



# The ThunderWord

Thunderbird Field EAA Chapter 1217

January 2017

Scottsdale, Arizona

## **PRESIDENT'S CORNER**

Greetings from my corner of the hangar! Chapter member Fred Gorrell was the man of the evening at our November meeting. He was presented with a very special lifetime achievement award by Ernie Copeland and Tina Buskirk from the FAA Scottsdale FSDO. Fred's family was able to make it, with one brother coming from Salt Lake City and another from Charlotte, NC. It was a really great meeting topped off with cake and drinks.

I was able to be around as Jack Pollack made the preparations for the first flight of his Swick-T. It is almost as much fun to watch someone else do a first flight as doing one yourself. His first flight went off perfectly and the plane performed as he expected it.

We still do not have a meeting place for the March meeting so carefully watch the newsletter for announcements so you don't end up at the wrong location! We have looked at several locations and will have a solution in the near future.

See you at the January meeting!

*Curtis*

## **JANUARY CHAPTER MEETING**

The next meeting of Thunderbird Field EAA Chapter 1217 will be held on Thursday, January 19th starting at 7 pm. The location is the Scottsdale Aviation Business Center, 15041 North Airport Drive. This month's guest speaker is valley aviation legend, Bill Cutter. Thanks to Dennis Smith for lining up this month's speaker. Bill Cutter is a fixed wing, helicopter and balloon pilot who has flown about every plane ever made. He currently has a Beech Staggerwing that he keeps at Sky Harbor.

## **NEW MEMBERS**

Paul Good joined our Chapter last month. He is a "Rainbird", meaning he escapes the rain for a few months by coming to Arizona. He is from Eatonville Washington and has an RV-4 and Piper Vagabond.

Steve Thompson also signed up after coming to a couple of meetings. Steve has a really nice Citabria hangared at Deer Valley.

## **CHAPTER HOLIDAY PARTY**

Ron and Sherrie Landon hosted our annual EAA Chapter 1217 Holiday Party last month. This is the seventh time they have hosted the event at their home. Good friends and good food mixed in with a holiday atmosphere made this a fun event for everyone.

## **CHAPTER NEWS & FIRST FLIGHTS**

**SWICK-T** Jack Pollack took to the skies in his homebuilt Swick-T last month. It is powered by a 160hp Lycoming O-320 and has many unique features including a Dynon Skyview with ADS-B and a ballistic parachute recovery system. Congratulations to Jack

**VANS RV-14A** Paul Shepard also took to the skies for the first time last month in his RV-14A. It is powered by a Lycoming IO-390-A1b6. Congratulations to Paul for job well done.

**NEXT PLANE TO FLY** Greg Brinker had a milestone event last week with his first engine run on his nearly-completed RV-7. Airworthiness inspection within the next few weeks and first flight to follow. Aircraft based at DVT. Looks like he will be the next Chapter 1217 member to get his project in the air!

**NEW PLANE** After an exhaustive hunt Cindy Irish has bought a flying RV-6A from Lake

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Havasu City. She said the help she got from Chapter members Paul Shepard and Lynn Miller made the hunt a lot of fun. She even

got a ride in Rodney Jerrell's RV-10 "Liberty" to pick up the new bird.



**Chapter member Fred Gorrell being presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award by Tina Buskirk of the Scottsdale FSDO**

## **VERY UNIQUE FEBRUARY MEETING PLANNED**

As our Chapter transitions meeting locations Chapter members Alan and Mary Travis have generously offered to host our February meeting at their home near 20th Street and Greenway. 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. It should be a fun filled, once in a life time, evening.

## **PAYSON AIRPORT RENAMED**

Rich Henry lived in a trailer at the airport to help pilots in all types of weather. He kept the airport open in the winter by plowing the runway with a tractor. Last month, the Payson Town Council linked his name permanently to the airport.

When no one had a helicopter to airlift sick and injured people to Valley hospitals, he took them there in his airplane. When the Payson airport had no fuel for pilots, he brought 55-gallon drums up in his truck. When a plane needed fixing, he was right there with his toolbox. When a lost pilot, low on fuel, tried to land, he would radio to them - day or night.

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### **Jack Pollack is all smiles after the first flight in his Swick-T**

Rich Henry all but fathered the Payson Municipal Airport. If you don't fly, you probably don't know his name. But he left his imprint on every corner of the Payson airport. For everything he did, Payson honored Henry last month by adding the tag line: Rich Henry Field to the airport sign. To a standing ovation from the huge crowd, Henry, 88, shakily stood with his family by his side. Through tears, he thanked the council and town for the honor

Henry became a fixture at the airport starting in 1977, just after the airport was paved. He and his wife Doris lived in a trailer at the airport for 15 years so they could help pilots at any time, day or night. Henry would keep a radio by his bed to talk to pilots lost or having difficulty, according to information collected by Marie Fasano, a pilot and friend of Henry.

He was known as the "The Man for All Seasons," responsible for keeping the airport

open year-round, no matter the weather. He would clear the landing strip of snow and when pilots needed mechanical help, Henry was the man who could fix just about anything. An old green school bus and shed held his mechanic shop. In all, he worked on more than 3,000 airplanes.

He helped get runway lights installed and added painted numbers and tie downs. For fuel, Henry would haul ten, 55-gallon drums of airplane fuel to the airport. He later repaired a used gasoline tanker from Yuma and used it to haul fuel.

In 1983, Henry and several others founded the Payson Pilots Association, which continues today.

In 1988, he started a flight school and through the years, taught some 100 people how to fly. He inspired dozens of children to become pilots through the Young Eagles program.

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“For many years, Rich was the first in line to give free flights to youngsters through the EAA Young Eagles,” Fasano wrote.

His greatest contribution, to the delight of many hungry pilots, was the Crosswinds Restaurant, which Henry and his wife opened in 1978. They opened the restaurant in an old town trailer. Pilots would call in their order and when they landed, their breakfast would be waiting. To this day, pilots come to the restaurant after a flight for a cup of coffee and slice of pie.

As the airport grew, so did the number of takeoffs and landings, going from 4,000 to

25,000 by 1989. In 1990, the town officially hired Henry to manage the airport. Before that, he made his living providing airplane maintenance, instruction, fuel and running the restaurant.

While the airport sign will now read Payson Municipal Airport, Rich Henry Field, the airport name won't change. Pilots will still use the same call sign when they radio to land at the airport. The only thing that will change is the airport sign and the tag line on marketing material.



**New Chapter 1217 Member Steve Thompson with his Citabria**

## **BACKCOUNTRY FLY-IN TO PLEASANT VALLEY**

Saturday February fourth is the date for this year's Back Country Fly-In at Pleasant Valley Airport. There will be contests for spot landing and daylight precision bombing. Everyone is invited to fly in, camp over night, or just drive out for the day and enjoy the camaraderie.

## **ROY GETS TEN YEARS**

Roy Coulliette has been between a preverbal rock and a hard place for the past few years with his plans for Pleasant Valley Airport. The Arizona State Trust Land Division wanted him

on a year to year lease and he wanted a ten year lease.

Roy reached out to the aviation community to write letters to Lisa Atkins, who heads up the department, telling them what a vital role Pleasant Valley Airport plays to general aviation.

The plan worked and last month the Arizona State Trust Land Division signed a ten year lease with the airport assuring it will be around for another ten years. Roy wants to thank everyone who took the time to write letters.



**Greg Brinker with his RV-7 after Running the Engine for the First Time**

## **BEARHAWK LSA FLYS**

The first flight of your homebuilt airplane is an exciting time, and Bearhawk Aircraft has passed along the story of a Bearhawk LSA aircraft built by a customer from Quick-Build kits. Owner/builder Bruce McElhoe of California, certified and flew his Bearhawk LSA.

The Bearhawk LSA was designed, built and tested by Bob Barrows, maker of the original Bearhawk 4-Place. Bearhawk Aircraft offers a Quick-Build (QB) kit of the two-place tandem seated Bearhawk LSA. Resembling the Piper Super Cub and other high-wing aircraft used for sport, recreation and utility, the Bearhawk LSA differs slightly with its single-strut-braced all aluminum wings and advanced Riblett 30-613.5 airfoil. The aircraft is a lightweight design that meets Sport Pilot requirements.

Mark Goldberg, owner of AviPro Aircraft is the maker of Bearhawk QB kits, a lineup of three aircraft designs manufactured to meet the 51% amateur-built rule

The first customer-built Bearhawk LSA (from a QB kit) flew the week of elections and

Veterans Day 2016. Empty weight came in at 821 lbs. Owner Bruce McElhoe of Reedley, California was pleased with how it flew. Bruce had received his kit 3½ years prior. Bruce has also restored several aircraft including a Travelaire D4000 that won Grand Champion at the Cactus Fly-In a few years back

“Upon unpacking the kit, I was pleased to find that the workmanship was excellent,” stated Bruce. He continued, “The wing was fabricated to the extent that I did not have to build a jig; I only had to rig ailerons and rivet the bottom skin. The top skin came finish riveted. The steel fuselage is all welded and ready for installing the interior systems.

“I chose to cover the fuselage and control surfaces using the Poly-Fiber system. By diligently following the instruction manual, the fabric came out smooth and shiny. I like the lines and general appearance of the airplane.

“I found a low-time Continental C90 engine that I installed without a generator (to avoid the requirement for a transponder and ADS-B). A small lithium battery drives a lightweight

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starter. The propeller is composite from Catto Propellers.

“My first flight went very smoothly. The airplane was off the ground much sooner than I expected. I barely had the throttle full forward. I did a few steep turns and stalls at altitude to get the feel of the airplane. Stalls are docile at 30 mph with no surprises. The

airplane glides much farther than I expected, so I had to slip on the approach, again well behaved. The 3-point landing was smooth. I was pleased and very excited about this airplane. I now have a beautiful airplane, along with a few skinned knuckles, some paint-stained clothes, and a big grin.”



**Paul Shephard Recently made the First Flight in his RV-14A**

**59<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CACTUS FLY-IN**

The 59<sup>th</sup> annual Cactus Fly-In will be held on Friday and Saturday, March 3 and 4, 2017 at Casa Grande Municipal Airport (KCGZ). The Fly-In is sponsored by the Classic Aircraft Association of Arizona (CAAA).

In addition to looking at airplanes several special events are planned: On Friday night

a spaghetti dinner will be served at the KCGZ terminal building. An after-dinner “social” will be held at the TCB hanger. On Saturday night the awards banquet will be held in the terminal building.

Camper parking will be available. For more information go to [www.cactusflyin.org](http://www.cactusflyin.org)

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# ThunderAds

## **FOR SALE, ETC.**

### **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

### **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 [LynnMiller777@gmail.com](mailto:LynnMiller777@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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