

2014 ANNUAL LITESTAR/PULSE RALLY HIGHLIGHTS

The 16th Annual Litestar/Pulse rally was another success last year with 26 families, which included a total of 51 registered attendees. To kick-start the weekend, many of our rally members arrived on Friday for the traditional Fly/In Cruise/In dinner at Arndt Mueller's hangar, whose tasty fish and tenderloin meal is never a disappointment. After all, what ambiance is more befitting a Fly/In Cruise/In Friday night dinner than an aircraft hangar with a classic J-3 Cub in the background?



Saturday morning the fundraising pancake breakfast served by the Marion High School band, drew quite a crowd again last year. The Fly/In Cruise/In annually attracts vintage, classic, and homebuilt aircraft as well as classic, antique and custom built automobiles, motorcycles, tractors, and more. Adding to the excitement, our Litestar and Pulse owners displayed their vehicles and shared in the story telling of their own adventures and misadventures.



As participants of the Fly/In Cruise/In, our rally attendees always enjoy the main attraction. Last year's hit was the Douglas C-54e *Spirit of*

Freedom with its interior museum displays dedicated to the Berlin airlift. The artifacts and impressive displays did a great job of detailing that historical event in aviation history. Lunch provided at the Johnson's hangar was a delightful tantalizing



treat with the homemade cuisine of savory salads and divine desserts to complement the mouthwatering hot dog and hamburger barbecue.



For the afternoon event, we gathered our Litestars/Pulses and headed off on a short 34 mile road trip to Tipton, Indiana to observe the 54th annual Tecumseh Lodge Pow Wow. While there, we were treated to some of the traditional dances and the remarkable dance regalia, buckskin leggings and dresses, moccasins, and head garb of the American Indian. After a short social hour in the hospitality room at the hotel, we all delighted in the Saturday night Friendship dinner at the marvelously restored Thompson-Ray House



in Gas City. The meal was catered by *Peace and Plenty Catering*. After dinner we participated in more story telling and sharing of our Litestar/Pulse escapades. Door



prizes were handed out and a good time was had by all.

Sunday's Litestar/Pulse road rally began early with a trip to Mentone, Indiana, the home of Lawrence D. Bell. Along the way, in the village of Roann, we had a *photo op* at the historic covered bridge. This historical structure was built in Toledo, Ohio in 1877, and disassembled and transported to its present site in Roann.





While in Mentone, we stopped on Main Street for a *Kodak moment* at the famous 3,000 lb. Mentone egg. This amazing egg is made of welded steel rods and concrete plaster and is meant to represent the area for its reputation as being the “Egg Basket of the Midwest”.

As usual, we caused a stir when we parked our “flying cars” in front of the Bell Memorial



Library to visit the Bell Aircraft Museum. The museum is dedicated to preserve the memorabilia and memories of aviation pioneer Lawrence D. Bell. The museum board was there to welcome us and discuss the various displays. We were provided a slide presentation in their theatre on Lawrence Bell. It highlighted his role in the development of the



Bell-X1, the first aircraft to break the sound barrier in level flight, as well as the P-59 Airacomet fighter, America’s first jet-powered aircraft. Lunch was served at the nearby Teel’s Family Restaurant where we enjoyed their delicious buffet.

Sunday dinner, prepared by *Peace and Plenty Catering*, provided yet another opportunity for treating our taste buds, imbibing, and sharing each other’s company. Awards were presented along with raffle and door prizes that included an airplane birdhouse, beer and wine baskets, tools, candles, and other items. This was a time to sit back and relax in preparation of our departure the next day. Monday at breakfast, we filled our faces and promised to do this again next year. We exchanged hugs and “good-byes” until we meet again.

