



Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 27 News



Next meeting Sunday, April 17, 10 a.m., Meriden-Markham Airport, Meriden, CT

April 2011

Tornado Thrashes Sun 'n Fun

But there's no grounding the spirit of aviation!

On Thursday, March 31, the festivities at Sun 'n Fun were rudely interrupted when a tornado touched down on the field damaging or destroying nearly 70 aircraft. Aircam and Zenith lost nearly all their display aircraft. Fortunately no one was seriously injured in the melee, though some were seriously "blue" after being blown across the field inside porta-potties. Carl and Lorraine Eaton were, as usual, volunteering at the show. Carl had this to say the next day.

"Came thru with no damages to limb or possessions. Quite an experience. SNF is open today and you'd be surprised how "cleaned up" everything is. I guess they worked all night just hauling the debris off to a secret dumping ground. Except for the empty spaces where airplanes had been or tents had been, it doesn't look too different."



Barry Davis photos

Perhaps one of the sadder sights on the field was that of a Pietenpol and two modified Pietenpols—aka "Big Piets" —playing pig pile. Between 2002 and 2009 six members of EAA Chapter 976 of Carrollton, Georgia, built six airplanes together (see the May 2009 issue of Sport Aviation, page 65). Frank Metcalfe (above) and Bruce Laird flew their Big Piets to Sun 'n Fun along with Gardner Mason in his "regular" Pietenpol to only to have all three twisted into a ball by Mother Nature.

Barry Davis, another Big Piet builder and a member of EAA's Board of Directors, said "I was planning to fly my Big Piet down, but at the last minute I had to drive the truck. Last night, we started calling it the 'Pieten-pile.' It helps to keep your sense of humor." Two crews of chapter members drove all night from Carrollton to rescue the stranded fliers. They loaded the remains on trailers for the trip home. The steel-framed Big Piets are rebuildable, but the all-wood Pietenpol is probably totalled. Fortunately, the weather for the rest of the show was warm and sunny, attendance was good, and the F22s and night airshow were a hit.

—Rick Beebe

© 2011 Chapter 27, Experimental Aircraft Association, all rights reserved

President Bob Spaulding 203-378-5688	Vice President Mark Scott 203-393-3187	Treasurer Bill Jagoda 860-349-9901	Secretary Rick Bernardi 203-265-4113	Membership Mike Okrent 203-393-2662	Newsletter Editor Rick Beebe 203-230-8459	Young Eagles Fran Uliano 860-347-0412	Tech Counselors Chuck Drake 860-659-2880 Dave Pepe 203-634-4457 Mark Scott 203-393-3187 Mike Zemsta 860-832-8661
---	---	---	---	--	--	--	---

Meeting Minutes

March 20, 2011

Call to order: The meeting for EAA Chapter 27 was called to order by President Bob Spaulding at 10:07am. Officers present: Bob Spaulding, Bill Jagoda, Mark Scott and Rick Bernardi. The meeting was held at KMMK. There were 33 members present and 2 guests.

Recognition of Visitors: Mike Beck and Scott from New Haven

Membership—Mike Okrent: Mike received the EAA Chapter Service Award from Bob Spaulding. Mike suggested a mailing to previous members with projects, to find their status.

Treasurer—Bill Jagoda: Bill reported a balance of \$1343.92. Dues are due, please pay your 2011 dues. Dues are \$20. You can mail it to; EAA Chapter 27, c/o Bill Jagoda 43 Derby Road Rockfall, CT 06481. See the form on the back of the newsletter or on the web site.

Technical Counselors Report—“The BOYZ” Dave Pepe, Mark Scott, Mike Zemsta and Chuck Drake: Mark gave a show and tell on the muffler system for his BearHawk And some good tips on muffler systems and the Power Flow system.

Website, Newsletter and Director—Rick Beebe: Rick is always looking for articles and/or pictures for the newsletter, so if you have something please pass them to Rick. Perhaps an update on your project.

Lauren DuBois has setup a great Facebook page, check it out “EAA Chapter 27” on Facebook.com

Young Eagles—Fran Uliano, Richard Merrill: Fran reported we have a goal of 100 to fly this year. We have a total of 1851 over the past 15 years.

The Young Eagle Rally is scheduled for June 11th. Fran solicited 5 pilots to fly some scouts that are working on their Aviation Badge. Fran reported we have credits for

123 flown, his records show 133 and he is pursuing it with HQ.

Chapter Bulletin Board—Chris Kohler: The bulletin board contains many new pictures provided by Maury Libson. Maury has been contributing pictures—and donating their cost—for the board for many years.

Airport Improvement Projects: We will paint the tetrahedron again when the weather permits, hopefully in mid May. Airport perimeter lighting poles have been installed and are in the process of being fired up. Dave Pepe is working on providing room darkening shades for presentations.

2011 Events

- YE Rallies—June 11th and sometime in October.
- International Learn to Fly Day—Joint program with the FBO, Saturday May 21st.
- Boy Scout Merit Badge Training—Latter half of October.
- Support for Meriden Beat the Street CC—Sometime in May and a mini YE day for them.
- Annual Picnic and Open House—September 10th or 11th.
- AOPA Summit—will be in HFD again this year, September 22-24th.
- Simsbury Fly-In—Sunday September 18th
- Holiday Dinner—Saturday, December 3rd 4:30 to 9:30 pm, Hawthorne Inn. This may be changed to the 10th.
- Adult Orientation Flights—TBD
- Tours—Some possibilities are: NY TRACON, Brainard Tower.
- Blue Angles—Quonset Point, RI, June 25-26
- New Haven Fly-In may also be in play this year

Other Suggestions? – Bring them to the next meeting.

New Business: Discussion of Aircraft property tax proposal. More pilots need to write or call their legislators.

Seminar: Presentation by Chuck Waldo. *Soaring in New England.*

Respectfully submitted—Rick Bernardi

FROM THE WINDSOCK.

Five pilots met on the the 27th to fly Boy Scouts that were working on their Aviation Badge.

Evidently the scouts failed their navigation test because they went to KHVN instead of KMMK.

Tickets go on sale May 15 for Tweed Airfest 2011

Tweed Airfest 2011 is a two-day family-centered air show and fair with all proceeds donated to Angel Flight North East. Airfest 2011 will feature a variety of aircraft on display, including World War II planes. Visitors can see the planes up close and learn about them from pilots who fly them and specialists who maintain them. The well-known aerial performers Iron Eagles will perform an acrobatics show, and many local food vendors will be on site. In addition, the Airfest will offer the chance to climb aboard a (tethered) hot air balloon, sign up for helicopter rides, visit sponsor displays, and more.

Executive Director Tim Larson says “Airfest 2011 is a chance to view the world of pilots who fly for business or pleasure.” Tickets for the show go on sale May 15. 203-466-8833 x100.

For more information:

<http://www.tweedairfest.com/>

Letter From The President

At last, winter is over; although the snow that fell just a couple of weeks ago had me wondering what other tricks Mother Nature has up her sleeve. With the arrival of warmer weather, for many of us, it will be “back in the saddle time.” Our mindset will turn to getting into the air as the lengthening amount of daylight affords us the time to do so on a more regular basis. But as we approach the flight line again after a lay-off, it would be well to consider that skill sets, both physical and mental, are not at peak levels. Thought processes and standard flying tasks are not quite second nature anymore. Reaction time has increased. Proper judgment of speed, altitude, and closure rate while executing a “heads up, eyes out” maneuver may not be on target. There are a myriad of small but important decisions to be made that go hand-in-glove with any successful flight. However, lack of currency may cloud the recognition of circumstances that require action. Some of those perhaps critical decision points may easily be dismissed as being unimportant, or worse yet, completely ignored as the brain is not yet in step with what’s happening...as they say, a loss of situational awareness.

There are steps that can be taken to help mitigate the effects of an absence from flying. Firstly, some good old fashioned book work is a great place to start. Reviewing aircraft systems, emergency procedures, performance charts, even looking over a sectional chart to lay out a fictional cross country will get the juices flowing. Spend some extra time doing pre-flight inspections—a cursory walk-around is not conducive to spooling up the mental processes that should be second nature when preparing to go flying. Thinking out what-if scenarios, especially while

having a coffee with a fellow aviator, is a great way to get back in the groove. And, as always, there are on-line Wings courses that provide excellent refreshers on a variety of subjects.

The FAA Safety Team has kicked off the 2011 National Safety Stand Down. The theme this year is a focus on aircraft accident causal factors. Specific topics being addressed are: Positive Flight Attitude—Keeping Your Standards High, Going Beyond Preflight—Perfecting Your Preflight Inspection, Enroute Cruise—Are You On Cruise Control, and Maneuvering Flight—Slow, Steady, And Sure. Check out the FAASafety.gov website to access the documentation for these topics.

The FAA, EAA, AOPA, and NAFI (Nat'l. Association of Flight Instructors) have combined efforts to create a new Advisory Circular, AC 90-109, Airmen Transition to Experimental or Unfamiliar Airplanes. It is part of an FAA focus on reducing the number of general aviation (GA) accidents.

“Experimental airplane flights represent only a small component, less than 4 percent, of total flight hours in the United States. However, 27 percent of general aviation (GA) fatal accidents occur in them. Many of those accidents take place when experienced pilots first fly an unfamiliar aircraft, especially when they are the second owner or pilot of an experimental amateur built aircraft. Data also shows that fatal accidents often occur when pilots with little experience in a particular type of aircraft fly in challenging conditions, such as poor weather. The new Advisory Circular (AC 90-109) advises that all pilots should consider the first flight in any particular experimental airplane a test flight. It also urges pilots to review the hazards and risks outlined in the AC and complete the recommended training.”

Finally, if you have not done so already, please contact your state legislators to express your disapproval of the proposed aircraft property tax. We need every voice to weigh in if this is to be defeated.

See you at the next meeting.

Stay safe,

—Bob



May 21 is International Learn To Fly Day

Last May, EAA members, chapters, and other aviation groups and enthusiasts introduced the wonder of flight to more than 40,000 people at 450 local events during the first International Learn to Fly Day. The second annual event is Saturday, May 21, 2011.

The goal of this effort is to involve the entire aviation community and bring aviators together with those who have the dream of flight to show and encourage them to take that next step toward becoming a pilot. While our Chapter will be coordinating an event with the FBO, individual members can also get involved simply by taking a friend or relative up for a flight. EAA has set up a website with more information and lists of events at

<http://www.learntoflyday.org>

*I am not afraid
of crashing, my
secret is . . .
just before we
hit the ground,
I jump as high
as I can.*

—Bill Cosby

*Talking about
airplanes is a
very pleasant
mental disease.*

—Sergei
Sikorsky

FOR SALE

FLARING TOOL



Rolo-Flair 37 degree aircraft flaring tool (new price = \$73).
For tubing sizes of 1/8" through 3/4". Asking \$40

CRAFTSMAN ELECTRIC MOTOR



Sears Craftsman 1/3hp, 115/230 vac, 1725 rpm electric
capacitor start, general purpose motor (Model no:
113.19706). Has built in circuit breaker protection.
List price: \$109. Asking \$40

Contact Jim Simmons @ (203) 272-9346 or jsimmons619@cox.net

The deadline for submission of materials for the next newsletter is May 8, 2010.

2011 EAA CHAPTER 27 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please fill in the following information and mail with your dues to:

EAA Chapter 27, c/o Bill Jagoda, 43 Derby Road, Rockfall, CT 06481

(Dues are \$20.00 per year, due in January, make checks payable to: *EAA Chapter 27*)

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Street: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email address: _____ Receive Newsletter via: Email Paper

EAA Membership No: _____ Expiration date: _____ Pilot rating held: _____

Do you own an aircraft?: _____ Make & Model: _____ Registration No: _____

Are you building an aircraft?: _____ Make & Model: _____ % completed? _____



EAA Chapter 27
c/o Richard Beebe II
360 Mountain Rd
Hamden, CT 06514-1415
newsletter@eaa27.org