

Smilin Jack Newsletter EAA Chapter 866



December 2011

Gil Jones

Longtime active C866 member and experimental airplane builder Gil Jones passed away on Monday Nov. 28, 2011 Services will be held at 1:00 pm at Indian River City Methodist Church on Cheny Highway, Titusville. Following the service there will be a reception at the Titusville Garden Club on Sisson road, Titusville. His wife asked that we not send flowers and if anyone is inclined to donate money it should go to Hospice, Indian River city Church building fund, or EAA Chapter 866 Young Eagle events. Gil was fun to be around and was a dedicated worker for the chapter. He enjoyed cooking bacon and sausage at our monthly breakfasts. He was a technical advisor for experimental airplane builders and helped many of our members with their projects. He has been sorely missed around Dunn Airpark since last June when he started to have symptoms of the cancer that eventually killed him. Gil managed to make it to a couple of meetings and breakfasts since he became sick his attitude was great!

Gilman (Gil) L. Jones

Geneva, FL



Gilman (Gil) L. Jones, 68, passed away on November 28, 2011, at his home in Geneva, FL,

while surrounded by loving family members. Born in Birmingham, AL, he has been a resident of Central Florida since 1965.

After serving in the USAF, Gil Retired from NCR and then Air Scan in Titusville. Gil was a loving and devoted father who enjoyed spending time outdoors with his children and grandchildren. He was a passionate aviator and member of EAA Ch. 866 in Titusville.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Gilman Jones, Sr. and Billie Overman, and by his brother, Johnny. He is survived by Claire Fielding of Geneva, with whom he has shared a 28 year loving commitment; sister, Jane Morris of Volusia Co.; his daughters, Andrea McBryde and Susan Peck, both of Brevard Co.; and five grandchildren.

Funeral services by North Brevard Funeral Home. Memorial Service and Celebration of Life at 1 p.m. on December 3, 2011 at Indian River City Methodist Church, Titusville.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his honor will be accepted at Hospice of the Comforter, IRC Methodist Church and EAA Young Eagles, Titusville.



"You cain't cook too much bacon"

Nov. Meeting

Another well attended and interesting meeting for us. Elections of new officers was a little hectic as when nomination time came everyone was trying to get out of the room at the same time and there was a serious bottleneck at the one exit. It was kind of like the panic that can occur when something catches fire and people are trampled trying to get out. Fortunately no one was hurt. The only ones left in the room were the current officers and the Pres. And VP decided that must have been a vote of confidence when everyone left so they held a vote and they were re-elected all except Gene McCoy that is. Gene has gotten so wrapped up in his business ventures he doesn't have time to do the chapter business now. He bought a farm to raise ducks on somewhere here in Florida. The lady he bought the farm from is trying to teach Gene to catch ducklings and he said he has to learn to drop down on them. He said this is a hard thing to do at his age as he's not as quick as he used to be. I know all this sounds a little strange but Les who grew up on a chicken farm told Gene he understands. Anyway Gene decided to move on so that left a vacancy for Chapt. Secretary. Preident Ben asked if anyone would be willing to take the secretary position and after a long period of silence Kip Anderson said he'd be willing to do this. Kip is now our chapter secretary.

Project reports: Deborah reported that they are done doing inventory on the Twister and it took 4 days to do this. One elevator is missing but they're sure they'll find it. She said that they will probably use the UL260ISA engine on the plane.

Bob Rychel said he has the canopy finished, most instruments are in panel, and getting ready to paint his Zodiac 650XL and as soon as he can secure a hangar at Dunn he'll put it there to do final assembly of the wings.

Jeff Wilde has his RV 12 finished and has been fast taxiing it. Wants to bring it to Dunn for first flight.

Harry Teal delivered his C120 to Pittsburgh, Pa for his son to have.

Les Is working on his RV4 cowling. He also showed us a special wrench he made for the axle nuts (I think) on the plane.

Kip is still polishing his the aluminum on his Sonex. He has cut the hole to mount the EFIS in the instrument panel.

Jim Morgan when prodded, admitted he drove a couple of more rivets on the RV6.

Presidents Moment

Hard to believe we have lost another member so suddenly. As you may have heard, Gil Jones passed away November 28. He was a faithful member of Chapter 866 and a good friend. His memorial service will be held Saturday Dec 3, at Indian River City United Methodist Church in Titusville. Claire has asked that in lieu of flowers, donations in his honor be made to Hospice of the Comforter, the IRC Methodist church, or EAA Young Eagles.

I first met Gil over 25 years ago, long before I joined EAA. At the time he was working for NCR maintaining the computers at the Eckerd Drug Store where I worked. Back then I believe he was flying mostly ultralights, because I remember seeing him in one at a Smiling Jack Fly-in years ago. Gil also served as one of our EAA Technical Counselor, and was an A&P/AI. I have the duty working this weekend, and I don't expect to be able to attend his services.

I had the pleasure to do a site visit on one of our members in the role of Technical Counselor. I enjoy doing this and its exciting to see what others are building. However I am most familiar with wood/fabric construction and am probably not the best inspector of all aluminum aircraft. The requirements to be a Tech Counselor are not all that stringent. You have to be either an A&P, or have to have completed a homebuilt aircraft. Anyone meeting those requirements can apply. Anyone out there interested?

The elections we held last meeting went pretty quick. Looks like I'll be writing these newsletter articles for another year. In the coming year we will need to start grooming some new folks to to take over, because I don't want to be like FDR. Thanks to Kip for agreeing to be our Secretary for next year.

We don't have a program scheduled for the meeting on December 7, so If anyone wants to present something send me an e-mail or give me a call.

Ben

PS. Found this poem on a fellow Pietenpol builders website, the author wasn't cited.

Heaven on Wings

As the throttle moves forward,
My future becomes clear,
I know that my troubles,
Will soon disappear.

The aircraft speeds me away,
From this troubled earth,
I knew this day would come,
Since the day of my birth.

Peace I have found,
My life balanced on wings,
My problems disappear,
Among other things.

Paradise is what I see,
In the crisp, cool air,
Lost in my thoughts,
And not even a care.

As I turn on to final,
I know I must go,
Return to the evil,
To the world that I know.

Problems I will see,
'till the day that I die,
Then I will return to my heaven,
To my place in the sky.

November Breakfast

We had a blustery morning for the bkfst. This month. We set up a lot of tables inside and that worked well. I was surprised to see as many planes fly in as did because of the wind. They're dang good pilots! WE served around 120 – 150 I estimate by the number of pancakes I cooked. We have a great crew working these monthly breakfasts and it is impressive the amount of people who volunteer to work this thing. A good time was had by most!



This Months Flying

After flying within a radius of 40mi of Dunn for the past year, my wife and I headed off to Winter Haven to their annual fly-in. We had a good time eating and wandering around renewing old acquaintances and looking at airplanes like we always do at these things. Good food there! Weather was good. Wind was out of the NE at 8 kts and rnwy 5 suited just fine for our arrival. While we were there the wind picked up and was out of due east so, rnwy 11 suited best for take off to head home. Some people who flew in and landed on 5 were programmed for that runway and made taking off time interesting but good radio work by the pilots kept the operation relatively safe. The ride home was slow at 2,000' and our indicated 100mph produced 80-85 ground speed. We used our regular route for flight in that direction, Dir. Lake X, Dir. Winter Haven and reversed this coming home. Very pleasant Saturday it was! ---Larry

VAC

Below was submitted by member Steve Quickel

The Valiant Air Command Warbird museum in Titusville is again supporting the Marine Corps "Toys for Tots" program as a drop-off point. This weekend, on Saturday and Sunday, December 3 and 4, if you bring in a new toy (recommend value of at least \$5.00); unwrapped, you will be admitted FREE to the museum. This offer is good for a single entry per toy.

Mr. Lloyd Morris, Commander of the Valiant Air Command said, "this is a great deal for the public; you not only get to support the Toys for Tots program, but you also get free admission to this unique and very special Brevard County Attraction."

With the recent opening of our new Vietnam exhibition hangar, there is something for the whole family to see; so come in, take a tour ... and become a part of history. The museum is open daily from 9AM to 5PM, 7 days a week. For more information contact: 321-268-1941, or visit the website at www.vacwarbirds.org.

Big Winter Party!!

Hey, do we have a nice venue for the up and coming annual winter party! We have secured a trip down the beautiful St. Johns River on the Rivership Romance out of Sanford on January 29th. Some of you may have had the experience of this cruise, if you have you know how nice this is. The cruise is beautiful, food is really good and we'll have dancing to live music.



Regular price for this trip is \$48.50 per person, our winter party cruise – only \$25.00 ea!

The Rivership is easy to get to and I'll have directions printed in the January newsletter and we'll be discussing this at the Jan. meeting. Arrangements can be made to car pool also.

Our goal is to have at least 75 people in attendance for this....Please help by selling some tickets. It'll be fun!

Chapter officers

3825 Cottonwood
Drive
Titusville 32780

321-961-
5117

bencharvet@gmail.com

3640 Fraizer Ct.
Titusville, FL 32780

269-1723
269

amyandles@juno.com

kipapilot@cfl.rr.com

5812 Deer Trail RD
Titusville 32780

4564

773-1554 Emergency

chapter secretary

FL 32937
21425 Hobby Horse
Lane
Christmas, FL 32709

407-568-8980

bhnagel@earthlink.net

2002 Malinda Lane
Titusville 32796

591-8783

larryglbrt@gmail.com

321-385-1908

Pres. Charvet, Ben
VP Boatright, Les
Secy Anderson, Kip
Treas. Nagel, Herman
Nws
Ltr Gilbert, Larry

Monthly Breakfast

Sat. Dec 3, 2011

Dunn Airpark

8:00 – 10:00 am

Chapter Meeting

Weds. 7:00pm

Bldg. 10 Dunn Airpark