



# *The Bend High Desert Flyer of Chapter 1345*

WEBSITE: <http://1345.eaachapter.org/>

KBDN AWOS 134.425

JUNE 2013, VOL12, #6

## ***PREZ SEZ:***

Hello all, Last month's meeting saw 11 members join us for pizza and drinks. We went around and talked about new events and I did a follow up on the B-17 visit.

Even though high winds and scattered showers were the order of the day, our hosting of "Aluminum Overcast" was a great success! 35 paid individuals flew 4 missions over the central Oregon skies! Not bad for a 1 day stop and marginal weather.

The Ground tours were cut short as well as a flight due to weather. The take for our chapter is still being tallied up by national, but the good news is that the Monday evening 30's/ 40's Dance was also a great success (and allot of fun) and almost paid for the entire B-17 event. We had enough food. The DJ and music was great. Almost 100 paid guests.

When you see Jim Mateski, give him a big thank you as he paid on his behalf, for a veteran to fly on "Aluminum Overcast"! I didn't catch the Vet's name but I know he really enjoyed that flight. And when he met and thanked Jim, I think there was a tear in his eye.

Six of us were lucky enough to fly to Everett WA. Jim Stone, Jim Standish, Mike Dehate, Charles Brown, Bud Candland and myself. This ended up being a rush job with a lot of confusion around how many were allowed to go. I know some were told they were on the flight, only to be told that we had to cut back. The EAA on-site leadership did an awkward job of communicating resulting in a whole bunch of miscommunication. I will take blame, if there is any, for not getting more precise information.

All in all, I think the event was a great success and I look forward to the "Next Big Thing"!

Special thanks also go to the following:

Bend airport manager Gary Judd, Gina Kadow and the City of Bend. They helped out (and put up) on so many levels.

Steve Gibson for the use of his hanger and overflowing good will.

Gabe Daniel and the "ProAir" staff for putting up with all this B-17 nonsense and letting us crowd up the ramp space.

The Bend Civil Air Patrol for keeping "Aluminum Overcast" safe at night, with-out having to firing a single round!

Brad Fraley and "Leading Edge" for their generous donation of \$5000 on air advertising! That sure helped allot!

Dale Anderson and all of his volunteers! We couldn't have pulled this off without you!

Speaking of volunteers; we need more! The Hayward Air Rally is coming to Bend and will arrive at the Bend airport Friday June 21<sup>st</sup>.

We'll need around 5 volunteers to help marshal the contestants and close them out. This is a fun event and your help will be appreciated. Contact me via email @ [maxfly55@gmail.com](mailto:maxfly55@gmail.com) if you're available.

Oshkosh is coming up real soon and yes, I'm still planning to fly out (family issues may change this). If anyone else wants to go, get in touch with me (I may have an open seat).

Our next meeting is Wednesday, June 12th with a visit to Lloyd Swenson's RV-12 at his hanger @ the Bend Airport. Lloyd's hanger is in the middle of the "Baney Hotel Group" hangers. I will have our sign pointing in, from the frontage road. Doors open @ 6 o'clock with pizza and drinks.

Till then, Fly safe!

*Thomas Phy, President*

## ***May Meeting Minutes***

Neither I (Editor) or Jack (Secretary) were able to make it to the May 8<sup>th</sup> meeting so the Meeting Minutes But per Tom's Prez Sez, 11 members enjoyed pizza and drinks, and talked about new events. Tom did a follow up on the B-17 visit preparations.

## ***Treasurer's Report***

Financial: For period 1/1/2013 to 5/31/2013

Total Income:	\$2108.30
Total Expense:	\$2297.79
Net Income (Loss)	(\$189.49)
Cash Balance:	\$1926.45

***Jack Watson, Treasurer***

## ***Riding Aluminum Overcast***

By your Newsletter Editor.

I was lucky to strike one item off my 'bucket list' on May 21<sup>st</sup> by catching the first B-17G flight of the day. As an aside, one of the EAA corporate preconditions for Aluminum Overcast to visit was a 100 foot wide runway but they agreed to settle for the 75 feet at KBDN. The relevance of this will soon be seen ...

The first flight was on a 'high wind hold' for about 40 minutes before departing, when the winds showed no sign of moderating from the 240 at 17 gusting 24 knots. I know, as I was monitoring our AWOS on the take-off roll (and landing) ....

Departure was uneventful but we soon ran into low level turbulence ... quite different from my experience flying GA light planes, with the heavy wing loading of the B-17, but plenty of negative and positive vertical G's. I had a bruised skull for a couple of days as a result of my feet leaving the deck. However, the real weather stayed around Newberry Caldera, and with rain showers north of Redmond. Passengers had canvas bucket seats and old (or military?) style lap belts, but right after take-off were allowed into all stations except ball and rear gun turrets.

The trip 'around the patch' was fun, with only scattered clouds and great views of our Central Oregon from a different perspective.

The landing was a 'squeaker' despite the crosswinds being exactly the same as for take-off. In fact I was unaware we were rolling down RWY16!

I hope the following photos convey some feeling for the experience ...

Mike Bond



***Right waist gunner to rear***



***Black Butte and Cline Buttes from right waist gunner. KBDN in foreground***



***Radio room (abbreviated) with bomb bay to right, including dummies***





**Behind pilot and copilot ... 15 degree bank**



**Bombardiers position. Norden bombsite center.  
Note 'joystick' control for side nose guns on right.**



**Bombardiers view and Norden bombsite**



**Right nose gunner position**



**Left nose gunner view ... lotsa lava ... hey, it's  
Central Oregon!**



**Grizzly, Grey Butte (and Powell Buttes to right)**





**Another left nose gunner view**

**Enough of the flight ... how about some ground experiences?**



**Aluminum Overcast arriving May 20<sup>th</sup>**



**Say what?**



**Tail gunner ... yes, 'he's' really in there**



**The Monday night dance was a great success. ... and plenty of period atmosphere.**



**The key players!**

**My apologies for this newsletter's preoccupation with the B-17G visit, but it will likely provide an injection of much-needed cash into the Chapter's account**

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***The kids may have thought so but, no it wasn't the military***