

EAA 297 – KITTYHAWKERS *NEWSLETTER*



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**EAA 297 CHAPTER MEETING
SATURDAY JUNE 2ND**

**EAA 297 SPRING FLY-IN
SATURDAY JUNE 13TH**

PRESIDENT MESSAGE

Many thanks to all who participated in the May 15th Flight Brief and the May 16th EAA 297 Hospital Fly Over. With lots of hangar talk, fun, and eats from Ruth's Chris, pilots attending the flight brief received updated details on the Hospital Fly Over. With ATC present at the meeting, the flight of 12 was given the airport and the special code name "Salute Flight." Pilots received their air to air comm frequency and the lead aircraft, dubbed "Salute 1" received a squawk as did the last aircraft, "Salute 2." ATC now tracked the beginning and end of the Salute flight of twelve aircraft. Everyone else squawked "stand-by." It was nice to have all similar aircraft flying and everyone departing ILM so that no challenges would be presented with different requirements of staging, air speed, altitude etc.... Wishful thinking! We had a War Bird, a T-28, a Citation Jet, a Starduster Bi-wing, a Piper Archer, a Citabria, an RV-4, RV-8's, a Cessna 210, a Cessna 182, and two helicopters, flying at different altitudes. And four of the aircraft were departing from Stag Air Park and joining the flight in the air. Believe it or not, the EAA 297 Salute Flight nailed the ETA at each of the five hospitals. At each

hospital, the arrival of the Salute Flight was announced by the huge roar of a radial engine, and the high pitch whine of a Citation jet. They were followed by a Starduster trailing smoke who was leading ten more aircraft. As they passed, each aircraft tilted their wing once in salute to the folks on the ground. Well done EAA 297, and a special thanks to Tally Thompson for the great photography and video!

Simultaneously, much planning has been underway for the upcoming EAA 297 Spring Fly-In, Saturday, June 13th. The pent-up demand is huge and Allen Bobbe is working hard to make the event a success. Our theme for the Fly-In will be "PATRIOTIC - MADE IN USA". American flags will decorate the runway and the midway. Efforts are underway to establish a sound system that will fill the air with patriotic music during the event. And of course, nothing is more patriotic than all American Hot Dogs and Mom's apple pie. In addition, a Pilot/Antique Car Drivers Hospitality Hangar is planned that will have traditional RC Colas and Moon-Pies available. Free helicopter and airplane rides for our Antique Car owners and guests will be available. Considerations

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are underway to mark the event with three EAA 297 aircraft doing a low altitude flyover trailing red white and blue smoke.

Posters and counter displays have been created, and are on display at Beaufort Airport, Albert Ellis Airport, Duplin County Airport, Wallace Airport, and Wilmington Airport (Modern Aviation and Phoenix Aviation). We still need to get posters to Cape Fear Regional's (SUT) old and new terminal buildings, Ocean Isle Airport, and Grand Strand Airport (CRE). If anyone is going to these airports, please let me know and I will get you the posters. Wade Hanchey has posted the Spring Fly-In Flyer on our Web Site, and on our Face Book page. Our communications director, and Aircraft Restoration Specialist, Mark Thoman will be sending out the flyer and notifications via email to EAA 297's growing aviation data bases. We are also working to get a remote radio station to provide onsite broadcasting during the fly-in. We have also notified other media outlets. Our goal is for a fun and safe EAA 297 Spring Fly-In, and the arrival of sixty aircraft. Of course, all will depend on good weather.

The Spring "Patriotic Made in USA" Fly-in will be a test drive flight for our "Law Enforcement Fly-In" that is now in planning for Saturday, November 14th.

Our Saturday, June 6th EAA 297 Chapter meeting is very important. Please be in attendance. We will be finalizing plans for the "Patriotic Made in USA Fly-In." Due to time constraints, I have rescheduled a great guest speaker for our July meeting.

Blue Skies, Tail Winds and Good Rotor RPM,

Ken

Has been Cook

MAY 30TH BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

STAG AIR PARK - On Saturday May 30th the chapter's Board of Directors met in the No Whining Saloon. While many of the fly-in details were discussed, the most important item on the agenda was the decision to proceed with our June 6th Chapter Meeting and our June 13th Spring Fly-In. The motion to hold both events was carried unanimously. We are all excited about getting out of the house and enjoying the adventures of flight!

SALUTE FLIGHT FOR LOCAL HOSPITALS

WILMINGTON NC – by Tom Goodwin

David Long, of the New Hanover Regional Medical Center (NHRMC), asked Ken McGee to coordinate a "Salute Flight" around several of the South Eastern North Carolina hospitals to recognize the area's front-line healthcare employees. The hospitals to be



honored included NHRMC, Brunswick Medical Center, Columbus Regional Care Center, Bladen County Hospital, and Pender Memorial Hospital.

In his normal fashion, Ken rounded up a great group of pilots for the job. He started the flight by briefing all of the pilots Friday night, May 15th, at the Modern Air Facility at KILM. All pilots followed the State's COVID-19 protocol with masks and social distancing. After the brief we all enjoyed a great steak sandwich from Ruth's Chris, courtesy of David Long and NHRMC.



Ken put a great deal of effort into planning the flight, and it showed during his detailed briefing! He provided a VFR sectional for the flight with a route that included eleven total checkpoints. Each checkpoint had coordinates, and included the five hospitals and a few more to facilitate departure and assembly of the flight. Aircraft departing Wilmington would depart in mass, Sun-N-Fun style, with a single clearance from the tower. During the brief, an FAA representative from the tower discussed the departure procedure and explained that only the first and last aircraft would be squawking a unique code. All other aircraft would squawk stand-by during the flight.

Saturday morning, May 16th, aircraft marshalled at Wilmington and at Stag Air Park. In formation order, the Wilmington contingent included Bill Cherry in his T-28 Trojan with back seater Gary Henderson: George Papagallo in his Cessna Mustang jet with his crew: Butch Truelove in an Piper Archer with Dr. Chris Ellis and photo journalist Tally Thompson: Floyd Morris in his Cessna 210 with myself and Matt King (a NC State Trooper who was familiar with the locations of the hospitals): and Joe Kittinger in his C-182 with

his crew. The helicopters rounded out the field with Ken McGee in his R-44 with crew David Long and Allen Bobby: and AirLink followed up the rear with the Jason Clark and Art Connolly flying their Eurocopter.

The Stag Air Park pilots were all from our local EAA Chapter 297. They included Phil Ellison in his Star Duster, with his front seater Tracy Snowden: Tom Primm flying his RV-8: Drew Holbrook in his RV-8 with the "real" pilot Leon Sandstrom in the back seat: and Garry Brown in his RV-4. Rounding out the flight was EAA 297's newest pilot, Hunter Hughes, flying the family Citabria. There was a total of twelve aircraft in the flight.

The flight started when Bill Cherry, in his T-28 was cleared for departure at 9:50 AM. Once the T-28 lifted off the runway, the Cessna Mustang rolled and upon liftoff, the rest of us departed Runway 17 alternating on either side of the runway. No additional clearances were issued from the tower. After all fixed wing aircraft were in the air, the two helicopters lifted and departed heading to the ILM VOR.

The T-28 climbed to 1600' heading to ILM VOR. George Papagallo, in the Mustang, was to fly high lead 500 ft above the Trojan. The rest of the pack, starting with Phil Ellison in his Starduster was to fly in trail at 100 knots with half mile to mile separation at 1,100 feet. The two helicopters were to be flying at 600 feet with Ken in the lead and Jason in the Eurocopter as his wingman.

The plan was to fly to the VOR to join the flight and then to proceed to Rich's Inlet, and down the beach to the Wrightsville Beach Inlet jetty, which was the initial point for the hospital. The plan worked fairly well, with the only timing issue occurring at Rich's inlet. The Stag Park pilots arrived prior to the Wilmington pilots and headed out toward the hospital thinking they were late. The Wilmington pilots tried to catch the Stag group and combined flights at the hospital. Bill in the T-28 and George in the Mustang circled the hospital high, while Phil in the Star Duster, flew over the hospital with smoke on. The rest of the flight would give a wing rock as they flew by and headed off for the next checkpoint. The Eurocopter was the last to Salute the hospital.

After the NHRMC fly-by, the flight got more organized, and as planned Bill and George flew high, Ken and Jason flew low and Phil lead the fixed wing pack. The Brunswick fly-by went well. When Phil

arrived at the hospital, he turned on the smoke, and the rest of the flight had a good visual aim point. At the same time, both Bill with smoke on and George in the jet, were high, circling the hospital at a higher speed. The same plan was executed at the Columbus Care Center with us all getting more comfortable flying with the loose formation flight along the way.

The Bladen County Hospital fly by was somewhat of a hoot. In our aircraft we couldn't visually locate the hospital so as we approached the area, we were convinced that the "flight" ahead of us was proceeding in the wrong direction. We found what appeared to be the hospital but by this this time, we were no longer with the "flight." So, we circled and had more time to scrutinize the facility that we thought was the hospital. It seemed to have quite a bit of fencing around the facility, and the fencing also had barbed wire on top of it. We had no idea the Bladen County Hospital was in such a rough section of Elizabethtown. By the second orbit, we determined with conviction (yeah, it's a pun), that we were indeed flying over the county prison. But, be assured, we knew that it had a medical clinic that we wanted to salute. Moments later, we did manage to find the real hospital, we performed our fly by and then headed west to catch up to the rest of the Flight.



Floyd Morris and Matt King, & Tom Goodwin

When we rejoined the flight, we were a few miles west of Burgaw on a heading to the hospital and we had flown for almost one and a half hours. After saluting the Burgaw Hospital, George in the Citation indicated he was low on fuel and he "bingoed" back to SUT. The EAA Chapter pilots bugged out and headed back to Stag Air Park. The rest of us flew back

to ILM in loose formation. With a single radio call, we were all cleared to land as the tower redirected local traffic to accommodate our arrival. This allowed us to land in flight order.

I would like to thank all the pilots and crew who participated. Local pilots and crew from ILM Pilots Association and Chapter 297 really stepped up to support this flight. The whole effort, organized by Ken McGee, was executed in a safe and disciplined manor. This is great example of how general aviation continues to support our South Eastern North Carolina communities.



Butch Truelove in the Archer

JUNE'S LUNCH MENU

From our new Master Chef and Culinary Coordinator – June's lunch will be Wade's extraordinary BBQ. Come hungry, or don't come at all!!

FUTURE EVENTS

CAUTION: Individual events may have been cancelled or rescheduled. Please preflight your intended destination prior to departure.

June 2020

- Saturday 6th **EAA 297 - Chapter Meeting**, 10:00 AM in the clubhouse. Lunch in the No Whining Saloon 12:00 PM
- Sunday 7th South Carolina Breakfast Club, Greenwood County Airport, (KGRD)
- Saturday 13th **EAA 297 – Spring Fly-In and Antique Car Show**, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM, Stag Air Park (7NC1)

July 2020

Saturday 4th July 4th Holiday Celebration
Saturday 11th **EAA 297 - Chapter Meeting,**
10:00 AM in the clubhouse.
Lunch in the No Whining Saloon
12:00 PM

NOTE: Our meeting has been delayed one week because of the holiday.

August 2020

Saturday 1st **EAA 297 - Chapter Meeting,**
10:00 AM in the clubhouse.
Lunch in the No Whining Saloon
12:00 PM

Sunday 9th South Carolina Breakfast Club,
Spartanburg Downtown
Memorial Airport, (KSPA)

Sunday 23rd South Carolina Breakfast Club,
Berkeley County Airport, (KMKS)

CLASSIFIED

FOR FREE – Ramps and stools designed to lift major wheeled aircraft components onto a U-Haul, 26 Foot Moving Truck. Currently located at Stag Air Park. Contact Mark Thoman at (910) 577-5446 or [mntthoman@embarqmail.com](mailto:mnthoman@embarqmail.com).

HUMOR - NEVER LATE

Charley, a new retiree and greeter at the big box store, just couldn't seem to get to work on time. Every day he was ten to fifteen minutes late. But he was a good worker, really tidy, clean-shaven, sharp minded, and a real credit to the company. And he was clearly demonstrating their "older person friendly" policies.

One day the boss called him into the office for a talk. "Charley, I have to tell you I like your work ethic, you do a bang-up job, but your being late so often is quite bothersome."

"Yes, I know boss, and I am working on it."

"Well good, you are a team player and that's what I like to hear. It's odd though, you coming in late. I know you're retired from the Armed Forces. What did they say to you there if you came in late?"

They said, "Good morning Admiral, can I get your coffee sir?"

QUOTE

"When everything seems to be going against you, remember that the airplane takes off against the wind, not with it."

HENRY FORD

HUNGRY? – Come join us at the **NO WHINING SALOON**

Enjoy a home cooked meal prepared
by our master chefs.

Lunch is served promptly (not really)
at 12:00 following EAA Chapter 297's
business meeting the first Saturday
of the month.

- Recommended Contribution -
\$5.99 for fixed wing pilots.
\$4.99 for rotary wing pilots.

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