

The 2008 WSPA Seminar

By Frauke Elber

The Central Indiana Soaring Society (CISS), was the host club of this year's seminar. This was the first event CISS sponsored since becoming owner of the airport and its facilities. Organizers were Marty Hudson and Cheryl Beckage, which did an outstanding job.

The following were this year's participants: Marty Hudson and Cheryl Beckage, seminar coordinators from Indiana; Neita and Mark Montague from Nevada; Terry Duncan from California, who together with Neita trailered her Libelle halfway across the country; Lucy Anne McKosky and Jamie Morris from Ohio, the latter one chaperoned by her mother Sylvia; Charlotte Taylor (without Her Excellent Crew Roy), Missouri who brought her ASW19; Frauke and Wolf Elber from Virginia (for whom the seminar was just the first stop of an extended Eastern Canada trip); Martie Klemm who had to leave early during the week), Jessica Stearns from Florida, Tabie Thomas from Indiana. Sarah Kelly and Dianne Howell came all the way from Chilhowee, Tennessee in Sarah's little Piper Vagabond. Amy Guyton traveled from Michigan, Karen Greig from Illinois and Joyce Hilchie from Arizona. Anne Mongiovi and husband Gene Franklin flew in for a day in their Dimona and Annie Moore from Pennsylvania was able to spend the last two days at the seminar.

The daily programs started at 9 AM sharp (Marty and Cheryl made sure of it). Marty must have been a drill sergeant in her former life.

Monday morning was set aside for Operation Orientation and a chance for the participants to get to know each other. Flying commenced at noon. Later in the afternoon several participants got a chance to fly in the open cockpit Fairchild PT 23 (WWII trainer). In the evening many of the participants and CISS members went to the Olive Garden in Muncie.

Tuesday, after a continental breakfast (a better one than you will find in a hotel) started with a brief operation review, followed by a presentation by Sarah Kelly about the joy of country flying. After a short break Mike Rielage CFGI and former FAA employee talked about how the FAA and NTSB handle accident investigations. Again, after the flying rides in the Fairchild were possible. In the evening the participants roasted hot dogs on an bonfire.

Wednesday morning was sign up day for Tandem Parachute Jumps. Four participants got a chance at that part of aviation. The first brave to jump out of a perfectly good airplane was Marty Hudson, followed by Terry Duncan, Mark Montague, and Karen Greig. All reached terra firma safely. The morning program was titled: Soaring around the World, a travelogue. Ron Clarke, a CISS member and who hails from South Africa told about his soaring experiences on several continents, followed by Frauke Elber who reported that when ever she travels to a foreign country –or even within the US- she will contact the national soaring associations or the clubs on her travel route. This practice has led to some

long lasting friendships world wide. Frauke also showed the brand new German film "Hexen im Aufwind"(Witches in Updrafts) for which she had put English subtitles on the film to make it understandable for the English speaking viewers. Sadly, because of predicted thunderstorms we did not see the whole film but opted to use the weather window for getting as many flights in as possible. It was a good decision because later in the afternoon all hell broke loose. The day ended with Men Fry Women Fly BBQ hosted by CISS's Don and Miriam Taylor and following this the general WSPA meeting.

Thursday featured speaker was Michael Smith, Director National Model Aviation Museum. Following his talk followed a demonstration of flying different models with different launch systems. Model sailplanes were represented by a Ka 8 which was launched in aerotow and a Ventus Zcx M self launching model which had technical problems getting off the ground. We learned that even Model sailplane flying is not a cheap sport. For the price of the model Ventus one can buy already a 1-26 or Ka8. Again, the weather cut the flying activities in the afternoon short but one or two aerobatic flights with Dale Ingram from CISS were able to get off the ground. That evening the WSPA banquet was held at the Wilbur Wright Museum and included a tour through the museum. The winners of this year's scholarships were announced:

Amy Guyton Mid Kolstad Scholarship

Marti Klemm Maria Faber Scholarship

Eleni Brand Sky Ghost Scholarship

Jamie Morris Flying Montagues Scholarship

Sylvia Szafazcyk Competition Scholarship

Kathleen Winters was the 2007 winner of the Anne Lindbergh Trophy.

Wolf Elber was awarded the "Golden Plunger" award. (Neita can tell that story).

The winner of this year's raffle was Karen Greig. This year's raffle netted \$284. (one of the CISS members donated a handmade wooden bowl for a future raffle)

The winner of this year's Limerick contest was 15 year old Jamie Morris.

The winning Limerick:

**Lost in the thought of the sky
Watching how the birds do fly
Oh how nice to be
So high and so free
How awesome it is to fly.**

Friday turned also into another abbreviated flying day of flying. Bob Wanderer, who was thanks to the National Safety Foundation, the featured speaker for the morning agreed to postpone his presentation until the afternoon to give as many eager flyers as possible a chance to fly.

Our thanks go to the CISS members who donated their time and expertise to work as tow pilots, instructors and ground crew, especially Dick Hutchison crew chief and Kurt Ristow, airport manager. A very special THANK YOU to Michael Beckage who provided delicious food –some cooked at the spot throughout the days. I am sure all of us left the seminar with a few extra pounds.

Thank you also to John Earlywine who brought his great DG1000 to the seminar from Northern Indiana and gave nine of us –yours truly included– the opportunity to fly a high performance double seater. John donated the rental fee back to WSPA. Thanks go also to jumpmaster Brian J DuBois and his crew and to the owner and pilot, Ed Escallon of the Fairchild PT 23 for the thrills they provided.

Thanks to Marty's and Cheryl's organizational skill the 2008 seminar was a great success. We hope many will join us 2009 in Slovenia. Our Slovenian friends are already hard at work.