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January 09



The Prez Sez

Another year has gone by and the next one is on our doorstep. I wish everyone the best for 2009, health and prosperity. As most of you probably know by now, I was elected as the new president for our EAA chapter. While there has been plenty of playful ribbing, the usual "turn in the barrel", and wrong place at the right time, etc comments, I am really looking forward to serve as chapter president. There are so many of you who have such extensive experience in all aspects of aviation that I feel somewhat inadequate for the task. However, with good help and guidance, I will be able represent our chapter well and continue learning at the same time.

One the first things we need to finalize is our support to the Valkaria Airfest on Saturday February 21, 2009. As we discussed in one of our previous meetings, I conveyed to the Valkaria EAA chapter that we will help out with breakfast. This will entail the transportation of the grills, purchasing supplies, cooking , and serving for the breakfast crowd. At the

beginning of the year I will return to the Thursday meetings in Valkaria to work out the details. In the meantime, for our next meeting on January 7th, I would like to get a tentative list of the people who can help with the activity. We will have to transport the equipment on Friday January the 20th and be at Valkaria relatively early on Saturday. In addition, the Valkaria EAA chapter was also looking to have static displays of completed homebuilts and/or components that may be under construction that you re willing to take to the Valkaria airport and stay at Valkaria most of that Saturday, please let me know during the meeting. The organizers of the event will have a space in their hangar set aside for those who bring parts under construction to provide proper protection during display. The airplanes will be displayed at the ramp.

I will probably not publish the world's famous newsletter on flying out of X21 for the weekends during the Christmas season as I will be gone from 2/25 to 1/4/2009. However, if you have kept any copies in your e-mail, you can refer to the regular events at the end of the newsletter. Many of the events have contact numbers. I would recommend that you contact the person listed just in case they have decided to change their schedules for the Christmas season. Not returning until the 4th means that I will not see you at our first meeting on the 3rd of January but I will see you on the 7th of January.

I am really looking forward to serving as your president. I think that among other things, it will be just plain fun. Thanks for your vote of confidence.

Alberto

December Meeting

Twenty two people managed to drag themselves to the December meeting. Some showed just because it was time to elect a new president and vice president for the year 2009 and they wanted to be sure they were not railroaded into these jobs! Anyway that's my theory.

Under new business Gene McCoy brought up the fact that the change in meeting time has caused some confusion and in fact has made it inconvenient for some to make it to the meeting. So, it was agreed upon that our meeting time will remain the same forever. MEETING TIME is 7:30pm from now on! Gene said that he would rather meet at midnight than to upset anyone with an inconvenient meeting time. Gil Jones said that Gene might be lonely if the meeting time is changed to midnight.

There was some discussion about our winter party being held on Jan. 17, 2009, 6:30pm at the Clarion Inn Titusville. Larry is still working on the entertainment for the event. A member suggested that we entertain our selves and said Ben could play guitar and sing, Ray could recite poetry, and we could put together a clogging group and dance to 'Off We Go Into The Wild Blue Yonder. Nobody got very excited about this so, it'll probably be professional entertainment again. Door prizes are needed. Tickets need to be sold. The annual membership fee of \$24.00 gets you a ticket to the party.

The BIG NEWS is, we have elected a new president and vice president for the chapter. Gene McCoy stood and told a story about a friend of his in S. Carolina long retired from NASA who said that he remembered a program where a few top students from an engineering college in Puerto Rico were brought to NASA in Cape Canaveral to expose them to the opportunities there. He said that his friend kept mentioning an engineer named Al who they hired and became a top notch engineer with NASA. Gene said, "we know him as Alberto." Then he nominated Alberto Silva for the office of president of the chapter. How could he refuse the nomination? It was seconded real fast and vote was taken and voila a new president! Then Stu Sammis asked for any nominations for VP explaining that it was an easy job and all he ever had to do was get Smilin Jack shirts made and fill in for the pres. once in a while. Ben Charvet blinked and he was nominated for VP and the nomination seconded and a unanimous vote made and now he's in charge of shirts and stuff.

December Breakfast

Some of the breakfast staff was decked out in brand new black aprons and Santa hats. There was some HO, HO HOs too. (gotta be careful with that one) Loretta made the aprons and we had the chapter logo screen printed on the front. They are nice!

This was our annual complimentary breakfast and is our Christmas present to express our appreciation to our members and friends. There were quite a few fly-ins including the Spruce Creek gaggles of fast, medium fast, and pretty fast Cubs and Champs that I saw arriving. We are very lucky to be able to



have these successful breakfasts.

Dan Hillman

June and I want to thank all of you at chapter 866 for the beautiful flowers for my mother's funeral. It was a large arrangement with vibrant colors that brightened up the room and gave comfort and joy to us. Also, the card signed by those of you at the last meeting is very meaningful. We appreciate very much your thoughts and prayers. Dan and June.

Ben Charvet Project Report

This sure is an exciting part of Pietenpol building. I just finished putting the last rib stitch in my right wing. Now all it needs is surface tapes and paint. I've attached a few pictures of the wing rotator jig I made up using two Work-Mate benches. By using this device I can rotate the wing to do the covering, stitching, and eventually painting without needing any help. If you look closely on the wing root end I welded a sheet metal (4130X0.025) disk to the axle that can be used to hold the wing in nearly any position by tightening the hold-down vise built into the bench. To get clearance for full rotation the axles are centered on the wing, which makes the leading edge much heavier than the trailing edge. Honestly the disk brake was a bit of a disappointment, but I can use a sawhorse, or various things to hold the wing where I need it.

I bought a nice rib stitch needle, but lost it somewhere. I made a replacement from a piece of 3/32 brass rod from the hardware store for \$0.99. Just hammered one end a little flat, drilled a hole in it, then sharpened the other end and it works just as well as one you can buy from ACS for 16 bucks. The rib stitching is actually not that bad, I was able to do the whole wing in 3 evenings working alone. I used 3-1/2 inch spacing except for the inside 4 ribs which got 1-3/4 inch spacing. Its a little overkill, but made all the stitches line up all down the length of the wing.

I'm using the Stewart System glue, and got a copy of their covering videos that are really great. The making of the cable exit covers is detailed in the video, and I was able to make them up pretty easily. I had one problem in that the upper pulley for the aileron cables was rubbing the fabric. I was able to make a "blister" out of the bottom of a Coke can that gave the clearance I needed. I'll attach a picture of that on a separate e-mail

Ben Charvet
Mims, FL

**BIG WINTER PARTY COMIN UP
JANUARY 17TH!!!!**

Don't forget about our annual awards banquet and party on the 17th. We've got the room reserved at the Clarion Inn in Titusville and the party starts at 6:30pm. There'll be a nice dinner, awards, speeches, door prizes, live entertainment, and dancing! The party is actually free if you pay your 2009 chapter dues. *What a deal!!!!* We need some sales efforts at the breakfast and the January meeting. Lets make this a team effort to sell tickets/memberships for our party.

Larry

Now That Fancy is Flying Again

We've been flying our Citabria around and staying pretty close to X21 for the last several weeks and nothing big has fallen off yet. This month I flew her to Massey Ranch a couple of times and over to Space Coast once. There was an issue with the tail wheel that got my attention. We made a landing at TIX and the tail wheel went into a bad shimmy and it felt like it was going around in circles back there. As we rolled to a stop it quit and became steerable only with brakes. As it turned out, the shimmy was bad enough that it shed a clip off of the spring

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where it attaches to the yoke on the rudder. We managed to taxi to the hangars on the East side of the airport and got a new clip installed. We then flew back to X21 and made a wheel landing on runway 4. All went well with that. We checked the tail wheel all over and found no more damage and I replaced the bearings. My new technique for pavement landings will be all wheel landings. In the grass we'll try some three pointers. It is possible I suppose that I had some rudder in when landing so the tail wheel was cocked some and set that off, I don't know. Another technique will be to double check that the rudder is neutral. How bout you, have you ever experienced this? I checked with the Citabria owners forum online and got a lot of different answers on this from them.

I started giving my friends some rides and my son was down for Christmas and we did the up the Indian River, to Lake Harney, and down the St Johns River thing. Curtis flew me around for an hour in it one day. I'm going to start venturing out with her now and going to the breakfasts and some of the places that Alberto is flying to, hopefully.

I managed to get some more moonshine free car gas again. Now that 100LL prices are coming down (everywhere except X21) I'll be using a mixture of 100LL and mogas if I can find it.

Having a good time with Fancy!!

Larry

Big winter party coming up. We need door prizes.



Workers prepare for December breakfast at Dunn airpark



Remember last years' party??

January 09 chapter happenings

**Jan. 3rd Breakfast at Dunn Airpark 8:00 am
bldg 10**

Jan. 7th meeting 7:30pm Dunn Airpark bldg 10

**Jan. 17th Annual Winter Party and awards
banquet
6:30 pm Clarion Inn US RT 1
Titusville, FL**

