



EAA Chapter 595 April 9th, 2022

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Minutes / Meeting of EAA Chapter 595 Rio Grande Valley

May Announcements

Birthdays

Anniversaries

June Announcements

Birthdays

Robert Heiser

June - 20

Anniversaries

Donald & Geneda Schwanke

June - 2

John & Linda Peacock

June - 22

Events

President Don Schwanke called the meeting to order @ 11:01 a.m. with 7 members and 9 guests in attendance at the Edinburg Airport in Edinburg, Texas. Since quorum was not met no official business could be conducted.

Members in attendance were as follows;

Merle Jenkins Shirlene Jenkins
Don Schwanke Monte Vasquez
Byron Engle Jerry Gifford
Cindy Vasquez

Guests: Was L.V. Howell,

Although L.V. Howell has been a past member of our chapter but has been absent after an 8-month bout with cancer. After his chemo treatments and surgery, he is now cancer free. LV got his private pilot's license in 1953 but he had to give it up about 4 years ago. He flew a Piper Geronimo and a homebuilt that he constructed himself. It is a Kitfox Vixen that he passed on to his nephew to keep the plane in the family. Jose and Lilly Lugo from McAllen. Lilly is the co-Pilot and they fly a Piper Meridian. Jose is a former airline pilot who flew for one of the major carriers, retired early, went into business and brought along 2 other young adults that have been to our meetings before. They are Aditya Nair and Eduardo Diaz who are also students at the Science Academy in Mercedes. Arthur Chavarria who is very interested in becoming a pilot in the near future. Manny Garcia just bought a Cessna 152 and bases it in Harlingen at Sun Valley Aviation. Sebastian Mendez who is an electrical engineer student at UTRGV and is very interested in aviation and has been since he was a little boy. Jose Mendez, Sebastian's younger brother who is a student at the Science Academy in Mercedes and is trying to gain experience in aviation.



After introductions, Don mentioned that the minutes are on the website for all to read. Treasurer Byron Engle gave the treasurer's report and the chapter is solvent. Since official business could not be conducted, Don turned over the meeting to Aditya and Eduardo who gave an update on the progress on the donated plane by Merle Jenkins. They showed the members and the guests a lot of pictures and they discussed how they are coming along with the plane. At this point, they are planning to rebuild it and intend to order new ribs and to work on the engine which they have already removed. They took it inside the engineering building and have it secured to a wooden

platform so it doesn't fall. They drained approximately 7 quarts of oil and they hooked up a battery to the engine to see if it would rotate. It was free and they also used compressed air to check the compression on each cylinder. Byron mentioned that they probably won't be able to buy any ribs because they were designed & built by the original owner, but could buy the materials and make the ribs themselves. Because of the corrosion, they may have to make quite a few since some of them are in pretty bad shape. The man who built the plane designed & built it all from his own plans. Ultimately, the goal for this school year is to disassemble it, invite a licensed mechanic from Gulf Aviation come in to check on the



engine so they can do what needs to be done. They are still not sure whether they are going to rebuild this plane or just use it for educational purposes. Whatever they decide, if the plane is re-buildable, they will move the landing gear back and do the weight and balance on it. There was a very good discussion and presentation on behalf of these 2 young men. Aditya also had some great news to share: He will be getting his private pilot's license this summer@ Texas Southern University from a scholarship that he received. He will be training in Houston for 2 months at Ellington Airport and he will be flying a Cessna 172. Congratulations, Aditya on your accomplishments!

Arthur Chavarria asked what it would take to develop a group of pilots who have planes to form an Angel Flight group. He has been asked if there is anything like this here in the valley to transport infirm patients to San Antonio or Houston for emergency procedures. We didn't need to go any further because Jose Lugo is actually one of the pilots who volunteers to do this and has been doing it for the past 4-5 years. As Mr. Lugo pointed out, this is not an air ambulance and the patients are mobile, but it also depends on what their limitations are. The website is www.angelflightsc.org. Art mentioned this would be a great way to promote our chapter here in South Texas.

Jerry Gifford will leave to go back to Kansas at the end of this month. Safe travels to Jerry and his beautiful wife, Shirley.

Good luck to Byron on his problems with the Cherokee. Hopefully by next month he will be flying away into the wild blue yonder.



There being no more discussion or questions, we moved on to other things.

Don asked the most important question of the morning: where does the chapter members want to go eat? The unanimous decision was the Texas Roadhouse, which never disappoints.

There being no more business, Don entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Byron Engle moved and was seconded by Merle Jenkins. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m. The next meeting will be Saturday, May 14, 2022 at Gulf Aviation in Harlingen @ 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Vasquez