



Illinois Valley Beacon

March 2014

Chapter 563 Chartered in 1976

Volume 21 Issue 3

This newsletter is the official publication of EAA Chapter 563, located in Peoria, IL. It is published once a month, the week before the first Chapter breakfast on the first Saturday. Please submit articles to be published ten days before the end of the month to: M. Caudill, 5320 N. Sherbrook Ln., Peoria, IL 61614 email: flyvfr@comcast.net

Attention Everyone Hear Ye, Hear Ye

The regular meeting date has been changed to Tuesday the 11th of March due to conflicts on the 12th and 13th. There is an ASI Safety Meeting on Thursday at the Stoney Creek Inn, East Peoria that most of us attend and a second conflict for our speaker on Wednesday. So don't forget the second **Tuesday** is the membership meeting.

EAA Chapter 563 February 13th, 2014 Chapter Meeting Minutes

President Sam Sisk called the meeting to order at 7:05

Secretary Report:

Minutes from the January board meeting were read and approved by voice vote as presented.

Treasurer Report: No Report

Old Business: None to conduct

Membership Chair: No Report

Program Chair:

Jeff Meyer stated that Phil Jones will be providing a question and answer program with audience participation. Phil explained how it would work. Aviation related questions would be put into a computer that would be projected on the screen one at a time. Each member will have a device to use to pick the correct

answer and would be scored accordingly. This could provide a very interesting and educational experience.

Youth Outreach Chair:

B Meyer read the letter from the president of Lincoln Land Community College Thanking the Chapter for our donation of \$1,000 for their scholarship fund.

New Business:

Kent Lynch provided a short report on the information he gathered while attending the last Peoria Airport Authority Board meeting. Last year was a record year for number of passengers. General aviation activity was down last year. They are working on a separate customs area for direct flights to places such as Cancun and other Caribbean locations.

Dick Barthel stated that the audit committee had completed the financial audit for the chapter and the committee would be providing any specific suggestions on record keeping to make the audit easier. There were no discrepancies found in the chapter finances.

With no further business to conduct the business meeting was closed. Jeff Meyer, our Program Committee Chairman, presented the movie we were going to see tonight.

Respectively Submitted;

Your Secretary
Donald Wolcott

Makes you consider how far we've come in 100 years....
Concrete Arrows...

**This Really Exists:
Giant Concrete Arrows That
Point Your Way Across America...**



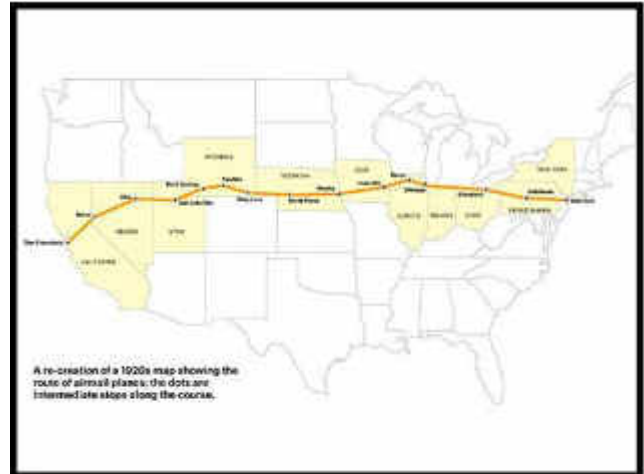
Every so often, usually in the vast deserts of the American Southwest, a hiker or a backpacker will run across something puzzling: a large concrete arrow, as much as seventy feet in length, sitting in the middle of scrub-covered nowhere.

**What are these giant arrows?
Some kind of surveying mark?**



No, it's...

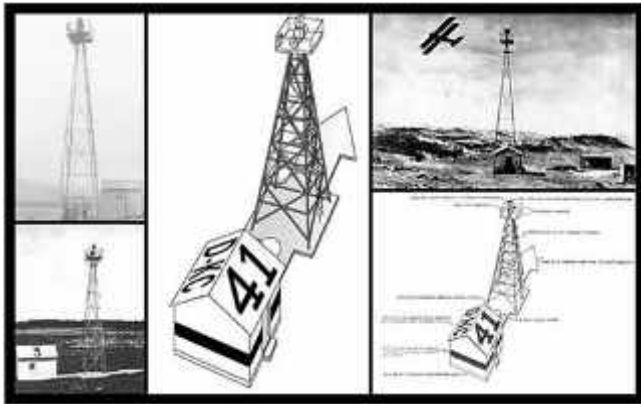
**The Transcontinental
Air Mail Route.**



On August 20, 1920, the United States opened its first coast-to-coast airmail delivery route, just 60 years after the Pony Express closed up shop.

There were no good aviation charts in those days, so pilots had to eyeball their way across the country using landmarks. This meant that flying in bad weather was difficult, and night flying was just about impossible. The Postal Service solved the problem with the world's first ground-based civilian navigation

a series of lit beacons that would extend from New York to San Francisco. **Every ten miles**, pilots would pass a bright yellow concrete arrow. Each arrow would be surmounted by a 51-foot steel tower and lit by a million-candlepower rotating beacon. (A generator shed at the tail of each arrow powered the beacon.) Now mail could get from the Atlantic to the Pacific not in a matter of weeks, but in just 30 hours or so. Even the dumbest of air mail pilots, it seems, could follow a series of bright



yellow arrows straight out of a Tex Avery cartoon. By 1924, just a year after Congress funded it, the line of giant concrete markers stretched from Rock Springs, Wyoming to Cleveland, Ohio. The next summer, it reached all the way to New York, and by 1929 it spanned the continent uninterrupted, the envy of postal systems worldwide.

Sometimes

- 1 Sometimes I'll look down at my watch 3 consecutive times and still not know what time it is.
2. Nothing sucks more than that moment during an argument when you realize you're wrong.
3. I totally take back all those times I didn't want to nap when I was younger.
4. There is great need for a sarcasm font.
5. How the hell are you supposed to fold a fitted sheet?
6. Was learning cursive really necessary?
7. Map Quest really needs to start their directions on # 5. I'm pretty sure I know how to get out of my neighborhood.
8. Obituaries would be a lot more interesting if they told you how the person died.
9. I can't remember the last time I wasn't at least kind-of tired.
10. Bad decisions make good stories.
11. You never know when it will strike, but there comes a moment when you know that you just aren't going to do anything productive for the rest of the day.
12. Can we all just agree to ignore whatever comes after Blu-ray? I don't want to have to re-start my collection...again.
13. I'm always slightly terrified when I exit out of Word and it asks me if I want to save any changes to my ten-page technical report that I swear I did not make any changes to.
14. I keep some people's phone numbers in my phone just so I know not to answer when they call.



MARCH						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2 Full Moon	3	4 Mardi Gras	5 Ash Wednesday	6	7	1 First Breakfast ● New Moon
8 International Women's Day ● Full Moon	9 Daylight Saving Time begins (EST, EDT)	10 Good Friday (EAT)	11 Membership Meeting	12	13	14
15 Passes begin to run down	16 ● Full Moon	17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19	20 Directors Meeting	21
22	23 ● Full Moon	24	25	26	27	28
29	30 Archery Sunday (EAT) ● New Moon	31	1	2	3	FEBRUARY C H M T W T F S S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28
						APRIL S M T W T F S S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30

The Regular Chapter 563 meetings will be held at the Chapter Hangar at 7:00pm on the second Thursday of each month.

All Chapter 563 breakfasts will be held at the Chapter Hangar from 8:00 am to 10:00 am on the first and third Saturday mornings.

The Chapter 563 Directors meetings will be held at the Chapter Hangar on the third Thursday of each month at 7:00pm.