

December 2004

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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## Home From Russia

By Carl Carson

What a great experience we had in Russia. This was primarily due to our friend Natasha taking a month off from her teaching to be with us for interpreting, travel and sight-seeing. Last month I wrote about being in Ryazan and St. Petersburg. Two other places we visited were Ufa, and of course Moscow.

Ufa is the capital of the state of Bashkiriya, a Muslim state about 800 miles east of Moscow and 250 miles north of Kazakhstan. We left by overnight train from Ryazan for the 25 hour trip. The three of us had a four person compart-

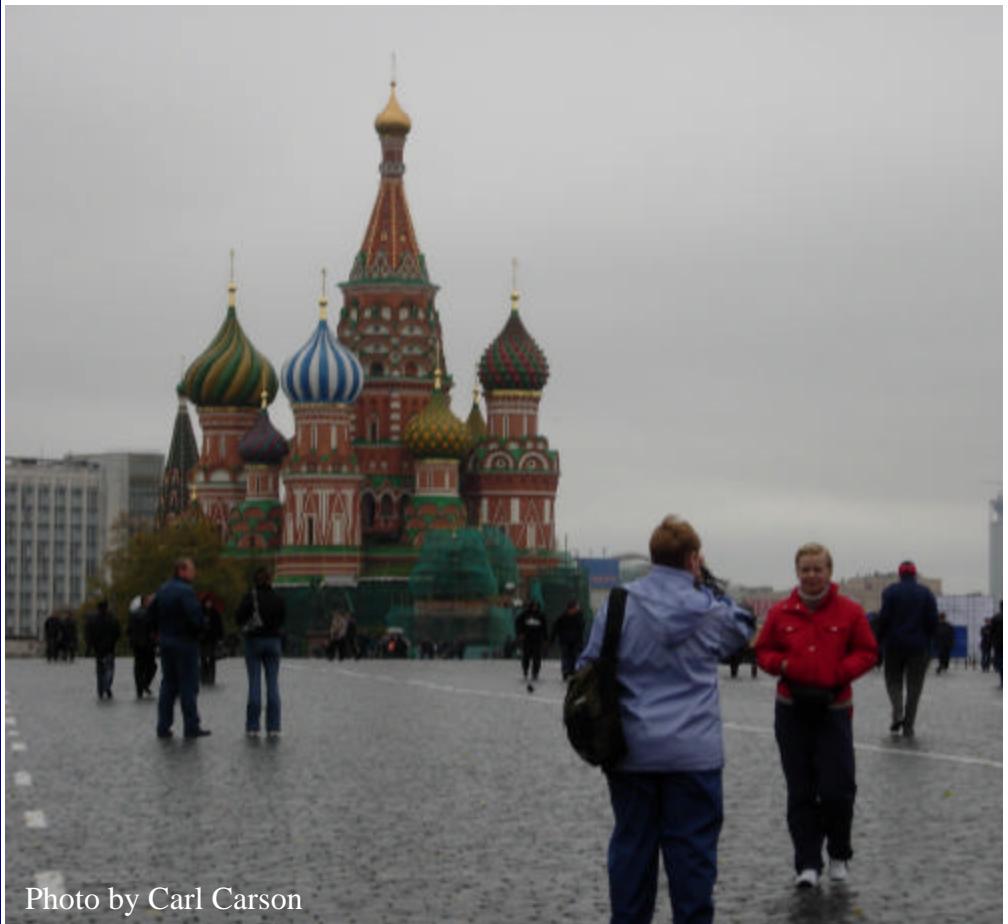


Photo by Carl Carson

ment with bunk beds that made for comfortable sitting and sleeping. The attendants brought sheets, pillows and blankets as well as a supply of tea bags and a few goodies to eat. Hot water for tea was available in each car. We left in the evening, had a night of sleep and enjoyed the countryside and towns we traveled through the next day. The general area we were in is about the same latitude as the lower Hudson Bay area so you have an idea of the temperature.

Upon arriving in Ufa we were met by our friend Jalil Habibov. Jalil and another man from the Lake Biakal region of Siberia had stayed in our home for two weeks one year ago. Quite a number of government, business and professional people are being brought over from Russia and other countries to observe and find out how jobs and similar responsibilities are carried out in the U.S. Jalil is the Chief of Deputies in Ufa which means he is in charge of all the department heads for the city. A Deputy is a similar position to the Commissioner of Parks, Finance, Streets, etc. in the city of Cedar Rapids. Ufa is a city of 1,050,000 people so there are about 25 Deputies that he supervises. This position makes him the #2 person in the city reporting only to the Mayor. Needless to say his position as well as just being a nice guy was in-



Photo by Carl Carson

strumental in our having a delightful stay. We were given their brand new apartment to stay in, provided a private tour of the city, met with his friends who showed us their businesses, had wonderful meals, etc. All the good things you might imagine visiting a foreign city.

One of the highlights of this visit was on Saturday and Sunday we visited Jalil's parents and his wife's parents summer home, a Dacha, which is outside the city about an hour away. About 30% of all Russians have these small country homes, many only after they retire. It is a place to be out of the city, they may have a garden and many raise small animals for food. Retirement pay in most cases is only about \$30 a month so whatever they can raise helps supplement their limited income. We had wonderful food and were treated very well. Both sets of parents were very interested about life in America, asked about our retirement pay, family, social activities and the upcoming election. All of them were Muslim, perhaps a more liberal branch, because we had lots of toasts with very good wine. Life is hard for these retired folks with little money and quite primitive living conditions, about the same level as my grandparents who lived on the farm in the 1920's and 30's. Never before had they ever seen or talked to Americans, let alone host them in their home, we were treated so graciously by these folks it was humbling.

Our last three days in Russia were spent in Moscow. Friends from Ryazan drove us up and we had reservations at the University Hotel, located across the street from the campus of the University of Moscow. It wasn't the greatest but it was reasonable, about \$100 for two nights for the three of us. There was a restaurant in the hotel and full meals throughout our stay in Russia were usually in the \$3.00 to \$7.00 range. Public transportation was readily available, we took a bus to the Metro station where we picked up the subway to get us downtown. From there we could walk to the major attractions we wanted to visit. We were strictly sightseer's at this point so we visited the major attractions, the Kremlin, Red Square, museums and palaces, Gum Department Store, war memorials, Arbat St., the oldest street in Moscow as well as others. We picked up some souvenirs and in general enjoyed the city. None of the bad things we had worried about happened during our entire stay in Russia.

Still no signs of any private aviation, we never saw a small plane in the sky our entire stay from September 12-October 14, 2004. Both times we were at the airport in Moscow we saw many airliners parked on the aprons. They didn't look like they had been flown for quite some time. I did see a Learjet on the apron but nary a Cessna or a Piper! When we walked down Red Square I was reminded of an incident a few years ago you may remember. A young man, from Germany I think, flew a Cessna 172 into Russia and landed it on the bricks of Red Square. No particular purpose as I remember, he just wanted to see if it could be done. The area he had to land in is big, but not that large considering coming in over buildings, cathedrals and the



Kremlin area. Pretty gutsy, tight enough for my Taylorcraft. They have installed some barriers now so don't be tempted!

Our primary interest in traveling is more about meeting people and seeing how others live, think, eat, feel about their lives, social issues, etc. We didn't have this type of opportunity in Moscow like we've had in our other visits. However our entire trip of a month did give us this opportunity with many people. The Russian people we met and stayed with are pretty much like us. Their country has great potential with their natural resources including vast agricultural areas. The general population does not have the financial resources to take advantage of this potential. As one person said to us, "In America the government does things for the people, in Russia the government does things for themselves."

Epilogue: Two days after returning home we received a call from St. Luke's Hospital to ask if we would home-host a health-care worker from St. Petersburg. Six professionals were to be in the city for a week to observe how area health facilities are working with HIV/Aids patients. After the wonderful experience and hospitality we had in Russia, how could we say no? So our Russia connection has expanded even more as our guest leaves us on October 27, with the hopes from her and us that we have the opportunity to see each other again, somewhere.



Photo by Carl Carson

# Plans for 2005

By Tim Busch

In 2004, we tried to mix it up a bit, changing meeting nights and trying some variety for meetings. For 2005, the board has set the meeting schedule for the coming year, but has designated teams of meeting planners for each meeting. Your mission, as a meeting planning team, is plan one meeting. You do not need to present the meeting, but organize a topic, speaker, project, etc. We will help you connect with your teams.

Here is the tentative schedule for 2005, along with the speaker teams:

January 12 <sup>th</sup>	Introduction to CAP, Bertling
February 9:	Banes, Beck, Scotter
March 9:	Anderson, Flood, Honeck
April 9 <sup>th</sup>	Spring Banquet, Directors
May 11:	Gurnett, Ogren, Sponcil, Carothers
June 8:	Williams, Child, Moffit
July 13:	Zanger, Rezabek, Loewen
No August Meeting	
September 14:	Carson, Scherman, Markley
October 12:	Hoppenworth, Leedom, Bouska
November 9:	Olson, Determan, Seah
December 10 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Party



Photo by David Koelzer

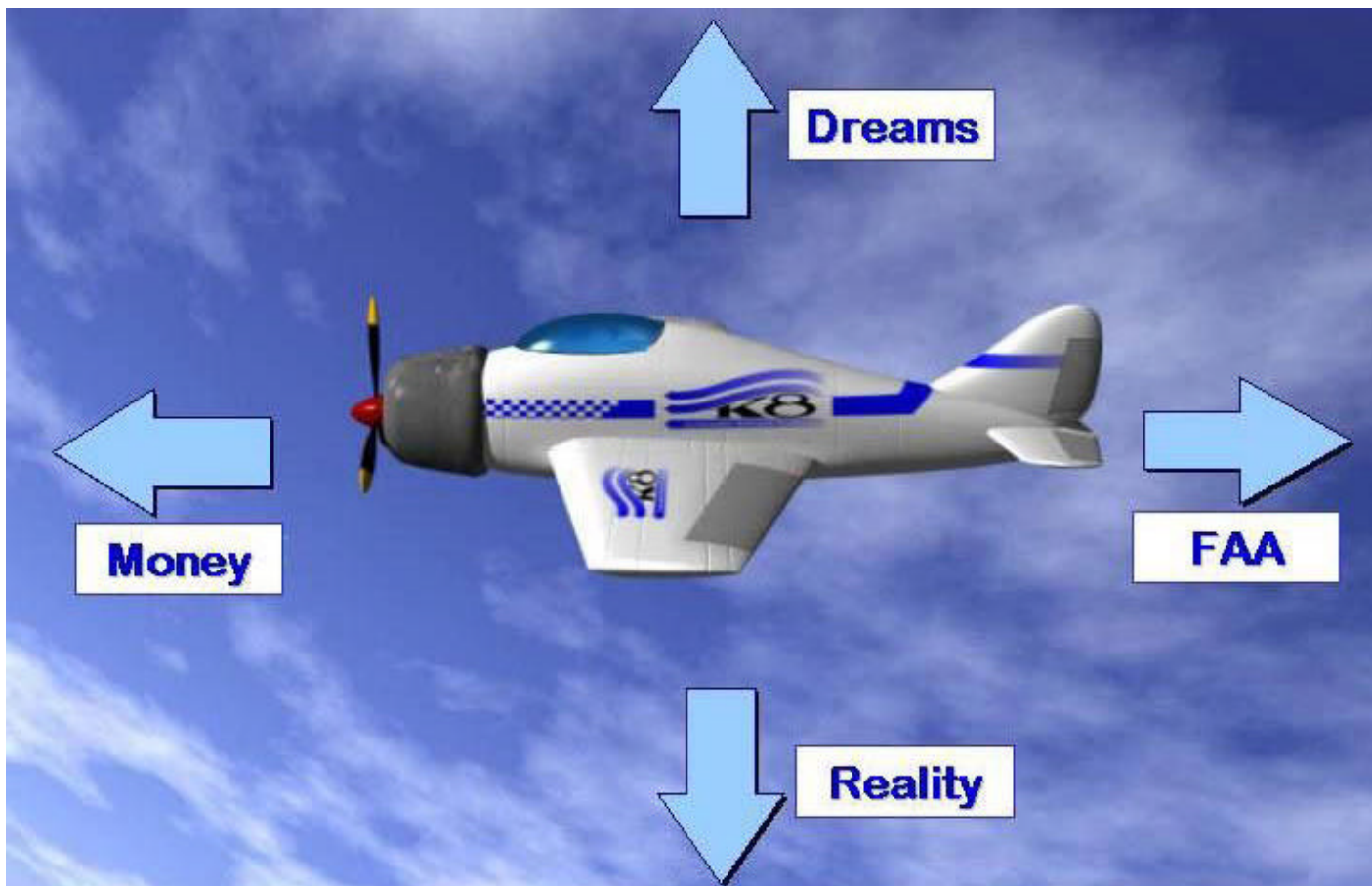


# Next meeting - Holiday Party

By Tim Busch

Our Christmas party is scheduled for December 10<sup>th</sup> at the Ox Yoke Inn in Amana (recently received high recommendations from the Cedar Rapids Gazette!). The social event begins at 6:00 pm and dinner is served at 6:45 pm. Price is \$19/head. We need a headcount well in advance of the event, so please drop me an email as soon as possible at [t.busch@mebbs.com](mailto:t.busch@mebbs.com) or a phone call at 319-373-3971 to RSVP.

The program for the evening is the traditional chapter gift exchange. Place your wrapped gift (\$10 or less, preferably aviation related) 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 have been opened. 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. Bring your spouse or significant other and have a nice night out with the chapter!



# Editor's Rant

By David Koelzer

I started flying with I was 15 years old. I soloed a few days after my 16th birthday and got my Private Pilot's license about a month after I turned 17. Some of you taking flying lessons today must think my family is rich. I wish that were true but alas that is not so. I financed my flying lessons by mowing lawns. And yes I did mow a lot of lawns in my youth but that is not the whole story. The reason I was able to pay for flying lessons with the few dollars I could hustle mowing lawns is that my flying group was a Explorer Scout troop. The Air Scouts, as we called ourselves were a division of Boy Scouts of America. Now a days this division is called Venturing but the organization still offers young men and young women the chance to participate in high-adventure activities, sports, and hobbies that teach them leadership skills, provide opportunities to teach others, and give them the opportunity to learn and grow in a supporting, caring, and fun environment.

Air Scouts was not my first exposure to Scouting. Before Explorers, I was a Boy Scout, before that I was a Webelo Scout and before that I was a Cub Scout. So all though my youth I was able to participate in crafts, activities, campouts, sports, and Jamborees. I got to hike in the forest, canoe in the rivers, and bicycle on country roads. I got to visit museums, art galleries and planetariums. I was taught about the environment and the importance of conservation and recycling. I learned first aid, basket weaving, civics, about Native American culture, how to swim, wood carving, and how to cook. I earned so may merit badges I have lost count of them. My Scout leaders always impressed on me the importance of community service and helping the disadvantaged. I still remember my Scouting Oath: *"On my honor I will do my best, To do my duty to God and my country, and to obey the Scout Law; To help other people at all times; To keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight."* I also learned that a Scout is: *"trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent."* Even though I have not been a Scout for may years now, those lessons of citizenship, leadership, sportsmanship, and plain old good moral values have served me well as an adult.

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), an organization dedicated to preserving Liberty, has a very different view of Scouting and it's value to the youth of America. The ACLU has succeeded in forcing the Department of Defense (DOD) to end the sponsorship of Boy Scout troops by military bases around the country. The ACLU complains the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) "requires troop and pack leaders to compel youth to swear an oath of duty to God." and that "Scout troops engage in religious discrimination." and that "the government should not be administering religious oaths or discriminating based upon religious beliefs". ACLU also complains that government funds have benefited the Boy Scouts, including an average of \$2 million each year to support the national Boy Scout Jamboree. Oh, and the Scouts also believe that homosexuality is immoral.

Well, there you have it straight from the ACLU. Scouting is really an evil organization of hate mongering fundamentalist zealot homophobes bent on imposing a religious theocracy onto every American institution. And Scouting conspired to divert twos of millions of dollars from the already cash strapped Pentagon so that these neckerchief wearing, goose stepping, flag saluting, brown shirts can roast marshmallows and sing songs around a camp fire at Jamboree!!! We cannot allow Scouting to continue to indoctrinate our young people to do their duty to God and country. We must stop Scouting before all young people are reverent, clean, brave, thrifty, cheerful, obedient, kind, courteous, friendly, helpful, loyal and trustworthy. If we don't stop Scouting soon then all young people will be doing good deeds, helping out in their communities and creating handy crafts. If Scouting is allowed to fester then we may soon see drugs and gang violence disappear from our streets and old ladies will not be allowed to cross the street without help! If you don't want to see a future where young people respect their elders, then help the ACLU put and end to Scouting today!!!

# Fly Market

**HANGAR FOR RENT:** I currently have two hangars at the Vinton Airport but only have one airplane right now. Hoping to have my second one complete in the spring. So I am offering up the second one for the winter if anyone needs it. I travel a lot for work so if you are interested please call my cell phone. Dave Culbertson 319-350-7105

**FOR SALE:** Gas welding and cutting outfit: Torches, tanks, cart, extra hoses, rod for steel or aluminum; make offer. We are moving and can't take this with us. I also have a quantity of tooling plastic which I will give away free to the first taker. Tom Harris 362-6323 tom-anne-harris@juno.com

**FOR SALE:** 74x48 Wood prop (Cont), Exhaust w/ Heetmuf 65-100 HP Cont, Exhaust for Rotax 503-582, Cessna Parts, Battery box w/solenoid, Fenderpants for 120-170, Hood latch-New, Custom instrument panel for 140, Fenderpants for 150-182 for Piper pazz, Wing parts, Instrument panel, Control wheels, Master switch, Seats, Intercom w/2 Head sets, V.W. engine w/carb, Mag, Prop and Prop-Hub, Wing & Tail covers w/ formers for U.V., 600X6 Wheels & Brakes. Contact John Banes 319-846-2033 banescc@inav.net



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In The December 2004 Issue...

Home from Russia, Plans for 2005

## Chapter 33 Calendar

**Dec 10 6PM** Chapter meeting, Holiday Party, Gift exchange Ox Yoke Inn in Amana

**Feb 4-5** Midwest Regional Aircraft Maintenance Symposium and Trade Show Sponsored by: Iowa Chapter of PAMA, Gateway Center Hotel Ames, Iowa

**April 12-18** Sun-n-Fun, Lakeland, Florida

**April 24 15<sup>th</sup>** Annual Fly-in/ Drive-in Breakfast Hosted by: The University of Dubuque Flight Team, Dubuque, Iowa Regional Airport



"My *WHAT* is hanging open???"