

EAA SMILIN JACK CHAPTER 866 NEWSLETTER APRIL 2018



Our own Kip Anderson flying as co pilot in the Tri-motor on his Birthday!!

Greetings Members and Friends of EAA Chapter 866



Happy Anniversary to the Smilin' Jack Chapter!! Chapter 866 was officially founded back on April 18th, 1986. This month marks our 32nd year as a chapter!

Our Chapter has been very active over the past couple of months. In fact, the last few weeks have been among the most rewarding and enjoyable times during my term as your chapter President! As most of you know, Chapter 866 partnered with the great folks over at the Valiant Air Command Warbird museum to host the EAA Ford Tri-Motor. The weather cooperated nicely, and we had a very successful weekend. For four days, the skies over Titusville were a bit reminiscent of the 1930's as the Tri-Motor made multiple flights every day, hauling folks back in time to the Golden Age of Aviation and to the beginning of airline travel. I had several memorable moments during the weekend. I specifically recall one 91 year old WW2 veteran who came out for a ride. He needed a walker and could barely walk, but he couldn't stop smiling the entire time! It was an honor just to meet him. There was one flight where a family group bought out all the seats on the Tri-Motor and had their own private airline charter for a very nostalgic, non-stop, round-trip flight to Titusville. And then there was my experience of taking my two girls up for their first ever airplane ride! After we landed, and those three marvelous radial engines ticked over to a final stop, my eldest daughter Emily exclaimed, "That was better than Legoland!!" Dave Ross, the Tri-motor pilot, heard her and said, "Yeah, I've been to Legoland, and this was way better." We all had fun and made some terrific memories and some new friends along the way. I counted up about 18 of our chapter members and volunteers who came out to help with the event! That includes Don White, the President of the Merritt Island Chapter (724). Thanks to all the folks who helped, it was a great team effort. If you made it out for the Tri-Motor event, I'm sure you have your own memories and experiences. I'd love to hear about it, in fact, we'd all like to hear about it, it would make a great little piece for the newsletter, I'm sure.

We owe a BIG THANKS to Commander Norm Daniels, and all the volunteer staff over at the VAC Warbird museum for their support to the Tri-Motor event. Their wonderful hangar space was perfect for keeping the Tri-Motor tucked away at night, and I'm sure the Tri-Motor event benefitted from the normal visitor traffic coming through the museum.

Less than a week after the Tri-Motor weekend had wrapped up, a number of our chapter members got the opportunity to take a tour of the Shuttle Landing Facility (SLF) runway and control tower out at the Kennedy Space Center. Chapter member Ray Jenkins worked to coordinate and set up the tour, and the airfield manager, Jimmy Moffitt was a terrific host and a great tour guide! We even got a short floor-level tour of the transfer aisle of the Vehicle Assembly Building (VAB), lead by NASA's John Graves. And we saw the largest fleet of active and flyable F-104 Starfighters in the world! They company called Starfighters Aerospace maintain and operate about 7 of these aircraft, and they lease hangar space at the SLF from the Space Florida organization. With the unique high altitude and airspeed capabilities provided by the F-104 Starfighter, they are able to offer a number of specialized services, including microgravity research, flight suit testing, payload qualification testing, human factors testing, avionics testing, and others. (<https://www.starfighters.net/>). The whole tour was terrific and we owe a big Thanks to Ray and Jimmy and John for their time and effort to pull together such a rare opportunity for our chapter members to enjoy!!

We've also had some very successful pancake breakfasts already this year, plus our regular monthly chapter get togethers, and of course there was the movie night back in February. Lots of fun!!

Going forward, I'd like to remind everyone again that the VAC Warbird airshow is this coming weekend, Friday thru Sunday (April 6-8th), it is their 41st year! I understand that Col. Dick Cole is scheduled to be here for the airshow, and if you didn't know already, he's the last surviving Doolittle Raider, now 102 years old. Col. Cole was Jimmy Doolittle's co-pilot and they were the first B-25 to launch from the deck of the *USS Hornet* (CV-12) some 76 years ago, on April 14th, 1942! (<https://www.uss-hornet.org/visit-hornet/history/>) Just shaking Col. Cole's hand would be worth the price of admission to the Warbird Airshow. One of our Chapter friends shared an article with me written by another one of the Doolittle Raiders, Lt. Col. Edgar "Mac" McElroy, U.S.A.F. (Ret.), Pilot of aircraft #13. It's a little long, but full of interesting details, be sure to read about that later on the Newsletter.

2018 SPACE COAST WARBIIRD AIRSHOW
APRIL 6, 7 & 8
 SPACE COAST REGIONAL AIRPORT
 TITUSVILLE • FLORIDA

FRIDAY
 Afternoon & Night Shows
 Ending with Giant Fireworks
 Gates Open 12 Noon

SAT & SUN
 Air-to-Air Combat
 All-Day Fun on the Grounds
 Gates Open 8:30a

BE AMAZED!

— FEATURING —
TORA! TORA! TORA!
 POWERING THOSE WHO SERVED
 THE PACIFIC THEATRE
 1941-1945

Vintage Warbirds
 WWI Parachute Team
 Simulated Bombing & Strafing
 Military Reenactments
 Static Displays

PRESENTED BY
 WARBIIRD MUSEUM
 VALIANT AIR COMMAND

GET YOUR TICKETS AT ValiantAirCommand.com
 Purchase Advance Tickets at Discount Prices NOW!

ALL PROCEEDS SUPPORT THE WARBIIRD AIR MUSEUM

For your Safety: No Coolers • No Pets • No Large Umbrellas • No Firearms

If you're going to the Airshow on Saturday, don't forget to stop by Dunn Airpark FIRST and have breakfast with us! This Saturday (April 7th) is our April Pancake breakfast, it's the best little EAA chapter breakfast in Florida! The week after that is Sun-n-Fun Fly-In and airshow in Lakeland. There's no other place in Florida where you will find so many airplanes, pilots, and vendors in one place for a week of flying and fun! So, if you're an airplane nut like me, there are no shortages of opportunities for you this month!

Keep on Building, Flying, and Flippin those *Smilin'-Flap-Jacks!*
 Les Boatright (EAA #563003)
 President EAA 866, The Smilin' Jack Chapter

Some reminders about upcoming events:

Date	Event	Place/Info
Apr. 2-6	Brevard County Public Schools Spring Break Week	
Apr. 4	Regular Chapter 866 Monthly Meeting	Building 10 / 7 pm
Apr. 7	OUR Chapter 866 Monthly Pancake Breakfast	Building 10 / 8-10 am
Apr. 6-8	Valiant Air Command's Warbird Airshow (41 st year) http://www.valiantaircommand.com/airshow	TICO Arpt (KTIX)
Apr. 10-15	44 th Annual Sun-N-Fun Fly-In 2018 http://www.flysnf.org/sun-n-fun-intl-fly-expo/	Lakeland Linder Arpt (KLAL)
Apr. 21 st	Valkaria Chapter 1288 - Pancake Breakfast (3 rd Sat.)	Valkaria Arpt (X59) 8-10 am
May 2	Regular Chapter 866 Monthly Meeting	Building 10 / 7 pm
May 5 th	OUR Chapter 866 Monthly Pancake Breakfast (Happy Cinco de Mayo!)	Building 10 / 8-10 am
May. 19 th	Valkaria Chapter 1288 - Pancake Breakfast (3 rd Sat.)	Valkaria Arpt (X59) 8-10 am
May 28 th	Memorial Day Holiday Observed – Thank a Veteran!	
June 2	OUR Chapter 866 Monthly Pancake Breakfast	Building 10 / 8-10 am
June 6 th	Regular Chapter 866 Monthly Meeting	Building 10 / 7 pm
June 16 th	Valkaria Chapter 1288 - Pancake Breakfast (3 rd Sat.)	Valkaria Arpt (X59) 8-10 am
July 4 th	Independence Day Holiday	
July 4 th	Regular Chapter 866 Monthly Meeting (Meeting should be over Before the Fireworks)	Building 10 / 7 pm
July 7 th	OUR Chapter 866 Monthly Pancake Breakfast	Building 10 / 8-10 am
July 23-29	OSHKOSH – EAA AirVenture 2018 (https://www.eaa.org/en/airventure)	Wittman Regional Arpt (KOSH)



<https://www.flysnf.org/>

Virtual Cockpit Tours – Anytime

Did you know that, as an EAA National Member, you have the ability to take a virtual cockpit tour of the airplanes in the EAA Aviation Museum? Use your smartphone, tablet, or computer and simply pan around with your fingers or mouse to view every detail in the cockpit and see what it's like to sit in the pilot's seat. [Learn more →](#)

AVIATION HUMOR

Four old guys are walking down a street. They turn a corner and see a sign that says, "Old Timers Bar - All Drinks 10 Cents."

They look at each other and go in, thinking this is too good to be true.

The old bartender says in a voice that carries across the room, "Come on in and let me pour one for you! What'll it be, gentlemen?"

Each of the four friends decide to order a martini. And in no time the bartender serves up four iced martinis shaken, not stirred and says, "That's 10 cents each, please."

The four guys stare at the bartender for a moment, then at each other. They can't believe their good luck. They pay the 40 cents, finish their martinis, and order another round. Again, four excellent martinis are produced, and the bartender again says, "That's 40 cents, please." They gladly pay the 40 cents, but their curiosity gets the better of them. They've each had two martinis and haven't even spent a dollar between the four of them yet.

Finally one of them asks, "How can you afford to serve martinis as good as these for a dime apiece?"

"I'm a retired tailor from Phoenix," the bartender says, "and I always wanted to own a bar. Last year I hit the Lottery Jackpot for \$125 million and decided to open this place. Every drink costs a dime. Wine, liquor, beer it's all the same."

"Wow! That's some story!" one of the men says. As the four of them sip their martinis, they can't help noticing seven other people at the end of the bar who don't have any drinks in front of them and haven't ordered anything

the whole time they've been there.

Nodding at the seven at the end of the bar, one of the men asks the bartender, "So What's with them?"

The bartender says, "They're retired pilots. They're waiting for Happy Hour when drinks are half-price."



Dick House

By Larry Gilbert

My friend Dick House started to fly with me when he was about 90 yrs old and we flew almost every week for several years. We seldom went anywhere but, usually spent the whole flight doing maneuvers. He kept "Fancy" on the edge a lot doing his moves! Good experience for me too because he demonstrated just how far we could go without getting into serious trouble. No aerobatics, just very close to it a lot of the time! Dick was an Army Air Corps flight instructor during the second World War. He instructed primarily in the BT 13. He would often talk about his experiences as an Army officer and flight instructor while we flew. It was fun and a privilege to have flown with him!

He is now 95 yrs old and unable to do much anymore. He's a resident at the Brookdale center in Titusville. Loretta and I stop in to visit with him about once a week. When we stop he gives me his Flying magazine when he's done with it and I give him our Smilin Jack nsltr. This week he gave me the magazine and said that one of his stories was in it. So, when I got home and decided to look at the magazine there was a piece of paper marking the page of an article about the Army PT 19 trainer. On this paper was the story below about his first solo in the PT-19. It's exactly as he wrote it.

He has two sons, one, Stephen House, was a member of the Titusville Police Force and was shot and killed in the line of duty in February of 1989. His other son Jeffery, is a retired Albuquerque, NM police officer.



Corsicana, Texas Class of 43 – 1

By Dick House

I did the PT-19 only from practice of recovery from inverted flight.

My young patient instructor and I had done recoveries left, right and full over, dual.

Of course an open cockpit was somewhat unsettling with dust and dirt falling past you as you're upside down! Evidently my instructor had more confidence in my abilities than I!

On my very first "invert" my solo mind went completely blank. I mean, what the hell do I do now blank!

So anyway, I pulled back back on the stick, split S down toward Texas. I did sink down into the seat below the cockpit rim and "greyed out" and leveled off above Texas, how high I have no idea! Eventually I conquered the "inverted" thing.

The PT – 19 also survived.

Primary Flight Training

Civilian Instructors

Dick House



Tetsuji Madarame

Visitor from Japan

By Larry Gilbert

Hi Larry

Thank you very much for sending the best shot in my life.

I am on my way back to Japan and am still excited at the Tri-Motor ride.

Best regards,

Tetsuji Madarame

The man pictured above actually flew to Florida from Japan and came to Titusville just to fly in the Ford Tri-motor airplane that our chapter hosted in March! After he had boarded and was sitting in the right seat of the cockpit and the rest of the pax were boarding, I yelled up at him and asked him to wave his arm out of the window so I could take a picture. I told him that when he got back, if he'd give me his email address I'd send him a copy of the picture. He was very pleased with this and dropped a business card out of the plane that I actually caught! At this time I had no idea that he'd come all the way from Japan to do the ride. When he got back he approached me as he got off the plane and shook my hand and asked if he could take a picture of Kip and me. Sure! When I got home I emailed the picture to him which he rec'd while flying home. Above is the reply that he sent when he got the picture. This is the picture that he took of Kip and me.





“Gyro Joe” Pires and Jeff “Gyro” Wilde with their beautiful planes

Jeff “Gyro” Wilde

By Larry Gilbert

Jeff has been reporting the progress he’s made on the Gyroplane kit he purchased this past January, right? Well he has completed the project and as of Friday March 30 he had 32 of the 40 hrs required for phase one testing of this plane. He’s flown this over to Dunn from their base at Southerland Airport in Geneva, several times. I watched him do several landings and with the help of a breeze and he’s been making landings with no ground roll out! He and “Gyro Joe” Pires in his nice machine have visited us at our hangar a couple of times too.

More Big News!

Tom Waid has done his first flight in his newly finished Kitfox and all went well. When you see Tom, be sure to congratulate him.



Mark Briere's new (to him) Luscombe

Mark purchased this Luscombe a couple of months ago and has a little work to do on it before he flies it. It sure is a pretty tail dragger! He and I taxied "MAYBELLENE" around Dunn one day.....Larry



Pig Roast Fly-in

Williston Airport, X60

★ At the FBO ★

Everybody Welcome!

EAA Chapter #1484
 Fly-in, Drive-in, Walk-in
Pig Roast \$12 per person
 Children under 5 eat Free
50/50 RAFFLE
 RSVP to: Stan Berry at
sberry0207@aol.com or (352) 804-6638



Saturday,
April 28th
12:30 pm
 (Rain or Shine)



Fly-Mart
 Bring any of your aviation items for Sale, Exchange, Trade, or Gift. (tables provided)

Williston Airport (X60)
 FBO: (352) 528-4900
 AWOS: 118.425
 UNICOM: 122.975
 Check AWOS for Runway NOTAMs

Don't miss our Famous Pork Butts Roast Fly-in.





Chapter Meeting

Weds. April 4, 7:00 pm

Building 10, Dunn Airpark, 480 N Williams Ave

Titusville, FL

Chapter Monthly Breakfast

Sat. April 7, 8:00 am

Building 10, Dunn Airpark, 480 N Williams ave

Titusville, Fl

Sun n Fun April 10 – 14