



Experimental Aircraft Association

Chapter 27 News



Next meeting Sunday, March 16, 10 a.m., Meriden-Markham Airport, Meriden, CT

March 2008

CALL TO ACTION: HELP PRESERVE OUR HOMEBUILDERS RIGHTS!

The rights and privileges enjoyed by homebuilders over the past half-century have not only given citizens the freedom to build and fly their own aircraft, they also led to innovations that have found their way into type-certificated products and created an entire industry of suppliers, designers, manufacturers, making all of aviation stronger. Recent developments, however, have caused considerable angst in the homebuilt community about whether or not that freedom will exist in the same form after the FAA unveils its new policy regarding amateur-built aircraft certification, which will occur later this year.

The FAA affirms that it wants to preserve the 51 percent rule and 14 CFR part 21.191(g), the homebuilt aircraft regulations. The agency is questioning whether "quick-build kits" result in aircraft that are compliant with the original regulations, even though the agency has consistently approved such aircraft.

To help the FAA have a better understanding of what it takes to build even a "fast build" aircraft, EAA is asking homebuilders to write the FAA and urge policymakers to maintain and protect the rights of ALL amateur builders.

When the agency announced its intentions to re-examine 51 percent regulations at EAA AirVenture 2006, it appointed an industry-government aviation rulemaking committee (ARC) to come up with recommendations on the amateur-building issue. (EAA's Earl Lawrence was ARC co-chair with Dick VanGrunsven of Van's Aircraft.) FAA published those ARC recommendations in the Federal Register earlier this month and also announced a temporary suspension of amateur-built aircraft kit evaluations, meaning it will not add any new kits to its "51 percent approved list" until the new policy is published.

Not included in the ARC report was EAA's position, shared by the kit manufacturers:

1. Protect the current rights of builders to build the "quick-built" aircraft kits that FAA has included on the 51 percent approved list, and that our members have been building over the last decade. The FAA has to recognize that for more than a decade it has set precedent regarding the various kits and practices that they have said meet the standard. The FAA needs to honor its precedent and continue to approve those kits.
2. Protect the 51 percent rule and with it, the builder's ability to build an amateur-built aircraft of any complexity, power or size.

A Call to Action

With these points in mind, EAA asks its members to get involved and write to the FAA.

If you're a homebuilder: Write and share your experience as an amateur builder with those who are spearheading the new policy. Share with the FAA your experience of building your aircraft, why you consider yourself a true amateur builder in every sense of the word, and that you advocate preserving the precedent established by the FAA when it approved today's fast or quick built kits as 51 percent-compliant. EAA has provided a sample letter with topics for you to consider including in your letter to the FAA.

If you're not a homebuilder: We sincerely hope that this issue is important to you, too. If you believe in the homebuilt movement and all the innovation that comes from it, be ready to act when the FAA publishes its new policy as to what qualifies under the amateur-built regulations. Watch the EAA website for further details.

To learn more about this critical issue, visit www.EAA.org/govt/building.asp

Background photo: 1948 - Paul Poberezny and Little Poop Deck ©2007 EAA

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“HINTS FOR HOMEBUILDERS” VIDEOS NOW ONLINE

In keeping with EAA's efforts to offer knowledge and information in the most user-friendly and readily available ways, EAA has created Hints for Homebuilders, a series of short videos that are now available online. Subjects for these initial videos were selected and developed by EAA staff and member volunteers.

“EAA has always been about sharing knowledge among members, and these new video tips are just another way of doing that, taking advantage of the opportunities the Internet provides,” said Charlie Becker, director of EAA's member programs. “We're hoping to develop an entire catalog of tips, tricks, and alternative methods that will be valuable to EAA members.”

There are currently five videos on display that include tips for composite, tube and fabric, sheet metal, and wood construction methods as well as a general category. A new video “hint” will be added each week and highlighted in e-Hotline. EAA is also asking its members to suggest tips that can be included in the collection.

“The vision for this online video project is that members will submit ideas for building techniques, shop tips, or anything that will make construction of a project easier...or perhaps a subject for which they'd like more detailed instructional information,” Becker said. “We're looking for a broad range of tips that appeal to someone just starting out in homebuilding as well as the experienced builder. Remember, if something's new to you, it's new to others as well.”

To submit ideas for future Hints for Homebuilders, e-mail Info@EAA.org and please put “Hints” in the subject line. Meanwhile, check out the videos now available online, and look for a new tip every week!

<http://www.eaa.org/video/homebuilders.html>

AIRVENTURE TICKETS ONLINE

Admission to EAA AirVenture Oshkosh 2008 is now just a click away, with new advance ticket purchasing available at www.airventure.org. The advance purchase system allows EAA members and non-members to pre-purchase AirVenture admission tickets via a secure website. Both daily and weekly admissions are available, as is the ability to join EAA or renew a membership to receive the best possible admission prices available only to EAA members. This new system created by ClicknPrint Tickets also gives discounts to those who pre-purchase their AirVenture tickets by June 15, including \$2 for daily admissions and \$5 for weekly admissions for advance online purchases.

“This system responds to requests we've received from EAA members for the past several years,” said Rick Larsen, EAA's vice president of marketing. “People wanted the ability to fully plan for their AirVenture experience, including having their tickets in hand when they arrive in Oshkosh. We're happy to make that possible this year.”

To access the advance ticketing area, go to www.airventure.org and connect to the “Buy Now!” area. Full instructions and

answers to frequently asked questions are available at that site. Advance AirVenture tickets are scanned and redeemed for the appropriate wristband at AirVenture admission gates.

EAA AirVenture advance ticketing is made possible through support from Jeppesen.

ClicknPrint Tickets (www.clicknprint.com) is the pioneer of online print-at-home ticketing and an industry innovator, providing ticketing services for more than 125 air shows and other sporting events. Through ClicknPrint's services, tickets can be purchased online using any Internet-connected computer. Those tickets are transferable and can be reissued if lost.

“ClicknPrint Tickets is thrilled to be the online ticketing provider for EAA AirVenture Oshkosh,” said John Haak, an EAA member who is also ClicknPrint Tickets' air show specialist. “The goal is to make it easy for EAA members and other AirVenture attendees from all over the world to pre-purchase their tickets as they plan for their experience at Oshkosh.”

The 56th “The World's Greatest Aviation Celebration” takes place July 28-August 3 at Wittman Regional Airport in Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

Spring begins Friday, March 21



Looking forward to less of this



and more of this.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

As many of you know, I missed last month's meeting due to a battle (which I lost) with the flu bug. Not only me, but many people in New England have experienced the flu virus this season. I hope that you and your family members were able to avoid the bug.

I am pleased to report that I believe that we may finally see some tangible progress on the erection of aircraft hangars at Meriden airport. As I drove by earlier this week, I saw them installing a contractor's trailer at the site. I visited with the people and learned that the lease has been finalized and is currently awaiting signatures. Once the lease agreement has been signed, the initial site preparations will begin. Prospective hangar owners can expect to receive a letter within the next few weeks concerning the latest cost estimates and availability. In total, there are 40 hangars planned; 30 tees and 10 boxes. An initial order for 10 tee hangars and 5 box hangars has been placed. I believe that many of our members are anxiously awaiting these hangars and we may soon see progress on this long awaited project.

As our winter weather winds down (which almost seems like hibernation to me), the urge to fly is ever increasing. I am looking forward to enjoying much more flying time. I also know that those of our members nearing completion of their aircraft projects will be looking forward to bringing them to the airport soon.

I'll see you all at the airport.

—Jim Simmons

MEETING MINUTES

February 17, 2008

Call to order: The meeting for EAA Chapter 27 was called to order by Vice President Bob Spaulding at 10:00. President Jim Simmons went home ill. There were 30 members present.

Treasurer—Bill Jagoda: Bill reported a balance of \$884.16. Thank you, Bill!

Technical Counselor—Dave Pepe: Dave reported that Jim Pepe has his fuselage pinned on his RV-9A. Mike Zemsta's RV-10 is nearing completion. Dave also spoke of Van's LSA, the RV-12, which has been discussed in Van's newsletter, the "RVator," and the requirements for pilots and aircraft. Finally, Dave mentioned that various Chapter 27 products, such as shirts and hats are available as always.

Young Eagles—Fran Uliano: Fran is cruising in the Carribean!

Director Report: Rick Beebe announced that he will be attending the next director's meeting in late April at Oshkosh. Also, Discovery Channel taped Air Venture which is to be broadcast on PBS HD on Friday, February 22.

Sikorsky Aircraft Factory Tour: The tour was fantastic and everyone felt it was a very worthwhile experience! Thanks, Mark!

EAA Air Academy Project: Chuck Drake was in Florida but it appears that combining Chapters resources in order to send a young person to the Air Academy will not happen.

Holiday Banquet: Our 2007 Holiday Banquet was a huge success and it was determined that our 2008 Holiday Banquet will also be held at The Hawthorne Inn on Saturday, December 6, 2008, beginning at 4:30 p.m. with dinner at 5:30 p.m. Mark

your calendars! Many thanks go out to Maury Libson for all of his efforts!

Old Business: Hangars at MMK have been staked out and buildings have been purchased. Concrete work may begin soon.

New Business:

- EAA booth at the Simsbury Fly-In—Chapter support is requested.
- Mark Scott asked the membership to inform him if they would be interested in another open house to inspect his BearHawk project.

Seminar Topics for 2008: We discussed some possible topics which included: Painting—Jim Simmons and Jim Maher; Fiberglass and Composites—Chuck Drake; the new Aviation Maintenance Technician (AMT) School being built at Brainard Airport—Steve Socolosky.

50/50 Raffle Winner: Steve Fraas was our winner for this month. As is customary for our raffle winner, please submit a brief write-up of about yourself.

We are still anxiously awaiting the profiles to be written from past 50/50 raffle winners which include: Max Lopez, Charlie Enz, Ron Slossar, Bob Brown, Dave Pepe, George Anderson, Mark Tower and Bob Rouse. Everyone has a story!

Seminar Presentation: Bob Spaulding presented a very detailed and informative seminar on wood fatigue. Bob thoroughly explained the many different types of wood material, how it responds to various types of stress and environmental conditions, how it compares to metal, using graphs and its applications.

Respectfully submitted,

—Steve Socolosky

"You, you, and you ... Panic. The rest of you, come with me."—U.S. Marine Corp Gunnery Sgt.

You haven't seen a tree until you've seen its shadow from the sky.—Amelia Earhart

FAA REGULATIONS NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING (NPRM) PART 69, SECTION 007 (A) 1(C)

Section I - No pilot or pilots, or person or persons acting on the direction or suggestion or supervision of a pilot or pilots may try, or attempt to try or make, or make attempt to try to comprehend or understand any or all, in whole or in part of the herein mentioned Aviation Regulations, except as authorized by the Administrator or an agent appointed by, or inspected by, the Administrator.

Section II - If a pilot, or group of associate pilots becomes aware of, or realizes, or detects, or discovers, or finds that he or she, or they, are or have been beginning to understand the Aviation Regulations, they must immediately, within three (3) days notify, in writing, the Administrator.

Section III - Upon receipt of the above-mentioned notice of impending comprehension, the Administrator shall immediately rewrite the Aviation Regulations in such a manner as to eliminate any further comprehension hazards.

Section IV - The Administrator may, at his or her discretion, require the offending pilot or pilots to attend remedial instruction in Aviation Regulations until such time that the pilot is too confused to be capable of understanding anything.

The deadline for submission of materials for the next newsletter is April 10, 2008.

2008 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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