



The ThunderWord

Thunderbird Field EAA Chapter 1217

June 2013

Scottsdale, Arizona

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Greetings from my corner of the hangar! Last month's meeting featured Jerry Breeyear from Salome, Arizona, leading us through the restoration of his rare Commonwealth Skyranger to its award winning condition. We learned about the plane and its history as well as the process and pitfalls of restoring it. Restoring a plane requires a different approach than building a kit or from plans. Jerry pretty much laid it out when hunting for missing parts, you do as much scavenging and research as possible and then when all else fails you break out your wallet and get it done!

We lost a good friend and Chapter member, Dr. Jim Beauchene, this month. Besides being a very talented surgeon, Jim was the consummate professional when it came to flying. He was one of the few people on a very short list that I would ride in back of his plane knowing I was in good hands.

Tod Dickey summed up the feeling his friends had for him:

I try to not let these things get to me, but Jim was a very good and careful pilot. Red Lake is the northernmost city that can be reached by road, and Jim would go there for fuel and supplies. His dream was to be a bush pilot like his father. At least he was living his dream when he died.

I've never met anyone who liked to fly as much as he did. He would fly 100 miles just to get ice, and he really didn't need the ice.

It's sad, ironic, but fitting that Brenda was at his side. She loved the outdoors and accepted flying as the means to get there. I never met a woman that loved to fish as much

as she did. And she was good at it. I understand she loved to hunt also.

They were both very wonderful people, and will be missed.

Many of us in the Chapter learned about Jim's background when he spoke at the meeting in April, but he concentrated on the flying and fishing side of things. I have written and put together a bio of his legacy and life in this month's newsletter.

See you at the June meeting!

Curtis

JUNE CHAPTER MEETING

The June meeting of Thunderbird Field EAA Chapter 1217 will be held on Thursday, June 20, starting at 7 pm, in the **Scottsdale Aviation Business Center**. This month's guest speaker is CarolAnn Garratt who is flying all the way from Ocala, Florida to speak about her three around the world flights in her Mooney M20J.

CarolAnn is a former manager with a Fortune 500 company. She earned her private pilot license in 1978 and her instrument rating in 1980. In 1996, she completed her commercial license and bought a Mooney in 2000.

After her mother suffered and died from ALS, she flew around the world in 2003 to raise awareness and donations for ALS. To date, her speaking engagements and book about the flight, *Upon Silver Wings*, have raised \$80,000 for ALS research. Not content to just fly, CarolAnn built her first plane in 2006. Today she owns and flies three different

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aircraft. She flies over 400 hours a year including flying students with the EAA Young Eagles program, the sick and needy with Angel Flights and instructing cadets with the Civil Air Patrol.

Guests are always welcome, and CarolAnn will have copies of her book for sale at the meeting.

Please be sure to bring your sweet tooth as we will have cake to celebrate Chapter 1217's 15th birthday after the meeting.



CarolAnn Garratt's Around the World Mooney

CHAPTER 1217 CELEBRATES 15 YEARS

As June rolls around each year we have to raise a glass and celebrate another year as an EAA Chapter!

It couldn't happen without (in non-alphabetical order) VP Terry Emig, newsletter editor Ron Kassik, Jack Pollack who runs the business side of things, Rusty Gavigan who handles the dues notices, Denny Myrick who handles the "Chapter Boutique," and myself Curtis Clark who pushes the panic button each month trying to put together programs that will make people show up at the meetings. These guys have been working hard to make Chapter 1217 the best Chapter in the country for 15 years!

This year we faced a new challenge of moving to a new meeting place. It caused us to pause and realize that there is a limit on how large the Chapter can grow because of
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the limited meeting location size. For now we are going to concentrate on improving benefits for our existing membership rather than outgrowing our meeting location.

The barometer we use to measure how good a job we are doing is how many people show up for meetings and events. So far attendance has been outstanding. Besides serving as a clearing house for information on the EAA, we want to encourage (force?!) everyone, young and old, to get off the couch one night a month and come to the Chapter meeting. In addition to the program and stale jokes, there are probably Chapter friends who want to see your smiling face!

Chapter 1217 is in excellent health with a little over \$2,300 in the bank. Our single biggest expense in the past has been printing and mailing newsletters. With the switch to electronic newsletters we can use some of

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those funds for improving the member experience. Thanks to Denny Myrick, we have a fully stocked Chapter store with hats, patches and shirts available at the meetings. We sell items at fairly close to break-even prices, but it does tie up about \$600 to have the rotating inventory fully stocked.

What does the future hold for us? You can count on meetings with interesting speakers, more social events, and who knows what else. Thanks to everyone who identifies a potential speaker so we can reel them in for our meetings. We appreciate all the input about what's important to you and run each and every idea up the windsock.

MAY DAY FLY-IN / DRIVE-IN PICNIC

Saturday May 11 was the date for the annual Thunderbird Field EAA Chapter 1217 MAY

Some Photos taken at the May Day Fly-In / Drive-In

DAY FLY-IN / DRIVE-IN. Jack Pollack again hosted this year's event at his Deer Valley north side hangar.

This year we were helped out by Dean Gilderoy who donated the use of his collection of chairs and tables so we didn't have to rent them. Thanks, Dean! Also thanks to Mark Nuessle who loaned us his jumbo size BBQ grill. The really great thing about this year's event was the member participation. We had probably 20 folks show up and help set up the food and tables, and a like amount help fold up the tables and chairs and clean up. While attendance was down due to the high temperatures, those people that braved the 100 degree temps had a great time.



Roger Parish & His Aeronca Champ



Dennis Smith's Completed and Flying Sonix



Jerry Lane and his Schweizer 1-26



Jack Pollack & Brian Mitchell Man the Grill



Jim Armstrong & His Sonix Project



Proud Comanche Owner

JIM BEAUCHENE



Jim and Brenda Beauchene

Anyone who ever met Jim Beauchene would be swept up in his outgoing personality. Jim had a love of his wife and family but a really deep-rooted passion for fishing and his love of flying seaplanes. He made a living as a hand reconstructive surgeon and was one of the most talented in his field.

Many of us got to understand his deep passions for fishing and flying with the two separate presentations he did at our monthly Chapter meetings, the last one having been in April. The last time I talked with him he said he wanted to do a third presentation because this summer he was going to have

some great flying and fishing stories. I guess that's one story that will never be told.

The following article below was borrowed from the Sault Ste. Marie newspaper and it tells some of Jim's background.

A Sault-born doctor who died earlier this month in a plane crash in Northwestern Ontario was an accomplished pilot with strong aviation roots, say family and friends.

Ontario Provincial Police confirmed Monday that Dr. Jim Beauchene, 59, and his wife, Brenda, 58, of Phoenix, Ariz. were found dead in the wreckage of the plane, which crashed shortly after takeoff on Red Lake. The Beauchenes were enroute to a tourist camp north of the town of Red Lake, Ont. which itself is about 530 kilometres northwest of Thunder Bay and less than 100 kilometres from the Manitoba border.

Dr. Bob Beauchene said his brother Jim was an accomplished physician and pilot, both of them having grown up in the Sault surrounded by float planes at the Ontario Provincial Air Service (OPAS) where their late father was one of the province's earliest water bomber pilots.

He called his brother's death "an unbelievable tragedy."

"We spent every minute we could as children at the ramp and inside the hangar," at OPAS, said Bob, who practiced as an ophthalmologist in the Sault for 11 years and is now based in Wisconsin. "It was an exciting place to be as a child and we both got hooked on aviation."

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The Transportation Safety Board of Canada is investigating Thursday's crash, which involved a Beech 18 float plane. OPP divers found the wreckage at the bottom of the lake on Saturday.

Bob said little is known about why his brother's plane went down. "It was a windy, gusty day, but not outside the envelope of flying, so it will be some time before they sort through all the facts," he said.

George Mersereau, who worked with Jim and Bob's father, George Beauchene, said he talked to Jim on a recent visit to the Sault about the twin-engine Beech 18 float plane he had bought and his plans to operate a fly-in fishing lodge with his wife when he retired.

Mersereau said Jim was somewhat leery of the state of the tourism industry, but excited and optimistic about the lodge he had acquired. "It was quite a popular spot and the fishing was excellent," said Mersereau.

Bob said operating a fly-in lodge was something his brother and Brenda had been working toward for the last 10 years as Jim

prepared for retirement. They had only recently begun operating Beauchene's McCusker Lakes Camp. "It was something they wanted to do," said Bob.

Having trained in medicine at the University of Western Ontario, the University of Alberta, and Stanford University, Jim practiced as a hand doctor in Phoenix since 1987. Brenda was a teacher. They leave behind three grown children – twin daughters, Jessica and Briana, and a son, Mark.

Beauchene's father, George, was one of the first aerial water bombing pilots in the province and performed demonstrations for many years at the Canadian National Exhibition, according to his entry on the Canadian Bushplane Heritage Centre website.

Bob, who is also a pilot, said his mother, Betty, who died in January, had aviation in her blood as well. Her two brothers were flight instructors during the Second World War. "We had a double-barreled exposure to aviation growing up," said Bob.



The Last Sunset on McCusker Lake



Members and Friends Enjoying the Eats at the May Day Fly-In / Drive-In



A Show-Worthy Homebuilt seen at the Fly-In

AIRVENTURE HAPPY HOUR

It has now been a 15-year tradition of Chapter 1217 members attending the Oshkosh AirVenture Fly-In 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 29, 2013, around 7 pm.

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. They are located 3.8 miles south of the seaplane base.



Manfred and Kelly Kreiselmeier enjoyed an air tour of Seattle on a Kenmore Air Beaver

LOOKING FOR A RIDE TO OSHKOSH

Chapter member Ron Landon has an interesting proposition if you are flying to Oshkosh for AirVenture. Ron is offering to help out with the expenses. Ron's number is 602 616-6620 – give him a call or shoot him a text.

ThunderAds

FOR SALE, ETC.

THORP T-211

Amateur built, smooth wing, 2 seat Thorp. 400 hrs engine & airframe. Wing span 25ft., Empty weight 784 lbs, Gross weight 1270 lbs, lcom 200 radio, Garmin Transponder, Sterba wood prop, also tools. \$23,500.⁰⁰ Larry Pritchard 480-816-6214, or Brian Briggerman 480-837-6510

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.

CURTISS REED PROPELLER \$4,000 Model 55511. 82" SAE 1 taper shaft. (Warner, Ranger, Maytag 604) 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.

2009 LANCAIR 360

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

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

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