

# Flite Lines

[Official Newsletter of the Manitow Flyers - AMA charter 1008](#)  
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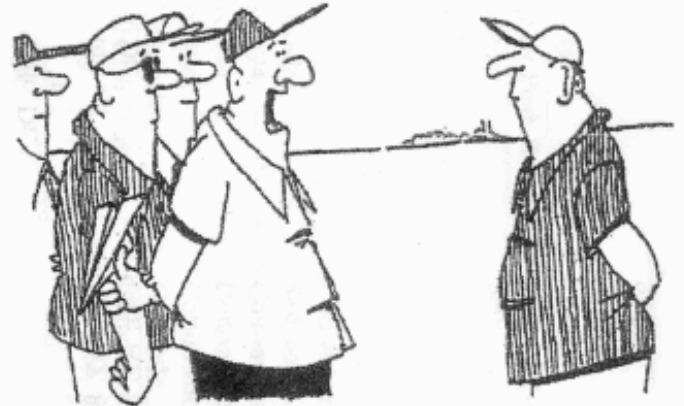
*Meeting Place*  
*Two Rivers Fire Department*  
*2122 Monroe St.*  
*North Entrance*



*Next Meeting is Tuesday*  
*February 19th 7:00 PM*  
*Two Rivers fire department 2122*  
*Monroe use the north entrance.*

## Note from Prez:

Looks like indoor flying has been a real hit this year, and we've seen more of the wife's girlfriends, and families along which has been great. Indoor flying will go on until the end of March, so that is plenty of time for others to become involved in it yet. Looks like all of our plans have been accepted for the field such as, the blacktop, gravel, building, etc. construction will begin when weather permits, and with all of our snow that may be August. No seriously we hope to have it wrapped up by June. We all wish Lew Stevens well and we hope to see him back real soon. Happy Flying!!!!!!



"WE, OF THE SAFETY COMMITTEE, HAVE FOUND THE PERFECT AIRPLANE TO MATCH YOUR FLYING ABILITY."

From the Portland Area Sailplane Society, Gresham, Oregon

### Aviation History: Charlie Brown's Story

Charlie Brown was a B-17 Flying Fortress pilot with the 379th Bomber Group at Kimbolton, England. His B-17 was called 'Ye Old Pub' and was in a terrible state, having been hit by flak and fighters. The compass was damaged and they were flying deeper over enemy territory instead of heading home to Kimbolton.

After flying over an enemy airfield, a pilot named Franz Steigler was ordered to take off and shoot down the B-17. When he got near the B-17, he could not believe his eyes. In his words, he had never seen an airplane in such a bad state. The tail and rear section were severely damaged and the tail gunner wounded. The top gunner was all over the top of the fuselage. The nose was smashed and there were holes everywhere. Despite having ammunition, Franz flew to the side of the B-17 and looked at Charlie Brown, the pilot. Brown was scared and struggling to control his damaged and blood-stained airplane.

Aware that they had no idea where they were going, Franz waved at Charlie to turn 180°. Franz escorted and guided the stricken airplane to and slightly over the North Sea towards England. He then saluted Charlie Brown and turned away, back to Europe. When Franz landed he told the control operator that the airplane had been shot down over the sea, and never told the truth to anyone. Charlie Brown and the remains of his crew told all at their briefing, but were ordered never to talk about it.

More than 40 years later, Charlie Brown wanted to find the Luftwaffe pilot who saved the crew. After years of research, Franz was found. He has never talked about the incident, not even at post war reunions.

They met in the United States at a 379th Bomber Group reunion, together with 25 people who are alive now—all because Franz never fired his guns that day. Research shows that Charlie Brown lived in Seattle and Franz Steigler had moved to Vancouver, British Columbia, after the war. When they finally met, they discovered they had lived less than 200 miles apart for the past 50 years. Q

