



The ThunderWord

Thunderbird Field EAA Chapter 1217

July, 2007

Scottsdale, Arizona

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Greetings from my corner of the hangar! Last month we had the Phoenix Police Air Unit bring over one of their new helicopters and give a presentation on airborne law enforcement. Forty-eight folks turned up to hear Officer Steve Gillooly talk and get a look at the Koala helicopter he flies. Big thanks to Jim Berdick for putting together the program.

When the air conditioner in my shop can't keep the temp below ninety degrees it means its time to make the annual Oshkosh pilgrimage. This year will be my twenty fourth consecutive trip to the fly-in and each trip has lots of anticipation over what new planes will turn up. Watch the next ThunderWord to see what aerial oddity gets the "Coolest Ride" award and conversely the coveted "Iron Penguin" award.

Jack Pollack had his Stearman pictured in Sport Aviation last month and out of the blue an engineer from RAM Aircraft e-mailed him a scan of the newsletter put out during World War II right here at Scottsdale Airport. The one article of real interest was the origin of the airport and our EAA Chapter's name. The Legend of the Thunderbird is interesting reading and looks into something we can now understand. When our Chapter was formed we choose the name because it captured the spirit of the various Thunderbird Fields that had been here in the valley. The references to Southwest Airways refer to the company that originally constructed and owned the airport and not the Texas national airline.

Last month's Chapter 1217 meeting also marked a milestone for us, nine years of being an EAA Chapter! Thanks to all of you for your support.

Curtis

JULY MEETING

The July meeting of Thunderbird Field EAA Chapter 1217 will be held on Thursday, July 19th, in the Scottsdale Airport Terminal Building. The time is 7pm. Chapter 1217 Vice President Terry Emig and Secretary/Treasurer Jack Pollack will be running the show since your President will be in Wisconsin for AirVenture. This month's guest speaker will also be Terry Emig who has put together an interesting program. Guests are always welcome!

AIRVENTURE CHAPTER 1217

HAPPY HOUR

It has been a nine-year tradition that Chapter 1217 members attending the Oshkosh AirVenture Fly-in get together one evening and compare sightings and stories. We usually have it on the first night of the Fly-in, but the Beach Boys fans have asked us to move it to **Tuesday July 24th**.

We also have a new location since the last place was bulldozed. It is WENDT'S ON THE LAKE on Highway 45 in Van Dyne. If you follow highway 45 south from the seaplane base it will be about a ten-minute drive on your left. Wendt's is famous for its lake Perch fish dinners; they also have a full menu and bar. Time is around **7pm** so plan to enjoy some good old-fashioned Wisconsin hospitality. If you get lost their phone number is 920 688-5231.

VISIT WEB FOR LATEST

AIRVENTURE UPDATES

Get the latest news and information about the World's Greatest Aviation Celebration at <http://www.airventure.org/>, the official website of EAA AirVenture Oshkosh 2006!



JIM BERDICK WITH THE PHOENIX POLICE KOALA HELICOPTER THAT HE KEEPS IN THE AIR. JIM HITCHED A RIDE TO THE MEETING AND BACK TO DVT FROM THEM.

LOOKING FOR RIDE TO OSHKOSH

If you are going to Oshkosh and looking for someone to share expenses give Chapter 1217 member Ray Brown a call at 602-789-7400.

HOMEBUILTS ON THE RISE

The number of airworthiness certificates issued to amateur-built (homebuilt) aircraft in the United States now exceeds 29,000, according to the latest report released this week by the FAA. The report shows 29,079 homebuilt aircraft airworthiness certificates issued, continuing the movement's steady growth that adds approximately 1,000 newly certificated aircraft every year to the general aviation fleet.

SAN LUIS VALLEY PILOT'S ASSOCIATION FLY-IN

The show will be held July 14, 2007 at the San Luis Valley Regional (ALS) Alamosa, Colorado. The airport will be closed for the Air Show from 10:00am to 12:00 noon.

The fly-in will feature experimental, vintage and war bird aircraft, and aerobatic exhibitions. A pancake breakfast will be served from 7:00 to 10:00AM, lunch will be available. The event is free to the public. For more information, contact Paul Foster at 719-852-9860 (H) or 719-754-9080 (O).



photo by Roger Parish

TERRY EMIG FLYING HIS STEARMAN OVER THE MIDWAY MUSEUM IN SAN DIEGO HARBOR

ZODIAC RUDDER WORKSHOP

What better way to get into the swing of building a plane than attending the Silver Sky Aviation Rudder Workshop on Aug 25th & 26th. The Silver Sky workshop is airconditioned so you won't even break into a sweat. See pictures of the last workshop at <http://www.silverskyaviation.com/pages/first-rudder-workshop.html>

During the workshop you will start building your own Zenith kit aircraft (the rudder tail section of either the Zodiac XL or the STOL CH701). You don't need any tools or experience to attend. Cost is \$300 (plus tax & shipping of kit, approx. \$60). The workshop lasts two days and is held in the main hangar at Chandler Stellar Airpark; light breakfast and snacks included.

Call to sign up now. Class size is limited so call Peggy Thomas today to reserve your bench space at 480-785-5192. Brian Briggerman, who's completed Zodiac 601XL is pictured in this newsletter, got his start on building his plane at one of these workshops. You are under no obligation to purchase the rest of the kit after completing the rudder. Go to Silver Sky Aviation's website to learn more about the company and the line of planes they sell: www.silverskyaviation.com

NEWSLETTER BY E-MAIL ONLY

This newsletter is now being sent by e-mail to all Chapter 1217 members in pdf format and/or in Word format if preferred. Printing and postage costs currently run \$1.05 per copy. If you would like to receive the newsletter by e-mail only, please let me know. ronkassik@cox.net



BRIAN BRIGGERMAN'S ZODIAC 601XL AT SEDONA



My airplane at the paint shop. It's a little wild for me but with the politicians destroying our country, I wanted to make a patriotic statement. Brian Briggerman

Legend of the Thunderbird

By *Charles L. Mathewson*

Cashier, Southwest Airways

In two years of operations—during which time cadets from twenty-nine countries have flown under its watchful wings—the Southwest Airways Thunderbird has become known in literally the four corners of the earth. Strangely enough, very little has been known as to the origin of this colorful and dramatic insignie, except that a myth from Indian lore of bygone days had been reinterpreted to serve as the symbol for a most modern of human accomplishments—flying.

Extensive research shows that the Thunderbird was not a universal concept of American Indian mythology. It was known to some nations; not to others.

There also is a variance among tribes as to the meaning of this symbol, showing that primitive man always has tried to explain the mysteries of natural forces by the best logic obtainable within his group. Most frequent belief is that the Thunderbird represents a good luck talisman for one about to embark on a journey, regardless of its purpose.

Differences in the description of the Thunderbird show that the characters composing the ensemble, while fundamentally the same, merely were interpreted differently by the several tribes to which it was known.

Northern Indians, such as the Winnebagoes of Wisconsin who named a tribe of their nation after it, associated the Thunderbird with light-



CHIEF WIPALA WICKI presents original Thunderbird insignie.

ning . . . believed to be caused by the opening and shutting of its eyes, and thunder . . . believed to be caused by the flapping of its wings. Southwest Indians, living in a region where thunderstorms are few and far between, associate it collectively with the natural flora, the cactus flower, "something sought after," and the clock face or hogan, which denotes to them a permanent home.

Navajos, the silversmiths of the Southwest, hammer Thunderbirds out of silver, fashioned with three-pronged wings (three lines of birds in flight) or with five-pronged wings (the five eagle feathers symbolical of "chief" or leader). The head, turned to the left by some artists or craftsmen and to the right by others, is an important part of the thunderbird to the Navajos. The head is represented by rattlesnake jaws, meaning "strength and health," and the eye by the sun, for "happiness"—or it is replaced with an eagle's head with a beak. The single eye, signifying "ever watchful", remains in both designs.

The Hopi Indians of Arizona identify the eagle, which to them is from the Thunderbird family, with a Sky God, and many of them keep captive eagles for the plumage and

bones used in decorations and ceremonies of their tribes.

In accordance with their conception and use of the symbol, the Indians adopted ceremonial ritual to fit the occasions. The Winnebagos, for example, before going into conflict, offered up this prayer:

"Oh grandfather Thunderbird, here I stand with tobacco in my hand. Grant us what you granted our grandfathers! Accept our humble offering of tobacco. We are sending buckskins from which you can make a headdress; we are preparing a meal for you from the meat of an animal who is like ourselves. And not I alone but all the members of my tribe and all the members of the other tribes present here, beseech you to accept our gifts. Grant us but this favor—that we may be victorious on the warpath, that we may kill an enemy outright, that we may receive the greatest of all honors, return safely with the scalp of an enemy.

"This, indeed, would constitute a high honor; this, indeed, would give meaning to life. We have prepared ourselves fitly, and I and all my kinsmen sit here humble in heart, a sight to awaken pity, so that we can receive your blessing and live a good life."

Such a prayer is a war or battle precedent and not a peace or good fortune prophecy as is the omen of the Southwest Indians.

Among some tribes, the Thunderbird is spoken of as a bird of giant size which flies around creating havoc and destruction. The Omaha Indians believed the Thunderbird was a benefactor who lived in a cedar forest.

It is doubtful if the original Thunderbird myth will ever be known, for as indicated in this brief article, versions have been so changed, added to, and interpreted, that the truly authoritative story has been lost forever.

When in ancient days our Injun friends

Came the Thunderbird a-woeing,
They weren't so dumb as you shall see.

They knew what they were doing.

That ferocious fowl with his fixed scowl

Has come down through the ages.

A symbol of determined might—
The "bird" that pays our wages.

ThunderAds

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PROP EXTENSIONS AND OTHER GOODIES

Prop extension, fits small Continental \$150., 0-200 starter \$150., Old cylinders for lamps \$50. each. One man Midget Sub. \$2,500. Curtis Clark 602 953-2571

RV-4 PARTS

RV-4 tail kit, new in box, minimum work done \$650., RV-4 wing parts: leading edge skins, tank skins, tank baffles, and top and bottom wing skins, prepunched, new \$500. Mike 602-862-0699

1979 CESSNA TURBO 182RG

287 SMOH, O₂, A/P, NDH Arv Schultz 602 275-1016

KITLOG SOFTWARE COMPANY

Provides a web based builder's log. The perfect business for someone with good computer skills and a desire to travel to Fly-ins. Contact Chapter 1217 member Paul Besing at pbsing@yahoo.com

MISCELLANEOUS ENGINES, PARTS, ETC.

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**Thunderbird Field
EAA Chapter 1217
5450 East Voltaire
Scottsdale, Arizona 85254**

