

FEBRUARY

Our January 2021 meeting was held on Sunday the 24th at Hartsville Regional Airport. President Jessie Allred thanked Booster Windham for arranging the presentation from DRONESPRAY and introduced David Leeth and Seth Lowe. David and Seth discussed the reasons they founded their company and the FAA and general legal requirements that had to be met. They talked about the company's goals of providing safe low altitude spraying of herbicides and pesticides in an efficient manner allowing farmers to increase their profit margins.



Using GPS and terrain following technology their drones provide efficient applications over flat or hilly terrains. They discussed working with Clemson University and the University of Florida. A number of questions were asked including questions about operational altitudes, load capacity and drone control. The presentation was well received. This highlighted a good example of how drones are being used in commercial operations.

Our next meeting will be held on Sunday February 28, 2021 at 2:30 pm. The location for this meeting will be the Bishopville(52J) FBO. George Roberts will give a presentation on flying to Alaska. Refreshments will be available

The construction of the Hartsville FBO seems to be making good progress and is on schedule to be completed in April. We look forward to using the conference room for our monthly meetings. We owe a "thank you" to Mark DeFields of RiseAero,LLC.



March

Our February meeting was held on Sunday the 28th at the Bishopville FBO.

George Roberts who manages the FBO gave an interesting talk about flying to Alaska and some of his experiences while serving there in the military. He made two general aviation trips. One in a Piper Archer in 1997 and another in a Cessna Cardinal In 2007. He talked about the importance of planning for the challenges of that environment including weather, terrain, lack of services and the need to have multiple routes planned for each leg. He asked if anyone knew the significance of latitude 66 degrees, 33 minutes. The artic circle. This is the latitude above which the sun never sets during the summer and never rises during the winter. Six months of daylight followed by six months of darkness. George was assigned to Shemya Air Force Station. The station supported RC 135 reconnaissance aircraft and had a fixed beam and tracking radar to monitor Soviet activity. An interesting and entertaining question and answer session followed.

Our next meeting will be held at the Hartsville airport on March 28th at 2:30 pm. Mark DeFields of Rise Aero will bring us up to date on construction progress and other airport activities.

APRIL

Our March meeting was held on Sunday the 28th at 2:30 PM. Mark DeFields from Rise Aero gave the group a tour of the new fixed base operations facility. They hope to have all their operations in the facility by May or early June. Mark also discussed flight training plans and the aircraft available for training.

With the inclement weather we adjourned early with the knowledge that the new building can handle some strong wind gust!