



The ThunderWord

Thunderbird Field EAA Chapter 1217

April 2012

Scottsdale, Arizona

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Greetings from my corner of the hangar! We had a nice crowd to hear Graham Clark talk about sport flying in Europe at our March meeting. After hearing firsthand about the fees and fuel prices it makes me appreciate the prices we pay. Thanks to Bernie Gross for getting Graham and for volunteering to let him stay at his house as well as take him to Sun-N-Fun.

Through some amazing good luck, I was able to be on a Tampa layover and able to attend the Sun-N-Fun Splash-In at Fantasy of Flight. The beautiful setting of all the colorful seaplanes on a picturesque lake was located on Kermit Weeks' museum grounds. While watching the seaplanes fly, the CAF B-29 made several passes overhead. As part of the flying demonstration on that day a Pitcarin Autogyro flew for several hours as well as shorter demos by a Curtiss Pusher and a Fokker D-8. There was always something to watch. This part of Sun-N-Fun is always the favorite part of the show!

On the last Saturday in March, I convinced Brian Mitchell to go to the Casa Grande Fly-In Breakfast in my orange twin. A very diverse group of airplanes was in attendance, from an RAF 2000 gyro to a P-51 Mustang. Probably one of the rarest planes was a maroon Meyers 145 from La Cholla Airpark; it had just finished an eighteen year restoration! The food was excellent and there were lots of old friends to visit with and cool planes on the ramp. Be sure to mark the last Saturday of each month as the date. The food is served hot in the heated and air-conditioned terminal building.

At the end of this month is an annual Chapter 1217 tradition, the Fly-in/Drive-in at Deer

Valley Airport. Everyone is encouraged to come out and enjoy this family event. If you are flying in or taxing your plane over, there is plenty of parking in front of Jack's hangar. It is a Chapter tradition that mixes friends, food, fun, and flying.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the next meeting!

Curtis

APRIL CHAPTER MEETING

The April meeting of Thunderbird Field EAA Chapter 1217 will be held on Thursday, April 19th in the Scottsdale Airport Terminal Building. The time is 7pm. As of press time we were still working on this month's guest speaker. Dan Muxlow has lined up Nova Hall to speak at the May 17 meeting. Nova is a Lindbergh historian whose grandfather actually worked on the design and construction of the Spirit of St. Louis.

Remember, guests are always welcome!

MAYDAY CHAPTER FLY-IN

Sunday, April 29, 1100-1400, will be the time and date for the annual Thunderbird Field EAA Chapter 1217 MAY DAY FLY-IN/DRIVE-IN. Jack Pollack will again host this year's event at his Deer Valley northside hangar 31-08. Since May first falls on a Tuesday this date was chosen as the closest weekend date.

Things get underway around 11am with planes arriving and setup. There are plenty of parking spots right in front of Jack's hangar now that the L-39's are deployed to secure our borders. Be sure to bring wheel chocks

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and lawn chairs. At noon-time we will be having an old fashioned hangar cookout.

This year the Chapter will spring for the burgers, fixin's and drinks. You just need to bring something to share that doesn't need to be cooked, heated or butchered. Examples are salads, desserts, and chips.

Everyone is welcome, so bring your family and friends

If you are driving in, go to the north perimeter road and go to the west entrance for the hangars. Signs will be posted. It might be a good idea to bring lawn chairs to sit in.

All arriving pilots are requested not to use the word **Mayday** in any communication with the tower.

CENTENNIAL STATE FLY-IN

The Arizona Airport Association in conjunction with the State is celebrating the State's 100th birthday with a fly-in breakfast May 19 at Ryan Airfield, 7 till noon.



**Bill Unternaehrer Recovering
His Trusty Skybolt**



**March Guest Speaker Graham Clark trying
to stay out of the Sun at Sun-N-Fun**

FIRST COMPOSITE PEDAL KITPLANE

Creative Eagles Corporation has introduced what is believed to be the "The First Composite Pedal Kitplane." The plane is actually a miniature airplane that is assembled around a tricycle. It looks like it isn't that big of a project and would be a good introduction to working with composites. The plane can be viewed at www.creative-eagles.com, or contact them at info@creative-eagles.com. A Stearman conversion for adult tricycles is also under development.

AEROCHIA LT-1

By Tim Kern

It's real, it's flying, and it's coming to AirVenture Oshkosh this year. We're talking about the Aerochia LT-1, a new experimental amateur-built kit with a speed range from 60 to 160 mph and an estimated kit price (firewall aft) in the \$20,000 range.

Andy Chiavetta was providing skimboarding champions with his "custom-built for friends only" surfboards when some airplane people heard about his talent. Lancairs were already slick, but Andy's mentor, seven-time Reno Air

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Races Unlimited champion Darryl Greenamyer, figured there was more speed available in a Lancair Legacy. Andy's wing root fillets, cowl modifications, and other detail mods helped Greenamyer's Legacy win Reno's Sport Class race four times. Now, virtually all the Lancairs at Reno use Andy's parts.

Slickness increases range, too. A couple of years ago, Chiavetta and now-partner Greenamyer built a single-seat composite craft aimed at the light-sport aircraft (LSA) category, but the limitations of LSA design parameters and the limited appeal in that class for a single-seat aircraft sent them to the more traditional route of offering a "pretty foolproof" experimental amateur-built kit, suitable as a builder's first project and reasonably priced. But we're ahead of ourselves.

The airplane, which they called the LT-1, carries enough fuel for up to eight hours of flight in its Steve Cox-designed elliptical wing. It rides on a fixed tricycle gear. At less than

800 pounds gross, it accelerates to top speed quicker than a P-51. The LT-1 is designed to fly from 60 to 160 mph (wheels, brakes, and wheelpants aren't finalized yet), and it burns about 3 gph at cruise in its four-stroke HKS engine (it can use either the normally aspirated 60-hp opposed twin or its turbocharged brother).

Lancair test pilot Len Fox did first flights in the LT-1 in May 2010. Greenamyer flew off the flight test time for Phase I, and handed the plane over to Chiavetta. Total time on the airframe is about 50 hours, with only the basic spin matrix still blank.

The little plane is about 15 feet long, with a nearly 21-foot wingspan that gives it 60 square feet of wing. Limits are +6, -4g (though the HKS engine is not designed for negative g's). The all-composite airframe kit is targeted under \$20,000 (add engine, prop, instruments, upholstery, and paint). Think mid-\$30,000 range, well-equipped.

More: www.aerochia-Lt1.com



Larry Keeling and His Award Winning RV-8 Fastback

CLOUDDANCER IS AT IT AGAIN

Yep. After the soul-baring and gut-wrenching experience of sharing some of his spell-binding, yet darkest aerial memories in Vol. III, The Tragedies, CloudDancer needed April 2012

some relief. So naturally, he returned to what he knew best, and dove headfirst right back into hilarious flying funnies in Vol. IV of the CloudDancer's Alaskan Chronicles.

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Meet CloudDancer the (unwitting) airborne Federal FELON! And join him, as he and his cohorts play an unending game of cat & mouse against their cunning and dastardly foes, the FEDs from F.A.A. FSDO 61 in Fairbanks. (Spoiler alert...the FEDs....don't win. SURPRISE!)

Oh...yeah. There's some occasional drinking, and partying and SEX (PG-13 rated) thrown in too..if you LIKE that sorta' stuff. I mean it is CloudDancer, after all! Copies at www.cloud dancer.org

7TH ANNUAL CENTRAL SIERRA HELICOPTER MEET

May 4 - May 6, 2012. The only all helicopter meet in the West is gearing up for their 7th

year. All factory, home built & experimental helicopters are welcome. There will be Helicycles, Mosquitos, Rotorways, Bell 47, Bell Jet Rangers Etc. Some Factory reps will be on hand. Bring your ships finished or not, or bring a photo album. Bring items for the Heli Swap.

Camping available on site, motel is near by, about 14 miles East of Groveland, CA on Hwy. 120 to Cherry Lake Rd, turn left go about 2 ½ miles. Ranch will be on your left.

Any Questions call Hap or Nancy 707-833-5905 (Week of Meet call Les 209-962-4828, or Nancy 209-768-0028) Web-site is: www.cshelimeet.com



Photo by Jordan Ross

1217 Member Lynn Miller Flying His T-34A to the Saturday Pancake Breakfast at Coolidge

AEROSHELL AVIATORS CLUB AT AIRVENTURE

Last year's debut of the EAA Aviators Club at AirVenture was successful beyond anyone's expectations! The flightline oasis that allowed EAA members to add additional hospitality to their AirVenture experience was sold out throughout the week, so it's coming back in an expanded way in 2012.

The Aviators Club, again sponsored by Shell Aviation, is a place to relax, cool down, and watch the air show from some of the best seats on the field. It is an additional opportunity beyond the basic AirVenture admission for EAA members, located this year in a prime spot - on the flightline adjacent to the Flightline Pavilion.

The Aviators Club, open 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and 7:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday, is available only to EAA members and their guests. It features such amenities as:

- Air conditioning
- By popular demand, breakfast, plus lunch each day throughout the week
- Snacks and non-alcoholic beverages during the day
- Reserved air show seating
- Electronics charging station and bag storage
- Improved restroom facilities

This year, added amenities include full seating for the Saturday Night Air Show, additional indoor and outdoor seating, and

more outdoor shade! It's a great way to take your Oshkosh experience to a new level.

2012 Prices	Daily	Saturday	Weekly
Individual	\$125	\$200	\$700
Student (ages 6-18)	\$75	\$120	\$420
Kids (age 5 & under with adult)	Free	Free	Free

Aviators Club passes are available on a daily or weekly basis, and are in addition to regular AirVenture admission fees. Proceeds from the Aviators Club, open only to EAA members, will support the Young Eagles, Youth Education, Museum, Flying Heritage programs; thus furthering EAA's mission of growing participation in aviation. You can go to www.Airventure.org for more information.



Mike McGarry saw this Rare and Unusual Rutan Catbird at Chandler last month

UPDATE ... TURBINE SEAWIND PROJECT

In the March newsletter we reported that Steve Wieneke had a friend who wanted to sell his turbine Seawind project out at Eagle Roost Aerodrome. Sadly the builder has passed away and the family would really like to find a good home for the plane. They can be contacted at 928-685-2557 or bgustin@tabletoptelephone.com



T-34s Headed to Chandler Pancake Breakfast



Ultra rare Grumman Duck was on my Mega-Lotto List



Picture Perfect Day for Seaplanes and Flying

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ThunderAds

FOR SALE, ETC.

PILOT PA-400ST FOUR PLACE INTERCOM

\$50- Curtis e-mail: Azskybum@aol.com

HENDRICKSON H78 A38 PUSHER 2 BLADE PROP

Reconditioned by Performance Propeller Fits Cont. C-85/ 0-200. \$800.00 Four inch extension \$100.00 Curtis 602 7120-4494 azskybum@aol.com

COMBINATION VHF/GPS ANTENNA

Comant Model CI 2480-201, Separate connectors for Comm and GPS. Never installed. See AS&S pg 616. Their price \$568.75, sell for \$250.00 Ron Kassik 480-948-0168 or ronkassik@cox.net

1956 CESSNA 172 TD CONVERSION

TT 2300, O-300B 350 SMOH. Imron, new interior, lots of STCs. Hangared DVT. Mike Straley 602-524-0333, rkaviationinc@netscape.net Asking \$53K or possible trade

PROJECTS FOR SALE

Protech, PT-2, folding wings & trailer, 82 hp Mosler engine. & Gere bi-plane, about 75% complete, built from magazine plans, circa 1932, completely rebuilt Model A engine. Pat Wall 928-851-2244.

THREE-BLADE PROP SHIPPING BOX

Previously used for a MT prop for a Velocity. Will fit most normal size 3-blade props. Available to anyone who needs to ship a prop. Matt Bucko mbuc310@cox.net

1979 CESSNA 182Q

Arizona Airplane on SDL Tie Down K-137, TT 3500 hrs, Engine 1262 hrs SOH, recent interior upgrades & wing tip replacement. Bill Maxey 602-820-5722 maxeybill@hughes.net

GRENGA GN-1 AIRCAMPER PROJECT

Biplane conversion but can be switched to a parasol. Fuselage covered and Elizado Tigre engine installed. \$6,000.⁰⁰ Estate sale. Lesley Morgan 480-834-4831 or e-mail Curtis at EAACchapter1217@aol.com to receive a digital slideshow of the plane.

2009 LANCAIR 360

Superior IO-360 engine, TTAFE 20 hours, mineral oil, every thing new including paint, GPS, loaded must see. Fred 630-897-7706

PARTS

Fuel pump core, 23psi, Dukes Inc total time 18 hrs. Inline fuel filter, 3/8", Performance Mfg, TT 18 hrs. Slick magneto model 4771, TT 18 hrs. Fred 630-897-7706

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