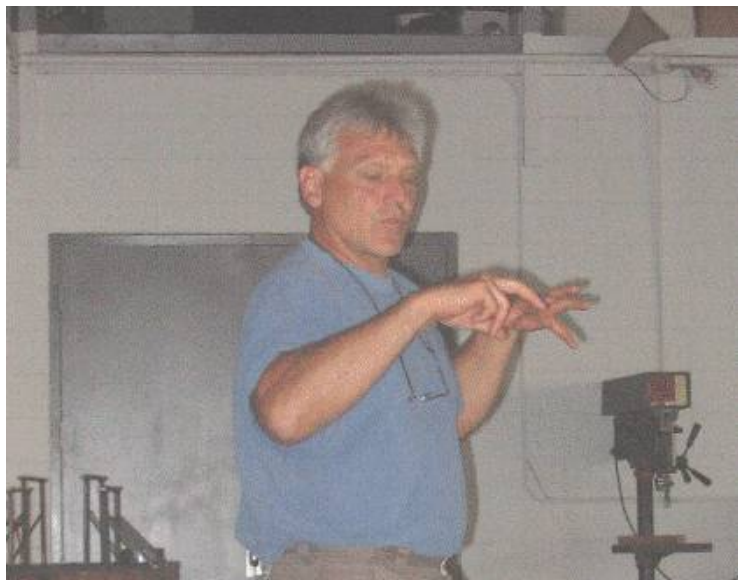
So, until the next time, remember keep the oily side down and the spinney thing turning.

**FLY SAFE.**

Steve Langdon, President  
Chapter 1414

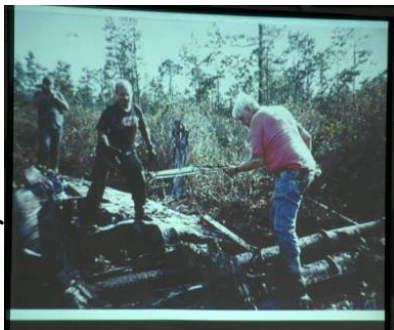
NOTE: EAA Chapter 1414 does not project or accept any responsibility for the participation by any newsletter reader or Chapter member at any fly-ins, functions, forums or events that may be publicized in this newsletter. All material herein of a technical nature is for reference only and is not necessarily recommended or approved by the editor of this publication or any official of Chapter 1414. This publication is produced only as a medium of communication amongst members and friends of Chapter 1414.

## June Meeting



Randy Ferris was guest speaker for the June meeting. Randy, a popular speaker at Chapter 1414, is known to many members for his trip to the Solomon Islands to find WWII airplanes. This time Randy described his experiences in North Carolina during the recovery of a P47 Thunderbolt in 1997.

In an interview with the pilot Randy learned that the plane experienced engine failure after take off and crashed into the

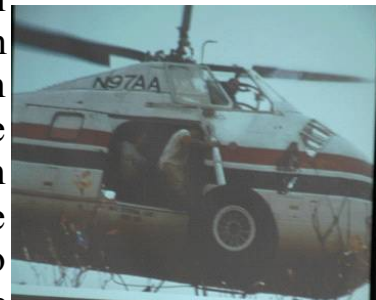


swamp. The pilot spent two days there while food and water was dropped for him. The accident occurred on June 5, 1947. The P47 was being used for training and had never been in combat.

Randy started in September driving from Illinois to Wilmington until February. He made from twelve to fourteen trips, hiking into the swamp with his crew to prepare the plane to be removed.

He hired a Sikorsky 58 to provide the airlift. It took five lifts to remove the parts that Randy and his crew salvaged.

The speaker for July will be Dennis Schurring, retired government accident investigator, CFI, and Illinois Aviation Hall of Fame member.



### **On The Cover**

Steve Kowel demonstrates a message retrieval maneuver on June 9. This photo was taken by Nancy Allen of Wisconsin, whose father was a Liaison pilot during World War II with the Second Air Commando Group.

### ***Events Calendar - 2006***

- |                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| <b>July 10</b>      | Chapter 1414 Board of Director's Meeting, Poplar Grove AP Maintenance Hangar, 5:45PM<br>All Members are welcome. |
| <b>July 10</b>      | Chapter 1414 Monthly meeting, Poplar Grove AP Maintenance Hangar, 7-9PM  |
| <b>July 15</b>      | British Boots 'n Bonnets Car Show, Vintage Wings & Wheels Museum   |
| <b>July 22</b>      | Wheels of Agriculture Event, Vintage Wings & Wheels Museum   |
| <b>July 23-24</b>   | Bigfoot Fly-in/Pancake Breakfast, Walworth, WI   |
| <b>July 23-29</b>   | <b>AirVenture 2007</b> Oshkosh, WI   |
| <b>August 11-12</b> | Chanute Air Festival, Rantoul Airport  |
| <b>August 12</b>    | Golf Scramble, Timber Pointe Golf Course   |
| <b>August 19</b>    | Poplar Grove Airport Fly-In Breakfast  |
| <b>August 19</b>    | Kresmery's Annual Day at the Hangar, Opens at Noon, Lunch 2:00PM,<br>Poplar Grove Airport                        |
| <b>August 26</b>    | Classic Car Show, Vintage Wings & Wheels Museum  |
| <b>September 29</b> | Van's RV Fly-In, Sponsored by Chapter 1414 and Vintage Wings & Wheels Museum                                     |



# History Comes Alive at Poplar Grove Airport

## Army Wings and Wheels, June 9-10, 2007

*By Tom Murray*



*Steve Kowall, Tom Murray and re-enactors with of Steve's 1942 L-4A*

Poplar Grove's grass runways and their easy access to the Museum's campus allow for a truly unique program. The public and participants alike were immersed into the integrated world of the Army Ground Forces in which liaison aircraft of this period operated. A deliberate effort was made to create a mutually supporting event for all three groups. Pilots were encouraged to take re-enactors along as observers (passengers) if they were going flying. Likewise vehicle owners were proud to give rides to pilots and re-enactors. Both re-enactors and vehicles were intimately involved with the liaison aircraft demonstration. An L-4 and an L-3 were airborne for the Bridge Assault battle re-enactment put on by members of the HRS.

The Friday night vehicle convoy to the local Culvers for dinner was very popular. The little airplanes flew overhead keeping an eye on the column just as they did during their war service.



*Our Guest Speaker, Dr. Welton Taylor of Chicago, formerly 1st Lieutenant Welton Taylor of the 93rd Infantry Division*

Dr. Welton Taylor, a veteran liaison pilot with the 93<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division, served as guest of honor and speaker. A member of the Tuskegee Airmen, Dr. Taylor described his experiences in liaison training and combat in the Southwest Pacific. He spoke twice, only breaking to go for rides in the aircraft. Dr. Taylor enjoyed rides in L-2, L-4 and L-5 aircraft. He stated that he much preferred the L-planes to the Cessnas and Cherokees he flies with the Dodo Squadron of the Tuskegee Airmen.

Other military veterans were in attendance as well. Many enjoyed the opportunity to talk to the participants and public about their experiences.

Participants were treated to a special showing of the video L-bird the Little Plane That Did. The movie was shown only to the re-enactors, pilots and vehicle owners after the event was closed to the public. This unique opportunity was made possible by the permission of the video's producer Mr. Gary Ellison and ILPA President Bill Stratton. The film was enjoyed very much by all who saw it. Everyone was left wondering why the History Channel and other networks wouldn't be interested in showing such an interesting documentary.

On June 8, 9 and 10, along with EAA Chapter 1414, the Vintage Wings and Wheels Museum at the Poplar Grove, IL Airport hosted Army Wings and Wheels(AWW). Part fly-in and part living history, AWW provided a unique view of the roll of the liaison aircraft during the Second World War.

Joined by re-enactors of the Historic Re-enactment Society, Inc. (HRS) and members of the Military Vehicle Preservation Association (MVPA), eleven WWII era liaison airplanes were the highlight of the gathering. Along for the show was a beautifully restored Piper J-5 Cruiser which was impressed into service by the US Army in 1942. Sixteen vintage vehicles ranging from jeeps and Dodge WC-51's to Paul Benson's M-3 halftrack were in attendance. Jamie Faulkner's beautifully refinished Dodge WC-54 ambulance was a favorite with the public.



*Friday night convoy to Culver's.*

Continued on Next Page

## Continued

A flying competition, coordinated by Steve Kowall of Elgin, IL, was held consisting of four events: Short field takeoff, combat message drop, short field landing, and spot landing. In addition awards were given to both vehicles and aircraft for traveling the farthest and as favorites of the public and their respective owner groups. The winners were as follows:

### Awards:

Short Field Landing	Rob Fry	Poplar Grove, IL	L-3C
Spot Landing	Lee Hilbert	Bull Valley, IL	L-3B
Combat message drop	Randal Harris	Belvidere, IL	L-3B
Short Field Takeoff	Sam Tabor	East Troy, WI	L-5
Top Pilot*	Sam Tabor	East Troy, WI	L-5
*(highest cumulative score, 4 events)			
Furthest Distance Flown	Wayne Smith	Georgetown, TX	L-4J
Furthest Distance Driven	Paul Vandervort	Crete, IL	M-38 jeep
People's Choice aircraft	Steve Kowall	Elgin, IL	L-4A
People's Choice vehicle	Jamie Faulkner	Racine, WI	WC-54 Ambulance
Owners Choice aircraft	Shari Tabor	East Troy, WI	L-5
Owners Choice vehicle	Paul Benson	Rockford, IL	M-3 Halftrack

Plans are in the works for a second Army Wings and Wheels next year. The date has not been set yet. Look for it to be published in December. With your help AWW can be better and more exciting next year.

If you have any questions contact AWW organizer and ILPA member Tom Murray at [hiwheel@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hiwheel@sbcglobal.net) or check out the AWW website at [www.ArmyWingsAndWheels.com](http://www.ArmyWingsAndWheels.com).



*L-Birds arrive in Poplar Grove.*



*Participants camp out on Friday night.*



*Lee Hilbert in Randy Ferris' L-3B.*



*Steve Kowall demonstrates a message drop maneuver in a Piper L-4.*



*Sam Tabor demonstrates a med-evac in a Stinson L-5.*



*Sam (far left) and Steve (on right) talk after the show.*

**More About Army Wings and Wheels on Page 8**



## Airplane of the Month

What our members are flying....

### **“Aunt Bessie” Owned by Tom Murray**



Tom Murray and Aunt Bessie outside her home at Poplar Grove Airport

Aunt Bessie is a 1942 Aeronca L-3C. She has been named Aunt Bessie for at least the last four owners and I can't possibly bring myself to change her name.

#### **General Aircraft History and Specifications:**

In 1940 the U.S. Army Air Corps began to see the need for a light airplane to use for support of ground forces. Over 1400 Aeronca L-3 aircraft were manufactured during the war— 499 total L-3C's delivered to the US Army in 1942 L-3C's were built without radio equipment, SCR 509 or SCR 609 artillery radio sets were added in the field.

#### **Aeronca L-3C-AE**

Serial number O58B-6212, Army Serial Number 43-1691

Engine- Cont. 0-170-3 (A-65-8) of 65 hp

Prop- Sensenich 72K42

Fuel- 12 gal

Endurance- 3 hours

Cruise speed- 75 (on a good day :-))

Empty weight- 835 lbs.

Gross weight- 1300 (Army), 1260 (FAA)

Wing Span- 35'

Length- 21'

Height- 7'8"

**Aunt Bessie's History by Tom Murray is told on the next page.**

## Aunt Bessie, Continued



Completed at the Middletown, OH factory on 16 Oct 1942

Accepted by US Army on 20 Oct 1942 cost \$2,204

Moved by air to Dow AAF at Bangor, ME

Served with the North Atlantic Wing, Air Transport Command

Declared Surplus on 18 Aug 1944

Sold by the Reconstruction Finance Corp. RFC to Mr. Joseph Zottoli of Holden, MA 5 Oct 1944. A 44 year old man who bought her to learn to fly. Cost \$612.

Aunt Bessie's history after that is fairly typical for this type of aircraft. She has gone through a series of 14 owners since leaving the Army. She had had 5 wing repairs or replacements, the last in 1955. I imagine this is due to ground loops by inexperienced pilots.

I purchased her three years ago from Mrs. Adelaide Northrop of Chaplin, CT. She was a 63 year old and was about to lose her medical certificate.

Drew Bowe and I met in Hartford to pick up Aunt Bessie and fly her back to her new home at Poplar Grove. Drew was still living in Virginia at the time, but by coincidence had already bought property at Poplar Grove. The trip took us four days and eighteen hours of flying. We made one precautionary landing and stopped twice when we thought the oil temperature was getting too high (the

weather was very hot). We were stopped one afternoon by thunderstorms which cost us a night. I could go on and on about the trip, but to say the least it was the best trip I've ever had in an airplane. Of course having the opportunity to spend four days flying with Drew Bowe is always a great experience.

Since then Aunt Bessie has become very much at home at Poplar Grove. I love to share her with people, give rides and let her teach them about what it was like to fly in a tiny underpowered unarmed fabric airplane during WWII.



*Brig. Gen. Rex Chandler, 1st Cav. Div. 1944, note white tail L-3C, paint scheme for Aunt Bessie.*



*Aunt Bessie and Tom on the way to the Midway Village WWII re-enactment in Sept. '06*



*Tom And Drew bringing Aunt Bessie out for Army Wings and Wheels on June 8, 2007*



## Letter from AWW Guest Speaker

Tom Murray, who organized the Army Wings and Wheels event, received the following letter. He felt that it should be shared with everyone.

Dear Tom,

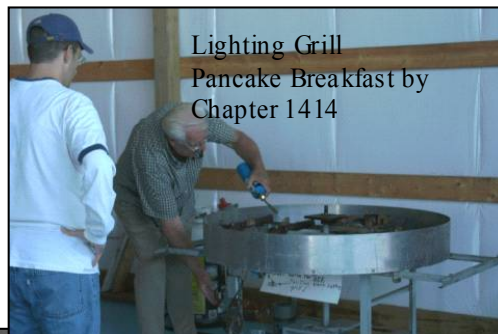
*I can't thank you enough for the opportunity you gave me to talk to real people who knew what Liaison Planes and Liaison Pilots were, and who wanted to know more. I'm only sorry that I couldn't tell them about what it was like to really fly in the European combat zone, but of course, I am a survivor – which might not have been the case were I in Europe, where 66 LP's were killed and over a hundred were injured. But I did my best by bringing the books, spread out on the table, by the best pilots in Europe, especially "Dutch" Schultze's book, "Janie" Little Plane: Big War! To my knowledge there were six books and only one about the South Pacific ( the Leyte Invasion in '45, with an L-4 evading a Zero – no big deal!) Another, Box Seat over Hell, is available via Internat.Liaison Pilots, etc. in Texas. One last point – I never connected with the tape copy you had/have for me. Although I have been amply repaid by you in overwhelming satisfaction with the day, and the flying, and the comradery, the tape is frosting on the cake! Thank you for sending it to me. And my heartfelt thanks and regards to you and your sister, and to all of those who touched my life on that Day.*

Welton I. Taylor, Major (ret.)  
Liaison Pilot



Passenger getting a ride in a Stinson L-4 on Saturday

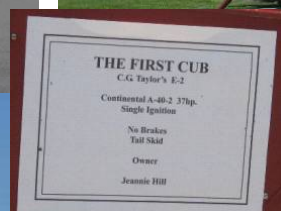
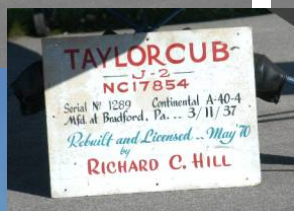
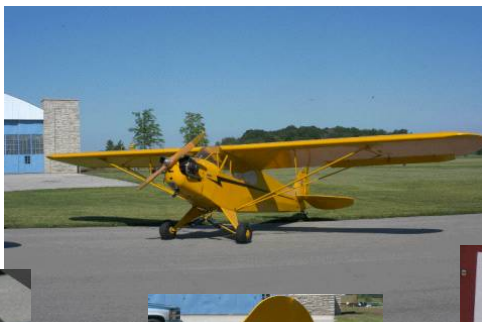
## More Army Wings and Wheels Memories





## More History

During the Army Wings and Wheels event, an exciting line-up of aircraft occurred. Dick Hill of Chapter 1414 stated that this has probably never been seen before. Here are pictures of a piece of aviation history.



# Buy, Sell, Trade, Give Away, or Participate!

Classified ads may be submitted by any member free of charge.

If you have an item to throw away, don't! List it here.

Remember one man's trash is another's treasure.

If anyone needs some help, list it here.

Adds will run for three months unless cancelled or renewed.

**Wanted** - hanger space to rent to complete kit project, possibly longer term storage, starting July/August. Please call Fred at 815.218.3339

## AirVenture 2007



July 23 – 29

See you there!

Visit the website [www.airventure.org](http://www.airventure.org)

## Chapter 1414 Logo Apparel

Jacket	\$60
Wind Shirt	\$35
Polo Shirt	\$25
Cap	\$15
Nametag	\$ 5

Order at meeting or  
online at [eaa1414.org](http://eaa1414.org)

## Gleanings:

It's best to keep the pointy end going forward as much as possible!

## AirVenture Volunteers Needed!



If anyone has some time to spare, volunteer at AirVenture big stage # 7 in the Forums area. You will hear terrific speakers. Contact Abbie or Jay Friddell by e-mail or phone at any time. We get the best seat in the house and have loads of fun, too!

Abbie: [abbienair@sbcglobal.net](mailto:abbienair@sbcglobal.net) Cell: 847 - 571 - 0395

Jay: [pjfriddell@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pjfriddell@sbcglobal.net) Cell: 847 - 571 - 0394

## Chanute Air Festival August 11-12, 2007 Rantoul Airport

### Admission

- Early Bird Adults -\$8
- Early Bird Children-\$4
- EarlyBirdFamilyPass-\$25 (entire weekend)

### Contact:

Hal Loebach, Executive Director  
(217) 893-1613 (Museum)  
E-mail: [Director@AeroMuseum.org](mailto:Director@AeroMuseum.org)

Rick Steele, Vice President  
(708) 870-4154 (Cell)  
E-Mail: [Rick.Steele@4RManagement.com](mailto:Rick.Steele@4RManagement.com)

### Chanute Air Museum:

Check us out at <http://www.aeromuseum.org>  
E-Mail: [airfestival@aeromuseum.org](mailto:airfestival@aeromuseum.org)

## Private Tours of Special Exhibits Chanute AirFest

Cornelius Coffee Piper Tri-pacer  
Boeing B-52D *Stratofortress*  
Minuteman ICBM Maintenance Training Silos

Check it out: <http://www.aeromuseum.org>

*Photos in this issue were provided by: Kendra Helvey, Frank Herdzina, Tom Murray, and the Mays. The cover photo was sent to Tom Murray by Nancy Allen.*

*Refreshments for the June meeting were provided by Abbie and Jay Friddell.*

*Thanks to all!*



# **Ken & Polly's 12th Annual Day at the Hangar**

**Sunday, August 19**

**Bar Opens at High Noon**

**Lunch 2:00PM**

**Italian Sausage and Sweet Corn**

## **Things to Do**

Ride in an XKE Jag	It's Red
Ride in a 57 T Bird	Top Down
Ride a 1979 Rolls Royce	Built for a Prince
Ride in a Model A Ford	With a Rumble Seat
Bet on a Model T Race	Two at Airport
Ride in a VW Bug Conv.	Maybe Bug Races
Ride in a 1911 Woods Mobelette	If it runs
Ride a Motorcycle	With a Side Car
Ride in one of 4 Airplanes	One without a Top
	One goes in Water

**Sign up for Parachute Jump**

## **Things to Bring**

**Children**

**Friends**

**Sunshine (Party in Hangar if rain)**

**Something to go with Sausage & Corn**

**Directions: Ken & Polly Kresmery 847-742-0000**

## Premeeting Checklist

- \_\_\_\_ • Bring suggestion for activities, etc.
- \_\_\_\_ • Your member profile for the Newsletter
- \_\_\_\_ • Any aviation article of interest that you would like to share  
With the other members

EAA Chapter 1414 meets on the second Tuesday of the month in the Maintenance Hangar at the Poplar Grove Airport, unless notified otherwise in the newsletter.

The meeting starts at 7:00 PM. **Directions:** From Belvidere, IL, go north on Rout 76 approx. 3.5 miles and turn right at the main airport entrance. Make the first right turn and the hangar is on the left.

The Newsletter is always looking for interesting articles and pictures by our chapter members. Please submit anything you have written or would like to write something or have pictures that you believe would be of interest to the chapter membership. The preferred method for the editor to receive articles is by e-mail to: [mayge46@verizon.net](mailto:mayge46@verizon.net). Alternately, a ZIP disk or CD with articles written with any major word processor with a printed copy may be submitted to any board member at the meetings.

P.O. Box 399  
Poplar Grove, IL 61065

# 1414

# EAA CHAPTER

