

**EAA Smilin 'Jack Chapter 866**  
**Newsletter**  
**August 2020**



Looking out the Panther's canopy, Cocoa Beach stretches South, all the way to the horizon!



## Greetings Members and Friends of EAA Chapter 866,

As we head into the peak period of the 2020 Hurricane season, we can be very thankful that the recent Tropical Storm *Isaias* did not present any significant threat to the Florida Coastline. On the Saturday before the storm passed off our Eastern shore, I spotted some of the esteemed representatives of the Tico Airport Authority securing the wind cone at Arthur Dunn, and making sure the T-hangar doors were all secured as well. Thankfully, it turned out to be nothing more than a good readiness drill, and we can all use a little practice at emergency procedures from time to time.

Unbelievably, it has already been 5 months since we had our last *Smilin' Jack* pancake breakfast! Just to bring everyone up to date, we did NOT have the August breakfast, and we will not have the September breakfast either. As we move into the middle of September, we will evaluate the possibility of hosting a breakfast in October. Prior to July, your Chapter officers, breakfast coordinator, and other volunteers had spent a fair amount of time planning and putting into place some new strategies to try to mitigate any concerns that folks might have. Unfortunately, right after that planning was in place, the COVID case numbers in Florida began to go out of control like a runaway trim servo ! In an abundance of caution, we have postponed our breakfasts and continue to evaluate them on a month-to-month basis. By mid-September, the public schools will have reopened and we should know if that will have any significant effect on the case numbers. Keep watching your emails and feel free to contact me anytime about events in the Chapter.

That being said, we Are planning to hold our regular EAA Chapter meeting on Wednesday August 5<sup>th</sup> at Building 10. Your Chapter Newsletter editor, Larry Gilbert, will be presenting some video he recently shot from his *Fancy* airplane! I look forward to seeing everyone there if you can make it.

Before I sign off, I could not be happier to see a U.S. Flagged spacecraft operating in and out of Florida again! It's been a long time since we saw that happen. Sunday's return to Earth of the SpaceX Demonstration Mission-2, with a splashdown just off the Florida Gulf Coast, marked the beginning of many new operational crew missions to come.

Keep on Building, Flying, and Flippin those *Smilin'-Flap-Jacks*!

Les Boatright

EAA Lifetime #563003

President, EAA Chapter 866

The *Smilin' Jack* Chapter

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Welcome back Astronauts and test pilots Bob Behnken & Doug Hurley !!! Congratulations on successfully piloting the SpaceX Crew Dragon spacecraft to the International Space Station and back.



August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020 - U.S. Astronauts return to Earth at end of test flight of Dragon *Endeavour*.



U.S. Astronauts Doug Hurley (foreground) and Bob Behnken operate the EFIS displays in the cockpit of their brand new Dragon spacecraft ( Made in the U.S.A. !!)

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While it's nothing like the views that Bob & Doug must've had from Space, I wanted to share a couple of recent photos taken from the Panther's cockpit in the last month! When the visibility is good, you can see for 30+ miles in every direction! It's like being at the top of a mountain looking out in any direction. The difference is you can easily rotate the view any way you want merely by applying some pressure to the control column and rudder pedals! I recently ran across a quote from EAA Founder Paul Poberezny that captures a bit of that feeling of what it means to be able to pilot an airplane!



*“It’s so wonderful being able to look over the nose of your airplane, look out the side, at the horizon, and see something that most people will never see, that God created, . . . the beauty of the Earth, the blue of the sky, and the individual freedom of flight. Men and women have dreamed about it since they were born, centuries and centuries ago, . . . and for those of us that have that privilege and opportunity, what a blessing.”*

**-Paul Poberezny, (2006), Founder of EAA**



The view from the cockpit of the Panther is hard to beat!



Spotting ships in the Atlantic is easy from the seat of a small airplane!

We are very blessed Indeed!!

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**Humor of the Month Club:**



**Child:** "Mom, I want to be a Pilot when I Grow Up!"

**Mother:** "I'm sorry, you can't do both!"

**Airline Pilot to passengers:**

"Ladies and Gentlemen, I have some good news and some bad news.

The bad news is we're lost.

The good news is we're making Great time."

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Some reminders about upcoming events:

Date	Calendar Event	Place/Info
Aug. 1 <sup>st</sup>	OUR Chapter 866 Monthly Pancake Breakfast <b>CANCELLED Due to COVID</b>	Building 10 / 8-10 am <b>CANCELLED</b>
Aug. 5 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Regular Chapter 866 Monthly Meeting</b>	<b>Building 10 / 7 pm</b>
Aug. 24 <sup>th</sup>	Brevard Public Schools Re-Open to Students ( <i>Fingers Crossed</i> )	
Sept. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>Regular Chapter 866 Monthly Meeting</b>	<b>Building 10 / 7 pm</b>
Sept. 5 <sup>th</sup>	OUR Chapter 866 Monthly Pancake Breakfast <b>CANCELLED Due to COVID</b>	Building 10 / 8-10 am <b>CANCELLED</b>
Sept. 7 <sup>th</sup>	LABOR DAY HOLIDAY	
Oct. 3 <sup>rd</sup>	OUR Chapter 866 Monthly Pancake Breakfast <b>To Be Determined . . .</b>	Building 10 / 8-10 am
Oct. 7 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Regular Chapter 866 Monthly Meeting</b>	<b>Building 10 / 7 pm</b>
Oct. 12 <sup>th</sup>	COLUMBUS DAY HOLIDAY	
Nov. 4 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Regular Chapter 866 Monthly Meeting</b>	<b>Building 10 / 7 pm</b>
Nov. 7 <sup>th</sup>	OUR Chapter 866 Monthly Pancake Breakfast <b>To Be Determined . . .</b>	Building 10 / 8-10 am
Nov 11 <sup>th</sup>	VETERANS DAY HOLIDAY	
Nov. 12-14 <sup>th</sup>	DeLand Sport Aviation Showcase ( <i>Fingers Crossed</i> ) <a href="https://www.sportaviationshowcase.com/">https://www.sportaviationshowcase.com/</a>	DeLand Municipal Airport (KDED)
Nov 26 <sup>th</sup>	THANKSGIVING DAY HOLIDAY	
Dec. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>Regular Chapter 866 Monthly Meeting</b> (Officer Elections)	<b>Building 10 / 7 pm</b>
Dec. 5 <sup>th</sup>	OUR Chapter 866 Monthly Pancake Breakfast <b>To Be Determined . . .</b>	Building 10 / 8-10 am
Dec. 25 <sup>th</sup>	CHRISTMAS DAY HOLIDAY	
Jan. 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2021	NEW YEAR'S DAY HOLIDAY	
April 13-18 <sup>th</sup> , 2021	Sun-N-Fun Fly-In ( <i>Fingers Crossed</i> )	Lakeland, FL (KLAL)
July 26 <sup>th</sup> - Aug 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2021	EAA Airventure ( <i>Fingers Crossed</i> )	Oshkosh, WI (KOSH)

PLEASE SEND IN in any additions / updates to the Calendar of Events.  
We'd like to keep this current and accurate!

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#### CHAPTER MEETING:

**We WILL be holding our Regular AUGUST Monthly Chapter meeting at Arthur Dunn Airpark, Building 10.**

**Please Join Us on Wednesday AUGUST 5th at 7PM**

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My first attempt at making an educational video, I'll be showing this at our meeting. It is about engine failure options at Dunn airpark - Larry

### **An affordable autopilot for your experimental**

Last Saturday Bob, Mario, Carlos and I drove up to Massey Ranch where the Xflighttech auto pilot is being designed and marketed from. Imagine that, right up the road from here you can buy an inexpensive auto pilot for your experimental airplane! We the owner, Steve at his shop/hangar at the airport and he showed us the product and demonstrated the functions on his own experimental Hummel H5 airplane. An interesting system using a Rasberry pi with a touch screen as the processor. For about 1,000 to 1,200 dollars and a little bit of labor, you're in business!

He might have sold two of these this day!

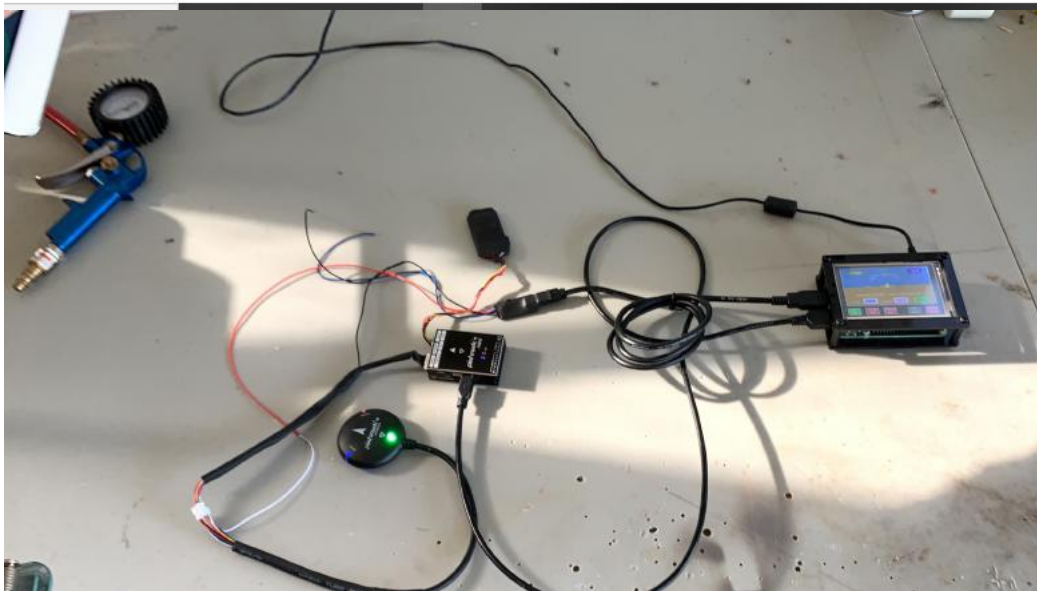
# Autopilot & AHRS

Trim / Autopilot and AHRS for  
Experimental LSA and  
Ultralight Aircraft

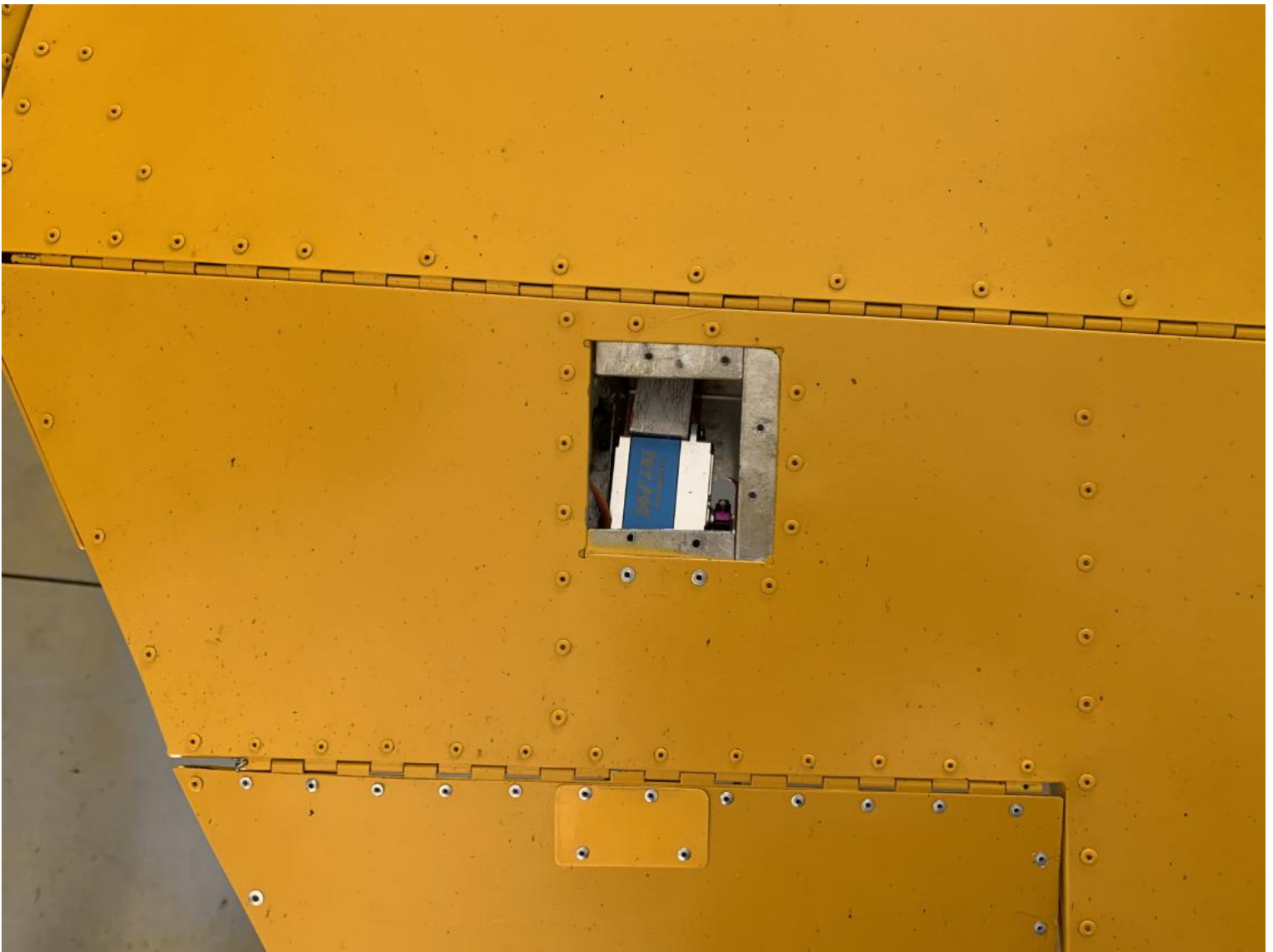


## What is it?

A simple to use trim and secondary control surface based autopilot and AHRS (utilizing UAV opensource components), with manual trim, wings-level stability, cruise control, navigation and return to home functions for LSA class experimental aircraft (non-TSO)



These are the main ingredients of the Xflight auto pilot, in addition to these and not shown are the servos



Opening illustrates the servo controlling the pitch trim below





The screen top center on inst. Panel is the auto pilot controller touch screen

Check the Xflighttech website out for more information.

Steve, the owner of this said he'd be willing to come down to one of our meetings to talk about his auto pilot developments.

Larry



## *RV6A Ride,*

Bob Rychel took me for a ride in the RV6 that he finished a couple of months ago and he even let me fly it a little! It's a great little airplane, very responsive (not sensitive) and fun to fly. A little awkward for me to climb in and out of but it's like me and Fancy, once you've done it a thousand times, you can make it look easy! No more will I be making fun of folks getting in and out of the Citabria!



See you at the meeting

Chapter meeting, Weds. Aug. 5, 7pm, bldg. 10 Dunn  
Airpark