



Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 27 News



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

May 2008

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

As you already know, Betty and I were traveling in our Mooney during last month's Chapter meeting. I'm pleased to report that we enjoyed some fine company, fine weather and super flying during our vacation travels. On the other hand, Betty is delighted to be home again.

Meriden Airport is making progress with its airport improvement projects. Any day now, they will be embarking on the repaving of the tarmac on the north end of the airport. Many planes (currently) based on the north end of the field will be moved to the south area for parking. The refueling area is also going to be repaved and there will be a newly designated area where you will need to park for refueling. The project phase is expected to last for approximately 60 days. This repaving will most likely conflict with our scheduled participation in International Young Eagles Day. We will be discussing potential alternate plans at this month's meeting.

I am also pleased to report that the permit for the hangar construction project has been approved. As I understand it, the only remaining issue delaying the start of construction is the actual signing of the lease agreement for the use of the land. Hopefully, by the time we meet in May, the signing will have been completed.



At the April meeting we celebrated Stan Solecki's 90th birthday. Stan was one of the founding members of our Chapter, more than 52 years ago. Happy Birthday Stan!

Mr. Terry Zemetis has recently been appointed as a judge for Connecticut. Terry had been serving as the chairman of the Meriden Aviation Commission. As a result of this new appointment, Terry has resigned from the commission. He has been a major force in the reconstruction of MMK and the person most responsible for the ap-

proval of the private hangar construction project. On behalf of the members of EAA Chapter 27, I would like to say "Thanks Terry for a SUPER job!" and we wish you success in your new career.

I hope to see you all at our May 18th meeting.

—Jim Simmons

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DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Spring EAA Board of Directors meeting was held April 25 and 26 in, you guessed it, Oshkosh. There's a lot going on with our organization and I'll hit on a few highlights here.

There's continuing enhancement and expansion of the EAA web site. The recently-introduced Aviation Calendar of Events is proving to be very popular. I just searched for events within 100 miles of my zip code and it came up with 28 events, leading off with next Sunday's meeting of Chapter 27. Equally popular are the downloadable videos, especially the workshop series. They're going to start video taping some of the forums at AirVenture and offering those on the web site as well.

Coming soon, in the members-only area, is an online archive of Sport Aviation magazine. Every issue back to June 1953 is being converted to PDF and will be full-text searchable. We saw a demo and it's pretty exciting. In the Fall they'll be introducing a community forum so we can chat with EAA members around the world.

There's going to be more emphasis on the National/Chapter relationship. EAA records show around 110,000 members who do not list a local chapter affiliation. So we're going to offer some programs to help close that gap, such as providing a list of local chapters to all new members. And perhaps sending a list of new members to local chapters. To encourage local outreach we'll be exploring a program where a person joining a local chapter for the first time will get a six month free EAA membership. For most of us reading this newsletter, we finally have the option to sign up for auto-renewal of our EAA membership. No more pesky renewal notices!

EAA AirVenture will be undergoing some changes as well. There was some discussion about returning to the name "Oshkosh." "AirVenture" was created

mostly for trademark and brand-identity reasons and there's some feeling that it isn't working. Many, if not most, folks still refer to the gathering as Oshkosh. On a more important note, the Board approved the site redesign project. This 10-year, \$17 million project will greatly improve the grounds and amenities, hopefully making the whole AirVenture (er, Oshkosh) experience even better. Before this year's AirVenture, a couple of the shower buildings will be renovated. Before '09 we'll build a brand new shower building (which includes 72 showers and flush toilets!) and renovate two more of the old ones. There will be bigger, better trams, a no-vehicle zone in the core of the site, several new roads beginning the X design we decided on last year, relocation of the main gate, relocation of the fly market, 200 camper hookups (power and water!) and 2 camp ground social pavilions. Before AirVenture 2010, we'll build a new exhibit hall that fills the gap between buildings A and C. It will be air-conditioned, less hanger-like and include real restrooms. We'll also air-condition buildings A and C. There will be more roads and five more new shower buildings.

Take heart—none of these upgrades will be funded by raising membership dues. I'll have more information about the plan at Sunday's meeting and there will be displays at Member Village at AirVenture.

Paul and Audry Poberezny are donating their extensive collection of EAA and aviation memorabilia to the EAA Museum. To create a proper place to display it the museum is building the "Founders Wing." It will occupy the space currently used by the construction shop. In addition to the display section, the area will also be used for events. There are quite a few social events held at the museum each year and they often have to move displays around to fit tables, dance floors and bandstands

in. The Founders Wing will offer a permanent place for these activities. There is fund-raising going on right now to pay for the expansion.

Speaking of fund-raising, the Gathering of Eagles is a gala dinner and auction held at AirVenture where the well-heeled bid on some truly outstanding items to raise money for the Young Eagles program. One of the top items in this year's auction will be a one-of-a-kind Ford Mustang they're calling the AV8R. It's being hand built at Ford and will feature an aviation themed cockpit and exterior features and graphics. I can't wait to see it. Last year's Gathering raised \$1.5 million.

Finally, as previously mentioned, the Board voted to downsize itself. Starting next year (it's too late to change this year's election) there will be six positions up for election in a three year rotation. I.e. eighteen Class I directors. That's down from the current 9 each year. Six long-term directors have announced their retirement and we had a ceremony for four of them, naming them Director Emeritus, at the meeting.

The next board meeting, and the EAA Annual meeting, takes place on Saturday, August 2 during AirVenture Oshkosh.

--Rick Beebe

CONGRATULATIONS TO STEVE FRAAS

We are pleased to report that Steve Fraas (EAA Chapter 27 member) has recently received his private pilot rating. Steve passed his FAA flight exam on Tuesday, May 6, 2008 at MMK. Congratulations Steve! Welcome to the world of flying.

MEETING MINUTES

April 20, 2008

Call to order: The meeting for EAA Chapter 27 was called to order by Secretary, Steve Socolosky at 10:20, after Stan Solecki, our special birthday guest arrived. President, Jim Simmons and Vice President, Bob Spaulding were absent. Cullen Slocum filled in as secretary and took the minutes.

Recognition of Visitors: Welcome to Jim Oliver.

Treasurer—Bill Jagoda: Bill reported a balance of \$914.06. Thank you, Bill!

Technical Counselor—Dave Pepe: Dave explained that his nephew, Jim Pepe, continues working on his fuselage and that Mike Zemsat will soon be bringing his RV-10 up to Steve's hangar at Brainard for final assembly. Dave also mentioned that there is plenty of Chapter 27 logo apparel available, as always.

Young Eagles—Fran Uliano: Fran announced that Laura Hargreaves, has received the \$381 donated to her from the combined efforts of those pilots who flew 10 or more



Young Eagles and matching donations from Chapter 27 and Hotseat, to attend the EAA Air Academy. Fran also announced that Young Eagles Day is scheduled for Saturday, June 14th and will be addressing the details at May's meeting.

Website Editor: Rick Beebe asked all members to remember that we are always seeking pictures of project aircraft and you can upload them yourself to our web site.

Old Business: Surveying is complete for new hangars. Latest estimated cost is \$51K-\$55K.

New Business:

- It was agreed that at the break, everyone would sing Happy Birthday to Stan Solecki, founding member of Chapter 27 and then help him eat his cake! It was also noted that the bulletin board was full of SOME of Stan's many aircraft he has flown over the years. THANK YOU and CONGRATULATIONS STAN!

- Fran made a motion that Jim and Bob take Steve up in each of their planes for running today's meeting in their absence. The motion was quickly seconded and unanimously and enthusiastically approved!

50/50 Raffle Winner: Ralph Colavolpe. 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, Bob Rouse and Steve Fraas. Everyone has a story!

Seminar Presentation: Mark Scott provided the membership with an entire spectrum of information on float plane flying in which he continuously emphasized how fun it is to fly on/off water. Mark covered everything from the definition of float plane vs amphibian, to details on training, construction, technique and costs. Mark also provided us with some fantastic pictures of views you can expect when float flying. We were also treated to a beautiful Cessna 175 amphibian (Bullwinkle, pictured above), owned by fellow EAAer, Bob Welch, of Chapter 1310 at

MAY SEMINAR HAROLD ROCHETTE



Meriden resident, Harold Rochette, Lt. Colonel (USAF) Ret. will be the guest speaker at our May 18th Chapter meeting at MMK. Harold's exploits as a WW II B-17 pilot over Germany are chronicled in his book "8th Air Force Lottery." Inspired by Tom Brokaw's book, "The Greatest Generation," encouraging veterans to chronicle their deeds for future generations, Harold took out his diary and created this personalized account of his 8th Air Forces activities. Be sure to come and learn of his experiences first hand.

Skylark Airport in East Windsor. He flew in to MMK to offer some of his insight and experiences with flying on/off water.

Respectfully submitted—Steve Socolosky and Cullen Slocum

OXYACETYLENE TORCH:
Used almost entirely for setting various flammable objects in your shop on fire. Also handy for igniting the grease inside a wheel hub you're trying to get the bearing race out of.

Angels can fly because they take themselves lightly.
—G. K. Chesterton, 'Orthodoxy,' 1908

Sanford Regional Airport

2nd Annual Ragwing Fly-In

This Fly-In is to honor historic fabric covered aircraft and the men and women who fly them.



May 24th, 2008

8 AM – 2 PM

LSA's and Ultralights welcome!

CTAF/Unicom
123.075



For more information, contact Sanford Regional Airport Manager
Evan McDougal 207-432-0596 or ermcdougal@sanfordmaine.org

The deadline for submission of materials for the next newsletter is June 8, 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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