



# The ThunderWord

Thunderbird Field EAA Chapter 1217 October, 2011

Scottsdale, Arizona

## **PRESIDENT'S CORNER**

Greetings from my corner of the hangar! Last month Chris Horton with Guidance Aero traveled down from Prescott to talk to us about Light Sport Aircraft and the PiperSport and SportCruiser.

This month's newsletter was sent to the printer earlier because Ron Kassik, our newsletter editor, is going on vacation. We don't have the speaker set up yet but by the time you read this we will have locked one in. Also, for those of you that check the Chapter 1217 website you should note that it ends in dot com now!

Sad news from New Mexico, Chapter 1217 founding member Dr. Mark Lundell and his son Seth were killed ferrying their newly purchased Radial Rocket back to Arizona. Next month we will put together what happened and look into the flying side of Mark's life that touched so many of us.

While it seems that summer will never end we are just a month away from the Copperstate Fly-In, and a great season of flying and aviation events!

I look forward to seeing everyone at the October meeting!

*Curtis*

## **COPPERSTATE FLY-IN VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Work parties will begin site preparation the weekend of October 15 with setup continuing through the week for the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual COPPERSTATE Fly-In. If you would like to volunteer to assist for the event to be held October 20-22, e-mail Mike Still at [msstill@cox.net](mailto:msstill@cox.net) or call him at 602-690-3181.

## **OCTOBER CHAPTER MEETING**

The October meeting of Thunderbird Field EAA Chapter 1217 will be held on Thursday, October 20th in the Scottsdale Airport Terminal Building. The time is 7pm. Our featured guest has yet to be determined but you can count on an exciting program.

This would be a great meeting to bring an interested friend to; EAA Chapter meeting on Thursday and then take them to the Copperstate Fly-In on Friday or Saturday. They will be hooked for life!

## **SCOTTSDALE AIR FAIR**

The City of Scottsdale is proud to host the 15th Scottsdale Air Fair on November 5 and 6, 2011. The Scottsdale Air Fair will showcase the best of military, experimental, civilian and vintage warbird displays, aerial demonstrations, hot air balloon launches, children's "fun zone", an aviation learning pavilion with flight simulators, interactive displays, and live entertainment.

If you are interested in displaying your aircraft contact Stacy Howard at 480-236-3321 or [stacykhoward@msn.com](mailto:stacykhoward@msn.com). She looks forward to reserving space for all those EAA pilots who want to taxi over or fly their aircraft into the event, and would like to work with you to be sure they reserve the right amount of space and location for EAA members.

Please let her know who will be coming and what aircraft they will bring. They will need pilots to provide a certificate of insurance for their aircraft. Stacy will arrange for you to receive two event passes for each pilot/aircraft. It should be a fun weekend: lots of fly-bys, static displays, vendors and workshops.

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If you know of anyone who might be interested in becoming an event sponsor, they have marketing and sponsorship opportunities for as little as \$500.

## SUMMER ADVENTURES

By Ron Landon

Summering in my hometown of Greene, NY this year, I decided to crawl around some of the local airports to see what was going on.

**GREENE**, pop. 1,580, founded 1787 is a quaint village nestled in rolling hills between the picturesque Catskill Mountain range to the east and the Finger Lakes to the west. An organic patchwork of hardwood forests, farm fields, rivers and lakes, ideal for low and slow flying; this gorgeous countryside is the stuff of autumn color calendar. The area is rural, mostly small towns and villages. Local runways vary from controlled airports like Binghamton Regional (BGM) to local uncontrolled strips like Greene's (4N7), to undocumented grass strips carved out of farmer's fields, still on maps but forgotten.



**Greene Airport – N47**

N47 is 2,665 feet of grass along the Chenango River with six planes in residence, some flown regularly, two hangars and a part time mechanic.

**ONE** resident is local builder Chris Engler. Chris just finished a gorgeous show quality Kitfox that he flew to Oshkosh this summer. With a turbocharged Rotax 914 and adjustable prop, I can attest that it climbs out at 1,200 fpm and cruises at 150 mph. Rides

real nice with the doors open too; perfect for photo shoots.



**Chris Engler's Kitfox**

**Tri-City Airport**, (CZG), a former hub of glider activity, which has since shifted to Elmira, NY (ELM), was my next stop. There I met Ray and Chris working out radio system bugs in this 1973 Sportavia - Fournier RF5B Sperber Motorglider. According to Ray, its Limback L2000 engine delivers 80 HP for 5 minutes. It has 17.02 m folding wings, a stall speed of 68 kt and a glide ratio at 61 kt of 26:1.



**Ray and Chris with the RF5B Motorglider**

**LATER**, on a widget run to the village hardware store (HRDWR), owner/ultra-light builder Donny Hollister told me about a chapter meeting "a few miles east, down one of the (*barely maintained*) roads on the right, after the general store, "bout a mile down, turn right at the cardboard sign in the woods, behind the house." There I found 16 members of "Southern Tier Flyers Club 66" in session around the back yard picnic table.

Recently renamed as their ranks grew beyond Ultra-Light flyers, membership covers South Central NY and part of Pennsylvania. No guest speaker, comfortable chairs, or Curtis; but real laid back. After electing new officers and planning a club trip, it was on to how best to repair a member's riding lawn mower. Did I say laid back?



### **"66" Members Watch a Departure**

The meeting location's owner is soon to benefit from natural gas exploration. A gas line is soon to run through his fields and woods. When the gas company promised to keep the cleared right-of-way minimal; 60 ft. wide, max; he asked; "how wide can you make it?" Response: "150 ft". He asked for the max, the gas guys were ecstatic and he is soon to get a free ultra-light landing strip thanks to our new, sustainably high oil prices.



### **"66" Member's Farm Landing Strip**

Until then, members land on this cleared strip on a chapter member's farm a mile away. Three HAWKS and a Rotax powered Cub flew in for the meeting. A windsock is down

field on the right. Fifty feet behind these planes stands the classic, large red New England barn with silo, farmhouse and assorted farm implements.

Only 2 of these Ultra-Lights had tail numbers. Rural folks can be a little testy with government regulations, which is why some prefer it here in "the country".

**AFTER** the Ultra-Light meeting, I checked out a remote local strip I spotted on Google Maps known as Miller Field; located, I guess, in Miller's field, a few hundred yards north of the crossroads of Coventry, NY. It took four-wheel drive for my jeep to traverse a steep, deeply rutted farm road, pitched meadow and 50 yards of "trail" through the woods to get to the field where I found this tattered wind sock, alone in waist high grass too far gone to be hayed for livestock this year.



### **Miller Field**

Now off to see what else I can find.

## **CHAPTER FACEBOOK UPDATE**

### ***24 people like us!***

Each month we add a few new "Friends" You should check us out! The future is here thanks to Paul Rhodes! He has been working on our "Social Media" presence with the Facebook page he has created for Chapter 1217. You can log into [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) and search for Thunderbird Field EAA Chapter 1217 and you will find it. You can post messages and pictures about Chapter happenings, pictures of your plane, anything you like. Be sure and click on that you "like" this site so we know people are looking at it.

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# **COPPERSTATE FLY-IN & AVIATION EXPO OCTOBER 20-22, 2011**

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## V-22 OSPREYS AT DEER VALLEY

On Sunday, September 11, 2011, Deer Valley Airport was visited by two Marine V-22 Ospreys. The tilt rotors were in town for a static display at Patriot's Park just northwest of the field. The performance of these aircraft was impressive with an intersection takeoff, vertical takeoff, and transitioning to full forward flight by the time it crossed seventh street eastbound. The second ship did a rolling takeoff and had the nacelles full forward in short order. The Ospreys are

based at MCAS Miramar and are part of a sixteen-plane squadron.

Immediately after the two Ospreys departed, the Operations guys had to breakaway from their dumpster diving and go out and sweep the taxiway clean. The "wash" off those big blades threw a lot of debris onto the taxiway. Chapter member David Roberts visited with the pilots who were from his old squadron and said they gave him a great tour of the ship and the things it could do. He said he could share the intel but then he would have to kill me, he did get some great pictures!



**V-22 OSPREY Preparing to Take Off at Deer Valley**



**Departing Osprey**



**L-39 Jets have a way of finding Free Air Show Fuel at the Sedona Air Fair**



**Jack Pollack's DHC Chipmunk at the Sedona Air Fair**

# ThunderAds

## FOR SALE, ETC.

### STEARMAN

Must see. Fresh restoration, W670 6N engine, McCauley Prop, leather seats, beautiful Navy paint scheme. Smoke system, Airwolf oil filter, Jasco Alternator, New glass and trimmings. Strobe lights, Red-line brakes, Panel Mounted X-Com 760 + Mode C transponder, ELT. GPS + iPad mount. Two new parachutes. 2 leather helmets w/boom mike head sets. Contact [Billy Walker](mailto:Billy.Walker@480-773-2823), 480-773-2823 . 480-705-5188

### 1956 CESSNA 172 TD CONVERSION

TT 2300, O-300B 350 SMOH. Imron, new interior, lots of STCs. Hangared DVT. Mike Straley 602-524-0333, [rkaviationinc@netscape.net](mailto:rkaviationinc@netscape.net) Asking \$53K or possible trade

### 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.

### THREE-BLADE PROP SHIPPING BOX

Previously used for a MT prop for a Velocity. Will fit most normal size 3-blade props. Available to anyone who needs to ship a prop. Matt Bucko [mbuc310@cox.net](mailto:mbuc310@cox.net)

### 1979 CESSNA 182Q

Arizona Airplane on SDL Tie Down K-137, TT 3500 hrs, Engine 1262 hrs SOH, recent interior upgrades & wing tip replacement. Bill Maxey 602-820-5722 [maxeybill@hughes.net](mailto:maxeybill@hughes.net)

### 1995 JABIRU ST

Two place, 3300 cc Engine, 10 hrs. Total Time Make Offer Al Ross cell: 602-320-7498

### GRENGA GN-1 AIRCAMPER PROJECT

Biplane conversion but can be switched to a parasol. Fuselage covered and Elizado Tigre engine installed. \$6,000.<sup>00</sup> Estate sale. Lesley Morgan 480-834-4831 or e-mail Curtis at [EAChapter1217@aol.com](mailto:EAChapter1217@aol.com) to receive a digital slideshow of the plane.

### 2009 LANCAIR 360

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

### PARTS

Fuel pump core, 23psi, Dukes Inc total time 18 hrs. Inline fuel filter, 3/8", Performance Mfg, tt 18 hrs. Slick magneto model 4771, tt18 hrs. Fred 630-897-7706

## SERVICES

### FLIGHT INSTRUCTION, ETC.

Fred Gorrell Designated Pilot Examiner:  
Airplane: Private, Commercial, Instrument, ATP, ME.  
Lighter than Air: Private, Commercial.  
602-942-2255, Cell 602-418-2045, [fgorrell2@cox.net](mailto:fgorrell2@cox.net)

### HOMEBUILT AIRCRAFT CERTIFICATION

ABDAR Gary Towner 928 535-3600

### FLIGHT INSTRUCTION- BFR'S

Alan Trabilcy [alantrabilcy@yahoo.com](mailto:alantrabilcy@yahoo.com),  
480-747-0349 m or 480-948-1747 h

### PROP BALANCING, ANNUALS, PREBUYS

Jim Berdick AI 623 293-2708

### ANNUALS, RESTORATIONS, FABRIC WORK

Eloy Airport Julie White 520-466-3442

### AIRMEN PHYSICALS

Dr. Henry Givre AME, Chapter member and RV-4 owner. 520-836-8701

### AIRCRAFT PHOTOGRAPHY

Mike O'Connor [CrashOConnor@aol.com](mailto:CrashOConnor@aol.com)  
480-515-5105

### BFR'S

Fred Lloyd 602-793-6637

### MACHINE SHOP

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

### AIRCRAFT INTERIORS AND COVERS

No job to small! Kim 480-396-0688  
[interiors@airwestinc.com](mailto:interiors@airwestinc.com)

Want to see your aircraft-related ad here in the Thunderword?

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

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