



# NEWSLETTER



Hendricks County  
Aviation Association

Website: [www.hcaonline.com](http://www.hcaonline.com)

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## BOARD MEETING NEWS

The Board met on August 14 with the following attending: Don Hughes, Jim Snyder, John Rothrock, Rick Princell, Vern Sullenger, Amy Hills, Mike Hoover and Wilma Winings.

Old business was monopolized by discussion of plans for our LUNCH AT THE AIRPORT on August 18. Reports indicated we were on top of things as everything was coming together nicely. All needed is good weather and lots of participation. (Photos of LATA will be included in the September issue.)

John Rothrock reported the air compressor for use by 2R2 pilots as well as transients is in place and now operable. It is located on the west side of the "pavilion" and has 75 feet of hose. This should be a terrific addition to our facilities. Thanks, John, for spearheading this project.

Vern Sullenger, Treasurer, reported a balance in our account of \$4,150.84.

John Rothrock mentioned he had received a call from Margaret Petraits indicating she would like to donate her husband's aviation books to HCAA. Jim Snyder said Clarence Heathco's family wished to donate several of his aviation books also. This could form a lending library for interested pilots and students and a small bookcase in the airport office would be the best place to keep the books. A search will be made for a bookcase. Should a member wish to donate one, contact John Rothrock. (Clarence Heathco passed away on December 9, 2016 and John Petraits on December 17, 2017. Both were long-time active members of our organization.)

Jim Graham was unable to attend due to a conflicting meeting but sent the following report:

*The new terminal building will be finished by next fall. It may require the partial disassembly of our shelter covering during construction but the shelter and slab will remain in place and I believe our building also. It will have many of the amenities that John Rothrock's drawing recommended including 24 hour access to restrooms for pilots and public.*

*They - the management of the airport - are presenting the name change of the entry road to Jim Winings Blvd. to the reliever airport council and it is sure to pass, they report. They will arrange a ceremony to dedicate the new name when approved and new signage is in place.*

**BOARD MEETING NEWS – Contd.**

*The Electric Trainer is getting closer as it now has a 3.5 hour battery life. A solar farm on the airport could produce the fuel for trainers based here.*

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

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**MAX L SHANKLIN**

March 23, 1923 – July 29, 2018

Max Shanklin, 95, joined our group in 1994 and was an active member until last year. He served as Vice President at one time.

He attended Decatur Central High School and was Captain of their first high school football team. Max enlisted in the Navy Aviation Cadet program in 1941 after graduating. Following flight training he changed course and entered Merchant Marine Training. When he discovered that the wait was long for junior officers to be assigned to a ship he decided to take advantage of the direct commission opportunity that the Army was promoting. While finishing basic officer training, he saw a poster advertising the need for paratroopers and finally discovered his true calling. Following his Jump School training, he was assigned to the 515<sup>th</sup> Parachute Infantry Regiment, which was part of the 13<sup>th</sup> Airborne Division. In January of 1945 he boarded a ship and headed to France to catch the end of the war in Europe. When he arrived he discovered that the Allied Forces were moving toward Germany with little resistance and paratroopers were not being used as much. He was later recalled during the Korean War and served as a mortar platoon leader in the 187<sup>th</sup> Regimental Combat Team. He received a Purple Heart for injuries he sustained in combat.

Max attended Butler University and obtained a Bachelor's Degree. He was employed by Eli Lilly and Company and was a Department Head of Distribution, retiring in 1988. He was a member of Masonic Lodge #707 and the Decatur Central High School Hall of Fame.

He was an avid snowmobile rider and pilot. Max had a shop where he built several planes. RVs were special and he built 7 of them including three RV -6A, one RV-6, one RV-7A, one RV-10 and one RV-8A. He also built an Ultralite, a Rans and a Capella. Max will be missed by his many friends.

