



Experimental Aircraft Association

Chapter 27 News



Next meeting Sunday, February 18, 10 a.m., Meriden-Markham Airport, Meriden, CT

February, 2007

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Brrr. Winter has finally arrived. The chilling temperatures have certainly drawn a halt to any Skybolt flying. This is the time of year when it's a great time to have an airplane project in your heated garage or nice warm basement. You're more likely to be able to focus on building rather than being tempted to go out flying. In these cold temperatures and blustery winds, just contending with the preflight can easily cause you to reconsider before heading off into the wild blue yonder.

It is with great disappointment that I read about the proposed user fees for General Aviation. I'm confident we'll all be watching and reading about these proposed FAA budget changes as they make their way through Congress. The newspapers, the Internet and our pilot support groups (EAA, AOPA, etc.) are busy with opinions as to the direction and form of these proposed user fees. Like many of our government's changes, the rumor gets circulated for years that the changes are coming, and it seems to condition everyone into accepting that they are inevitable. I'm confident that before long we are going to be asked to contact our congressional representatives and make our individual opinions known.



Dr. Bob Dodenhoff, AME, presented the facts about aviation medicals at the January meeting.

The airline industry lobbyists have done their job, and it may just be up to each and every one of us to do our best to counter their efforts. I urge all of our members to please pay close attention to this issue.

At this month's meeting, I will be polling our members for ideas for the subject matter of our 2007 seminars. We are always looking to fulfill the desires and needs of our membership. So please try to attend and let us know what seminar topics would of interest to you.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our (Brrr) February 18th meeting.

—Jim Simmons

CHAPTER 27 TOOL LOANER LIST

Are there are times when you really need that special but often expensive tool? Are you reluctant to buy it because you will only use it a few times? You know someone must have one to loan out but who? Well, at the suggestion of Jim Simons and favorable response by the membership, Chapter 27 will post a list of tools available for loan from members. The list will contain tools by category, the tools, comments, and the owner. Members need to contact me with a list of tools they are willing to loan out. Expensive and/or hard to find tools will be the more useful additions. A starter list has been posted in the members-only area on the web site with a list of tools particularly valuable as loaners. If you have any of these let me know. As people provide me with additions I will update the list periodically. Members who would like to borrow a tool should contact the owner and make arrangements. That's it. Pretty simple. As the list grows the benefit to the membership will too. So if you have tools you are willing to loan to members contact **Mark Scott (203-393-3187, mwscott2@comcast.net)**.

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MEETING MINUTES

January 21, 2007

Call to order: The first meeting for EAA Chapter 27, in 2007 was called to order by President Jim Simmons at 10:00 a.m. with all officers and 40 members present. There were no visitors today.

Treasurer's Report – Bill Jagoda: Bill reported a balance of \$349.43 not including some adjustments due to the Christmas Party and membership dues. Jim asked all members to make sure they pay their dues and to also help support our Chapter by buying our merchandise. Jim also mentioned that donations are always accepted.

Technical Counselor – Dave Pepe: Dave reported that he and nephew Jim finished riveting the right wing of Jim's RV-9 and that both wings are now complete with the fuselage on order.

Mike Zemsta's RV-10 is progressing but fiberglass parts need much work to fit.

Tracy Smith's wiring on his Zenith is moving along nicely.

Jim Maher's Dyke Delta, as mentioned in the January newsletter, successfully took to the skies in November but since has encountered fuel system clogging due to the ethanol in the auto gas attacking the his fiberglass fuel tanks. Dave briefly discussed this problem and how Jim was correcting it (aluminum tanks).

Young Eagles–Fran Uliano: Fran informed the Chapter that International Young Eagles Day will be held on Saturday, June 9th with the rain date being Sunday, June 10th. Our October Young Eagles date has yet to be determined. Fran passed around a list of pilots who flew Young Eagles and mentioned that our goal for 2007 would be 100 Young Eagles. Fran stated that so far this year, we have one Young Eagle flown by Steve Socolosky on January 7. Fran also mentioned that he plans on meeting with

a group of Boy Scouts and also began a discussion on how to increase involvement of kids into the Young Eagles program. Some methods discussed included offering Young Eagle merchandise for sale, making special t-shirts for kids who have flown and distributing flyers.

Bulletin Board–Chris Kohler: Jim thanked Chris Kohler and Maury Libson for the current pictures which display our annual Christmas Party at the Hawthorne Inn.

Membership–Mike Okrent: Mike was not available; possibly still in Florida?

Website and Newsletter – Rick Beebe: Rick asked for signatures on a petition for Eric Gurly, who hopes to be elected to the EAA Board of Directors as a Class 1 director at the next meeting in April, as EAA downsizes its Board. Rick mentioned that the Airbus 380 may make an appearance at Oshkosh this year. Rick also mentioned that anyone can email him pictures or articles to include on our website and/or newsletter.

Airport Improvement Projects: Discussion included: looking into having an airport sign installed on the roadside which included that MMK is also home of EAA Chapter 27; our ever-on-going tetrahedron painting; and repainting of the compass rose in the run-up area which was partially erased during the repaving project.

Chapter Events for 2007:

Chapter Picnic – Mike and Patty Zemsta Date: TBD – (September) Discussion included opening the picnic up to the airport community.

Fly Out to Windsock, NH–Chuck Waldo: Date: TBD

Rhinebeck Trip – Mike Zemsta: Date: TBD

Silver Hills/Udvar-Hazy visit – Mike Zemsta: Date: TBD This would be a 2-3 day bus trip.

Christmas Banquet–Maury Libson: Hawthorne Inn, Berlin, CT Date: December 9, 2007 – Maury has reserved the date.

Old Business: Jim mentioned that our library is doing very well and continues to grow and thanked Rick Bernardi and Mike Okrent for their work. Jim will be contacting Heather Woiciehowski, who presented on New York's ATC at one of our meetings last year, to get us a tour of New York Tracon. Lastly, Rick Bernardi, a Chapter 27 member who is on our Hangar Committee, stated that the new hangars at MMK are still on track to be built and that the projected cost has crept up to \$40K.

New Business: Discussion included the FAA's annual Safety Fest, which has yet to be announced, and that Mike Zemsta would offer to bring his RV-10 to the event. Also, AOPA's annual convention will be held at The Connecticut Convention Center on October 4-6, 2007.

50/50 Raffle Winner: Rick Beebe was the winner and will submit a member profile.

Seminar Presentation: Dr. Bob Dodenhoff, AME and MMK resident pilot, provided the Chapter 27 members with an enlightening and, at times, humorous presentation of the requirements of an airmen's medical certificate and the FAA's rationale for the requirements. He also discussed some of the most common medical conditions and drugs which affect pilots. There were many questions for Dr. Bob as he concluded with a very interesting and extensive question and answer segment. Dr. Bob also fielded questions after his presentation. Thank you, Dr. Bob!

Meeting adjourned approximately 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted – Steve Socolosky

MEMBER PROFILE: RICK BEEBE

I'm one of those people who took twenty years to solo. As a teen I went through ground school and took a couple of lessons but with no real mentors to encourage me and no money to spend I let the idea drop.

I never really lost interest. I used to buy flying magazines, and especially *Kit-planes* where I'd dream about building a helicopter. Yup, I've always wanted to fly a chopper. But every time I thought about getting a license, it just seemed too expensive.

Fast forward twenty years. My younger brother had learned to fly at an Aero Club in the Air Force. (In the Phillipines. His long cross-country had to be to a different island. 100 miles over water!). He returned home to Maine and took me for a flight. It "suddenly" occurred to me that I could now afford to learn to fly. I looked into helicopter lessons but that license is easily twice as expensive as a fixed wing license and there are very few places where you can rent a helicopter when you're done. So I "settled" for a PPSEL.

I signed up for an introductory lesson at Robinson Aviation in New Haven and I was hooked.

I started in April flying twice a week but eventually Winter and scheduling slowed me down. It took just over a year before I took (and passed) the checkride.

Two years later it was time to look for a plane of my own. I considered building but I wanted to be flying more than building. A friend in Florida buys and refurbishes planes as a hobby. He knew I was looking and when he came across a good one he bought it and we made a deal. Buying your first plane can be scary so it was wonderful that I got one, nicely refurbished, from someone I trust. 153SM is a 1974 Piper Warrior and we've just gone through our fourth annual together.



Jim Simmons photo

Chris Kohler and I flew 153SM to Airventure '03. We had a great time. We went out in one severe clear day. It took us four days to get back because of lousy visibility. It was time to think about an instrument rating. First I needed to upgrade the avionics, though. In '05 the fine folks at Exxel Avionics in Hartford pulled out the old radios and installed a Garmin 430 Nav/Comm/GPS. It's a marvelous device and I really wouldn't want to fly without one any more.

Last summer, immediately after it took Jan and me 10 days to get home from Airventure(!), I finally started instrument lessons.

Being impatient, I signed up for a 10-day course with Bill Zaleski in Schenectady. It was a great time, flying every day in some really lousy weather, and I got the rating. The tough part is going to be keeping it current.

When I started flying lessons, the first organization I joined was EAA. Six months later I decided it would be good to belong to AOPA as well. I value them both but you all know where my heart really is. I also try to be a mentor to youngsters whenever I can. If someone had been there for me 25 years ago I might have had a lot more flying in my life. Now, about that helicopter....

—Rick Beebe

TRAVEL TIME

Chapter 27 is tentatively planning 2 trips for 2007 depending on the interest of our members and friends.

The first trip would be in the spring to the Smithsonian's Udvar Hazy Aviation Museum outside of Dulles Airport. This is a really awesome facility showcasing a great collection of planes. This would be a weekend overnight trip. We would likely be carpooling. Renting a large van is another option based on volume of interest.

The second trip would be to the Old Rheinbeck Aerodrome in Rheinbeck NY in the spring or summer. We would leave early morning to allow time to view the display planes and enjoy the afternoon airshow. Return would be late afternoon to early evening. Again, transportation would be based on volume of interest as above.

If you are interested in either of these trips, have any other destinations in mind or can provide any input or assistance please call me at 860-832-8661 after 5:00.

—Mike Zemsta

MEET A FLASHER

Jeff Argersinger, the product line manager for Whelen lighting, will be the guest speaker for the March 25th meeting of Chapter 166 in Hartford, CT.

EAA gets terrific support from Tom Whelen and the rest of the company, but they are usually so very busy chasing the big commercial accounts that they are not available for our Chapter events. This is going to be a good one.

The meeting will be held at 7:30 pm at the Pratt & Whitney Customer Training Center in East Hartford, CT. <http://www.eaa166.org>

**New FAA
Motto: We're
not happy
'til you're not
happy**

**In flying, I have
learned that
carelessness
and over-
confidence
are usually
far more
dangerous
than
deliberately
accepted
risks.**

**—Wilbur Wright
in a letter to
his father,
September
1900**

SAFETY TIP: HOW CLEAN IS YOUR WINDSHIELD?

Since visibility is critical to the safe operation of our aircraft, bugs and other debris on the windshield can obstruct our view. Also, on a "severe clear" day or uniform, opaque, gray day, when there is virtually nothing for our eyes to focus on in the distance, our eyes will tend to focus on the bugs and debris on the windshield, inhibiting our ability to notice other aircraft or obstructions in the distance as we scan. Keep your windshield and other see-through glass/plastic clean (including your instruments) and be sure to use the proper cleaning agents for each type of plastic.



The deadline for submission of materials for the next newsletter is March 8, 2007.

2007 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? _____



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