



EAA Chapter 595 June 12th, 2021

Website: www.595.eaachapter.org/

Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/EAAChapter595

Minutes / Meeting of EAA Chapter 595 Rio Grande Valley

July Announcements

Birthdays

Nick Lung

July - 7

William Bowers

July - 15

Anniversaries

Nick & Sharon Lung

July - 2

William & Janis Bowers

July - 4

August Announcements

Birthdays

Janis Baker

August - 30

Anniversaries

Events

Notices

This RV-12 project will take a lot of effort from both club members as well as outside volunteers to become a successful education program as most of us envision. All ideas are welcome both from members of the chapter as well as those that are on our mailing list.

President Don Schwanke called an informal meeting to order @ 11:07 a.m. with 6 members and 1 guest in attendance @ Gulf Aviation in Harlingen, Texas. Since quorum was not met the meeting was labeled as informal but the executive committee is able to do any necessary business if needed.

Members were as follows:

Don Schwanke	Ted Miller Jr.
Geneda Schwanke	Byron Engle
Cindy Vasquez	Robert Carter



The guest was T.J. Perez, AKA Tito. Welcome TJ. He had been at the April meeting but hadn't become a member until today.

Don mentioned that the minutes to last month's meeting are on the website for all to read. Don then asked for the treasurer's report and Byron Engle stated that the chapter is solvent.

Old business:

Don has become very discouraged with the RV12 project because he has been diligently looking into making something happen. Out of all the contacts that he made, the only interested party was the STEM program in Mercedes. Don mentioned that he found disinterest from several schools. As Byron Engle said, most of the schools are going to say that they really aren't interested for several reasons, not the least of liability problems.

Byron tried doing that exact same thing back in the 70's and 80's when he was teaching for the Lyford CISD. In larger schools, one may have a greater degree of success but must have a teacher that's knowledgeable about aviation and aircraft construction techniques. Since aviation is such a small part of the economy, not many schools are going to support this kind of project. What the administration is afraid of is the liability and the cost of the project. Don said that there are many high schools building RV12's up North like we're trying to do and they did it with less of a budget than we are.

We already have a good start because we have about \$12,500 worth of airplane parts. Don has decided to go ahead and place the order for the



fuselage kit because of the 8-month wait. Van's factory told him that he needed a bill of sale from the person who donated the parts, so Don got the bill of sale and sent it in, but Van's lost it. He then had to resend another one plus the money for the fuselage kit but now they needed a waiver of liability from the person who donated the parts.

Don finally got the letter of liability and sent it in and they finally gave Don a bill sequence and a shipping date. He was told that they couldn't do anything until Don sent in a letter of liability for himself! Until now, Don had no idea what the status is except that he has the bill sequence and the ship date (tentatively) for some time in December.

Don feels like he has exhausted everything he knows how to do, so what are we going to do with this kit? Since we won this competition, we said we were going to try to teach people how to build an aircraft, and it's what we are supposed to be

doing.

Robert Carter said, we need to be patient, as we haven't gotten through to all of the schools. Robert also said we should probably not do it at a school because someone would have to be there every time they have class unless a qualified instructor is present. He said to do it outside of a high school setting. Marine Military Academy is very interested, but they are on summer leave right now. Robert does have an idea that keeping this available to schools at least until September or October. Maybe then we could incur some interest.

Ted Miller Jr. then asked Don since he paid for the kit out of his own pocket then how does it affect the chapter? Don answered and said it really doesn't affect the chapter at all since it's his money, so he really doesn't need any approval from the chapter at all. Since he used his own money, he is responsible for the payment and not the chapter, thereby removing the burden from the chapter. Don did take it upon himself to pay for it now instead of waiting until the fall.

When schools resume and we find out that we have a group that's interested, the chapter will be ready to begin the process without losing any interest on the part of the student participants.



Robert Carter brought up an idea of how to raise funds for this project. There are a lot of things that need to be put in place before establishing a "Go fund me" page. If it gets on the Internet and goes out to the public, we need to be prepared to deal with it. We need to set a goal and keep track of it because we would have to pull out the money within 90 days and put it into the chapter's bank account to be used for the project. Otherwise, it all goes back to the donors. If we do meet a set goal and pull out the money, we would not have to close the page down. All Robert needs to know is if we want him to move on establishing the Go fund me account at this time. He said the time to do it is now because he feels that the sooner we start on it the better instead of waiting for the fuselage kit to come in. Because it takes time for the go fund me project make its way to everyone on the Internet. If we start sooner, if that is the goal we are going to go for once that fuselage kit comes in, we will have the funds to push forward. If we wait for the kit to come in, it may take a few months to see any money

in the account.

Robert said if we put it on his social media account, it will also go out in the newsletter, sending it out to all the members that we know and they could inform others. Go fund me doesn't do any advertising, so on the mission statement we could say the money is to be used only for educational purposes. Robert said we need to make a decision as to what we want to do. It really doesn't matter which direction we want to go because we have several

options out on the table and we have had them for the past 3 meetings. Robert personally feels like the membership wants to use this as an educational opportunity to get more youth involved in aviation whether it's through a school or through us. If that's our primary goal, we really need to start on it now. Don said that we should look into the go fund me a little more.

Ted Miller made a comment that he doesn't think that the chapter should be financially responsible until the consensus of the members agrees. He also said that our chapter does not have the financial resources at this particular time, nor the manpower and we would need outside help in order to make this work. Ted also brought up a very good point in that maybe the earliest that anything can be put together would be during the spring semester because everything has to be in order first and it takes a while to get a curriculum together. After discussing ideas among the members, Byron and Ted said that we really need to have a consensus of the chapter to do what we have been talking about and maybe we can get the word out by email.

Don then asked for a conclusion to the meeting and it adjourned @ 12:40 p.m.
The next meeting will be on Saturday, July 10,2021 at the Edinburg Airport @ 11:00 A.M.
See y'all there.

Lunch was enjoyed by all at Los Asados Mexican Restaurant

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Vasquez