



Valley Aero View

P.O. Box 74
Bay City, MI 48707

Vol.8 Issue 6

June, 2014

Bay City, Michigan

EVENTS

FATHER'S DAY FLY-IN 2014

OVER 860 BREAKFASTS SERVED

106+ PASSENGERS FLOWN



CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL WHO WORKED SO VERY HARD TO MAKE THIS SUCH A SUCCESS!!!

SPECIAL THANKS TO CHARLIE SMITH, GEORGE LaPORTE, DICK SMITH, RHYS SIGNS and MANY MORE

For the BARREL TRAIN — an ENORMOUS Project!!

Come to this month's meeting for a full report on the results!

CHECK OUT THE GREAT PUBLICITY WE RECEIVED
NEWSPAPER ARTICLES ATTACHED TO ELECTRONIC EDITION



Saginaw Valley EAA Chapter 159

Next Meeting: Contact President Dave Pugh (989) 697-3378



Next Meeting: Saturday July 19th at 12:00 pm at Gross Airport, Pinconning.

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NEW NAME TAGS

AVAILABLE:

PRICE \$4.00

**Inquire at the
Meeting**

NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING

MONDAY June 23, 2014 @ 7:00 PM @ CLEMENTS AIRPORT—Admin Building

DON'T FORGET THE ANNUAL STEAK FRY THIS SEPTEMBER!!



CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ACTIVITIES

Thursday July 10, 2014 5:30 PM TO 8:30 PM
Chamber Reception at Auburn Cornfest

After Hours Get Togethers 5-7:00 pm

Thursday July 17th — York Repair, Inc.
611 Andre Street
Bay City, MI 48706

All Members are eligible to attend
See Pat Kunkel for details—684-3131

AIRPORT NEWS



—1,800+ Gallons of fuel sold in May/June.

—Hangar Rental Increase Coming—The City is raising hangar rental 2 cents to 30 cents/square foot, the first raise in some years.

—The Runway 23 approach will soon be tested to see if recent tree cutting will allow for re-commissioning of the PAPI lights.

—See attached article on proposed Bill to Increase Michigan Airport Funding!



Help us save postage! If you are currently getting the newsletter by mail and have e-mail, please send your e-mail address to Chuck Binder's e-mail address:

Charles.Binder@cebinder.com

January through March is the time to RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!!

\$30.00 Annual Dues—LAST NEWSLETTER FOR UNPAID MEMBERS WILL BE in MARCH

Valley Aero Membership Form for 2014	
MAIL TO: David Huiskens, Treasurer PO Box 74 Bay City, MI 48707 Name: _____ Address: _____ _____ zip _____	Enclosed is \$ _____ to be used for: <input type="checkbox"/> 2014 Valley Aero Dues <input type="checkbox"/> An Additional Tax Deductible Donation

Father's Day Fly-In fundraiser today

By Molly Young

myoung7@mlive.com

For Genl Grant's family, the annual Dawn Patrol Breakfast and Father's Day Fly-In is more than a fundraiser. It's a way to keep her family's heritage alive.

The 69-year-old Monitor Township woman is the second of three generations — soon to be four, as the toddlers already have a few hours in a plane under their belt — of aviators that learned flying skills at the airport. She also is part of The Valley Aero Club, the nonprofit group that raises money and does volunteer work at the airport, and is working to organize the club's only fundraiser of the year.

She has organized the event before, but this year is special.

It's the 60th anniversary of the Father's Day Fly-In and Dawn Patrol Breakfast, which takes place from 7 a.m. to noon today. This year's theme, "We Remember," commemorates her family's love for flying, passed down from generation to generation.

"I can remember in my crib listening to the

drone of the squadron going out to do maneuvers and train," Grant said. "It almost became like a lullaby for me."

Krzysiak's House Restaurant is catering the all-you-can-eat breakfast, which is \$7 for adults, \$5 for children 5 to 10 and free for children 4 and younger.

A LOVE FOR AVIATION

Grant's love for planes started with her father, the late Eugene Smith, who trained hundreds of pilots throughout World War II, and was the first to train cadets on the Frasca Flight Simulator.

She didn't know she wanted to become a pilot herself until her son, Greg Grant, now 45, took a cue from his Grandpa Smith and began working toward his pilot's license as a 16-year-old.

"He hung around with Grandpa a lot, so it was because of Grandpa that he wanted to fly," Grant said. "We went out to Delta and signed him up for a grounds school, and I went with him because he was only 16 and he was my baby, you know. I went

with him and I sat in the class and after the first lesson I said, I can do this. And, I did."

Grant and her son got their pilot's licenses on the same day.

She became an FAA Master Flight Instructor and formerly was the Director of Aviation at Delta College, where she trained hundreds of local pilots.

THE FUNDRAISER

Nancy Smith, chair of the Valley Aero Club, said the fundraiser not only helps keep some financial burden off the city, which owns and maintains the airport, but also helps promote the airport and its rich history.

"We want the public to know that they can come out and see the airport anytime for free, and this gives them a chance to spend the day here," she said.

Members of the public can purchase a ride for \$25 per seat. Three people ride in a plane at a time for the 15- to 20-minute ride.

All proceeds benefit the Valley Aero Club and James Clements Airport. Admission into the airport is free.

Local

"I always bring him out here."

CRAIG COLBERG, ON BRINGING HIS SON, ARIC, TO THE ANNUAL DAWN PATROL BREAKFAST AND FATHER'S DAY FLY-IN

5/16/14



Chuck Mitchell, and his son Gabe Mitchell, 5, eat breakfast outdoors Sunday during the 60th annual Dawn Patrol Breakfast and Father's Day Fly-In at James Clements Airport in Bay City. They drove from Oakland County to see skydivers at the event.

(Danielle McGrew/MLive.com)

BAY CITY

James Clements Airport hosts annual Dawn Patrol Breakfast

By Danielle McGrew

For MLive.com

With the steady hum of propellers whipping through the morning air, the Valley Aero Club's 60th annual Dawn Patrol Breakfast and Father's Day Fly-In brought hundreds of guests to the James Clements Airport in Bay City on Sunday.

Valley Aero Club chairwoman Nancy Smith said the organization sees a lot of the same faces year after year, as coming to the airport for breakfast, plane rides and viewing airplanes and cars has become a Father's Day tradition for many.

"You see them come through the (breakfast) line, and there's grandpa, dad and the little guys," she said. "It's really heartwarming to see that."

Craig Colberg and his son Aric, 9, have been coming for about five years.

"I always bring him out here," he said. "He likes it and it gives me the chance to ride (in a plane) again."

Colberg said he began flying when he was 16 years old and was close to earning his pilot's license, but never finished.

The Father's Day Fly-In has become a way for him to share those experiences with his son while enjoying the thrill of flight again himself.

Colberg added Aric even got to help fly the plane as they flew over windmills over the Thumb and across the Saginaw Bay during their 15- to 20-minute trip.

When asked what his favorite part was, Aric simply replied, "All of it."

Chuck and Gabe



Skydiver Dale Monroe, of Bay City, lands during the 60th annual Dawn Patrol Breakfast and Father's Day Fly-In.

Mitchell drove from Oakland County for the event. Five-year-old Gabe especially was excited to see skydivers land.

The father-son duo ate breakfast outside among dozens of airplanes, not far from where the three skydivers touched down.

Dale Monroe, of Bay City, said this was his first time jumping for the Father's Day event, though the Wild Wind Skydivers group tries to participate in the event annually, weather permitting.

"It was excellent," said Monroe, who has been

skydiving for about seven years.

Smith expected about 1,000 people to attend this year's fundraiser to help meet their \$2,000 fundraising goal.

Retired flight instructor Bob Munley said he expected the five volunteer pilots would take about 100 people on plane rides by the event's end at noon.

"Today is a great day," he said, looking at the long line and the families perusing the lines of planes on the tarmac.

"It's always a fun day," Smith agreed.

Skydiver Kurt Dahlberg, of Bridgeport, lands next to Troy Buzzard, of Bay City, after jumping during the Dawn Patrol Breakfast.



6/20/14

Local

"I've always wanted to fly in one of these little planes. I've heard you can actually feel the wind under the wings."

DAVE YOUNG



Charles Binder points to the best place to step up onto his airplane's wing to board the plane Sunday during the annual Father's Day Fly-In at James Clements Airport in Bay City. The opportunity to fly is part of the annual fundraiser to benefit the facility. (Molly Young/MLive.com)

BAY CITY

Airport fulfills her dream with first takeoff, landing

Your life is made of two dates and a dash. Make the most of the dash. Well, that's how the saying is supposed to go.

But, as I waited in line Sunday for an airplane ride at the 60th annual Father's Day Fly-In at James Clements Airport in Bay City, my not-at-all paranoid, morbidly sarcastic mom changed it up a bit.

"Your life is made up of two dates and a dash," she said. "Do you really want your second date to be today?"

She followed up with, "Well, at least the end of your dash will be cooler than most people's."

But, what they say is true. When that final date rolls — or crashes — around, it's the dash — the memories, the relationships, the feelings — between the dates that really matters.

So, on Sunday, I added a bit to that dash and, along with my dad, made a great memory. Before I tell you all about it, let me tell you how I got there.

In 2007, my dad and I attended the annual fly-in, which is organized by the Valley Aero Club, a nonprofit group of volunteers who raise money for and maintain the airport. That year, the event featured a spectacular air show aimed at drawing a crowd. It worked. More than 900 attended, the most in the event's history.

This past Sunday was a close second, with 892 turning out for a day of fun, including a pancake breakfast and the chance to pay \$25 for a seat on a flight with a local pilot.

This year, 106 people paid for a takeoff and landing — and the dash stuff in between.

Back in 2007, my dad and I thought about earning our wings. We mulled it over. We even got in line. But, ultimately, we decided not to fly that day.

Until Sunday, that day was a memory I tossed and turned in my mind. Even my dad would make the occa-



Bay City Times reporter Molly Young joins her father, Dave Young, of Bay City, and pilot Charles Binder, preparing for takeoff as a stuffed bear in aviator gear dangles in the background.

sional comment about wishing he had flown that day.

So, when Father's Day arrived this year, I was ready to give my dad something more than that "pack of socks," I'd gifted so many times in the past.

When we arrived for breakfast at about 9:30 a.m., the line was several hundred people deep and stretched far beyond the hangar's overhead door. Ahead of us were generations of fathers and children who made attending the annual event a family tradition.

We waited for about 30 minutes, passing the time with conversation about the planes taking off and watching skydivers float back to earth. We talked about the hangar: Look at the few broken windows, the peeling blue paint; it'd be so nice if they'd fix it up.

When we finally got inside and sat down to eat our meal, catered by Krzysiak's House Restaurant, we commented on the feelings the hangar gave us: It looked vintage, rustic and industrial with a wooden ceiling, steel rafters and a concrete floor. It was lined with windows, allowing the natural morning light to flood the room.

It was charming.

We finished our breakfast and visited the vendor booths lining the inside of the hangar, which included antique airplane motor exhibits, customizable

dog tags, information on flight schools and auction tables.

Then, unable to avoid the inevitable any longer, we got in line for an airplane ride.

My dad, usually a pretty quiet, level-headed guy, was grinning with excitement at the chance to cross something off of his bucket list.

"I've always wanted to fly in one of these little planes," he said. "I've heard you can actually feel the wind under the wings."

You could.

We soared high above Bay City taking in all the sights below. I shot plenty of photos and even a video of our trip.

When we landed, my dad summed up the flight with six simple words: "That was amazing. That was awesome."

Smiling, my mom added: "You should have seen him this morning. It was like a kid on Christmas morning."

Socks never did that.

I realized in that moment that it's really not the dates that are important. It's not the "stuff" you own. It's the memories, the relationships, the feelings that make up the best and boldest dashes. I was thankful for a place like James Clements Airport that helped me and my dad create those memories, relationships and feelings.

Now, I realize my single memory pales in comparison to those held by others.

Last week, I interviewed Geni Grant, a Bay City pilot who learned to fly at the airport with her son. Her daughter and her father also learned flying skills at the airport. Now, she's a Valley Aero Club volunteer.

When you talk to Grant, you sense how much the airport means to her.

It's not just an airport. It's generations of memories. It's a big part of her dash. And now, it's a big part of mine as well.

— Molly Young is a Bay City native and 2008 graduate of Bay City Western High School. She earned her bachelor's degree in professional technical writing in 2012 from Saginaw Valley State University. She enjoys fishing, camping, windsurfing and a good game of laser tag.



The Saginaw River, Saginaw River Lake and tributaries are seen from 1,400 feet above James Clements Airport during the 60th annual Father's Day Fly-In.

Michigan bill to boost aviation funding progresses

May 19, 2014

By Benét J. Wilson

Michigan's Senate Finance Committee approved amended legislation on May 14 that would increase aviation funding levels by modifying the way the state collects aviation fuel taxes.

The committee approved Senate substitute bills for House bills 4571 and 4572, which would eliminate Michigan's 6 percent sales tax and \$0.03 excise tax and impose a 4 percent wholesale fuel tax with the entirety of the revenue generated deposited in the state aeronautics fund for aviation system improvements.

During the past several years, AOPA has fought against tax increase proposals in the legislature, including an attempt to raise aviation fuel by up to 3 percent or \$0.18 per gallon. AOPA testified before several House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee meetings, met with state senators and representatives to advocate for passage of an aviation funding package, and engaged members several times to contact their legislators on the measures. Under the plan passed by the Senate Finance Committee, aviation fuel users would experience a modest tax decrease and would benefit from stronger aviation infrastructure, since all of the new tax revenue would be dedicated to aviation infrastructure.

"The bills passed by the Senate committee represent a win-win for the aviation community, with aviation fuel users set to experience a modest reduction in tax rates and the state aeronautics fund having the additional resources to help maintain Michigan's critical aviation infrastructure," said AOPA Great Lakes Regional Manager Bryan Budds. "The collaborative work of Senator Jack Brandenburg, Representative Wayne Schmidt, AOPA, and a variety of state aviation organizations allowed the entire aviation community to come together to support this set of bills."