



# The ThunderWord

Thunderbird Field EAA Chapter 1217

February 2023

Scottsdale, Arizona

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Greetings from my corner of the hangar! Last month's meeting was cancelled at the last minute by Volanti Restaurant who controls the meeting room. I received a text at ten in the evening on the night before the meeting informing me that they decided to use the room for an event. For February we will be moving back to the PV Community Center. If you or a company you know is interested in hosting our meetings down the road please let me know.

One of the first calls I made was to last month's guest speaker. He graciously agreed to slide his presentation to February. This month we are going to hear from the guys at Performance One Aviation, at Falcon Field, who specialize in experimental aircraft construction, modification, and repair.

After 34 years flying for American Airlines January 17th was my final flight for them. Chapter 1217 member Mike McGarry volunteered to fly as First Officer on the last trip. We started with a nice flight up and back to Fresno and then we were scheduled to fly to Santa Barbara for a nice long overnight at a beachfront hotel. As we taxied in Phoenix we got a message from scheduling telling us we were rerouted. Several terse phone calls were made to scheduling and the chief pilot telling them that family and friends had bought tickets and it was my last flight. After half an hour of "negotiating" they undid their screwup and we had an uneventful remainder of the trip. It was a great career but I won't miss the rerouted trips!

I am really looking forward to retirement and moving on to the next chapter in life.

See you around the aerodrome!

*Curtis*

## FEBRUARY CHAPTER MEETING

The February 2023 meeting of Thunderbird Field EAA Chapter 1217 will be held on Thursday, February 16th beginning at 7 pm. The location is the Paradise Valley Community Center on 40th Street just north of Bell.

This month's guest speaker will be Austin Staub from Performance One Aviation. They are construction, fabrication, maintenance and modifications experts in all things experimental aviation. For more information come hear his presentation or check them out [www.p1-aviation.com](http://www.p1-aviation.com).

## IMPORTANT - 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.

One of the hardest parts of running the Chapter is finding meeting room location. The terminal Thunderbird and Stearman rooms are really nice but there are scheduling problems and it is not always available.

Guests are always welcome!

## RV-15 UPDATE

During a recent Experimental Aircraft Association webinar, Van's Aircraft media influencers said that their first high-wing kit aircraft designed for off-airport operations will have:

- Two seats.
- At least 200 pounds of baggage in a voluminous cargo area.
- At least 900 pounds of useful load.

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**Lyle Parker and his Aircam**

### **RV-15 UPDATE Continued**

- A top speed in level flight of 140 knots or more.
- The capacity to carry 60 gallons of fuel in two wing tanks.
- Useful load of 520 pounds with full baggage and fuel

Changes incorporated into the production kits include:

- The flap handle will be placed on the floor.
- The wing will be moved slightly aft.
- Changing to a conventional fixed horizontal stabilizer
- The fuselage will be slightly longer.
- The landing gear will be taller.
- The engine will move one inch forward and one inch down.
- The slope of the windshield will be changed better aesthetics.
- The wing strut will be tapered to reduce drag.

The company showed video of the RV-15 test aircraft powered by a 210-horsepower Lycoming IO-390 engine and a Hartzell constant-speed propeller taking off with a five-

second, 230-foot ground roll while carrying a moderate load in calm winds near sea level. It climbed out at about 2,000 feet per minute at 65 KIAS and a 20-degree nose-up pitch attitude, then landed with a ground roll of about 150 feet.

Van's didn't announce when RV-15 kits will be available or pricing. They also did not talk about a nosewheel option or airframe parachute recovery system.

### **CHAPTER MEMBER ON THE MOVE**

Chapter member Jim Moss checked in from Anchorage Alaska where he has taken a new job. He has gone to work for the Federal Aviation Administration as an Operations Air Safety Inspector. He promised to send down some FAA get out of jail free cards to use as door prizes.



**John Davis has started putting fabric on his Aeronca 7AC Champ**

### **CHAPTER EVENTS FOR 2023**

We are looking at Chapter activities to be added next year. With my retirement from American Airlines, I will have some more time to spearhead a couple of events that are good for the Chapter, are a benefit to you and me. I can't do it alone so if an idea interests you please drop a note to me at: [eachapter1217@aol.com](mailto:eachapter1217@aol.com)  
February 2023

### **FLEA MARKET**

We will be having an aviation flea market at Deer Valley around the first of April before it gets too hot. We can sell off lots of items that have been graciously donated to the chapter,  
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as well as we can all bring tables and sell off those excess treasures that are clogging up our hangars, garages and workshops. Some help is defiantly needed to pull this off but it will be worth it.

## NEW IDEAS

Our August meeting will also be a Hot August Nights Ice Cream Social.

There will be lots of cold things to take your mind off the summer swelter in addition to our speaker.

A couple of other things we are throwing around is a one day bus trip to the Pima Air Museum. An idea has been suggested that we do a Chapter field trip to the Pitts Museum at

Pegasus Airpark. Also, a tour of the Phoenix Sky Harbor Tower and Tracon facility. If one of these events is something you might be interested in setting up please talk to me or email me your thoughts.

These events would be in addition to our other popular events including the MayDay BBQ, Oshkosh Happy Hour, and Holiday Party.

## UPCOMING AVIATION EVENTS

Now that COVID is in the review mirror Airshows and Fly-Ins across the country are coming back. The next month in Arizona will have three separate events that should be on your calendars.



## Buckeye Air Fair / AOPA Fly-In

**February 17-19** This year's Buckeye Air Fair and AOPA Fly-In is no longer associated with the Copperstate Fly-In that has moved to Falcon Field in March. They are also distancing themselves from the STOL competitions after some high-profile accidents and to reduce dust.

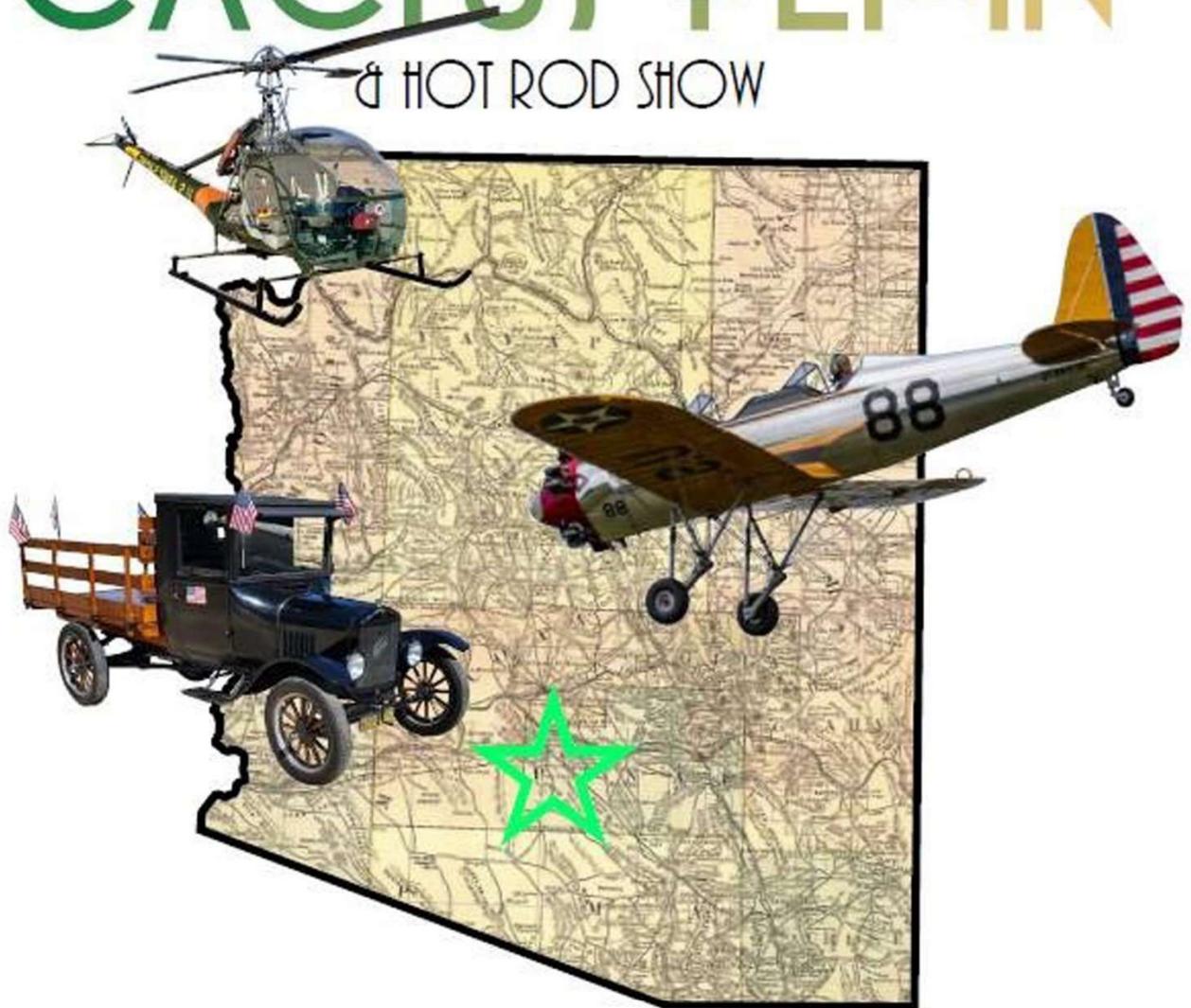
Attendees will experience all of the things they have come to expect from an AOPA fly-in including AOPA's world-class educational content; a large indoor exhibit hall featuring the latest services, gear, and tech from AOPA partners and industry leaders; a diverse and expansive aircraft display; and a Pilot Town Hall with AOPA President Mark Baker. AOPA's seminars will run throughout the entire three-day event and cover topics ranging from how to get started in aviation to setting personal minimums, and other fine points of flying.

As with most of AOPA's fly-ins, this event is a family affair with entertainment for all ages, including a petting zoo and children's activities at the Buckeye Aviation Academy.

Also available to AOPA members will be access to prime viewing of Buckeye Air Fair's two-day airshow at the Members Only AOPA Flightline Chalet. Those at the chalet can mingle with other AOPA aviators, participate in partner giveaways, and enjoy a selection of food and drinks.

The official airshow takes place on Saturday and Sunday featuring aerial performances by Tucker's Air Patrol's 1941 Piper J-3 Cub, Pylon Aviation's aerobatic Airbus BO105 helicopter piloted by local pilot Scott Urschel, and Red Thunder Airshows' Yak 50 piloted by Karl Gashler and Barry Hancock.

65<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
**CACTUS FLY-IN**  
& HOT ROD SHOW



MARCH 4, 2023

CASA GRANDE MUNICIPAL AIRPORT (KCGZ)

[WWW.CACTUSFLYIN.ORG](http://WWW.CACTUSFLYIN.ORG)

ENTRY DONATION: \$10 PER PERSON OR \$20 PER CAR LOAD



**Jerry Lane running Curtis Clark's Curtiss Jr**

### **65th Annual Cactus Fly-in**

**Saturday March 4** For sixty four years the Cactus Fly-In has been the place to see antique and classic aircraft. Sponsored by the Classic Airplane Association of Arizona and the Antique Airplane Association the Fly-In has always been a fun low-key event to see cool planes and see old friends. This year they will be having an antique car and hot rod display.

No loud speakers, no tower. and no airshow. It is a fun event that is rebuilding after pandemic shutdowns

### **Copperstate Fly-in Mesa Falcon Field**

**March 24-26** The Copperstate Fly-In was originally founded in 1973 by the Arizona State Council of EAA Chapters. Over the years they have held the Copperstate Fly-In at Eloy, Prescott, Falcon Field, Pinal Air Park, Williams Gateway, Goodyear Memorial, Kingman, Casa Grande, Phoenix Regional and most recently Buckeye.

Originally it was sponsored by EAA and later it evolved into a separate corporation. The Fly-In has experimented with different locations and combinations of Fly-In, Airshow, and Trade-show in an effort to make the event self-sustaining and be able to fund their scholarship program. Let's all show our support by attending.

# Thunder Ads



I help aircraft buyers and sellers!  
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**Transponder**, antenna and encoder \$500-,  
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\$500; Curtis Clark 602-710-4494

## ADS-B TRANSPONDER & MISC.

Appareo Stratus ESG ADS-B transponder, Stratus  
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tire, \$80, 4 Barry engine mounts 94510-41, \$400<sup>00</sup>,  
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probe, \$2,000<sup>00</sup>, Charlie Spinelli, 206 678-5678,  
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## CURTIS F11C-2 "GOSHAWK"

Built by John Pike. R-1340 (600 HP). Less than  
120 hours TT since new. Becker com & txpdr,  
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<https://CaptainBillyWalker.com> 480-773-2823

## AIRCRAFT TOOLS

I have some aircraft tools that I acquired through a  
friend. I would like to sell them. Dan Burdett  
480-600-2865

## LONGEZ AND SONEX

Two airplanes for sale at Thunder Ridge air park  
(AZ28), a 180hp LongEz and a 120hp Sonex.  
Contact Bertha Partin at [bmpartin@gmail.com](mailto:bmpartin@gmail.com)

## COOL PLANES FOR SALE

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

## THATCHER CX-4 PLANS & MANUAL

New, never used, donated to our Chapter.  
Curtis 602-710-4494

## RV-4 PARTIALLY BUILT KIT

\$13,500 Lycoming O-290-D2, kit for \$3,000 or  
\$16,000 for both. Wanda Refrow 602-843-9862  
[w7lov@cox.net](mailto:w7lov@cox.net)

## LYCOMING O-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)

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