Liberty Field Ultralight Flyers September 2005 Newsletter

USUA Club #3 EAA Chapter #106



Officers:

President: Gordon Dupries Vice Pres.: Les Goldner Treasurer: Vic Bologna

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September 10th, 2005 meeting notice

Our regular monthly meeting will be at the regular meeting location, Gordon's hanger, 4:30 PM, Saturday September 10th. Please plan to attend.

Unapproved Minutes of the August Meeting

August 13, 2005, by Mark Johnson

Gordon Dupries called the meeting to order at 4:45. There were 14 people present.

The new people were asked to introduce themselves.

Ron Schultz said he was from Santa Rosa and used to fly a Tomahawk but says it is now corroded on the inside and basically ruined, so now he wants a Challenger II and would like to go into partnership with someone. He likes to fly early.

Harry, who just bought Jeff's Rans, announced Harvey's Field is now ready to land on. (yeah!).

Anthony Duckworth, from Petaluma, is a para glider pilot who intends to use the new field real soon. Taking off those aircraft is the hardest part so he needs to check out the conditions around the field. He also volunteered to rewrite the landing contract that Harvey wants us all to sign.

David from New Mexico, had an MX and now has a Tryke called a Camawet with an Italian engine. It puts out 35 hp and only weighs 25lbs! He was trained in Lodi on tryks and now wants to learn from Don Anderson.

Doug Campbell, a novice is also interested in trykes.

Chris, from Sebastopol, has 25 hours in a Tryke but now is flying the all metal Zenith 701 and loves it. (It has a large salamander on its side...you can't miss it!) It is hangered at

Gnoss. Chris and Michael have opened a distributorship for the Zenith.

Old Business

The previous minutes were approved as read.

New Business

Pillsbury on the 20th then BBQ at Brian's on the 27th! It is going to be a busy and exciting month for us!

Bud Stordahl will be at the BBQ so everyone come on out and say hello. Everyone will be camping overnight at Pillsbury so bring plenty of gear. Chris, Mark, Les and Andrea plan to be there and Jeff will fly in for the day.

We voted and decided to take Chris's route to Lake Pillsbury. Even though it is longer, it is much safer.

There will be bomb drops and spot landings at the BBQ so better start practicing now.

We need a Yahoo or Goggle groups chat room. Several people are looking into that possibility.

Pat Fanning then played his interesting video. He showed how he constructed his video camera on his ultralight and showed some flying scenes. It all was very professionally done.

The meeting was adjourned at 6 PM

Upcoming events

Fly-in to Lampson Field for "Splash-in", seaplane show, on Sept. 24-5

Vic will coordinate a fly-in to Lakeport (Clearlake) for the Splash-in seaplane show. It may be possible to fly-in on Sept 24 and stay overnight, leaving on the 25th. We will learn more at our Meeting next Saturday.

Reno Air Show on Sept 15-18

If anyone wants to go, we will be organizing a drive-in to the Reno Air Show at our meeting Saturday. For information about the show, call (775) 972-6663.

California International Air Show Sept. 30th. - Oct. 2nd

The California International Air Show with the USAF Thunder-Birds will be at Salinas on September 30- October 2nd. Contact (888) 845-SHOW. It is 130 Miles from Petaluma to Salinas if you fly around SFO space and avoid the bay. If anyone wants to make the trip by aircraft, we can discuss it at our Saturday meeting.

"LUF" Field Update

Bud Stordahl suggested a new name for our new field formerly known as Harvey's. He suggested LUF Field (LUF is an acronym for Liberty Ultralight Flyers). LUF field is now flyable thanks to the efforts led by Mark with a lot of other volunteers. Particular mention should me made of for (Mark, fill-in).

We still need volunteers to replace the flag at the Eastern approach to LUF with a windsock at each end of the runway that does not interfere with landing. We also need to sign agreements with Harvey to protect him from legal action. This agreement should be signed by all members who want to use the field before they fly-in. Anthony Duckworth is working on language for an agreement that will also protect our organization.

Anthony D. also obtained the following picture of the area around the LUF. Zoom in on to see the details.



<u>Note</u> we must to stay clear of bird sanctuary on the eastern banks of the river, north (and possibly east) of LUF to avoid ruffling feathers! The pic above does not show the runway to scale nor does it accurately reflect the runway headings, but you can see that our normal landing approach pattern will left hand from the south west over the river. Try not to go further north than the dirt road shown on the eastern side of the river. Mark noted that this road should afford a good emergency landing site. Mark also measured the field. It is about 50' wide and 1350' long.

Last Saturdays Great Fly-Around & BBO at Brian's

Last Saturday the group congregated about 10-AM to try to fly to the coast, visit the new LUF Field, and then to Brian's for our BBQ.

About 6 of us, including (Mark pls fill in names) started toward the coast but were stopped after 2-Rock by the fog, so we went on to LUF Field. The most impressive landing and take off from LUF was made by one of our new member Chris Desmond, in his STOL LSA Zenith CH701 powered by a 4-cycle Rotax engine.

Then it was on to Brian's. The BBQ was special. It included steaks and a homemade apple pan pie. Then we were entertained by Brian's radio controlled fleet and his flying. He took off in under 100 feet and did some slow flight maneuvers in his (name of aircraft). At one point it looked as if he was standing still with full power in a nose-high attitude... Very impressive Brian! (It was his birthday so he had the right to show-off a little).

Bud Stordahl came down from Oregon for the occasion, and we enjoyed discussing old times. Besides Bud, (names of people at BBQ) showed up for the BBQ(See pictures in Notable Snaps section).

<u>Report on Lake Pillsbury Fly-in</u>

By Andre Ptaszynski (See pictures in Notable Snaps Section) An Aerial Road-Trip

Mark Johnson, Les Goldner and I fire up our planes and take to the skies over Petaluma at the crack of noon. It's my first serious cross-country flight, and first–ever air-camping trip, so the effects of a sleepless night are overpowered by a fierce dose of adrenalin.

We had planned an eight o'clock take off, but "fog happens" and this time it's for the best. The extra hours are spent carefully stuffing Mark's and my single-seat craft with camping gear and tools, then our stomachs with breakfast at the Two-Niner Diner. When the ceiling finally lifts above 1,000 ft Les flies in to join us from his home field at nearby Smith Ranch.

The plan is to meet up with Chris Rampoldt in his Cessna152 over Healdsburg, continue north to Ukiah to refuel, and then east over hill and dale to Lake Pillsbury for the overnight camp-out. The following day we will retrace our 120-mile route home to Petaluma.

The first challenge is to skirt the controlled airspace at Santa Rosa where a big air show is in full swing this weekend. Fearful of a face-off with the Blue Angels, we navigate the western fringes of the Class D airspace using Les and Mark's GPS equipment. Then disaster strikes: Mark radios that his GPS needs fresh AA batteries. We agree to land in Healdsburg to pick them up, rather than fly with only one GPS.

With the air show traffic behind us we can really start enjoying the flight. We follow the Russian River north at 900 ft under a blue sky.

Soon we are greeted by Chris' voice on the radio. We are three miles away. and he has

us in sight from the Healdsburg Airport. We tell him we plan to land at Healdsburg to buy batteries. Chris welcomes the news and enquires why we are headed past the airport.

"We actually are not," we say, "because the airport is still ahead and not yet visible." The three ultralights he sees must be some other people. Healdsburg Airport is evidently enshrouded in The Cloak Of Invisibility today.

Luckily, Chris trusts his eyes more than he does ours, takes off and finds us still looking for Healdsburg about twenty miles north. We continue flying to Cloverdale, the next town on our route, where we figure they might also sell AA batteries.

From Cloverdale the next stop is at Ukiah to refuel; then we hit the rugged country. From Ukiah we fly northeast over Lake Mendocino, a big enough body of water for some of us to start worrying. Then there's a hump of forested mountains until the exquisitely beautiful Potter Valley opens up below us.

The mountains cradle Potter Valley, a little agricultural Shangri-La in the wilderness of the Coastal Range. We use this island of safe terrain to circle and gain altitude for the final hop over to Pillsbury. At 2,500 ft Mark announces that his plane won't go any higher. We need at least 4,000 ft to clear the mountains. We continue to circle as Chris does a little coaching over the radio and Mark's plane slowly creeps up to altitude. At 4,500 ft we feel very small, especially looking down on a landscape more hospitable to bears and mountain lions than to airplanes.

Chris is the first to announce that he sees the lake. And there it is, a little slice of blue between rocky peaks in the hazy distance. Nervously, I inch up to 5,000 ft. and point the plane's nose at the blue sliver. I look at the single slender braid of river and road below; it's the one chance for landing if my engine fails.

As the lake gets closer, apprehension turns into exhilaration. On the lake two tiny powerboats appear, happily scoring great curving vees of wake across its intense blue surface. Finally, on the far side I see our destination, a huge dirt runway!

We circle the lake, watching the boats grow bigger as we lose altitude. It's time to figure out the landing pattern. The runway goes uphill from the lake but its far end looks very close to the mountains. We decide to land uphill rather than trying an approach close to the mountainside. Chris reminds us to maintain higher airspeed because of the altitude. There's lots of runway.

Chris goes in first, then Mark and Les. I'm last. Down...down...flare... a crosswind lifts one wing... one wheel bounces...I don't like this at high speed...then I'm down and taxiing. Not a landing to be proud of but it's wonderful to be on solid, flat, ground.

We drive stakes and tie the planes down near the lake, pitch tents and spread our bedrolls. Mark, who had loaded his plane with tools rather than camping gear, tells us with a smile that his sleeping bag will be delivered later.

A short hike around the neighborhood reveals an unoccupied campground and enough spent shotgun shells scattered through the grass to have provided a duck dinner for every household in Oakland. Is it possible that we owe the existence of the magnificent runway to the executives of PG&E (whose reservoir the lake is) and their appetite for hunting?

Soon we hear the drone of another aero-engine. A Cessna 172 wheels around and floats in for a landing. Mark smugly assures us that his sleeping bag is being delivered. Sure enough, out steps our own Jeff Singleton, bearing the bag. Jeff joins us for dinner prepared by Les on his camp stove, and a couple of hours of chatting in the shade of a wing. Then off he flies, leaving us in the darkening twilight.

A couple of cigars to fend off the mosquitoes, a nip of a flask, and we all turn in.

But some of us don't sleep. It turns out that we have very noisy company: elk. It's hard to describe the love-call of an elk, something between whale song and a donkey bray...and they do it all night long. In the morning Les wakes to the sight of the herd slowly ambling through our group of planes.

After a breakfast served again by chef Les, we gather up the chaos of our camp and stuff it all back into our planes. Unshaven and unkempt, we climb back in, fire the engines and taxi to the top of the runway for a downhill take-off.

The lake is still startlingly blue, and the powerboats are again happily plying its surface. We circle for altitude, enjoying the clear morning light and cool air before turning west and homeward.

Thanks...

to Jeff for valet service beyond the call of duty; to Mark for bringing the tools we would have needed if we had needed tools; to Les for keeping us out of the way of jet traffic and his consummate culinary skills (add boiling water, wait five minutes and turn off your taste-buds); to Chris for knowing what he's doing better than any of us and making sure that none of us does the dumb things he probably did in his youth.

<u>Uls For Sale</u>

Vic has two planes for sale:

Challenger 2 LW, newly stits, Rotax 503 engine completely rebuild, new paint. Fly's great. Comes with 18ft trailer (vee nose, canvas top, steel side, two axles) \$17,000,00

Sky Raider, 503 Eng. with electric start, c-box, 7gauges, radio, flaps, folding wings.

Call Vic at 707-263-3318.

<u>New FAA Designated Sport Pilot Examiner</u>

This week I met our New FAA Designated Sport Pilot Examiner. I had gone to the FAA FSDO (Flight Standards x Office) near Oakland Airport to get a Student Sport Pilot Certificate. I needed it to get the ball rolling to N-number my 2-place UL. I cannot fly the plane with N-numbers unless I am Light Sport Certified.

At first, it seemed that no one knew much about Light Sport. But finally someone told me how to find Lou Fields, the FAA Designated Sport Pilot Examiner at the Oakland Airport. It was a shock going from the pristine modern FAA offices to Lou's very lived-in room on the airport. He has been an examiner and instructor for 35 years and his office looked every bit as if he had been there all 35 years.

After this initial shock, I found Lou to be very likable and knowledgeable befitting his 85year young age. Lou told me he had never been in a modern ultralight type aircraft until very recently although he had flown many planes with somewhat similar flight characteristics. He said that he liked the Light Sport/Uls, has now flown a Challenger 2, and is instruction one transitioning pilot in another aircraft. He said that some of the UL pilots lack basic skills that he feels are needed, like navigation and radio procedures. We spent about two hours talking and looking at my log. He signed the Student Certificate said that when he I am ready to be tested that I can expect to be asked questions about airspace and airport procedures. He also suggested I review his testing bible, the FAA Practical Test Standards for Sport Pilot (Pub FAA-S-8081-29).

EAA Make a Difference Day

From the EAA

Last year EAA Chapters and members participated in Make a Difference Day. Response was positive and we (the EAA) encourage you to join this nation-wide effort again this fall. This year's Make A Difference Day is Saturday, October 22. Our success was dramatically demonstrated when the Paul Newman Foundation selected EAA Chapter 501, Lincoln Park, NJ, to receive a \$5,000 grant. The Foundation provides only 10 such grants to Make A Difference participants each year. To find out more about their accomplishment visit the Chapter's web site at <http://www.eaa501.org/>. Who knows, your Chapter may be blessed this year! Please consider making an effort to join us in making a difference in the lives of children on October 22 and, as we have done since 1992, on a daily basis as well. Make A Difference Day web site can be found at http://www.usaweekend.com/diffday/index.html>.

Maintenance Course

Rainbow Aviation in Corning, CA still has openings for their 16-hour, 2-day course scheduled for Saturday and Sunday September 10th and 11th. Actually they need 8 more people. Its will allow you to do your own annual inspections on N-numbered LSA / experimental aircraft. Email Carol Carpenter in Corning. [mailto:sales@rainbowaviation.com] (Ed. These are really nice people)

Notable Snaps

Pictures from the Lake Pillsbury Fly-in and Camp-out

The following pictures came from Les, Andre, and Chris at/near the Lake.



Chris looking down at lake and Gravelly Valley Field runway



Chris, Mark and Andre at the lake and Andre setting up camp





Circling over lake with field in foreground &

Mark preparing for mosquitoes.



The four campers and Chris and Mark resting under Les's plane

The following two pictures were taken with Les's video camera above the Russian River on the way home from Lake Pillsbury





Les will bring the flight video to next Saturday's meeting

Last Saturday's BBQ and flight



Chris Rampoldt flying near 2-Rock trying to keep pace slowly with Les

Jim's Oshkosh Pictures

Jim Grimes and Anthony Tony did Oshkosh this year and gave us these pictures



Glassier Girl, liberated from ice in Alaska, restored to mint condition



A mustang with a Rotax engine?



Jim tried to hitch a ride on this one!



Jim welcoming everyone to Oshkosh



Another use for a Rotax 503

Anthony Tony looking at Uls

1-Fly to LUF Field for		
fix-up party	5-Fly to Brian's	3- Fly to Coast
8-LFUF Meeting Gordon's hanger	12-LFUF Meeting Gordon's hanger	10-LFUF Meeting Gordon's hange
15-Local flight	19-Fly to Harveys	17- Annual Hollid Party TBD
22-Fly to LUF Field	26-Fly to Coast	24- Local Flight
	Gordon's hanger	Gordon's hanger Gordon's hanger 15-Local flight 19-Fly to Harveys 22-Fly to LUF Field 26-Fly to Coast