



*Patti Patch in her Neiuport 11*

## **EAA Chapter 866 Smilin Jack newsletter Feb. 2011**



*The Pres. Sez.*

January sure was a busy month for Chapter 866. We elected Herman Nagel as our new Treasurer, and the two of us sorted through the books, deposits from two breakfasts and the party, and got it all sorted out at the bank. January is also when we renew our membership and insurance with EAA national, and renew and update the officers in the 866 Corporation. All this has been taken care of.

Once again Larry and Loretta Gilbert planned a wonderful annual banquet. Over 70 were in attendance, and there were lots of really nice door prizes. Thank you for all your donations to those prizes. As a token of our appreciation we gave Larry and Loretta a new heater for their hangar, and I stopped by one day this week and several of you were huddled around it with the hangar door closed. In the winter those north facing hangars sure are cold! Speaking of weather, its been pretty cold and windy, so the Pietenpol hasn't been flying nearly as much as I'd like. I did manage to get up one Sunday afternoon and go down to visit Vince Grasso at his strip down in Oak Hill. Thats only about 20 min north of X21 as the Pietenpol flies, and a nice grass strip.

February 19 is the annual Valkaria Air Fest. Last year the air show even included Patty Wagstaff. They have asked us to send 6 or 7 helpers to cook pancakes for breakfast. They will be feeding all volunteers breakfast and lunch (barbeque I think).

Create PDF files without this message by purchasing novaPDF printer (<http://www.novapdf.com>)

Breakfast starts at 7 or so. Even if you go down just to watch the show, be sure to wear your chapter T-shirts! I'm hoping to take the Pietenpol down if the weather is OK. We are supported at our breakfasts by lots of other EAA chapters, and we really should help support them any way we can. We can discuss car pools at the February meeting.

Sun-n-Fun is just around the corner!  
Ben

### *Winter Party a Resounding Success!*

Our party was held at the Royal Oaks Country Club and was very well attended (approx 65) and according to what Loretta and I are hearing from members and attendees everyone had a good time. Awards were awarded, door prizes were won, and the grand prize, an Amazon Kindle was won by Wayne Bullington. The place was abuzz with conversation and laughter most of the evening. The food was very good and the staff very pleasant. President Ben Charvet did an outstanding job of presenting the awards and did a nice complimentary talk about the assistance he received from the chapter membership during his building project and preparation for the first flight of his Pietenpol. After Ben's closing remarks many members remained to fellowship and enjoy each others company. This our eleventh one another successful annual Winter Party. Makes one proud to be associated with such people, doesn't it?

### *January Meeting*

Our January meeting was held at bldg. 10 at 7:30 promptly beginning with the slides to our flag. There was some



discussion about the annual Winter Party and everything seemed to be in place for this. The only issue was ticket sales and at this point there were only 40 tickets sold. By meetings end we were up to 50+.

Since the resignation of our treasurer we decided to elect a new one and Herman Nagle was nominated and it was seconded. By a show of hands Herman was unanimously elected as our new treasurer.

Project reports: Curtis (Murphy Rebel) has decided after consulting with the Rebel builders group to beef up the cabin area which is a critical stress area when landing. He is removing the .020 aluminum skin and replacing with .032 and adding some bracing as well to this area. Someone who visited Curtis's project said they were impressed with the precision in fitting the wings to mountings he has done.

Harry Teal: Soneri has ordered a Sterba prop and changed size from 54/37 to 56/48 and changed his carburetor from Bing to Aero Vec mounted on top of the engine rather than the bottom of his VW engine.

Les Boatwright RV4 Said that since the new baby was born he can't get any sleep so he can't work on the plane.

Gil Jones: Nieuport 11 is working on round cowling for the VW engine.

Alberto: C172 still scraping and sanding the corrosion away so he can repaint and start flying again.

Don Bolton Stearman is being prepared for a recover, according to Ben.

Danny D'innocenti Quick Silver Ultralight changed his engine from tractor to pusher and it will be ready to fly soon.

Ben reported that he did two more Golden Eagle flights. One was Wayne Bullington and the other Ray Thomas. The Ray Thomas flight was a multi tasking one because Ben was also doing a flight review.

That's the meeting as I remember it. Lg



### *This Month's flying*

Fancy was down for the annual inspection for a week or so. My IA found a couple of items. One was the left magneto which needed a new impulse coupling the other was the front crankshaft seal which was leaking a little oil. It is interesting to see how you fit a 2 1/2" seal over a 6 1/4 " hub. I didn't believe it could be done!

Since the annual we've flown a couple of hours just around the neighborhood. Then Ray Thomas did my flight review and as usual it was interesting and a learning experience as usual. Ray concentrates on cross control stalls and things that can bite you when flying. The flight review is a learning and fun experience with Ray and what makes it even more fun is that it is fun for Ray also.

### *New Starting Time for Monthly Meetings*

Beginning in Feb. (Feb 02 is meeting date) our meetings will be starting at 7:00 pm instead of 7:30. Prior to each meeting will be a board meeting at hangar # T3 unit G at 6:30. Chapter officers and members with items to be presented at the meeting should also be there.

*That is wrong, the meeting time remains at 7:30pm.*

### *Party Pictures*



Above: Pics. Some of the tables at our Winter Party



## *Patti Patch and Nieuport Featured in Senior Life*

The front page picture in this newsletter of Patti sitting in the Nieuport as well as this picture appeared in the Brevard Co. Senior Life publication in the January 2011 edition. Pic below Patti on the plane, l to r Ricardo Amen, Bill Furnholm, Jim Garrison, Gil Jones

BY LINDA S. HUMPHREY

The license tag on the front of Patti Patch's truck reads: "My other car is an airplane."

Actually she has two airplanes that reside in her hangar at a Titusville airport. One is a 2005 Cessna 182, turbo charged, that she takes "wherever she wants to go." Patch flies to Missouri, Nebraska and Pennsylvania to visit family.

"There isn't anywhere you can't fly this plane as long as you have adequate fuel," she said. "I put between 75 to 100 hours a year on my plane going just about any place I want to go," she said.

While watching a friend, Jim Garrison, build an ultra light in the mid-1980s, Patch said she became inspired and was spurred on to earn her pilot's license in 1988. Her Cessna allows nurture flying, the love of her life.

In 2000, Patch, Garrison and three other friends took on the task of building a Nieuport 11, designed after a French WW1 single-seat fighter aircraft designed by Gustave Delage. Ricardo Amen, Bill Furnholm and Gil Jones assisted Patch and Garrison.

Jones has flown for 25 years and has built three planes and has one that is a work in progress. Amen is the mechanic in the group who works for an aircraft manu-



facturer. He designed the motor mounts and other parts for the Nieuport. Garrison, who built his first airplane from a wreck, has been flying 40 years and has built three planes partially and three entirely.

Furnholm, a retired Navy veteran, said the crew took their time building the plane.

"It's a long slow process," he said.

The team took breaks frequently, finally completing the project this year.

"As for building, I have accomplished my goal," said Patch, "which was to better understand the parts of a plane and how it works, but I would not do it again. It takes too much time and I would rather be flying." *SL*



***Chapter Meeting 7:30pm Weds. Feb 2, 2011  
Bldg. 10 Dunn Airpark, Titusville, Fl 32796***

***Monthly Breakfast  
8:00am – Sat. Feb. 5, 2011  
Bldg. 10 Dunn Airpark (X21)  
Titusville, Fl 32796***