

EAA Chapter 866 Smilin' Jack Newsletter

March 2016



March 2016 Pres Report

February has been a busy month, but for those of you with airplanes, I hope you've been able to find a little time to take advantage of the nice flying weather we've had recently. I know a few of you got some air beneath your tires, because I was at the airport several days this month and saw hangars open and folks out flying. I owe a Big Thanks to Alberto who kindly allowed me to tag along with him recently for lunch and some flying in his C-172. We had a Great time, enjoyed some fantastic visibility and even logged a bit of night flying on the way back!

I got a very pleasant and unexpected surprise one afternoon while I was at the hangar working on my RV-4. I was sitting under the right wing taking a few measurements to see how the flap was gonna fit when I heard a shuffle and realized someone was coming in the hangar. I figured it was Larry or Bob or some of the usual folks. As I looked up to say Hi, there was a familiar face grinning at me from over the wing, it was Charlie Becker from EAA Headquarters!! There he was, right there in my hangar! I reckon the Wisconsin snow had gotten too deep for him and he decided to come down to Florida and lend me a hand. Ha, just kidding, he was actually down to facilitate a chapter leadership event being hosted by EAA 288 at Spruce Creek. More on that later. Charlie also had Brett Hahn (EAA's Manager of Chapters) and Kyle Voltz (Chapter Field Representative) with him, both are EAA staffers from the Chapters office in Oshkosh. We chatted for a minute and then got to surprise Larry who just happened to be next door polishing up *Fancy*. They all were interested in seeing our chapter building, the first visit for Brett and Kyle, so I showed off all the work that you all have done over the last year to clean-up, shore-up, seal-up, spiff-up, and paint the building.

They were mighty impressed and also happy to see that the new banner they gave us last March was hanging up prominently on the wall.

The leadership event I mentioned is something that EAA HQ has been doing for a while, but they usually only hold it at Oshkosh in the Winter time. This year, they're taking it on the road to regions around the country in order to reach folks who might not be able to attend otherwise. With my recent "promotion" to chapter president, this event could not have come at a better time for me. Luckily it was hosted nearby at Spruce Creek by EAA 288, and I didn't have to go alone. Eddie, Herman and myself spent an entire Saturday participating in this chapter "Boot Camp" event, while sporting our chapter shirts. There were numerous presentations given on ways to grow your chapter, fundraising ideas, dealing with insurance, having an online presence, and generally making our EAA chapters more successful. We met many wonderful folks from other nearby chapters, and a few folks that were not so nearby. One fellow flew his newly completed RV-7A all the way from Connecticut! The Smilin' Jack chapter was well represented and we all learned some things. I'll share more with you at the chapter meeting, so don't miss it! The leadership Boot Camp was a very full day, and the great folks up at EAA 288 rolled out the red carpet for everyone and made us all feel welcome.

Before I sign-off, I just want to say again how excited I am about the many build projects underway amongst our membership ranks! Just in the last couple of weeks I've seen progress being made on Alberto's Onex, on Kathy & Bob's S-19, and on Deb & Richard's Twister! Seeing that inspires me to Keep-At-It with my own project, and I'm sure it inspires others with their projects too.

Best Regards,

Les Boatright

"Life is what happens while you're building your airplane."

Guest Speaker at Feb. Meeting

We were honored to have the Michael Powell, Administrator of the Titusville/Cocoa Airport authority as our guest speaker. He updated us with a report of the three airports and the progress and improvements going on. An interesting report! We are fortunate to have talent like Mr. Powell as Administrator of our airports here. Mr. Powell said when he arrived at bldg.. 10, our gathering place, he thought he was at the wrong place because he didn't recognize it because of the repairs and improvements we've made there!

After the meeting there were creampuffs made by Loretta.-----Always a hit!

Disgronifactor?

Look at the picture below. At first glance you'd think that "Fancy" our Citabria, is on life support or at least an I.V.. Not so, It's a Disgronifactor! What does a disgronifactor do, you ask? Well here's the scoop,



The big jar on the bottom contains desiccant and the little jar on the top contains a fan that is ducted through an opening in the lids of the jars into the big jar. The hoses (plastic tubes) connect to the oil filler tube on top and the crankcase breather tube below the engine. We circulate air through the engine while it is idle and the moisture that travels with the air through the engine ends up in the desiccant in the bottom of the big jar. Notice how the material on the bottom of the big jar is blue on the bottom and pink on the top. This is the desiccant and as it gets wet it changes from blue to pink. Once it is all pink you remove it and bake it for a short while until it gets blue again and re use it. The reason for this desiccant is to dry out the crankcase. This will help keep the camshaft from corroding as well as other internal parts which are not submerged in engine oil. I always noticed the rust on the insides of the valve covers when we check the valve settings. In fact last year I bead blasted the rust off the covers and re painted them. As a matter of fact they are always wet inside when I remove them. They're rusting again! I fly two or three times every week and usually an hour at a time. When I put the plane away and it sits for an hour or so drops of water come out of the crankcase breather. When the engine is running the heated oil is supposed to boil off the moisture in the crankcase. It doesn't!

Bob Rychel and I have been talking about this problem for some time and he has recently bought a Lycoming engine for the RV6 he's finishing and this engine will be stored until the plane is ready for it so he decided to build a couple of these. Don Garrison had built one and used this on his RV8 and it worked as advertised.

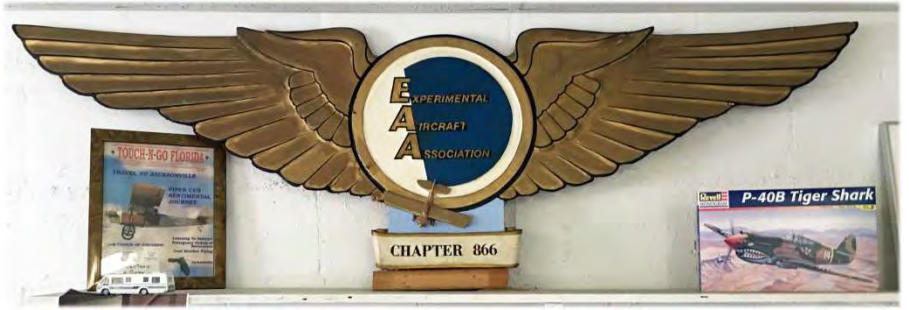
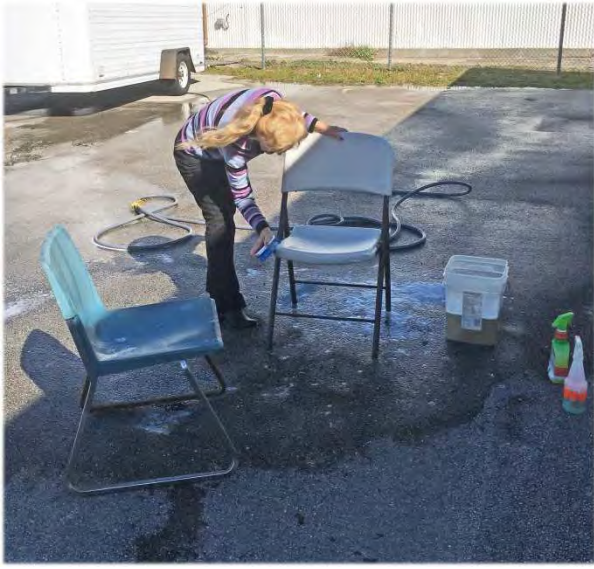
Surprise!

One afternoon in Feb., I was at the hangar at Dunn with the doors nearly closed and was cleaning the rust off of the spring landing gear on Fancy when I heard voices outside and in a few seconds who should appear but Charlie Becker, Bret Hahn and Curt Voltz from EAA Oshkosh headquarters followed by Les Boatright, our chapter pres. What an honor to be visited by these folks! They spent about 5 minutes with me and took some pictures of Fancy, Hillary, and the table with Loretta's and my old EAA chapter logo painted on it. Nice little visit. They had flown in to MCO and rented a car and were on their way up to Spruce Creek Chapter 288 to do some training for our local chapter officers. Larry

The Cleaning Lady Showed up!

Of course we never think about how the meeting room and shop room are clean when we have meetings and monthly breakfasts. We don't even think about that. I had that thought when I dropped the cleaning lady off at the building while I did some flight instructing a couple of days before the March meeting. She swept and vacuumed the

rooms and scrubbed the white chairs that we use for our breakfasts that day. She never dreamed I'd mention this in the newsletter and she didn't realize that I took this picture.



The picture above on the right was almost destroyed when the roof blew off of the meeting room about 4 yrs ago. For years it was kicked around the meeting room and not displayed. After the storm, Loretta took the wings plaque home and re furnished it and it is on display above a shelf in our meeting room now. This was made by one of the charter members of C866. Al Hoppe who was the first chapter president has been coming to our breakfasts occasionally when asked, couldn't remember the name of the man who made this. Can you help? Brett Hahn from EAA Hdqtrs was visiting and was enamored enough by this to take pictures of it.

Young Eagle Youth Protection Program

OK, I've gotten a lot of input about the Youth Protection program and some of it negative. One member asked me about who is being protected by this program. Is it us? If you think it is, explain how we are being protected. Are the kids being protected? Explain how they are being protected. Think about this, our only involvement with these youth is once a year at our annual Y-E rally. This lasts 4 or 5 hrs and everything we do is in the open except for that time when our pilots are alone in an airplane with the candidate. Do you think there is much risk of child abuse or molestation at our rally? If someone were to accuse one of our members of wrong doing and this member is innocent, are EAA lawyers going to defend us? Do you like to have your background checked when there is no obvious benefit? A background check to get or keep a good job or to legally carry a gun has obvious benefits. Who benefits from this? Free background check? Do they not get the funding for the parent organization from the membership?

We want our Young Eagle program to continue so, in order to do this, we have to comply. Let's submit to this minor inconvenience so we can keep the Y – E program going. A number of our members have taken the course and had the background check and have the credentials including Loretta and me it's really easy. Let me know if you need any help getting your training and background check.

Larry Gilbert Chapter Young Eagle Coordinator

February Flying

This month Loretta and I did the Valkaria breakfast flight again. Dunn Airpark was well represented with 4 planes from the airport flew in. Brian Shol with the new Glasstar, Bob Rychel with the Zenith 650, Kip Anderson with the Sonex and Loretta and I with the Citabria. Fun time w/ Chapter 1288 folks. Kip had no trouble starting the Jabiru engine in the Sonex to fly home. I built one of those ADS-B Stratux receivers and it seemed to work OK with my iPad and the Foreflight program!

The rest of my flights were local with friends and a couple of new students looking for some dual. One of these is as a result of the Y-E program and a flight he took with Ben Charvet in his Pietyenpol a couple of years ago! Couple of flights were solo and the missions were for fun. Approx 12 hrs flying for Feb!

February Breakfast

We fed about 170 eaters at our February breakfast and everyone seemed to have a good time. The crew demonstrated fantastic teamwork as usual. There are always interesting planes to see and interesting people flying them in at our breakfasts. It's always fun to see these folks and I love the banter that takes place at our breakfasts. Another successful breakfast!

Chapter 866 Officers

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Chapter Assembly (meeting)

Weds. Mar. 02, 2016 7 pm at

Building 10 Dunn Airpark, Titusville, Fl

Chapter Monthly Breakfast

Sat. Mar 05, 2016 @ Dunn Airpark

8:00 am – 10:00 am