

2023 Post Fly-In/Fall Newsletter

Hello pilots and friends. As we're busy tying up loose ends of the 2023 fly-in, we're getting ready for the "ALL YOU CAN EAT" fall breakfast, Sunday, September 24th, in Hangar 1, 8am till 12,(or until the food is gone). We pray we have a much better turnout than we had during the fly-in! The breakfasts are always a huge hit, rain or shine. The majority of the hungry eaters are local and don't have to dodge rain. But it sure is a pretty sight on the field when the weather is good and the not-so-locals can fly in! We hope to see you here...arrive hungry.

I wish I could give a rosy report, but due to crappy weather all around the country, this was probably the sparsest fly-in turnout we've ever had. Locally, the weather at the beginning of the week was pretty good, but it went downhill from there! The local hotels reported they also had several cancellations, citing it was due to weather. A usual year would have at least 350 planes, and this year had 95 registered. Quite a loss! By Saturday afternoon, there were 4 planes on the field, with at least 2 of them being left behind unoccupied, due to weather. Anticipating the fly-in would end Sunday, not Saturday, we were a bit disappointed to say the least.

Regardless of what Mother Nature threw our way, everyone had a great time, and there wasn't any arguing over the parking spots! Greg Koontz & Fred were able to get a few shows in, to make things thrilling. We really appreciate everything those guys do for S.J. The Lycoming Engines tour was very popular this year, as it gave everyone something to do on a rainy morning!

Amanda Baughman kept the kiddos busy everyday with Kiddy Craft hour. Airplane jewelry and a Piper airplane contest were two of the highlights. Something new the younger ones (or young at heart) can look forward to next year is a campfire with toasted marshmallows each night. We thank Amanda for all she does, including playing bagpipes during the missing man fly over. A big thanks to the anonymous pilots who participated, and to Roger Thiel for announcing the names of those friends who have gone west, as well as his generosity in announcing various events throughout the week.

Friday started off with unlimited free coffee all morning, thanks to Phil & Sharon Hoy. And of course...the Fred Jackson Famous Corn Boil was a big hit every evening, thanks to Fred & Sue and Kessinger's Propane.

SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY, PIPER MUSEUM & THE AIRPORT

Many of you have always thought Sentimental Journey, William T. Piper Memorial Airport & the Piper Aviation Museum are one in the same. We are not! We are three separate entities. Although we all try to work together and support each other, we are not in business together. The airport and fuel trucks are owned & operated by the City of Lock Haven & their employees. Therefore, any compliments or complaints should be addressed to them. Sentimental Journey has no authority over them, we simply rent office space from the city, and they give us permission to hold our events on their property.

Over the years, it has been brought to our attention many times that people believe S.J. & the Museum are together. On several occasions, many generous, well-meaning people have donated money to the Museum, thinking it was going to Sentimental Journey. This has resulted in Sentimental Journey missing out on donations that were meant to go towards the fly-in. If you would like to be sure your donations/endowments go to S.J., please be sure to send to: Sentimental Journey, Inc., P.O. Box J-3, Lock Haven, PA. 17745, (note it's for the Fly-In). We are very grateful for any and all donations sent. We couldn't have a fly-in without your donations. The same can be said about memberships...S.J. members belong to S.J. and the Museum members belong to the museum. We do not honor each other's membership privileges.

Looking Ahead

In hopes of gaining some more volunteers, as well as getting some fresh ideas from our fellow pilots/guests, a special "meeting of the minds" was held Saturday, with several of them in attendance. Many interesting ideas were bounced around, and we are confident we will have a fun 2024 fly-in. Some fun things are planned in case of rain...not that it ever rains in Pennsylvania or anything! A couple of bus trips would be nice, maybe the Grand Canyon or Penns Cave? Maybe both! We are also considering a spot landing contest every day, with the daily winners having a face-off Saturday to determine the champion. Any good ideas...let us know!

Last year the poker run format was changed because it often rains on the day the run is scheduled. The new format allows the players to land at every airport on the list, at any time/any day, during the fly-in. They pick their cards upon completion of the list and do not have to be here when the winner is determined...we will mail the check to them. This new way seems to work great, as we've gotten some good feedback on the change. A HUGE thank you to The Baughmans, Bells and the rest of BOHICA for taking the reins. You are awesome!

How about setting up the cornhole boards so you can challenge your fellow pilots to a friendly game? The boards will be set out behind the blue building during the day, and near Gary's Cub Pub in the evening. Good luck to you all! The banquet was held on Friday evening this year and that change was well received, so hopefully we can do the same next year. We are hoping to have some fun things to do on Saturday, such as a car/truck/motorcycle show. A good band Saturday night would be a great way to close out the festivities. These are some ideas we're working on, to name a few. That being said, mark your calendars for Tuesday, June 18th thru Sunday, June 23rd, 2024. **Plan on staying Saturday night, landing gear up Sunday!**

Speaking of bands, we got more compliments on the choice of bands than ever before. Tuesday was Rama Lama, a doo-wop group who got rave reviews, even from those who didn't think they liked doo-wop! Wednesday was Kristi Jean & Her Ne'er-Do-Wells, a Country-billy collision you don't want to miss. Thursday was the beloved Lindy Sisters with their WWII, 40's era show. And Friday was capped off with Chris LaRose and the Hex Highway Blues Band, who blew the crowd away! Gary's Cub Pub was a popular place to be, after the sun went down and the flying was done for the day. The drinks were cold and the camaraderie couldn't have been better! I got an email from a pilot who said the bands were definitely worth sticking around for! Thank you to these awesome musicians, and for all the encouraging feedback.

Banquet

As stated earlier, the Fly-In Banquet was held Friday instead of Saturday, in hopes more of you could attend. Tickets sold out early, so we were happy about that! We apologize to those we had to turn away. The kind folks at the Piper Museum offered the banquet room for our use, making it possible to hold it Friday. It

worked out great and it looked lovely. Rizzo's Greenhouse & Flower Shop provided the flowers & centerpieces. Dutch Haven Catering provided the delicious meal. Thanks to Betsy Buchan for all her help with the banquet.

Benjie Coleman entertained us as MC for the evening, and as usual, did a great job. As always, we were blessed to have Elizabeth Piper as our guest of honor.

In the past, we've referred to the feast as the "awards banquet", but in reality it is a delicious meal to be shared with friends. The awards are a bonus! Banquets seem to get a bad rap, due to the misconception the guest speaker always rambles on far too long! We try hard to provide a speaker who not only keeps it under ½ hour, but also holds your interest. This year, Jim Busha filled that role. Jim is an experienced pilot & aviation writer who joined EAA in October of 2014 as Director of Publications. In March of 2020, Jim was promoted to V.P. of Publications, Marketing, and Membership for the organization. Jim has recently co-authored a book with Carol Carpenter Apacki, daughter of Major Charles Carpenter : "Bazooka Charlie -The Unbelievable Story of Major Charles Carpenter and Rosie The Rocketeer". Major Carpenter made headlines during the Second World War when he affixed 6 bazookas to his tiny Piper L-4 observation plane and began attacking German tanks. "Bazooka Charlie and his plane Rosie the Rocketeer were profiled in a variety of military & civilian publications, including the iconic *Stars & Stripes*. After the banquet, Jim had copies of his book available for those who wished to own a copy. A big thank you to Jim. We hope he enjoyed his time here and will return. Maybe next year he'll attend & write a nice story about us in the magazine!

Award Winners

Attached, you will find the list of all the aircraft awards, as well as the various other awards given, including the contest winners. Congratulations to everyone who took home an award. And thank you to the judges who volunteer their time & expertise. We would like to thank the spot landing and golf ball drop winners for donating their winnings back to S.J. to help make up for a financially disappointing week!

The Leah Jones Herd O' Turtles Aviation Scholarship was awarded to Maisie Bitler, a high school student from Hughesville High School, Hughesville, Pa. Maisie was sorry she was unable to attend the banquet due to commitments at CAP camp, so

her mom, Amber, accepted it on her behalf and read a thank you letter Maisie had written. Congratulations to Maisie. It is never too early to get started on those scholarship applications. We encourage you to encourage your youth to apply!

In Closing

We hope if you attended, you had a good time and will be back next year, with friends! Thank you for any and all support you give to our organization, whether it's volunteer time, memberships, donations, word of mouth, or attending our events. Be sure to Mark your calendars for Tuesday, June 18th thru Sunday, June 23rd, 2024. AND REMEMBER...next year, plan on staying until Sunday. See you there! Until then, be good, be kind & be careful. Visit our website for updates & newsletter. www.sentimentaljourneyfly-in.com.