





President's Moment Jan 2012

It's hard to believe my first year, as president is already gone. I'd like to thank all those that helped make 2011 a great year for Chapter 866. It sure hasn't all been fun. We lost the roof of our building in March, and had to move our meetings to a hangar loaned to us by Ray and Donna Thomas. I was amazed that so many members still came out, and the Chapter never seemed to miss a beat. We lost a few months of pancake breakfasts, but it also gave some of our members a few months vacation from those duties. Eventually our building was repaired, and around that time the Airport Authority building at TICO was completed and they donated their old furniture to the chapter. We had a Saturday morning work party to clean out the workshop area. I believe we took 5 or 6 pickup truck loads of stuff to the dump. Now our facility is in pretty good shape.

We have been blessed with good programs, usually provided without any coaxing or cajoling on my part. We have more experimental airplane projects under construction now than every before. Just listening to the project reports makes a formal program not absolutely necessary (still nice though). Our pancake breakfasts continue to be well attended, and our Young Eagles program was a big hit.

We lost two good friends this year, Jerry Russell, and Gil Jones. Both of them had been faithful supporters of the Chapter and are sorely missed.

I always look forward to our annual party. This year Larry and Loretta have been planning for months. Unfortunately their first plan of a River Cruise fell through due to the River Cruise Boat failing an annual. We have been able to secure the Royal Oak Country Club for the Saturday before the original plan. The event will be held on Saturday January 28. Please spread the word to anyone holding tickets that the date and location has been changed.

I've had a pretty busy year personally and haven't been able to spend nearly enough time hanging out at the airport, or doing chapter activities. I'd like to personally thank Larry and Loretta Gilbert for being the glue that holds the whole thing together. Thanks to Ray and Donna Thomas for the use of the hangar and helping with refreshments at the meetings and breakfasts. Thanks for all of you for making this a great year for Chapter 866.

Blue Skies,

Ben

December Meeting

At the December meeting we discussed the fact that we've had to make a change in the Winter Party plans. Originally we had planned on using the Rivership Romance out of Sanford on Lake Monroe but it appears as if they suddenly went out of business. So, instead we have reserved the Royal Oak Country Club for the party this January 28th. The tickets are the same price and those who have already bought tickets just use these for the Royal Oak venue.

Project reports:

Ed Brennaman - Kitfox 7 is building a paint booth in his garage has an exhaust system for fumes built in. He says it's hard to move parts around now with this structure in the way. His Viking engine was scheduled to be delivered in Jan has been pushed back to April.

Kip Anderson - Sonex Kip is doing wiring and has painted his fiberglass cowling with Rustoleum rattle cans and says that it turned out nice. He thinks that the problems he had with the Stewart System paint might have been due to their primer. He has ordered an auto pilot and radio.

Bill Bilsky - helicopter wants to move his project to Dunn but Sheltair won't rent hangars for helicopters.

Harry Teal - Soneri is test flying this now, says cooling problem is fixed. It goes 140+ miles per hour on the VW engine. He said he's puzzled about the RPMs it develops. Says it takes off with 3200 revs, climbs at 3200 revs (800fpm) and cruises at 3200 revs.

Jim Morgan - RV6 Jim said he drilled 10 holes in November. The membership applauded!

Jeff Wilde - RV12 Is waiting for registration and when he gets it he'll be flying it. Has done some high speed taxiing already.

Bob Rychel - Zenith 650XL Jabiru engine mounted and ready to start. Wiring is done, canopy is done and is in process of painting the plane now. He has rented a Sheltair hangar and will do final assy. At Dunn in Jan.

Deborah VanTruren - Twister Deb brought the almost finished ailerons in for a show and tell. Looking for advice on what the moment of these should be.

Long Time Chapter Member passes

Alberta Louise Pigon Rich passed on peacefully in her sleep in her son's home on Sunday morning, December 4, 2011. Her daughter, Nancy, and son David awoke to find her resting peacefully. Her son, Al, had been with her earlier. She had been living with Dave for the past nine years.

Born July 26, 1916, "Berta" grew up in Winthrop, Massachusetts; married Nelson B. Rich, an aviator, in October, 1937. She met "Bud" when visiting East Boston Airport (Logan) on her beloved Indian Pony motorcycle. Such was the adventurous nature that the two shared for a marriage of sixty two years. She took great pride in Bud's development of the advanced experimental airplane dubbed the "Rich-Twin." Aviatix Pioneer, secretary, farmer, owner of Rich Acres Camp for Boys in Center Tuftonboro, NH, Lake Winnepesaukee island real estate manager, and world traveler; she gracefully shared her loving nature with family, friends, neighbors and customers.

Alberta on her Indian when she met Bud.



In recent years she enjoyed becoming a published author, member of the Titusville Art League's "Poets & Painters," and a member ("through eternity") of the local Smilin' Jack chapter of the Experimental Aircraft Association. In her last years she was grateful for the support services of Parrish Medical Center, Community Services Council, Joe's Club, Hospice of St. Francis, and others.

Alberta is survived by son David Nelson Rich of Titusville; daughter Nancy Rich Kluge-Starrett of Fort Lauderdale, FL; son Albert Clark Rich, and his wife Susan, of Carmichael, CA; her ten grandchildren and two great granddaughters.

Note: You might be interested in reading more about Alberta and the history of the Rich Twin on this website. WWW.rich-twin.com

Albeta's son David Rich runs the North Brevard Business Directory website... WWW.nbbd.com, he is very supportive of our chapter and posts all events and the monthly newsletter on his website.



This Month's Flyin

Not much to brag about this month although I got over 10hrs in just flying locally. We made a sightseeing trip up over Daytona one day. They were practicing racing on the speedway with about 10 cars out on the track. Even from 4,500 feet you can appreciate how fast they are traveling. We did the shuttle landing facility pass a couple of times and my passengers enjoyed this and I still think it's cool too!

Loretta and I flew into 01FL, locally known as Cedar Knoll Sky Ranch Airport for their monthly breakfast. Landing in there gives me the jitters when there are so many planes flying in there at the same time for the breakfast. You're operating below the Sanford class C which starts at 700' into an airport that you can't see until you're almost on top of it due to the high trees. Must say though everyone who was flying into that airport did a good job announcing their positions accurately and when there was a 60 mph Cub in the pattern the fast RVs

and Pitts made adjustments. At Cedar Knoll they have a large jar displayed to collect donations for the breakfast and until recently it was expected that you would donate \$8.00. This month there was a sign posted on the jar that read, due to the increased food costs over the last three years the suggested donation is now \$10.00.

Big Winter Party coming up soon! Sat. Jan 28!!Royal Oak Country Club, 6:30pm – Banquet – Chapter Awards – Live Music to dance by!



Ben and Carol were up in their Pietenpol one day and met up with the legendary Dunn Patrol SE5 piloted by Ace pilot Mark Oriza Both shot pictures.



**Big Winter Party Sat. Jan. 28 Royal Oak Country Club
Titusville.....Door Prizes too!!
Eating, dancing to live music. It should be a nice get together!**

Chapter Dues are due! The annual fee is \$25.00 but wait! If you pay your dues you may attend the party FREE!! If you buy a ticket to the party, you've paid your chapter dues. You can't lose unless you don't pay. Come to the meeting or the breakfast to buy your tickets or, call me (Larry) 321 591 8783 and tell me you'll be there and you can pay at the door. I need to know ahead of time to give the club a count.

WW I Nieuport 11 replica project. 7/8 scale.
Near complete. Most parts and instruments.
Including VW 4cyl. eng. See pictures.
\$3,500 407 349 9383



Chapter officers

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**Chapter Meeting
Weds. Jan. 4, 2012
Bldg. 10
Dunn Airpark, Titusville, Fl 32796**

**Chapter Breakfast
Sat. Jan 7, 2012
Bldg. 10
Dunn Airpark, Titusville, Fl 32796**