

EAA Smilin Jack Chapter 866 Newsletter

June 2012



Airshow!!

Spectators lined the taxiways to watch Bob Rychel do his first flight in Little Bit, his gorgeous Zodiac 650XL he built himself.

First Flight!!

'Little Bit, Bob Rychel's beautiful Zodiac 650 has flown with Bob at the controls! At this writing there are 2+ hrs on this plane with only 38 to go to have the required time flown off so he can put a passenger in beside him and fly about anywhere they want to go. Before Bob took Little Bit into the air he did a very smart thing, he went to a training facility in Tennessee where they offer training in the Zodiac and made 50+ take offs and landings and was signed off as qualified to solo this model airplane. This made him very familiar with the characteristics of this plane and because he followed the building plans so well there were no surprises. Only those of you who have built and flown your own airplane can understand how it feels to do that first flight. This may even be more exciting than your first solo.



Bob's Sweetie, Jan, checks on him after his first flight with 'Little Bit, the Zodiac 65XL which he built.

May Meeting

Meeting started at 7:00 pm promptly with the pledge to our flag.

Project reports: Jeff Wilde announced that he has made his first flight in the RV 12 he built and everything is going well and it likes to go fast. He only has to fly five hours instead of the customary 40 required for most EAB aircraft, he said that since his is considered a ELSA different rules apply. Kip Anderson is working on fitting the canopy said he had to trim some rubber gaskets and re-fit the canopy. Ed Brennan said he was trying to fit the doors up on his Kitfox. Les Boatright rather than give a report on his RV told us about a trip he made to DC to watch the arrival of Shuttle Discovery atop the modified 747. Les was, at one time the lead mechanic on this plane and has sentiments for it. After this he and his family visited the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum at Dulles, Va which he found to be very interesting. Then on the way home near Savannah he saw the 8th Air force museum and stopped there also. Bob Rychel said that the FAA inspection of his Zodiac 650 was complete and signed off. The inspector found no problems with the work! Dan Shaw announced that his hangar at Southerland would be featured on Million Dollar Rooms on HGTV on May 15. He said the filming crew really enjoyed their visit there because they got to fire machine guns and also got a plane ride over the Shuttle Landing facility before they left.

Don White, who is the Merritt Island chapter pres. Said that they had a Young Eagle rally and had flown 204 youth. 151 of them were first flights and 1/3 of these are girls. They had 14 planes and a helicopter flying kids that day. WOW! He announced that their May meeting would be on the 9th. Bill West said he got his seaplane rating and is buying a Sea Rey to fly. Someone announced that New Smyrna Wings and Wheels museum is starting a monthly breakfast in June. These will be on the 2nd Sat. of each month. The pres probably said something but this was before I had a chance to start making notes.-----lg

May Breakfast

Attendance was down for the May breakfast, I didn't get an official count but my guess is that it was around 100. Our crew positions have changed some to allow volunteers to become more familiar with the whole operation. All seemed to go well and since the count was down there was a little less pressure on the crew. It is wonderful to have such a great crew working this thing!

June Program



Alberto Silva recently completed a trip to Puerto Rico in May in his C172 and has volunteered to tell his story about this trip and has a slide presentation to show. This should be very interesting.

President's Report June 2012

The first weekend of May I attended my 40th class reunion of the Titusville High School class of 72. Thanks to Facebook, most of my classmates were aware that I had built an airplane and flew it regularly. One friend from high school actually just came out and asked me for a ride. I couldn't promise anything not being sure what the weather the next day would bring. This request came on the Friday before the last pancake breakfast. As you may remember, the weather was close to perfect, so as soon as the grills were turned off I went over to my hangar to start my preflight. I called my friend and she was at the airport within 15 minutes. We did a 3 minute flight down the shuttle runway, then flew up towards New Smyrna for a bit, then just flew over Titusville for a while. At the second part of the reunion on Saturday night a few folks came up asking how the one friend got a ride, and my reply was "she asked". I may be flying a lot of classmates in the future, now that they know the secret to getting a ride.

We've had a few exciting events at Dunn Airpark this month. I don't want to steal Bob Rychel's thunder, so I'll let him tell you his exciting news at the meeting. Alberto has flown his C-172 to Puerto Rico (and back), and will be sharing his adventure with us at the meeting. He also reports that the rumors that he was moving his airplane to TICO are just that..rumor.

Hope to see you at the pancake breakfast on Saturday June 2, and at the meeting Wednesday June 6

Ben

New Breakfast Destination

Timeless Wings and Wheels of New Smyrna Beach Airport are starting a monthly breakfast beginning in June. On the second Saturday of each month they will be holding the breakfast at the Air Gate Hangar, 2022 Aero Circle New Smyrna Beach Airport. For more information go to www.timelesswingsandwheels.com or call Carole: 386 314 4499.

Chapter Officers

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Monthly Breakfast
Sat. June 2, 8:00 – 10:00
Dunn Airpark Bldg. 10
Titusville, Fl

Chapter Meeting
Weds. June 6, 7:00 pm
Dunn Airpark Bldg. 10
Titusville, Fl