

January 2007

Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 33

A monthly publication of the Dr. Alexander M. Lippisch Chapter of the Experimental Aircraft Association, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Editor: David Koelzer

EAA Chapter 33 Officers

President: Randy Hartman
319-365-9775
randy@aoaircrafters.com

Vice President: TomCaruthers
319-895-6989
tacaruth@ralcorp.com

Secretary & Newsletter Editor:
David Koelzer
319-373-3257
david.koelzer@mchsi.com

Treasurer: Thomas Meeker
319-899-0037
tomomeeker@msn.com

Flight Advisors:
Dave Lammers 319-377-1425

Technical Counselors:
Tom Olson 319-393-5531
Ron White 319-393-6484
Marv Hoppenworth 396-6283

Young Eagles:
John Anderson 319-362-6159
Connie White 319-393-6484

Board of Directors:
Todd Millard
Tom Olson
Alan Kritzman

www.eaa33.org

Flying to Cabela's

by Mark Navratil

Jan 2, 2007. Beautiful weather and I had the day off. Skyler says, "Daddy let's go flying somewhere." Nobody needs to twist my arm to go flying, but I needed a break from the Picadilly Lilly so I jumped on www.adventurepilot.com and poked around for a while. It's a really cool website that lets you put in your home airport and specify a radius to search for things to see & do in your airplane. Word of caution, there's no guarantee that the information is up-to-date....I called a couple restaurants listed in our area and both of them had gone out of business. Finally I decided to fly up to KOWA (Owatonna, MN) for a trip to Cabela's.

So we hopped in the RV and departed around 10:30 am, arriving in just under an hour (the trip is 150 nm so it's probably too far for a lunch outing if you're part of the low/slow club). When we arrived the wind was 17 kts gusting to 26 at exactly 90 deg to the runway. It made me pay attention but I put it down with no problem....actually it was one of the best landings I've made in a while. Man I love that nosewheel! It was a bit chillier in Owatonna than in Cedar Rapids



and there was snow on the ramp. You can see Cabela's from the airport and in the summer it would make a nice 10 min walk, but they also provide a free shuttle to come pick you up.

For those of you who haven't experienced Cabela's, it's a pretty amazing place. It's primarily a retail store that focuses on outdoorsmen--hunting, fishing, camping, etc. But they have huge displays of animals from all over the world, as well as some big aquariums with fish native to Minnesota and the Mississippi river basin. After gawking for a while we went upstairs to the restau-



rant for lunch. I ordered a smoked elk sandwich and Skyler settled for a cheeseburger. The food was very good but a bit on the expensive side. Not that a couple extra bucks for a sandwich matters too much after burning 15 gal of avgas....

After eating we looked around some more, took some pictures, and picked up some Chocolate Moose on the way out the door. Quick shuttle ride back to the airport and a nice flight home with a beautiful sunset in the west and full moon rising in the east. We had a great time and I would highly recommend this destination if you have a reasonably fast airplane and a few hours to kill.

You can also stop at Cabela's if you're ever unfortunate enough to be driving a lowly earthbound vehicle along I-35 up to the Twin Cities area. Owatonna is just south of Minneapolis-St. Paul area and I-35 goes right past the airport and the store. If you've driven by there before you may remember seeing three T-38's in Thunderbird paint jobs mounted vertically out in front of the airport.

One other note, there is also a Cabela's in Prairie du Chien, but it's less than half the size of the one in Owatonna and doesn't have a restaurant.



Perfect Balance

By David Koelzer

I recently changed wheels and brakes on my Sonex. I had been using 5" Azusa wheels and drum brakes. They worked all right but were not the greatest. The 5" wheels and 4x11 tires were ok on pavement but did not float very well on grass even though my Sonex is quite light. At Airventure this year I talked to the guys at Matco Manufacturing and I liked what I saw. I wanted to keep it light so I went with their 6" spun wheels and internal disk brakes with a motorcycle type hand brake lever. The spun wheels are plenty strong for my light weight Sonex and allow me to use light weight (and inexpensive) industrial tires.

I put every thing together and did some test taxiing of my plane but found that the tires were badly out of balance and would cause my gear to shimmy and bounce. I consulted with some of the Chapter Members and Armin Jacobs suggested that I check the bead of the tire to ensure that I had seated the tires fully on the rim. Sure enough the ridge on the tire near the rim showed that I had not got the tire to seat properly. So I pulled of the tires and reseated them, this time using a little soapy water to allow the tire rim to snap into position as I inflated the tire. This helped but I found the tires were still bouncing on high speed taxis.



Ron White then suggested a method of balancing the tires which I had not thought of. As you can see in the picture it is shaft which fits snugly through the wheel bearings and then rides on two knife edges. I also got some stick-on wheel weights from my local tire shop. To start, the wheel will rock back and forth until the heaviest part comes to rest at the bottom. Then you add some weight opposite the low point and let the wheel rock again until it comes to rest again. If it comes to rest at the point you placed the weights then you put on too much weight. If the weights come to rest at again at the top, you did not add enough. When you have it just right, the wheel should not show any preference when it comes to rest.

This method worked very well, however, I used my variable speed rotary buffer to spin the wheel rapidly and found it would wobble side to side. I had balanced my tires statically but now I needed to balance them dynamically. During the static balance I had placed all the weights on one side of the wheel hub and so the wheel was wobbling like a bar bell being spun off it's axis. So I started moving the weights 1/4 ounce at a time from the left side of the wheel hub to the right side and then again spinning the wheel each time until the wobble went away. It took several tries to get it just right but my tires run very smoothly now and it was worth the effort.

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Iowa DOT Photo Contest Winners

http://www.iawings.com/publications/2006%20Photo%20Contest%20Files/2006%20photography_contest_categories.htm

Taken by Kathleen Navratil, this photo shows Zarya Navratil in front of the EAA's B-17 "Aluminum Overcast". It won first place in the "Kids in Aviation" category. They also used it on the front cover of the Iowa DOT Office of Aviation '07 calendar.



Taken by Mark Navratil, this photo shows Mark and his Dad. It won first place in the "General Aviation" category



Taken by John Roberts, an air to air shot of Mark's RV-8a. It won 2nd place in the "Air-to-Air" category. Both the Iowa DOT and Vans Aircraft used this picture in their respective '07 calendars.

Taken by John Roberts this photo features Mike Wilson's Ryan PT-22, It took Third Place in the "Warbirds" Category.



Taken by Mark Navratil, this photo shows his "Warbird" next to a slightly older Warbird. It took First place in the "Warbirds" category

Last Meeting - Christmas Banquet & Bob “Prof” Struth

To round out 2006 we gathered at the Clark Alumni House on the Coe Collage campus and enjoyed a wonderful dinner. John Anderson and Janet Blackledge did a fantastic job of arrange for the hall and the dinner. John and Janet also arranged for a guest speaker for the evening, Bob “Prof” Struth.

A retired Navel Aviation officer now working at Collins, “Prof” (his navy call sign) shared with us many stories from his Navy Aviation career including



his work as a technical advisor on

the set of “Top Gun” which he was more that qualified for since he had gone through the Navy Fighter Weapons School. “Prof” now owns a Christian Eagle and flies out of the Cedar Rapids airport. He is a big aviation advocate and invites everyone to come for rides in his biplane, on a share the operating costs basis.



Many thanks to John, Janet and “Prof” for a wonderful evening.

Next Meeting - Family Movie Night

By John Anderson

For January we are going to try something different, a Family Movie Night. We have reserved the conference room of the Admin Bldg at the Easter Iowa airport and we are arranging for a projector and sound system. For our first movie night we will be playing the 1969 classis “Battle of Britain” starring Sir Laurence Olivier, Trevor Howard, Michael Caine, Robert Shaw, Michael Redgrave and many others. However the true stars of the movie are 27 Spitfires, six Hawker Hurricanes, Thirty-two Heinkel He-111 bombers and 17 Me 109s, and two Junkers Ju 52s. The Heinkels, Messerschmitts and Junkers were Spanish built aircraft which were still part of the Spanish Air force when the film was made. The flying scenes are amazing and the number of flying historic aircraft nearly bankrupted the production.

The movie is rated “G” and we encourage everyone to bring the entire family. We will be bring a variety of flavored popcorn from the “Iowa Popcorn Company” as well as a cooler full of soft drinks. So grab the kids and enjoy a night at the movies.



New Chapter Treasurer

At our November meeting we elected a new Treasurer: Tom Meeker. A long time Chapter member, you many know Tom as the builder of an Award winning Mustang II. We are happy to have Tom as our new Treasurer. We also want to thank our out going Treasurer of six years, Larry Wood. Larry is going to use his new found free time to accelerate work on his Zenair CH701... right Larry?

We also reelected our Newsletter Editor and Chapter Secretary. I forget his name but I guess he'll have to do.



Annual Chapter Dues are Due

As always happens this time of year, we need everyone to renew their chapter membership. Dues are \$15 per year payable each January. You can also renew, \$25 for 2 years, or \$35 for 3 years. Please send your check to: EAA Chapter 33, Thomas Meeker, 440 N. Troy Rd, Robins, IA 52328. You can check your dues status at our Chapter Website <http://www.eaa33.org/members/index.php> Sign-in with your last name and EAA #.

Everyone can receive the electronic newsletter (as well as attend Chapter functions) but to save money and work we are discontinuing printing and mailing the newsletter. If you would still like to receive a paper newsletter we ask you include an additional \$10 per year with your normal dues to cover the costs of paper, printing and mailing. However, we encourage everyone to sign up for the Chapter's email list <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/eaachapter33/join> or send me an email david.koelzer@mchsi.com and I'll get you signed up.

Fly Market

FOR SALE 2000 Phantom X1 Ultralight, 125 total hours, Rotax 447 engine, BRS 750 parachute, 10 gal tank, Great Flying Aerobatic Airplane, More info available at www.phantomaeronautics.com \$7000 or make an offer, Jerry Maxwell Phone (319) 393-8560



Chapter 33 Calendar

Jan 12 6:30pm Chapter Meeting, Family Movie Night, *Battle Of Britain*, Cedar Rapids Airport, Admin Bldg.

Jan 27 11:30am – 2:30pm 10th Annual Chili Fly-In, Serving “Hot” Chili Price will include tour of the Museum, Greenfield Municipal Airport

Feb 2-3 16th Annual Midwest Aviation Maintenance Symposium and Trade Show, Sponsored by: The Iowa Chapter of PAMA, The Hotel at Gateway Center, Ames, Iowa

Feb 17 7pm FAA Pilot Safety Seminar, Kirkwood Community College 6301 Kirkwood Blvd (Iowa Room on 3rd Floor of Iowa Hall), Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Apr 17-23 Sun 'n Fun Fly-In, Lakeland Florida



Learn to Fly...Here?

In The January 2007 Issue...

Flying to Cabela's, Perfect Balance, Iowa DOT Photo Contest Winners



Experimental Aircraft Association
Alexander M. Lippisch Chapter 33
c/o David Koelzer
2930 Baker Street
Marion, IA 52302
david.koelzer@mchsi.com