



# The ThunderWord

Thunderbird Field EAA Chapter 1217

July 2015

Scottsdale, Arizona

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Greetings from my corner of the hangar! Last month Charlie Simpson from the New Nose Corporation gave a talk on the extensive restoration and certification efforts that went in to preparing a Grumman Albatross for a round the world flight. It was really interesting to learn about the different versions of the plane and the history behind it.

This is one of the months where a lot of our members escape the heat to get away even for a few days from the desert inferno. On the day it hit 115, my hangar temperature was 137, so I am limiting my airport time to the early hours for a while. If you visit an interesting aviation event or museum, send me a few pictures so we can share them in the newsletter.

My annual Oshkosh AirVenture pilgrimage is on for July and I look forward to visiting with old friends and seeing the newest ideas in flying machines. I am planning to have some pictures and my opinions in next month's newsletter.

See you at the July meeting!

*Curtis*

## JULY CHAPTER MEETING

The next meeting of Thunderbird Field EAA Chapter 1217 will be held on Thursday, July 16, starting at 7 pm. The location is the Scottsdale Aviation Business Center, 15041 North Airport Drive. This month's guest speaker is Dan Olsen, President of Sibran Fuels. He is going to talk about the avgas self-serve business, as well as give some insights on composite aircraft construction. Dan has built a Lancair 320 that now has 12 years and 900 hrs on it, and is in the process of building a Lancair IV-P. Thanks to Chapter

member Paul Shepard for setting up this month's program.

Guests are always welcome!

## WHAT IS SIBRAN?

At the request of the local pilots of the Deer Valley airport, the Sibran – Deer Valley self-serve aviation fuel station was created. The pilot community had been asking for convenient 24/7 access to competitively priced avgas for several years. Sibran – Deer Valley opened in December 2008 and was constructed to state of the art industry standards, including dual dispensers so two aircraft can fuel simultaneously. In addition, the facility is outfitted with a 1,500-gal tank for assurance of supply, and with continuous electronic monitoring for safety. Sibran - Deer Valley has on-site staff to perform daily quality control checks that are the strictest in the industry.

Sibran's pricing strategy is to offer the best price possible – to all pilots, all the time. No gimmicks, secret handshakes, Twitter or Facebook accounts needed. Everyone gets the same price, all the time. You don't have to wonder if your airplane has big enough fuel tanks to get a special discount.

## AIRVENTURE HAPPY HOUR

It has now been a 17-year tradition of Chapter 1217 members attending the Oshkosh AirVenture Fly-In to get together one evening and compare sightings and stories. This year, on the first day of the Fly-In, we will have our annual AIRVENTURE HAPPY HOUR AND FISH FRY at WENDT'S ON THE LAKE. Come and join us for some traditional Wisconsin food and libations. That's on Monday, July 20, 2015, around 7 pm.

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If you want to plug it into your GPS, the address is N9699 Lake Shore Road, Van Dyne, WI 54979-9703 (920) 688-5231;

[www.wendtsonthelake.com](http://www.wendtsonthelake.com). They are located 3.8 miles south of the seaplane base.



**Sibran – Deer Valley Self-Serve Aviation Fuel Station**

## **REASONS TO ATTEND OSHKOSH**

- F-35 makes Oshkosh its first civilian U.S. air show
- Dierks Bentley to headline opening day concert - Presented by Ford Motor Company
- See the F-22 Demonstration Team fly Wed., Fri., Sat., and Sun.
- World's largest gathering of warbirds
- Salute to Veterans, on Friday, July 24, featuring Gary Sinise and the Lt. Dan Band
- Airbus A350 flight test aircraft set for demonstrations
- Rutan Legacy Day activities Tuesday, July 21
- Massive B-52 to land in Oshkosh
- More than 10,000 airplanes and 2,500 showplanes
- Peruse what's new with more than 800 exhibitors
- Valdez STOL demonstrations return

## **SPECIAL PITTS SPECIALS AT AIRVENTURE**

A number of historic and noteworthy Pitts airplanes are expected at Oshkosh this year to help the International Aerobatic Club

celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Pitts S1 at EAA AirVenture Oshkosh 2015.

Pitts S-1A N2004 – Owner: Don Rhynalds, Bealeton, Virginia - The oldest S-1A in the world, built by Curtis Pitts himself.

Pitts S-1C N125RA - Owner/pilot: Robert Armstrong, Bishop, Georgia - This S-1C has competed in all IAC categories of competition and first appeared on the national scene in 1981 in Armstrong's hands. He later flew the airplane in Unlimited competition, qualified for the United States team, and this aircraft competed at the World Aerobatic Championships in Le Havre, France in 1992.

Pitts NX86401 – Owner: Peter Gauthier, Sonoma, California - This Pitts, now under construction, is a replica of the second Pitts that Curtis built and was initially flown in air shows by Phil Quigley. In the late 1940s, it was purchased by Betty Skelton who flew it in its original livery for a short time but later painted it in the scheme it is known for today and re-registered the aircraft as N22E. The original N22E, Little Stinker, now resides at the National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C.

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Pitts S-2A N80003 - Owner: Charlie Sikes, Auburn, Alabama - This is the same S-2A that famous air show pilot Jim Holland performed in during the 1970s. It is also the airplane in which Holland flew actor William Shatner on a sports television program.

Pitts S-1S N169CM – Owner: Gregory Baker, Woodland Park, Colorado - This is the aircraft that Debby Rihn-Harvey flew in the World Aerobatic Championships in the 1980s.

Pitts S-1 N8M – Owner: Ted Teach, Dayton, Ohio - This Pitts is a replica of the 1950 national aerobatic contest winner - Caro Bailey's airplane. It was the second S-1 built and sold by Curtis Pitts.

Pitts S-2AM N8028 – Owner: Dan McGarry, Hinsdale, Illinois - One of the original IAC members (IAC 30) since the 1970s, it started life as a stock S-2A but has been extensively modified over the years for more

performance. McGarry flew it in the Advanced category for decades.

Pitts S-1-11B N111PU – Owner: Sean Worthington, Campbell, California - One of only about 10 Pitts S-1-11Bs in existence and one of the last aircraft Curtis designed. This model of the Pitts was flown at the World Aerobatic Championships in 1996 by Robert Armstrong. N111PU was built by Steve Wolf and features custom wing-root fairings to eliminate tail buffet and with ram air induction to increase power to the cold sump Lycoming IO-540. It is the only S-1-11B registered for EAA AirVenture this year.

### GOODYEAR'S NEW ZEPPELIN

The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company's newest airship, Wingfoot One, will continue a long tradition of Oshkosh Goodyear appearances with its inaugural visit to EAA AirVenture Oshkosh 2015.

Wingfoot One is the first of Goodyear's new generation of semi-rigid airships. First flown in spring 2014, the airship was manufactured by Germany's ZLT Zeppelin Luftschifftechnik and assembled by a team of Zeppelin and Goodyear engineers. It represents the first major structural change of a Goodyear airship in nearly 70 years.

The new airship features advanced on-board avionics and flight control systems with the capability to travel at faster speeds and hover in place. The spacious passenger gondola will provide an enhanced in-flight experience with sweeping, panoramic windows.

Wingfoot One is scheduled to arrive in Oshkosh on Tuesday, July 21, and will be on display and fly at the event through Sunday, July 26. EAA AirVenture Oshkosh 2015 attendees will have the opportunity to see Wingfoot One perform in various air shows and meet the Wingfoot One pilots at a variety of events ranging from autograph sessions to forum presentations.

The Wingfoot One appearance continues a more than 40-year tradition of Goodyear

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airship appearances at the popular event. The first Goodyear blimp appearance at the EAA fly-In was in 1971, when the airship America came to Oshkosh. Several generations of Goodyear airships have flown to and over EAA fly-ins since then.

Goodyear will continue its participation as an EAA AirVenture exhibitor in 2015 – this year as part of the Goulian Aerosports booth (No.

488). In addition, there will be a special Goodyear store where AirVenture attendees can purchase Goodyear airship merchandise at Booth No. 2131.

Goodyear will introduce two additional semi-rigid airships to the skies over the next two years as it phases out its two remaining GZ-20 models that are based in Pompano Beach, Florida, and Carson, California.



**Goodyear's Newest Airship, Wingfoot One**

## **SEABEES TO SWARM**

Seventy years ago this year, the prototype Republic RC-3 Seabee seaplane made its first flight in Farmingdale, New York, and seaplane enthusiasts will recognize that milestone at EAA AirVenture Oshkosh 2015. A dozen or more examples of the four-seat, all-metal amphibian are expected to attend and participate in special activities both on convention grounds and at the Vette Seaplane Base.

Land-based Seabees will be parked in rows south of the ultralight landing strip for most of the week, while at the Vette Seaplane Base a number of activities are planned for the latter part of the week and weekend. They include a presentation under the big tent on Seabee history at 9 a.m. on Friday, July 24.

Later Friday there will be flybys at both the seaplane base as well as at Wittman, with special parking of all the attending Seabees in the lagoon to try and set a world record of Bees all in one spot. According to the seaplane chairman, they already have 12 airplanes confirmed to attend.

"If we were to get a dozen, we'd be really happy," said Paul Seehafer, chairman of the EAA Seaplane Base. "The Seabee community is very close-knit, and they're real excited about us honoring them this year, so we're hoping to get more examples in one place than anywhere in the last four or five decades."

On Saturday, July 25, tune into EAA Radio at 10 a.m. for live interviews of Seabee pilots

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and “other interesting characters” at the Seaplane Base.

In a related story, Canadian company Robinson V-8 Power, which is designing a modern all-composite seaplane based on the Seabee, will participate at the Friday morning presentation.

The Seabee was one of the aircraft types that saw large numbers of airplanes built after World War II as aircraft manufacturers hoped that military pilots returning from the war would continue flying civilian aircraft as private pilots. While that did not occur to the

extent companies predicted, between 1945 and 1948, Republic Aviation Corp. built a total of 1,060 Seabees, falling shy of the company’s predicted production rate of 5,000 per year. Still during that period, only Piper’s Cub and Super Cub, Beechcraft’s Bonanza, and Cessna’s 140s and 150s surpassed the Bee in numbers produced.

Republic sold its last new Seabee in 1948 and refocused on military contracts. It developed the F-84 Thunderjet, which was built on the same assembly lines used to build over 1,000 Seabees.



**Louis Hudgin’s Seabee**

**EAA Chapter 1217 Personnel**

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**Louis Hudgin's Seabee Still Puts a Smile on its Owner's Face at Lake Roosevelt**



**Seabees are Equally at Home on Land or on the Water**

# ThunderAds

## FOR SALE, ETC.

### 2010 VAN'S RV-12 ELSA

155Hrs. T.T. A&E, Garman SL-40, GTX-327, 496 GPS, Dynon D-180 w/AP-74 Auto Pilot, A&P Built, Professional Paint, Located DVT \$85,000., Contact Paul for photo's via e-mail [pmshep@live.com](mailto:pmshep@live.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 \$3,000 or \$16,000 for both Bill Refrow 602 843-9862, [w7lov@cox.net](mailto:w7lov@cox.net)

### ZENITH STOL CH 710

Estate sale. Aircraft close to finishing. Located in Yuma, AZ. Contact Bob Carter for more information [BobC@buildersguild.com](mailto:BobC@buildersguild.com)

### VANS AIRCRAFT RV WHEEL PANTS

Pressure recovery wheel pants. New never used, painted, or drilled \$400. Jack 480 695-4441

### 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)

### PULSE AUTOCYCLE

FAA got you grounded? Want a fun project that captures the thrill of flying? Jim Bede designed Pulse Autocycle for sale \$22,000., Arizona title and current registration. Curtis 602 710-4494 [azskybum@aol.com](mailto:azskybum@aol.com)

### LYCOMING 0-360 A1A

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

### CURTISS REED PROPELLER

Model 55511. 82" SAE 1 taper shaft. (Warner, Ranger, Maytag 604) Make me an offer, I want it gone. Patrick McGarry: 602-430-0140

### 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.

### ESTATE SALE

Chapter member Marty Williams has flown west and his family is selling his Zenith 701 kit. Contact his son Keith at 480-998-4873.

### SERVICES

#### 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, and ME. Lighter than Air: Private and Commercial. 602-942-2255, Cell 602-418-2045, [fgorrell2@cox.net](mailto:fgorrell2@cox.net)

### HOME BUILT 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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Send an E-mail to: [EAChapter1217@aol.com](mailto:EAChapter1217@aol.com)

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