



**SMOKE SIGNALS**  
**Holiday Edition**  
**December, 2015**

**Season's Greetings from EAA Chapter 175**



EAA members and ALL are welcome to join us at  
9334 Vandenberg Airport Rd, Tampa, FL 33610

**No Meeting This Month**

## **EAA 175 CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES**

DATE: November 21, 2015

LOCATION: Chapter House, Tampa Executive Airport (KVDF)

ATTENDANCE: 22

### **Business Meeting**

The chapter meeting was called to order at 0900 by Jeff Kaloostian. We had 6 visitors attending our chapter.

#### **Old Business**

##### *Meeting Minutes:*

Meeting minutes were emailed in Smoke Signals and posted to the chapter website. With no amendments to the minutes, a motion was made, seconded without objection to accept the published meeting minutes.

##### *Treasurers Report*

Dave Presnell presented a verbal treasurers report on our chapter. A motion was made, seconded without objection to accept the Treasurer's report.

#### **New Business**

Jeff reminded the chapter that there is a continuing decline in the number of new private pilots, mechanics, and ATC personnel. To help in maintaining and growing personnel numbers AOPA will soon hold a conference at Sun'n Fun to institute a national effort to stop the trend of declining numbers.

Denny gave an update on the chapter programs in the queue. Please remember that due to the proximity of Christmas, there will be NO DECEMBER EAA 175 MEETING.

Our Chapter 175 Annual Dinner has been planned for January 30<sup>th</sup>, 6-10PM at the Colonnade Restraint. See details, prices, speaker information at our website on the Calendar page at <http://www.175.eaachapter.org/events.htm> Please RSVP your planned attendance to Denny at [EAA48@aol.com](mailto:EAA48@aol.com) by 25 Jan 16.

With no additional business, a motion was made, seconded and adopted without objection to close the business meeting at 0915.

#### **Chapter Program**

Our speaker was Phil Lockwood, designer and manufacturer of Aircam kit aircraft. Phil presented an interesting program about the events leading up to and efforts to deploy Aircam #1 into the rain forest of Africa on a photo shoots for the National Geographic in an article called "Survivors of the Skeleton Coast".

Phil was flying single engine aircraft (Drifter) at the time he was approached for the rain forest project and presented with the risks of that project; he chose to build Aircam #1. He had it only in concept but as required, he and his team built the first Aircam#1 in 6 months. It was shipped to the Congo at a cost of \$24,000. There being no landing strips, and 100% coverage of trees, Phil convinced the promoters to carve out a 600 foot strip to land and take off his Aircam. Navigation was a problem, and as Phil said "thank goodness for GPS" as there were no nav aids, just visual pilotage which is nearly impossible. No landmarks other than rivers and overgrown logging trails. If you go down in the rain forest, you are not likely to make it out, even should you survive a crash. No one will find you. Phil described his first 450 mile trip across the rain forest. It was not an easy flight requiring an intermediate stop where gas could only be purchased from black-marketers.

At Phil's base of operation, ants were an issue. Little critters, but they come in huge numbers, maybe millions, in a 30 foot wide, 1000's of feet long, devouring anything and everything in their path, including tents, people, and wildlife. Only hope of survival is to jump into and stay in the river until they pass. Other hazards at the base camp along the Sangha River include malaria. Everyone was bitten by malaria born mosquitos. Most residence just tried to survive. Phil's team had medications to combat catching the disease and fortunately, all made it home without malaria.

The project was a success, and Phil carried his plans forward to manufacturing the Aircam as kit planes. Currently there are 220 Aircams in the field. Most of the completed Aircams are used for recreation.

Phil gave a brief report of the status of Light Sport Aircraft saying that there are over 3,000 flying LSAs. He felt that the market was health and it provides a good alternative to new general aviation aircraft due to price, operational cost, and maintenance. The two most popular LSAs current on the market are produced by Flight Design, and Cub Crafter.

Phil Lockwood concluded his presentation at 1020. The chapter members proceeded to Volo Aviation to view Phil's Aircam parked on the FBO ramp.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Steve Reisser, Secretary  
EAA 175

See below for pictures of the Aircam that Phil Lockwood flew to Tampa. Mr. Lockwood's was another in a series of great presentations that we are privileged to attend at EAA 175.

Photos courtesy president Jeff Kaloostian





## **FROM THE BACKSEAT**

*VP Denny D'Angelo*

Many of you have told me the November meeting with Phil Lockwood and the Air Cam was an absolute hit. Phil's presentation on why he built the first Air Cam and his candor about the future of Light Sport Aviation were priceless. Top it off with a chance to see the Air Cam up close and personal made the meeting a great success. We are truly honored to have had Phil visit Chapter 175. Thanks Phil!

We have more great speakers and events coming in 2016. While we will not have a December meeting...hopefully you took advantage of this fact for some last minute Christmas shopping...we will have a Chapter meeting on 16 Jan 16 followed in two weeks by the Annual Chapter Party on 30 Jan 16 at the Colonnade Restaurant in South Tampa. We realize this is two chapter events within two weeks, but the banquet is not a meeting and we need to get some business accomplished. Jeff will be our speaker for the January meeting and will address the future of Drones and how to educate drone pilots.

Now for the Annual Banquet we a great speaker lined up in Captain Judy Rice. Judy is the President of the National Coalition for Aviation and Space Education which represents government, industry, and labor to promote aviation and space education activities and increase public understanding of aviation and space at the local, state, and international level. Judy will give us a peak at her around-the-world flight to promote Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics education. The international flight will increase the number of student worldwide interested in and aspiring to be part of the aviation community. We've included Captain Judy's biography if you wish to read more about this highly motivated individual. The presentation will be very informative and interesting to pilots and non-pilots alike, so you can bring you significant other to the banquet with confidence it will be a superb evening.

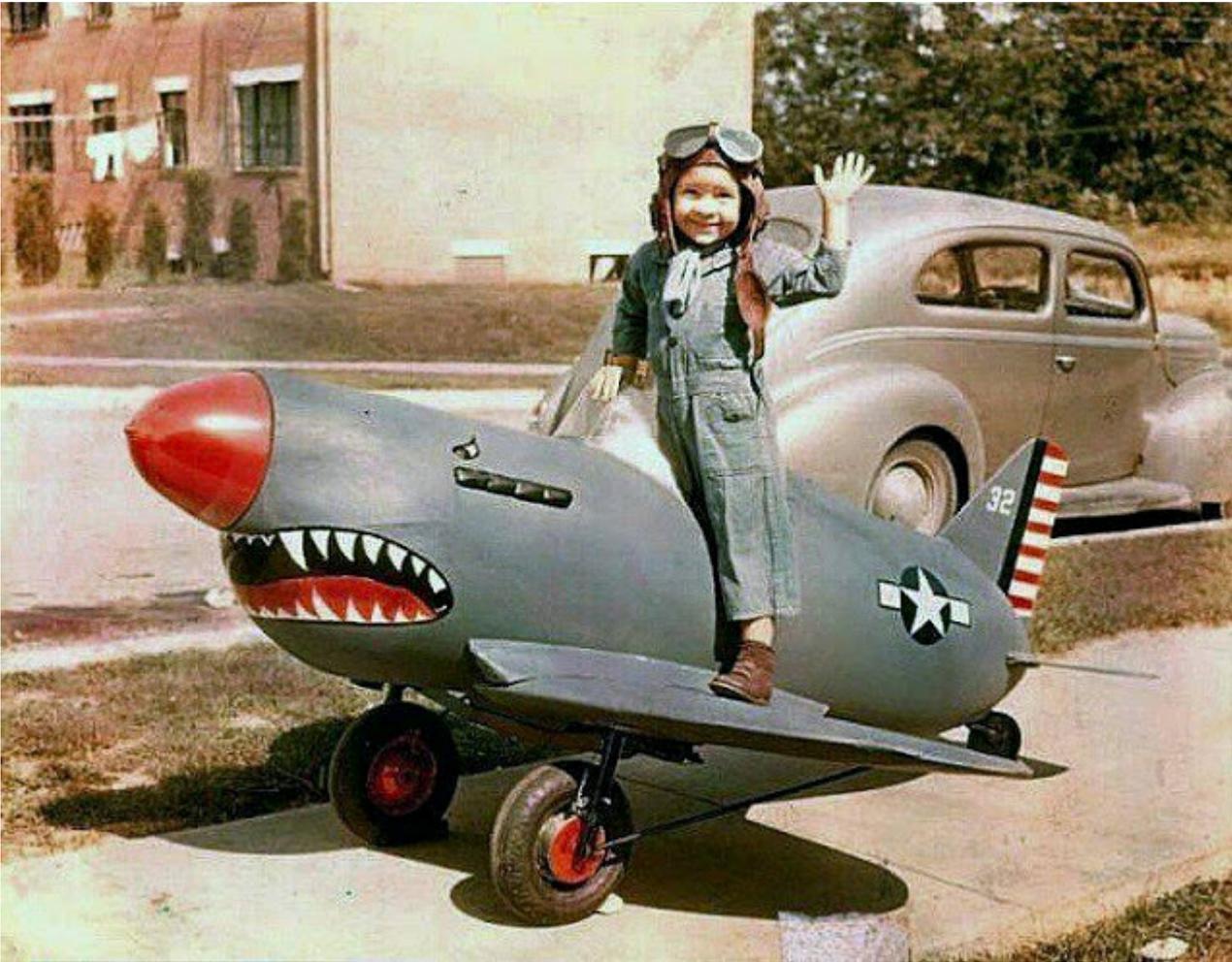
OK, that is enough for now, except to say; I wish you all a very special, safe, and joyous Holiday Season. I am blessed to be a part of Chapter 175 and the great aviation community it represents. We have accomplished much in 2015 and there is much that we will accomplish in 2016, thanks to the hard work and dedication of great members like all of you.

The Best to all in 2016 and don't forget to...

...keep 'em flying.

dd

Here are a couple “feel good” items from Gordon Knapp. Thanks Gordon for the items you send each month.



Follow the links below for several items Gordon shared with me. Enjoy. You might have to copy and paste if clicking doesn't get you there.

<http://justacarguy.blogspot.com/2015/12/mechanics-at-work-reconditioning-merlin.html>

<http://justacarguy.blogspot.com/2015/12/approximately-40-b-17s-were-repaired.html>

**From the editor:**

**Don't forget to RSVP for the Annual Holiday Party.** Judy Rice will be the guest speaker. This promises to be a memorable evening with food, friends and a terrific guest speaker. See details in Denny's "From the Backseat".

## CHAPTER 175 OFFICERS

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