



EAA 297

KITTYHAWKERS

Newsletter

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EAA Away From Home:

While on a recent trip to California I spent some time in Napa Valley. I noticed on the map that there is an airport near Napa and while driving past it one day I noticed a sign at the end of the airport road saying "Fly the B-17". I just had to turn down that road to see what was going on. Well, you can guess that the local EAA Chapter was hosting the Aluminum Overcast on its west coast tour.

There was a good size crowd there even though it was the last day of the B-17's stop there. Chapter members were directing traffic into and out of the nearly full parking lot while others were conducting a Young Eagle rally, and still others were selling the B-17 rides and tours. There was the usual concession stand as well, manned by still more Chapter members. I spoke with several of the members and all were quite enthusiastic about the event and seemed to be having a fun time. The newly minted Young Eagles wore the usual smile upon deplaning as did their pilots.

When I returned to my motel that evening who should ride up in the elevator with me but the two B-17 pilots. There wasn't enough time in the elevator for a long discussion but the following morning I was able to speak with them at length at the motel's continental breakfast. They were finished at Napa and said that it was a successful stop for them. Their task for that day was to fly the big bird to Arizona where another EAA Chapter was waiting for them to help the pilots introduce another segment of the public to a bit of history.

Making contact with a local EAA Chapter and seeing the B-17 that I actually rode in when our Chapter hosted its visit to Wilmington gave me a feeling of comradeship with those I met and a sense of belonging even though thousands of miles from home. Yea EAA!

Jack Grigsby

Airport Happenings:

Several things have happened in the last month, so we'll try to get you updated.

Glen Hughes has gotten the Stinson back running. Sounds good even if it doesn't have very much oil pressure. Always waiting for something, now waiting for an oil pump.

Drew Holbrook has completed his annual on the Pacer and ready for another year. You should drop by his place and see the wood working shop he has assembled. He can make just about anything with wood. So, he's my buddy since I like wooden aircraft.

We have had visitors this month. A beautiful Swift tied down for a few days don't know where it came from or at least, can't remember what I was told. (Your day is coming!) Editor: Rumor has it that the Swift belongs to Garry Sigvaldsen see photo.

Jeff Peedin, former resident of Burgaw, flew his Super Cub in, and it is a real beauty. He purchased the plane and then had Woods Aircraft at Goldsboro restore same. That procedure will give you pucker power and make your pocket book bleed.

I have entered into a gentleman's agreement with a group in Michigan to build a Flying Dutchman replica. This full-size scale model will be displayed in a new airport terminal in the next several years, so I have plenty of time. The flying model has been set aside for a while, but I'm still looking for a Subaru engine, EA81 model. Nothing like the smell of good wood and lots of saw dust.

See you at the meeting.

John Jeffreys

EAA Chapter 297 - Burgaw, NC

President - Ken McGee 910-392-5500

Secretary - Anna Pennington 910-763-6047

Treasurer - Glenn Hughes 910-256-4927



1946 Swift mystery plane.

Young Eagles:

Last Thursday was the opening session of the Young Eagles flights for the Boy Scout Aviation Badge candidates attending Camp Bower near Elizabethtown. The beautiful summer evening weather allowed Tom Goodwin and Jack Grigsby to fly Tom's Grumman Tiger to the E-town airport where three Scouts and their leaders were anxiously awaiting. With only three Young Eagle candidates Tom was able to take all three on two flights which allowed two of the scouts to sit in the right forward seat and actually fly the Tiger.

It seems that attendance at the camp is down this year and fewer Scouts are expected to be enrolled in the Aviation Badge program so fewer planes and pilots will be needed to sojourn to KEYF to perform the Young Eagle flights in the next few weeks. However, the Scouts do appreciate the chance to fly and fulfill their badge requirements. Two planes and pilots could easily handle the task. Consider volunteering for this fun event. It's a great chance to enjoy cool evening flying. Let Ken, Tom or Jack know if you can help fly these deserving kids.



It's really good to check that there is an engine in here before flight.



Gasoline and water don't mix and planes don't fly on water.



As usual, smiles all around.

First Solo at Stag:

Those of you that frequent Stag on a regular basis most likely knew that Tommy Gore was giving flying lessons to Tres' Blanton, a college-aged friend of Bill Mathis, using Bill's Cessna 140. After 13 hours of dual, Tommy turned Tres' loose, and he kicked major butt. Three greaser landings, with the touchdown exactly where it should have been.

A big congratulations to Tres', and an even bigger one to Tommy for doing such a fine job of instructing.

It is thought that this is first solo at Stag Air park.

Tony Spicer



A happy instructor makes a happy student.
Congratulations to both of you.

Projects for sale:

Midget Mustang - Fuselage finished: wings, flaps, and ailerons covered but not closed, empanage finished. Includes landing gear, brakes, nose bowl and spinner, Lycoming 135 with log books.

Smith Miniplane - finished and ready to fly. Covered with Stits. Power is a Lycoming 125 with starter.

Contact Ray Daily 910-564-6010



Meeting Notice:

The next meeting will be on the Fourth of July at 10:00 sharp. Check your fireworks at the door. Lunch at the No Whinning Saloon will be prepared by Chef Du Jour. Will it be French cuisine? Maybe, maybe not! Come to the meeting and be surprised.

CALENDAR:

8/15/2009 - Spruce Pine, NC Avery County airport (7A8) EAA Chapter 1271 Summer Fly-In 11:00am - 5:00 pm fred-vaccaro@eaa1271.org, <http://www.eaa1271.org/>

8/29/2009 Burgaw, NC - Stag Airport - EAA Chapter 297 Board Meeting 0900 All Chapter 297 members welcome.

9/19/2009 Salisbury, NC Rowan County (RUQ) EAA Chapter 1083 Fall Festival of Flight Contact: Jack E. Neubacher (704)213-6937 <http://www.eaa1083.com>

9/23/2009 - 9/27/2009 Woodruff, SC - Triple Tree Aerodrome Fly-In (SC00) www.tripletreeflyin.com

9/26/2009 Farmville, NC - Flanagan Field (N08) - EAA Chapter 960 20th Annual Fall Fly-in Contact Monty Clark (252) 531-5363 , president@eaa960.org

10/2-4/2009 Camden, SC - Woodward Field (CDN) - VAA Chapter 3 Fall Fly-In. Contact: Jim Wilson 843-753-7138

10/10/2009 Burgaw, NC - Stag Airport - Annual Fall Fly-In 10:00 - ????

10/17/2009 Winterville, NC - South Oaks Aerodrome (NC47) EAA 1423 Spring Fly In Contact: Skip Palmer 252-559-0383 <http://www.eaa1423.org/>