



EAA 297 – KITTYHAWKERS NEWSLETTER

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HENDERSON FIELD RUNWAY CLOSURE

WALLACE, NC - The runway at Henderson Field Airport, Wallace, NC will be closed on Wednesday, June 5 for a subsurface inspection. They will be boring the runway to determine if there are any sub-surface issues that may have been caused during the flooding. The closure will most likely be NOTAM'd, but it is unlikely that we locals would check them. Come on, that would be akin to checking whether Walmart was open. How silly would that be? And, there is certainly no need for anyone to attempt to land while they are cutting holes in the runway.

PRESIDENT SENDS

Greetings fellow aviators,

I urge you all to whip this record heat wave by escaping to our air-conditioned club house on Aviators Lane, Burgaw, NC on Saturday morning for our monthly EAA meeting. There you will find cold drinks, cool aviators (with stories to share) and our Master Chef preparing lunch. This month, Larry Goff is planning a presentation on his CGS Hawk carbon fiber wing project. As an EAA enthusiast, you MUST treat yourself to the experience of holding Larry's carbon fiber wing parts in your own hands.

We will also have a display of large historical photos that will delight you rotary wing nuts and also fans of dirigibles.

From the "same ole, same ole" department: I was struck by the two-thirds page ad in the latest issue of Sport Aviation that read, "LOW-COST, LONG-TERM ADS-B SOLUTION - TIME IS ALMOST UP - starting at \$2995." Huh? I don't know about you, but to me, \$2995 (plus installation costs) is not Low Cost. I'm planning to wait, while I grip my wallet more tightly!

On the other hand, I want to focus your attention on a jewel of a product that I saw at Sun 'n Fun. It was invented by Levil Aviation in Brazil and offers huge value for its approximately \$2000 price. It is called BOM. It is roughly the size and shape of a large cigar. It is self-contained, self-

powered, mounts on the outside of the airplane, and when coupled with a smart phone or tablet forms a complete EFIS system. You can see it for yourself at: www.levilaviation.com/thebom.

Our EAA Chapter 297 project for the month of June will be to finish our kitchen. We will be soliciting the help of a few good cabinet setting expert aviators!

See ya on Saturday, B cool, B there,
Aubrey

MAY MEETING MINUTES

10:05 am – President Aubrey Thompson gaveled the meeting to order and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited by the membership. Our Vice President, Drew Holbrook was not present at the meeting. His assigned mission was to pass the word about our own fly-in at another aviation event being held today.

On Saturday May 18th, at the Cape Fear Regional Airport (KSUT) there will be an informational session on flight training. If you are interested contact the FBO for further details.

10:10 am – Aubrey then discussed the details concerning the aircraft mishap at Topsail Airport. The pilot is from Roanoke, Virginia and he was recently able to arrange transportation back home to continue his recovery in the hospital there. During the trip back, the ambulance was involved in a wreck in the Raleigh area. The accident put the pilot's wife in the hospital for a day. Aubrey did not have an update on their continued transport following the accident in Raleigh.

Regarding the aircraft mishap, apparently the pilot did not do any research on the airport before attempting to land. The power lines have been there for many years, and the runway is known to be rather short. When he struck the wire, the left wing was low and snagged the wire first. The wrenching motion took out the windshield, and arrested the forward motion of the airplane. This caused

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the airplane to spin downwards toward the left and to strike the ground in an almost vertical angle. Amazingly the wire did not break.

10:20 am – Bob McGowan made his Treasurer's Report. The month began with a balance of \$5437.38. (\$1,725 of which is in the Sam McGowan's Young Eagle Fund.) During the month there were \$425 dollars of income and \$503.56 dollars of expenses. The current balance is \$5,358.82.

Aubrey mentioned that we need to come to a decision as to how to use the Young Eagle funds that have been generously donated.

Aubrey spoke with Kevin Lacey at Sun N' Fun. He is a member of a very active EAA chapter in Texas. Their Young Eagle program is so active that they decided to form a separate entity specifically for the Young Eagles program and they keep all matters and funds entirely separate.

10:25 am – Project Reports followed.

Billy Johnson – Billy reported that he has been using an inexpensive Harbor Freight paint gun to great success on his small parts. In preparation for painting his horizontal stabilizer he decided to make an equipment improvement and he purchased an expensive suction style spray gun. He sprayed his stabilizer using the expensive spray gun and had very poor success. The paint sprayed poorly and dried with a surface like sandpaper. He was rather unhappy with the results and will need to strip the paint off and try again. He was at least glad that he did a relatively "small" piece first and that he did not start on the wings with the new spray gun.

Aubrey Thompson – Reported that he discovered a new paint stripper at Walmart that was on a clearance sale and is good for use on aluminum.

Jim Flippen – It was reported that Jim has sold his Mosquito helicopter.

Aubrey Thompson – Aubrey reported that he has not accomplished much on his Cessna unless it was directly related to Sun N' Fun. He is in need of a connector for his altimeter. He passed it around the room in case anyone has any ideas as to how to connect it to the pitot static system. Aubrey also brought a photo board from the Sun N' Fun Alternate Engines tent. It had photos of many different engines that folks are adapting for use in their airplanes.

Chris and Kristen Montefusco – They reported that their parts shipment has arrived. They thanked Billy Johnson for accepting the package on their behalf. They took about three full days to inventory all of the parts and hardware. There is one skin that was scratched during the shipment. Chris brought it in so that more experienced eyes could help judge whether or not the scratch is just cosmetic or if he should request a new one. The wing table has been built and has additional storage underneath. They hope to start work on the rudder tomorrow.

Mark Thoman – Mark reported that the project on "PATROL" has turned a corner. He is done disassembling because there is nothing left on the steel frame to remove. The entire frame has been successfully sanded and primed with epoxy primer and he is now in the assembly stage of the fuselage. He has ordered a complete interior from Airtex and showed the colors of vinyl and fabric that were selected. At this point he has completed the installation of the fire wall and all of the engine controls. The brake system is now the next to be tackled.

10:45 am - New Business

ILM Pilots Association – Tom wrote an article in the ILM Pilots Association newsletter. They are looking for more pilots to join ASAP. The association is trying to speak with county commissioners regarding complaints and restrictions concerning joining the airport authority, but they are being blocked by the county attorney from speaking to anyone regarding the matter. There are two current airport authority members who will be replaced. One of the members is retiring and another is scheduled to be replaced. The Pilots Association is hoping that the one of the seats might be filled by a county commissioner and the other by a likeminded general aviation pilot. It was noted that to be a member of the ILM Airport Authority one must be a New Hanover County resident.

Aubrey Thompson received a bulletin from Cessna that included an informational pamphlet. The pamphlet described how Textron will be opening up its database of aircraft service publications to owners of Cessna aircraft for free. Following registration in the database you will be able to download pdf files of any publication in their library.

Tom Goodwin described an award program that American Beechcraft Association has offered. The metal

skins on his Bonanza “ruddervators” are made of magnesium. They are very expensive to repair or replace. The association is offering a \$200,000 reward to anyone who can design an alternative that is not magnesium.

11:00 am – Our Fly-In is next weekend. Aubrey reviewed the tasks that needed to be completed and passed around a sheet for volunteers to sign up. He discussed that we have a new food vendor “Tarheel Treats” this year. The bar-b-que master works with Drew at GE and apparently makes a delicious BBQ dinner. But the chef will need to know by Wednesday evening if we will be cancelling the event due to foul weather. Aubrey was concerned because the Windy TV weather forecast for next Saturday was not looking very good.

Aubrey announced that he wanted chapter members to wear their name tags during the event. That means that our nametags would need to be updated before the fly-in. He asked all present to check their name tags and to add their name to the list of those new members who also needed a name tag. Ken McGee has volunteered to make the name tags for next Saturday. Voting ballots for the best plane and best car need to be updated. Trophies have not been ordered but Gary Henderson volunteered to take care of that task during the week.

Chris Montefusco suggested that we need to have more activities for people to do while they are here. He noted that at our Chili Cook Off, because the field was wet, we did not have any planes arrive. Those who attended seemed bored because there was no flying activity to watch, and nothing else to do. Chris volunteered to give a preflight demonstration using David Moore’s Cub. He would print out pre-flight checklists that he could give to the youngsters. That would create an activity for the folks who come to the fly-in. He also volunteered to arrive early to clean the aircraft and hangar from the debris left from the roofing project.

11:40 am - In celebration of Cinco de Mayo, Master Chef Ken McGee announced that he was preparing a delicious lunch with a Mexican flare. Today we would dine on; tacos, bean salad, tortilla chips and dip. And lunch would not be complete without apple pie and ice cream.

11:45 am – The meeting was adjourned.

12:30 pm – A delicious lunch was served, and enjoyed, by the hungry members of the chapter.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristen Montefusco
Chapter Secretary

MEMORIAL FLY-IN AND CAR SHOW

(STAG AIR PARK, NC) - We worried about the weather for a week. Windy TV had forecasted poor weather. And any long-standing member of our chapter remembers that our track record for selecting days with good flying weather is rather poor. But this year we got lucky, and

Saturday dawned clear and cool. There were a few cumulous clouds to contrast the spectacular “Carolina Blue” sky and the winds were light. It proved to be a great day for flying. Airplanes flew in from all points of the compass including Winterville, Morehead City, Smithfield and all-over eastern North Carolina.



Bern Heimos flew in from Johnston County Airport in his gorgeous J-3 Cub. He was standing next to his airplane talking to Allen Bobby when I met him. Bern is an extraordinary cross-country flyer. He has crossed our nation many times in his Cub. And during the conversation he noted that his airplane has no electrical system. He does all his flying without the help of our modern, digital, radio and navigation aids. If you would like to read of his adventures, explore his website. www.vintageflying.com His next flying adventure is to follow the Mississippi and the Missouri Rivers flying along the route of the Louis and Clark expedition.

Tom McFalls arrived in his beautifully maintained J-3 Cub all the way from Maysville. He was sporting his VA-85 cap commemorating the squadron that he was a member of.

Matt King flew his Aeronca Champ and then proceeded to give fellow flyers a turn at the controls.



Hunter Hughes shared his Citabria with the crowd and brought his lovely young family to the fly-in. We attempted a picture of his family and his aircraft, but his very precocious, eldest daughter turned and ran at the mention of taking a picture. His youngest daughter was happy to oblige. They all enjoyed the fly-in, and Gramma Billy especially enjoyed time with her grandchildren. Talley Thompson observed the flying activity from a temporary spot of shade.



told me that he had achieved his goal to complete the aircraft in less than a year. He currently travels the country helping folks build their RV aircraft. At home he is restoring a Citabria that last flew in 1972. He and I spent lunch discussing similar problems with our Citabria projects.

Bo Pennock and the current students attending the Aviation Fundamentals course enjoyed the fly-in activity. A former student, Michelle, also joined the group. She is currently enrolled in the A&P course at the Pittsburg Institute of Aeronautics in Myrtle Beach. She should be earning her A&P rating by next summer. Drew Holbrook gave Isaiah, one of Bo's students, a memorable flight in his RV-8. Isaiah really enjoyed the opportunity to handle the controls and maneuver the aircraft.



Jack Suter arrived in his beautifully restored Cessna. Jack owns a runway and home near Trenton. He recently purchased this airplane and he is having fun flying and maintaining it. Jack is a retired Marine aviator. He flew several models of the CH-53 during his career. Recalling that Bo Pennock had been a CH-53 Crew Chief and avionics technician, I introduced the two. They immediately recognized each other and discovered that had flown together in a squadron based at MCAS New River. They also had deployed together during a tour with the 6th Fleet in the Mediterranean. I left them share of, "do you remember..." war stories.



Dennis Millsap flew in from Winterville in his spit and polished RV-12. Dennis is a retired USAF Lieutenant Colonel and also an A&P. While I was admiring his RV he

On the other side of the hangar there was a selection of beautiful automobiles, both old and new, on display. Next to nearly brand new, fire-engine red, Corvette was a rusty old Ford Coupe with stuffed animals riding in the rumble seat. The Ford was notable because unlike all the other vehicles it had clearly not been meticulously restored. The wheels were painted red, and the hood was held on by wire cables and turnbuckles. There were also

hand painted labels in conspicuous places. But the Ford did arrive under its own power, so someone had performed the minimal maintenance required to keep it running.



Down the line a trio of veterans and characters who brought their beautifully restored Jeeps and a Two and a Half Ton Military Cargo Truck. One of the Jeeps was loaded in the cargo bed of the truck and the other was parked alongside. All three were in spit and polish condition. I am sure that they were never in such pristine condition while they were on active duty.

In David Moore's hangar space, Chris Montefusco demonstrated a preflight to all who were interested. Chris's goal was to inspire youngsters with an interest in aviation.

During the preflight they all got to ask questions and admire Dave's craftsmanship. In celebration of the "day before Mother's Day" Chris brought his Mom to the fly-in. Her smile would indicate that she had a great time.



During the fly-in our active pilots gave lots of flights to both adults and children. Drew Holbrook, Garry Brown and Bob McGowan all were very generous with their time and aircraft. Thank you all for your efforts to make the fly-in a memorable adventure.

Don Rhodes and Phil Ellison did a superb job of directing aircraft traffic. And it appears that Phil enjoyed entertaining the kids too!



Kristen Montefusco and Robin Jones were instrumental in making the raffle a success. Kristen sharpened her "convincing" skills while she talked pilots and guests into purchasing raffle tickets. And President Aubrey Thompson did a masterful job as the emcee.

Mike and his "Tarheel Treats" served a delicious pork bar-b-que with all the trimmings. Marcus Truskey and his copilot (son) enjoyed their lunch under the wing of their Cessna. And Ernie enjoyed his bar-b-que dinner while perched on the tire of his beautifully maintained Aeronca Champ.



Our President, Aubrey Thompson, expressed his appreciation to all those who attended our event. He was especially thankful for all those chapter members who helped arrange, coordinate, and then lent a hand. All of our combined efforts made the fly-in and car show a fun success. Thank you!

MILITARY AVIATION MUSEUM, VIRGINIA BEACH

(JACKSONVILLE, NC) - It was early in the morning when we departed Jacksonville. The sun was still well below the tree line. The Aviation Fundamentals Course, with three students, accompanied by teachers, parents, and friends launched on our spring adventure. The drive was straight up Highway 17 until we reached the tiny hamlet of South Mills, just a few miles north of Elizabeth city. Then we followed two lane farm roads through the swamps of south east Virginia, across the North Landing River and finally to our destination in Virginia Beach.

The Military Aviation Museum, in Virginia Beach, is home to one of the largest private collections of World War I and World War II era military aircraft in the world. Each of the airplanes has been beautifully restored to its original condition. Most of the vintage airplanes are airworthy and flown at the museum during flight demonstrations and at air shows. Some of the aircraft, like the de Havilland Mosquito, are the last flight-ready aircraft of their time.



Our visit, on Saturday the 18th, coincided with the museum's annual Wings Over the Beach Air Show. Most of the museum's flyable aircraft were displayed on the flight line for easy viewing. And later during the airshow most of them were fired up and flown. It was exciting to hear the rumble of an R-2800 in an F4U Corsair and the bark of a Merlin engine in a P51. The list of aircraft that flew during the airshow included a Wildcat, a TBM, a P-40, a Hurricane, a Spitfire, and a PBY Catalina. But the two that stole the show were the B-25 and the three engine German Junkers Ju 52/3. The B-25 leaped into the air with the thundering sound of the radial engines and the three bladed propellers. The Junkers, sporting a wingspan of 96 feet, lumbered into the air like a flying kite. It took off at

60 knots, cruised at 90 knots, and landed at 60 knots. During the airshow it floated over the airfield in a stately fashion until lined up for a graceful landing. I am betting that handling that aircraft on the ground is one of the pilot's most difficult tasks.

The airshow program included entertainment, reenactors, and lots of food. Great period music was performed by singers imitating Frank Sinatra and Vera Lynn. My favorite was a trio from New York City who called themselves "America's Sweethearts". They sang in a tight, three-part harmony like the Andrews Sisters and really put on a fun and energetic show. They sang many of the popular songs of the WWII era. Mr. Bo got his picture taken with the lovely ladies.

There were reenactors dressed in era uniforms of all



the combatants. One tall, handsome gentleman was dressed in an accurate and detailed uniform of a Luftwaffe Colonel. From his peaked cap to his leather riding boots he looked like he had just climbed out of his Me 109 and was in search of refreshment. There was a group of gents dressed in the uniforms and the flight gear of the US Navy Fighter Squadron VF-17, better known as the "Jolly Rogers". They were very proud of the heritage of their adopted squadron and knowledgeable in the details of its history. Along the fairway of military displays there were also a dozen food trucks that provided every type of fairground food that you could wish for. We enjoyed much too much of it! Bar-b-que. French fries smothered in fried onions and peppers. Ice cream. Yeah, the food was great!



On the drive back home, we got to watch the sun set in the west. It had been a long day but during the return trip the boys were still animated. They excitedly discussed all of the things that they had seen and done.

Here is the website for the museum. <https://militaryaviationmuseum.org/> Copy and paste it into your website browser and enjoy. If you plan to visit the museum, be prepared. It is a large facility incorporating several huge hangars that are spread over the entire airfield. Plan for adequate time to enjoy it all. It will be well worth the trip.

ILM PILOTS ASSOCIATION

This month the association sent out 1,000 recruitment post cards to the pilots of New Hanover, Brunswick, and Pender counties. The post card invites all pilots to join the ILM Pilots Association and offers a free membership. **Anyone** interested in aviation is invited to join. The goal of the association is to share our collective voices and to make positive changes for general aviation in the local area. There are no meetings, just a bi-monthly newsletter. Please take a few minutes and sign up. It's FREE! The **first 100 members to sign-up, and take our survey**, will be entered to win a New David Clark headset. That's not a bad deal!

Best regards,
Tom Goodwin
Executive Director
ILM Pilots Association

FUTURE EVENTS

June 2019

- Saturday 1st **EAA 297 - Chapter Meeting, 10:00 AM** in the clubhouse. Lunch in the No Whining Saloon 12:00 PM
- Sunday 2nd South Carolina Breakfast Club, Palmetto Air Plantation Airport (SC41)
- Saturday 8th 23rd Annual NC Aviation Museum & Hall of Fame Fly-In, Asheboro Regional Airport (KHBI)
- Saturday 8th EAA 939 International Young Eagles Day, Cape Fear Regional Jetport (KSUT)
- Sunday 9th South Carolina Breakfast Club, Greenwood County Airport (KGRD)
- Sunday 16th Father's Day
- Sunday 23rd South Carolina Breakfast Club, Pickens County Airport (KLQK)

July 2019

- Thursday 4th Independence Day
- 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, Holly Hill Airport (5J5)
- Sunday 21st South Carolina Breakfast Club, Triple Tree Airport (SC00)
- Monday 22nd
- Sunday 28th AirVenture, Oshkosh, WI (KOSH)

August 2019

- Saturday 3rd **EAA 297 - Chapter Meeting, 10:00 AM** in the clubhouse. Lunch in the No Whining Saloon 12:00 PM
- Sunday 4th South Carolina Breakfast Club, Spartanburg Downtown Memorial Airport (KSPA)
- Sunday 18th South Carolina Breakfast Club, Berkeley County Airport (KMKS)

CLASSIFIED

FOR SALE – HOUSES – 97 Aviator Lane, Burgaw, NC – 1300 heated square feet, 3 bedroom, 2 full baths with airplane hangar. Located on the runway at Stag Air Park (7NC1). Listing Price \$250,000. Contact Kristen Montefusco, Century 21 Sweyer & Associates (516) 668-1309.

QUOTE

US President Ronald Regan offered this thought. Rearrange the words to complete the quote.

CHOOSE FACED GET HOME NINE ONE TEMPTATIONS

“Middle age is when you're _____ with two _____ and you _____ the _____ that will _____ you _____ by _____ o'clock.”

VIDEO

Editor's Note: I was exploring YouTube and found this video of our November 2010 Fly-In. Someone did a great job in shooting and editing. It is fun to watch. Copy and paste this in your web browser and enjoy.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sgn0MvZI_4U

