



The ThunderWord

Thunderbird Field EAA Chapter 1217 November 2018

Scottsdale, Arizona

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Greetings from my corner of the hanger! At last month's meeting we had Den Reed, who is owner of a company that builds weight shift trikes right here in Scottsdale, talk to us. He took us through his past flying jobs flying trikes as well as the training they do for new pilots and those transitioning to trikes. An interesting fact is that they are the only FAA-Certified Scottsdale-based Aircraft Manufacturer. Currently they have a backorder of 24 aircraft. If you want to learn more about Den's company it's called Triton Engineering & Trike School LLC and has been in business for seventeen years. A big thanks to Glen Ottosen for lining up last month's speaker, Den is his son in law.

Well it seems like we went from summer heat to winter and skipped fall this year. As I fly around the country the trees are turning color and some places in the northeast, the leaves are down. My trees never got the memo! That is a good thing because I have been out at the hangar trying to get planes in the air and don't have time to rake! The Wickham B is about to go up to Wickenburg to get repainted so I have been trying to cross a bunch of small things off the list before it heads out. When it's gone I plan to clean out the back of the hangar and seal all the cracks and gaps. While it's super cool to have a Grumman Wildcat as a neighbor it does churn up a lot of dust and debris. When I was a kid there was a Wildcat in Normandy Park in west Seattle that we used to get to play on so it is high on my list of cool planes. Someone did rescue the one from the park and it is being rebuilt in Everett, Washington.

See you at the November meeting!

Curtis

NOVEMBER MEETING

The November meeting of Thunderbird Field EAA Chapter 1217 will be held on Thursday, November 15th, beginning at 7 pm. This month's guest speaker will be Mike Lavelle. Mike's topic is going to be the First Modern Airliners; a look at the Boeing 247, DC-2 and DC-3. Mike did a presentation earlier this year on the Dole Race To Hawaii and it was an outstanding talk. He is an aviation author and former Director of the Seattle Museum of Flight. Getting this high quality presentation is thanks to the hard work of Chapter 1217 member Dan Muxlow.

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. 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!

The Terminal Building at Scottsdale Airport is having grand reopening parties this month and after the dust settles down we will look into the possibility of moving back to Scottsdale Airport.

CHAPTER MEMBER FLIES WEST

Chapter member Bill Grieme passed away this month after a lengthy illness. He was one of our founding members 21 years ago.

Bill's career in aviation started in San Francisco as a baggage loader for United Airlines. He went to work for Eastern Airlines flying the Boeing 727, 757 and Lockheed 1011. Bill and his wife Nancy had just moved

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from Illinois to Scottsdale when Frank Lorenzo drove Eastern into the ground. Bill found a perfect fit for his humor at Southwest Airlines until his retirement.

Along the way Bill built a Skybolt from plans and later a GlasStar on amphibious floats. Bill was a crazy fun loving guy that loved aviation and always had a good story to tell. Some of his pranks would take months to evolve. The one that comes to mind was

teaching his furry best friend Toto to open beer bottles. It was quite an accomplishment and Bill and Toto the dog loved to show off opening a cold bottle for anyone that stopped by his hangar.

Bill was the personification of the ultimate airline captain. He had a beautiful wife, a hangar full of cool planes, he even had a workshop with a brewery he built. God speed my friend!



New Scottsdale Airport Terminal Building

**NEW TERMINAL OPEN
AT SCOTTSDALE AIRPORT**

Earlier this month was the grand opening of the new Terminal Building and large aircraft hangar storage buildings. The original terminal was constructed in the early seventies and was starting to show its age from being renovated many times. The new Terminal Building houses a second story restaurant that has an outdoor patio. There are also two large meeting rooms with state of the art sound and video systems.

The new Terminal’s center point is a World War II veteran’s memorial featuring a Stearman biplane.

Scottsdale Airport was originally known as Thunderbird Field II. Built in 1942 for the purpose of training WW II Army Air Corp pilots. The Thunderbird Field II Veterans Memorial honors those early aviation pioneers and all veterans who have sacrificed so much protecting our freedom.

The Thunderbird Field II Veterans Memorial will serve as the gateway to the new Scottsdale Airport terminal, business center, and world class restaurant.

Thunderbird Field II Veterans Memorial was hosting rides in their Stearman PT-17, a WWII Army Air Corp Trainer. Since September 2017, over 75 rides were given allowing many fortunate people to experience the true joy of

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Stearman PT-17 on Display at the Scottsdale Airport Terminal



Another View of the Stearman Enshrined in the New Scottsdale Airport WW II Memorial

flight in a World War II vintage aircraft. The last flight prior to becoming the centerpiece of the Thunderbird Field II Veterans Memorial was on May 12, 2018.

Following that flight, the retirement ceremony entailed a traditional water salute provided by the Scottsdale Airport Fire Department. The water salute is a touching airport tradition to

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honor military veterans, foreign dignitaries and aircraft entering or retiring from service. Salutes typically involve two firefighting rigs spraying arcs of water over an arriving or departing flight. Each water cannon salute, which lasts one-to-two minutes, can use as much as 3,000 gallons of water.

FUTURE CHAPTER PROGRAMS

As we move into 2019, John Rippinger is going to talk to us about one of aviation's greatest unsolved mysteries, the search for Amelia Earhardt. John has participated in the latest expedition and has some great insight into the search.

Also after the new year, Chapter member Dean Gilderoy is going to take us on a phototropic tour of his trip to the Pacific

Northwest and Idaho. After spending countless hours on building his Cessna 175 into a backcountry flyer we get to ride along with him as he goes into some of Idaho's legendary back country strips.

On the 2019 schedule is Hank Rogers and his story of his RV-8 having an electrical fire and his forced landing in Cordes Lakes. He will run through the causes as well as what he did right and wrong in handling this emergency. Hank is a professional pilot and all of us will be able to take something away from his talk.

If you have a speaker you think the Chapter would enjoy lets work together to get them lined up. It is always a constantly shifting schedule so the earlier the better.



Photo by Jordan Ross

Chapter 1217 Newest Member Hank Rogers and his RV-8A

HOLIDAY PARTY

We have set the time and date for this year's holiday party. Sunday December ninth starting at four in the afternoon. Bill and Pam Unternaehrer are going to host the event at their home near Greenway road and twentieth street. Chapter 1217 is providing the munchies you just need to bring a cask of yee favorite grog to share. There will be live

entertainment and family and guests are always welcome.

FALCON FIELD FLY-IN & CRUISE-IN BREAKFAST

Fly in, or bring your classic car, family, and friends for a hot and hearty breakfast of steaming panacakes, fluffy scrambled eggs, sizzling sausage, coffee, and orange juice served up by the EAA Warbrds Squadron 50

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and the Civil Air Patrol at Falcon Field. Starting October 20, 2018, and on every third Saturday through May 19, 2019 at the Falcon Warbirds Hangar at Falcon Field.

Dates: Saturday November 17th
 Time: 7:30-11:00 AM
 Cost: \$8.00 (Additional donations are welcome!)

Proceeds go to the EAA Warbirds Squadron 50 and the Civil Air Patrol Cadets. Tickets are available at the door.

Classic cars: meet us at Impala Bob's at 7:45 am and we will cruise over to the Falcon Warbirds Hanger just down the street,

For More Information:
Falcon Warbirds Hangar
 4626 E Fighter Aces Drive
 Mesa, AZ 85215
 FalconWarbirds.com
 602-705-4413

Impala Bob's
 4753 E Falcon Drive
 Mesa, AZ 85215
 Impalas.com
 480-981-1600



**Pat and Mike McGarry have added a Pitts S1S to their Collection
 Plan to see it at Reno 2019**

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At a Secret Runway off the Hunt Highway, a GeeBee R-2 Replica is under Construction. When it Flies, he said he will do a Presentation



Reason Number 12 to get a Vans RV

ThunderAds

FOR SALE, ETC.

COOL PLANES FOR SALE

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

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

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

Space available for ads, send us yours

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.

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, buddairbum@cox.net

OIL COOLER REPAIR AND SALES

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

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

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

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