



The ThunderWord

Thunderbird Field EAA Chapter 1217 March, 2009

Scottsdale, Arizona

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Greetings from my corner of the hangar! Hats off to Chapter member Jim Beauchane who put together an excellent presentation on "A Beaver goes home to Canada". It was great how he tied in his Father's adventures as an Ontario bush pilot with how he wanted to return to those very waters and catch some fish with his own son Mark. Apparently the fish didn't hear the Beaver sneak up on them, Beavers are noted for speed and quietness, and they had success. I encouraged Jim to use his talk as an outline to write a book in his non-existent free time for little to no pay and he reminded me he had a floatplane to feed!

As I am writing this the Cactus Fly-In ended yesterday. I want to thank every one of you who took time out of your busy lives to come down and keep this Arizona aviation tradition alive. For fifty one years people have chosen the first full weekend in March to travel to Arizona to share their planes and stories. Thanks to all of you that helped play a part in making it happen. Our Chapter 1217 VP Terry Emig and his wife Michele work at the Cactus Fly-In, for free, year around. So next time you see him slap him on the back and say thanks for keeping such a time honored tradition alive.

Nothing says EAA Chapter more than a Fly-In and last month we were given the opportunity to splash in at Lake Pleasant. Everyone had a great time and lots of interest in seaplanes and sport aviation was generated. We say that we are trying to be ambassadors of grass roots flying but we seem to have a heck of a good time doing it!

While at the Cactus Fly-In, I was able to sit down with Jim, the new guy running the Copperstate Fly-in, and Mike Still. We mapped out some strategies on Chapter 1217

and all the other Arizona Chapters getting more involved with future Copperstate Fly-in's. They seem like really good guys and they look forward to working together with us.

Hope to see all of you at the March Chapter meeting. I have always said for an LSA to be the plane of the future it needs to have folding wings, so stop out and see what the future of general aviation might look like.

Curtis

MARCH CHAPTER MEETING

The March meeting of Thunderbird Field EAA Chapter 1217 will be held on Thursday, March 19th in the Scottsdale Airport Terminal Building. The time is 7pm. This month we are taking a turn in a completely different direction. Paul Rhodes who owns Copperstate Sport Aviation is going to bring his Remos G3 Light Sport Aircraft to the meeting and give all of a chance to see this really nice folding wing Light sport plane. Paul is the dealer for these as well as involved in flight training with them so he can answer all your questions about Sport Pilot, LSA, and how to get up in the air. You probably want to get there before the meeting to see the plane before the sun goes down! Remember, guests are always welcome!

LAKE PLEASANT

SEAPLANE FLY-IN

It is said that success is sweet and that must have been the feeling when Tod Dickey parted the waves at Lake Pleasant in his beautiful Grumman Widgeon last month, it was the first legal seaplane landing in fifty years on the lake.

What was primarily planned as a way to take the first step to show park officials that seaplanes should be allowed to land on the

lake morphed into a great EAA Chapter Fly-In picnic. When you take seaplanes, burgers on the grill, perfect weather, bikini clad women and big sandy beaches what could be a better way to enjoy a Saturday in March while the rest of the country is up to its pilot's license in snow? Well three out of five equaled 100% success in this case! There was a great turnout of Chapter members to pick rocks, sweep and rake the parking area so the planes could taxi out of the water. Then the planes showed up and waddled up on dry land, we fired up the grill and everyone enjoyed a great event with plenty of food, drinks and hangar flying. Park Rangers, Sheriffs office, and lots of boater stopped by to see what was going on and enjoy the camaraderie. After you look at the pictures I

am sure you will want to put Lake Pleasant on your Fly-In calendar.

Jim Swedback and Tod Dickey want to thank Chapter 1217 members for all their help at Lake Pleasant last Month. It was an excellent effort and greatly appreciated. We feel that the event went off very well and hopefully the Park Staff feels the same. The next step is for them to evaluate the responses from the survey of the boat folks. It has been nearly five years since Tod and I met and got started on this project. We had a meeting at Glendale Airport on April 16, 2004 to discuss various options. I guess the perseverance, at least to this point, has paid off!

Jim Swedback



photo by Boyd Coleman

Steve Lund's Lake and the Arizona Yacht Club in the background



Photos by Bernie Gross

Jim Beauchane's Cessna 206 and Ron Fortune's RC Cub



Tod Dickey's Widgeon and Steve Lund's Lake



Last Seaplane Departure from the Fly-In

CACTUS FLY-IN

The Fifty-first annual Cactus Fly-In is now in the history books. Two days of picture perfect weather led to a record turnout of display aircraft and grass roots aviation enthusiasts. Absent this year were the very old pre-1935 antiques but there was no shortage of planes to enjoy. Three Electra 12A's from as far away as Georgia flew in to park side by side. The back row of big iron had some rare birds: Goodyear Super Corsair, Douglas AD-1 Skyraider, Grumman Albatross, P-51D, Bamboo Bomber as well as many other rare planes. This year's Fly In also had a record turnout of ten Ercoupes which are experiencing a groundswell of restorations since most are Sport Pilot legal. One of the owners said there are more Ercoupes flying today than ten years ago.

The Grand Champion award went to an Electra 12A from Chino, California. Chapter 1217 members bringing home trophies were Bernie Gross who won People's Choice with his replica German Storch, Stu Bloemer who won Best Homebuilt with his Texas Sport Cub and Curtis Clark for Best Piper with his J-3 Cub.

Chapter 1217 members showed up in mass to help with the running of the show for the Antiquers. With the contributions of the local Casa Grande EAA Chapter 1445 we supplied 98% of the manpower to keep this event growing. A big thanks goes out to each of you that came down and donated your time. This year we actually had more volunteers that shifts to use them. This is a good thing! Everyone should have gotten a Cactus Fly-In shirt, if you didn't call Curtis at 602-710-4494 or e-mail at EAACChapter1217@aol.com and we will order one for you.



photo by Bill Unternaehrer

Three Stearmans in a Fly-By of the Cactus Fly-In Ramp

APA CHAPMAN RANCH FLY IN

Nancy Bencoter reports that this year's Arizona Pilots Association Chapman Ranch Fly-In is April 11, 2009. Through the APA's efforts Chapman Ranch now has an official FAA identifier, 58 AZ. This identifier will be listed on the new chart publications. Please visit the APA's web site www.azpilots.org for airstrip coordinates and safety guidelines.

The APA needs everyone to give the Chapman Ranch Fly-In the up most attention in getting the word out to help keep this airstrip open. Participation (that means eating breakfast at the Chapman Ranch Fly-In) and/or monetary donations to their 501C3 organization for this airstrip are needed to continue operations of Chapman Ranch Airstrip. There are some rules for operating at this airport so please visit the APA website and review the conditions and procedures. It also might be a good idea to break out the performance data for your plane and figure out the maximum load and temperature you can safely operate at this airport BEFORE you takeoff!

RS WARBIRDS

OPENING AT DEER VALLEY

The former BankOne 11,000 square foot hangar at the south east corner of the airport has been leased after being vacant since January 2008. This was the location of Advantage Avionics that was in operation for only a few months. The new owners are Tom Rowe and Mike Smith who will be operating under the name of "RS Warbirds." The new business could employ upwards of 20 people. The company plans to offer L-39 jet trainer maintenance and is also rebuilding five Shorts Tucano turboprop trainers.

FLY-IN AT THE LAKE

March 28 and 29 will be the Fly-In at the Lake, presented by Havasu Air Center, Lake Havasu City, Arizona in conjunction with the American Veteran's Traveling Tribute (The Traveling Vietnam Wall). Lake Havasu City will be hosting the American Veteran's Traveling Tribute. The wall is 80% of the actual size of the memorial in Washington DC. There will be dedications and recognitions of all branches of the military at this event; also safety seminars plus a dinner and dance. This is a truly a great opportunity

for fly-in guests. Event web site:
http://www.havasuairstcenter.com/about_future_events.html Contact information: Havasu Air Center 928-764-1999 or dantemarinelli@havasuairstcenter.com

THUNDER IN THE DESERT

Luke's "Thunder in the Desert" 2009 Open House will be March 21 and 22, 10:00 until 4:00 pm. This two-day event at Luke Air Force Base will include an airshow that will feature military and civilian aerobatic demonstrations and fly-bys. The U.S. Air Force's Aerial Demonstration Team, the Thunderbirds, will perform daily flight demonstrations. There will also be military and civilian aircraft on static display for the kids to climb on, as well as other exhibits, and attractions. General admission to "Thunder in the Desert" is free to anyone not on the terrorist watch list. No tickets are available for purchase or required for general entry. Off-base parking will be available for a small fee from the aforementioned people who can't get in for free.

4TH ANNUAL CENTRAL SIERRA HELICOPTER MEET

May 1-3, 2009 are the dates for the west's only all helicopter meet. It is open to Home Built and Factory ships at all stages of building. We love to have you bring your photo albums if you don't bring a ship. Camping on site is available or motel 2 miles away. Welcome in on Thursday. Call Hap or Nancy Miller 707-833-5905

EMERGENCY TOOL KIT

By Brian Lee EAA Chapter 441, Kent, WA
Recently, I found myself stranded at an airport with an engine that would not start...and me without any tools. I do have an "airport" tool bag packed and ready for those times when I'm going to work on the airplane, but at 25 pounds, I don't carry it along if I'm just going on a short flight. After trying to undo safety wire with my fingernails and a pocket knife, I resolved to assemble a small number of "essential" tools that I will leave in

my flight bag—so they're always be available when I am flying. I sat down and deliberately considered what the bare essential list of "what it takes to get home" items might be, then assembled a kit. Your list might be different, and you might argue about the "essential" nature of some of it, but it works for me. Here's my list:

- 4-in-one screwdriver
- adjustable pliers
- adjustable wrench (which will open wide enough to fit spark plug caps) (mine is attached to a Leatherman tool)
- spark plug wrench (deep well socket and breaker-I chose a slider rather than a ratchet for weight considerations)
- wire cutter
- safety wire pliers
- magnifying inspection mirror
- magnetic pick-up tool
- awl/dental pick
- small file
- small flat blade screwdriver
- hex wrenches: 5/32" for avionics; 0.05" for setscrews on knobs
- assortment of #8 and #10 screws, nuts, and washers
- assortment of cotter pins
- assortment of zip ties
- safety wire
- electrical tape

(and, yes, there's part of a roll of duct tape which lives in the baggage compartment).

I dug around in the basement and found a scrap of canvas which my wife had left over from another project, spent a couple of hours with her sewing machine, and the result is a convenient if not pretty kit which fits neatly in the side pocket of my flight bag. At 3-1/4 pounds, it does add a bit of weight, but the peace of mind is worth the extra weight.

ThunderAds

FOR SALE

BENDIX/KING KLX-135A COM/GPS

(VFR) in excellent condition. Comes complete with tray, antenna, connectors, manuals, and 2008 USA data base installed. Selling because it is not compatible with RV-9A TruTrak auto-pilot. Asking \$1,500.00. Bob Kruse 480-391-1228

CONTINENTAL IO-360 ENGINE.

Newly overhauled, ported and polished with ceramic pistons (210 Horsepower). Overhauled by Performance Engines in La Verne, CA. Accessories include starter, alternator, single magneto, and exhaust. Originally built up for an RV-10, however, Vans decided not to support this Continental engine option. Great engine for an experimental aircraft. Price negotiable--make reasonable offer. Bob Kruse.480-391-1228 or point9kruse@aol.com

1946 TAYLORCRAFT BC-12D

TT 2987 SMOH 196 with comm radio. Fabric tests good. All AD's OK incl new struts Sport pilot aircraft \$16,000 Call Wendel Waltz 602-770-9245 wendel@waltzmail.net

GPS LOURANCE AIRMAP1000

Large screen, b&w, easy on batteries, full Jeppson and obstruction database, all manuals and accessories included. Ideal for Sport aircraft. \$275 Wendel Waltz 602-770-9245 wendel@waltzmail.net

WHEELER EXPRESS PROJECT

\$10,000 My husband passed away and I have a complete kit that is 60% completed. Located in Fountain Hills. Bev Tall bevtall@talco.com

DIAMOND DA-40 PARTNERSHIP

Looking for partners in Diamond DA-40 based at SDL. Renzo Cataldo 480-227-3647

1979 CESSNA 182Q

Arizona Airplane on SDL Tie Down K137, TT 3500 hrs, Engine 1262 hrs. SOH, interior upgrades & wing tip replacement underway. Bill Maxey 602-820-5722 maxeybill@hughes.net

RV-10 PROJECT

Switched to an RV-12. RV-10 emp / tail cone kit. \$2800.00 (negotiable) for the project. Savings of over \$700. Some tools that may be included if interested. Project located in Prescott, AZ. Frank Benedict c-140@juno.com 928-778-1977 H 928-899-8365 C

GLASTAR PROJECT

Lycoming 0-320 engine. Located at Carefree Airport. Al Ross 480-595-9579

GRENGA GN-1 AIRCAMPER PROJECT

Biplane conversion but can be switched to a parasol. Fuselage covered and Elizado Tigre engine installed. \$6000. Estate sale. Contact Lesley Morgan 480-834-4831 or e-mail Curtis at EAChapter1217@aol.com to receive a digital slideshow of the plane.

1979 CESSNA TURBO 182RG

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

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Send an E-mail to: EAChapter1217@aol.com

AIRSHOWS AND FLY-INS FOR 2009

03/21-11 Luke AFB Airshow, Glendale AZ
03/28 Riverside Airport AS '09, Riverside CA
03/28-29 Lake Havasu Fly-In, Lake Havasu City, AZ
4/21-26 Sun-n-Fun Lakeland, FL
05/16 Armed Forces Day Parade, Torrance CA
05/16-17 Planes Of Fame AS 2009, Chino CA
05/22-24 Watsonville Fly-In & Airshow, Watsonville CA
06/06-07 Ramona Airshow, Ramona CA
06/12 Golden West Reg'l Fly-In Olivehurst CA
06/27 High Country Warbirds Fly-In, Valle AZ

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