



# CAA Chapter 32 News

Jim Bower, Editor



**July, 2009**

**Don't forget the meeting on Saturday, July 18 at 10:00 am!**



**They don't call it "dope" for nothing!**

**Welcome to the first July issue since your friendly editor took this job about 10 years ago. Due to the meeting day/time change and a vote of the membership at the June meeting, we're having a first! Also, a very important topic will be discussed...see inside for details.**

# June Meeting Minutes

by Dave Deweese, Chapter Secretary

The June meeting began with the Pledge, Steve Morse presiding in Karsten's absence.

We recognized visitors, including Bob, an EAA member on the national level, and a Wings of Hope participant. Al, who came last week to our Young Eagles event, returned this week with his membership application.

Our YE Event with the Navy Sea Cadets went well and included plenty of pilots, though there was a rather low turnout of passengers at about 37. Gary reports a donation of \$150. Mr. Bill did his regular ground school instruction, and the plastic model builder club came out as well. We discussed difficulties with the Boy Scouts at our prior event, and noted no such problems with our Sea Cadets. *(Editor's note: the difficulties were with the Boy Scout leaders, NOT the boys.)*

Ron spoke regarding the ramp. The contractor has Karsten's email address but he has not heard from them. We don't expect this anytime soon as there is lots more work to do outside the airport hangars. Ron suggests pouring and compacting gravel.

Thanks to Bill Jagust for getting our fire extinguishers up to date.

The Ford Trimotor is willing to come to Spirit; word is that Mr. Busch may be willing to donate hangar space. We'll need a 6-8 person crew from Thursday to Sunday, but the dates are not yet firm as of the meeting: September to October is the projected timeframe. Anyone who may be interested in helping please consider volunteering. Steve will post more details on the Yahoo group. Ron suggests that we find out what percentage of ticket sales, and if we need to do the publicity.

Since we've moved the meeting date, we could have a July meeting going forward, as it's now before Oshkosh. Richard Emery advises that people looking at the website might not be aware we're not around on this date. Gale moved and Gary seconded for a special July meeting, in light of a needed Trimotor discussion. We voted on a regular July meeting going forward.

Ron Burnett could not make it in, Richard Emery brought in coupons and Gary Kasten distributed. Gary also advises us that we need to think of more fund raising sources. Our biggest expense is filling the propane tank for the winter. Gale says the B-17 was a good revenue source in the past, the TriMotor may help out, so once again, please volunteer. We also need more participation with Dierberg's, Shop & Save, or Schnuck's cards.

We continued discussion on a ramp, an interim (less expensive) solution, could be simply using boards and ramps. Steve will talk with the contractor and get a price that we can vote on, to see if this is feasible. More information to follow in July. Dave Domeier suggested pricing on a small concrete lip, we could probably handle this within the chapter.

Waco fly-in is this weekend at Creve Coeur.

The meeting closed, followed by a presentation by Steve Morse regarding welding. This continued the session from May.



# Stirring the Pot

(a semi-regular feature)

Welcome to the inaugural edition of Stirring the Pot. This month's offering comes to you from your friendly editor, but anybody is invited to contribute. It is my hope that anybody who has a topic that will inspire heated debate, thoughtful introspection, or any interpersonal encounter short of fisticuffs will chime in for future controversy. Here goes:

Some months ago it was proposed to purchase some special tools, specifically a planishing hammer and an English wheel. These tools are primarily used to shape metal into complex compound shapes such as wheel pants, nose bowls, spinners, fairings, and the like. The only justification for buying them seems to be their low price, since I am unaware of anybody in the chapter who has a project that requires



custom-made parts such as these. Since their acquisition, however, they have apparently only gathered dust and required being moved from one place to another as extra space was needed.

I would like to propose we find out if anybody in the chapter knows how to use these items, and if so, see if we can persuade them to share their knowledge with the rest of us. Failing that, we can look around outside the chapter to see if such a craftsman exists and if he or she is willing to school us in the proper methods of employing these tools. If we don't do this, we have wasted the chapter's money. I will try and remember to bring this up at the next meeting.

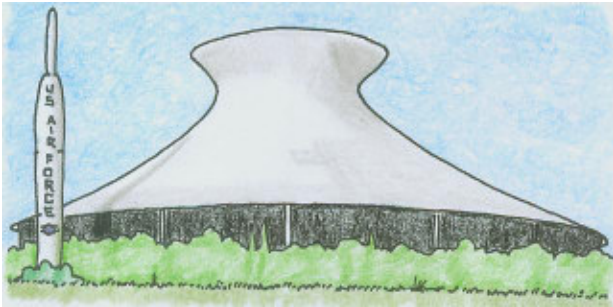
*Respectfully,  
Jim Bower*



# You're Bluffing

by Dave Deweese

Forest Park's James S. McDonnell Planetarium used to be an attraction of its own, not merely a satellite of a larger museum complex. It was a good size, small enough for a kid to finish walking through without becoming bored and prone to mischief, yet just large enough that you didn't mind



sitting down for a while in the big hemispherical theater to watch the star show. They still put on these presentations, albeit with a newer and more compact Zeiss Universarium Mark IX star projector. The older Evans and Sutherland model had a much more unique look: two large spheres connected by a short cylinder, the whole assemblage dotted with eye-like projection lenses.

The star show was interesting, teaching such things as using the bowl of the Big Dipper to locate the North Star. The most memorable bit, however, came when the narrator recounted the legend of the Piasa bird. With the fearsome critter projected upon the round ceiling he described its various components: scales like a snake, wings like an eagle, antlers like a deer, and "the face of a human." That statement sent a chill down my spine for some odd reason.

Believe it or not it took me almost thirty years to finally see the most recent incarnation of the Piasa bird cliff painting in person. We were on our way through Alton into Illinois and looked up just in time to see the

monster glaring back at us. The old planetarium show said that he was there on the Mississippi river bluffs, I'd just forgotten about him. My old school, that sits about a mile southwest of KSET, has about as good a view of those bluffs as we do, and I spent a fair amount of time gazing at them. The big difference between then and now being that I like being at KSET, hanging out at Chapter 32, but while on the Orchard Farm campus all I could think of was better places to be.

River bluffs are a perfect geological formation for the young daydreamer to contemplate. Because you can't see what's just beyond you are free to imagine all manner of promised lands. My mind's eye pictured endless, gently rolling hills, covered in green grass that rolled in the breeze like ocean waves. The sky was sunny and blue there; in St. Charles county it may have been January or February, over the bluffs it was always summer. When school became oppressive or just plain boring I'd imagine rising into the sky and flying across the river and the verdant lands beyond.

Of course our recent driving expedition proved that part of Illinois to look much like Missouri, not to say that it wasn't attractive. Thanks to our mutual friend George Stephenson I got the chance to actually fly up and over the bluffs. We were at a Young Eagles event and ran out of kids before George ran out of steam, so he took some old buzzards up for a spin. That particular day was rather gray and cloudy; though eventually I intend to take a similar flight on a bright, clear day like the one I imagined back at Orchard Farm.



This is the sort of incentive that keeps me after my scratch-building endeavor: the idea of flying my own plane out of KSET, over the old elementary school, then on over the river. A more ambitious scheme is to fly the route we used to take in the seventies to visit Dad's folks: across Illinois and into Indiana. The short spin across the river seems a rather

more attainable goal in the relatively short term,

however. We'll be in Fourth of July territory when you read this, and it's good to live in a country where we're free to pursue our crazy childhood fantasies, just as it's lucky to have a group of pals and co-conspirators who can read such things and nod in agreement. I don't explain these goals to all my friends, most would just roll their eyes and say,

"You're bluffing!"

Until next time, Happy Contrails.

(Do335)Dave



## President's Corner

Dear Friends,

Good News for the airport: we have a restaurant again. The gateway chapter of the MPA tried out the new restaurant "Fly Girl's Diner", which replaced "Kilroy's" for their picnic and recommend it. I would suggest to call ahead if you are planning to eat there, since many people came out to Smartt on the 4th of July weekend, only to stand in front of locked doors.

This will be the first July meeting we have had in a number of years because, as events have transpired, we were given a tour stop for the Trimotor in the last weeks.

On the background of the news that our treasurer Gary shared with us last meeting, we do need this opportunity for membership and fundraising. The Trimotor will be here on the evening of 9 September and stay until the 14th.

Just as the B17, the Trimotor will again fly out of Spirit airport since it is more centrally located than Smartt. This time we will not have to staff the gift shop so we should have 4 of our volunteers per shift, 2 shifts per day.

We will also need an event chairman and a marketing chairman to bring in some donors. One rental car and 4 hotel rooms will be required for the duration of the tour stop. If any one of you has connections to an AVGAS supplier, I would be very interested to negotiate the purchase of several hundred gallons of AVGAS.

The ramp construction at Smartt is only progressing very slowly, the EAA hangars are finally fully accessible again but the rows further east is waiting for access now.

Chapter 137 in Jacksonville, IL is offering a lunch opportunity on Sunday August 16th and October 18th, serving lunch between 11AM and 2PM. For further information call Jack Stewart at (217) 245-1307 or (217) 371-3542.

Finally a big THANK YOU to Rich Emery, who according to the lawn mower log, has been doing a lot of work for our ARC in the last months and anyone else helping the ARC upkeep. Only with the kind of initiative that Rich is showing, can we continue to improve the chapter.

See you at the meeting.  
Karsten

July, 2009

# Learning As We Go

## 90 per cent done with 90 per cent to go!

or

## "How are you \$pending your \$ummer vacation?"

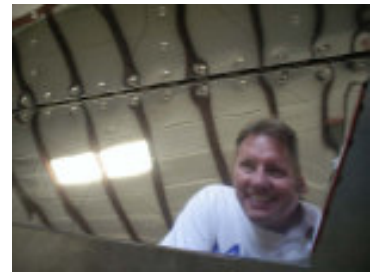
mr. bill

Though not in high school anymore (gosh those were the roughest 7 years of my life), where we all long for the summer vacation, now with me dealing with this 50 year old stuff...one needs to be more focused! As Bob Seeger says, "I wish I did not know now what I did not know then." In this summer of trying to get it ALL done it has been a very fast pace. First, I apologize to all for the lack of communication but here is the letter from summer camp to all. This year I am a happy camper. Last year at this time EVERYTHING I had stored in my rented Smartt Field Airport hangar was either now in the two U-HAUL storage units rented or on display in the front yard of my house making it look like the "Fred G. Sanford Salvage Yard." Ahhh! What a difference a year makes! 2009 Good! Less rain. No flooding. Warm weather. (I type this as there are weather warnings for severe storms and flooding in the St. Charles County this 4th of July weekend!) It is shaping up to be the perfect year. Oh wait. With too much time comes too many irons in the fire now!

**Iron #1:** I can finish the Volksplane II (VP-II) and fly it to Oshkosh! I have really enjoyed the Poly-Fiber process of covering the airframe of the VP-II. Well, at



**Four inch finishing tape for the right wing before final ironing**



95% finished and holding while I iron the daylights out of these fabric finishing tapes so they mold to the covering fabric, I need to do it right. The decision was made in June to iron, iron, and do more ironing so when I go to paint the fabric covering it will look beautiful. Make it right now because after spraying the paint "that's your final answer!"

**Iron # 2:** "Do you know that this would be a great time to build that new hangar you have been talking about out at that beautiful private airstrip? You know the prices are rock bottom right now...It IS a builders market!" Ahh! What the heck. I can do that on the side too! Well, as I lazily floated back to my days after (5 1/2 years) college when my mentor handed me the keys to his home on the private paved airport west of Chicago and said, "Take care of this property for me will you?"



**Troy Airpark, looking east at lot 1's house/hangar in the background. Lot 2's new hangar is being built in the foreground.**

"Yes sir, I would LOVE to!" I dreamed that some day, yes, some day I would LOVE to have a home on a grass strip, with my own hangar, and a beautiful homebuilt EXPERIMENTAL airplane that was inside MY hangar above the flood plain! Well, thank you Lord for that blessing this year too!

**Iron # 3:** Enjoying this fiftieth year of my existence is turning out to be very cool. I am thinking of having a "50 again" party because this year is going very fast but very well! Getting older, I am starting to see that you either have TIME or MONEY! Sometimes you have both. Sometimes you have neither. This summer has taken a lot of time and some money. I just wanted to say THANK YOU to the many people who have helped me in so many ways with advice, time, (which saved) money, support, encouragement, and love. It has not gone un-noticed. That is why I end up helping so many others. It has been a cool year hanging gear on a Waco bi-plane and flying a new Van's RV-8. Hopefully I will be touching down on that green grass at Troy Airpark and parking in da' new hangar by year's end with my finished EXPERIMENTAL VP-II!

As I wrote many years back, this aviation thing is a birth defect. We were made to walk on this earth. As one pilot wrote, "Once you have tasted this thing called flight, and see the world from up above, you NEVER look at the world the same way again."

All this takes money and a whole lot of time. These are the two things that I know and see that many people seem to be short of these days. Times are tough. Things will get better in time.

Maybe I am mellowing with this "50" thing. I hope to have 50 more years. If I do not I want to make sure that these next years are spent trying to have as much fun as I have had the first fifty years. Thanks to all, and good day, blue skies, and smooth landings!

## Smartt Field Open House

This year's open house takes place on August 29 and 30 (the last weekend of the month). Among other activities, we are having a Young Eagles rally and desperately need pilots (with airplanes) and ground crew. If you can help, please call or e-mail your friendly Young Eagle coordinator (Jim Bower) by one of the methods listed below. In addition to the flyers, we're looking for people to register the kids, escort them out to the planes (crew chiefs), ramp safety specialists, and any other task that we need.

Remember this is a 2-day event, so if you can help both days that would be great, but we need to get enough folks involved to avoid excessive burnout.

**Jim Bower:**  
**jimbower@hotmail.com**  
**314-869-8971**

## Special July Meeting Topic

Please try and make it to the July meeting so we can compile a list of volunteers for our part of the Ford Tri-Motor tour stop on September 10 - 13. This represents a fund raiser for our chapter to help offset our recent expenditures, which are greater than our revenues.

Karsten will preside over this meeting, so please let him know which days you can personally cover. We will also discuss having official July meetings going forward. A vote will be taken after proper notification of members.

**INFORMATION HOTLINE**  
**314-286-9932**  
 CALL THIS NUMBER FOR INFORMATION ABOUT  
 UPCOMING EVENTS



Check out our Fantastic Web Pages at  
**WWW.EAA32.ORG**  
 Laura Million, Web Designer  
 While you're there, take time to join the  
 Yahoo Groups to help you stay abreast of  
 Chapter happenings!

: QL

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