

NO MEETING on WEDS APRIL 6



EAA Chapter 866 Smilin' Jack newsletter April 2016

Prez Sez

Greetings Members and Friends of EAA Chapter 866,

Well, there's been a lot going on in our chapter recently, and a lot to talk about this month. So, drag up a comfortable chair and let me catch you up.

First off, our March pancake breakfast was just incredible. I mean Wow! I couldn't believe the turn-out we had. According to Herman's final count, we were right at 220 breakfasts served! If that's not a record for us, then it's got to be really close. One of our members also counted up at least 50 airplanes that had flown in to have breakfast with us. At one point we were running out of pancake batter and eggs, but we still had 30-plus hungry folks in the line. So, I made a quick run to the grocery store for more supplies. I guess the check-out clerk at the store thought I was mighty hungry when she saw me load up the conveyer belt with 3 boxes of pancake batter mix, 7 dozen eggs, and 10 pounds of bacon. For minute there, I thought she was gonna follow me home! I reckon bacon has that effect on people.

So a **BIG THANKS** goes out to all our friends and guests that support us and attend our little chapter breakfasts! Our whole club pulls together on the first Saturday of the month to raise the flag, buy supplies, make the food, handle the money, set up and take down tables & chairs, keep the propane bottles filled, take out the trash, wash and clean-up everything, and make our guests feel welcome! It takes team work and you should all be proud of the hard work you do to make it happen! It's also a heck of a lot of fun to get together and socialize and talk about airplanes. The Smilin' Jack pancake breakfast has developed a nice reputation and has become a don't-miss-event for many of our community neighbors and aviators along the Space Coast. Great job everyone!

Well, in case you missed the last meeting, the chapter voted to purchase 80 new folding chairs for use at the breakfasts. A number of our chairs are older, metal ones, that have some rust, and some of our chairs are the heavier stackable variety that take up more storage space. The new chairs we're buying will be lighter, fold more compactly for storage, and are ventilated for comfort. The new chairs also have polymer seats and backs, so they can't rust, and they're black, so they shouldn't show dirt or mildew stains as bad as the white ones. We plan to keep the folding white ones, but had planned to excess most of the older, heavy, folding metal ones, and the heavier stackable ones. The idea was to offer them to members who might want a few for their hangar or workshop, and then haul any metal ones to the scrap metal yard and maybe get a few bucks back. Considering the big turn-out we had last month, maybe we oughta hit the "Pause" button on getting rid of some chairs think about whether we need to add a few more tables. Time will tell. Thanks to Larry, the new chairs are on order, so we should have them soon.

Also at the last meeting, we voted on whether we should install a French Drain in front of Building 10 to stop water intrusion. With all the work we've done to spruce up the place, and fix the roof, we wanted to stop the rain water from running in under the front wall. As you may already know, water tends to shed into the middle bay of the building from the paved lot out front. That section of wall is just framed lumber and sheet metal, unlike the rest of the building's walls which are concrete block. This has actually been a problem for a while. Left uncorrected, it would eventually lead to wood-rot along the bottom of the front wall. Plus there's the fact that the water intrusion washes in dirt from the parking lot and creates a big clean-up chore every time we get a good rain. At our last meeting, Bob presented a mitigation plan and passed around a sketch explaining the work to be performed. After a bit of discussion, the vote was in the affirmative . . . It was a **BIG Oui Oui** for the French Drain!

So, we had just voted to approve this French Drain improvement project at the March 2nd meeting, and in less than 2 weeks, the work was complete! You know, some of us are starting to suspect that Bob has a little group of Elves (like the old Grimm Brothers Shoemaker Tale), and these Elves show up in the middle of the night to work on Bob's projects! Otherwise, we can't explain how he gets done so fast. At the next chapter get-together, be sure to pass along a **HUGE THANKS** to Bob, and to James, and everyone else who helped with this! It looks terrific! More importantly, as we head into the rainy months of the Summer, it will be nice knowing that the rain water is staying out of the clubhouse. **Just One Rule However: No Oui Oui** allowed in the French Drain!

I also want to give a big Thank You to chapter member Lenny Duncil for his presentation last month on building the kit-built "Stratux" ADS-B "In" receiver unit. It is fascinating to see how a few bits of readily available electronics and some free software can be integrated into a radio receiver that brings near-real-time weather and traffic data right into the cockpit, and for a very affordable price. If you missed the presentation and would like to know more, here's a link to a website with more information: (<http://stratux.me/>) Also, the national EAA.ORG website had a couple of nice articles on this which you can find here: [EAA Stratux article](#), and a more recently updated article here: [EAA Stratux Update](#)

For the last couple of meetings, we had a sign-up sheet available for folks who wanted new EAA Name-Badges. About a dozen folks signed up, I submitted our order right after the March breakfast, and the new Name-tags have arrived. I'll have them at the April pancake breakfast, so see me if you ordered one; they're \$5 dollars each.

The second weekend in March was the annual TICO Warbird Airshow held by the Valiant Air Command Museum. I managed to take my two little girls out to the Saturday airshow for a few hours. It appeared to me that the VAC had a great turn-out. There were a lot of nice airplanes, some nice show cars too, a jet powered truck that screamed down RNWY 27 at around 300 MPH, and even some military tanks from WW2! The VAC puts on a nice show and we should be thankful to have such a nice aviation event taking place every year right here in our backyard.

This April 18th is also the 74th anniversary of the famous Doolittle Raid over Tokyo. I mention this because there were three B-25's flying in the TICO airshow, and also a genuine living-legend and hero was in attendance at the TICO show this year! Lt. Col. Richard E. "Dick" Cole was there. He is ONE of only TWO surviving Doolittle Raiders! He's not just any B-25 crew member either, he was Jimmy Doolittle's co-pilot in the #1 airplane to launch off the deck of the USS Hornet on that fateful day in April of 1942. Since we're celebrating our own Chapter's Anniversary this month, it seems appropriate to take some space here in the newsletter and recognize the 74th anniversary of the Doolittle raid. The TICO Airshow announcer mentioned that Col. Cole was on the field and that he was now 94, but when I looked him up, I learned that he actually turned 100 years young last September! Maybe he just looks 94, or the announcer forgot to update his script? Anyway, I cannot imagine the courage it took to launch a bomber off the pitching deck of an aircraft carrier, knowing full well you would be flying right over the heads of your enemy, and also knowing that you didn't have enough fuel to make it to the planned landing site because the mission had been forced to launch early due to a sighting by a Japanese picket boat. May we never forget the legacy of freedom that these men and so many others like them have given us. I encourage you to read more about Col. Richard E. Cole ([here](#)), including his first-hand account of bailing out of his fuel-starved B-25 over unfamiliar Chinese territory, at night, in heavy rain, and then landing in a pine tree.

Be sure to mark your calendars for April!! As we discussed at the last chapter get-together, there will be **NO REGULAR MEETING on April 6th**. Several of our members will be volunteering at Sun-N-Fun or camping there all week. So, please enjoy going over to Lakeland and having some Fun in the Sun and bring back some good stories and reports from the big Fly-In to share with the chapter. The newsletter editor will welcome any stories you'd like to write up and share with the rest of us. Please consider this as it makes the Newsletter more interesting.

After Sun-N-Fun, we WILL be having a couple of other "Don't-Miss" events in April!

First, we are partnering with the [Titusville Flying Club](#) on April 20th to host a presentation in our chapter building. The presentation is entitled "*Maximum Fun, Minimum Cost—How to Start and Operate a Flying Club*". It will be given by AOPA Ambassador Jamie Beckett. This is an AOPA presentation, and there are bound to be some good nuggets of information for anyone operating their own airplane and especially for anyone considering participation in a flying club. In the past, a few of our members have expressed some interest in forming a flying club that was loosely associated with our Smilin' Jack chapter, but the idea has never gained much traction. Ideas like this are terrific, but like a lot of things, there needs to be someone to champion the idea and become the organizing force behind it. This is also a great opportunity for our chapter to support some of our fellow flyers and use the strength of our club to help foster and encourage more aviation activities.

Finally, we're planning a Hangar Party on Saturday 23rd to celebrate our Chapter's 30th Anniversary. This will be a very informal affair. It will run from around 4PM to 7PM Saturday afternoon or until we run out of Food and Tall Tales. The Chapter will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, buns, and some beverages. The rest will be by Pot Luck. The whole family is welcome to come out. Some activities to expect include project visits at members' hangars on the field, and

depending on the weather, maybe even a few airplane rides or flybys. Finally, based on his track record with last year's successful Young Eagles event, we've decided to put Larry is in charge of the weather again!!

Hangar Party on Saturday April 23rd.

WHAT: Smilin' Jack Chapter 30th Anniversary Hangar Party

WHERE: Dunn Airpark, Hangar Row T3.

WHEN: April 23rd; TIME 4:00 to 7:00 PM

WHO: EAA 866 members, family and friends

The Chapter is buying Hot Dogs, Burgers, Buns, Bottled Water and paper goods.

The rest is a Pot Luck arrangement.

Here's a few ideas for what you might bring:

A 2 Liter of soda, a bag of chips, a small side dish of something like cole-slaw, mac-n-cheese, baked beans, or tater salad, a pie, some cookies, or another favorite dessert. And if you forget to bring something just come out anyway and have a burger and enjoy some hangar flying.

See You at the April Pancake Breakfast, **NO MEETING APRIL 6!!!**

Les Boatright

A Brief History of Smilin' Jack and EAA Chapter 866 . . .



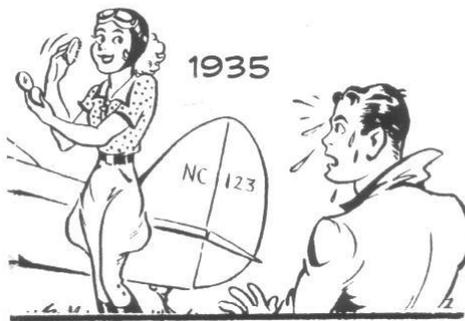
It came to my attention recently that not everyone in our chapter is familiar with the comic strip known as *Smilin' Jack*, or how Chapter 866 came to be associated with this famous comic strip character. I suppose it came to my attention in part because I myself wanted to know more about our chapter's history and the *Smilin' Jack* comic strip. As we head into the month of April, it's appropriate to look back on our chapter's history. This month we celebrate the 30th anniversary of the founding of our chapter! EAA Chapter 866 was officially chartered on April 19th, 1986 to be exact. For a little historical perspective, just the week before, the United States had bombed Libya with a flight of 18 F-111 fighter-bombers in response to a terror attack in Germany. Other memorable aviation events of 1986 included the release of the aviation themed movies *Top Gun* and *Iron Eagle*, the first flight of the famous Beechcraft Starship, and the first ever non-stop, unrefueled flight around the world by the Voyager aircraft flown by pilots Dick Rutan and Jeana Yeager. They stayed aloft for an

amazing 9 days, covering a distance of more than 26,000 statute miles. And of course, it was also the year that we lost the Space Shuttle *Challenger* and her brave crew just a few miles away from our chapter's home airfield of Arthur Dunn (X21).

Chapter 866's first President was named Al Hoppe, and even though Mr. Hoppe has moved away and is no longer a current member, he recently attended one of our monthly pancake breakfasts and it was obvious that he was proud of the legacy of Chapter 866 which he had helped found 30 years earlier.

But who was Smilin' Jack and why are we known as the Smilin' Jack Chapter? The *Smilin' Jack* comic strip was written by Zack Mosley and was most likely the longest running aviation-themed comic strip ever since it ran in newspapers for 40 years, from 1933 to 1973. It originally began as a comic strip called "*On The Wing*", running in the Chicago Tribune, but the name soon changed to *The Adventures of Smilin' Jack*, or just *Smilin' Jack*, and grew in syndication over time to appear in more than 300 newspapers. The hero was originally called "Mack", a nervous young student pilot who was enthralled with the adventure and romance of airplanes and flying.

The first two panels of the first *On the Wing*, October 1, 1933. Mack doesn't look anything like Jack.



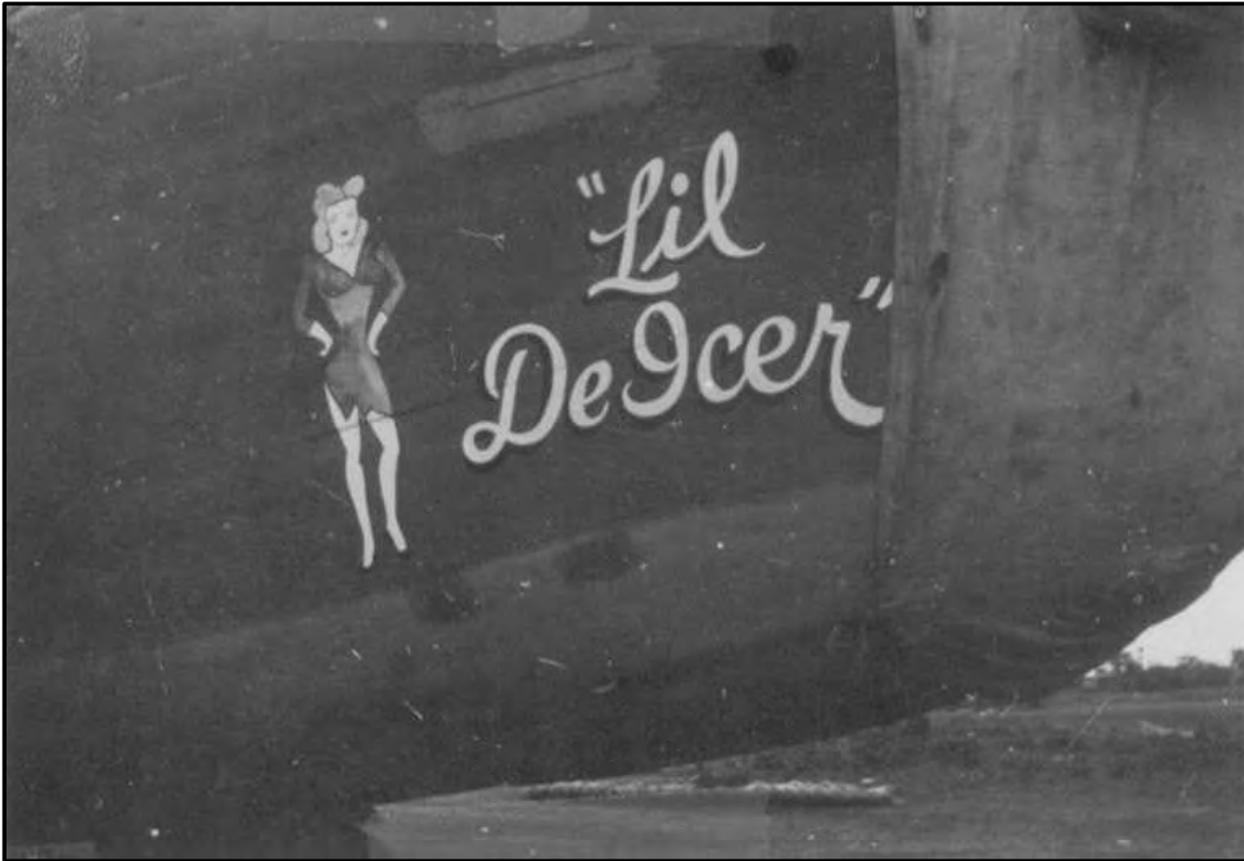
Smilin' Jack, who started as Mack in October 1933, changed in appearance over the years. Said Mosley: "I couldn't figure out how to draw him until 1939."



Here's Downwind Jaxon and Smilin' Jack in 1939.

In the early years, the comic strip evolved as author and artist Zack Mosley honed his art, refined the strip and the youthful 'Mack' Martin became the more lively and worldly 'Jack' Martin. By about 1939, 'Jack' had grown a pencil thin mustache, developed a sly grin and became the iconic image that our Chapter 866 members recognize as Smilin' Jack. The comic strip somewhat mirrored the experiences of the author, Zack Mosley, who himself learned to fly in the Golden Age of aviation. Mosley kept current in his flying, owning several private airplanes during his career, and having associations with many legendary aviators like Roscoe Turner, Jimmy Doolittle, and Buzz Aldrin. He brought his aviation knowledge and experiences from the cockpit into the comic strip, greatly enhancing the content and educating the reader about aviation. The technical details of Mosley's aircraft drawings were spot-on and accurately reflected many of the aircraft of the times.

Mosley also had a wonderful knack for developing interesting characters to accompany Jack on his aviation adventures, both the good guys and the bad. Some of the characters included Jack's Polynesian button-popping pal called 'Fat Stuff', his hillbilly mechanic named 'Rufus Jimpson', and his pilot friend 'Downwind Jaxon', who was so dashingly handsome that he was never drawn with his face showing. Jack's adventures were always fast-paced and action-packed and the colorful cast of ruthless bad guys he tangled with included names such as "The Head", "Toemain the Terrible", and "The Claw". Jack also enjoyed the company of many lovely ladies in his adventures. They were known as "De-Icers", and I'm sure you can figure out why. Some of those ladies even made it onto the noses of a few allied bombers during WWII.



The plotlines carried Smilin' Jack to some of the most remote places of the world on many fantastic and harrowing adventures, often with narrow escapes from danger, and without ever being constrained by the modern day concept of political correctness.



Although Zack Mosley began the comic strip in Chicago, during the earliest days of World War II he moved to West Palm Beach, Florida. There he helped in the formation of a group of volunteer patrol pilots flying coastal watches in civilian planes. This group quickly merged with other similar groups around the country and became organized as the Civil Air Patrol. During WWII, Mosley flew more than 300 hours of patrols as a C.A.P. pilot along Florida's coastlines, and was awarded an Air Medal for his service. Meanwhile, Mosley also kept up the *Smilin' Jack* comic strip from his studio in West Palm Beach. The *Smilin' Jack* feature was retired on April 1st, 1973, and Mosley retired to Stuart, Florida but maintained close affiliations with a number of aviation and pilot organizations.

I came along too late to ever know Mr. Mosley, and did not personally know any of the founding members of EAA Chapter 866 either. I also didn't learn about the *Smilin' Jack* comic strip until I joined our chapter. How our chapter became known as the Smilin' Jack chapter probably has as much to do with geography, luck, and the close-knit nature of the aviation community as anything. As the story has been told to me, one of our early EAA 866 chapter members, Bill Mitchell, had become friends with Zack Mosley. Mr. Mosley, then retired, had lived in Stuart Florida for many years. In 1986, EAA Chapter 866 was young, growing and hosting regular Fly-Ins at Arthur Dunn Airpark. Mosley attended one of those early Fly-Ins and apparently enjoyed the Fly-In and liked the folks in the chapter so much that he agreed to allow Chapter 866 to use his Smilin' Jack character as a theme for promoting their next Fly-In. I've been told that one year there was a giant Smilin' Jack face painted on the grass so that pilots could see it from the air. It was a popular theme for the Fly-In and quickly became the Chapter's theme as well. 30 years later we no longer host an annual Fly-In, but we're still wearing Smilin' Jack on our chapter shirts and patches, and even have his likeness painted on our Chapter clubhouse. Zack Mosley "Flew West" in 1993, but I like to think he would be proud knowing that Chapter 866 keeps his legacy alive through the memory of an aviation character called Smilin' Jack and his many daring adventures in the sky!

P.S. Zack Mosley's daughter, Jill, lives in Florida and maintains a nice website in tribute to her father's artwork and career at www.smilinjackart.com, check it out.

Happy Landings,
Les Boatright (EAA #563003)
EAA Chapter 866 President

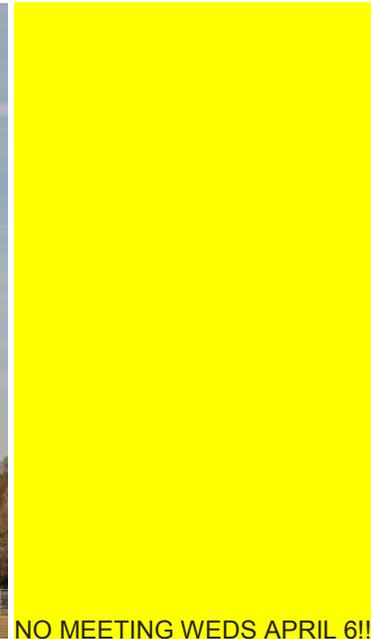
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March Breakfast

We haven't had a breakfast like this one in a long time! At first a trickle of eaters that lasted about 15 minutes then, a solid line of folks all the way to the airport fence for about 1-1/2 hrs. We base our purchases on 180 eaters and over 200 showed up! We started with 28 doz eggs, 25 lbs of pancake mix, 30 lbs of bacon and 240 sausage patties. We wound up 9 eggs and 2 lbs of pancake mix short. When it appeared that we were going to be short, Les made a run to Publix and bought more eggs, bacon, and pancake mix and 15 minutes after he returned the line of people ended and it was all over. What a morning, for the cookers and coffee making help! We went through 12 gals

of coffee made 12 cups at a time, this alone kept Loretta running a lot. Deborah was frying eggs and doing her best to keep the line moving. Bob Rychel never said a word as he cooked all that bacon and sausage. I was on the pancakes and felt like a one armed paper hanger most of the time. You won't understand that unless you've hung wall paper in the past. Do they still do this? Jim Morgan counted 52 planes that flew in. I don't know how or where they managed to park all of those planes!

Thanks, John Porter, for taking the pictures. *Larry Gilbert*



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The mystery of the EAA 866 chapter wings solved!



Thanks to Steve Pangborn who was a chapter member when this man was around.

Larry, the name of the gentleman that made the chapter EAA wings is/was named Ernie Schroeder from Rockledge Florida. He was a Renaissance Man of many talents. He was a writer, artist, aircraft

designer, sailor (the second floor of his Rockledge home resembled a captains pilot house as it overlooked the Indian River Lagoon). He designed and built a life sized articulating Saber Toothed Tiger (with sound....a roar your wouldn't believe) for a Museum of History in Orlando. It was an honor and a privilege to know Ernie.....one of a kind! I forgot to mention he also did master engravings for some of the Franklin Mint offerings. That tiger btw was carved from foam blocks and a mold was made and a duplicate was hand laid up from fiber glass. I saw and HEARD it in his

Bldg.10 Update

NO MEETING WEDS APRIL 6!!!!

Bob Rychel and his helper installed a drainage system to keep the building from flooding from heavy rains. The water comes in through the large door and floods the west wall and causes it to rot. We put a lot of new lumber into that wall and this should help preserve it. Besides that it always made a mess because it washed mud in and the cleaning lady and I have been cleaning this up before the meetings and breakfasts. Hopefully we won't have that mess to clean up anymore. Look at the pictures and see what a nice job they did. They installed drain pipe in front of the doors with grills on them and sloped the concrete enough that we should have no trouble rolling the heavy cooking grills in and out.



Loretta (Rembrandt)Gilbert artfully created the EAA logo and Chapter 866 lettering on the South end of the building. She is also working on the Smilin'Jack lettering along with a face image of the Smilin'Jack, the main character of the comic strip.



Loretta painting the EAA logo on bldg.. 10

Sun n Fun

Loretta and I have been attending Sun n Fun for 25 years or so now and have many fond memories of those times in April when we would form up the Alligator Flight of planes from EAA Chapter 400 and head down here from South Central Pennsylvania. The most fun was always the journey in both directions. We always made the fuel stops at the same places and always made friends with the folks at each stop and they expected to see us each April on the way to and from Lakeland. Loretta would bake pies and leave them with the folks at the fuel stops sometimes! One stop, I think it was St. Simons Island, Fl they always prepared hot dogs and stuff for the fliers on the way to Sun n Fun. You wouldn't believe the number of planes flying down here. One year we had seven from chapter 400! Sometimes weather would cause us to land and spend a night and sometimes one of the planes would have a problem and land and not get home till days later. Sometimes we were scud runners and other times we made excursions to the East or West to get around a line of tstorms crossing the country. Those were the days!



This picture was taken on our way home from Sun n, in 1993, we had to stay overnight at Walterboro, SC because of weather ahead. The FBO folks took us to town in this pickup to a motel.

Many of our C866 chapter members will be volunteering this April at Sun n Fun. Loretta and I will be with GAP run by Donna Frantz, a lady anyone would be proud to work for! She has a BIG important job and has been involved with parking aircraft forever and knows the job very well. I enjoy being on the line around the arriving and departing aircraft and I think Loretta enjoys doing what she does too. She brings refreshments and lunch out to us while we're on the line. Our chapter is always well represented as volunteers again this year. Ben will be there in woodworking, I think. Deborah is working there again this year and Bob Rychel is displaying his CH 650 featuring the Viking engine with Zenith Aircraft. *Larry Gilbert*

This Month's Flying

This month I had the pleasure of flying a new Young Eagle. This is a 15 yr old girl who is enamored with flying and airplanes. She has high aspirations, and she wants to learn to fly and get all of her ratings, join the Navy and become a Blue Angel! She seems like a person who could accomplish all of this too! Another Young Eagle who was introduced to flying at one of our rallies by Ben is flying with me regularly and is a fast learner! He has enlisted in the Natl. Guard and will be in an aviation program. I've suggested to him that as soon as he is out of basic training and is in the aviation program, that he go to the commanding officer and ask if he can get into a flight training school. He'll be a good pilot!

Dick House flies with me regularly and just celebrated his 92 birthday.

Loretta and I flew down to Valkaria for their monthly breakfast. Lots of folks we've come to know down there. Their breakfast has grown but, most of their eaters drive in. *Larry Gilbert*

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April Breakfast

Sat. April 2, 2016, 8:00 am – 10:00

Building 10 Dunn Airpark (X21)

Titusville, FL

BIG PARTY!!

Sat. April 23

4:00 – 7:00 PM

DUNN AIRPARK HANGAR ROW T3

CELEBRATING OUR CHAPTER'S 30TH

ANNIVERSARY

No monthly meeting this month because of Sun n Fun

On April 20, there is a meeting being held by one of our members and the featured speaker will be Jamie Beckett (AOPA Ambassador) and he will doing a presentation on forming and operating a flying club. Everyone is invited.