



# The ThunderWord

Thunderbird Field EAA Chapter 1217 November 2017

Scottsdale, Arizona

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Greetings from my corner of the hangar! Last month's guest speaker was Chapter member John Washington, he talked about planes of Dr. Alex Strojnik that applied formulas of laminar flow to achieve great aerodynamic efficiency.

While the rest of the country is welcoming an early winter we have had some fantastic flying weather here in Arizona. I have been getting used to flying my RV-8 around and have made trips to Sedona, Wickenburg, Casa Grande and two round trips to the Copperstate Fly-In. Now that the good weather is here I cleaned up the Cub and charged up the radio to mix it up on the flying so I don't get too spoiled!

This month's meeting has literally been a year in the planning stages. If you remember last November, Chapter member Fred Gorrell was presented with the Wright Brothers award. It was a great meeting with Fred's brothers, family, and ballooning friends coming out to tell us stories of the early days of growing up in the valley and Fred's flying exploits. Arv, Stew and Bernie thought a Chapter meeting would also be the place to have their award presentation. Lucky for us we now have a larger meeting room so it was agreed on with one caveat... The event would be catered with appetizers and beverages. Everyone should plan on attending to pay homage to these great aviators, learn about their very different and interesting pasts, as well as enjoying some good food! Some interesting stories are which one of these guys owned a P-51 named Straw Boss? Which one took his ATP checkride in a Boeing B-17? Which one operated a Polygraph machine before he made it in aviation? You will have to come to the November meeting to find out!

See you at the November meeting

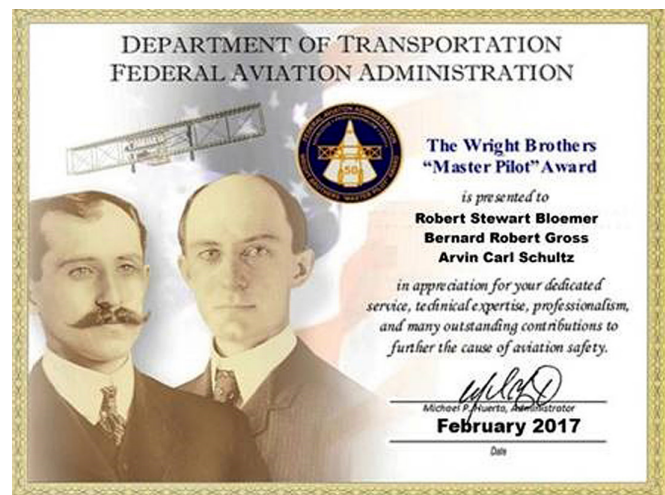
*Curtis*

## NOVEMBER CHAPTER MEETING

The November meeting of Thunderbird Field EAA Chapter 1217 will be held on Thursday, November 16th, beginning at 7 pm. This month's meeting will be dedicated to the triple presentation of the Wright Brothers Master pilot award to three distinguished aviators and Chapter 1217 members: Robert "Stew" Bloemer, Bernie Gross, and Arv Schultz.

The FAA Safety Team of Ernie Copeland and Tina Buskirk will be on hand to talk about the award, and the achievements and contributions each has made to aviation. We plan to have the meeting catered with drinks and food for the attendees.

Guests are always welcome!



## MEETING LOCATION

The location is: Paradise Valley Community Center, 17402 North 40th Street. It is on the west side of 40th Street just north of Paradise Valley High School. Basically 1/4 mile north of Bell on 40th Street. We will meet in the large multi-purpose room. We learned that you can park on the south side of the building and have more parking options that are closer to the door. Look for the signs!



**Denny Myrick, Cindy Irish, Curtis Clark and Curtis' RV-8 at the Wickenburg Air Show**

### **COPPERSTATE FLY-IN**

Friday and Saturday October 27 and 28 were the dates for the biggest Fly-In and Aviation Trade Show in Arizona. The Fly-In was held at Mesa's Falcon Field and had a huge turnout of airplanes of all types. The weather and wind god smiled on the event and the weather was perfect!

Fly-In manager Steve Bass was able to correct the ATC issues from last year and the arrivals and departures went off really smooth. Having the vendors housed in the old WW II hangar was a great idea and there was a good turn-out of folks selling products and representing organizations. Several of the exhibitors were offering deep discounts and had a good size inventory of products with them.

The one new plane design change that stuck out was putting a retractable nosewheel on a four seat fixed geared Lancair. It has to be more efficient; Long Ezes have been doing this since before the turn of the century, and it sure causes everyone to take a second look and comment on it as it roars by. The name of the new ship is the MAKO.

Your Chapter Pres, Curtis, facing the reality I am going to have to put ADS-B in my planes, purchased an uAvionix SkyFY unit and the echo UAT ADS-B transponder. They were offering a show special price, no tax, and no shipping as they had them in inventory. They even included the antenna and wiring harness. The big selling point was that it could be mounted under a composite skin and still work normally. On the RV-8 it will go under the cowling and on the Wickham B it will go in the nosecone. The version I bought was for Experimental planes but they plan to have a TSOed version available next summer.

Great weather, lots of planes, lots of airplane nuts and a well-run show made this year's Copperstate Fly-In a perfect ten in my book!

### **CHAPTER 1217 HOLIDAY PARTY**

It's not too early to start filling in that Holiday Party calendar. A couple of changes have been made to this year's party to hopefully improve the turnout. The date is **Sunday** December 10th starting at **4 PM**. The one thing that stays the same is that Ron Landon and his wife Sherrie will host the event at their

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home in the Arcadia District. Hopefully more folks can enjoy sitting on the patio and seeing the Landon's beautiful backyard and wildlife sanctuary. As the date gets closer we will

send out many reminders. If you want to help out with the setup and light cooking please drop us a note at [EAChapter1217@aol.com](mailto:EAChapter1217@aol.com)

## COPPERSTATE AWARD WINNERS

We were only able to obtain a partial list of award winners from the Copperstate Fly-In and apologize for any misspelled names.

**Grand Champion Custom built:** An RV-8 owned by Robert Anderson from Santa Fe, New Mexico. Robert also won the award for **Best Metal Construction**

**Reserve Champion Custom built:** A Titan TF-51 owned by Mike Still from Chandler. Mike also won the award for **Best Replica**.

**Best Antique:** A Waco RNF owned by Dave Liedman

**Second Place Antique:** A Piper PA-18 owned by Paul Thompson

**Best Classic:** A Cessna 170 owned by Wiley Mornan

**Second Place Classic:** A Cessna 120 owned by Scott Frazee

**Best Contemporary:** A Beech Sundowner owned by Ron Meyer

**Second Place Contemporary:** A Grumman Tiger owned by John Kirkpatrick

**Best Military:** A North American AT-6C owned by Jack Fedor

**Best Piper:** A Piper PA-22 Tripacer owned by George Buddington

**Best Cessna:** A Cessna 170 owned by Wiley Mornan



**Chapter 1217 Members enjoying Lunch at the Wickenburg Air Show**

## **GLASAIR 2 & 3 ASSETS SOLD**

Advanced Aero Components has acquired the legendary Glasair 2 and 3 assets from Glasair Aviation. This includes all tooling, parts inventory and intellectual property related to the Glasair 2 and Glasair 3.

In a statement, Advanced Aero Components CEO Ian Baker has announced that the customer support to more than 2,000 existing builders and owners will continue into the future for all existing Glasair 2 and 3 aircraft. The continued support will be stronger than ever with the soon to be introduced web store for all available Glasair parts.

Baker said that the Glasair 2 and 3 aircraft will soon be re-released as updated kit aircraft and will incorporate all of the existing modifications that Advanced Aero Components already offers the current Glasair range of aircraft. The updated Glasair 2 and 3 will be visibly and aerodynamically cleaner all over as well as lighter weight to bring the kit to a more competitive place in the market. The new kits will simply be known as the G2 and G3 series sport aircraft under the Advanced Aero Components banner. Also, new kit orders will be available in an all infused carbon fiber, pre-molded kit creating a much lighter and stronger airframe while reducing build times significantly.

Glasair was the first company to produce a pre-molded composite kitplane in 1980. Since its original release, the development of the Glasair aircraft has been extensive, culminating in the Glasair 3, still available today

## **GREAT ALASKAN PUMPKIN DROP**

Chapter member Jim Moss has temporarily moved to the great state of Alaska. He reports in on some of the fun things going on up north. This article is from the Alaska Dispatch News.

**PALMER** — If it's Halloween, it must be time to chuck perfectly good pumpkins out of small airplanes over a glacial Alaska river rimmed with towering snowy peaks.

Saturday marked the third annual Great Alaskan Pumpkin Drop; an increasingly popular aviation event that draws pilots to the Knik River Valley as the end of October draws close.

Dozens of aircraft participated in the event, which involves dropping pumpkins out of planes, usually a passenger does the dropping in hopes of hitting a scarecrow on the gravel below. The event attracted more than 40 small planes, from Super Cubs to a Cessna 150, to a well-used practice airstrip along the Knik River north of Hunter Creek.

Pilot Cory Kittle, an Eagle River resident who got his pilot's license while in the U.S. Air Force, also competed in his Super Cub. "I wasn't the closest for sure, but I didn't embarrass myself," he said Monday. "I think I was about 4 or 5 feet away from the circle."

The drop began several years ago as the inspiration of Wasilla pilot and hangar-home builder Ron Kuzina. Kuzina said he just wanted to come up with an aviation-related event to get pilots, friends and families together. A lot of fly-in events may drop something like flour. Kuzina said he thought pumpkins "might be cool" this time of year.

There's apparently no great art to choosing pumpkins. "Everybody just kind of does their own thing," he said. "Small ones – they're easier to hold on to. I've even seen some carved pumpkins coming out of planes."

Most pilots had help from passengers who actually did the pumpkin-heaving, Kuzina said. Event organizers try to keep planes at least 100 feet off the ground. There's no trophy except the scarecrow. This year's winner, Wasilla's Dan Jirak, took off before he got the prize.

Next year, he'll probably start adding some rules to reflect the Pumpkin Drop's growing popularity. "I think we're going to get a little more organized," Kuzina said. "Maybe have a clipboard and a loudspeaker."



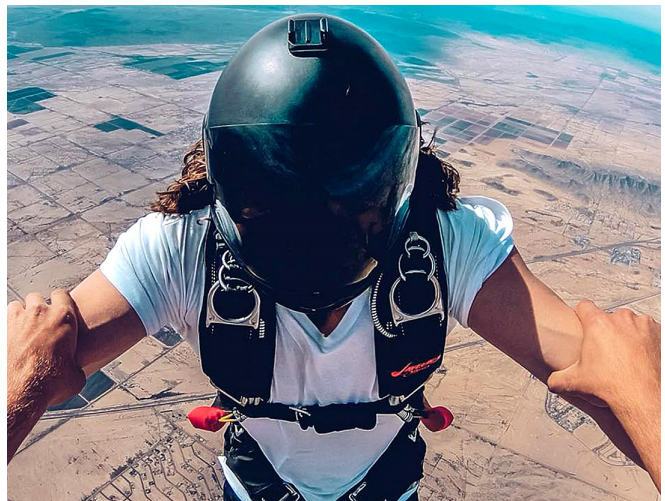
**Knik River Valley, the location of the Great Alaskan Pumpkin Drop**



**Spectators Waiting for the Next Pumpkin Drop**



**Chapter member Hayden Newhouse is making great progress on the Marske Pioneer 2B sailplane that he is restoring**



**Chapter Member Blake Burdick Bailing out of a Perfectly Good Airplane**



**Another view of Hayden Newhouse's Marske Pioneer 2B Sailplane, those Wings are Long**

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# ThunderAds

## **FOR SALE, ETC.**

### **VANS RV-12 EMPENNAGE KIT**

Paid \$2495 obo; Fasteners for the entire kit, paid \$285 obo; Avery/Cleveland RV-12 Tools, paid \$1800 obo; RV-12 kit and tools are in new/unused condition; All reasonable offers. Thomas Harper 480-268-5499 [Tm00harp@yahoo.com](mailto:Tm00harp@yahoo.com)

### **COOL PLANES FOR SALE**

Only flown by little old ladies to church on Sundays. <http://captainbillywalker.com/aircraft-for-sale/aircraft-for-sale>

### **BAKENG DUECE**

On gear, most of structural fabrication complete, wings, ailerons, flaps, tailfeathers and fuselage 90 percent done. No engine but dynafocal ring for a 0-320, new cleveland wheels and brakes. Located in hangar at Prescott \$3500, Charlie 602-377-2271 [cdmichael1@gmail.com](mailto:cdmichael1@gmail.com)

### **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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:birdgangft@gmail.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, kit for \$3,000 or \$16,000 for both. Bill Refrow 602-843-9862 [w7lov@cox.net](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:RothDevCor@aol.com)

## **SERVICES, ETC.**

### **High-Perf Tailwheel & Akro Instruction**

Pitts, Skybolts, all experimental tailwheel aircraft. 46 years experience. Scottsdale Airport Budd Davison, Plus-5 Aviation, 602-738-2045, [www.airbum.com](http://www.airbum.com), [buddairbum@cox.net](mailto:buddairbum@cox.net)

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

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