



# The ThunderWord

Thunderbird Field EAA Chapter 1217

February 2017

Scottsdale, Arizona

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Greetings from my corner of the hangar! Last month Dennis Smith was able to get Bill Cutter to talk at our meeting. Bill had lots of great stories of growing up in the Cutter family and balloon flying. Thanks Dennis!

In January I was finally able to get my Wickham B back in the air, It had been down for four and a half years for upgrades and modifications. The plane ran great on the 1.4 hour test flight with a handful of minor squawks that have now been addressed. Apparently when the plane hung from the ceiling in the Museum of Flight in Seattle the humid air took its toll on the steel bolts and hardware. I feel a lot safer with new shiny AN hardware. The plane was built in 1968 so most of the structure and hardware is half a century old!

Coming up on the first Friday and Saturday of March is the 59th annual Cactus Fly In at Casa Grande, be sure to mark it on your calendars as this is one of the most fun Fly Ins in the country!

See you at the February meeting!

*Curtis*

## VERY UNIQUE MEETING THIS MONTH

Chapter members Alan and Mary Travis have generously offered to host our February meeting at their home

They have an astonishing assemblage of some of the world's earliest automobiles, each in astonishing condition and each owned by just a handful of people in more than 100 years. The craftsmanship that went

into each of these cars is unbelievable. Many of the early cars shared common components with early airplanes and Alan will talk about some of those.

These cars aren't static displays in a collection. Alan Travis has lived in Phoenix Arizona for all of his 54 years. He has a love of Endurance events and adventure. "I have finished events such as 2007 IRONMAN TRIATHLON, RACE ACROSS AMERICA on Bicycle 2008 (6 days), CANNONBALL, ONE LAP of AMERICA (1988), Baja 1000 off-road races, Great Race (Antique car race 1984-1995, American Gumball and more. I like the planning, daydreaming and participating", Alan said. It should be a fun filled, once in a life time evening. As an added part of the evening's program, Sergei Sikorsky will be in attendance.



Alan Travis with a Bike from his Collection  
**MARCH, APRIL, MAY**

## CHAPTER MEETINGS

The demolition date for our meeting room has been rescheduled for the first week of June. Therefore we will hold the March, April and May meetings at the Scottsdale Aviation

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Business Center, 15041 North Airport Drive. This gives us the opportunity to have a few

more months to decide on a meeting location while the new terminal is being built.



**Paul Shepard, Denny Myrick, Jerry Sparks and Richard DeWitt Enjoying the Buckeye Air Fair**

### **.CACTUS FLY-IN**

The 59th annual Cactus Fly-In will be held at the Casa Grande Airport Friday and Saturday, March 3 and 4, 2017. Arv Schultz is running this year's show and he needs help on Thursday through Saturday. Thursday and Saturday evening are setup and teardown. Thursday is setup in the afternoon.

Friday and Saturday, the days kickoff early at 0730 for briefing and coffee. You will be given your duty assignment with Fly-in veterans teaming up with new folks. Remember no experience is required. If you

can't make the early show there many shifts to staff throughout the day. Most people pitch in for four hours so there is still plenty of time for looking at planes. Remember there are no bad jobs! To get your **VIP parking pass** and instructions stop by the February EAA Chapter 1217 meeting or contact Arv directly at 602-275-1016

### **STEARMAN HOMECOMING**

At last month's Chapter meeting Billy Walker had Jack Pollack tell a little bit about his award winning Stearman restoration that he did ten years ago. Jack explained how the

plane had been based at Thunderbird #2, which is now Scottsdale Airport, during World War Two and after the war was sold surplus at Thunderbird #2.

What Jack didn't know was that Billy Walker and the plane's current owner Larry Dustman had come up with a plan to sell the plane to the City of Scottsdale. The plane would serve as a centerpiece for the new terminal that is going to be built in the near future. The plane would be a memorial to all the pilots and mechanics that trained at Thunderbird #2.

Last month the Scottsdale City Council voted 6-1 for the Thunderbird Field II Veterans' Memorial. The City will build a memorial wing attached to the new terminal/business center at the Scottsdale Airport. The cost will be approximately \$400K. This memorial wing will house a "mini-museum" with the Stearman PT-17 Kaydet they plan to purchase as the centerpiece.

A 501 (C) 3 non-profit is now open for DONATIONS. As specified in the contract with the City, \$200,000 needs to be raised prior to April 1<sup>st</sup>. This can be raised via small donations or from larger corporate sponsors. Any donation greater than \$5K will be acknowledged on a "donation plaque" to be displayed at the memorial. Obviously, every dollar helps and any excess funds will be used to make donations to local veteran's organizations.

A website has been established with information about the Memorial. It details how donations can be made by mail or by credit card. For more information, contact Steve Ziomek, Chairman, Thunderbird Field II Veterans Memorial Inc. 480-225-8874 or visit the website at: [www.tbird2.org](http://www.tbird2.org).

### **VANS RV12 RENTAL & TRANSITION**

How does \$99/hour wet sound for Flight Training (Sport Pilot License), LSA and RV-12 Transition Training, Maintenance, Service and Repair. RV12 Garmin G3X touch equipped rental at \$85/hour wet based on a 20 hr Block. Their personal approach to high quality customer service is unique in the

industry. With their very simple process of aircraft rentals, online access to scheduling and easy communication makes Flying-Cacti LLC a breath of fresh air. They offer all the amenities you have come to expect and are ready to take care of all your Light Sport aviation needs. Located at the Glendale Airport (KGEU). Contact Andres Reyes at [www.flying-cacti.com](http://www.flying-cacti.com)

### **CALLING ALL NAVION LOVERS**

The IV Navion Club would like to invite all Navion enthusiasts to their annual Bob Douthitt Presidential Fly-in Feb 17-19 starting at the Imperial Airport. There will be a weekend full of exciting aviation events, spot landing, balloon pop, short take offs, plus great food. Find out how an updated Navion flies, plus meet the people who love them. We will have a few airplanes for sale for the person looking for that perfect Navion. Call or text for registration: Shane Rogers 760-683-4304:

### **BOOM XB-1 UNVEILED**

With the goal of developing the first supersonic passenger airliner for business travelers, Colorado startup Boom Technology has unveiled the XB-1 test airplane, a proof-of-concept aircraft that the company hopes will lead to a 45-passenger aircraft that would fly from London to New York City in a little over three hours.

The XB-1 Supersonic Demonstrator is a subscale prototype of the Boom supersonic passenger airliner. On display for the first time at Boom's Hangar 14 at Centennial Airport, the XB-1, nicknamed "Baby Boom," was unveiled at a proof of concept demonstrator, like the SCALED Starship. The XB-1 is planned to be the world's fastest civil aircraft ever made, and it will demonstrate in flight the key technologies for affordable supersonic travel.

First flight of the XB-1 is planned for late 2017. Subsonic flight test will be conducted east of Denver; supersonic test flights will be conducted near Edwards Air Force Base in

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**Hayden Newhouse gets a little Pietenpol Ski Plane Flying on a visit Home this Winter**

Southern California, in partnership with Virgin Galactic's The Spaceship Company. The XB-1 is a technically representative one-third-scale version of the production Boom airliner. "I have long been passionate about aerospace innovation and the development of high-speed commercial flights," said Richard Branson, founder of Virgin Group. "As an innovator in space, Virgin Galactic's decision to work with Boom was an easy one. We're excited to have an option on Boom's first 10 airframes. Through Virgin Galactic's manufacturing arm, The Spaceship Company, we will provide engineering and manufacturing services, along with flight test support and operations as part of our shared ambitions."

The XB-1 Supersonic Demonstrator will fly with hardware from General Electric (engines), Honeywell (avionics), Tencate (carbon fiber), with composite structures

fabricated by Blue Force. Final assembly and vehicle integration are taking place in Boom's facility at Centennial Airport.

Boom has brought together experts from NASA, SpaceX and Boeing; these top minds in aviation collaborated to build this modern supersonic passenger airliner. Learning from the Concorde, they combined advanced aerodynamics, efficient engine technology and new composite materials to power a safe and affordable supersonic aircraft 2.6 times faster than current jetliners.

The product of over 1,000 simulated wind tunnel tests, Boom's tri-jet design features a refined delta wing, a gracefully tapered carbon fiber fuselage, and efficient turbofan jet engines. Unlike Concorde, the Boom design requires no afterburner, significantly improving fuel economy. For more information go to: <http://boomsupersonic.com>



**Four Stearman Pals: Terry Emig, Lester E. Gray Jr., Billy Walker and Roger Parris**

### **LESTER E. GRAY Jr**

Lester Gray was born on July 27, 1922, in Jefferson City, Missouri. He enlisted in the Aviation Cadet Program of the U.S. Navy on August 11, 1942, and was commissioned an Ensign and designated a Naval Aviator on June 16, 1943. He trained in Stearmans at NAF St. Louis in 1943. After completing additional training he joined VF-10 as an F6F Hellcat pilot and deployed aboard the aircraft carrier USS Enterprise (CV-6) from January to June 1944. He then transitioned to the F4U Corsair and deployed aboard the aircraft carrier USS Intrepid (CV-11) from March to August 1945. During his deployment aboard the Enterprise, Lt Gray was credited with the destruction of 3.25 enemy aircraft in aerial combat while flying the F6F Hellcat. He added an additional 2 air victories to his total while flying F4U Corsairs from the Intrepid, for

a total of 5.25 enemy aircraft destroyed during World War II.

Lt Gray left active duty after the war, serving in the Navy Reserve until he was activated for the Korean War on October 22, 1950. He flew F4U Corsairs with VF-921 from the aircraft carrier USS Tarawa (CV-40) in the Mediterranean Sea during 1951 and 1952, and he left active duty and returned to the Navy Reserve on March 4, 1953. While in the reserves, Commander Gray served at NAS Lambert Field in St. Louis, Missouri; at NAAS Kingsville, Texas; and at NAS Dallas, Texas; before retiring from the Navy Reserve on June 1, 1973.

Commander Gray currently lives in Litchfield Park, AZ.

**59<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL**



**CASA GRANDE, ARIZONA  
MARCH 3 - 4, 2017  
WWW.CACTUSFLYIN.ORG**

# ThunderAds

## FOR SALE, ETC.

### Mooney for Sale

Terry Emig has a friend in New Mexico who is selling his Mooney. For more info, call Terry at: 520-836-7447 or email [terry@valleypumpandmachine.com](mailto:terry@valleypumpandmachine.com)

### Large square hangar for rent

Located at Pleasant Valley Airport. Can hold up to five planes. \$1000- per month call Roy @ 602 684-7627

### Piper Cub Wings

Rebuilt with new spars. One wing ready for cover the other wing soon. Pat Battle A&P/IA DVT 602-274-2434

### Completed RV-7A tail kit.

Completed and zinc chromated. Nate D'Anna 602 891-4771 Email [Natedanna@q.com](mailto:Natedanna@q.com)

### T-34 MENTOR PARTNERSHIP.

This is a turn-key, established partnership in a very nice Beech T-34. Plane is hangered at Falcon Field. Contact Lynn Miller 602 448-7487 or 602 585-0795 e-mail [Lynnmillier777@gmail.com](mailto:Lynnmillier777@gmail.com)

### CESSNA 172'S FOR RENT

Two IFR Cessna 172s for rent at Chandler. Owned by Chapter member Pat McGarry. Contact Chris Hoel for more information and to schedule [birdgangft@gmail.com](mailto:birdgangft@gmail.com)

### '65 MOONEY

Very clean, 4000TT, 22 hours SMOH, \$41K with new annual, Goodyear hangar, Joe Hobbs [joseph.hobbs@cox.net](mailto:joseph.hobbs@cox.net) for more information

### RV-4 PARTIALLY BUILT KIT

\$13,500 Lycoming 0-290-D2, kit for \$3,000 or \$16,000 for both. Bill Refrow 602-843-9862 [w7lov@cox.net](mailto:w7lov@cox.net)

### LYCOMING 0-360 A1A

Engine built up for RV project never completed. Invested \$50,000. Price very firm at \$25,000. Martin Del Giorgio [delgiorgiopels@gmail.com](mailto:delgiorgiopels@gmail.com)

### GARMIN GDL39 PORTABLE GPS

ADS-B Receiver with free Weather and Dual-Link Traffic. Battery Pack with extra Battery included. Works with all Apple Products. Brand new in the box, \$400. Ken Roth 602-228-5000, or e-mail: [RothDevCor@aol.com](mailto:RothDevCor@aol.com)

## SERVICES, ETC.

### OIL COOLER REPAIR AND SALES

Chapter member owned. R & E Cooler Service 800-657-0977 [www.oilcoolersvs.com](http://www.oilcoolersvs.com)

### ANNUALS

Owner Assisted. Jim Moss 520-440-2191 [www.northside-aviation.com](http://www.northside-aviation.com)

### FLIGHT INSTRUCTION, ETC.

Fred Gorrell Designated Pilot Examiner: Airplane: Private, Commercial, Instrument, ATP, ME and Lighter than Air: Private and Commercial. 602-942-2255, 602-418-2045, [fgorrell2@cox.net](mailto:fgorrell2@cox.net)

### HOMEBUILT AIRCRAFT CERTIFICATION

ABDAR Gary Towner 928-535-3600

### ANNUALS, RESTORATIONS, FABRIC WORK

Eloy Airport Julie White 520-466-3442

### AIRMEN PHYSICALS

Dr. Henry Givre AME, Chapter member and RV-4 owner. 520-836-8701

### MACHINE SHOP

High quality parts fabrication for homebuilts at a reasonable price. David Leverentz 520-898-4321

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[EAChapter1217@aol.com](mailto:EAChapter1217@aol.com)

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