



Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 27 News



Next meeting Sunday, March 19, 2006, 10 a.m., Meriden-Markham Airport, Meriden

March, 2006

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

I'd like to begin this month's *Letter from the President* by thanking everyone who came out for our 50th anniversary celebration. We had a huge audience, our usual fine camaraderie and some great refreshments. I'd like to extend a special thanks to all who contributed to this exceptionally fine occasion. Many members commented that they enjoyed the event and that certainly makes it all worthwhile.

Our April 29th Mattituck Engine Clinic is just one seat short of being sold out. That is great news! I'm confident that this is going to be another very special event for our Chapter. I've received comments from people who have previously attended Mattituck's seminar and they state it's most certainly worth the time. Why not consider filling that last seat?

Joe Gauthier is once again soliciting our support for the FAA SafetyFest, which is being held this year on May 13th. One item he is specifically seeking is an airframe or major components of a project for display. These are always attention grabbers at this event. Our Chapter has many projects nearing completion and perhaps we can feature your aircraft this year. Please give it some thought. I'm confident we can rally our member support to help transport your project (both ways). Ask any members who have done this before and I believe you'll get some very positive responses that it's well worth the effort. You'll have a full

day of fame — not just 15 minutes.

Our weather is beginning to warm up and that increases the urge to enjoy flying our aircraft. And what better way to fly than to introduce a child to aviation. Please keep in mind

that Chapter 27 has a goal to fly 100 kids in the Young Eagle Program during 2006. It's never too early to start. In addition, this year we are going to provide another "special raffle" at our holiday banquet. The only way to get a "special raffle" ticket is to refer a Young Eagle for a flight. Once they receive their flight, your referral will be counted. Every member can easily participate in this year's special raffle. I'm confident we'll be coming up with another great prize. Fran Uliano is our contact man for all referrals. He can be reached at: (860) 347-0412 or email to: bfuliano@aol.com.

As always, happy building and flying. I'm looking forward to seeing you all at our March 19th meeting.

—Jim Simmons



Happy Birthday Chapter 27!



Stan Solecki, left, accepts an award for fifty years of service to Chapter 27 from President Jim Simmons. Thanks Stan!

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President Jim Simmons 203-272-9346	Vice President Bob Spaulding 203-378-5688	Treasurer Bill Jagoda 860-349-9901	Secretary Jim Pepe 860-878-6834	Membership Mike Okrent 203-393-2662	Newsletter Editor Rick Beebe 203-230-8459	Young Eagles Fran Uliano 860-347-0412	Tech Counselor Dave Pepe 203-634-4457
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MEETING MINUTES

February 19, 2006

1. Officers present: Jim Simmons—President; Bob Spaulding—Vice President

2. Attendance—56

3. The usual meeting format of officer and activity chairperson reports, old and new business discussions and the monthly seminar was dispensed with as this meeting was devoted to celebrating the 50th anniversary of the establishment of EAA Chapter 27. Two orders of business were briefly covered before beginning the celebration. First, the details of the April 29th trip to Mattituck were reviewed along with reminding the membership to sign-up and get their checks in. Seats will be opened to members of Chapter 166. Details of the trip will also be given to Chapter 1208. And secondly, since Easter Sunday coincides with our routine monthly meeting,

all present agreed that the April meeting date should be slipped one week from April 16th to April 23rd.

4. To kick off the festivities a raffle was held to give away Chapter 27 coffee cups, an EAA calendar and a 50th Anniversary Chapter 27 T-shirt.

5. The Chapter was presented with a letter from EAA President Tom Poberezny and a 50th Anniversary commemorative plaque from EAA Headquarters. The plaque is to be displayed at the Meriden Markham Airport FBO. Our EAA Director in residence, Rick Beebe, made the presentations on behalf of EAA Headquarters.

6. Jim Simmons gave a slide show that showcased some of the early years of the EAA and the beginnings of Chapter 27. This historical review was highlighted by the acknowledgement of Stan Solecki, one

of the founding members and still active in the Chapter after 50 years of membership. Stan was presented with a plaque in recognition of that achievement.

7. Jim's slide show also gave tribute to our seven members who have been licensed pilots for more than sixty years—an incredible milestone—and to the combat contribution these men made during WWII and the Korean War. They are: Stan Solecki, Bob Brown, Maury Libson, Carl Eaton, Bob Rouse, John Boyce and Kevin Jones.

8. The remainder of the meeting was spent enjoying refreshments, meeting with the press, and talking about what we usually talk about...building airplanes and flying them.

Respectfully submitted,

—Bob Spaulding, Vice President

EAA Chapter Activities at Sun 'n Fun

CHAPTER FORUMS

Come join us for some fun, interactive Chapter related forums at Sun N Fun, Lakeland, FL...

Recruiting Members for Your EAA Chapter on **Friday April 7th**, at 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., in Forum Tent #3

Making your Chapter Great! (Part 1 and Part 2) on **Saturday April 8th** from 9:00 am to 11:00 am, in Forum Tent #3

These forums will be a fun and interactive presentations that will allow you to take away some ideas on how to make your Chapter more effective and more satisfying for your members!

Please come armed with your best ideas/questions on Membership Participation, Membership Recruitment, Chapter Activities, and anything else you think will be of value.

We look forward to a fresh exchange of ideas and information.

No registration necessary.

For complete information on the Sun 'n Fun forums go to this web site: <http://www.sun-n-fun.org/content/interior.asp?section=flyin&body=convsch/forumsbyday>

FOOD FOR THOUGHT?

You are invited to attend the EAA Chapter Leaders Barbeque on **Thursday April 6th** at Sun 'n Fun 2006, Lakeland, FL. (RSVP Required).

Wisconsin style Bratwurst served at 5:30pm. Located near the EAA Publications Tent—Sun 'n Fun Grounds—adjacent to Johnson's BBQ (same location as last year).

Come join us for some great (FREE!) food and evening of interacting with other Chapters Leaders, and EAA Staff. We are also pleased to announce that EAA President, Tom Poberezny, will be attending the Barbeque this year.

All Chapter Leaders and any Chapter Members who are interested in the future direction of EAA and your Chapter are invited.

If you plan on attending, please **RSVP by sending email to Troy Toelle at ttoelle@eaa.org**. Please include your name and Chapter Number. If you are bringing other Chapter Leaders/Members with you, please include their information in your reply. Space and food is limited so please don't wait to RSVP.

Keep up the great work, and we hope to see you in Lakeland!

YOUNG EAGLES REPORT

by Fran Uliano

Mike Zemsta approached me and told me that the principle at Sacred Heart School in New Britain, Sister Alma, was interested in the Young Eagles program. I called her last month and set up a time when I could come to the school and talk to the students about the program. I went to the school on March 8th and talked to two classes. The first one had about 25 students and the next one was a double class of about 45 students. On March 9th I went back and talked to two more classes with each having about 25 students. At each class I showed our 15 minute video; handed out books, flyers, and posters; and answered a lot of questions. With a show of hands, about 75% said they were very interested in becoming a Young Eagle. I am now in the process of waiting for feedback from either Sister Alma or the parents. I told Sister Alma that if the parents would like me to talk to them and explain the program to them, I would be happy to do so. If I find out any information that I can pass on to you at the March meeting, I will give the information to Jim because I will be in sunny Florida and not available for the meeting. So far this year we have flown 3 YE's and now have a total of 1137. Also, I am working on a form to keep track of referrals from our members for our special raffle at the end of the year. For every YE referred, you will have another chance of winning the prize.

BUSINESS CARD CONTACTS?

We are planning on creating a EAA Chapter 27 business card for use by our general membership. An example will be available at our next meeting.

Does anyone have a contact or means for us to get them printed economically? We never know what resources are available from our members. If you can help, please contact Jim Simmons @ (203) 272-9346 or email to: president@eaa27.org.

MEMBER PROFILE: BILL MCLAGAN

My father had every pilot's dream: an airplane, an airstrip in the back yard, and a small business that could justify the travel. We lived in the Willamette valley in Oregon on 20 acres; the airstrip was just 1000 ft long. When I was sixteen, he said he would pay for the airplane time (we had a Piper Tripacer) if I would pay for the instructor. Two years later I completed the private pilot's license.

Earlier, in 1956 when I was just 11, an incident in the Ecuadorian jungle sparked my interest in missionary aviation (see the movie "The End of the Spear"), so out of high school I attended Moody Bible Institute where I earned commercial, instrument, seaplane, instructor, and A&P ratings as well as a radio technician rating. Mission aviation did not work out for me at that time, so I started as an apprentice radio technician at a shop in Salem, Oregon. Two years later I moved over to Evergreen Helicopters as a fixed wing pilot and ended up as a radio shop manager. I had over 700 hrs flying in the great Northwest for Evergreen in the three years I was there. Howard Hughes' "Spruce Goose" is now housed in a museum sponsored by Evergreen and is located across the street from where I once worked.

About this time, I bought a very used Cessna 170B. It had been converted early in its life to tricycle gear and had a early Lear magnetic amplifier autopilot among other interesting pieces of equipment. I changed it back to conventional gear and of course, could not help myself and had to make it "better." When I sold it twelve years later, it had a Lycoming 180 in it as well as a center radio stack instrument panel on top of new paint and upholstery.

In the late 70's the opportunity for service in mission aviation resurfaced, and we spent almost ten years with Mission Aviation Fellowship. Most of the time was spent on "Home Staff" in Southern California.



During that time I made trips for radio installation and repair to some of the most isolated parts of South American, Africa, and Asia. Our last three years were spent in the remote eastern province of Indonesia called "Irian Jaya" where I flew in some of the most challenging and interesting terrain in the world.

Upon return, we moved back to Oregon. In the late 1980s there were virtually no jobs available in light aviation (ramps that used to have hundreds of aircraft on them now had only a handful), so I transitioned to electronic design. My company downsized in 2002 and I moved with them to Meriden in 2003.

In the early 80s I had transitioned to ultralights as part of a project to determine if they were suitable for mission work (they weren't). On return from Irian Jaya, I bought both of their craft, sold one, and had one essentially for free. I kept it for 5 years and found ultralight flying to be one of the most enjoyable and challenging aviation activities available. On moving to Meriden, I purchased a damaged Aventura amphibian ultralight. It is now "better" and a bit heavier. As soon as the FAA determines the exact meaning of "repositionable landing gear" I will be able to get it licensed as a "Experimental Light Sport Aircraft" (or not) and begin exploring Connecticut from the air.

Please accept our heartfelt gratitude to your Chapter for the 50 years of dedication and achievement.

—Tom Poberezny, EAA President

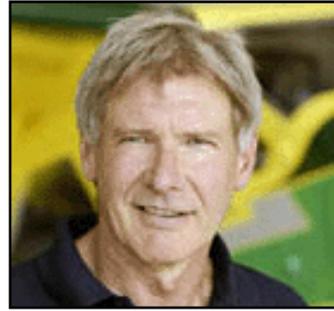
HOSE CUTTER:
A tool used to cut hoses 1/2 inch too short.

WAY TO GO, HARRISON!

Actor, pilot and EAA member Harrison Ford, chairman of EAA's Young Eagles Program, provided some great national exposure for Young Eagles on February 21st during an appearance on NBC's *Tonight Show* with Jay Leno. Ford discussed his involvement with the program, both as its chairman and as an active participant who provides young people with their first flight experience in a general aviation aircraft.

Leno wondered if the kids were excited to fly, asking, "Is it like seeing Santa Claus for the first time, do the eyes just light up?"

Ford replied, "A lot of them do, it's really exciting for a lot of them, and it's really exciting for us as pilots to be



able to turn kids onto the thing that we love so much."

Ford has served as Young Eagles chairman since March 2004 and at EAA AirVenture Oshkosh 2005, accepted an invitation to serve in that role for two

more years. He is scheduled to participate in activities during EAA AirVenture Oshkosh 2006 AirVenture, including the Gathering of Eagles. His latest movie, *Firewall*, opened nationwide on February 10.

The deadline for submission of materials for the next newsletter is April 5, 2006.

2006 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 \$15.00 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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