



North Central Sonex Fly-In
Buffalo Municipal Airport (CFE)
Buffalo, MN 55313

June 7, 2014

June 9, 2014

North Central Sonex Fly-In Report

✚ The weather on June 7 at Buffalo, MN was **CRUD**, but the day was **GREAT!!!**

(Note: I had other words in mind for the weather, but I figured this term was more socially acceptable!) This area of Minnesota has had rain, rain, rain and more rain. Friday, June 6, was good weather for my set up and last minute planning and supplies acquisition, but Friday evening we had heavy thunderstorms with lots of rain, and light rain continued through Saturday morning which was pretty much in line with the forecast from earlier in the week. I had been getting emails from folks who had planned to attend that they were scratching their plans to fly-in or to even drive-in (some were coming from as far away as North Dakota, Manitoba and Oshkosh). One fellow noted that a nice cross country flight for him would degrade into an 8 hour drive! I was becoming very concerned about what we would do if there were no Sonex aircraft in attendance, and if anyone would even bother to drive to Buffalo for the event. Then I remembered that, at any gathering of pilots I have ever been around, all that is needed is some coffee or other drink, some food, maybe a few photos or parts to look at and, the next thing you know, everyone is talking passionately about their project and using their hands to describe flying maneuvers! No airplanes...no problem!! We'll still have fun!

Thanks to everyone who was able to come!!

✚ **Two Sonex Aircraft Fly Into Buffalo for North Central Sonex Fly-In**

Despite the weather, but recognizing the passion that Sonex pilots have for flying and showing their airplanes, we had two Sonex arrive at Buffalo.

- Ken Woodraska of Oelwein, Iowa flew up Friday night in his VW powered Sonex taildragger and camped out in the Arrival/Departure building. If you think that's commitment, he said that his wife's 50th birthday was on Saturday! He's got a very understanding wife! Ken left Saturday afternoon to continue a flight to northern Minnesota to visit family.
- Bob Krueger of Alexandria, Minnesota followed the clearing weather down on Saturday morning in his 6 cylinder Jabiru powered Sonex taildragger.

Watch for info this fall about the North Central Sonex Fly-in, 2015!!

✚ **Attendance:** I had recruited Dale Bodine, a fellow EAA chapter member and a Sonex “got to get started” builder to help with fly-in registration. According to our records, including me and Dale, there were 10 Sonex builders/owners present, with 7 other visitors and/or potential Sonex customers (including the 8-year old son of one builder). Additionally there were also several of my fellow EAA chapter members who sat in on the presentations and joined us for lunch. One of the visitors was Paul Randall of Maplewood, MN who is very involved with motorized gliders and has flown the Xenos motorglider.

We also welcomed and were educated by two presentation guests for the day:

- Dick Burns of Wayzata, Minnesota. Dick is a fellow EAA chapter member and a VW engine genius. Several in attendance noted that Dick helped them greatly with his knowledge of the engine and with set-up, maintenance and operation information. Dick helped me with my engine that was on display on my fuselage. Dick has built many VW engines for aircraft use and flies one in his own airplane.
- Dirk Ellis of Tanis Aircraft Products. Dick discussed the Tanis product line appropriate for Sonex aircraft with either Jabiru or VW based engines. www.tanisaircraft.com

Attendance List: it was requested to receive a list of Sonex builders or owners who attended.

Jim Benson	Glencoe, MN	Building
Dale Bodine	Annandale, MN	Building
Jason Flint	West Lakeland, MN	Building
Wayne Flury	Buffalo, MN	Building
Bob Krueger	Alexandria, MN	Flying a Sonex
Gary Laurich	Blaine, MN	Flying a Sonex, just got the 40 hours flown off!
Dave Misner	Bloomer, WI	Building
Bella Schellenberg	Lino Lakes, MN	Building
David Waters	Blaine, MN	Building
Ken Woodraska	Oelwein, IA	Flying a Sonex

I can provide contact information if needed.

Jason Flint asked me to post the link to his online build log: <http://websites.expercraft.com/jaflint>. If anyone else has a similar build log, and would like to share the link, please let me know and I'll pass it on to everyone in my Sonex contact list.

✚ **Door Prizes:** following lunch and a flight line tour of the two airplanes (since it had finally stopped raining), door prizes were distributed. The following provided materials:

Sonex Aircraft, LLC	DVD's and Silver Wing patches (patches given to Ken and Bob)
Wicks Aircraft Supply	Wicks catalog to everyone; pitot covers; remove before flight streamers; vinyl bolt gauges; and a USB panel mount charger.
Tanis Aircraft Products	hats, clock and tote bags

A hearty **THANK YOU** to these folks. Remember them in your shopping if you can!

✚ **Lunch:** I wanted to serve something other than standard burgers and brats and, judging from the people who came back for seconds, I think I hit the mark! Our oldest daughter and son-in-law provided the meat and sauces for the pulled pork sandwiches, air freighted from their restaurant in Charleston, South Carolina (my son-in-law said that no member of our family would be allowed to serve Famous Dave's food!). If you're ever in the south, check out: <http://www.jimnicks.com/>. The beans and coleslaw were local. My wife, Joyce, and a family friend, Linda, helped with serving.

✚ **Host Hangar Site, West Metro Aviation:** Though we were a little cramped for space, there was still something very comfortable about being in a hangar that was filled with a couple of Stearmans and other airplanes. This is the shop that built the air show airplane for Kyle Franklin (Dracula) and John Klatt (the new jet powered Waco that he calls The Screamin' Sasquatch). This is a fun place to hang out, drink coffee and see what's going on. West Metro Aviation is owned by air show pilot Mike Wiskus (<http://www.lucasoilairshows.com/>) who spoke briefly and welcomed everyone. Mike flies the Lucas Oil Pitts Special which is also maintained in this shop. Thanks very much to West Metro!

✚ **Shall We Do This Again?:** Everyone in attendance wanted to see this fly-in event continue, and I think there is a good representation of Sonex projects in this area to justify it. I agreed to set it up again next year, though the date may change to avoid the same weekend as the Buffalo Fly-In.

If you have ideas for changes, additions, other things to do, please let me know.

✚ **Buffalo Fly-In, Sunday, June 8:** Mother Nature did a 180 for Sunday and gave us the most beautiful day you can imagine! EAA Chapter 878 (the chapter that I, Dale Bodine and Dick Burns belong to) served a pancake breakfast for the Buffalo Fly-In. I don't mind getting up at 5:00 am when there is something important to do, but by the end of Sunday I was tuckered out!

I took a few minutes early in the day to walk the rows of visiting aircraft and was very pleased to find an Aerovee powered Sonex taildragger sitting there! I won't claim this one for the Sonex fly-in, but it was great to meet and visit with Keith Rhode of Prior Lake who had come over for pancakes!



Ken Woodraska from Oelwein, Iowa, with his VW powered Sport Acro. He says he likes doing aerobatics and is learning more.



Bob Krueger from Alexandria, Minnesota, with his 3300 Jabiru powered Sonex. Note the gray skies in both photos and the wet ramp!





Some folks had left before this picture was taken in the afternoon. I think those are Sonex smiles!



Is it a problem when your view is obstructed by a Stearman?



Wayne Flury's Sonex fuselage and engine installation gets the critical eye!



Some parts for sale.



Lunch!

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Intensive listening.



This is what it's all about...checkin' out the airplanes!

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