

October 25, 2021

Henry Meyerrose Special Edition

Henry Meyerrose joined the Soaring Society of Dayton in the years it operated out of the Richmond Airport in Indiana. As the club began looking for a new more central location, a farm in Waynesville was found. Following the purchase, Henry was an integral part of transforming the farm into a useable airport. He served on both the SSD and CCSC boards for many years. As the club grew and the camp ground was built in the early 70's, Henry helped renovate the old farm house into the clubhouse, to include additional restrooms and showers and make a livable space for the tenant/caretaker, Ray Barrett, who lived in a room upstairs in the house. When the caretaker passed away Pat DeNaples offered to take over the responsibilities. Henry completed a major second renovation of the house so that Pat and his family could move in. Everywhere you turn today you will see Henry's many contributions, these include: The Crow's Nest next to the silo, which in early years was used as the start gate for contests. He built a large picnic shelter in the campground where all of the covered dish dinners and ox roasts were held. He also added the tow plane hangars to the barn, lifted the whole barn up to build a new support structure, oversaw the construction of the current club house and subsequent renovations, and built the office and workshop in the glider hangar. This is only a small list of items he got involved in.



Henry's family and faith were the cornerstone of his life. His passion was his business and the gliderport. Many of Henry's weekends were spent at the gliderport with family and friends, while staying in his camper. Evenings were spent in the campground talking about family and flying. And on the occasional late morning you could hear the German tunes from his van! His stories about

growing up in Germany, building sailplane models and learning how to fly were always entertaining. Henry owned a 1-26C, LS1c, ASW-19 and ASW-24, all which he loved to fly. It was wonderful growing up in the camper next door to the Meyerrose family, a lot of fun!

Henry owned and operated a construction business which did home additions, reconstruction and renovations. Many of his customers were prominent families in the Cincinnati area which hired him for his craftsmanship, honesty and being a hardworker. I actually saw an incredible wine cellar that Henry built for one of his customers. I didn't know it at that time until the owner told me that a German craftsman built it. I asked him if it was Henry Meyerrose and he answered yes.

Henry was a great person and dear friend and will truly be missed.

Manfred and Norb Maurer

- Henry was the one who threw me in the pond when I did my solo.

Henry and I flew together fairly often over the last several years. Even though it got harder and harder to get him in and out of the glider, he was willing to put up with the pain because he wanted to fly; and he never lost his touch. We made it such that the PIC did the takeoff and climbed the first 1000 feet and then the other pilot would fly the next 1000 feet (up or down).

Not too long ago I had the chance to visit Henry at home and see his barn full of wood and his workshop. He must have had lots of materials left over from his jobs. He could probably build two more houses just from the leftovers (sorry Margie). Like many Germans, he never threw anything away. Incredibly he could just look at a piece of wood and tell what type of wood it was and where he used it.

Henry was born in Lingen in western Germany in 1935 and therefore obviously endured the ugliness of WW II. After the war as a teenager he was in an apprentice program when he was approached by his supervisors to go to South Africa with them to find better work. It required parental approval which was not forthcoming but he did find an alternative when an uncle would sponsor him to come to America. No parental approval required. He started his business with just a few dollars in his pocket. He often talked about his involvement in getting the Waynesville operation started. The campground started as a blank field, and Henry and other club members planted over 100 trees. Just look at them now.

Rolf Hegele

If you have any other remembrances you would like to share, Please send them to n11rdbird@att.net.

Proving Ground is coming

Somewhere in your future newsletters will be an article on the implementation of Proving Ground at CCSC. This is a Canadian, structured Cross Country environment that will allow you to measure and build your XC skill set.

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