

December 2003

Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 33

A monthly publication of the Dr. Alexander M. Lippisch Chapter of the Experimental Aircraft Association, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

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Places to Go

By Tom Olson

If you are looking for a warm respite from Iowa's frozen wastelands this winter try Corpus Cristi, Texas. Marilyn and I recently loaded up the RV6A and departed southward. You do need to be prepared though, it took no less then 7 sectional charts to cover the entire trip. Naturally, on the appointed departure day, we were greeted with MVFR weather in Iowa followed by 40 Kt. head winds and excessive low level turbulence. The Weather was right at the point where any sensible pilot would throw in the towel and settle into watch the arrival of the first major winter storm in Iowa. However, having seen that event yearly, for the last half century or so, we opted to rush headlong into the warm Gulf Breeze. Now, I hadn't made any cross country trips at 125 Kts ground speed since my Private Pilot cross country days in a C150. I must admit that it was a bit of a shock to this RV pilot but I worked the numbers and in a short 8 hours or so we would be to Corpus Cristi before dark. I am still not sure what prompted us to get back into the RV after our fuel stop in Poteau, Okla. Fortunately, we had both rushed off without





breakfast and neither of us saw anything in Poteau to keep us there other than the steadiness of the ground compared to turbulence in excess of 2 Gs we were taking as we crossed the Arkansas hills. My apologies to the Controllers at Northwest Arkansas Regional Class C for being unable to hold that vector 90 degrees off course and further into the hills well outside Class C and D as they cleared the way for a few sleek Biz Jets and King Airs into the Saturday football game. I received the distinct impression they take their football real serious down there.

Fortunately, once airborne again, we were able to climb on top for a smooth but slow ride on into Corpus Cristi International Airport. You ask, what on earth beside the Padre Island seashore is there that would draw a couple of dedicated lowans to town. That's easy, we planned to take in a tour of the Lexington Aircraft Carrier on display in Corpus Cristi. That is some boat. I had never had a chance to go aboard a carrier before and



was truly amazed by the sheer size and the stories of valor we saw and heard while on board. We also took in the nearly brand new Texas State Aquarium in Corpus Cristi. It was a great time for a visit since this is the low season in Corpus Cristi making the visit relaxing and hotels quiet.



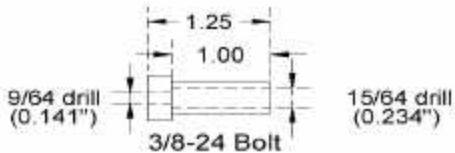
As with all good things our visit had to come to an end and we jumped back into the RV for our return trip. Fortunately, the wind was still blowing somewhat northward which made for an easy 5.5 hour flight back to CID with a stop to visit our good friends in Poteau

Making Your Own Bayonet CHT Probes

Steven Willhoite

I got tired of paying over \$30 for a bayonet style CHT probes, so I decided to build my own. I started out to buy a spool of type J thermocouple wire, and then found a really good deal on cartridge type J thermocouples which have a .47 inch braided stainless steel sheath like the expensive ones offered for aircraft.

IMS Company (<http://www.imscompany.com>) sells their part number 103682 cartridge thermocouple for \$9.05. It includes a 3/16 inch diameter by 1 inch long tip which works well for insertion into the thermocouple well on the bottom of Lycoming cylinders. All I needed to do was build a thermocouple holder to hold the probe into the bottom of the cylinder.



The Lycoming well is about 1 inch deep and includes 3/8 - 24 threads. To make the thermocouple holder, get a 1.25 inch 3/8-24 bolt from the hardware store (and a nut to use to lock it to the cylinder) and drill the bolt according to the following drawing. The 15/64 hole is drilled 1 inch deep from the end of the bolt leaving about 0.25 inch drilled to only 9/64 inch. A spring will be inserted

into the large end to lightly pre-load the thermocouple tip into the bottom of the cylinder.

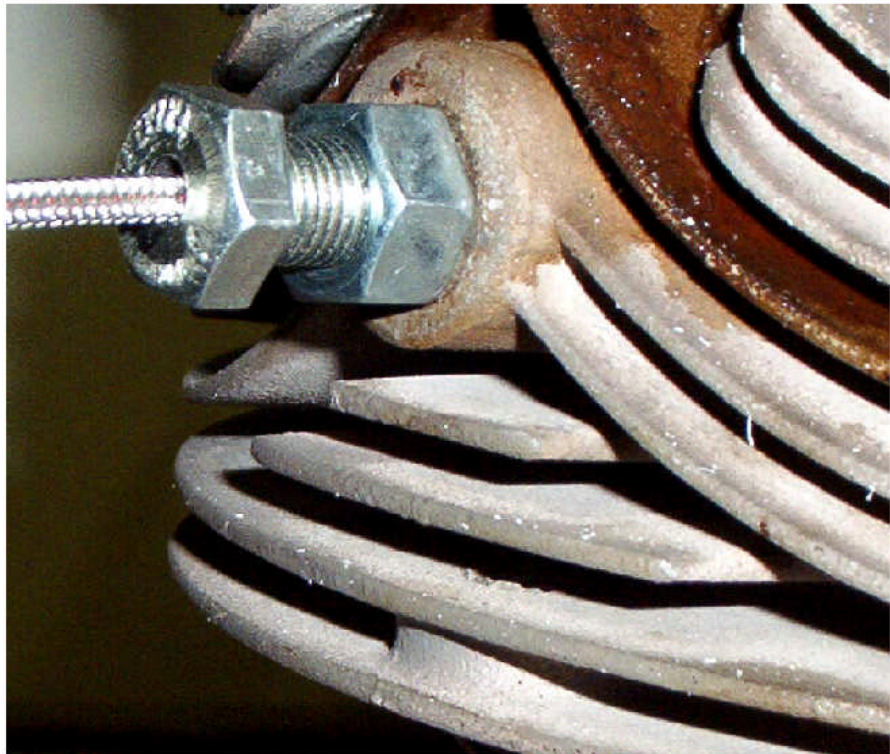


While you are at the hardware store, buy a 1 inch long by 7/32 inch diameter spring. A stainless spring is preferred if you can find it. You will need to cut the spring down to about 0.8 inches in length.

To assemble the probe, slip the spring and then the bolt over the bare leads and slide it up to the tip.

To install the probe, screw the bolt into the thermocouple well only until the tip is pressed lightly against the bottom of the well. Don't forget to use some of the same anti-seize compound you use on your spark plugs.

When installed, the bolt should be secured with at least 0.25 inches of threads. Tighten the lock nut and connect the thermocouple leads to the readout. The type J thermocouple is made of iron and constantine. The iron lead is the positive lead and can be easily identified because it is magnetic.



Last Meeting - Elections at Alpha Omega Aircrafters

By Todd Millard

On a unusually cold fall evening, we had our monthly Chapter meeting on November 7th at Alpha Omega Aircrafters, Randy Hartman's new builder assist business. After the normal hangar flying, we jumped right into the Chapter's officer and board member elections. Congratulations to our new President, Tim Busch and returning Vice President, Alan Kritzman. I know Tim will bring his incredible enthusiasm and energy to the position. Tom Olson and John Sapp are returning as board members with our past president Todd Millard is taking over Terry Scherman's spot. Thank you Terry for your service to the Chapter as the past Treasurer and board member for the past few years.



With the serious business of elections out of the way, Randy told us about his new business. After leaving Rockwell last year, Randy did some soul searching on what he enjoyed doing and where he wanted to go with his life. While helping finish a Lancair 360 in Vinton, Randy realized that what he really loved was building airplanes and decided to make it his full-time job. Alpha Omega Aircrafters was born and opened for business in August. Designed as a builder assist business, Randy helps the kit owners to finish their projects by providing facilities, tools, and doing much of the building. The kit owner must still participate in the construction and work on 51% of the major items on the FAA's list. Randy currently has two projects in progress: a Lancair IV-P owned by two gentlemen from Muscatine and Mt. Pleasant, and Steve Willhoite's Long EZ. Randy is looking to add another project and add another employee to help him out. Thank you Randy for hosting the meeting and best of luck on your new venture.

We had a new member join our Chapter at the meeting. Roy Zubrod from Iowa City has just finished a Zenith 601 HD and it has been officially signed off. Roy has been out of flying for a few years, so after he gets current he plans to have his first flight. Welcome!



Next Meeting - Christmas Party

By Todd Millard

It's that time again our the Chapter Christmas Party! This year's party is on Friday December 5th at 6:30 pm and at the Royal Fork Restaurant in Cedar Rapids. The buffet dinner is \$8.49 (\$7.99 for seniors) which includes drinks, dessert, and everything else.

As always, we will also have our annual gift exchange for those interested in participating. Here's how it works. Place your wrapped gift (\$10 or less) on the gift table and take a number. During the exchange, numbers will be drawn out of a hat. The person with that number will have the option of opening a new present or "stealing" one that has already been opened (a present can only be stolen twice). If a present is stolen, that person then can either open a new one or steal one from someone else. And so it goes until all the presents are open. It's always a fun time. The exchange is purely optional, so even if you don't want to participate, come and enjoy the show. Who will get the keepers and who will get stuck with the white elephants?

The Royal Fork at 2745 Blairs Ferry Rd NE. in front of the Walmart. If you are coming in on I-380, just take the Blairs Ferry Rd exit (24B) and go west on Blairs Ferry about 3 blocks. You can't miss the huge Walmart on the south side of the road. Hope to see you and your families there!

November Board Meeting

By Todd Millard

Membership

- We are currently at 107 members. – **Mass mailing to all pilots in area for May / June timeframe. Dave will get addresses.**
- Next year's fees? \$15/yr currently.
- Multiyear discount? **Yes - \$25/2yr \$35/3yr**
- Better renewal process for electronic subscribers – **Use old renewal form, mass email form for electronic subscribers**
- **Feb: Wed 2/4 – Alexis Inn in IC, Todd will call, Tim will talk to RC guys**
- **Mar: Wed 3/3 – Project Visit, Dave will find project**
- **Apr: Sat 4/3 – Spring Banquet, Tim will arrange**
- **May: Sat 5/1 – Hangar Wars, Belle Plaine, Tim will call, Todd arrange**
- **Jun: Sat 6/5 – Vinton, possible skydiving**
- **Jul: Sat 7/10 – Rideshare / Cookout, location TBD**
- **Aug: Try to have Wed night get together at Oshkosh**
- **Sep: Sat 9/11 – Auction / Fly Market**
- **Oct: Wed 10/6 – Marion Airport, Hot Air Balloon**
- **Nov: Wed 11/3 – Election night, North Liberty**
- **Dec: Wed 12/1 – Xmas Party**

Tony Bingelis Award

- Due end of year
- Major contribution to education
- **Decided on nominating Dave Lammers. Tim will complete application.**

Financials

- Current balance and amount spent so far this year? **Current balance is about \$3750.**

Calendar

- Keep with member planned meetings? – **No, most meetings are laid out already**
- Problems: notifying members, members that didn't renew, refreshments – **We'll pass refreshments around amongst board**
- Oshkosh July 27 - Aug. 2
- **Board Meetings – Wed 1/14, Wed 4/14, Wed 7/14, Wed 11/20**
- **Jan: Sat 1/10 – Beems 9:30 am. Todd will call for room, Tim has agenda**

First Flight Awards

- First flights this year? Alan, ... **Steve Ciha. Todd will get certificate.**

Young Eagles Coord

- See whether John and Connie want to keep doing it together – **Tim will see if Connie would chair given that Tim would act as pilot representative**

Transition

- Things Todd'll keep doing:
 - o Website, Printing newsletter, Name tags

Next Chapter Meeting

- Friday 12/5, 6:30pm at Royal Fork
- Christmas party and gift exchange

Next Board Meeting

Wed Jan 14th.

Presidential Words

By Tim Busch

First, thank you for electing me president of this organization. I believe I now know how to run a clean campaign in any political office: no speeches, no money, no campaigning, and no presence at all! I hope the presidential candidates have taken note of this evolution in campaigning and apply these rules in 2004.

For many years, Chapter 33 had been a social organization for area pilots. In 1994, I made a phone call asking the home office how to get involved in Young Eagles, since it seemed like a good and noble venture. The answer became a seven-year stint with me as the Young Eagle coordinator for our area. December marks the one hundredth anniversary of the Wright Brother's first flight, and the Young Eagles program reached its goal of one million airplane rides to kids. Along the way, Chapter 33 changed. We became more than just a social organization. We gained a purpose. How many times in the past ten years have you become a part of a 10 to 15 aircraft exercise in sharing flight with youngsters? The chapter has given several thousand rides. I've given nearly 300 and every one of them felt really good. The memory of those smiles never goes away.



Photo by Todd Millard

The Young Eagles program will go on beyond its original goal, but the focus will change a bit. Future Eagles will become a longer-term "project", hopefully becoming more involved and interested in aviation. I hope you see value in continuing Young Eagles and will continue to play an active role in the future of aviation.

Beyond Young Eagles, what other things would you like to see your chapter involved in? Sorry, silence is not acceptable. I want to know what you like, what you don't like, and what you're interested in. Sport Aviation has many facets, and next year, we hope to spend a little time exploring a variety of sport aviation's different parts. Maybe we will learn something together. Balloons, Skydiving, Radio Control, Gliding, Light Sport Aircraft? What trips your trigger? How about Flying Start, aka Young Eagles for adults? Think about it. Everything we do will have an impact on Chapter 33.

Editor's Rant

By David Koelzer

One more year has pasted by for our Chapter. As a group we have done some exciting things in the last 12 months. We are approaching nearly 300 Young Eagles flown. That is 300 investments in the future of aviation. We've had some fairly spectacular meeting presentations from the X-35's development and the restoration of the P-38 "Glacier Girl" to presentations about famous names in aviation like Lindbergh & Earhart and local legendary names like Hoppenworth.

We've had landing contests and ride shares and put away a lot of burgers and dogs which, for some reason, just taste better when grilled at an airport. We participated in Fly Iowa 2003 bringing the Spirit of St. Louis and the Ford Tri-motor to give rides to many Eastern lowans. Of course our Chapter has help progress many homebuilt projects and some of those projects took to the air this year. One of those newly minted homebuilts even participated in the AirVenture Cup from Kitty Hawk to Dayton to Oshkosh.

You may think with all our Chapter has done this year there will be nothing left for the next year. Fear not though. Even as we speak (or rather even as you read) our crack team of Officers and Members of the Board are putting together the plans for an even better year for us. So be sure to renew your membership now so you won't miss a minute

Fly Market

FOR SALE: 1/4 Share of 1981 Piper Warrior II (PA28-161), hangered at Cedar Rapids airport, 2509 TT, 272 SMOH, IFR. Contact Tom at 895-6989 or 368-0232.

FOR SALE: One wood project and one metal project; Moving, so best offer by end of month. Tom Harris (319)362-6323 or tom-annee-harris@juno.com

FOR SALE: Zenair 701 project. Fuselage on gear. Motor is a Geometro with turbo and Ravin redrive on fuselage Call Bruce Wutzke 319-377-2010





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In The December 2003 Issue...

Places to Go, Bayonet CHT Probes

Chapter 33 Calendar

Dec 5 6:30PM Christmas Party & Gift exchange Royal Fork Restaurant in Cedar Rapids

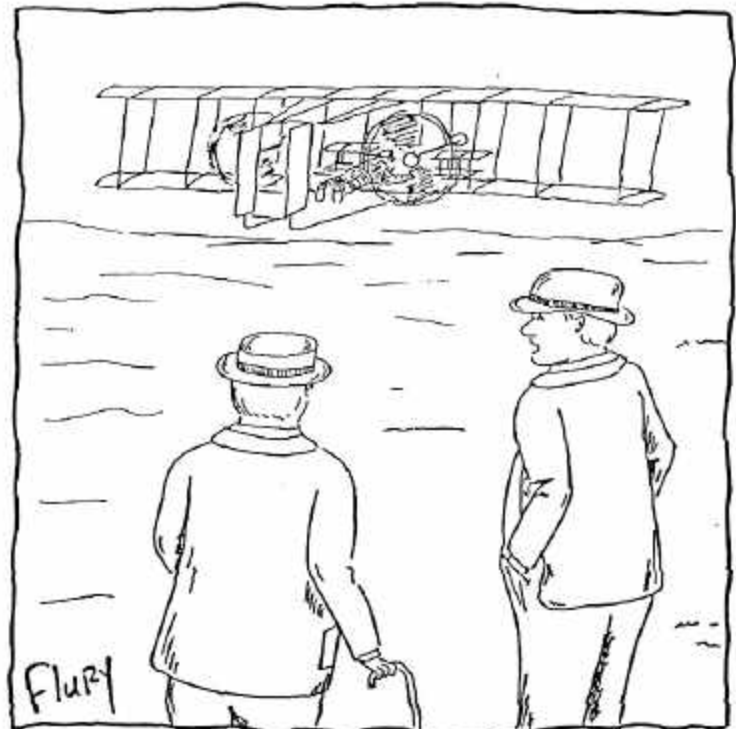
Dec 6 Tom Rebholz Memorial Chili Fly-In Blackhawk Field (87Y) WI.

Dec 12 Iowa Aviation Promotion Group Board Meeting, Exec 1, Ankeny Airport, Ankeny, IA

Dec 17 100 Year Anniversary of Wright Brother's First Flight.

Jan 10 9:30AM Meeting at Beems Auditorium, Cedar Rapids Library

June 4-6 Fly Iowa 2004 Commemorating the 60th Anniversary of D-Day Attendees are encouraged to dress in 1940's style clothing or military uniforms. Washington, IA



"The next thing you know, people will want to take a ride on this darn fool thing, get served a meal, and expect their baggage to arrive at the same time and place as they do."