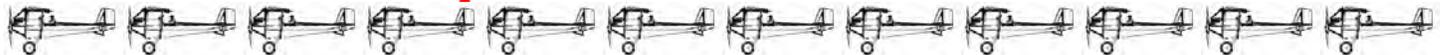




EAA Chapter 866 Smilin 'Jack Newsletter March 2011



February Chapter Meeting

Pres. Ben got things going with the pledge to our flag at 7:30pm sharp at the Feb. meeting. He announced that we hope to have a program for each meeting from now on. Another goal is to sponsor two Young Eagle events this year. Also, there was some discussion about a partial sponsorship to a youth for the EAA Air Academy at Oshkosh. Ben said he'd look into this for the chapter.

Projects were discussed and Kip said he's ready to do some painting on parts of his Sonex but has to wait until we're into 75° temps again. He also said that he's had a really fun time making the electric canopy locks and now has them working well. Remember he said he was using battery operated drill motors for this? He is now ready to order an instrument package and said that should be the last big \$\$ item to buy for this.

Don Garrison said that there is entirely too much fiberglass work to do on a RV8. He's finally got the air induction done after many attempts to get it just perfect. He said when he is done with this, his first plane to build, he will have done enough work to build 6 of them.

Pete Burgess Myers said on his RV, at 220 mph his fiberglass wheel pant disappeared. He said he thinks it shredded.

Curtis Langholz said that he drilled out 400+ rivets on the door sills of his Murphy Rebel in order to replace the .020 skin with .032. Makes the structure a lot stronger and even if he makes landings like mine, it won't be as likely to bend. Now that, that is done he's starting on the floor pan in the cabin.

Ben said his Nieuport is on the back burner now as he is working on a Spitfire (sportscar), whatever that is.

Deborah Van Treuren for show and tell showed us a commemorative coin struck for the first flight of our newest fighter aircraft the US has, the F35. I think it was given to her husband by the US Navy...not sure about this though.

Member Jeff Wilde showed us a few slides of his RV12 project. He said it is going very well and says you can build one of these in hours instead of decades.

Got Pictures or an article?

The chapter newsletter could be more interesting if we had more contributions to it. Even just a nice picture of your airplane will work. Write an article about your first solo or about a flying experience like a close call or some neat place you've landed at.

If you have something to submit, it should be written in MS word. I don't like printed paper articles handed to me because I never learned the proper way to type and I can't type while reading because I have to look at the keyboard as I type. Two paragraphs would probably take me ½ hour to type into the newsletter. This is too painful!

Jerry Russell



Jerry died on Feb 11 at his home. He a victim of colon cancer that was diagnosed 17 months prior to his death.

He is a past president of chapter 866 and when he was healthy was always working at all our chapter functions. At our monthly breakfasts, he was the original bacon and eggs guy and slaved over the hot griddle many times.

A celebration of life memorial was held in his honor on Feb. 19 at the pavilion at Sand Point park in Titusville. This was truly a pleasant service and some of Jerry's friends and family told stories, some of them quite funny, about his life and some of the many things he had done.

Chapter 866 member, Ray Thomas has arranged for a **Missing Man formation to be flown at our next breakfast.**

In the Sport Aviation magazine the list members who've recently passed in a column called 'Gone West. That's why the cover picture of this newsletter has that caption. The picture is of Jerry with his Tripacer.



The Prez Sez

So much has happened since the last meeting. As you may recall, I was looking for volunteers to help with breakfast down at the Valkaria Airfest on Feb 19. Unfortunately we learned on Feb 11 that our good friend and past President Jerry Russell had died. As we helped his wife Sharon make arrangements, it became clear that the funeral would be on Feb 19, and that we would need to cancel our volunteering at Valkaria. They were very understanding and said they hope we can help them next year.

Jerry Russell was a good friend, and a great help in building my Pietenpol. During his years of service to Chapter 866 we went from cooking pancakes on an electric skillet, to having 2 gas grills. He was always around to give advice on just about any subject, aviation related or otherwise. He will be sorely missed by all of us.

Its hard for me to believe, but its time for my first annual condition inspection on my Pietenpol. I took it up for 1/2 hour last Saturday to warm up the oil. We sure are lucky to be able to fly an open cockpit airplane in shorts and t-shirt in February! Got it all torn down for inspection and only found a few minor squawks. It should be back together next weekend. While doing the compression check, I was reminded that Jerry showed me how to do that. While the cowling was off, I noticed a few minor details that were done on his advice.

There has been some talk of changing the meeting time to 7 PM, and I forgot to bring it up last month. Just to avoid confusion, the meeting this month will still be at 7:30, and we'll talk about changing the time Wednesday night.

Sun-N-Fun starts the end of March, and I'm planning to fly over and spend the week. Hope to see lots of you over there.

--

Ben Charvet

Sorry Bout the short newsletter.

Don't forget about the meeting Weds. 3/2 or the breakfast on Sat.3/5

Larry