

EAA 297 KITTYHAWKERS

Newsletter

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The Pres Sez:

April is almost here, and boy are we covering some ground. Admittedly, things have gotten off to a slow start due to the weather, and field condition, but it appears that good weather is finally arriving, just as Vernon said that it would.

As March winds down, we should have gotten our Young Eagles program off to a good start. We had a Board meeting in March that was extremely productive. Under the heading of "who knows how we've gotten here", it appears that our Chapter has never had a good "financial plan", or even a realistic "budget" in place. While you might argue that "who cares, what we've been doing works", the entire Board realizes that for our Chapter to flourish, we need both of these plans. We should certainly have both of these in place within the next three months.

At the same meeting it was acknowledged that we, as a Chapter, have given pitifully little guidance to our Club officers and Board members as to what we expect of them. This also is true of our Staff positions. Committing this information to paper in the form of Position Descriptions will make it significantly easier for members to move in and out of various positions, and clearly spell out who is responsible for what. It turns out that this isn't as easy to do as you might think, but all of us are committed to making this successful, and hopefully it will be completed within the next three months.

Very soon, the official name of our Chapter will be EAA, Chapter 297, Inc. Also, with input from many members, primarily from Giles Clark, we now have a written lease to cover the leasing of the EAA hangar. Giles, we really appreciate the work that you have done, and what it will do for the Chapter.

'Nuff said about the past, now lets talk about the future. In addition to our regular meeting in April, *(Important Message: Those of you that took*

home the Altoid 'Survival Kits", be sure and bring them to the April meeting so you can share your approach to this. There is a prize for who in the Chapter thinks he put together the best Survival Kit). We also will have our Aircraft Weigh-In Clinic at Burgaw on Saturday, April 10th. Having investigated both accidents and incidents for over 20 years, I have come to the conclusion that most of us don't factually know what our aircraft weighs, or where it balances, or how this could possibly contribute to a problem. The first step in overcoming this unknown area is to come out April 10th and weigh-in. And, there's no charge, and you will get a certificate showing your aircraft's actual weight. With this information you can compute your plane's balance point, and since knowledge is power, you will instantly become a more powerful, and safe pilot. If you know a non-EAA member who would like to participate, tell them to hustle on up to Stag on the 10th. Once there, we'll sign them up for the trial membership in EAA and our Chapter, and they are good to go. The only ultimate requirement is that their plane must fit into the hanger so we can get it on the scales.

May will be a busy month with our "Ben Kennedy Memorial Fly-In" at Burgaw on May 8th. This year, the Antique Car Club that Ben was active in, will join us in the celebration, along with Ben's Packard that his daughter Grace is looking after (this is the only one in the world). The British Motor Club of the Cape Fear will also be joining us for the occasion, so there will be plenty of "Wings and Wheels" for everyone. Don't forget to bring your camera along and take some fantastic pictures.

Speaking of pictures, recently our Chapter has been taking pictures of planes in attendance at our fly-ins, and giving the pilot a framed photo to take home. When we recently sat down and

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realized how much this cost us (Ug!), we decided to still do the photography, maybe even more photos, but now we will publish them on the web where everyone will be able to download their favorite photos. Jack will have more information on this dynamic program very soon. After this Fly-In, we will be going to Lumberton on May 14, 15 and 16 to park airplanes. Folks, fellow members, this project makes our Chapter a handsome amount of money, and we need all the help we can get. We continue to be asked to do this because we have done a very professional job doing so in the past. To do this requires a lot of people pitching in. Consider doing your Chapter a favor, and sign up. As always, Vernon Pitts is the official Coordinator. The day requiring the most people is Saturday the 15th. Well, I've rambled on long enough; in doing so we've covered the next two months, so, I'll stop for now and leave room for some other important messages.

Gary

Mentoring Class:

For several months Ray Benton has been mentoring some Burgaw Middle School students using construction of models airplanes as an instruction medium. Up to 20 students have been enrolled in this program. Ray and the kids meet about every other week at 1:30 p.m. in a middle school annex class room. Their motto is DYB - Do Your Best.

The model building started with simple paper airplanes and progressed through stick and tissue models. In between there have been cardboard hand launched gliders, balsa wood gliders, and rubber powered sheet balsa models.

The youngsters even learned how to carve propellers to power the rubber powered planes. Some of these projects are shown in the photo below. Their next project is a rubber powered ROG (Rise Off Ground) model.

Along the way, Ray has taught the students the basic principles of airplane flight using Young Eagle Ground School concepts. Do they know how a wing produces lift? You bet! Do they know what drag and thrust are? Sure! Are they ready to go for a Young Eagle flight? Absolutely! At the most recent session Ray handed out Young Eagles brochures and invited the kids to come to Stag and become Young Eagles.

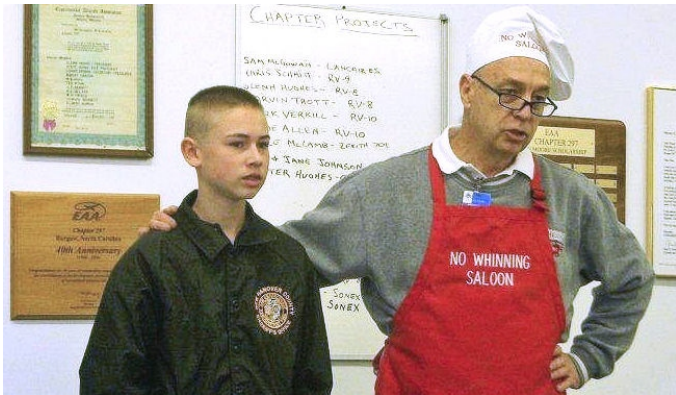
Ray has not done this program on his own. Several other Chapter members, including Garry Brown, Gary Sigvaldsen, Jim Flippen and others have assisted.



Of course it will fly better when it's covered.

Scholarship Program:

EAA Chapter will send two young men to the Air Academy Camp in Oshkosh this year. The recipients are Chris Hite and Jeremy Riggs. Jeremy is slated to attend the advanced session which at this time is filled. If there is a cancellation he will go this year if not he will still be eligible for next year's session.



Chris Hite - the one without the funny hat!



Jeremy Riggs.

Eastern North Carolina Breakfast Club:

Shannon Coleman is trying to stir up interest in a breakfast club. The idea is to just fly out somewhere for breakfast once a month on a Sunday morning. Location would be different every time and input would be accepted for the following month's location. There would be no member dues. The locations would have to be within a short flight of the PGV, DPL, ACZ areas in order to make it a reasonable flight for those of us that can only do 90 or so.

Suggestions are welcome. Contact Shannon at escapepilot@hotmail.com if you are interested.

Young Eagle Happenings:

Good news, the Young Eagles pilot credits will again be valued at \$5. Pilots who fly and **Register** at least 10 Young Eagles in a calendar year earn credits that can be used to help offset the cost of sending a camper to an Air Academy session.

Calendar reminder: The 17th International Young Eagles Day is June 12, 2010. This day is falling on the same day as our fly-in at ILM. Could we still have a YE Rally?

Pilots who fly YE at other than scheduled events, make sure you have the updated materials. (registration forms and other materials) Also, send materials to me, so we can register the YE at Oshkosh.

The EAA Young Eagles program is successful because EAA member volunteers like you. EAA chapters and individuals are encouraged to nominate YE volunteers for awards. The nomination period is open through June 15, 2010.

Chapter Coordinator

Field Representative

Ground Support Volunteer

Young Eagle Humanitarian (presented to reach special needs Young Eagles)
Young Eagles Horizon award (recognizing efforts to go beyond the basic YE flight)

On Saturday March 27th we had a Young Eagle Rally, we flew 17 first time kids and two kids a second time, for a total of 19. The weather was better than expected, the wind died down later in the morning. Four pilots participated.

Garry Brown

Mark Thoman

Jack Parks

Tom Goodwin

Thanks to you guys we could not have a YE rally without you. Also thanks to everyone that helped out, special thanks to Bo Pennock for his help in gathering up the kids and giving the starter lesson to the kids.

Bob Pennington