

EAA Chapter 866 Smilin Jack Newsletter February 2012



Pictures are EAA Chapter 866 members and friends all dressed up for our annual party. They're hard to recognize dressed like this. Good looking group!!





President's Moment

Just got home from one of the best annual parties for chapter 866 I think I ever attended. We had nearly 70 in attendance, and I think most everyone had a good time. Thanks to Larry and Loretta for putting the whole thing together.

Every once in a while I have a flight in my Pietenpol that is memorable (in a good way). One Sunday afternoon last month Carol and I headed out to Dunn. It was one of those post-cold front afternoons when the air temp was around 75 degrees and the visability was about 30 or 40 miles. The wind sock

was hanging nearly limp. We both got strapped in and took off for adventure. As a result of the de-restriction of lots of the airspace over Merritt Island there are lots of areas I haven't spent much time flying over. We headed towards Haulover Canal, skirting around the class D for the Shuttle Landing Strip. As we passed over the river I noticed the bait fish were jumping when our shadow passed over them. They can't tell a Pietenpol from a Pelican I guess. We proceeded to fly out over the Canaveral Seashore Park. This stretch of beach is really desolate. The ocean water was extremely clear. We spotted one shark, several pods of dolphins, and a mother and baby manatee. The water was so clear that from 500 ft you could see the manatee's shadow on the bottom under them. We eventually even saw a lone manta ray.

While I was doing all this flying in January, wearing a short sleeved shirt with no jacket, I was thinking about all my Pietenpol friends up north that have their airplanes put away for the winter. We are truly blessed to have such interesting sights to see so close to home.

Valiant Air Command has started having fly-in breakfasts on the second Saturdays of each month. They ask that if you are planning to fly in that you call and give them a head count, because they are having

their breakfasts catered by Chef Larry's restaurant. Their number is 321-268-1941.

The Valkaria Air-Fest will be held on Feb 18, and Ron Thorstad is planning to camp on the airport grounds on Saturday night. Contact him if you are interested in joining them.

Blue Skies

Ben

January Meeting

Meeting began w/ pledge to our flag promptly at 7:00. Twenty six people in attendance.

Project reports: Bill Bilsky has moved into a Sheltair hangar at Dunn Airpark. Row 5 unit H is his Lair. Bill is building a helicopter.

Kip Anderson reported that he's wiring his Sonex and it is taking longer than he expected.

Pete Burgess Meyers brake line broke. He's rebuilt stuff and now he has two instead of one leaks. Plastic brake lines – he says.

Jeff Wilde is still waiting for registration paperwork so he can fly is RV12 that he recently completed.

Ed Brennan said he needed sealant for ethanol blended fuel for header tank for his Rans S7 that he is building. He finally found some at Advance Auto parts. He also said that his wife is worried about him buying parts to build his plane from Lowes!

Bob Rychel – Has painted his Zodiac 650XL and moved into a Sheltair hangar at Dunn. He said he flew one of these in Nevada in January and has made arrangements to have his test flown by a person who does that.

Steve Camlin has buit a Thunder Gull and it is ready to taxi.



Deborah Treuren – project report

Abra-Ca-Deborah is coming along pretty nicely. I have been doing a lot of work with fiberglass resin and tapes. Richard is working with me but says I do the best fiberglass work between the two of us! Last week I set the aileron bellcranks, no small feat. Another guy building one punctured the wing skin and broke a bearing trying to set his. It took a long time to work the ends into the bearings. I must have taken them out 20 times, then the satisfying plop came and everything just fell into place. Maybe reaming out the upper radius on the outside of the bellcrank holes on both wings is what made the difference. The upper wing spars are now glassed and taped, and upper hinge rib supports for the flaps as well. The nav lights are next, then we'll set the gas tanks in the lower wings- I have already laid in the carbon tapes in the wing noses. Another interesting job. Messy, but very satisfying. We'll be moving the fuselage into the shop before we know it. This project may be finished sooner rather than later. I am so excited about flying it. So far, it is a labor of love and I am just smitten with this little airplane!

Note: Deborah has successfully passed her written for private pilot and is only a few days from taking her check ride for private pilot!

January Breakfast

We were really hammered with breakfast eaters. They started showing up around 7:45 and they kept on coming for the next 2.5 hrs. We served about 170. According to observers near the flight line there were at least 30 planes on the field. Ray was the bacon cooker, Deb fried eggs, and Larry did pancakes. Inside Loretta, Donna, and Jan womanned the food table and kept the coffee made. Becky Nagle was helping Larry by separating the plates and passing them over for the pancakes. Herman collecting the money and Mitch, Ben, Bob and others set up and tore down the tables. Pat Porter was right on top of things cleaning the tables as people left so that the incoming eaters could have a clean place to use. There were more but that was a month ago and I don't remember who else I saw working but I know there was more than I've mentioned. **TEAMWORK!! = success.**

2012 Winter Party

Many people told me that they had a great time at our annual party and it looked to me as though all were enjoying themselves. Our entertainer Meredith was superb! She did more than what we contracted for by singing while we were meeting and greeting until it was



time to eat. This made for a festive atmosphere as people were coming in and being seated. After dinner and awards she did a show that was very entertaining and fun to dance to also. The Royal Oak did a super job with the food and service. We made reservations for 70 and it appears that we had about 63 there.

The photographer asked each couple to get up against the wall for photos and half of our members faced the wall with their hands high and legs spread when this was said. Just habit I guess! Below are some of the pictures.

Some of our chapter members were hard to recognize dressed up as they were!



Jim Nordby shot this panorama of the party during door prize drawings.

Chapter Party pictures



John Harms, of Anchorage, AK won the quilt made by Dot Morgan



Ed & Kimberly Brennan (best dressed dancers)



Richard & Deborah Vantreuren



Pres. Ben w/trophy



Ray & Donna Thomas



Mitch and Kaye



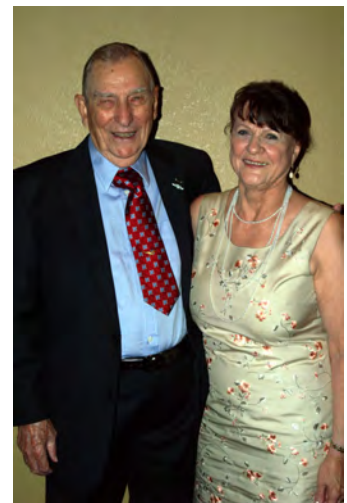
Dan & June Hillman



Bob & Jan dancing



Kip & Barb Anderson



Bill Furnholm & Patti Patch



Don & Heidi Garrison



Jim and Barb Longley

VALKARIA 2012
AIR FEST

RIDES FOR ALL AGES
NIGHT AIRSHOW
LIVE CONCERT
FIREWORKS SHOW
CUBSCOUTS CAMPOUT
MEET ORIGINAL TUSKEGEE AIRMEN

Saturday
February 18th

www.ValkariaAirFest.org

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. Feb 1, 2012
Bldg. 10
Dunn Airpark, Titusville, FL 32796

Chapter Breakfast
Sat. Feb 4, 2012
Bldg. 10
Dunn Airpark, Titusville, FL 32796