

THE VISUAL APPROACH

NEWSLETTER



EAA Chapter 987

Pontotoc, Mississippi

February 2002



Blue Angels in Tight Formation

Chapter 987 Brings Blue Angels to North Mississippi

Well, not exactly . . . The Blue Angels will be coming to the Tupelo Airport for a BIG AIRSHOW April 20-21, 2002. Does that date sound familiar? That was the date that we had planned to have our Spring Fly-In. The Blue Angels heard about our little fly-in and wanted to perform and then sample some of our WORLD FAMOUS Bar-B-Q. Unfortunately, the runway at 22M is too short and their performance will have to be in Tupelo.

Actually, the Tupelo Airport Authority has been planning to have an airshow for some time. An airshow was planned for late September last year, but had to be cancelled due to the events of 9/11. Tupelo found out that the Blue Angels had an available date this spring. Originally, they were aiming for May 11-12. After we had planned our flyin for April 20, after we had CLAIMED THAT DATE, the date of April 20th opened up on the Blue Angels schedule. In addition to the Blue Angels, most of the performers who had been scheduled for the September airshow will be coming to this one. That will be a lot of airplanes!! For several reasons, not the least of which was safety, we have decided to change the date for our Spring Fly-In to April 27. The March issue of Sport Aviation will have the old date, but the April edition will have the correct date.

We want to support this airshow in Tupelo April 20 - 21. I know they will appreciate any help that we can give them. Let's have a good turnout of volunteers from Chapter 987 to show our support for aviation and America.

987 Meets 2/3/02

Chapter 987 met February 3, 2002. We had 18 members in attendance. We had several old members who paid their dues. We also had the addition of a new member, Dr. Justin Graff. Welcome Justin!

We discussed several items of business. We posted a copy of our by-laws on the bulletin board so that anyone interested can read them. We discussed re-obtaining some insurance coverage on the contents of the big hangar. We decided to try to obtain again the coverage we'd had in the past. See the related article about this in this issue.

We decided that we would serve Bar-B-Q, Hamburgers, and Hot Dogs at our Spring Fly-In as we always have. Those at the meeting committed themselves to helping put on this Fly-In and to helping prepare the food. There will be a lot of work to do the morning before the Fly-In pulling the meat.

Larry Lindsey reported that we have \$1389.39 in the bank and \$290 of dues to be deposited.

Our program consisted of a S.W.O.T. Analysis. See the article in this issue.

Spring Fly-In!
April 27, 2002

Project Update - Larry's Kitfox!



Larry Lindsey's Kitfox Project

A few weeks ago I had the pleasure of visiting Larry Lindsey's shop to get an update on his kitfox project. One of the strengths of our chapter as we discussed at our last meeting is the knowledge that many of our members have concerning custom construction of aircraft. These pictures prove that point.

Larry was first inspired to build an airplane when he saw in a magazine plans for an airplane called a "Smith Biplane". Although it was a while before he acted on that inspiration, he later became knowledgeable in many methods of airplane construction.

Larry's first project was an Acrosport that he built from 1974 to 1979. He followed this by building two RV-4's, the second of which is currently owned by Marlin Inmon. His current project is a Kitfox and is pictured here.

Being one of the "pioneer builders" in our area, Larry had to learn a lot of the construction techniques himself. He could not easily go to others to ask questions as I and other builders have been able to ask him. He learned the process of covering airplanes with fabric one year at Oshkosh. He spent two to three days in the demonstration area learning all that he could. On the third day the instructor asked him, "Are you back again?"

Such determination has helped him complete the three previous projects, and is helping him along on this one.

This Kitfox has been covered using the Polyfiber technique. First, the fabric is glued on with Polytak, the special glue used in this process. After the glue has dried, the fabric is ironed with a regular clothing iron to tighten the fabric. This technique does not depend on the dope to tighten the fabric. Several coats of dope are applied, however. Larry has applied three coats of red dope and plans to apply 2 - 3 coats of silver dope. He will be satisfied with the doping process when a flashlight held to the fabric will not shine through.

He has installed an 80 Horsepower Jabiru engine. This engine weighs 123 pounds and produces the 80 HP at 3600 RPM. It is a 4 stroke 4 cylinder engine. He has had to adapt his cowl since this is not the standard engine installation.

The control system of the Kitfox incorporates a unit called a "flapaeron". This is a combination of the flaps and ailerons. These pictures do not do his craftsman-



The Jabiru Engine

ship justice. If you have the opportunity to look closely at his fabric work, you will see a very neat job. The edges of the strips of tape that cover seams are cut with pinking shears. This jagged-edge appearance is not only for looks. It increases the holding power of the tape by 30%.

I am pleased to report that Larry is doing a great job on his Kitfox. He expects to cruise at 80 - 100 mph and looks forward to flying low and slow.



Rudder Pedals and Brakelines



Side-by-Side Controls



Larry is now a "domestic specialist" and plans to spend his retirement ironing for anyone who needs it.



To Larry Hale

For hosting the Stew January 26 and preparing all the good food. Thanks Larry!

To Pat O'Neal

For framing a collection of photographs from our October 2001 Fly-In and putting them up for display in our Chapter building. Take a look at them at the next meeting. They're GREAT! Thanks Pat!

Insurance Matters

At our last meeting we discussed trying to get insurance to cover the contents (airplanes) in the big hanger that adjoins our building. I called National EAA and was referred to Falcon Insurance who handles insurance matters for them. I was told that even if we had insurance on the big hanger as one would have on their house, the airplanes would not be covered. The only coverage on those airplanes is the coverage provided by the aircraft insurance on those planes. They did estimate the cost of a policy that would cover all other contents except airplanes. The estimate was about \$500. I don't think that we are interested in that program.

Upcoming Events

March 2 - Flyout to Pancake Breakfast in Winchester, TN

March 3 - Chapter Meeting

March 30 - Fly-In @ Yazoo City

March 30 - Chili Cook-Off @ Shelby County, AL

April 20 - 21 - Tupelo Airshow Featuring the Blue Angels

April 27 - Chapter 987 Fly-In

May 4 - Family Cookout and Project Inspection @ Mark Kellum's House

Results of our SWOT Analysis

At our last meeting, as a group we conducted a SWOT Analysis in which we discussed our Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats. We decided that our Mission is "To Promote and Encourage the Sport and Hobby of Recreational Aviation". These are the results:

Strengths

- Members with much knowledge about Homebuilding
- Many experienced pilots
- Good area to fly without many restrictions
- Many interested pilots

Weaknesses

- Lack of Money
- Lack of Time

Opportunities

- Growth of Chapter
- All of us become Nat'l Members
- Cooperation with other Chapters
- More educational activities for pilots and homebuilders

Threats

- Law suits
- Perception of the Public
- Relationship with Gov't and Public

With these factors considered, we set as a goal to have two exceptional fly-ins a year. As we grow and become stronger, more goals will be set in the future.



Challenge

We have been challenged by EAA Chapter 825 to take part in their 1st Annual Chili Cook-Off on Saturday, March 30 at the Shelby County, AL Airport(ETT). Anyone interested in getting a team together to meet this challenge, please let me know

Yazoo City Fly-In

Johnny Smith brought to my attention a new fly-in that is going to be held for the first time in Yazoo City. It is being promoted as the "1st Annual Yazoo County Bar-B-Que Fly-In". It sounds like it will be a good one. Johnny plans to go and wants to get up a good group to go. I have been told that the best way to get folks to come to our fly-in is to go to other folk's fly-ins. For more info, log on to: www.yazoo.com/flyin.htm



Sign on Display in Larry Lindsey's Shop

Fly-Out March 2

We are organizing a Fly-Out to the monthly pancake breakfast in Winchester, TN on March 2. I encourage all members to participate, both those who have airplanes and those who don't. We will have plenty of room for anyone who would like to go. In order to get there while breakfast is being served, we will need to leave early, probably around 0700. Please e-mail me at mjk@ebicom.net or call me at 844-0802 if you want to go. We will cancel in case of bad weather.

Agenda for March

- I. Old Business
 - Insurance on Big Hangar
- II. New Business
 - Fly-In Planning Program - Glen Inmon
 - Interesting Video of Management of In-flight Emergency

Visual Approach
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