

EAA Chapter 866 Smilin Jack Newsletter December 2016



Kathy Anderson boards her RANS S19 which she recently completed for test flight (see a couple more pictures at end of nsltr)

Greetings Members and Friends of EAA Chapter 866, (pres. Report)

Hope you all had a safe and Happy Thanksgiving weekend! I sure did. My father spent a week in the hospital in Gainesville this past month, so I spent a lot of time on the road between here and there, but we got to bring him home just in time for Thanksgiving, and that made the holiday extra special for us. He's doing OK; after 83 years together he and his gall bladder have finally decided to part ways. We got to enjoy at least 4 of the 5 "F's" . . . Family, Friends, Food, Football & Flying! The weather has been really nice for flying this month, so I hope you've been able to take advantage of it.

Before I go any further, I want to send out a HUGE CONGRATULATIONS to Kathy Anderson for conducting the first flight of her newly completed Rans S-19! Way to go Kathy! There are many big milestones in the life of any airplane builder, but the first flight is the biggest! We're looking forward to a flight status report from Kathy at our next chapter meeting! She's worked really hard and has completed a beautiful and very capable airplane, so take some time to congratulate Kathy!

EAA 866 held an impromptu chapter movie and pizza night last month! It was on Veteran's Day, and I counted about 25 or 26 folks in attendance, so we had a nice turnout. Everyone seemed to have a good time, and we honored the memory of a special Veteran by showing the Bob Hoover documentary film called "*Flying the Feathered Edge*". It was a good time, and a couple folks even said we should do it again soon! I have a couple of ideas for movies, but if you know of a particularly great aviation movie title that you'd like to see at a future chapter movie night, just let me know.

This past month I attended the new (1st annual) Sport Aviation Showcase event that was held in early November, over in Deland. It was a very nice event and I was happy to see a couple other of our chapter members there taking it all in. The venue was nice and I very much enjoyed attending. There was no airshow, but there was a regular pace of demonstration airplanes flying by and many Sport aircraft were on display as well. There was also a full schedule of forum presentations to choose from and I got a few minutes to re-connect with our friend Charlie Becker from EAA HQ, who had made the trip down from Oshkosh to give a couple of forum talks. The signage to the event from the main road was a little weak, but once I finally found the way in and the specific parking area, it was easy. I'm sure it would've been much easier to fly in, and a lot more fun too. Parking was free and the cost for admission was very reasonable. The volunteers were great and there were quite a few vendors displaying their aviation products and services, and the overall area was small enough that it was easy to see the whole thing in a day. I was there on Friday and the crowds weren't very big, but since this was the first year of the event maybe the word is still getting out.

On a side note, until I made this trip over to Deland, I was unaware that there was a small U.S. Navy Aviation Museum at the Deland Airport which preserves the history of the Deland Naval Air Station (DNAS) which was active from 1942-1946. I didn't have time to check it out on this trip, hopefully another time, and here's the link for more info if you're interested: <http://www.delandnavalairmuseum.org/>

Planning for our formal Winter Party is well underway. The date will be Saturday, Jan. 21st 2017, (6-10 PM) and the location this year will be moving to the Indian River Preserve Golf Club in Mims. The cost is \$25 per person and includes your annual Chapter 866 membership dues, (your EAA National membership dues are a separate item as usual). Tickets will be available for sale at the December & January meetings, and also at our pancake breakfasts for Dec/Jan. So come prepared to buy your Winter Party tickets.

And just when you thought the elections were FINALLY over! Not so Fast. Our Chapter Officer elections will be held at the December Meeting. The terms last for one year and we elect, re-elect, and/or re-affirm our chapter officers at the end of the year so that it aligns with the annual chapter renewal process that occurs in December. Our current cadre of officers are:

President: Les Boatright

Vice President: Ed Brennan

Treasurer: Herman Nagel

Secretary: Kip Anderson

Tool Crib or Tool Library. Because we're a chapter of fairly active builders, and even some repeat builders, we've been discussing the idea of establishing a Chapter Tool Library. Truth is, we already have a few specialty aircraft Tools in our chapter and a very informal loan-out program. This will simply be a way to formalize it, and locate all the tools in one common and secure location. Just like a regular library, items would be available for loaning out to any dues-paid chapter member for a short period of time and then returned. I believe we need to obtain a good storage cabinet, take an inventory of what we have and set up a sign-out board. So this shouldn't take too much effort, just a little bit of organization. Alberto Silva has generously offered to be our official Tool Librarian, so if you have some ideas or tools that you might be willing to share, please get in touch with Alberto.

I also wanted to remind everyone about the upcoming Toys for Tots breakfast at the Merritt Island airport on December 10th. So, take advantage of an opportunity to fly out to breakfast and support our neighboring EAA chapter in helping the US Marine Corps with their yearly efforts to help local children have a nicer Christmas!! More details can be found below.

OUR next pancake breakfast is on for this Saturday Dec. 3rd, and then our next regular meeting will take place on the December 7th, 2016. This also happens to be the 75th Anniversary of the infamous attack on Pearl Harbor. 1,177 sailors and Marines were lost that morning just on the USS Arizona alone. May we take a moment and never forget those who came before us and sacrificed so that we might have the Freedoms and Liberties which we now enjoy.

See you at our next chapter get-together!

Les Boatright

President EAA Chapter 866

“Life is what happens while you’re building your airplane.”

This Month’s Flying

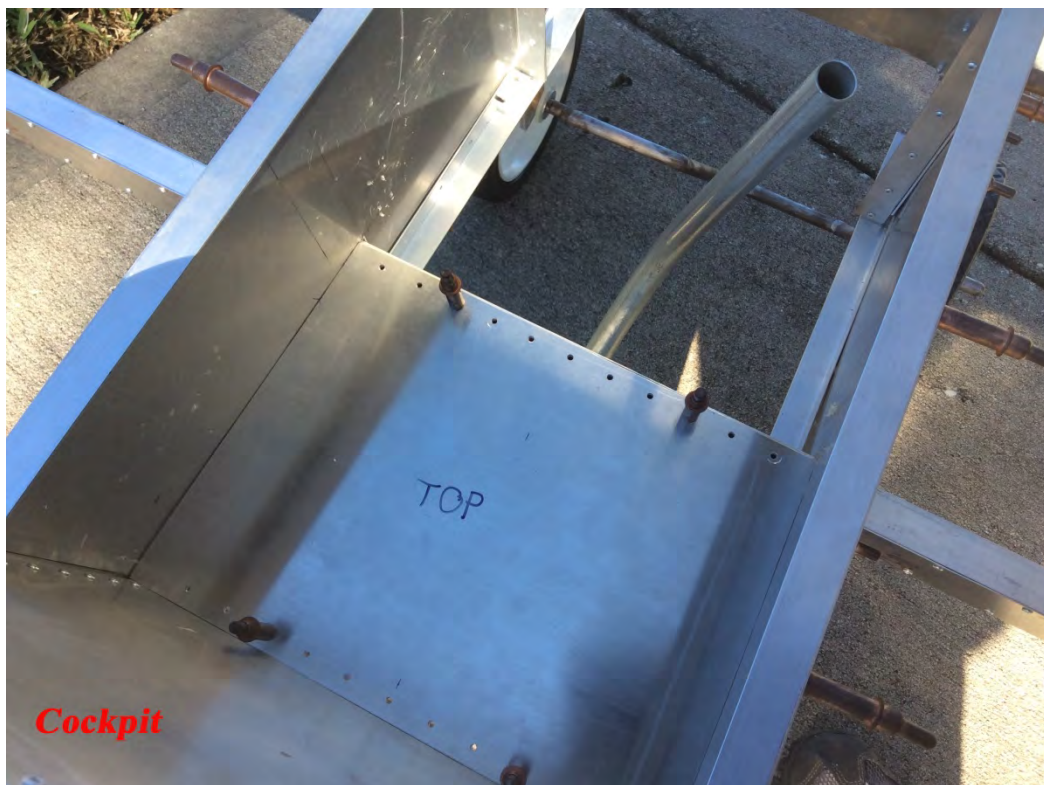
Larry Gilbert

Got a couple of fly-ins done in November, the first was to the annual Winter Haven event on the 12th of the month and the second was to the monthly breakfast of EAA Chptr 1288 at Valkaria.

The Winter Haven event seems to be getting smaller each year but still there were as many as 30 or so planes flown in. What I really like about some of these events is seeing old pilot friends and talking about flying and airplanes. Not a lot of experimental airplanes were there. Chapter member Alberto Silva also showed up at this fly-in.

The Valkaria breakfast is always a fun place to go on the 3rd Saturday of every month and their breakfast is good too! One person sitting at our table who regularly flies in for our breakfast said our breakfast is better! They ask all fly-in aircraft pilots to sign in on a whiteboard that they have there and 4 of the 9 who were signed in were chapter 866 planes. Three planes from Dunn flew down together, Brian Shol, (Glastar 2) Bob Rychel, (Zenith 650) and Loretta and I in our Citabria. We took off from Dunn in single file with Fancy leading the way. I called space Coast Regional tower and asked for transition for the flight of 3 through the class D on the West bank of the Indian river and that was approved so when we cleared that airspace we decided to climb up to 2,600’ to avoid the airspace over Patrick and MLB. The Zenith passed me by the time we were abeam Merritt Island airport and went on ahead. Brian stayed on my six all the way to landing on rwy 32. Shortly after we landed Kip came in with his Sonex. After we ate and gabbed enough we all departed separately rather than as a flight. Both Brian and Bob got to Dunn before we did. We logged 1.5 on “Fancy” which is less time than the other two planes logged because they are faster than us. Fun flights!

Mitch Bronson's Pedal Plane project





This pedal Plane is to be a Christmas gift for his grandchild (I think)

Mitch is gaining experience in building here and who knows where this might lead?

One Smilin Jack Chapter member is a big star!

Member Ben Charvet is performing right now as Kris Kringle aka Santa Clause in the Miracle on 34th Street at Titusville's Parrish Theatre. Loretta and I saw the show and found it amazing about how much Ben is like the character he plays in the show! You should see this show.



Is Your Slow Flight Too Slow??

An article in the December AOPA Pilot magazine, written by Rod Machado about the new way that the FAA is approaching slow flight training is appalling to me! I have been flying since 1962 and any time I have been asked by examiners and flight reviewers to do slow flight (real slow). It has been at minimum controllable flight speed. In other words, go any slower and you'll stall the airplane! So, maintain assigned speed + 10 or – 0 mph or kts, and maintain altitude + or – 100' and be able to maintain a heading. Then make some turns while slow flying at a specified angle of bank. If there is a stall warning horn, it's blaring! If you have flaps they are deployed.

Now listen to this, according to FAA, the stall warning horn reduces your sensitivity to sound so now slow flight is done faster so the stall warning isn't activated. Here's how you get into slow flight now. Reduce speed until the stall warning horn is heard, then increase speed by about 2 – 5 kts to silence the horn. Finally increase speed by 10 kts for your slow flight. Our 7ECA (Citabria) has no stall warning alarms but I know when it's about to stall and depending on the weight that's going to happen around 51 mph. OK, add 5 mph + 10 mph this is about normal final approach speed and all of the flight controls are very responsive. To me this isn't really slow flight. I think you need to experience minimum controllable airspeed so you know how the airplane feels when it is close to stalling. Loss of control while maneuvering for landing is probably the most common fatal accident when doing the kind of flying that most of us here are doing.

When you do slow flight with me we'll fly around some and then just keep pulling very slowly until we stall. We may also go to full power and do a takeoff stall and if you don't keep the ball centered, there might be a little surprise in store! A couple of weeks ago I covered the airspeed indicator for a flight before we even got in the airplane and did the flight with one of my friends. He did the entire hour with no a/s. Slow flight and we even did some stalls and a couple of landings. He will be taking his Sport Pilot practical test soon and he'll do well. I think all of this is important stuff. What do you think about how slow flight should be done? Do you think the new way will make better pilots? How about a short field landing? Are you going to touch down at 66 mph in an airplane that stalls at 51? Good luck with this, especially if you're trying to 3 point a tail wheel airplane! I think you need minimum controllable airspeed training! *Larry*

Some reminders about upcoming events:

Date	Event	Place/Info
Dec. 3	OUR 866 Monthly Pancake Breakfast for December	Building 10 / 8-10 am
Dec. 7	Regular Chapter 866 Monthly Meeting (w/ annual officer elections)	Building 10 / 7 pm
Dec. 10	Merritt Island Chapter 724 Toys for Tots Breakfast http://eaa724.org/toysfortots2016.jpg	900 Airport Drive, Merritt Island Airport (KCOI) / 8:30-11:00 AM
Dec. 10	Titusville Annual Christmas Parade – Starts at 6PM at Titusville High School (Saturday)	Titusville High / US-1 Downtown http://www.titusvillekiwanis.org/Page/31267
Dec. 17	Valkaria Chapter 1288 - Pancake Breakfast (3 rd Sat.)	Valkaria Arpt (X59) 8-10 am
Dec. 25	Merry Christmas !!	
Jan. 1	Happy New Year !!	
Jan. 4	Regular Chapter 866 Monthly Meeting	Building 10 / 7 pm
Jan. 7	OUR 866 Monthly Pancake Breakfast for January	Building 10 / 8-10 am
Jan. 21	Valkaria Chapter 1288 - Pancake Breakfast (3 rd Sat.)	Valkaria Arpt (X59) 8-10 am
Jan. 21	EAA Chapter 866's Annual Winter Party!!	Indian River Preserve Golf Club in Mims

	https://www.indianriverpreservegolfclub.com/	(I-95 exit 223) / 6-10 PM
Jan 25-28	13 th Annual Sebring U.S. Sport Aviation Expo (KSEF) https://www.sportaviationexpo.com/	Gates Open 8AM – 5PM Daily
Mar 10-12	Valiant Air Command's Warbird Airshow (40 th year) http://www.valiantaircommand.com/airshow	TICO Arpt (KTIX) / Gates Open 8:30 AM, Show starts 1:00 PM
April 4-9	Sun-N-Fun Fly-In (http://www.sun-n-fun.org/)	Lakeland Linder Arpt (KLAL)



Chapter officers

President Les Boatright 3640 Fraizer Ct. Titusville, FL 32780 321 269 1723 amyandles@juno.com

VP – Edward Brennan 501 Water Side Circle Titusville, FL 32780 EJB.USMC@gmail.com

Secretary – Kip Anderson 5812 Deer Trail road Titusville, FL 32780 321 269 4564 kipapilot@cfl.rr.com

Treasurer – Herman Nagel 21425 Hobby Horse Lane Christmas, FL 32709 407 568 8980 bhnagel@earthlink.net

Chapter Monthly Breakfast (it's free!)

Sat. Dec 3, 8:00 am

Dunn Airpark Bldg. 10

Titusville, FL

Chapter Meeting

Weds. Dec7, 7:00 pm

Dunn Airpark Bldg. 10

Titusville, FL

Christmas Parade Sat. Dec 10



Merritt Island Airport
22nd annual Breakfast *


TOYS FOR TOTS

Saturday, December 10, 2016
900 Airport Road, Merritt Island
from 8:30am to 11am

All toys benefit our Brevard USMC Toys for Tots Program

EAA CHAPTER 724
MERRITT ISLAND FLORIDA
BREVARD COUNTY
AIRBORNE

*Admission is one new unwrapped toy
Help us make someone's Christmas
a Happy One!

Contact/Questions – Don White – 321-266-7410