

Winter Hangar Activity +

The March Meeting

Will be held on Monday the 13TH in our hangar at 7:30PM. On the agenda: Report on the Board Meeting, Update on our Financial Health, Update on our Non-Profit Status, Flying Start Program. Tom Gahan is bringing some parts to show us. Dick Haigh will enlighten us on the Tech Councilor program.

At Last Months meeting we discussed our financial situation and decided to have better oversight on hangar rent and dues by keeping a roster posted on the bulletin board for rent and dues. Projects pay \$15 per month. Planes with the test time flown off will pay \$45 per month. A board meeting will be held on the 20TH to address the details. Dick Haigh donated a furnace for the hangar. He suggested partitioning off a space for a heated work room. Bob Baird wants to hold an IFR ground school and donate some of

A visit to our hangar on most any weekend this winter would reveal that it doesn't sit there devoid of activity. Before you even open the door, you'll hear the rat-a-tat-tat of a rivet gun. Inside you'll find Prez, Jim Coffman and his helpers, Tom Warren, Dick Haigh Or Wayne Stiles working on the RV7. As you see in the pictures below, quite a bit of progress has been made on the wing. This week, Dick Haigh has started to do his annual inspection on his RV-6A. Dick also wants to do some hangar maintenance if weather permits. I have purchased some parts for the VP. The fuel tank, windshield frame and wing root fairings, will save me a lot of time and jump start the finishing process. Jim Van Hulle will be helping me. Tom Gahan has been hard at work on his Mini-Max. He has finished hooking up his control cables and is in the process of trying to find the right spring tension on the trim. Jim Thompson has the Vari-Eze ready for more painting. However, his painter has been unable to find the time to do it.

The Prez Sez

By
Jim
Coffman



We are privileged to have two capable Technical Counselors (Tech Advisors) in our chapter membership. I know from personal experience how valuable that resource can be as my RV-7 slowly takes shape in the EAA hangar. Dick Haigh has routinely assisted me in tackling complex safety and logistical issues in the building process to assisting in more mundane question about how to figure out what rivet the plans are calling for.

To maintain their Technical Counselors designation each counselor must have at least 3 official reviews per year. That doesn't appear to be a high hurdle

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The New Math For Turbulent Flow

From the pages of AVWEB

Inspiration sometimes comes from unusual sources and a Princeton University scientist's examination of the air flow through a car's sunroof may someday make jet engines quieter, speed up stealth aircraft and make better micro air vehicles. What Clarence Rowley has demonstrated, through a Princeton-worthy series of calculations and experimentation, is that the sound created by the turbulence at the barrier between slow and fast moving air can be cancelled in much the same way that noise-attenuating headsets give pilots a quieter ride. Using wind tunnels and models resembling a car sunroof, Rowley analyzed the forces responsible for the wind noise that leads many of us to wonder why automakers would cut holes in the roof in the first place. Then, he installed a microphone to channel the noise through a computer which, using those calculations, offered an equal and opposite response to an accompanying speaker, thus canceling the noise. "The physical mechanism is actually very simple," Rowley said. The same setup can be applied to jet engines and the bomb bay doors on aircraft, but Rowley is concentrating on applying the technique to create model-size aircraft that fly as fast as birds but maneuver with the agility of insects. We wonder what that equation looks like...

Stolen DME Found On eBay

From the Pages of AVWEB

If weather, vacation or your winter slumber has kept you from visiting your plane recently, it might be a good idea to get reacquainted. And if,

like a growing number of aircraft owners on the Eastern Seaboard, you discover big holes in the panel where your avionics used to be, check eBay. Connecticut pilot Tim Vecchiarelli and his King KN-64 DME are expected to be reunited soon after Vecchiarelli's wife Allyson discovered the stolen device posted for sale on eBay by Avionics Masters, a Florida-based avionics dealer. "I just thought, what the heck. I mean what else is someone going to do with it?" she told AVweb. Within minutes she matched the serial number of a DME on the auction site to the one that used to reside in the couple's Piper Warrior. The DME was among five items gently removed from the panel sometime last month in what now looks like a series of avionics thefts along the East Coast. Tim Vecchiarelli said he has no doubt Avionics Masters had no idea the DME was stolen because it took him at least three weeks to report the theft -- and therein may lie part of the thief's modus operandi. Between the terrible weather that has plagued the Northeast and a sore back, Vecchiarelli hasn't been flying for more than a month. He's been turning the prop once a week to keep oil circulated but for at least three weeks he didn't take the canopy cover off the airplane. In early February, one of his tie-down neighbors noticed some of the cover straps were loose. Vecchiarelli said he put it down to the high winds the area received about that time but now he thinks that might have been when the theft occurred. It wasn't until late in February that he took a look inside. (Ed Note: This ties in nicely with the next article.)

Internet Sales

By Ralph Ballard

Internet sales of all kinds of items have skyrocketed in the last couple of years. I may be to blame for that. In just the last few weeks, I've purchased books to study for my Sport Pilot license, books on CD, parts for my Volksplane, kitchen appliances, a Roomba, a pontoon boat and trailer and hand tools. And those are what I can think of off the top of my head. I regularly check eBay and Barnstormers and usually find something to drool over, if not buy. Selling is the same situation. I rarely put an add in the paper, too expensive and too limited. I've sold a VW engine and parts, airplane parts, cameras, musical instruments, a sword, antiques, computer parts and software, and our motor home. To name a few. Too those who feel intimidated or fearful of using the internet, I can say that I understand, but fear not. A few tips might come in handy.

1. **NEVER** open an email from someone you don't recognize or without a subject or a subject that doesn't sound reasonable.
2. Used a payment service like PayPal. (be careful with PayPal emails. Scammers use their name)
3. If you pay by credit card, make sure you are on a secure page (look for the little lock icon on the bottom right of the screen) or use a service by your credit card company to scramble your online card number.
4. When buying on eBay, check the feedback of the seller and make sure you know the shipping and handling charges before you commit.

Knock on wood! I've never had a problem with online transactions. Be careful but don't be timid.

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at first glance. However, if we the membership do not take advantage of our good fortune and utilize their services we may find ourselves importing outside counselors to cover the void left after our in-house counselors disappear. Speaking from my own selfish point of view (active builder and chapter member) the loss of an in-house Technical Counselor would be unfortunate indeed.

Both the FAA and EAA strongly recommend and encourage builders and those involved in restoration projects to rely on Technical Counselors throughout the building or restoration process. In addition, insurances companies and financial institutions also trumpet the advantages of continuing technical support in the building and restoration process that counselor can provide. I would like to encourage our membership to take full advantage of our good fortune, and utilize the resources we have on hand. Our counselors are knowledgeable, experienced and above all CHEAP. Jim

An information gathering meeting for a Sport Pilot Flying Club, will be held at the Chapter hangar on Saturday, March 18, 12 Noon. Anyone, member or not, is invited to attend. Call Ralph @ 269-684-0972 for more information.

Kids Restore Aeronca, Plan Trip to AirVenture

From EAA e-Hotline

Over the past five years, about 20 Young Eagles at Flabob Airport in Southern California worked to completely restore a worn and weathered Aeronca Super Chief. Their goal: to bring it to EAA

AirVenture someday. This summer, that wish could become reality, as the group prepares the aircraft for its first flight May 1.

The Thomas Wathen Foundation, headquartered at Flabob, purchased the airplane in 2000 after the owner's death. Organizers then found an empty building in which the kids could take on the project of replacing the rotted fabric and wood and rusted steel tubing with new components to make the old bird airworthy again.

Retired Air Force Col. Al Gester recruited a group of kids and adult volunteers and the work began.

"The work schedule was every Saturday morning," said John D. Lyon, foundation secretary, "except once a month when the youngsters volunteered for Young Eagles ground duty."

The airplane was completely stripped of fabric and disassembled. Not much of the wood was useable, but it provided a handy pattern for building new wings, stringers, and floorboards. The steel parts were sent out for professional cleaning and then refinished by the kids. The adult supervisors from Flabob's EAA Chapter 1 offered guidance, but they were told to keep their hands in their pockets.

"It would have been much faster and cheaper to have the airplane professionally restored, but that would have missed the whole point," Lyon said.

Some of the kids volunteered to help overhaul the engine. New wings were constructed, the airframe was covered, and wiring, plumbing and instruments were installed.

In addition to the learning experience of restoring an airplane, a system was also set up whereby the

kids could earn flying lessons-five free hours after the first fifty hours of work on the plane, and an additional hour for each five hours worked thereafter. The experience allowed many of the kids to solo, and some even earned their private ticket while working on the Aeronca.

Art Peterson, president of the Wathen Foundation Academy, also hosted a 12-week ground school course for one hour each Saturday, bringing in guest speakers, and teaching the kids not only about ground school basics, but leadership and civic involvement as a continuing responsibility.

"Testimony from parents and young people alike is that the experience was far more than a Saturday hobby;" Lyon said. "It improved grades, attitude and morale, and opened doors which were not even known to exist!"

Plans are being made to display the Aeronca at EAA AirVenture Oshkosh 2006. At least two of the kids involved in the restoration are planning to make the journey to Oshkosh with the airplane, taking turns flying along the way.



George Coon and Katelie Cobain work on new ribs during early days of the Wathen Foundation Aeronca Project.

Pilots Progress

P.O. Box 444, Niles, MI 49120-0444

Calendar of Events

March 13—Chapter Meeting

April 4 to 10—Sun ‘N’ Fun

April 10—Chapter Meeting

May 8—Chapter Meeting

May 20—IFC Fly In, Elkhart Airport

June 12—Chapter Meeting

June 23-25 - SAA Conv., Urbana IL

June 25-Chapter 865 Flyin/Breakfast

**July 24 - 30, 4 Months 3 Weeks to EAA
*AirVenture Oshkosh 2006!***

Aug. 20-Duck’s Picnic

**FOR DETAILS ON ABOVE EVENTS CALL
RALPH @ 269-684-0972**

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