

Club of Oshkosh Southwest

Volume 47, Issue 4 – July 24, 2019

The

Hub

WELCOME ROTARIANS

Today's Speaker ~ Capt Neil Hansen



Neil Hansen began his aviation career as a pilot for Teamster boss Jimmy Hoffa. He spent more than a decade in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War era as a captain for Air America, the CIA's airline that operated there during the Vietnam era and the 'Secret War' in Laos. Neil reveled in the risky flying that fed his adrenaline addiction. Upon returning to the States, ultimately unable to find work and unable to let go of the Air America exhilaration rush, he saw the

profession he loved come to an end when his trajectory veered off course.

For the Flying Rotarians EAA picnic, Neil will be presenting "The Last Plane Out of Cambodia." Beyond covert operations with Air America (and including the day he had the dubious honor of being on three downed aircraft in a single twelve-hour span), Neil addresses his post-Air America time when he was flying for a fly-by-night commercial carrier in Cambodia in 1975. He escaped from there literally hours before the entire country fell to the Khmer Rouge at the time of the Cambodian holocaust. Neil escaped, in essence, by stealing a plane and flying in the blind, sans flight plan, from Cambodia to Bangkok, only a matter of moments before the murderous Khmer Rouge marched into Phnom Penh.

Neil Hansen is a native of Grand Rapids, Michigan. He spent more than a decade in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War era as a captain for Air America, accumulating more than 29,000 hours flight time, 9,000 hours in a combat zone. He flew the last plane out of Cambodia literally hours before the murderous Khmer Rouge closed the airport. His writing has appeared in various publications and he has been on the interview and speaker circuit for years. His book, co-authored with Luann Grosscup, "FLIGHT An Air America Pilot's Story of Adventure, Descent and Redemption" (History Publishing, 2019), was recently released. He makes his home in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, home of the world-renowned annual Experimental Aircraft Association AirVenture Fly-In.

Neil is also an Oshkosh Southwest Rotarian. Thank you Neil!

2019 - 2020 Board

President President Elect Past President Secretary Treasurer Sergeant-at-Arms Todd Slagter Jessica Benesh Nate Olson Karlene Leatherman Kathy Hanson Tom Kloeckner

Avenues of Service

Club: Becky Metz & TBD Community: Mike Vaughan & Jeff Krueger International: Nick Hahn & Bill Thimke New Generations:

Marcus Butts & Kari Seefeldt Vocational:

Vicky Redlin & Gretchen Herrmann

Committees

Foundation: John Westphal & Matt Bakalars Membership: Nate Olson & Autumn Urban Programs: Kari Seefeldt Public Relations: Vicky Redlin Greeters / Invocations: Sue Schnorr

District 6270

District GovernorSteen SanderhoffArea-B Asst GovernorKaren SchiblineRI PresidentMark Daniel Maloney

Calendar of Events

Upcoming Programs

July 31	End of Life Doula
Aug 7	Addiction Medicine Program
Aug 14	Oshkosh Public Museum
Aug 21	Menominee Nation Arena

Recurring Events

2nd Monday	Club Board Meeting
Aug 12	4-5pm, Best Western Premier
2nd Thurs	Environmental/Beautification
Aug 8	8-9am, JP Coughlin Bldg

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The Hub - Rotary Club of Oshkosh Southwest

ROTARIANS • SPOUSES • GUESTS

Join Rotarians from around the world!

Rotary Oshkosh Southwest

BRAT FRY & CORN ROAST Flying Rotarians Picnic

WEDNESDAY, JULY 24 Serving 12 Noon-1 p.m.

EAA Nature Center Pavilion

\$15 per Person (payable at the event)

Serving brats, hot dogs, hamburgers, corn, trimmings and beverages.

GUEST SPEAKER: NEIL HANSEN

Pilot, Author, and Oshkosh Southwest Rotarian Neil Hansen spent 11 years in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam war era as a captain for *Air America*, accumulating more than 29,000 hours flight time, 9,000 hours in a combat zone. Hansen flew the last plane out of Cambodia hours before the Khmer Rouge closed the airport.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: email info@oshkoshrotarysouthwest.org





34th ANNUA

PARKING: AMPLE PARKING IS AVAILABLE FREE FOR LUNCH ONLY. If you are attending the Brat Fry only, you may park in the Nature Center parking lot from 11:30-1:30 p.m. accessed from Waukau Avenue.

If you are also attending the Air Show please use convention parking areas.

The EAA Shuttle Bus will stop at the Nature Center Pavilion, located halfway between the Air Museum and the Convention Grounds.





Today's Meeting Location

EAA Nature Center Pavilion 1157 Galatin Ave Oshkosh WI

SW Rotary Website

oshkoshrotarysouthwest.org (currently under re-construction)

The District Website rotary6270.org

Rotary International Website rotary.org





THE FOUR-WAY TEST Of the things we think, say or do

first Is it the **TRUTH**?

second Is it FAIR to all concerned?

third Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?

fourth Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?