

Smoke Signals

The Official Newsletter of Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 175

January 2000

Vandenberg Airport Tampa

Chapter 175 Christmas Party Fun for All who attended

The EAA Chapter 175 Dec. 10th Christmas party was a great finish for 1999. There were about thirty happy EAA'ers that attended the party held at Ryan's Steak House on Fowler Avenue. The food was great and the Company was even better.



David & Esther Mellor pose for a "close encounter of the first kind" at the Christmas party.

We had many attend who had not been able to attend the regular meetings for personal reasons, it was gratifying to see the familiar faces again and catch up on all of the latest gossip.

We'll let the pictures tell the rest of the story.

Just a Reminder
Next Meeting is the
trip to Fantasy of Flight.
We will be leaving from
Vandenberg on Saturday,
January 22, 2000.

See You There!!!



Bob Knapp & Terry Mellor study the aerodynamics of Santa's sleigh. No seriously, Terry has soloed her dad's (David) Grumman, Bob is terry's instructor.



Lyle & Vivian Flagg enjoying the discussion and the meal. We were able to get all of the members sitting together in one area. It made it real nice for pleasant conversation.

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Hello Everyone,

HAPPY NEW YEAR everyone!

First, I would like to thank everyone who came to the Christmas dinner at Ryan's Steakhouse. We had a great time and best of all, we didn't have to clean up the mess afterwards!

We are now into the year 2000 and we have a lot going on this year.

We are going to try a meeting first by combining our regular monthly meeting with a visit to **Fantasy of Flight** this month on the 22nd. We'll be leaving Vandenberg at 10:00 AM so we can arrive together. They are offering a special group rate to us (Details given in another section of the newsletter) so we can experience this fabulous museum and the simulators together. It should be a fun time and a very educational experience for everyone present.

More important! Let's address two major events looming just over the horizon.

First, **Sun 'n Fun** and the volunteer lunches, which should be bigger and more challenging than ever. We must start planning for this immediately. Our chairman, Pete Lansbery and Dave Mellor will have lots to say in the next few weeks as we prepare for this major event.

Just over a week after that the **Brandon Balloon Festival** will be held at Vandenberg Airport for the very first time. We can get as involved in this event as the members want to. There are to be static aircraft displays and other events are now scheduled by HCAA and Leading Edge Aviation. EAA Chapter 175 can do Young eagle flights, sponsor a food booth (I am working on the Food Trailer right now), and if we work with the other Vandenberg players I'm sure there are other activities that we can get involved in. This festival will be a major event with several thousand visitors expected, a great opportunity to get our name out there and allow us to grow in this new, expanding airport.

The future is very exciting for Vandenberg Airport. With the huge investment in the new runway, the FBO facilities, the other plans for improvement, this is a great time to get yourself involved in the chapter. Remember, we need you to make this club one of the best in Florida!

Please e-mail or call me if you plan to attend the Fantasy of Flight meeting. I will call them and give them a count on how many will be attending, we have to put a deposit down. very soon. Let's make this a great trip and have a good turnout.

See you at Fantasy of Flight.

Dan Holsapple

Note: You can email Dan at: dantheman1957@aol.com Or call him at 975-1957 or get his beeper at 208-9402. It's real important that we get right on this..... it's just around the corner!!!!

Smoke Signals

Experimental Aircraft Association
Chapter 175
Vandenberg Airport, Florida

President
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Stan Sutterfield
Leslie Dupree

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Dave & Maureen Hansma having Christmas Dinner with Jesse & Fran Huerta (see right)



Jesse & Fran Huerta. Jesse is currently flying a two-place Longeze. However, since retiring from the U.S. Air Force, he has now started building a four-place Cozy to he and Fran



Steele Olstead & Pam Hatley with their son. Not pictured, Leslie Dupree and Jerry & Connie Dean



Dan Holsapple. Saving room for dessert Dan?

Continued page 5

Treasury Report

Acct	12/26/99 Balance
ASSETS	
Cash and Bank Accounts	
CAP Evergreen Treasury	22,979.96
CD's	0.00
EAA Checking 98	0.00
Total Cash & Banking Accts.	22,979.96
Investments	
CAP Mutual Funds	8,744.12
Total Investments	8,744.12
Total Assets	31,724.08
Liabilities	0.00

Cash Flow Report 11/28/99 through 12/26/99

Category description		
Inflows		
Dues:		
Regular member	164.00	
Total Dues		164.00
Fundraising:		
Wings & Things	285.40	
Zephyrhills	40.00	
Total Fundraising		325.40
Int. Income		77.65
Total Inflows		567.05
Outflows		
Fundraising Exp Supplies		46.19
Hangar rent		224.18
Newsletter		37.20
Christmas Part Cards		40.55
Total		77.75
Total Outflows		348.12
Overall Total for Month		218.93

Bill Johnson Learns All About Corrosion in His Piper 140

By Leslie Dupree

When Chapter 175 member Bill Johnson bought his 1967 Piper Cherokee 140, he was looking forward to the exciting experience of "plane ownership". For one year, he got exactly what he'd hoped for. But, after the annual inspection revealed a major problem, he experienced the other side of "plane ownership"; plane repair

was too important to him and three years ago obtained his private license. Then came the desire to own his own plane and that's where this story begins.

He chose Reliable Aviation to do the annual inspection, due August 1999. Howard at Reliable has a reputation for being thorough in his inspections. At

his suggestion, Bill pulled the fuel tanks to inspect the spar for corrosion. Bill lost ten years off his life! There was extensive corrosion on both the top and bottom of the wing spar. The corrosion had eaten away at the corners and flaky debris was everywhere. Uh-oh, extensive and costly repair was in order.

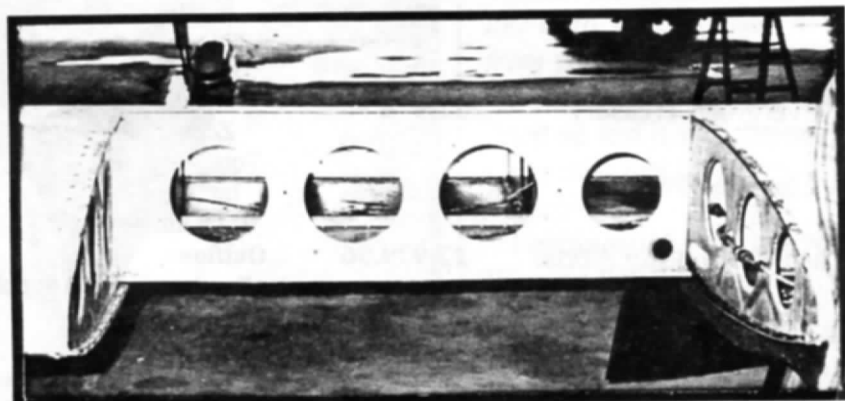
The wings were shipped to a repair facility located in Kendallville, IN called Williams Airmotive. They specialize in yellow-tagged repair of Cessna and Piper components. (Bill has the brochure if you'd like to see it) He built a "coffin" 14' long by 6' high by 2' wide with the idea that if the wings couldn't be fixed, at least he could give them a decent burial. Williams Airmotive drilled out the rivets, removed the ribs, replaced the infected spar, reassembled and had both wings back to Reliable within a month. Now the simple (??) task of getting everything back together. With the help of chapter member, Woody Treon, the wings are back on and Bill is finishing up some other minor repairs. Scheduled completion date is January 2000. Blue skies Bill and Woody!



Left wing assembled to fuselage. Notice the wheels have also been reassembled

and restoration.

Bill, an architect and native Floridian, can date his interest in flying back to the age of two when he saw his first airplane. However, this interest didn't develop any further until about four years ago. He flew with a pilot friend to the races at Talladega. He realized that sometimes we become so focused on living our daily lives that we forget our dreams; before we know it, time has passed and the dream with it. Bill decided the dream of flying



This area had been extremely corroded. The new material on the spar and skin brought it back like new. Bill now has an essentially new set of wings.

Fantasy of Flight Saturday, January 22, 2000

Our January meeting will be held at Fantasy of Flight. We can cover most of the business while we are having lunch.

Please be sure to call or e-mail Dan Holsapple and let him know you will be going and how many will be in your party! You need to do this right now!!!

Fantasy of Flight has a special group rate which includes a tour and access to the facilities.

Fantasy of Flight group rates:
Adult (Age 13-59) - \$19.78
Senior (60+) - \$17.98
Child (5-12) - \$9.87
(Includes sales tax)
Price does not include lunch.

This will make a great day and our plan would be to car-pool or charter a van, and leave about 10:00 AM from Vandenberg with the idea of having lunch there and touring the facility and museum. We would then return around 4:00 - 4:30 PM.

Sorry. We were not able to get permission to fly in for this meeting. Permission has to come from Kermit Weeks himself.

There is a walk through that will take you back in time. You'll see a B-17, WW I trenches, all kinds of stuff. It's a real introduction to the museum.

They also have WW II Navy fighter simulators where you can actually fly combat. WOW!

I visited the museum a couple of years ago with my two

sons and their boys. My two grandsons shot me down several times until I could figure out where the firing was coming from. I was dumb enough to think that I only had to look out for the Japanese fighters. Ho-ho-ho! Jolly ole grandpa.

The museum has number of unusual aircraft that you won't find anywhere else in the world.

It should be great fun to visit with friends along who actually know something about airplanes. We will be talking about this for months.

See you there!!!

**Remember!!!
January's meeting is
Saturday, January 22,
2000 at 10:00 AM
Vandenberg Airport**

Brandon Balloon Festival Now Has a Corporate Sponsor!

By Jerry Dean

TECO Energy recently signed on as the title sponsor of the Brandon Balloon Classic scheduled for April 28 - 30.

Bruce Drennan, president of the Greater Brandon Chamber of Commerce and host of the event announced that not only will the event be backed by a corporate sponsor, it will be located at the Vandenberg Airport. "This opens up a whole new venue and offers an opportunity for us to open up this event to people from all over".

The TECO Energy Brandon Balloon Classic will officially get off the ground April 28 with a balloon glow at 7 p.m.

The balloon launch and race will begin the following morning at 7 a.m. and the participants will end the day's festivities with a final corporate balloon glow at 7 p.m. The event will then conclude on Sunday morning at 7 a.m. with the final balloon competition.

Ground level activities will be coordinated by EventMakers, a Tampa-based professional event organizer that also produces the Southwest Airlines Gasparilla Parade



This year the Brandon Balloon Classic is moved to Vandenberg Airport.

Christmas Party (continued)



David & Debbie Presnell with their children . Christmas is for kids, right?



Hayward & Pauline Spivey enjoying the last bite. They are visiting with Dave & Debbie Presnell across the table

We have traditionally done something to commemorate the year, usually we choose Christmas to do it. This year, with all of the disruption, we decided to just enjoy a simple get-together over Christmas dinner. I think everyone agrees, it was a great idea. We sure had a good time together.

Hope to see you next year!



Pete & Rosie Lansbery engrossed in something Besides food. What was goin' on Pete?

Young Eagles 1999

By Lavene and Drew Martin

Guess What! It's official, EAA Chapter 175 flew 514 Young Eagles in 1999.

we contacted Oshkosh and to our surprise, were told that the chapter had flown 517 kids.

We also learned that Jerry Dean had flown his 500th Young Eagle this year and was rewarded with a beautiful plaque for his efforts.

We have an opportunity to beat the 1999 year effort by starting with the Boy Scout Aviation 2000 Camporee being held January 28th through 30th. There are 300 boys and leaders registered at this point and everyone of them is looking forward to a Young Eagle flight!

This means we need pilots!!

This program being sponsored by the FAA ORL FSDO Safety Office (located on Lakeland Linder Field at the Sun 'n Fun campus) will enable these young men to get their Aviation Merit badges and experience the thrill of a real flight in an aircraft.

If you are a pilot and would like to fly kids, we need to hear from you pronto!

We have about five aircraft lined up and it will require more than that to get the job done.

Levine will be calling you in the next few days, please try to find a way to fly kids for this fine event. These kids will have worked on their Boy Scout Aviation merit badge and will be educated and ready fly.



Teresa Storm, Lavene & Jesse (daughter) Martin sitting across from their husbands. We hated to show them together because those guys are just too bad lookin' if you know what I mean.



Drew Martin and Ted Storm. Take a close looknow you know what I mean.....right?



Woody Treon and Bill Johnson. These are the guys who are reassembling Bill's Piper 140 featured in this newsletter. They really don't look any worse for the wear, do they?

Thanks go to David Mellor for the photos used in this issue of Smoke Signals.

There were several folks missed in the issue, we just didn't have a photo to include.

Among those missing are: Leslie Dupree, Connie Dean, & Jerry Dean. Sorry.



Ted Coberly and his son Ryan Coberly. They really do look alike don't they? We sure did miss Heidi, Ryan's mother. 'Hope she comes back.

Chapter 579, Aurora, Illinois, Creates Scholarship

Chapter 579 has established an endowment with the EAA Aviation Foundation. That endowment will fund the David Kelley Young Eagles Scholarship, which will be awarded to a young person each year who wishes to attend one of the EAA Air Academy programs.

This generosity and commitment to building aviation for the future is one of the main goals of the Young eagles program

If you know of a Home-Built project that is crying out to be reported, please let us know.

We would like to feature every chapter project in "Smoke Signal" during this year. Please call Jerry Dean, 813-653-3163 or e-mail at: jrdean601@aol.com I need your eyes. OK?

Be Polite!

Be polite, don't block the other guys flight! While on airport property, please be aware of where you park your automobiles and aircraft. Thank you!!

WANTED!

We need to hear from you! If you hear of an incident, have a project you'd like to tell other members about, or have a question you'd like answered...let us know. Just call 653-3163 or e-mail to jrdean601@aol.com. I promise to get back to you. We'll get it

FREDERICK W. CAMPBELL, M.D.
SENIOR AVIATION MEDICAL EXAMINER

3000 EAST FLETCHER AVENUE
TAMPA, FLORIDA 33612

TELEPHONE
813-971-7721

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Kit for Sale!

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Need a New Interesting and Challenging Project?

Volksplane Kit. Presently in the Chapter 175 hangar at Vandenberg Airport, Tampa, Florida. The kit is completed up to needing controls and fabric. It has a Volkswagon engine without the propeller. The engine is exactly as taken out of a car and would require modification to fit. Please call Jerry Dean at 653-3163 if interested.

Experimental Aircraft Association
Chapter 175
601 Tomahawk Drive
Brandon, FL 33511



Mail To: Stan Sutterfield
2309 Lyncrest Court
Valrico FL 33594