



Next Meeting-Sunday, Jan. 7, 2024 1:00 at the FBO Training Room

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Hello Chapter members, friends and airport junkies,

Yikes, can't believe it's 2024! As incoming president I'm super optimistic and a bit overwhelmed too. At the January meeting, we'll hit on some budgetary issues, but also discuss some suggestions I've gotten from members and airport bums. And we'll talk about setting some chapter goals for the coming year.

The new official chapter email is **info.EAAChapter725@gmail.com** currently monitored by both vice president (Michael Seal) and myself. You can always reach me at 775-721-9806 sending a text message is best for me.

In the next couple months, let's get a few group activities set up for the spring, maybe some flyouts, flyins, and even some hanger BBQs with the public and airport personnel.

Dennis Mitchell

Feel free to suggest edits to this message and also regarding the other articles I sent you, feel free to edit, change, modify or ignore them ☺

Dennis M

Treasurer's Report 12/30/2023 (Year Closeout)

Checking Account Balance 11/20/23	\$2,631.19
Cash box	370.00
Receipts: Campground Shower Donation	40.00
Disbursements: Christmas Party Room	(300.00)
Annual EAA Dues and Insurance	(672.00)
Checking Interest	.44
Ending Balance: Checking	\$1,660.63
Cash Box	410.00
Funds available	\$2,070.63

Editor's Commentary

I believe I've hung around long enough to have become the most senior chapter member. So, in my 60th year as an EAA member, 20+ in the chapter, and entering my 7th as Newsletter Editor, I'm going to claim the privilege(?) of advanced age and include a few comments regarding the years which are passing by all too quickly. No worry, this will be a very rare occurrence.

This chapter has reflected the changing nature of general aviation, the EAA movement, and our fellow chapters over the years. We are all aging and retaining the excitement and interest generated from our early contact with aviation can be a challenge. But, as we were encouraged by our mentors, so is it now our responsibility to pass it forward. Projects have also evolved. Plans built aircraft have given way to kits and the electronic instrumentation only found in commercial aircraft not that many years ago is now common in many of our EAB and LSA aircraft. The aircraft are more expensive to create, but typically more functional than homebuilts of my youth. Costs have gone up considerably and are making it more difficult to get into the game. But I'm impressed that Pacific Aviation has a number of students still climbing that hill.

By its very purpose, EAA has always supported options to the more conventional means of pursuing flight. It embraced the ultralight movement as it grew and, just 20 years ago saw the FAA approve the Light Sport Pilot Certificate and define the LSA category, which opened up new opportunities. Many of our chapter members would not be flying today if the LSA class and relaxed criteria (especially the elimination of the FAA 3rd Class Medical) did not exist. Still more recently, the approval of Basic Med. made it possible to substitute a physical administered by any licensed doctor for the FAA 3rd Class, which took much of the bureaucracy out of the process. Within the next few years, we should see the expansion of the LSA class to include many aircraft that are outside today's criteria.

Our chapter has also gone through a few ups and downs over the years. We hit a low at one point several years ago, and some of us were concerned that we might not survive the slump. Our past president was instrumental in helping lift us out of the mud and we are stronger than ever. I'm especially encouraged by the visitors we welcomed late in the year and hope we can give them reasons to become members. I'm including a photo and info on one potential new member and his recent acquisition. Yeah, it's another CH701. They're everywhere. But maybe we can claim to be the CH701 capitol of the state, if not the country. Nothing wrong with that. And a Washington-based Jodel D11, built in Oregon in 1980 will soon return to the state courtesy of Brad Baum. I'll get a story put together on that airplane for the February issue. Well, not everyone is hibernating, and that's a good thing.

I see my Daffodils are starting to push through the ground. Spring is not far away.

Another CH701 Makes Grants Pass Home Base

Jack made contact with Joe a couple of months back, got the chapter contact information, and came to our November meeting. Dennis Mitchell followed up to get some background information and a photo, which he passed on to me. Hope Jack will decide he really needs to be a part of our group. New year, new member, new airplane? Wow.



Jack Brusius found a complete and previously flying Zenith 701 in Southern Cal. The seller removed the wings and damaged them during storage. Jack rented a UHaul to bring it home to Grants Pass where he's had it stored in his shop at home. He worked through the process of finding a rental hanger and on Monday 12/18, with the help of Ryan and another couple of friends, he got the 701 to the airport and tucked away in his hanger. Jack will get with Ryan and together they'll do some minor repairs and get another Zenith 701 flying around Grants Pass airport. Dennis Mitchell

Annual Christmas Party

On the 8th, twenty nine members and guests gathered at the Grants Pass Golf Club for our annual Christmas Party. This is by far the best venue we have found for a group our size. We have the whole place to ourselves, the staff is very accommodating, and the food is great. What's not to like? There was a real hole in our social activities when we had to cancel during the Covid pandemic, but we're back now and it really is a good way to finish off the year. We enjoyed a social hour followed by an excellent buffet dinner. Unfortunately, Dennis Crawford (outgoing V.P.) was under the weather and unable to attend, but we sent Joe Williams (Pres.) off to a well-deserved retirement. Then we capped off the evening with our "white elephant" gift exchange. A lot of 1st choices changed hands over the course of the evening. I didn't even try to keep track-much too confusing. But, between Joe and I, we got a pretty good collection of photos to record the event as part of our chapter history. A selection follows.



Now if I were a real journalist, I would have included everyone's name. I didn't even take this picture, but here are our party goers with their plates full. As you can see, we're not cramped for space. So if you didn't make it this year, plan ahead for Christmas 2024. We have lots of room. Thanks to Joe for this photo and the others on this page.



What a beautiful dessert table. These disappeared very quickly. And they were delicious. OK, I don't know about all of them, but mine certainly was.



The White Elephant gift table before the carnage.



The attendees were very generous with their contributions to our Toys for Tots collection. Joe Williams photo.



Joe received the chapter equivalent of the proverbial gold watch for his years of service and contributions. Well, it wasn't actually 25 years, probably just seemed like it.



This was Richard Colton's 1st trip to the gift table. Yes, I said 1st. He didn't get to keep this Lego Space Shuttle very long. His second trip netted him an airplane jigsaw puzzle.



Dick Smith was another member who made two trips. But this really **was** a white elephant. Maybe there was a member or guest who collects tea pots and just had to have it. Dick got a homemade Christmas wreath the 2nd time around.



I didn't get a picture of what Cheryl Riffle selected her first time up, but she went home with a pair of used pistons after her second trip to the table.



Needed a last minute gift for a young family member? Allan Runia could have fixed you right up. Or maybe he had a family member of his own who was the ultimate recipient.



Michael Seal scored a great t-shirt for the flying season. Just have to wait a few months for warmer weather to arrive.



Now that's more like it. Dennis might need a bit of this (or something stronger) after presiding over a couple of chapter meetings.



OK, I'm confused (again). I think this LED projection clock started out with someone else. Not sure how it ended up with Dave McGloin.



What the.....? Trust Jim to select something truly unique. I should have paid a lot more attention to this one after I took the picture. I enlarged it as much as I could to try to figure it out, but no luck. Looks like an airplane flying over a port-a-pottie. Is that supposed to represent the Chicken Drop target? Who knows, we've had stranger things. I remember an envelope of Viagra making the rounds for several years in a row. So Jim, set me straight and I'll make sure there's a more accurate description next month.



Coffee to start the day, wine to help close it. Eva Seal certainly came up with something relatable.



Caleb Cross came up with some kind of wooden analog computer, but I didn't write the name down and I can't read it off the box. Could be real interesting figuring out how to make it work.

And so we officially bring our chapter year to a close. I hope everyone had a great holiday. I'm going to take the rest of the year off and not bug our airport management and business people. I suspect they are enjoying what few mental breaks they can take from the daily routine. I will close the year with a good-bye to 2023 and hello to 2024. Let the good times roll.


Looking Ahead (Gotta include this somewhere)

There will be an Airport Day 2024 and Joe will be one of the principal organizers. Planning will get underway this month. Probably hold it late June, but it will be awhile before a firm date is established. However, we should start planning for our breakfast sometime this spring. It's our only annual fund-raising activity and last year's cancellation left our treasury a bit light. We could use a repeat of 2021.

And Finally

When I joined more than 20 years ago, the annual dues were \$20. They still are. We hope you will decide to renew (or join if not already a member). New year, new challenges, new opportunities. Climb aboard. It's going to be a fun ride.

So that our membership records are current and accurate, we start each year with a fresh membership form. You can print the form, fill it out and give it to the Treasurer at the next meeting (along with the \$20, of course), or mail it to Jim Hammell, 6205 Griffin Creek Road, Medford, OR 97501. Please note that we have changed our mailing address.



Use this form to apply for membership to EAA Chapter 725. Please provide all information requested below. Mail your application and dues to EAA Chapter 725, 1333 Brookside, Grants Pass, Oregon 97526. Or bring it to the next meeting, held on FIRST SUNDAY of month at the EAA hangar in summer months and the FBO classroom in winter.

NAME _____ Dues \$20.00
Per member

Significant other _____

Family members joining

Address:

Email: _____
phone: _____

EAA National # _____

Please indicate type of aircraft or project :

EAA Chapter 725, Grants Pass Airport-3S8

Meets: 1st Sunday of the month-1:00 P. M

Summer months: Chapter hangar with barbecue at 12:00 noon

Winter months: FBO Classroom

President.....Dennis Mitchell

Secretary.....Open

Newsletter Ed....Stan Loer

stazel@cpros.com

Vice President.....Michael Seal

Treasurer.....Jim Hammell

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