

EAA 297 KITTYHAWKERS

Newsletter

Volume 42

March 2010

Number 3

The Prez Sez:

The 2010 Calendar Program is almost over, and Jim Flippen only has a few left. If you've missed out so far, they are \$12.00 each and will be available at the meeting. Oh, and while your checking the old wallet, prepare, because our good friend Charles Shaw (aka 'Three Buck Chuck') will be at the meeting, along with a piece of real survival gear. All of these can be yours if you have the winning tickets. March is almost upon us and the activity schedule for Chapter 297 is cranking up in earnest. Now if only it would dry out and warm up just a bit.

A gentle reminder, don't forget to bring your camera to the meeting, and use it. Jack says that he is set up to receive substantially more photos than he is receiving both for submission for the newsletter and for the Photo of the Year Contest. Also, field conditions permitting, try and bring your aircraft to the meeting so others can enjoy it too.

Our regular meeting the first Saturday of the month is rapidly followed by a Young Eagles Rally on the second Saturday, also at Stag Air Park. Bob Pennington, Jim Flippen and yours truly recently went to Jacksonville to give the initial (gee whiz) briefing to the potential Young Eagles, and while we don't as yet have a good head count, the group will probably be between 60 and 70 kids. As you have probably figured out, we will need volunteers, both pilots and ground crews for the Rally. We will be signing up everyone at the March meeting. As important as the act of flying Young Eagles is, it's good to remember that our Chapter receives a credit of \$5.00 per Young Eagle flown (starting after a pilot has flown 10 Young Eagles for the year) that we can use in the next year's youth programs, however we want to.

"COME OUT, VOLUNTEER AND HELP THE CHAPTER".

Next up, on the third Saturday, this time at Air Wilmington, KILM, there will be a board meeting at 0930. The planned agenda for this meeting will be to develop a financial plan for our Chapter, and to develop position descriptions for our officers, board members and staff positions. This will probably include some future changes to update to our by-laws. While all board members and officers attend these meetings, all members are invited. These meetings are conducted as informally as possible. You would be surprised at the amount of work that gets done at them. If that isn't good enough, we have free KK donuts and coffee.

While we will have our regular meeting the first Saturday in April, the second Saturday of the month is our "First Annual Aircraft Weigh-In Clinic". All members are encouraged to attend and have their aircraft weighed. If you are like most of us, your aircraft has not been weighed in more years than you can remember, and this is an extremely important piece of information to include in your aircraft documents. To maximize your benefit from the weighing, you will need to top off your tanks 'just prior' to the weighing, and you will need to remove all of your 'gear' from the plane (we'll have a place to put your gear during the weighing). Volunteers will push your plane into the hangar, get it on our highly accurate, state of the art, digital scales, trim it up, and record the weight on each of the gear. You will be given a handsome certificate showing all of the weights and who did the actual weighing. We will then push the plane out of the hangar, and you can relocate it to where you can reinstall your gear and enjoy the camaraderie of your fellow pilots. Armed with this handsome, official certificate, you can compare your planes actual

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President - Gary Signaltsen 910- 399-2875 Vice President - Jim Flippen 910-790-1984

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weight with the theoretical weight that is in your aircraft documents. If there isn't much difference in the weights (not much chance of this), cool, go in peace; however, if there is a marked difference, you now have something to take to you're A&P mechanic to update your documents. Remember, this doesn't require any blood letting, can only increase your flight safety, and doesn't cost anything, that's right, IT'S FREE. As you've come to expect, Chapter 297 doesn't do much without, and considering this, lunch will be available for our normal, good-deal price.

Looking way ahead, May has our regular meeting the first Saturday of the month, followed by the "Ben Kennedy Memorial Fly-IN" the second Saturday, which is followed by the Lumberton Fly-In the third weekend, ALL REQUIRING VOLUNTEERS. More information will follow concerning May...

Gary

Great builders web site:

If you are building an airplane, planning to build one, have built one, or are just interested in home built planes visit this web site www.WingsForum.com. It is an amateur aircraft builder's forum where you can get answers to many general building questions. There are sections related to many specific home built airplanes too. You can get help from other builders who may have solved a problem that you are having, and you can contribute your wisdom to the knowledge pool as well. This is a great way to participate in the sport aircraft movement. Give it a try.

Safety Reminders:

'There is no reason to fly through a thunderstorm in peacetime.' -Sign over Squadron Ops Desk at Davis-Montham AFB, AZ

'If something hasn't broken on your helicopter, it's about to.' - Sign over Carrier Group Operations Desk-

EAA Radio:

Have we got an answer for you. Dial in and turn on to "Afterburner AI" on EAA RADIO. That's right, our very own EAA offers streaming audio, all aviation, all the time; all you have to do is log on to (www.eaaradio.net) and let the fun begin. While this probably won't enable any of us to live longer, it's a sure bet that it will enable us to live 'a little better'; and who knows, it might just bring the ol' blood pressure down a notch or two... And while you're at it, see how many of you can find out, "who is Fared Guyot"? Bring your answer to the March meeting.

EAA e-Hotline:

Do you receive the EAA e-Hotline by e-mail. If not, you are missing out on the latest news from EAA Headquarters and other timely aviation news. It's easy to sign up, just go to www.eaa.org/ehotline/ and click on the sign up link, but you must be an EAA member to join. In the latest issue you can read about the latest coast-to-coast speed record set by an RV-6 and a group that wants to bring the Concord back to active service along with much, much more including a plane that may land on an aircraft carrier with no pilot on board.

March Meeting:

I'm sure many of you have wondered what happens at EAA's Chapter Leaders Academy that Gary and Jim attended this year. It must have been pretty good because they both were very excited when they returned. They will tell us about the Academy at the March meeting. Come listen.

Young Eagles:

On the 17th of February, we had a meeting at the Jacksonville Christian Academy.

The meeting started at 1300 hrs, we had two groups, and the youngest children came first and the meeting lasted about 45 minutes. Gary, our president, and Jim, our vice president, did a skit using photos from Oshkosh and photos of the planes at StagAir park.

They started out sailing out paper airplanes to the kids; the kids ate it up and some scrambled to retrieve an airplane.

The next group of older kids came in about 1400 hrs. They did not seem as enthusiastic

As the younger children, there were a couple of boys about 17 years old that really seemed interested. The paper planes that Gary and Jim sailed out did not seem to be a hit with the older group, some them threw the planes back. The meeting with that group was shorter.

The best I can estimate, there were over 50 kids in the younger group and over 25 in the older group. The younger kids asked for our autographs, and one of them hugged Gary. All in all it was a good meeting.

New Badges:

New Chapter member's badges are coming soon. The badge shown below is similar to the new badge. It is plastic and on a lanyard to be worn around the neck. These badges will be ready at the April meeting for members in good standing by the March meeting. The old paper badges will be removed from the badge board following the March meeting. If you have not paid your dues (\$30.00) yet you may mail them to Glenn Hughes at 5704 Park Avenue Wilmington, NC 28403. Also, you may fill out a Member Information form on the Chapter web site <http://www.eaa297.org/membership.html>

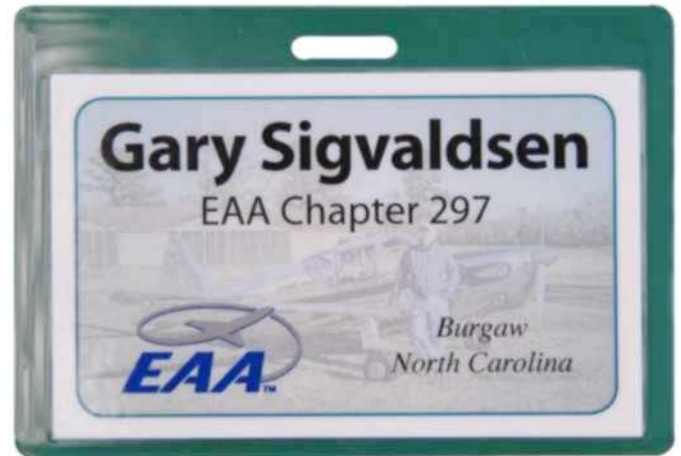


Photo of the Month:

Not everyone stayed in the house when the 'big' snow fell. Shannon Coleman was out and about to see if his airplane was buried. As you can see, it was not, but there was plenty of snow. What a great opportunity to try out those skis that have been hanging in the rafters all these years. Too bad the Chapter hadn't planned to have a ski plane fly-in for our Chili Feed.

