

August 2007 Chapter 471 Newsletter

President's Message

We all survived another year at Oshkosh by gosh! What a great time! I apologize for not getting out more updates and pictures but my laptop crapped out on me. I know what I want Santa to bring me this year plus a better camera. The Air Traffic side of things went very well we had over 20,000 operations for the whole week with 2 incidents and 1 fatal accident. Only one aircraft was under our control when his gear collapsed. The other was on EAA ground with a taxiing conflict and the mustangs that got together on the runway was during the airshow under EAA control. I wish everyone could have a chance to view the operation from the tower, what an amazing site. National Geographic was in the tower on the first day filming for a documentary to be released sometime next year so keep an eye out for it. I had two busy tower days and a very busy session at Fond du Lac on ground control the last day. I would never have imagined that would happen but oh my goodness. I had nightmares for days. On the last Saturday our crew did the runway 9 post show launch, another site to behold. When the last aircraft was airborne (over 200 launched) the crowd of people that had gathered around the runway perimeter started clapping and cheering. It is so hard to describe, you just have to be there. I saw Steve and Donna Johnson, the Bridwell family and had breakfast on Saturday with John and Loren from Lubbock. I will send Steve some pics to put on the web site for your viewing pleasure. Until next year.....

Just a reminder: Most of us have families, a lot of us work full time and have our own personal things to take care of, there are vacations, summer classes, business trips etc. and all the extra things we try and pile on sometimes do not get completed right away. Our Chapter home will not be completed overnight, it will take time and I ask everyone to please be patient with me, the board and whoever else fills the spots for next year.

EAA Major Achievement Award

This award recognizes individual EAA Members for their personal commitment and contributions to EAA, EAA Divisions, Chapters and Squadrons, their fellow EAA Members and the recreational aviation community as a whole. In April of this year I nominated Gray for one of these awards. Before Oshkosh we were notified that Gray would be receiving one (they give out about six) and that it would be presented at the Chapter Leaders Breakfast on the last Saturday. Gray could not stay until Saturday so I accepted on his behalf and will present it to him at breakfast this Saturday. This feather helps our Chapter gain a little recognition. Congratulations Gray!

Breakfast

July breakfast was well attended, however Friday setup was not, only me. We will try again this Saturday August 11th. We should have an oven up and running for biscuits.

Start time is 9am. Set-up is Friday evening around 5pm and I may call a few of you to remind you of both. Hope to see you there.

Airfest

A week from Saturday August 18th and the skies will be buzzing over Abilene. So far it appears all is going well and we are looking forward to another great time. If you have some time to spare to volunteer please let me know. We can always use help. Our Chapter will have the Pilot Registration booth, a food/beverage booth, chair rental, and sell tickets for the Saturday night party.