



EAA Chapter 595 August 14th, 2021

Website: www.595.eaachapter.org/

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Minutes / Meeting of EAA Chapter 595 Rio Grande Valley

September Announcements

Birthdays

Linda Peacock

September - 12

John Peacock

September - 19

Robert Carter

September - 29

Anniversaries

Jerry & Shirley Gifford

September - 18

October Announcements

Birthdays

Geneda Schwanke

October - 6

Donald Schwanke

October - 26

Carol Heiser

October - 26

Anniversaries

Events

Notices

This 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 Saturday, August 14, 2021 @ Gulf Aviation in Harlingen @ 11:02 a.m. with 8 members and 3 guests in attendance. Since quorum was not met the meeting was labeled as informal but the committee is able to do any necessary business if needed.

Members were as follows:

Don Schwanke
Geneda Schwanke
Cindy Vasquez.
Phil Bowers

Byron Engle
Ted Miller Jr.
Merle Jenkins
Shirlene Jenkins

The 3 guests were:
Aditya Nair

Manuel Garcia- formerly from San Antonio and just moved here in June and built a KOLB

Sebastian Montes- who has been here before but it has been over a year and a half.

Welcome to EAA chapter 595 gentlemen

There are no changes in the treasurer's report and the minutes to last month's meeting are on the website for all to read.

Old business:



After doing a lot of research and speaking with Charlie Becker, Chapter Coordinator @ EAA headquarters, Don and Charlie both decided that the chapter using a Go Fund Me account was not going to work at all. But Robert Carter has been investigating a different course and basically said people are doing this all around the country. The bottom line was that a chapter can't do it. The only way it can be done is to establish a separate company and make it a 501c3 and if contributions come in, that would be great. Don has had several conversations with the chapter presidents in Brandon and Sarasota, Florida. Don feels that it's somewhat daunting and can see what we are really up against. One problem is that we don't have enough people to get this done, or a facility to work on it.



Even if someone gave us a hangar and more money we would still be lacking enough people to supervise this project. There are problems on the horizon and we don't know if we are going to be able to solve them or not. It was decided at the last meeting that we will wait until the fall to see if we could get something done once the schools open.

New business:

Robert Carter did an outstanding job sending out a form by email where we can nominate members for the positions in our chapter. This form makes it much easier to do and it is nice to have it organized so well. Nominations are in October and elections are during the November meetings. We should all have received this form, filled it out online privately and sent it in. Don felt that this by far supersedes anything else that anyone has ever come up with.

Byron made a recommendation to make Arlene Garza an honorary member of our chapter. Byron said he would also like to do the same for Deborah Pinto. He sent her a text but has not gotten a response. Don said if we can't get a quorum, we can do an executive decision if necessary on this matter. Phil Bowers said that if we vote on it or do it by executive decision, we should have the certificate framed, ready to be presented to them both. At this time.

Aditya Nair gave us a very informative presentation of where he would like to be in the future regarding aviation.

He is 16 years old and very enthusiastic. His first discovery flight was when he was 14 years old at the McAllen airport and when he turned 15 he found out about EAA and contacted Byron Engle. Byron gave him his first Young Eagle flight. That opened up so many doors for him, such as the free private pilot ground school and all the scholarships and benefits EAA has to offer. Since his Young Eagle flight, Aditya has been doing everything he possibly can to advance in aviation personally and also to encourage more youth to do the same. He didn't know that in the Valley, there are not many young people interested in aviation. He has tried to get some of his friends interested but they either felt it's too dangerous or don't have the time. He has explained to them that aviation can be safe and there's much more to it than what they thought.

Since he started on this journey, he has taken the private pilot online ground school from Sporty's Pilot Shop and was awarded a scholarship to the flight academy in Milton, Florida funded by Randolph Air Force Base in San Antonio. Everything was paid for, from his trip, to the hotel and all his meals. Aditya said those were the best 3 weeks of his life with all the new things he learned. He was also able to advance to his solo flight in a 172 and he said that was an amazing experience. He is also the Vice President for the Southwest Region for Young Aviators US which is a new and rising aviation non-profit organization 501c3 and he has the responsibility of managing Texas, Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico, Ohio, and Arkansas. They organize fly in events to encourage young people to come out and meet older people who have been in the industry. Aditya then passed out flyers for an upcoming young aviators fly in at McCreery Aviation Saturday, August 21, in McAllen from 9:00 a.m. until mid afternoon. He had called Mid Valley Airport in Weslaco, but they wouldn't allow it, so he tried McCreery Aviation and they were very accommodating. Aditya asked if members from the chapter would attend so we could have representation for the youth to come in and join our chapter.



At this time, Aditya is a junior in high school with college right around the corner. His dreams are to go to the Air Force academy in Colorado Springs and he is working as hard as he can to get there. He does have a few friends who are interested in aviation, but don't have the outlets, so Aditya is founding an aviation club at his school and is awaiting for approval from his district. At present, he is hoping to gain approval by December 2021 to build an Ultralight airplane. He doesn't think that the school will allow the students to actually fly the airplane, since it's supposed to be an engineering learning experience only. He said that 2 of the instructors there are aerospace engineers. Aditya asked about the project the chapter would like to complete. Byron told him that we have approximately \$12,500 worth of airplane parts and Don has ordered the fuselage kit at his own expense. The



earliest he would get it would be in December, so we have to figure out quickly what we are going to do with it because we may have to cancel the order. There are so many details that must be worked out and the chapter can not be responsible for the ownership of the project.

Merle Jenkins asked a question: “Would the school accept a completed homebuilt biplane that’s been in his backyard as a donation?” Aditya said “Yes”. They would take on that project, but first he would have to ask his principal to gain approval. The biplane would be a great acquisition for them because it would give the students a great opportunity to go over it to see what is involved in the construction and restoration of the plane. Phil Bowers stated that the plane would probably have to be partially disassembled and have a thorough check for rust, corrosion and any other problems it might have.

A great big thank you to Mr. Nair for such a wonderful and informative presentation!

There being no new business, Don entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Phil Bowers moved to adjourn and Byron Engle seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m. with the members going to the Longhorn Cattle Company in San Benito.

Larry Wheelock sent in the following photos from Oshkosh 2021





The next meeting will be in Edinburg on Saturday, September 11, 2021 @ 11:00 am
See y'all there

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Vasquez

P.S. As of August 25, Robert Carter passed the Checkride for his commercial pilot's license! Congratulations, Robert!