

# Liberty Field Flyers February 2007 Newsletter



## **Newsletter**

**USUA Club #3 EAA Chapter #106**

**Officers:**

**President:** Les Goldner  
**Vice Pres.:** Bim Lipp  
**Secretary:** Mark Johnson  
**Treasurer:** Vic Bologna

### **March 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting Notice**

This month we will meet at Les's Hanger or the Airport Office if the weather is bad. We will use the meeting to plan some of our 2007 club activities. No guest speakers are planned.

### **Unapproved Minutes of the January 13th Meeting**

*(By Mark Johnson)*

Les Goldner called our 2-9-07 LFUF Meeting to order at 4:40-PM at the Airport office. Eventually, there were 19 people in attendance.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

Members were encouraged to introduce themselves. Harry Torgovitsky said he was interested in buying an ultralight, possibly a parasol. We turned him on to Anthony Duckworth, our resident parasol expert. Another new person named Jim (we didn't catch his last name) is also interested in a parasol. Another new person, Whitt Bradshaw said he is interested in a tryke. Nick Fletcher announced that he bought Les Van Dyke's Hi-Max and is interested in joining us in the skies.

Vic gave the treasure's report by announcing we had approximately \$3,500 in the treasury. Vic also said he would look into a food cart to bring to events.

The Craigs list ad is responsible for the new people turn-out.

The club accepted Bim's gift of a trailer to haul planes. It was decided that we will keep the trailer at Harvey's airfield. Les donated a trailer hitch lock. Keys to the lock will be made available. The understanding is that anyone using the trailer must make certain that his insurance covers such use because the club is not insured and will not take responsibility for such use.

Les reported that our club insurance insures all club outings up to \$2,000,000 with the EAA. He also said the EAA does not want the club to maintain Harvey's airfield. Mark Johnson agreed to arrange to maintain the field on his own. Anyone who has signed Harvey's waver can use the field.

We will investigate assisting the Gness field EAA's Young Eagles program once we have a number of N-numbered LS planes.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

The club advertisement on Craig's list brought in the new people at our meeting.

There has been no new progress to report on our portable food cart. Vic said he would look into this and consider spending some of the clubs funds to obtain or build a cart.

We will ask Danny Pollard from the Oakland FAA FSDO office to come to Petaluma after April 1st to inspect our "heavy" ULs that need to be converted to LSAs. Denny issues Airworthiness Certificates in this area.

Tom McCall of the AOPA will be the guest speaker at our next meeting (this has been postponed until April).

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

March 10<sup>th</sup> – Brunch flight to Healdsburg (later postponed a week, see *Club Events Planned for 2007*)

April 14th - Fly out to Half Moon Bay. Don Anderson will coordinate it.

May 26-27 Fly out to Castle Air Force Base - "Open Cockpit Day"

June 16-17th Fly out to Columbia Airport. Jim Grimes will coordinate this trip.

June 30-July 1st Golden West Air show

July ??- Fly to Turlock?

The meeting was turned over to our new Airport Manager, Bob Patterson, who gave a friendly and informative talk to our group. Subjects included construction at the airport and safety issues for UL and LSA

Meeting adjourned at 5:40-PM

### **Club Events Planned for 2007**

#### ***Events planned as of this date are shown chronologically below:***

As noted above, our tentative special events calendar (which is by no means complete) includes the following. Note that we can fly or drive and those of us with an extra seat volunteer to take club member passengers.

#### ***March 17th (Saturday) Healdsburg Brunch Fly-in.***

This flight was postponed from its original March 10<sup>th</sup> date. Bim will host this event. He says: "the Petaluma contingency will take off at 10:00 sharp to meet BIM and Lynn at 1500' above the golf course north-east of Santa Rosa. We'll continue north, circle east around Fitch mountain, fly along the river a bit and land at Healdsburg airport. There will be refreshments with bagels, cream cheese and smoked salmon.

"The second part of the fly-in will be going north along the Russian river, past Cloverdale and then turn west up into the hills and return via lake Sonoma to Healdsburg."

Be there or be square!

#### ***April 14th (Saturday) Pre tax-day flight to Half Moon Bay.***

Don will coordinate our flight over the Golden Gate and the San Francisco Beaches down past Pacifica to Lunch at Half Moon Bay. This may be a challenging flight since ULs have to stay in a narrow corridor between 1000' and 1500' passing east of SFO. Don talked to the FAA in Oakland and says:

"I was told that "ultralights" without transponders can fly along the San Francisco coast below the 1500 ft. floor. N numbered Light Sport aircraft must have a transponder to do the same flight.

I also asked about flying near the SF Bridge on the Marin side, and was told that we can but there can not be any 'Loitering' or hanging around. Just don't act suspicious."

#### ***May 26-27th (Sat-Sun) Open Cockpit Day at Castle AFB Museum.***

We plan to fly up on Saturday, May 26<sup>th</sup> and spend Sunday morning looking into a variety of war planes (mostly heavy bombers) before flying back at in the afternoon. Castle was a B-52 base and some of us could land perpendicular to its huge runway! There is an almost unbelievable variety of planes on display. I think they have every US bomber from the B36 to B1. You can see a rear SR-71 Blackbird and many of the British and US air force's fighters from WW-II to the present.

We want to stay at the Temporary Officers Quarters (\$30/night) but are unable to make reservations until mid May because active military personnel have priority. We can find alternate overnight accommodations if need be. Nine members have already signed up for this trip.

#### ***June 30-July 1st (Sat-Sun) Golden West Air Show Fly-in.***

We have flown and driven to Marysville for this show in prior years, and have had good turn-outs. This show is a great source of information and new ideas. Several of us have camped out to make the Fly-in a two-day event. This year we would like to consider participating, perhaps helping out or having a banner or booth. We will discuss this at upcoming meetings. We will discuss ways to participate at the meeting.

#### ***BBQ's at Harvey's air strip***

Again this year we will plan two fly-in BBQs for members and their guests. Vic is considering obtaining a food cart for the club. Details to be announced. One or more of these BBQs may be held at Quality Sport Plane in Cloverdale if they Michel Heintz ask us again to host their open house fly-in.

Other multi-day fly-ins may be planned to Sea Ranch and to camp out at Lake Pillsbury, depending upon their popularity.

### **Andre Mirek buys Fletcher UL; Plans BBQ in Turlock**

When John Fletcher (Fletcher's Ultralights) announced that he was closing down, Andre Mirek went to Turlock and purchased one of Fletcher's trainers. We will find out more about what he bought at our Saturday meeting. Andre announced that he will be keeping the plane in Turlock for a while and will pick a date to invite us all to fly-in to Turlock for a BBQ (*where's Turlock?*).

### **New Member Introduction**

#### ***Harry Torgovitsky, our newest member gives us a little background info.***

"At this time in my life I'm retired and mostly just supervise my investments. When I worked I used to practice real estate law and was involved in various aspects of owning and managing commercial and multi-residential properties. Since early days, my hobbies have included working on automobiles and other mechanical devices, sailing and motorcycling. The only flying experience I've had, besides as a passenger, has been building and flying model airplanes as a teenager.

"I'd like to learn to fly a true ultralight such as a Quicksilver Sprint. I am, however, a bit overwhelmed with the amount of training that would seem to require.

"My wife's name is Charlotte. I have a Chevy Tahoe which can comfortably tow about 4,000 lbs."

(Harry, Vic will tell you that if he could pass the FAA LS exams, you can as well)

### **Anthony Ducksworth; has Paraglider, will Travel**

Anthony has recently taken a few interesting trips to test his paragliding prowess and submitted the following pictures and comments:

"The first pic (below) was taken on a trip I made a couple of weeks ago to the Salton Sea. An amazing place to fly, very smooth due to the huge lake. Lot's of landing places, and I participated in the largest PPG fly-in in history.



"The rest (below) were taken in Baja, Mexico a month or two ago. This was a great trip; me and another powered paraglider pilot parked the RV next to the beach, and literally stepped on to the beach to take off. The flying was superb with constant on-shore light winds. At one time we flew over a whale that was swimming south very close to shore. The sunbathers were completely oblivious to the giant just a little distance from them - I felt very privileged to see this.

"We were stopped twice by the Tijuana police, once on the way, and once on the way back. That's a story for another day..."











### **Charlie's Back!**

After losing his prop and prop shaft over Petaluma, Charlie MaKiva has been busy fixing his drifter. A new, bigger prop, rebuilt transmission, and inverted engine were all done in short order. Charlie is back flying.





The guys helping Charlie replace his wings (L-R, Charlie, Chris, Mark, and Vic)



Charlie spiffing up his plane after finishing the work.

## UL Changes at the Golden West this Year

*The following is from an email we received from Hal Merchant, the UL coordinator for the GW Air show*

"...From the President of GW (John Gibson) on down everyone wanted to make the Ultra Light presence at GW much stronger. Apparently Ray Melo (Freedom Field) sat down at the end of the flight line last year with one or two UL aircraft and no visitors or spectators or anyone who acknowledged that he was there.

"This year they want to almost make the UL presence a Flyin within a Flyin.

"They are proposing the UL's have their own operations which means they will be able to operate off the UL runway at their own discretion with no need to contact the tower unless the field is closed for the air show. It looks like they might shorten the air show a little this year leaving the field open longer for rides, flyby's ect ect.

"They are proposing a camping area for UL's adjacent to the UL parking area. I don't know if this will include RV's parked next to the UL's or just tent camping but either way it will give the UL's a little home of their own.

"They were also proposing providing the UL area with it's own PA and announcing system so UL operations and demo's can proceed at their own pace.

"They want to get as many UL Manufacturers as they can to have aircraft on display in the UL area.

"The Flyin is going to be more of a 3 day event this year with an air show on Friday as well as Saturday and Sunday.

"They think it would be great if a bunch of UL's showed up Thursday night and stayed till Monday morning. This is obviously wishful thinking but gives us an idea where they want to go with the Flyin.

"I drove the proposed UL runway with John Gibson and it looks very usable. It is an old taxiway and the grass and weeds are encroaching but the southeast 1500 feet are in relatively good shape (no holes or chunks of paving are missing and the asphalt is not breaking up. There is probably 30 feet clean in the center of the runway and if a person did get off to one side there should be no problem as the grass and weeds are sparse and as they dry up by the last of June should be no problem.

"John Gibson noted our next meeting, March 17, and will check to see if he can make it and speak to us about GW. If this sounds like a good idea to y'all (I can't help it, I married a girl from Texas) let me know and I will give him a formal invitation. I will find out as soon as I can and if he is going to make it I thought we might invite the group from Turlock, and Petaluma to join us along with anyone else you can think of that might be interested in GW.."

## Expensive Landing at Petaluma

The plane in the picture probably was coming in a little hot last Saturday. When the pilot applied breaks about 800' from the end of the runway.. surprise! The break on the left failed. The plane skid sharply off the runway, across the taxiway, and ended in a small ditch about 100' from the hangers. In addition to a front wheel cover replacement, the prop strike probably means the engine needs major work. (Isn't it nice that we UL'ers fly so slowly?)



### **2007 Club Calendar**

This year we will not publish the monthly a fly-around calendar. Special fly-in events will be presented in body of Newsletter (see *Club Events Planned for 2007*) but we will not announce weekly fly-arounds that we sponsor every Saturday (and sometimes on Sundays by popular demand). Instead of announcing each fly-around, just take note that on every weekend we fly locally, weather permitting. We will meet at Petaluma AP and decide upon our destination (generally within 80-miles) based upon the conditions at the time we depart. We will take off at 10:30-AM from now until April, and 9:30-AM from April through September when we will again fly at 10:30AM. See you Saturday!

### **Light Sport Plane Progress**

Most of the members who wanted to become Sport Pilots have now done so. However, only 2 and possibly 3 members have signed-up to apply for same-day airworthiness certs to help facilitate getting someone from the FAA FSDO office in Oakland to make the trip to Petaluma.

### **Aircraft Electric course offered at Sky-Park**

On April 21 and 22, Bob Nuckolls from *AeroElectric Connection* will conduct a course in engine and aircraft electrical systems. Bob is an expert in this field, having written the definitive text used by many experimental builders and those refurbishing small aircraft. See <http://aeroelectric.com/seminars/Sonoma.html> for details.

### **Notable Snaps**





Mike Gold submitted this shot of Harvey's Field. A high rez version of this pic shows a few planes



Andre's Grumman w/Chris Rampoldt also aboard, was taken north of Bodega bay on Saturday.



After raising the roof on the aft fuselage of Les's new Zenith, Les and Mark take a break.



Contest: Get a prize at the next meeting, if you can tell us what plane this is and how fast it cruises.

### [LFUF's Roster](#)

The roster has been updated and full copies are available to members at the Saturday March 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.