



EAA 297

KITTYHAWKERS

Newsletter

Volume 41

March 2009

Number 3

Winter Fly-In:

The morning temperature was a bit nippy but the sun was shining brightly. The forecast for the rest of the day was promising. The airplanes left tracks in the frosty grass as they were rolled out of the hangars to make way for the expected crowd. It was the beginning of a great Winter Fly-In for Chapter 297. Hospitality Hangar, Flight Simulator, and Young Eagles banners were hung over the hangars where these activities were to take place. Many members and volunteers from General Electric were on hand to greet and photograph the fly-in visitors.

By 0830 eight Young Eagle wannabes were filling out their registration forms. When they finished, the first of several ground school sessions began. Following school the kids were given a preflight inspection demo on Glenn Moores Moronca. At 0900 the first flights of the day were off into the still chilly but smooth air. Thirteen new Eagles had been flown by 1100 when the morning session ended. Two flight sessions in the afternoon produced 24 more.

It wasn't until nearly 1130 before the first of the 50 plus fly-in planes began filling the pattern at Stag Air Park. Once they started they came in bunches that nearly overwhelmed the greeting and photography crew.

As the visitors exited their planes they were photographed. The photo files were whisked to the Hospitality Hangar where 8 x 10 prints were made and framed awaiting the pilots to pick them up and take them back to their home base.

The two flight simulators were kept quite busy by the young folk. It may be advisable to bring three simulators on line at the next fly-in to reduce the waiting time to play.

At noon sharp high quality hot dogs and all the fixin's were served to the waiting hungry group. Drive ins and Chapter members were charged a minimal fee while the fly-ins were served free of charge although many did donate to the food fund. As usual, desserts were provided by the Chapter membership and they were good!

Airport Happenings:

I have no idea what is going on at the airport. I have been too involved in rebuild and build projects. All of a sudden, I am swamped with restoration projects. My hanger has a mini max that has been exposed to the elements for a year and water has destroyed the wood. This project will be burned and put out of its misery.

The other project is a pair of mini max wings that have been in storage for seven years and the internal rib damage is unbelievable. I will say, the covering covered up a lot of abuse and will keep me busy for a while. Looking at the original workmanship, you can tell which wing was built first. When in doubt, look at the plans. It seems that if a little glue is good, then a whole lot is much better, dab it on and see what happens.

Our fly in was impressive. We had visiting planes parked in my yard!

Looks like the planes in the east hangars are playing musical chairs. It's hard to tell who is where. I think this is for flying advantage easy to get out of the hanger. Tony, Vern and another RV are in one hanger, so watch for baby RVs running around!

Hope to see you at the meeting!!

John Jeffreys

EAA Chapter 297 - Burgaw, NC

President - Ken McGee 910- 392-5500 Vice President - Karen Ellison 910-686-4645

Secretary - Anna Pennington 910-763-6047 Treasurer - Glenn Hughes 910-256-4927

New Member:

Meet Mike Connolly, a recent addition to EAA Chapter 297. Mike is a retired Marine officer who flew CH-46 Sea Knights and King Air-200s for the government. He now flies the Bombardier CRJ-700 Regional Jet for American Eagle and he is building a Van's RV-8A in his home in Hampstead, and I mean IN his home. The wing parts of the project are stored in a bed room and moved into the living room for riveting. The air compressor is in the laundry room where it makes a colorful accessory.



New Member:

Chapter 297 has gained another instructor member. Shannon Coleman of Beulaville joined Chapter 297 in 2008. Despite his younger age, Shannon has a long aviation background. He grew up in Kentucky with a runway in the back yard and three planes in the hangar. His father flew a Commanche 180 and a Sorrell Hiperbipe and his mother flew a Cessna 140. His first time at the flight controls was at age two in an Ercoupe. He briefly started taking some instruction in the Cessna 140 when he was 12 and some glider instruction at 14, but aviation took a back seat to other teenage ambitions when he turned 16. In 1998, a ride in a friend's Champ inspired him to get back at it and earn his wings. He received his private in December of 1999. In September of 2000, he moved to Vero Beach and earned his commercial, multi-engine and instrument ratings at Flight Safety. He then spent two summers towing banners in New Jersey before deciding to get his CFI rating. In 2005, he moved to Beulaville and started instructing at Albert. J. Ellis airport. After leaving Ellis, he started instructing part time at Wallace and has recently begun instructing full time at Wallace offering primary instruction, tailwheel endorsements and lessons on basic stick and rudder improvement. He also has a long background with the EAA. His father was a lifetime EAA member and had several projects around the house while Shannon was growing up. Shannon's first involvement with EAA was a trip to Oshkosh just before his 2nd birthday. He is now a lifetime EAA member and a veteran of 15 trips to Oshkosh even though his last pilgrimage was in 1993.

Shannon's instructing credentials include 1900 hours of total time and over 550 hours of instruction given. He has over 1000 hours in taildraggers, including 350 hours in J-3s, and 400 hours in PA-18s, and has flown several other taildraggers from a Stearman to an SNJ-5. If you want flight instruction give Shannon a call.



Life Member:

Perhaps some of you may have noticed in the January issue of Sport Aviation that Chapter member Aaron Knepel is a new EAA Lifetime Member. If you haven't met Aaron you will know him when he attends a Chapter meeting because he often brings two or three of his young daughters. If you visited the dessert table before it was decimated at the Winter Fly-In you must have noticed the artfully crafted airplane shaped cake provided by Aaron. It has been rumored that Aaron is building a Sonex. Way to go Aaron!

Old Meeting Room Art Works:

The meeting room wall decorations have been redone and there are several pictures for which there is no space. These are on a table in the meeting room and if you want any of these please take them at the March meeting. They will be trashed after that.

Young Eagles:

Thirty-seven new Eagles were flown at the Winter Fly-In. Anna Pennington along with several volunteers from General Electric handled the registration, certificate preparation and dispatch functions. Bo Pennock showed the kids how an airplane flies, and what all those instruments are for. Bo also walked the youngsters through preflight inspections on Glenn Moore's recently finished Moronca.

Computer System Needed:

It's finally happened. The ancient computer system used to print Young Eagle Certificates has gone belly up. If any of our members have, or know of, an available computer and printer that is collecting dust the Chapter would like to take it off of your hands. Hey, this is recycling! Ideally, the computer system should have Windows XP or Windows 98 operating system with a laser printer. Ink Jet printers tend to clog in this service because of the infrequent use. If you have questions about this please contact Jack Grigsby.

Air Adventure Camp:

If you have Frequent Flier Miles you are not going to need, consider donating them to the Chapter to help defray the travel expense of sending a kid to Air Adventure Camp this summer.

CALENDAR:

4/4/2009 New Bern, NC - Craven County Airport - 2009 Aviator's Day hosted by EAA Chapter 1171. Contact Ken Daub 252-635-8757 <http://www.eaachapter1171.org>

4/25-26/ 2009 Goldsboro, NC - Seymour Johnson AFB - Blue Angles <http://www.blueangels.navy.mil/>

5/1-3/2009 Roxboro, NC - Person County (TDF) - VAA Chapter 3, Spring Fly-In Contact: Jim Wilson 843-753-7138

5/2/2009 Farmville, NC - Flanagan Field (N08) - EAA Chapter 960 6th Annual Spring Fly-In Contact: Monty Clark (252) 531-5363 , president@eaa960.org

5/9/2009 Burgaw, NC - Stag Airport - Annual Spring Fly-In 10:00 - ??? www.eaa297.org/events.html

5/22-24/2009 Lumberton, NC - Lumberton Muni (LBT) - Mid-Atlantic Fly-In <http://www.mafsac.com> - mafsacboss@yahoo.com Contact: Danny Freeman 910-740-6751

5/30-31/2009 Suffolk, VA - Suffolk Executive (SFQ) - 12th Annual Regional Festival of Flight Contact: Dee Whittington 804-358-4333 www.VirginiaFlyIn.org

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

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 - ??? www.eaa297.org/events.html