



Chapter 279 Newsletter



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Information must be in the hands of the Newsletter Editor by the first of the month for that month's issue.

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Chapter Monthly Meeting: Second Friday of the month at 7:30 PM

Breakfast Fly-in: Third Sunday April through October

Greetings Fellow Members!

Again we find ourselves going down the roller coaster of winter months hoping to make it back up with enough momentum to reach the start of our 2011 summer flying season. Like the squirrels we do seem to be going into these winter months in fairly good shape; *barring anything unusual* we should have enough nuts stored in our treasury to get us through with enough left over to insure a good kick off to our fly-in season. **But are we ready to take on winter?** It is in winter that we expend much money and effort without getting much of a return. Along with our treasury surviving we must think of ourselves as taking steps to give momentum to ourselves as well. Our activities greatly decrease for sure during the winter and this one promises to be severe one. We need to give ourselves momentum by adding things like dinners to our monthly meetings as well. Saturday morning breakfasts and/or lunches or whatever presents itself could also be an opportunity to commiserate together (something we seem to do best) over hot food! For the price of a few dollars which I think our treasury could support we could have a prepared dinner brought in for our next meeting. What do you all think? Let's definitely plan one for at least one of the winter monthly meetings. Why wait until the warm weather to cheer ourselves up. What do you all say?!!!

**Carl Patturelli, President,
EAA 279**



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December Meeting Minutes

Our December meeting on the 10th was brought to order at 7:30 PM by Chapter President Carl Patturelli. The secretary report was accepted as written in the newsletter and Carl gave the treasurers report because Gerry was tied up on a job and would not make the meeting in time. Greg Lutz brought forth a motion to accept the report with a second from Joe Fava.

Old Business: Paul Paquin has been researching the by-laws and has found some minor discrepancies from 2006 and 2007 so he asked for help by means of a committee to go through all by-laws and render a final version for the chapter to approve. Bob Hittel, Tom Hassie, and Carl Patturelli will assist Paul on this mission.

New Business: John Duffy had researched and found the American Flag Co. in Rockland, MA that sells indoor flags. This flag will have fringe, an eagle on the top, and a gold base. the cost is \$189.00. Greg Lutz made a motion to purchase this flag for our clubhouse which received a second from Bob Hittel. Carl Patturelli put forth the suggestion to pay for Mary Lous' breakfast at our Xmass Brunch on December 12th. This quickly came to the unanimous approval of the members because of Mary Lou has always been there cleaning after our fly-in breakfast during the season. Well Mary Lou got a breakfast where she did not have to clean up.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM with 11 members present. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!

Tom Hassie, Secretary



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Calendar

Friday Jan 14 7:30 PM Cranland Airport (28M) EAA Chapter 279 Monthly Meeting
Friday Feb 11 7:30 PM Cranland Airport (28M) EAA Chapter 279 Monthly Meeting
Breakfasts will start up again in the Spring. We look forward to seeing you then

www.eaa279.org/279breakfast/breakfast.htm

An Aviation History Lesson

This explains it all. Aviators come from a long line of a secret society, formed around one thousand years ago. They are warriors, and here is the proof! Ground pounders can read it and weep!

A little known fact is the origin of the word, "Aviator." In the immortal words of Johnny Carson: "I did not know that."

Phu Khen (pronounced Foo Ken) 1169-? is considered by some to be the most under-recognized military officer in history. Many have never heard of his contributions to modern military warfare. The mission of this secret society is to bring honor to the name of Phu Khen.

A 'Khen' was a subordinate to a 'Khan' (pronounced 'konn') in the military structure of the Mongol hordes. Khan is Turkish for leader. Most know of the great Genghis Khan, but little has been written of his chain of command.

Khen is also of Turkish origin. Although there is not a word in English that adequately conveys the meaning. Roughly translated, it means, "One who will do the impossible, while appearing unprepared and complaining constantly."

Phu Khen was one of ten Khens that headed the divisions, or groups of hordes, as they were





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known, of the Mongol Army serving under Genghis Khan. His abilities came to light during the Mongols' raids on the Turkistan city of Bohicaroo. Bohicans were fierce warriors and the city was well fortified. The entire city was protected by huge walls and the hordes were at a standoff with the Bohicans. Bohicaroo was well-stocked and it would be difficult to wait them out. Genghis Khan assembled his Khens and ordered each of them to develop a plan for penetrating the defenses of Bohicaroo.

Operation Achieve Victory (AV) was born.

All 10 divisions of Khens submitted their plan. After reviewing AV plans 1 thru 7 and finding them all unworkable or ridiculous, Genghis Khan was understandably upset.

It was with much perspiration that Phu Khen submitted his idea, which came to be known as AV 8. Upon seeing AV 8, Genghis was convinced this was the perfect plan and gave his immediate approval. The plan was beautifully simple. Phu Khen would arm his hordes to the teeth, load them into catapults, and hurl them over the wall. The losses were expected to be high, but hey, hordes were cheap!

Those that survived the flight would engage the enemy in combat. Those that did not? Well, surely their flailing bodies would cause some damage.

The plan worked and the Bohicans were defeated. From that day on, whenever the Mongol Army encountered an insurmountable enemy, Genghis Khan would give the order, "Send some of the Phu Khen AV 8-ers."

This is believed, though not by anyone outside our secret society, to be the





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true origin of the word Aviator (AV 8-er).
Phu Khen's AV 8-ers were understandably an unruly mob, not likely to be socially acceptable. Many were heavy drinkers and insomniacs. But when nothing else would do, you could always count on an AV 8-er. A Phu Khen Aviator. Denied, perhaps rightfully so, his place in history, Phu Khen has been, nonetheless, immortalized in prose.



Consider it an honor to be a Phu Khen Aviator. Wear the mantle proudly, but speak of it cautiously. It is not always popular to be one of us.

You hear mystical references, often hushed whispers, to 'those Phu Khen Aviators.' Do not let these things bother you. As with any secret society, we go largely misunderstood, prohibited by our apathy from explaining ourselves.

You are expected to always live down to the reputation of the Phu Khen Aviator... a reputation cultivated for centuries, undaunted by scorn or ridicule, unhindered by progress. So drink up, be crude, sleep late, urinate in public, and get the job done.



Photos provided by Bill Sweeney and John Duffy. History lesson contributed by Bill Sweeney.