



The ThunderWord

Thunderbird Field EAA Chapter 1217

May 2017

Scottsdale, Arizona

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Greetings from my corner of the hangar! Last month aviation historian Brian Baker entertained us with a slide presentation of vintage aircraft and some background into how the hobby of taking airplane pictures originated in the 1930's. He had some great pictures of Litchfield Park Naval Air Station when it was the Navy's largest boneyard right after World War Two. Brian lived in some very interesting times.

Over the past couple of months I have received some snarky comments from a few of you about why I cleaned all the junk, old work benches, extra wings and a couple of project planes out of my hangar. There was actually room to move around the Cub without tripping over some oddball part. Well the real reason was I wanted to make room for a new plane when I found it.

It had to be flying, have all the desirable options, and display a high level of craftsmanship, and it had to be yellow. After traveling all over the country I was tipped off that there was a perfect candidate at Deer Valley right under my nose. After some arm twisting I was able to get the secret handshake out of Don Ridder and became the new owner of his 100 hour RV-8 he had built. The only thing is its not yellow but I think I know someone that can fix that! Having to taxi four rows of hangars made for a perfect delivery.

See you at the May meeting!

Curtis

MAY CHAPTER MEETING

The May meeting of Thunderbird Field EAA Chapter 1217 will be held on Thursday May

17, beginning at 7 pm. The location is the Scottsdale Aviation Business Center, 15041 North Airport Drive. We are going to have a very entertaining speaker. He is an old friend of mine named Al Adams who has recently written a book on his life story and his adventures in aviation. When I first met Al he had built a PJ-260 biplane and moved to Scottsdale as an FAA Inspector, well one out of two isn't bad. His life was a wild roller coaster ride after that with crashing a Saberliner that had a hydraulic failure and going toe to toe with his employer the FAA. It's a great story of government corruption on the highest levels, flying airplanes, and touring the globe.

Guests are always welcome!

NEW MEMBERS

At last month's meeting we signed up some new members: Carlos Spillari, T.R. Moore, and Micah Martin who is building an Onex. A big welcome aboard!

MAYDAY-MAYDAY-MAYDAY

BBQ AT DVT

Sunday, April 30, was our seventeenth annual Thunderbird Field EAA Chapter 1217 MAY DAY FLY-IN/DRIVE-IN. Jack and Clare Pollack hosted this year's event at their Deer Valley north side hangars.

The event was a complete success and was attended by around one hundred people using burger math! Besides the record turnout what made this event great was that many of you brought your planes over so folks could check them out. Mother nature even cooperated with light winds and mild temperatures.

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Thanks to Jack, and Brian and Jane Mitchell for doing the chef duties. Also a big thanks to John Levitz for loaning us the grill and Dean

Guideroy for supplying his party trailer full of tables and chairs.



David Roberts Proudly Stands in Front of His RNF Waco at the Mayday Fly-In

ECLIPSE FLY-IN PLANNED

Cute jet but who really cares? It wasn't until I read this article that I realized this event had absolutely nothing to do with the high-performance twin-engine Eclipse 550 jet. In fact, this was a weekend fly-in to celebrate the first total solar eclipse in the United States since 1979! On August 21, a large swath of the United States from the Pacific Northwest to the Carolinas will be treated to a total solar eclipse, a true once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Cities such as Kansas City, St. Louis, Nashville, and Charleston lie right in the path of the moon's shadow.

Event organizer Bruce Eicher of EAA Chapter 105 had originally planned to watch the eclipse with his wife while camping in an Oregon state park. On the night the booking window for state park sites opened, Bruce and his wife each hopped online to claim their

site. Even with both laptops running, they were unable to claim their preferred spot.

Because Idaho is known for its first-rate airport campsites, Bruce decided to trace the eclipse's path across his Salt Lake City sectional and found the Garden Valley Airport (U88). A quick e-mail to Idaho airport manager Todd Glass revealed there were no fly-ins planned, so Bruce reserved 35 of the 40 sites on the airfield. His idea: host a weekend fly-in that would allow pilots to gather in one beautiful location and watch the eclipse together.

Shortly after announcing the event, the RSVPs began to roll in. As of the 24th day of March, 32 of the 35 spots had been claimed, with even the famous aircraft designer Dick "Van" VanGrunsvan planning to attend!

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In addition to camping beneath the wings of their aircraft, visitors will have the opportunity to take part in the numerous recreational activities the region has to offer. The South Fork Payette River is located adjacent to the airport, which allows for plenty of fishing, swimming, hot springs soaking, and river rafting. Additionally, there are opportunities for horseback riding and mountain biking in the area.

However, the event isn't without its challenges. The field elevation at Garden Valley is 3,177 feet MSL, and with the average high temperature during mid-August at 90° F, density altitude becomes an aggravated issue. In addition to the high altitude and hot temperatures, each aircraft will be carrying camping gear and at least two hours' worth of fuel while operating out of a grass strip, albeit 3,850 feet long.

To help pilots navigate in and out of this tricky situation, Chapter 105 has assigned its safety coordinator to hold a special safety meeting prior to the event. All attendees will be briefed on the scenario and given aide when planning for the trip. Multiple attendees have already committed to staying over Monday

night and leaving early Tuesday morning when the air will be much cooler.

This event is sure to be a memorable one for all those in attendance. There is just something special about a fly-in camp-out, which cannot be matched by even the finest of pancake breakfasts. Add on the challenge of modest backcountry flying, and this is a pilot's dream getaway. Of course, the full solar eclipse taking place on August 21 will surely keep pilots remembering this special occasion!

U88 Garden Valley, Idaho Fly-Out! Fri-Mon August 18th - 21st

Positioned under the Full Solar Eclipse on Monday! Enjoy camping with 35 airplanes full of good friends!

U88 in Garden Valley, Idaho is a 3850x125' Grass Strip at 3200' MSL on the South Fork Payette River with fishing, swimming, hot springs soaking, river rafting, horseback rides, mountain biking, BBQ, saloon, courtesy car, fire pits, hot showers, and flush toilets!

For more info and to sign-up, please RSVP here and email coordinator Bruce Eicher at: RV998HG@gmail.com



Hamburgers, Hotdogs, and Stories of Great Adventures Enjoyed by All at the Mayday Fly-In



Photo by Jerry Lane

Two Beautifully Restored Taylorcrafts, Jerry Lane's BC-12D and Jack Pollack's Swick T

**GROUNDS IMPROVEMENTS
AT AIRVENTURE**

A number of changes and improvements will be coming to the grounds of EAA AirVenture, Oshkosh this year to provide more comfort, service, and convenience to members and visitors. As always, many of the upgrades come from ideas forwarded by volunteers and attendees.

New this year is the Blue Barn, a destination for EAA chapters and Young Eagles, which will be located across from the Forums Plaza and adjacent to Aviation Gateway Park. This site will serve as a home base for events including meet and greets, and chapter forums.

Other changes on the north end of the grounds include improvements to the Warbirds in Review area. Audience space will be expanded and a Quonset hut is being built to provide additional staging and support for presenters.

In the Homebuilts area a new social pavilion is being constructed as a gathering space for those camping with their aircraft. Ace's Café

is also expanding with a covered pavilion for improved seating.

The activities center / craft tent is being relocated this year from its previous location in the Homebuilts area to a new space between the Fly Market and Hangar D. This move makes it more convenient for patrons of the activities center, who largely come from Camp Scholler.

Previously on the west side of Hangar D was GEST Services, which will be moving south near the Vintage and Ultralights entrance for improved delivery from UPS and FedEx. A small service center will instead be placed outside Hangar A for attendees to pick up mail.

In Vintage, a new judging facility is being constructed along with a new charging station where attendees can drop off various electronic devices for charging. The Red Barn is receiving a little TLC and improvements for better traffic flow.

Both the flightline and Theater in the Woods will see improvement to their audio systems,

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and Theater in the Woods will have a new ramp up to the stage this year for better mobility.

Changes are also coming to the tram service, which is being renamed this year as the shuttle service to clear up confusion about modes of transport. Both trams and buses will service these stops, and announcements

and maps for the new shuttle service will be released in the coming weeks.

All your grocery needs in Camp Scholler (Red Barn, West Camp Store), North 40, and now South 40 will be met by stores operated by EAA whereas in years past these were operated by an outside vendor. These locations will be your one-stop shop for various grocery needs including ice.



Terry Emig Doing a Minor Engine Check of His Boeing Stearman

GLASAIR IIS-RG ESTATE SALE

Chapter member Bob Carter had a Builder friend who recently passed and his Widow is selling their Glasair IIS-RG. Well-built airframe complete less engine. Interiors, avionics and power plant to be completed. Many extra & factory updates. For EAA 1217 Members, price reduced to \$50,000.

See websites for more details:

<http://www.airplanemart.com/aircraft-for-sale/Experimental-Homebuilt/2016-Stoddard-Hamilton-Glasair-IIS-RG/7711/>

<http://www.planeboard.com/glasair/glasair-ii/UaKNAfzX>

Contact Bob Carter at (602) 818-8335 or bobc@buildersguild.com

HEAT SHIELDS

Did you know that Bruce's Custom Covers, the guys that make the canopy covers also build heatshields. In fact if you order this month you will get a FREE tail number imprint on the storage bag! Heatshields are an excellent short-term remedy for cockpit overheating. The custom three layer fabric

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provides a robust, flexible and easy to install sun shade that fits perfectly every time. Storage is simple: fold it and place it in its

storage bag. Bruce's Custom Covers 800-777-6405 or bruce@aircraftcovers.com



A Very Rare Bird, the Only Flying Rutan VarriViggen squats to park at the Mayday Fly-In



Brian Mitchell and Jack Pollack on Cook Duty during the Mayday BBQ Fly-In

ThunderAds

FOR SALE, ETC.

Mooney for Sale

Terry Emig has a friend in New Mexico who is selling his Mooney. For more info, call Terry at: 520-836-7447 or email terry@valleypumpandmachine.com

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

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

'65 MOONEY

Very clean, 4000TT, 22 hours SMOH, \$41K with new annual, Goodyear hangar, Joe Hobbs 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

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

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

SERVICES, ETC.

OIL COOLER REPAIR AND SALES

Chapter member owned. R & E Cooler Service 800-657-0977 www.oilcoolersvs.com

ANNUALS

Owner Assisted. Jim Moss had to move to Alaska to care for sick parents. He may be back later.

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

HOMEBUILT AIRCRAFT CERTIFICATION

ABDAR Gary Towner 928-535-3600

ANNUALS, RESTORATIONS, FABRIC WORK

Eloy Airport Julie White 520-466-3442

MACHINE SHOP

High quality parts fabrication for homebuilts at a reasonable price. David Leverentz 520-898-4321

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Chapter Website: www.ThunderbirdField.com

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