

June 2010

# GCA-EAA

## Fly-In Success

Several members of our club found the time to participate in this past weekends fly-in at Geauga CO. Airport.



Demo Flights and Static Displays were on hand all day!

Geauga Radio Controlaires were a last second addition to the Geauga Co. Airport's EAA Chapter Five Experimental Fly-In this past Saturday. Our President received a last second phone call Thursday night requesting the club's participation.

A funny thing happened last Thursday evening at our field. I was there flying with the "Aviator" when my cell phone rang. To my surprise it was the Board of Directors from the Geauga Co. Airport requesting our participation in the EAA Chapter Five Fly-In scheduled for the very next weekend. Well I am never against free publicity and a chance for the public to witness our pilots' ability to fly. However it has always been a problem to get out information to our club members in a short term venue that falls in between monthly meetings. Plus I was scheduled to leave for New York City that very next morning and not return until the middle of the following week. I couldn't possibly make ninety phone calls in a few hours to extend a warm invitation to all of our members. But I decided to make this opportunity work. My first goal was to notify the Executive Committee and get their input. Next was to figure out who would be the best individual that had experience

in producing/productions that I could ask questions and get good information right back. My first thought was to contact Ray Liptak whose company deals with that very subject. Ray jumped on this project right away. I knew he would, just from having past conversations with him about similar subjects. . Once a plan was in place we needed to locate pilots that could help us out especially knowing that some of our club members were driving long distances to see Jet shows in Kentucky and Electric Nationals in Indiana. We may not have any experienced pilots! Fortunately Dave Rigotti, Russ Nagy and Bob Williams were available.



**Charlie Polutro's war bird dedicated to Pearl Harbor, along with a pilot figure. This Static Display got a lot of interest from visitors.**



### Full scale Experimentals

Full scale Experimentals flew in and out all morning from four different states. They were great to see, touch, and smell! I wish I would have had enough time to talk to some of the pilots. When the two P-51's flew in from Lost Nation Airport fans flocked to them both. What a great experience this was for club!

I had a start! I had four solid commitments and all I needed was a couple of gas engine pilots that had experience in Demo Flights. My first thought was to contact Bob Gross and see if he was available with his Air Bike and possibly Fred Sheplavy with his 1/3 scale Cub. Well Bob was headed to Indiana. So Fred volunteered his services, as well as Danny Salacienski, and Ray Liptak (helicopters). So now that I had some solid pilots I needed to contact the AMA. Once that was in order I felt we needed something different. We needed a Display Area to set up a bunch of static displays for visitors to look at. I also thought of a Flight Simulator that the visitors could experience first hand to look at what it takes to actually fly one of these RC planes. Dan Wadsworth volunteered his flight simulator. Once that was set up I thought of asking somebody from the club who could actually answer questions from the public concerning flight training. Who else than our last accomplished trainee....Tim Kearns....the Aviator! Tim jumped at the idea and even printed up hand-outs for the interested public. So at this point I felt we needed a bunch of our club members to set their planes up as a static display. We had over fifteen members who showed up to participate at that level. The displays were well received by the crowd and several people talked to the Aviator about how to get started in the hobby. The flight simulator was constantly occupied. I asked Frank Ulizzi to actually

MC the flight demonstrations. Dave Rigotti and Russ Nagy entertained the crowd with their jets and, of course, Nagy couldn't resist a 200mph fly-by with his piloting skills. Bob Williams also flew a couple demo flights with his 1/3 scale Pitts Python bi-plane powered by a DA-50. Ray Liptak entertained the crowd with his helicopter piloting skills and Fred flew several flights with his 1/3 scale Piper Cub. Bob Horacek acted as official club photographer and took some awesome pictures! Before you knew it our show was over. I want to thank everyone who participated in this event and special thanks to Ray Liptak for all of his hard work as well. Frank did an awesome job on the microphone in his descriptions of the planes and their pilots. Thanks again to everyone who made this an enjoyable event.



Frankie's Favorite, RV-4