

## 2015 LITESTAR/PULSE RALLY HIGHLIGHTS

On July 9, 2015, the Autocycle world lost a very special friend. Jim Bede passed away at the Cleveland Clinic as the result of an aneurism. Jim, a devoted husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, friend and beloved member of the aviation community was surrounded by his family. Jim attended several Pulse Rallies in recent years with his wife, Jane, and he will be sorely missed.

The 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Litestar/Pulse Rally kicked off this year with dinner in the Big Hangar at the Marion Airport catered by Dan's Fish & Tenderloin with the proceeds going to Cancer Services of Grant County. We all enjoyed a delicious dinner and then gathered back at the Comfort Suites for libation and conversation. Registration bags were passed out compliments of Phil and Royce Ann Martin and they were filled with goodies. It was fun catching up on everyone's exploits during the past year.



Early Saturday morning brought us back to the Big Hangar at the airport for a delicious pancake and sausage breakfast with the proceeds from the breakfast also going to Cancer Services of Grant County as the Fly/In Cruise/In went into full swing. As always, the lines were long waiting to indulge in the never ending supply of pancakes.

The Fly/In Cruise/In is the perfect place to display vintage, classic and homebuilt aircraft as well as classic, antique and custom built cars, motorcycles, tractors and lots more. Additionally, Litestar/Pulse owners displayed their vehicles front and center and there were lots of curious looks and a myriad of questions.

Each year the Fly/In Cruise/In has a main attraction which is enjoyed by all of the attendees. This year was no exception with two Vietnam era Huey Helicopters making an appearance. Biplane rides were also available during the event. Lunch was then provided in Johnson's hangar as everyone enjoyed barbequed hamburgers and hot dogs and lots of delectable homemade salads and desserts.



Saturday afternoon allowed Litestar/Pulse owners the opportunity to take a short trip to Summitville, IN to visit Ralph Amos's U-Bolt and Threaded Fasteners factory, R&R Engineering Company. Ralph gave us a guided tour with demonstrations of several of the machines used in the manufacture of high quality fasteners. A special "Thank You" goes to Ralph for allowing us to invade his plant. Later in the day, after a short social hour at the Thompson-Ray House, everyone was treated to a delicious barbeque dinner catered by Peace and Plenty Catering. Introductions were made,

door prizes were passed out and the winner of the 50/50 raffle was drawn. Congratulation to Amal Minert for being the winner and walking away with \$80. Everyone enjoyed themselves.

After dinner, everyone headed back to the Comfort Suites to gather in the Hospitality Room for conversation and a little more wine and beer. As always, we enjoyed each other's company into the wee hours of Sunday morning making it a little difficult to get going on our annual road trip.



Sunday morning Pulses and owners lined up in the parking lot next to the hotel for our road trip. This year we drove to Huntington, IN. Our first stop was at Sheets Wildlife Museum. The kind manager of the museum obliged us by opening on Sunday, a day when they are usually closed. Lots of pictures were taken of all the different taxidermy wildlife portrayed in their usual setting. We then made a quick stop at Dan Quayle's Vice Presidential Museum and took a self-guided tour. Our next stop was for lunch at Nick's Kitchen in downtown Huntington. They also agreed to open for us on a day they are usually closed. We feasted on their world famous delicious tenderloin sandwiches and homemade pies. We happily waddled out and on to our next stop, Two EE's Winery. There we were able to taste the many different wines that they make and purchase bottles to fill our wine cellars. Then it was back to the hotel for a short rest before our Awards Dinner.



Moe's Southwest Grill did an outstanding job of filling a table with all the makings for tasty fajitas with every possible side item. We all ate our fill and there were still left overs. Awards were distributed as well as more door prizes. This is our "sit back and relax" dinner in preparation of our departure the next morning. Monday morning had us gathering in the breakfast area to "eat again" and say our good-byes until we meet next year at the same time, same place.

I think this would be a good time to give a special "THANK YOU" to Phil and Royce Ann Martin. For the past 3 years they have gone above and beyond by arranging all our Sunday road trips. They take the time and expense of traveling the route, making notes of different places to visit and stopping for meals at various restaurants to find the best one for us to enjoy. They also have supplied all the "goody bags" and even imprinted them with the Pulse logo so all registrants have something to put their information in. Too often we forget to thank the people who go out of their way to help the group. Thanks, Royce Ann and Phil!! Your efforts are very much appreciated.