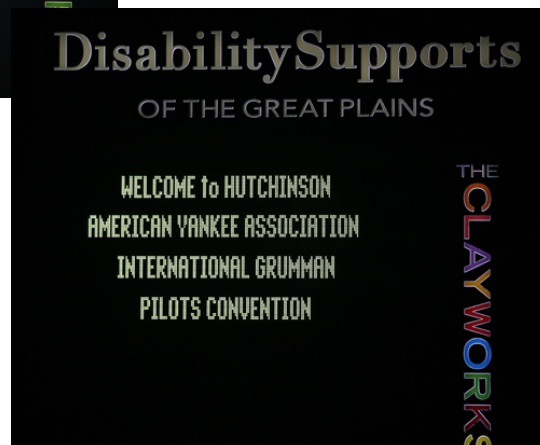




Airport Welcome sign



Electronic Welcome sign on N. Main Street in Hutchinson.



Saturday morning we had three planes on the ground. Three more arrived in the afternoon. We also had one couple come in commercial and two couples drive in before noon due to the bad weather in the NE-SE and NW areas.



The Airport Manager and part of his team were on hand Sunday to greet the arriving AYA crews and distribute welcome gift bags. Zack Clobes, left, manager Pieter Miller, center and right, volunteer Adam Schneider. Adam also manages the Carriage Crossing restaurant in Yoder, just south of Hutchinson. Several members had very good meals there.



Two of our four First Timers attended a Welcome briefing. In attendance were Willie Strickland on the left, welcomer Bob Hess, Tim Boan and welcomer Cliff Daugherty.



Monday evening, after the Board meeting, co-chair Cathy Cochran greets the Welcome Reception and Dinner guests.

AYA President Guy Warner has a few words for the guests.





The Rasta crew showed up to demonstrate the Grumman Limbo event.

A small portion of the group.



Scott Sanders ran the Scholarship Fundraising Calcutta.

Airport Manager Pieter Miller with Holly Leiker, National Sports & Destination Sales Manager Greater Hutchinson CVB and Leann Cox, Director of the Greater Hutchinson Convention & Visitors Bureau, were also in attendance.



The sky's the limit

AYA Grumman convention descends on Hutch

By Sandra Milburn
Photo Editor

The American Yankee Association's International Grumman Aircraft Owners Group Convention is Sept. 24-27, 2018, in Hutchinson at the Regional Airport, 1100 Airport Rd.

On Tuesday, the public is invited out to the airport to watch "Airplane Fun" events including a flour bag bomb drop on target, precision landing and airplane limbo. The public is asked to stay behind the parking lot fence but is invited to attend and watch the aircraft arrive, participate and depart. The aircraft will be tied down on the grass area adjacent to the main apron below the control tower.

More than 40 planes and over 100 people from across the U.S., England, and Germany are visiting Hutchinson for the annual convention. Last year's convention was in California and next



Gregg and Mary Lou Erikson, from Poplar Grove, Illinois, polish their Grumman Tiger airplane at the Hutchinson Regional Airport on Monday morning. The Eriksons are attending the American Yankee Association's International Grumman Aircraft Owners Group Convention held Sept. 24-27. (SANDRA J. MILBURN/HUTCHNEWS)

year's convention is in Florida. The convention attendees began arriving on Sunday and Monday. After Tuesday's fun day, the attendees will spend Wednesday visiting Strataca

and other local sites.

Thursday is Education Day, where attendees will attend seminars at the Cosmopolis on the Grumman airplanes, and Friday, attendees will pack

up and prepare for next year's convention. Wells Aircraft is hosting the event with Don and Kathy Cochran from Gardner, as co-chairs of the event.



Pilot Bob Pattiee from Temple, Texas, gets a little help from Gary Justus, left, putting the airplane canopy cover on his Grumman Tiger airplane Monday morning at the Hutchinson Regional Airport.



Pilots Kelly Wallace, front, and Wall Porter, back, start their Grumman airplanes at the Hutchinson Regional Airport on Monday morning. The pilots came to the American Yankee Association's International Grumman Aircraft Owners Group convention in Hutchinson.



Douglas Ahmann from TCB Composite displayed a composite spinner and backplates. TCB donated the three pieces for the AYA Scholarship Auction, a retail value of about \$2200. Thank you TCB on behalf of the AYA Scholarship.

The Tuesday, September 25, The Hutchinson News featured four planes and crews.



The Precision Taxi crew of Riva Neam, Bill Marvel and Bonnie Porter. A new wrinkle this year was the final sunflower target was to be run over by the right main tire. The above was a darn good try. To the right the first sunflower was a direct hit and the line to the second one looks good.





The Spot Parking crew of Jerry and Mary Ann Stanton with Alan Airey.



This attempt measured six inches, good, but not good enough for the win.



After the first three rounds of the Grumman Limbo no one had been eliminated. Due to the front you can see in the background the Grumman Limbo was postponed. The winds were gusting to 27 knots by the time the planes finished tying down.

The Grumman Limbo team of Graham Smith, Heidi Warner, Stew Wilson and Guy Warner.





Lunch in the hangar.



The renamed Ken Blackman Memorial Wing Nut Toss.

Nigel kindly donated the targets and ran the event.





There was a pretty good crowd watching the Grumman Limbo.



The Winner, "Mr Wiggles" Dan Schmitz.



Flour Bombing.



Kelly made a gallant effort coming in second this year.

Steely Eyed Concentration.



Sometimes you have a bad day. This did not work out well.





We had a pretty good group turn out to watch the Flour Bombing event. Even a few locals came out.

You can see how far from the target I was standing-right, the bomb hit this close to me-see below.



A few planes were lower than the required 200 feet...



Rigged Pre-flight



The windup banquet was held in the Cosmosphere below a SR-71 Blackbird, T-38 Talon and Space Shuttle mock-up.



Don Cochran presents plaques of appreciation to Pieter Miller, Airport Manager; Eddie Wells, ATC Manager; and Don Rogers of host FBO Wells Aircraft. Thanks to all for your help and cooperation. Wells Aircraft made a generous donation to the AYA Scholarship Fund matching our Calcutta winnings. A very big THANKYOU to Don and Wells Aircraft!



Bill Marvel presents a plaque to the Precision Taxi winner Kat Wells.



Cockpit Cool class of Mary Cox, Melissa Drazhal, Riva Neam, Liz Munroe and Barbara Smith. The course was hosted by Ron Levy with instructor Yogi Beck



David Beaman presents plaques to the Flour Bombing team of Mike Whitson and Bob Hess.



Alan Airey presents a plaque to Gary Justus, winner of the Spot Parking.



Cathy Cochran presents plaques to this year's Lauren Larsen Memorial Award co-winners Scott Sanders and Cliff Daugherty. Congratulations.



Guy Warner presents a plaque of appreciation to Cathy and Don Cochran.



Guy Warner presents the Grumman Limbo winner Dan 'Mr Wiggles' Schmitz with his plaque.



Guy Warner presents the Peoples Choice award to Jeff and Marion Davis.



John Brouillette presents Cliff Daugherty his plaque for winning the Rigged Pre-flight contest.



Nigel Thomas presents Bill Wilcox with the Wing Nut Toss trophy.



Steve Peach presents Bob Hess with the Spot Landing plaque. The Spot Landing team was made up of Steve, Gary Soloway, Tricia Yates and Tim Boan. I apologize for not having a team photo.



Sharon Spence was announced as the new Queen of the AYA- AKA President. George Duensing was announced as VP.



Garmin rep Kyle Lennemann updated us on their latest products and features. He also answered questions.



AOPA Regional Manager Tom Chandler gave an update on AOPA initiatives.



Guy and Heidi Warner gave a presentation on their time at the European fly-in at Valdera, Italy.



John Sjardemma of Excel Aviation presented us with more maintenance horror stories. John also provided lots of hands-on examples.



Penny and Bob Pattee gave a presentation on their Pilots and Paws adventures.



Thank you to the Ask The Experts panel- Kyle Lennemann, David Fletcher, John Sjardemma and Charlie Adams.

