



On our way to Winter Haven annual fly-in, in 'Fancy.

Annual Winter Haven Fly-in

The Winter Haven fly in is always held in mid Nov and we have always enjoyed going to that one. Sat Nov. 10 was the date this year and Loretta and I flew Fancy over there again. Bob Rychel and Jan flew "Little Bit," Bob's beautiful Zodiac to their first fly-in. Bob finished this plane this year got his pilot license this past October. Since he took off before we did he arrived at Winter Haven a little ahead of us, this allowed me the opportunity to observe his performance during the arrival, in traffic pattern, and to listen to his radio work at a fly-in. He handled this like an old pro! Also, from Dunn airpark Tom Denman and his wife Lisa flew their Aeronca Chief that they bought a couple of months to Winter Haven. A short time later Alberto Silva showed up in his C172. This year there seemed to be fewer planes and people there. Maybe the cost of fuel is a problem, I don't know. We had a great lunch there and renewed some old acquaintances. After lunch we said our goodbyes and departed for Dunn. The ride to KGIF was smooth and ground speed was good due to a tailwind. Coming home was slower and the ride a little like a roller coaster. Total flying time 1.9 hrs. Loretta and I really enjoyed the trip.

Presidents Moment

Another year is coming to a close for Chapter 866. We had successful elections at the last meeting and our new President, Debbie VanTreuren will be taking over in January. I'd like to personally thank her for stepping forward and offering to lead us.

My time of president has been and exciting, but sometimes sad time for the chapter. The sad parts were the loss of members Jerry Russell, Gil Jones, and Sam Beddingfield. The loss of part of our roof in Spring of 2011 was sad at first, but resulted in our meeting room getting refurbished, and it looks better now than before the storm.

In the last 2 years I only had to find speakers for a few of the meetings. As luck would have it, they would often just step up and offer to speak. The fact that we had so many airplanes under construction made for project updates that could take up a big part of the meeting times.

After the elections I received a few compliments of my presidency. In spite of the challenges we faced, the chapter always pulled together to overcome. The secret to success as a leader is to surround your-self with good people. I've been blessed with dedicated officers: Herman Nagel, who stepped up to fill the suddenly vacant position of Treasurer. Les Boatright was always there as Vice President, and Kip Anderson as Secretary. Larry Gilbert was always reminding me that my monthly President's note was due, and putting out our great newsletter.

We also have a corps of dedicated members who show up the first Saturday of every month to make our pancake breakfast the best deal around.

I'd like to specially thank Larry and Loretta Gilbert for their dedication to Chapter 866. Officers come and go, but in the 7 years I've been attending Chapter 866 they have been consistent servants. Their hangar is the preferred hangout for us airport bums, and Larry is always available to give wise advice on how to handle situations, both aviation-related and personal.

Lets all pull together to make Debbie's term a great success, and be "The wind beneath her wings

Ben

November Breakfast

Loretta and I arrived at 6 am and Stu Sammis was already there and waiting in his pickup truck to get to work!

Beautiful day! It started out a little cool and by the time the eaters started showing up it was very comfortable, just right temperature. Ed Brennan and his wife Kimberly handled the money as the folks arrived. Ray Thomas cooked nbacon and sausage, Deborah VanTreuren did a bang job juggling the egg operation, and Larry flipped pancakes. Donna and Loretta had a lot of sweet rolls cooked up to serve along with the Grits, sausage gravy, and biscuits Loretta made during the night. All of this served up with coffee, OJ, and water for beverages made it a wonderful deal. Still only \$5.00, even though the prices of all of this food has skyrocketed in the last couple of years. What a deal!. We have been buying sausage patties at the same place for years and there has always been 18 patties per pkg. The count per bag is mentioned in small print on the back of the package now.....it states there is approximately 14 per pkg. I opened a pkg and there were 13!. The price per pkg. still the same! In my opinion, we are not making enough money for all of the effort we make to put this on. It is a pleasant event .We didn't start it for the fun of it but, it seems to be turning out this is what we're doing. That's just my opinion though.

We served about 120 people. A good time was had by most.

November Meeting

Pres. Ben opened the meeting with the pledge at 7:00. There were 26 people in attendance and we picked up a new member, I got the first name (Rick) but not the last name. He's from New Hampshire and is flying a trike down here and owns something else up there in New Hampshire.

We had a good show and tell from Jim Pack who repairs & manufactures airboat props. He showed us a few damaged composite airboat props that are made of carbon fiber and are hollow. It was an interesting presentation.

Project reports: Ed Brennan said his Viking engine will be delivered soon for his project. Deborah said that they had to redo a part on the elevator of her project because an alignment of a hole was off by 1mm! Kip said he had his swimming pool removed + he worked on his ELT for a time. Les said something about a new hat and has finished the cowling and stuff firewall forward on the RV4 and finds engine baffling – baffling! Jim Brewer said his Nieuport project is on hold while he takes care of a problem with another plane he owns. Harry Teal is adding a fuel tank to his Soneri so that he can fly for more than 1.5 hr durations.

OK now the big news, we have elected a new president for C866. Smooth Eddie Brennan was nominated for this office by someone and he pondered for a while about this for a while and then came up with a brilliant scheme! He said something about not being too enthused about being president and nominated Deborah as a candidate. This made it more interesting than the usual railroading someone into accepting the nomination and before they can respond they're elected. Now we have two candidates and Jeff Wilde asked Ed about if there were a scale from one to ten, how much do you want this job. Ed asked if he could use a negative number and was told no so, he mumbled something that wasn't audible enough to be understood. Jeff then asked Deborah how she would rate her enthusiasm for the job was and I think her number was higher. The pres (Ben) sent the candidates outside while we voted by a show of hands and Deborah won by a healthy margin. The two were called back in to the room and Ben announced that Deborah will be the new pres. Both Deborah and Ed seemed very pleased! That Eddie is slick!

Anyway that's kind of how I remember it. I probably should take better notes so that 3wks later I can put this stuff in the newsletter. Be sure and congratulate Deborah when you see her.



The new president of EAA C866 Deborah VanTreuren

Big Party Coming up

January is coming up really fast and that's the month of our annual party. We're making plans and it appears we'll be using Paul's Smokehouse as the venue this is right here in Titusville on US1 across from the best known landmark in Titusville – Ace Hardware. Tickets will be \$25.00 again this year and like before this is your annual dues to the local chapter of EAA. We will have tickets at the monthly meeting.

Need your input on this, last year we had a terrific entertainer by the name of Meredith Walker and everyone seemed to enjoy her performance as a singer but, since there is no dance floor in the restaurant, do we still want the entertainment? Let us know at the meeting.



Annual Party Jan 2012

Good news for Dunn Airpark tenants

Dunn will have wifi soon at the airport according to TICO board member and chapter member Patti Patch. This will come in handy for checking wx and flight planning and general internet use right there in your own hangar!

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Monthly Breakfast
Sat. Dec 1, 8:00 – 10:00
Dunn Airpark Bldg. 10
Titusville, Fl

Chapter Meeting
Weds. Dec. 5, 7:00 pm
Dunn Airpark Bldg. 10
Titusville, Fl