



Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 27 News



Next meeting Sunday, February 20, 10 a.m., Meriden-Markham Airport, Meriden, CT

February 2011

SNOW!

When I came back from Arizona I was in for a major surprise. We landed at Bradley at 11pm, the temp at MMK was reported at 3 degrees and there was snow everywhere. Since then, 2 additional storms, more snow and cold weather. Jim Simmons cleared around my plane while I was gone and I am so grateful. Today Jim and I met at the airport with Rich Merrill and his John Deere, Fran Uliano and Rick Beebe. Shovels were flying and Jim's blower was eating massive amounts of snow! Rich Merrill was stacking snow 10 ft high with the Deere. The objective was to remove some snow to make room for the coming storm. For some reason the FBO had not been able to clear the ramps.

At the next meeting I will have a presentation of the trip to the Rosamond Dry Lakebed at Edwards AFB.

As many of you may know Jim Simmons won the raffle, held by the Air Force, allowing 100 civilian planes to land on the historic lakebed used by the X planes during the attempts to break the Sound Barrier. It was a fantastic trip and I look forward to sharing the experience with you.

—Rick Bernardi



Jim Simmons wielding his mighty snowblower



Rich Merrill and John Deere moved mountains of snow



No kidding. We got a LOT of snow. Over 60" in January.



photos by Rick Beebe & Rick Bernardi

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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
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Meeting Minutes

January 16, 2011

Call to order: The meeting for EAA Chapter 27 was called to order by President Bob Spaulding at 10:05 am. Officers present: Bob Spaulding, Mark Scott, and Bill Jagoda, Secretary Rick Bernardi is away on vacation so Dave Pepe took the minutes. The meeting was held at KMMK.

Recognition of Visitors: Andy Batten, from Strathalbyn, South Australia was visiting with Rick Beebe. He's a true bush pilot, having learned to fly a Cessna 172 on a cattle station (ranch) roughly the size of Rhode Island. He used the plane to locate the cattle for roundup.

Membership—Mike Okrent: Mike wasn't present but did send word that membership stands at roughly 70 members.

Treasurer—Bill Jagoda: Bill reported a balance of \$1441.10. There are still a few 2011 EAA calendars left. Don't forget to pay your dues for 2011.

Meriden Aviation Commissioner Report—Dave Pepe: Dave spelled out the activities of the commission and talked briefly about the possibility of hangers at the airport.

Technical Counselors Report—"The gang of four" Dave Pepe, Mark Scott, Mike Zemsta and Chuck Drake.

Mike Z: Is going to visit Fred Dube's RV-7A project. He talked about the proposed trip to Bradley Tower during a weekday. Contact Mike if you're interested.

Website, Newsletter and Director—Rick Beebe: Not much to report from HQ. Rod Hightower appears to be doing a good job. He's planning a series of Chapter visits around the country. Rick was recognized for 10 years of service as newsletter editor. Thanks Rick! He is always looking for pictures to include in the newsletter or the website. Photos from the Holiday Party have been posted to the web site.

Young Eagles—Fran Uliano, Richard Merrill: Fran reported we flew 143 in 2010

for a total of 1,851. Our Spring rally will be held on International Young Eagles day, June 11.

Chapter Bulletin Board—Chris Kohler: Chris wasn't present, but was recognized with a Chapter Service Award.

Airport Improvement Projects: Projects under consideration are repainting the tetrahedron and working on an airport sign. The FBO plans to renovate our meeting room. If you have suggestions for projects, please let Bob Spaulding know.

Old Business: Chapter merchandise was discussed and it was decided to allocate \$400 for new shirts. Dave Pepe will order them.

New Business: Chapter Service Awards for 2010 were awarded to the officers, tech counselors, Young Eagle Coordinators and membership, newsletter and bulletin board chairs.

2011 Events

- International Learn To Fly Day—joint program with the FBO—Saturday, May 21
- "Beat the Street" Career Explorers Day—sometime in May
- Y.E. Rallies—June 11 and sometime in the front half of October
- Boy Scout Merit Badge Training—late October
- Annual picnic & open house—September 10
- Holiday dinner—Saturday, December 3, Hawthorne Inn
- Adult Orientation Flights—TBD
- Tours—some possibilities are NY TRACON, Brainard tower
- Blue Angels—Quonset Point, RI, June 25-26

Seminar Presentation by Mark Scott on his family's vacation in Alaska. Mark had lovely pictures of the scenery as well as the various flying adventures he had. Next time he hopes the trip will be in his Bearhawk.

Respectfully submitted—Dave Pepe

EAA Advocacy

EAA's Government Advocacy office has been very busy in recent weeks on a number of issues. Among some of the key efforts was joining AOPA, NAFI, and GAMA in petitioning the FAA to change the rules that currently prevent sport pilot instruction time from being applied when earning additional pilot ratings. EAA also filed comments objecting to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration proposal to override FAA authority to control airspace over marine and wildlife sanctuaries; officially joined an aviation rulemaking committee studying the process to create an unleaded avgas specification; and encouraged federal lawmakers to include several general aviation-friendly amendments to the FAA reauthorization bill. This week EAA's government staff is hosting the annual EAA/FAA Winter Summit at the Aviation Center.

The Department of Homeland Security has announced that it will be phasing out the color-coded terrorism threat system over the next 90 days, and replacing it with a new alert system. The new system has not yet been fully detailed, however, EAA and other aviation groups have been asked to make comments to the DHS regarding the general aviation portion of the new system, which allows us to speak on behalf of our members and other GA enthusiasts.

Movin' On Up

Congratulations to fellow MMK pilot, George Hines, upon completing the required training and passing his check ride to qualify to fly the Boeing 757 and 767. George, the former chief flight instructor for M.A.S., had previously been flying DC-10's for his charter company.

Letter From The President

I hope all have weathered the recent onslaught of snow that we have experienced without inordinate difficulty. Indeed, the thought of strapping skis on the biplane has crossed my mind more than once...but that's another project.

At the end January, Mark Scott and I attended a meeting of the Connecticut EAA Chapter leaders. It was the first such get-together and certainly will not be the last. The meeting provided an excellent opportunity to meet our counterparts from neighboring Chapters, in some cases for the first time. The event allowed each of us to describe our individual Chapters; to discuss our activities, our memberships, our concerns, and our visions about the future.

Not surprisingly, a major topic centered on membership. Every Chapter leader in the room had something to say regarding the never ending tasks of retaining current members and the recruitment of new ones. Ideas to accomplish both dominated the discussion as we collectively wrestle with them. In many cases, the conversation mirrored ones that have occurred at the EAA Chapter Leaders Academy (which several of us in attendance have attended) on the same subject.

We developed a list of possible events that were divvied up among the meeting attendees with the goal of doing some initial planning or research as to what is viable and can be brought to fruition. A central theme will be how to make these events jointly sponsored by all of the Connecticut Chapters. The possibilities range from fly-ins and fly-outs, to workshops, to speakers, to year-ending banquets and then some. Needless to say, this is the beginning of a dynamic process that will be refined as the year goes on and the process of inter-Chapter cooperation and support becomes a way of life in the Connecticut EAA community.

I will have more to say regarding this at our next monthly meeting on February 20th. In the meantime, if your favorite airplane is bedded down for the winter and you're not staying current, stay engaged by completing Wings training courses and attending the FAA safety seminars. And if you are routinely taking to the air, enjoy the beautiful New England winter landscape.

Stay safe,

—Bob

Pilots Love Their Donuts!



The "Retired Men/Working Wives" club gets together for coffee and donuts every Friday at the FBO regardless of the weather. L-R: Fran Uliano, Jim Simmons, Roger Astman, Dave Pepe, Rick Bernardi, Gizmo Bernardi



Not to be outdone, Lorraine and Carl Eaton, now in Florida, show that they can have coffee and donuts regardless of the weather as well!

I've flown every seat on this airplane, can someone tell me why the other two are always occupied by idiots?

—Don Taylor

Aviation, this young modern giant, exemplifies the possible relationships of women with the creations of science.

—Amelia Earhart

Paul's Baby Ace Project On Facebook

Paul Poberezny is working on building another Baby Ace, similar to the aircraft that helped make EAA famous in the 1950s when it appeared in *Mechanix Illustrated* magazine. He is being assisted by a number of EAA volunteers, including staff members. That project now has its own Facebook page at www.facebook.com/MIBabyAce. The site includes updates and photos of the project.



photo by Daniel Berek

The deadline for submission of materials for the next newsletter is March 8, 2011.

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? _____



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Meetings held on the third Sunday of the month at 10 am at Meriden Aviation, Meriden-Markham Airport, 213 Evansville Avenue, Meriden, CT unless otherwise noted.

www.eaa27.org