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EAA MILE HIGH CHAPTER 43

Founded 1957

MILE HIGH FLYER

The Official Monthly Newsletter of EAA Chapter 43



DEAN Cochran, founding Chapter 43 member, and holder of a Chapter 43 Lifetime Membership award recently celebrated the 25th anniversary of the first flight of his T-18, which occurred on January 27, 1979. Dean is pictured here with his plans built homebuilt at Jefferson County Airport. The aircraft has 1570 hours on the tach and has recently been made even more beautiful with the addition of polished metal cowling and new metal wing tips. The metal wing tips were inspired by the fiberglass tips that John Evens designed for his T-18, and Dean reports that the stall is slightly improved and the landing flair is more gentle. Cruise speed is unchanged.

Dean started construction on the project in December of 1962 with the plans costing \$125 at that time, and it is powered by a Lycoming O-320 with a Sensenich fixed metal prop. It was the realization of a lifetime dream and has been everything Dean hoped it would be, and more. Dean's son Tony earned his Private License in this aircraft and still flies it regularly. Two other Cochran sons, Mike and Dave, also fly this aircraft on occasion. Congratulations Dean!

NOTE TIME and DATE for the FEBRUARY MEETING: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21st, 6:00 PM. Those of you who communicate with the Jeffco tower on a regular basis will instantly recognize the voice of our February guest speaker, Brian Gamble. Brian's calm demeanor and highly capable controller abilities make him a valuable resource to those of us who utilize the Jeffco airspace. To meet Brian in person, come to the **Erie Municipal Airport Terminal meeting room**. Take Colo. Highway 7 to the Erie Municipal Airport entrance, Airport Road to the terminal parking lot.

January Banquet and Meeting Minutes

January 10, 2004, 4:30 PM.

Our annual Banquet and meeting was held at the Vista Ridge Golf Club House, a new venue for us. The meeting was an abbreviated version due to the main interest in indulging in food, drink, and socializing.

The recent Young Eagles Rally had nine airplanes show up to fly 31 kids in one hour. See the story and photos on page 3.

Steve Beach reported that the new Rocky Mountain Regional Fly-In Committee Board is working hard to organize the 2004 Fly-In at the new location at Front Range Airport.

New solo pilot Eric Serani was recognized for his recent solo in Ron Cothorn's Champ.

Gene Horsman recited several humorous stories that he had collected over the past year.

President Patti handed out award certificates and pins to chapter officers and volunteers.

Patti also announced that the February meeting would be held on the 21st to avoid conflicting with Valentines Day. She also solicited ideas for meeting programs for the coming year.

Dean Cochran made his traditional motion to adjourn, so we did.

STRICTLY BUSINESS

On a recent business flight in the company jet, the corporate pilot, a furloughed airline pilot, gave the following announcement on approach to landing:

"Ladies and Gentlemen, we have started our descent into Jeffco Airport. Please be sure your seatbelts are securely fastened, your seatbacks are upright and the tray tables are stowed. And next time you travel on business, be sure to ask my Dad if you can use the Jet!"

B2 Stealth Bomber

THE B2 "Spirit" Stealth Bomber is amazingly close in size, shape & configuration to the YB-49 Flying Wing bomber designed by Jack Northrop's company in the late 1940s. The B2 was able to overcome the YB49's handling shortcomings with advanced aerodynamics and fly-by-wire technology. Looking like something straight out of a Batman comic book, the B2 has an unrefueled range of over 6000 miles. It incorporates 168 on-board computers and can carry sixteen 2000 lb. bombs, each individually and independently GPS guided to separate targets, each accurate to within a 13 meter radius, or 20 five hundred kiloton nuclear weapons. It carries no defensive weapons, relying solely on stealth technology for protection from enemy fire. It first saw combat in Kosovo in Operation Allied Force. During that operation, B2s flew from Whiteman AFB, Mo. to Belgrade and back non-stop, refueling twice in each direction with the two man crew taking turns napping on \$8 lawn chairs set up in the cockpit during the 30 plus hour long missions.

When Jack Northrop, then in his eighties, was asked to be a consultant on the B2 design project he commented "Now I know why God has let me live so long". Amen, Jack.

January Young Eagles Rally

31 Youth Get Their First Flight

After a major goal is reached, such as the one millionth EAA Young Eagle this fall, there is always a question of what will happen to the program. From all indications seen at the Saturday January 10th Young Eagles Rally the program is as healthy as ever. The Tri-County (Erie International) airport was host for eleven pilots and eight ground support personnel who took a class of students from for their first ride in a GA aircraft. And, everyone had a great time!



The weather could not have been better with temps in the forties by flight time and in the fifties before the flights ended. Daphne Davenport coordinated getting the students with their teacher. Cliff Begnaud organized the pilots and ground crews and on Saturday morning everyone was pleasantly surprised to see even more people showing up to help than had originally committed. Both parents and students were very appreciative of the generous offer from the Chapter and EAA members.

In addition to the many thanks to everyone that participated, a special 'thanks' to Dennis for manning the paperwork. He spent the entire morning filling out the certificates, registering the new Young Eagles and ensuring that nothing got lost in the shuffle. A second congratulation goes to Roger Standard who finally got to fly his first Young Eagle after all these years of ground support. Well done gentlemen!

An interesting sidelight was the fact that Kitfoxes outnumbered the RV's at the event. It was the first time that anyone could remember that happening. As evidenced by the photo, the Kitfoxes again outnumbered the RV's at lunch in Greeley after all of the Young Eagles had been flown. (Four to one in this case.)

One last highlight of the day occurred after most of the pilots had departed for the Greeley lunch. As Mike Guegler and Herrill Davenport were discussing whether to go up for one last flight or to hanger their aircraft, they noticed a family that was walking in front of the FBO and admiring the airplanes. Mike and Herrill speculated that perhaps the family had come for the rally a little too late. When they inquired the parents said that they were just out looking at airplanes with the kids. After talking with them for a short time Mike asked if they would like to go up for flight. There was a hesitation and some disbelief that the offer was even being made. Herrill and Mike explained a little about the Young Eagle program and that GA pilots in general enjoy taking newcomers up for a trip around the patch.

The father and the kids, after learning that the flights were gratis, decided that they couldn't turn down the invitation. Herrill proceeded to load them in the 182 and prepared for a quick introductory flight. The mother stayed with Mike and declined to go. However, as they continued to talk about flying and the joy of departing terra firma, she decided that maybe this was an opportunity that she shouldn't turn down. Mike put her in the 172 that he was flying and off they went.

Continued on page 4.

Young Eagles Rally, continued.

On returning she told everyone that this little flight had changed her somewhat negative thoughts on aviation and GA aircraft. The father and the two kids had also thoroughly enjoyed their flight. One simple little contact by Herrill and Mike won at least four positive votes for our sport and passion. Please remember this chance encounter the next time you see a family or anyone admiring aircraft at your local airport. We must all be aware of the security threats but most people at airports just enjoy aviation. And, as pilots, most of you will probably sense the difference. January 10th was a very good day, keep flying the youth in 2004!

Thanks to **Steve Beach** for this contribution to the newsletter!



The 26th Annual EAA Rocky Mountain Regional Fly-In

The 26th Annual Rocky Mountain Regional Fly-In will be held the weekend of June 26th-27th at a new venue this year - Front Range Airport, near Watkins, Colorado. Volunteers are needed at this time to help with the planning, and even more will be needed during the event. More information about the event and volunteer opportunities can be found on the Fly-In Website, www.rmrfi.org. The web site will be updated regularly so keep checking it for more information. If you have any questions, please contact Volunteer Chairperson, Cheryle, at cheryles@rmrfi.org or Fly-In Chairman, Jim Cimiluca, by phone at 303-452-9757 or e-mail at jipegasus@msn.com.

FEBRUARY PROGRAM

Our February program will be presented by Brian Gamble, Air Traffic Controller at Jeffco. He will talk about the relationships between controllers and pilots, and field questions from the audience. Brian was a Navy controller on an aircraft carrier as well as at numerous Naval Air Stations. He has been a controller at Jeffco for 17 years, and has varied interests such as astronomy and political science. You won't want to miss Brian's presentation!

PASSAGES

Otto Semft passed away on January 30. You may remember Otto as the husband of Mary Semft, builder and owner of a Lancair IVP based at Longmont. Otto and Mary were also heavily involved in the restoration of a rare Alexander Bullet project. Our condolences to the Semft family.

YOUR CREATIVE SIDE

This is your opportunity to exercise your creative side by becoming an EAA Chapter Newsletter Editor! You will have the chance to realize personal growth, learn new skills, give valuable input to your chapter membership through your own Editor's column if you choose, and attend informative EAA Newsletter Editor's seminars and workshops at Oshkosh each year. Besides, you probably have lots of ideas of your own to freshen up the newsletter and make it more interesting! Please contact Dave Bieseimer at 303-384-3760 (H), 720-480-5825 (C), or by e-mail at dbieseimer@comcast.net. Soon. Thank you.

EAA Mile High Chapter 43

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Mile High Flyer
 EAA Mile High Chapter 43
 Gene Horsman
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FIRST CLASS



THIS MONTH'S MEETING:
 Saturday, February 21st, 6:00 PM. at Erie Municipal Airport Terminal
 Upstairs Meeting Room. Info inside.