

# EAA Smilin 'Jack Chapter Newsletter Dec. 2022



Picture by Fred Burgess as he passed Loretta and me with his C172 on the way home from one of our fly outs this month - *Larry*



from ***Kathy Anderson***

Dear EAA Chapter 866 Members and Friends,

This will be my last newsletter introduction, as my term of service is coming to an end, and a new president will be coming in. The “official election” will be held at our meeting on Wednesday December 7<sup>th</sup>. Hope you will all be able to come. As an incentive to attend the meeting, I would like to have a “crock potluck” dinner at 6:00.

The idea is those of you who have a crock pot, and have the time, please fill it with food to share. I plan to supply a pot of chili and a pot of mac and cheese. A tossed salad will also be provided. If anyone would like to bake cornbread, that would be a bonus! Any type of dish will be welcome and of course, there will be pie and coffee for dessert after the meeting.

**Our monthly breakfast will precede the meeting this month – it is scheduled for Saturday December 3<sup>rd</sup>. – see you all there!**

**Our meeting this month will feature two “bag of tricks” segments – elections, an update on the Winter Party in January, renewal of dues for the next year and party tickets. If time permits, there will be a new flight video of one of our recent trips.**

### ***The member spotlight this month is on: Bob Anderson***

**Since I was away on a long road trip and have not been at the airport for quite a while, I had to find a member close to home to interview. Since I live with Bob – he was the obvious choice....**

**Bob was born in Springfield, Massachusetts sometime after World War II – the second of two children of Elmer and Evelyn. His Dad served in the war, and returned home as one of the few survivors of the “Battle of the Bulge”; however, he was disabled for many years following the war. Bob’s Mom had to support the family on a small income. No one had much money during that era so Bob learned the value of a dollar at a young age.**

**Bob was a curious, energetic child. When he was 5 years old he was hit in the face with a golf club when he stepped too close to a man driving golf balls. At the age of six, he was run over by a car and was in a body cast for 6 months. Later, while working on a lawnmower, his hand was sliced by the blades as they rotated under the mower deck. From these incidents he learned to have a healthy respect for machines and things that move.**

**He became interested in radio and electronics at a young age. His Dad got a CB radio and Bob’s “handle” was pot – pot handle to his listeners. Soon he was interested in Ham Radio and obtained his license when he was 13 years old. He set up a station in his Hanover, Massachusetts basement and began broadcasting; talking to contacts all over the world. He experimented with antennas and radio and began to build equipment himself. His mother always knew what he wanted for his birthday – wire!**

**When it was time for college, he chose Electrical Engineering for his major and was pleased to attend Northeastern University – which had a co-op program. He would go to school one semester, and work the next. This provided him the experience of real world electrical work as he progressed through his studies.**

**His best friend was also into radio, as were most of his friends. This friend’s sister married a flight instructor – and thus the interest in flying began for both of them. He began taking lessons as soon as he graduated. They both received their pilot’s licenses. Soon after that, one of Bob’s contacts at work invited him to Florida to watch the launch of Apollo 16. With less than 100 hours in their logbooks, the two friends set off in a Cessna 150 for Orlando. They took off before the sun came up and landed at midnight at Orlando Herndon Field (now Orlando Executive Airport) – flight duration was around 18 hours. The return flight to Massachusetts included a flat tire when landing at his home airport, Taunton- just after midnight! Bob made many other long cross country flights – several to the midwest – solo.**

**He progressed through his instrument rating and commercial license. About that time, his instructor introduced him to one of his new 18 year old flying students – me. We started flying together and before we were married he bought a 1969 Cessna 150. We owned the plane 10 years – until our daughter was born. He sold it to a friend he worked with and bought a 1969 172. We kept this plane a couple of years until Bob accepted a position as a radar transmitter engineer at the ALTAIR Radar on Kwajalein Atoll. Almost 40 years later, Bob still does consulting work for the Radar.**

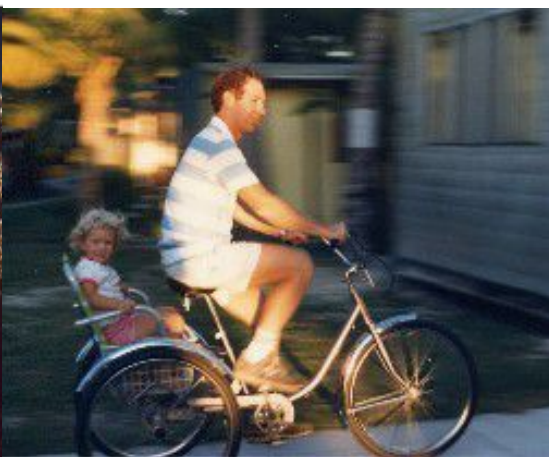


**Our Cessna 150 circa 1974 Camping at Oshkosh 197**



**Flying after digging out of the blizzard of '78 -**

**Flying over Kwajalein Atoll**



**SCUBA diving in Kwajalein**

**Bicycle was the transportation on Kwajalein**

**After living overseas for 12 years, we returned to the states, moving to Merritt Island. Bob searched every issue of trade-a-plane for almost two years before purchasing the Cessna 172XP that we have owned for the last 25 years. Later he obtained his A&P, then his IA endorsement and worked for Air Scan in Europe and later for Debenair Aviation at Spacecoast Regional Airport.**





**Our 172XP – N758AK**

**ALTAIR Radar Antenna**

About 4 years ago, Bob was called by the friend who had bought our 150 in 1982. He had decided the New England winters were to be avoided and had purchased a house at Canon Creek Airpark in Lake City – in which to spend the winters. And what was he flying? Our Cessna 150 from so many years ago. We visit them often in the winter months and my heart always melts when I see our old plane – so many great memories.

As you all know, we have flown the 172XP all over the country – still hoping to fly to Alaska. Maybe next summer!

*Kathy*



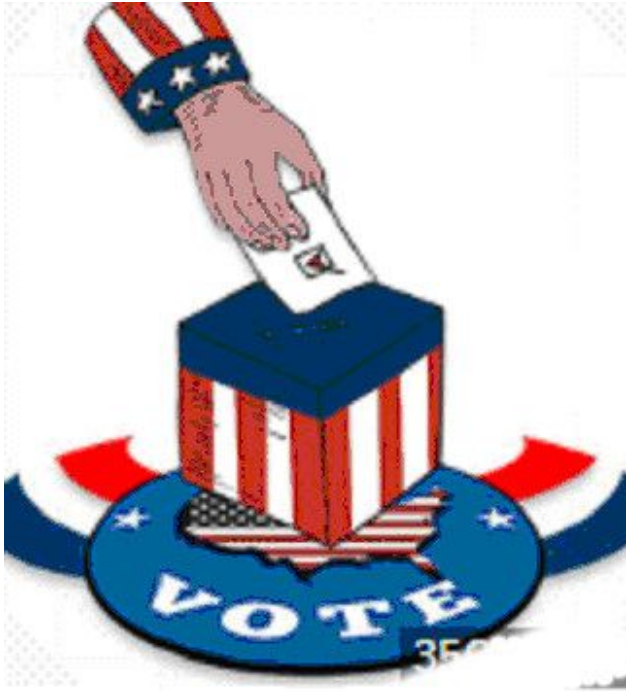
Last month's breakfast was interrupted by a rain shower that lasted about 10 minutes. The eaters raced for the inside dining room in building 10 and luckily there was room enough for all of those who were there at that time. After the rain stopped we resumed normal operation and by the time it was over we had fed about 134 folks!

## *Flight line duty*

**Pictured on the bicycle is Fred Burgess who handles the flight line for our visitors who arrive by plane for the breakfast. What he does is an important part of our monthly operation and it's a job that isn't very visible to all about how faithfully Fred does this without any fanfare!**



# BIG Election at our next chapter meeting, December 7, 2022!!



We'll be electing a new President and Vice President at the meeting and we need you to be there. One time, in the early days of our chapter they elected a member who was not at the meeting to be President so, this is another good reason to be there just in case they get that idea again!

Hey, there will be a free meal before the meeting and this is another good reason to be there! Never mind about that old saying, *"There's No Such Thing as a Free Lunch"*

## *How about that SLS Launch?*

A couple of friends from PA drove the 1,000 miles down here to see the launch of Artimus Nov. 16 and they weren't disappointed. We managed to get a spot on the Max Brewer Bridge in Titusville to witness that spectacle too! That's a great place to watch. When it ignited the whole bridge was lighted up almost like daylight and a very enthusiastic applause and yelling from the folks on the bridge happened!

Titusville is a pretty cool place!





The launch of Artemis as seen from the Max Brewer Bridge, Titusville

***This Months Flying***

Tango, our C172A (1960) is working well and a delight to fly. The 145 hp O300 Continental engine is not a real power house of an engine but, she’s adequate and a smooth running power plant. We managed to fly Tango 7 or 8 times in November and flew to a breakfast once and did some rides with friends around the neighborhood. FUN!

Larry

**Chapter Officers**

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**Chapter Breakfast**  
**Sat. Dec. 3, 2022 8:00 am**  
**Dunn Airpark Bldg. 10**  
**Titusville, Fl**

**Chapter Meeting**  
**INCLUDES POTLUCK DINNER!!**

**Weds. Dec. 7, 2022 6:00 pm**  
**Dunn Airpark, Bldg. 10**  
**Titusville, Fl**