

Liberty Field Flyers January 2009 Newsletter



A HAPPY
NEW YEAR

USUA Club #3 EAA Chapter #106

Officers:

President: Les Goldner
Vice Pres.: Harry Torgovitsky
Secretary: Mark Johnson
Treasurer: Vic Bologna

January 10th Meeting Announcement

This month's meeting will see the election of 2009 officers and the planning of our 2009 calendar of events. We also need ideas for guest speakers at our meetings. Your input can help make our Club better in the New Year.

If anyone would like to be a club officer, please let Chris Rampoldt (our nominating committee) know about your desire. We can always use new ideas and new officers in our club. There are many benefits to being an officer in LFF such as great pay and a new plane for you to fly, so please step forward; don't be shy.

Anyone with ideas as to where to fly in 2009 should be prepared with dates and destinations. This may require a little homework on the internet, but if we want a good fly-out plan, we need to prepare. In the "Our Club Tradition" article below, we see that, prior to 1988, for many years, it was a club tradition to fly to Boonville for the County Fair. Is this a tradition that we should reinstate? If so, someone needs come up with the dates for the fair before our January meeting.

November and December Minutes (for approval)

We did not have a Newsletter, so both November and December draft minutes follow:

(Submitted by Mark Johnson)

November 8th Meeting Minutes

Following another successful BBQ at Les's hanger, we convened our business meeting at 2:30 PM. Thank you Vic and everyone who helped prepare and flawlessly execute the BBQ.

There were 14 members present. The meeting was called to order by our illustrious President, Les Goldner

Old Business:

There was no old business

New Business:

Our Christmas party on Saturday December the 13th will be at Lynn Deedler's house and hanger. We need volunteers on Friday to prepare the hanger for the party.

Bim will supply the beef bourgeoning while we bring the appetizers and desert. Anyone whose last name starts with an A-M brings salads, breads and veggies while those with a last name from N - Z bring deserts.

We need space heaters!

Hopefully we will get another train ride around Lynn's property on Lynn's homemade miniature train. And there will be high def videos shot by Don Anderson on our trips made this year to various places. Don't forget to bring your best pictures of this year's flights for our photo contest.

Anyone want to go to Oshkosh in 2009? It will be on the last days in July and into the first week in August. So far we have Chris, Vic, Les and Mike...

Anyone else interested?

Meeting adjourned at 3:30

December 13th Meeting Minutes

A mini meeting was called to order at 4:30 PM December the 13th by Les Goldner.

New Member, Rich Wargo introduced himself as having flown a 172 for years and is thinking of buying an ultralight.

New Business:

Chris Rampoldt and Mark Johnson were selected to start planning the fly-ins for the coming year.

We started our Christmas festivities by blasting off an old BRS that didn't totally deploy. We then viewed our last year's flying events by crowding around Lynn's TV in his house to watch another Hi Def extravaganza by Don Anderson. As usual, Don's presentation was very professionally done.

We had a photo contest. There were some incredible photos this year and the winners were: #1-Bim, #3- Les, and #2-someone else (to be filled in at 1/10/09 meeting). The photo contest was followed by our yearly gift exchange. We then all settled into another magnificent dinner by Bim.

We finished by giving the officers of the club their EAA certificates. Special awards were given to Vic for all his help preparing barbeques and to Bim for all his hard work on the dinner.

December Happenings

Successful XMAS Party

As stated in the minutes, the Christmas party was a great success. We had about 35 people at the party. Lynn gave a STOL landing demo in his yard. Don presented his Video covering 2-years of our activities and then handed out DVD copies to everyone. (Thank you Don, the DVD was spectacular). Bim prepared a wonderful dinner (as usual). Hopefully, Bim will post some of the pictures of the party on our web site. (Bim is busy doing a lot of community volunteer work and may not be able get around to it very soon.)

Harry Torgovitsky Solos!

On December 27th at 11:21:05-AM in front of a crowd of anxious club onlookers, Harry made three almost flawless landings at Petaluma Airport and got signed-off by Chris Rampoldt to solo his Challenger II aircraft. Congratulations Harry!

Jim Ercoupe shows progress

For those who have not noticed, Jim's Ercoupe is growing. It now has a rear fuselage attached to the lonely nose section. Can we expect to see the plane back in the air soon? Stay tuned to find out.

Mike Ferraro's wife, Kristie, leaves us.

Mike's wife, Kristie, died in her sleep this month. There will be a celebration to memorialize Kristie on Sunday January 4th, between noon and 5-PM, at the home of Pat and Carol Atwater, 386 James Bowie Ct., Alamo Ca.

Pictures on our Web Site

Some of you may not know that we can post Club and flying related pictures on our LFF Yahoo web site. We have a lot of great pics on the site and I encourage you to view them and to add more. Bim has been in charge of maintaining this site. He has posted some of his best pictures and is responsible for choosing which ones to keep if we get short on space. If you already joined the LFF group you can look at the pics at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/LibertyFlyers/>. You may need to "Sign-In" first by going to the top right corner, and selecting "Sign-in". Then click on pictures at the left margin. If you have not joined you can do so by clicking on "Sign-up", at the top right of this site. Please, only post the very best pics and do not be redundant or Bim may have to remove them.

The latest pictures, posted by David Micksell, show his B10; an extraordinary looking true ultralight, that I can hardly wait to see in the air. Take a look at it on-line.

Club Polo Shirts

Note that we still have two club shirts available, normally \$20 (if you are large or XL). However, since the economy is turning south we will reduce their price to \$19.99.

Calendar of Upcoming Events for This Year

We will try to prepare a 2009 club calendar at the January meeting. This year we should try to plan the Lake Pillsbury camp-out earlier so the lake will have some water in it... And looking back at the 1994 flyout to Boonville (see *Our Club's Traditions* above) inspires us to fly to this Country Fair. Please let Chris R. and Mark J. know what you wish to include so that they can prepare a proposed list of fly-outs for 2009.

Our Club's Tradition

Our Liberty Field Ultralight Flyers club has an interesting history and tradition in the Petaluma area. Now, thanks to the miracle of OCR (optical Character recognition) software, we are able to look at this history; an eye opener for yours truly, (a relatively new member of our group). We will begin reprinting LFF articles from Newsletters that are almost 15 years old. These Newsletters were well written (unlike now) and we can see how some things haven't changed while others, just 15 years ago, seem totally ancient.

This month's feature describes a flight to Boonville from Liberty Field that took place in September of 1994, over 14 years ago. Some of the "players" such as Gordon, Chris R., and Paul are familiar to us, but a few, like Ralph Savage, are no longer with us and the aircraft that they flew in '94 were generally slower and less reliable. Read on:

FLYOUT TO BOONVILLE, SEPT 17 1994 (for the Booneville County Fair)

(written by) Carl Wilby

The yearly fly-out to Booneville has been a tradition for the County Fair since I joined the L.F. Flyers in 1988 and is not to be missed. But having peeked out my window early in the morning and seen the fog bank hanging over the Sonoma Valleys I decided that no-

one was going to get off the ground too early and got in some extra snoozing on Saturday morning. That accounts for how I missed the pilot briefing that must have happened right on schedule at 9:00am.

When I arrived at the Liberty Field the pilots were divided into two groups who would leave at fifteen minute intervals; the first group made up of those who wished to fly a little slower led by Chris Rampoldt to maintain radio contact. The first group got off at around 10:00am under overcast skies with an 800' ceiling and headed north. Besides Chris in his Kolb, there were Marvin Justice (GT), Ernie Kunze (MX), and Gordon Dupries (GT). (I think I have the order right; it's hard to remember these details later).

The second group led by yours truly in his Hawk with radio contact to Chris included Chuck Endicott (Flightstar), Ralph Savage (GT), Paul Lansdorf (Typhoon), Hank Perry (GT), and Carl Colen (Max) who started out but was not too sure whether he wanted to go considering the uncertain weather, and turned back short of Sebastopol. We left about 25 minutes after under the same overcast with murky visibility, but it steadily improved as we flew, and over Forestville it cleared entirely. I listened in as Chris spoke to someone just taking off from Healdsburg, and as he became more audible, it was Jack Kostelic who had trailered his plane there to join us. Chris and I kept in radio contact as we flew the hop to Cloverdale, so each of us could know where the other group was and what the conditions were.

Radios are certainly useful. As we approached Cloverdale, a Cessna (5-6 November) announced his approach and stated he was five miles south over the Russian River at 1500'; we were in the same place but over the freeway and although I couldn't see, some of us were flying over the river. I advised our position and cautioned to watch for-U.L's, and he in turn reported us in sight. We all played follow the leader through the pattern in close order and landed to meet the rest of the group. Cloverdale is such a great place to land; friendly people and all. In the morning the weather is friendly too; in the afternoon it gets somewhat less friendly to ultralights.

A little gassing up and we headed for Booneville in the same manner. It was a beautiful flight with smooth conditions and good visibility. When we landed, 11 planes were on the ground and it was quite a sight. This is the most we have mustered to Booneville for a number of years, since 1963 & '99 when at least half a dozen people usually camped out at the airport. Jack & Jean met us there, as well as Chuck's lady friend and her son Kimala and Jern and we all headed for the Horn of Zeese for lunch and more gas (except for Paul who was good enough to stay and watch the planes). Somehow Jack Kostelic had managed to have his van and trailer there while he met us in Healdsburg in his plane. (?) Very handy, Jack. We loaded his van with an assortment of gas cans.

This was also the first year that no-one went to the Fair. Everyone flew or drove off for home after (late) lunch, around 3:30pm, some direct and some like Ernie. Chuck, and I, to land again at Cloverdale which was by now getting pretty bumpy and rough with a 45 degree cross wind. Ernie seemed to do a great job (as seen from above) riding it out and landing nicely. I squashed around next to the runway a bit before settling down, and Chuck did the right thing by going around once when all did not feel well, only to get caught by a gust of wind as he touched down and pushed right off the runway. He ran through the weeds a way before getting back on the pavement with no other problems or damage except for a wide set of eyes and some exclamations as he finally taxied up. Our flight back to L.F. was no problem at all; the headwind I was expecting never materialized, and we all cruised at around 3,000' making L.F. in just over an hour. On the way over Sebastopol, I thought I saw someone outside at Rick and DeeDee's house and couldn't resist spiraling down for a 500' pass over the house. It was DeeDee waving

so I waggled wings and waved back and then headed for the field.