

The Upwind Flyer

Your *Scentinel* for Chapter Happenings

April 2020



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COVID-19 Throttles Aviation

AirVenture Still a Go... For Now

By Eric Gettel

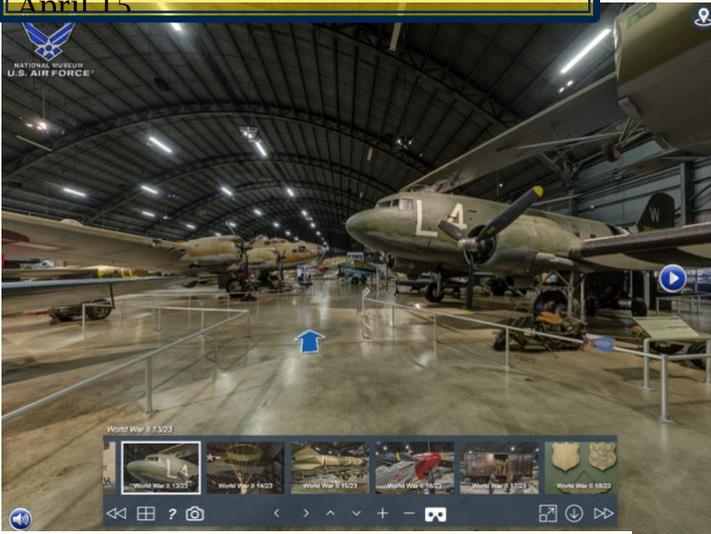
Before getting into our selfish concerns, I'd like say that our thoughts and prayers go out to those who have been affected by COVID-19 whether directly by the virus or indirectly as society responds to new pressures.

Countless propellers and turbines are silent as the people of the state, nation and indeed the world remain at home while hoping that by doing so improves possible outcomes as the coronavirus pandemic runs it's course. Some of the changes include:

- Chapter 333 cancelled or held online 3 face-to-face meetings: March board and IMC club and the April general membership meetings.
- Other EAA chapters in the area including Canton, Jackson and Mason made similar cancellations.
- EAA HQ [announces](#) that it does not have to make a decision to postpone or cancel AirVenture until May.
- Sun & Fun [postponed](#) until May 5th.
- AOPA Fly-in in Caspar, WY on June 19 [postponed](#) until 2021.
- Ann Arbor Airport flight schools Solo Aviation and Michigan Flyers have suspended operations.
- The A2GA2 Adopt-a-County-Road cleanup scheduled for April has been cancelled by the Road Commission.
- The [FAA will not take enforcement action](#) against certain pilots having a medical certificate that expires in April through June.

Ray Aviation Scholarship

Chapter 333 has been awarded the privilege of administering 1 Ray Aviation Scholarship for the 2020/21 cycle. Interested? Contact us via [email](#) for an application form. Deadline is April 15



Air Force Museum Virtual Tour

Keeping Your Head in the Clouds During COVID

By Chris Gordon, EAA Chapter 333

Since recreational flying is not exactly compatible with our current “Stay Home, Stay Safe” protocol, how can you feed your aviation appetite while stuck at home? I’ve developed a menu of resources that help take my mind skyward, since even under the best of times I don’t get to the airport as much as I’d like. As a bonus, some of these ideas can be consumed easily and safely during my (hopefully soon to return) daily commute, and they’re FREE.

Podcasts

Pod what? A podcast is a recorded audio program, similar to talk radio, that you subscribe to on your smartphone and listen to whenever you like. Apple fans can use the Apple Podcast app that comes with your device, Android folks can use Google Podcast. No smartphone. No problem. You can also access these via the



internet at home.

Some of my favorite podcasts:

[EAA’s The Green Dot](#) is geared toward both pilots and non-pilots. Episodes include a mix of aviation news, history, and personal experiences from hosts and special guests. A recent episode talked about the proposed UAS Remote ID rule, and another interviewed father and son pilots Steve and Steven Hinton of warbird and air racing fame.

[AOPA’s Hangar Talk](#) is similar to The Green Dot with a variety of topics and guests that would be interesting for most aviation enthusiasts.

[Air Safety Institute There I Was...](#) Hosted by Richard McSpadden, Executive Director of the AOPA Air Safety Institute and former USAF Thunderbirds flight leader, this podcast interviews pilots who experienced some truly frightening situations and survived to tell the tale. My favorite was a riveting episode (#13) about a pilot who experienced carbon monoxide

poisoning and lost consciousness while airborne in his Mooney, then woke up after crash landing in a snow-covered field.

[Aviation News Talk](#) is hosted by Max Trescott, a rather shameless Cirrus CSIP and 2008 National CFI of the Year. This podcast focuses on general aviation news, flying safety tips for pilots, technical details on systems and procedures, and an occasional interview. Recent episodes included a mock private pilot check ride with a DPE (great review if you already have your license.) and a discussion of special VFR and the Kobe Bryant crash in LA.

EAA Videos

If you enjoy the EAA Chapter Video Magazines that we sometimes share at our monthly chapter gatherings, these are just the tip of the [EAA video iceberg](#). You can access past Chapter Video Magazines and some additional featured content at [eaa.brightcovegallery.com](#). The main [EAA video page](#) is where you can pick from many themes, including a few of my favorites:

[Hints for Homebuilders](#) are detailed how-to videos on everything from crimping butt

EAA Video Webpage

connectors to plugging your crankcase to measuring your arm (as in weight and balance.) And the best part, these informational videos are

not just for homebuilders - they cover many of the specified preventive maintenance items that pilots may perform on their own certified aircraft under 14 CFR Part 43.

Timeless Voices videos are oral history interviews with many legends of aviation, like EAA founder Paul Poberezny, and many others with heartfelt stories to share about their aviation experiences. Some of these put the Discovery Channel to shame, and no commercials.

Museums

The Henry Ford and Smithsonian may be closed, but you can still visit one of the most amazing aviation museums on the planet right from your armchair. Yes, even this retired Naval Aviator loves a trip to the [National Museum of the U.S. Air Force in Dayton](#), and they have a virtual tour that allows visitors to take a virtual, 360-degree, self-guided tour of the entire museum. Another captivating virtual experience is their [Cockpit 360 image gallery](#) where you can view a seamless interior photo montage of almost 100 aircraft from their collection. You could spend an hour



Photo by Lyle Jansma, AeroCapture Images

just studying the flight engineer panel of a Convair B-36 Peacemaker. Ask me how I know...

Books

If you're like me, you have a lot of great aviation content sitting on your shelves at home. Many of these books are still here because I enjoyed them so much the first time, I wanted to read them again, a few because they were gifts that I just haven't found the time to read, and others because I hope my kids will read them some day. In any case, I find that both in work and pleasure this social distancing routine has me tackling those "I thought I'd never find the time to..." projects. So, take a look at your shelves for some

solace when the internet bandwidth is really struggling, or when your carpal tunnel starts to act up. Here's hoping our current "Stay Home, Stay Safe" order achieves the desired effect by May, or I may be back with more suggestions next



Photo by Chris Gordon

month. In the meantime, enjoy your home hangar flying.

President's Log

By Eric Gettel

I initially tried to avoid writing anything about the coronavirus as I began to prepare the April issue in early March. The constant drone in the media about COVID-19 really isn't something that we can add value to. The desire to ignore it was turned upside down in just a couple of days around March 13. By Sunday, March 15 the board voted to cancel a full round of meetings (March business and IMC, and the April gathering).

We write about it now because the consequences of COVID-19 have directly affected us and we want to record for the benefit of future members how we responded. Time will tell whether we have done the right thing. This month I've spent time scrambling around having to address issues that at one time were already settled. Routine things suddenly need an unusual amount of attention as we try navigate our way around

social and work restrictions. My daily routine seems to get modified daily.



Aileron pushrod RV-9A. Photo by Eric Gettel

Since the virus seems to have been circulating through the population undetected, it may be

fortunate that a credentialing snafu with Metro Airport security prevented Delta from hosting us for the maintenance hangar tour on March 10th. On that day I was still exchanging emails with our contact regarding rescheduling the visit. By the 13th it was obvious that the visit was not going to happen any time soon and on the 16th our contact said that they'd love to have us visit when things get back to normal. A few days later Delta like other airlines, announced that they were going to ground hundreds of aircraft due to a lack of demand. Back to normal could be a while.

It's not all negative. I've spent more time at the dinner table with my girls than ever before. I've been able to work on the RV-9A as bits and pieces are still delivered to my doorstep. I've managed to spend some time with IFR training videos. I've read a couple of books. And instead of going to the gym bright and early, I sleep in a little. What could be better than that?

Calendar of Events

For 2020, the chapter has realigned its meetings schedule to fall consistently on the second, third, and fourth Tuesday evenings of most months.

Apr 14 CANCELLED - Chapter gathering
 Apr 21 Business (Board) Meeting, 7pm
 EAA Welcome Center
 Apr 28 IMC Club Meeting, 7pm
 AA Terminal Basement

Apr ___ A2GA2 Adopt-A-Road Cleanup
 CANCELLED

Jun 14 Pancake Breakfast
 Jun 20 Young Eagles Rally #1
 Jul ___ A2GA2 Adopt-A-Road Cleanup
 Jul 20-26 EAA AirVenture 2020
 Aug 15 Young Eagles Rally #2
 Aug 29-30 Thunder over Michigan
 Sep ___ A2GA2 Adopt-A-Road Cleanup
 Dec 8 Holiday Party

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Builder Spotlight Larry Sissom RV-7A

by Larry Sissom

The project began in the summer of 2009 with the preparation of a work space (wifey didn't like the idea of her car being parked outside for years)





- Crowe 5-point harness.
- Lemke seats and interior panels.

Project Milestones:

- Empennage complete 07/02/10
- Wings complete 10/03/11
- Canoe flipped 01/07/13
- Engine hung 04/18/15

I was able to carve out a 12x30 work shop inside of a 30x40 horse barn with a garage door to get the project out someday. With a little rearrangement, its size has been quite adequate for the build except for mounting the wings.

The real building of airplane parts began around Christmas of 2009 and continues. Estimated date of completion in Fall of 2020...

Project features:

- Conventional gear
- Tip up canopy



- Panel mounted 02/05/19
- Wings initial mounting 12/22/19
- Move to airport Soon!

All photos provided by Larry Sissom.

- Superior IO-360 with 8.5:1 pistons, horizontal induction, fuel injection, and dual P-mags.
- Advanced Flight Systems panel with dual AFS-5600 Touchscreen displays, back up battery, 2-axis autopilot, heated Piper blade pitot, and AoA,

