



# RUNWAY 35

Serving San Antonio Aviation Aficionados with all the Aviation News that's fit for print.

July 2001 Issue

Volume 43 Issue 7

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## Meeting this Saturday!

- Food by Bob and Ed's Big Adventure
- Presentation by Jimmy Tubbs
- C-U-There!

## EAA 35 Board Meeting!

- 3 PM Don Staats' Hangar

## Front Page News

# Jim Rice Still Kickin'



**J**im Rice is still kickin'...alive and well! He's back in the States and is sloooowly recovering from the parachute accident. There are several articles concerning Jim and his recent "situation". Read on and for those that do...keep praying. It's a miracle that he is still with us.

## In other news...

EAA 35 & San Geronimo Airpark celebrated the 20th anniversary of the airpark. Things went very good despite canceling the airshow at the last minute. A Young Eagles' Rally was held in conjunction with the Open House. Find all of the details inside this edition of *Runway 35*. (The *BEST* non-award winning newsletter of any EAA chapter!)

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# Clear Prop!!!!

By David C. Talley

- There is a Chapter Board meeting scheduled for 3 PM this Saturday. Location... Don Staats' hangar on San Geronimo (8T8). All chapter board members are needed to attend.
- Frank Ross reports that there is now a Cessna 172 for rent out at Castroville airport. It seems the order of the day is high tech. You can log on the web view the schedule and reserve the airplane if you want. More to follow...
- Rumor has it that the VEEP may be getting closer to letting loose of the tight grip he has on his mula. It seems he's now *TALKING* about getting on the net! Miracles never cease to amaze me! ☺ Remember, Bob, go high speed! (Read: more money)...



- The Gator tickets were a big hit at the fly-in. Did you get yours? We have only a few left. Bring your cash. Remember, SWRFI needs OUR help!
- Jim Munro has a request/need. Several months ago, Roy Bailets, delivered a box of goodies to the chapter. They were donated from someone I don't remember in the New Braunfels area. The box sat for a while. One of our chapter members grabbed an antennae from the box for his needs. It seems that this antennae is part of the radio that Jim took. Jim keeps a collection of antique radios. He ended up with a repair manual and now has the unit working! However, he needs the antennae to complete the system. If you have the antennae from the Narco ADF-31 please contact Jim. He's willing to work with whomever has this vital part for the old radio. Contact Jim at 680-3629.

## TRIVIA QUESTION

By Julius Junge

Want to measure the horsepower of your engine while it is on the airplane? Try this - (Thrust X RPM X Pitch) (in feet) divided by (33,000 X 1.176 + HP).

Use a spring scale to measure thrust in lbs. Error Julius is 0% to 5%.



**Please Read This...**

Please note that, as always, in the past, present, or future, any communication issued by the Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 35, regardless of form, format, and/or media used, which includes, but is not limited to this newsletter and audio/video recordings, is presented solely for the purpose of providing a clearinghouse of ideas, opinions, and personal accounts. Anyone using the aforementioned does so at their own risk. Therefore, no responsibility or liability is expressed or implied and you are without recourse to anyone. Any event announced and/or listed herein is done as a matter of information only and does not constitute approval, control, involvement, sponsorship or direction or any event local or otherwise. EAA HQ and EAA chapters, along with any viable aviation organization may reproduce any material within these pages if appropriate due credit is given. ©2001 by EAA Chapter 35 unless otherwise noted.



# President's Corner

By Ed Seurer

From the desk or maybe from the computer of the PREZ (or even his daughter)...

I thank all the people that made our Fly-In a success. The weather to the East didn't cooperate too well so, there were not as many planes as I expected. But flying 76 Young Eagles and serving ~ 200 plates of food made for a full day. Having the



opportunity to fly the 1942 Stearman was a real treat for me.

So, now we start a new project – the Ground School Program.

There will be a Board Meeting at 3 p.m. Saturday (7-14-01) at Don Statts place.

See you then,

Ed

# VEEP Report...

By Bob Day

July 2001 Veep report

Chalk up another very successful annual picnic, fly in and Young Eagles program for Chapter 35. The officers and board of directors want to thank everyone for their help. It was a wonderful demonstration of team work and real cooperation. Each of you who helped deserve to be mentioned by name but if I did the list would nearly be as long as our total membership list and the newsletter editor would gripe about my long winded column.



Hamburgers, hamburgers, and more hamburgers was the cry from the group as poor old Bob flipped and turned those tasty little rascals, opened box after box of the Wal-Mart specials (40 to box for \$11.00... wow what a bargain) . Even had hot dogs from Wal-Mart for those little kiddies that wanted "dawgs". And all the fixin's too! Vidalia onions, tomatoes, lettuce, pickle relish, dill slices, mustard, mayo, etc. Again, all from the Wal-Mart Super Store at 1604 and 471 and to top it all off, Wal-Mart gave us a \$50.00 gift card toward the purchase of all these things. Now that's what I call a good and generous neighbor. Let's give all of our support to businesses such as this. Again, thanks to Skip Barchfield for arranging

this through the store manager Mark Antilly and the service manager. Forgive me but I did not get her full name. The gift card presentation was made to me by the assistant manager of customer service; Corina Morales and customer service representative Raul Ytuarte. I took a picture of them with the Wal-Mart "Satisfaction Guaranteed" sign in the background. You better believe that the membership of

Chapter 35 and its guests were a satisfied, happy, and well fed group of flyers.

Oshkosh! Oh, how I have wanted to attend that shindig. Hearing and reading about it all these years may have to take a backseat to actually attending for

at least three of your chapter stalwarts. Yes! At the last meeting Lowell Robinson said "Bob lets go to Oshkosh". It took me about a nanosecond to say. OK! And in as much as the Cardinal "needs" ballast in the back seat, Bobby Steitler and Da Veep will share this duty while Lowell will be Pilot in Command. Lowell has family near Fort Wayne (Huntington) Indiana so we will fly to there and travel in style by Motorhome to Oshkosh. Cheez, I wonder what you common people will be doing?

On the subject of motorhomes, chapter members Herman and Kathlene White, Betty, me and my sister and brother-in-law just returned from 3,200 miles of the second best way to travel..... in the White's motor home. The best of course is your own private plane. Las Vegas, Grand

Canyon, our cabin in New Mexico, the Inn of the Mountain Gods (Mescalero Apache gambling hall on their reservation), San Angelo, and home. Not a single problem but WOW(!) in Las Vegas we paid 100LL prices for unleaded regular. \$1.79 and 9/10s and had to hunt for that price. Most was selling for nearly \$2.00 per gallon.

Jimmy Tubbs of ECI will present our program this time and for those of us who are interested in the "nuts and bolts" of what Pulls and or Pushes our flying machines into the air it will be a meeting you should not miss. In trying to bring myself up to speed as an A&P with not too much experience, I naturally read a lot and Jimmy's name keeps popping up as a genuine no B.S. authority in the field. As one of the Chapter 35 group that made a field trip to ECI last year, I assure you that place is a "state of the art" business staffed and run by true experts. I'll try to arrange another visit for us at ECI's pleasure.

I plan to have a "summer" type of dinner this month, like watermelon, cantaloupe, etc with burgers and hot dogs, etc., with plenty of drinks such as lemonade, tea, coffee unless someone volunteers to come up with something better and puts the dinner on. Hey, folks, it won't make me mad at all to be relieved of my culinary duties for a little while. I think I cooked over 300 hamburgers and hot dogs last month. Not complaining, I enjoyed it. Many of you offered to spell me for a while but hey, I was on a roll! Keep the prop turning and the dirty side down!

Da Veep

# Man hurt when chutes fail

by Manny Gonzales

San Antonio Express-News

June 9, 2001

Man hurt when chutes fail

Author: Emanuel Gonzales; EXPRESS-NEWS STAFF WRITER

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Article Text:

A San Antonio Army parachutist participating in a D-Day re-enactment last weekend in France was seriously injured when he jumped from 1,000 feet and his primary and backup chutes failed.

Maj. Jim Rice, who was on leave from his post at Fort Sam Houston, broke bones in both his legs and back, but avoided fatal injuries from a fall into an empty field in Normandy, Fort Sam spokesman Phil

Reidinger said.

"The main chute didn't deploy and the reserve only partially deployed," Reidinger said. "He knew what he was doing, though. He executed a parachute landing so that his legs took the full brunt of the impact.

"He's a lucky guy," Reidinger added.

Rice, who teaches military tactics to junior officers at Fort Sam, was on leave and participating alongside members of the 82nd Airborne on Sunday when the accident happened, Reidinger said.

Medics found Rice in an empty field near the drop zone, and he was taken to a nearby hospital.

He is currently at an Army medical center in Germany, where his condition was unavailable.

However, Army officials expect Rice to be transferred to Brooke Army Medical

Center at Fort Sam within the next two weeks, pending doctor approval.

His wife, Stephanie, a local school-teacher, was traveling to Germany to be with her husband and could not be reached for comment.

"He's speaking, he's coherent and cognizant," said Rice's friend David Talley of San Antonio.

Rice, who is in his 30s and is a graduate of West Point, transferred to San Antonio about a year ago.

Before living here, he was stationed at a base in Oklahoma and also served time in Germany, Talley said.

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## Jim Rice Update

As mentioned last month, chapter member and Army Major James Rice was injured in a parachuting accident. After extensive surgery and some ventilatory problems in France, Jim was shipped to Landstuhl Medical Center in Germany. His wife Stephanie met him there. Then the very long and painful trip back to the US via a C-141 transport from Germany to Walter Reed in DC and then onto a C-9 Nightingale to Scott AFB, Illinois. The C-9 flight is not direct, so it was a long flight there also. Fortunately, at Scott, they coordinated a special flight to Brooke Army Medical here in San Antonio. We stopped by Brooks several times to visit the old boy. To say he is a hurting puppy is an understatement being on a constant infusion of pain medications and muscle relaxants. His left ankle was in 20 pieces. His right leg not much better with a broken femur and fractured hip. A fractured 2<sup>nd</sup> cervical vertebrae necessitates him wearing a cervical collar. His right arm is also fractured. His voice is hoarse and he can only swallow thickened liquids...strawberry milkshakes being at the top of the list. Unfortunately, when the French surgeons stabilized his lower spinal vertebrae, they placed a pin which entered a large spinal nerve root leaving his lower abdominal area numb. He has been transported back to Walter Reed to have specialist spine surgeon remove the pin safely. As before, we ask that you keep Jim and his family in your prayers. On a good note, Jim has been selected to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel! Congratulations, Jim!

News Flash!!! At printing time we just got off the phone with Stephanie Rice at Walter Reed. Tues, Jim underwent 15 hours worth of several extensive surgical procedures that were deemed successful. Spent two days in the ICU and Friday was on a regular ward. Is still in a lot of pain but can be sat up to 40 degrees. The plan is to get him into a wheelchair before shipping him home.



# Visits with Jim Rice

by Norris Warner



If anyone thinks that EAA is not about people, they haven't met Jim Rice. We first became acquainted about a year ago when I learned that he owned a Ford V-6 powered airplane similar to mine. In talking with Jim at that meeting, I became acutely aware that this young man had a more diverse aviation background than I did, and he was certainly someone I wanted to know better.

Well, I got my chance a few months later after Jim had had a forced landing in his auto-engined ship while ferrying it down from Oklahoma. A crew of us, Ed Seurer, Dave & Miriam Talley and Jim and I attempted to cure the overheating, but after two brief attempts at fixing and flying (out of a cow pasture), the smart thing was to come back on the weekend and dismantle the airplane and trailer it home to San Geronimo Airpark. You really get to know someone when you spend many hours taking their "baby" apart, and I can speak for all of us when I say that it was just plain old enjoyable fun!

We reassembled the V-6 STOL after arriving home, and Jim looked forward to getting to the root of his sudden overheat-

ing. To help out, Jim's dad was preparing to drive down from Oklahoma, because he had been the primary builder of the ship. Alas, just as dad was preparing to leave, a heart attack took his life. I then learned something more about Jim Rice: as a devout Christian, he was willing to let the Lord do the Lord's work, and was at peace with his dad's passing. His willingness to share his philosophy with me was truly inspirational, and this experience had a profound effect on me.

Fast forward to recent days. As you know from our last newsletter, Jim had taken leave from his post at Ft Sam to participate in a parachute drop over Normandy, France, in commemoration of the D-Day happenings of World War II. And as you know, Jim experienced a malfunction of both 'chutes, and was presumed dead by onlookers. Not so! This young professional soldier has an indomitable spirit, was in top physical shape, and as he now says, "with God's help, my time was not up—He has more plans for me."

Joanne and I spent a few minutes with West Point graduate Jim and his bride, Stephanie, in late June. Of course, he is in long-term care at Brooke Army Medi-

cal Center (Ward 7 West), and will be for some time. I wouldn't call him a "bionic" man, but he sure has cornered the market on stainless steel! He has screws, plates, rods, and who knows what else from top to bottom—except in his left arm, and luckily, Jim is left-handed! That helps him to feed himself, although he can't move anything else. A horse collar" prevents head-to-neck movement because of spinal injuries in that area, and he does have some significant lower spine problems, but thankfully, no paralysis.

I understand that afternoon visits are best, and I want to invite our chapter members to go by and say hello. I guarantee you will be buoyed by Jim Rice's indomitable spirit!

## Angel Flight South Central Needs Help!

The following is a letter we received from Angel Flight South Central...maybe you can help. (we will post their brochure at the chapter house)

"...Angel Flight South Central is in desperate need of volunteer pilots in the San Antonio area!

Angel Flight South Central is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization helping provide and arrange transportation at no cost to the passenger or organization requesting the service. Angel Flight uses volunteer pilots and their aircraft to transport patients, family members, medical personnel, organs, blood and tissue when other transportation is unavailable, impractical or simply unaffordable. The pilot's flight expenses are tax-deductible.

Angel Flight South Central was formed in 1991 and has recently flown its 2,000,000 mile while helping a 10 year old girl undergoing a 72 week program of chemotherapy. We mainly help people whose medical problems make it necessary for them to travel long distances for diagnosis or treatment and who lack the financial means for transportation.

Information regarding Angel Flight South Central is available at our website [angelflightsc.org](http://angelflightsc.org), by telephone (972)458-0700 or via email at [afsc@angelflightsc.org](mailto:afsc@angelflightsc.org).

We look forward to speaking with you and sharing experiences that Angel Flight can provide.

Sincerely,

Alan Flewitt  
Executive Director "

# Young Eagles Corner

By Brad Doppelt  
YE Coordinator



Our last Young Eagle's flight rally held on June 9<sup>th</sup> proved to be one of our most successful yet. We had good flying weather and lots of volunteers. During this event, nine pilots flew a total of sixty-nine Young Eagles. We provided each Young Eagle with a certificate, free lunch, and T-shirt. A breakdown of the pilots and number of Young Eagles flown during the event is shown below.

and \$10 per flight for each pilot.

Our next event will be held on October 13<sup>th</sup>. I will be having a meeting for all volunteers and pilots before our August 11<sup>th</sup> meeting at 4:00 p.m. in the clubhouse. With several months advance notice, I am sure that we can reach even more kids than we did at our June rally.



Again, I would like to thank everyone who volunteered to make this event so successful. I would also like to thank all of the contributors to the Young Eagles Fund that enabled us to provide free lunches and T-shirts for the Young Eagles

Pilot	Aircraft	Young Eagles Flown
Michael Luigs	R44 Helicopter	17
Steve Carlson	Warrior	14
Brad Doppelt	Cessna 172	11
David Talley	Cherokee 140	9
Lowell Robinson	PA-22	6
James Einoff	PA-38	4
Kevin Schnitzer	Cessna 150	4
Louis Viggiano	Aeronca 7AC	3
Keith Fleming	Aviat Husky	1

## A Moment in Aviation History

By Miriam S. Talley

Aviation historians take note: Ernest Hemingway, noted author, once said to a group of literary hopefuls—

“If one waits until he or she knows all there is to know about a particular subject, hardly anything would ever get written!”  
Amen.

*Taken from "T-Hangar Tales" by Joseph P. Juptner.*

# Swing-Winging the Young Eagles

by Norris Warner



Our June 9<sup>th</sup> “Young Eagles” event was one that will long be remembered. Although the winds were a bit much, every youngster that showed up got a flight, a souvenir T-shirt, and a free lunch.

You say it can’t get much better than that? Well, I guess it could if your first flight was in a brand-new Robinson R-44 helicopter! The Luigs family of Bandera County arrived in high style in this beautiful machine, and almost im-

mediately, pilot Michael, aided by his bride Sandy, and his father Russ, went to work getting our kids on board and off safely, and giving them a thrilling flight they’ll long, long remember.

A number of our chapter members also got a ride in this helicopter, and the praise for Michael’s professionalism was the one constant comment that I heard. One more thing—flying a helicopter is very demanding, and Michael was at the controls for several hours. To

say that he should have been exhausted is true, but he was determined to make this day special for so many.

Chapter 35 is grateful to the Luigs family for making this a truly spectacular day. Please come back often!

## What kind of member are you?

**Are you an active member, the kind that would be missed?  
 Or are you just contented that your name is on the list?  
 Do you attend the meetings and mingle with the flock,  
 or do you meet in private and criticize and knock?  
 Do you take an active part to help the work along?  
 Or are you satisfied to be the kind who just belongs?  
 Do you work on committees – to this there is no trick.,  
 or leave the work to just a few, then gripe about the “clique?”  
 Some come to meetings often and help with hand and heart.  
 Don’t be just a member, but take an active part.**

*Anonymous*



# San Geronimo 20 Years & Goin' Strong

by Miriam Talley

If you were not there, boy you missed a spectacular time. The weather cooperated fully. There was a good show of airplanes, a great mix in the crowd with aviation enthusiasts and newcomers to the world of flight with big grins on their faces. There was plenty of food and great camaraderie for all. We also made the news with a first page article and pictures in the Express News Northwest Community section.

Although the airshow was cancelled at the last moment there was still plenty to wow the crowds. Members of the Alamo Radio Control Society (ARCS), Bill Ponseigo and Frank Patterson, put on a fabulous demonstration with their radio controlled airplanes—a Laser 20C and a Bucker Jungman. A majestic 1942 Stearman owned by Howard Lowry from Stinson Air Center was available for rides—piloted by Ed Gunter and Dean Howard. Then, from Zuel airport, a gorgeous SNJ in U.S. Marine colors gave us some beautiful in flight photo ops. Of course, all the aircraft that flew in and the pilots that flew the Young Eagles showed off their picture perfect take-offs and landings. We also had a gyrocopter and a helicopter to boot.

R Edward Moore, photographer, snapped a number of shots of kids and adults with the aircraft and provided opportunities to purchase professional photographs that were worth every penny. We have his address and number if anyone missed purchasing their picture. He also donated several to the chapter for our memory wall. Many thanx to Ed Seurer's son, David, who provided us with the sound system that made all the difference in coordinating the YE flights and communicating with the crowd.

Of course, there are many thanx that are due. Cuz without the good folks of the chapter pitching in, none of this would have happened. First, thanx go to Ed Seurer and Lew Mason as the coordinators of the event for all their coordinatin'. Manning the seemingly endless Young Eagle registrations, computer data and gift handouts were the ever smiling and gracious Irene Lindig, Lee Anne Carlson and Bob Cabe. The kitchen crew worked without ceasing to provide an abundant supply of food and drinks-Bob and Betty Day, Al Almond, Nancy Mason, Herman White and Ruth Heron. Manning the money at the cashier table all day was smiling Bob Masters. Announcements and matching up Young Eagles and pilots



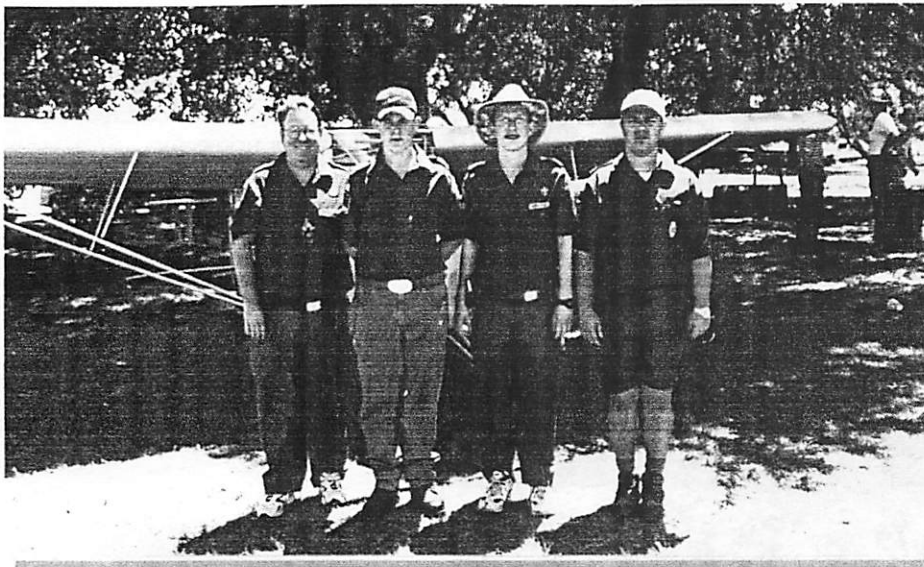
was the sultry voice of Miriam Talley. Of course the Young Eagle Pilots worked up a sweat in the hot cabins but produced big smiles from the kids as they jumped out of the aircraft- Michael Luiges, Steve Carlson, Brad Doppelt, David Talley, Lowell Robinson, Kevin Schnitzer, Louis Viggiano and Keith Flemming. Sixty-nine Young Eagles and a handful of chapter friends slipped the surley bonds. Lew Mason pulled out his ultralight and gave a bunch of youngsters hands on instruction in basic aviation. A big help came from the Aviation Exploring Post of the Alamo Boy Scouts. The group formed in February, heard about the fly-in from a leaflet and volunteered to help as part of their community service. These boys worked in the hot sun for hours parking planes and maintaining safety zones around the planes-many thanx to Joel Albert and his boys.

If we missed someone...very sorry... thanx to all for pitching in and making it a success!!



As Bob Day mentioned in his monthly report, Wal-Mart came through in "flying colors" with a fifty dollar donation to EAA Chapter 35! Here the check is being delivered to Bob by the assistant manager of customer service; Corina Morales and customer service reprehensive Raul Ytuarte. Though their donation, we were able to ensure the Young Eagles were fed a hot lunch. It's rare when corporations make donations to our cause. Please be sure to visit the Wal-Mart at 1604 and FM 471 West and thank them for their efforts in supporting EAA 35 and the Young Eagle Program!

# San Geronimo 20 and Going Strong



Left: The Boy Scouts weighed in with several volunteers from the Aviation Exploring Post of the Alamo Boy Scouts. Let by Joel Albert, these fine young men worked feverously to ensure that all aircraft movements were done with safety in mind. Our hats are off to all of the representatives from the Boy Scouts who helped make the day a memorable one. Right: The only workout Miriam's Stinson got for the day. Friday evening, the left brake was found "flat". The repairs are underway. Hopefully, Katy will be ready for the next Young Eagles Event...



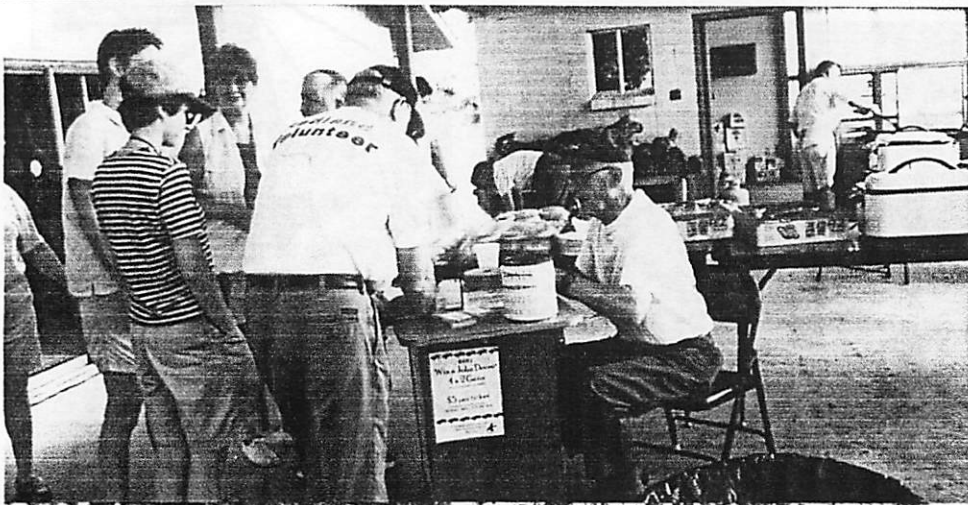
Left: Lea Ann Carlson, wife of our illustrious web geek, along with Irene Lundig "man" the computer. They were kept moving by the many Young Eagles lining up. At one time bob Cabe, secretary, jumped in to lend a hand. Without the "paperwork" support things can get ugly. Thanks for your help!

Right: R. Edward Moore, photographer, doing his thing. He graciously showed up and performed flawlessly to support the events for the families that made the trip to the "airport" for a day.





# San Geronimo 20 and Going Strong



Bob Masters doing the duty of cash-man. Bob "sat" there all day, collecting the cash for food and the Gator tickets for SWRFI. If you look in the distance, you'll see Bob "Grill-master" Day "burnin' burgers" for everyone.



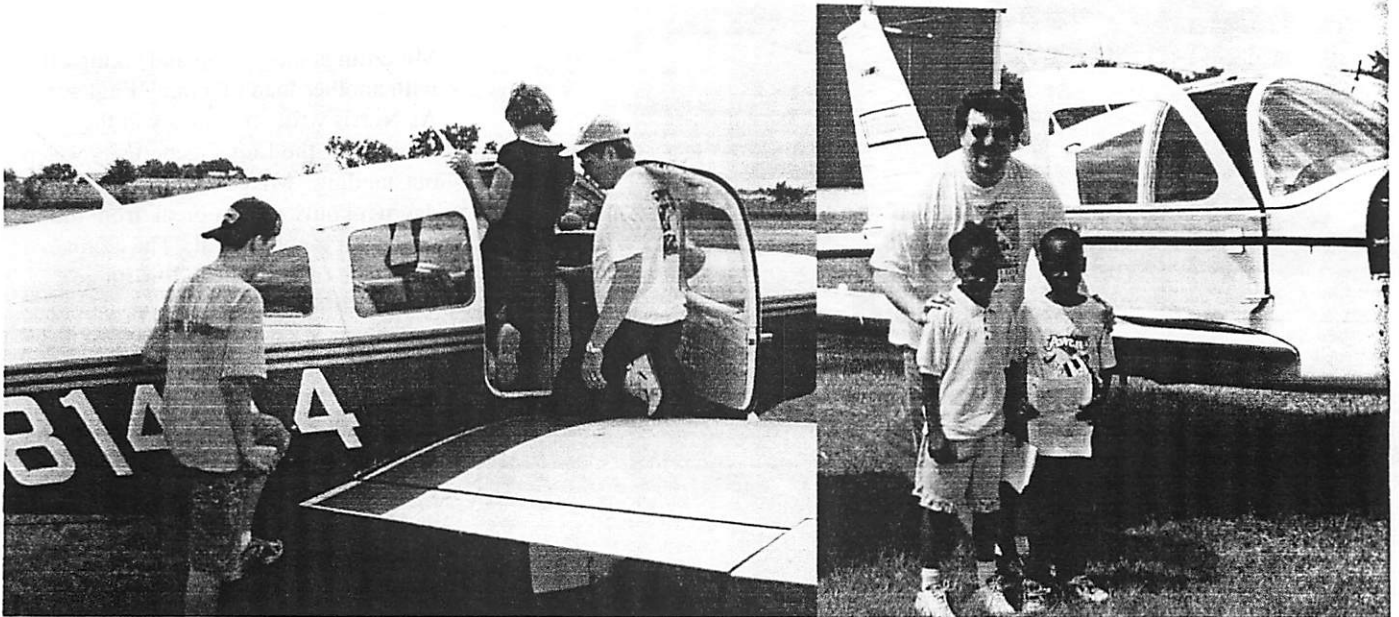
Here's the "mother-load" of folks. The place was packed to the gills. When things overflowed, they did INTO the chapter house. There's nothing like a grill out under a live oak in the heart of Texas!



Early burger munchers. Notice that the parking lot is full, however, there were still a "few folks" to come. Most of these kids got their Young Eagle flight, though some will have to wait a couple of more years until they reach the proper age. ☺



# San Geronimo 20 and Going Strong



Left: Steve Carlson loads up another group of kids. Steve was second only to a helicopter (!) in the amount of Young Eagles flown. Right: The editor of the "Best non-award winning newsletter of any EAA chapter" is all grins with two new Young Eagles. It's always hard to tell who is having more fun, the kids or the pilots...



Lowell Robinson, with to new "Young Eagles". The thumbs up is a good indication that these two young boys had a great time becoming future pilots! Lowell was flying Ed Seurer's Piper Tri-Pacer. Lowell has a ga-zillion hours in quite a few airplanes. His take-offs and landings are evident of his great skill. If these two young boys had flown with the editor, there thumbs would probably be 180 out... ☺

# San Geronimo 20 and Going Strong

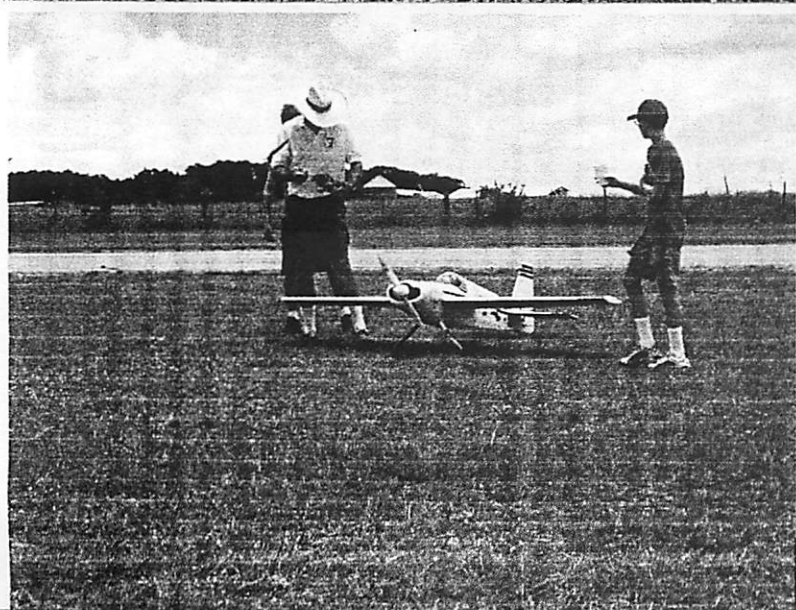


Mike Luigs loading up and taking off with another load of Young Eagles. As Norris wrote previously in the newsletter, the Luigs' generosity was outstanding. Mike flew most of the day with only a short break from the action for a quick meal. The editor got a ride (along with Julius Junge). What a different perspective! The sensations are truly different than that of a standard light fixed wing flying machine. Mike's skills in flying this machine were outstanding. His professionalism was noted by Miriam who paid for her ride in the Stearman. The pilot, Ed Gunter, mentioned that he was truly privileged to share the same airspace with such a professional pilot. Our hats are off to the Luigs family for bringing this bird to our event. Rumor has it we've been invited up to their place in Bandera for another "fun" gathering. All I know is I'm not too happy with these folds...it seems Miriam now wants to earn her rotary wing license... © ...hum, how much is this gonna cost me?



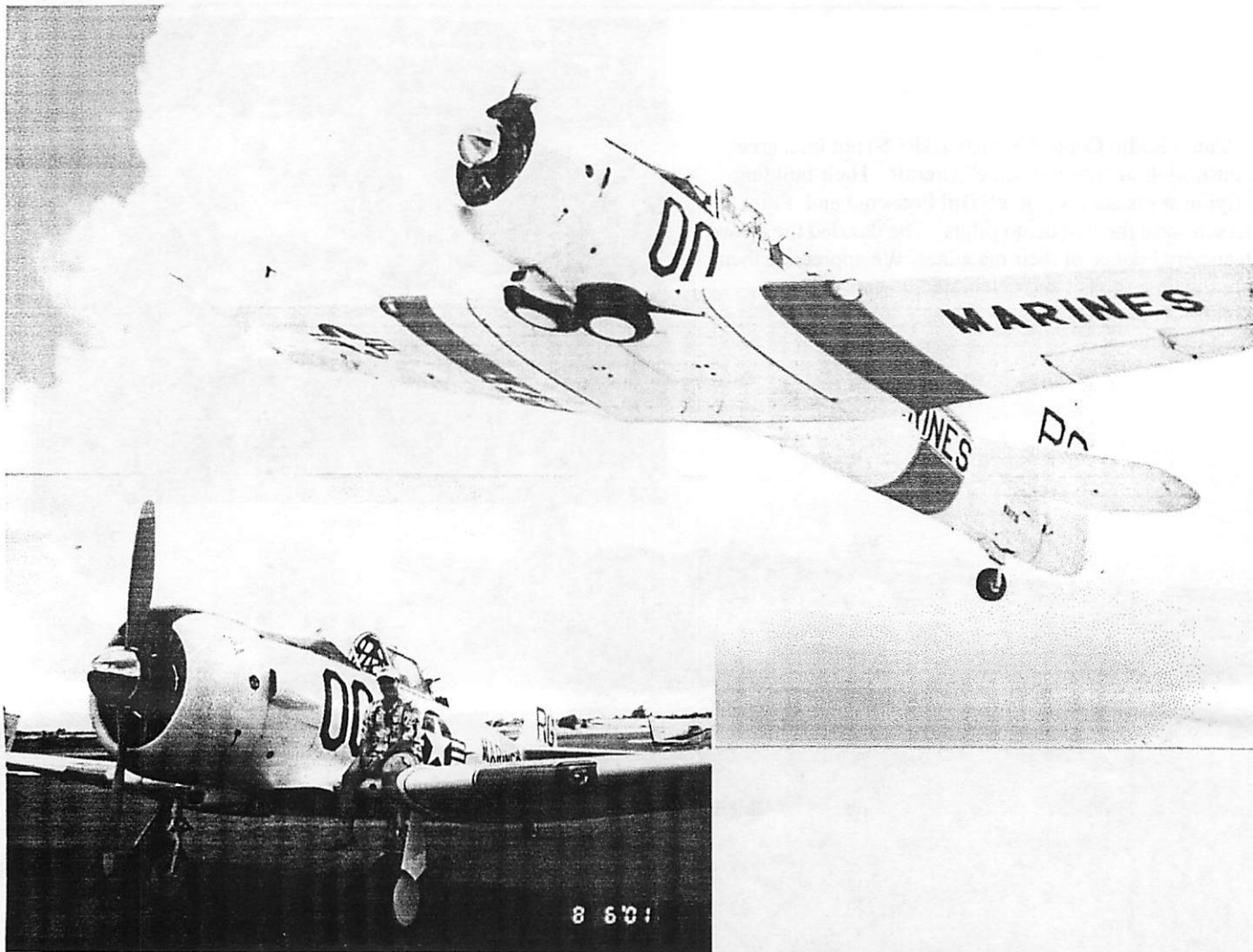
# San Geronimo 20 and Going Strong

The Alamo Radio Control Society (ARCS) put on a great demonstration of "not full-scale" aircraft. Their building and flying skills are awesome! Bill Ponseigo and Frank Patterson were the two demo pilots. The dazzled the crowd with an aerial dance of their machines. We appreciate them taking the time to visit and celebrate 20 years of San Geronimo Airpark.





# San Geronimo 20 and Going Strong



We were visited by many aircraft from around the area. This SNJ made quite a spectacular showing after taking off. Several passes were made showing the folks on the ground the awesome power of the P&W hitting on all cylinders. The sight and sound was simply incredible! The Stearman did its "yeoman duties" flying constantly throughout the day. Grins galore were seen by everyone who took the opportunity to fly in this majestic airplane. Thanks to the gang at Stinson Air Center (S.A.C.) who brought this beauty to San Geronimo.



# San Geronimo 20 and Going Strong



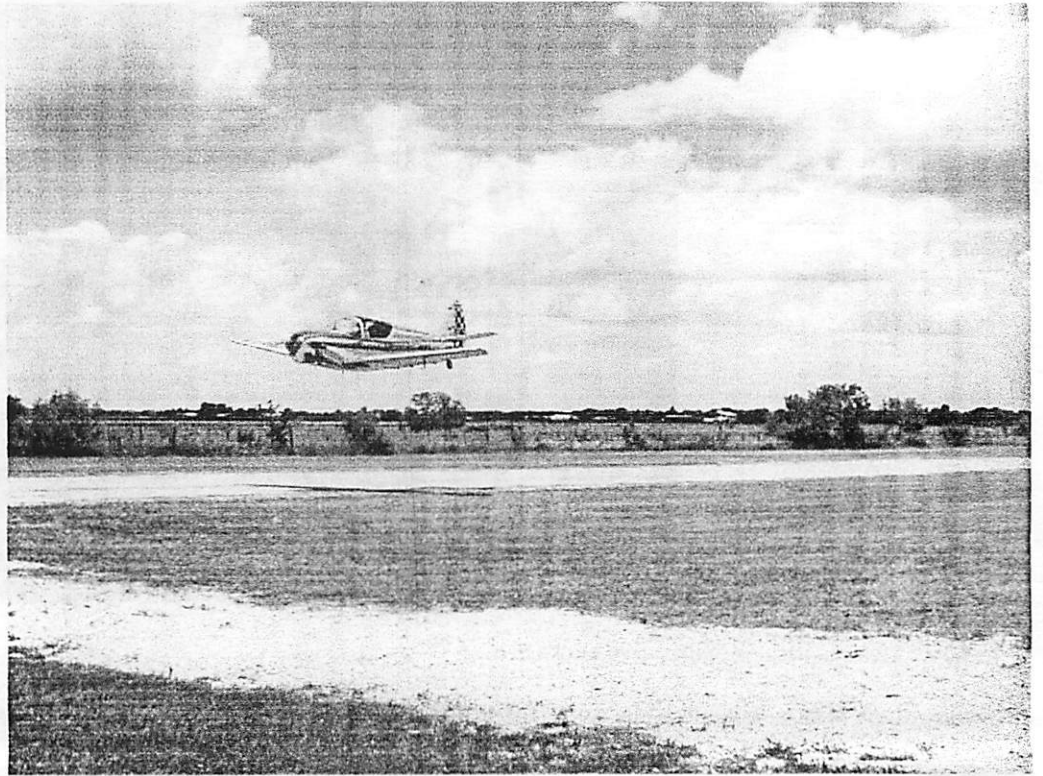
Above: Stearman Rides...thirty-five bucks...

Below: Lew Mason “edjamikating” some fine Young Eagles. Lew did a great job all day allowing the kids to sit in his homebuilt and experience a cockpit first hand.



# San Geronimo 20 and Going Strong

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Not only is it polished and beautiful, it flies! What a site for sore eyes (and I'm sure sore elbows!) A Globe Swift visits San Geronimo from Zuehl Airport.





# A Sense of Freedom

by Linda Prendez

*(Ed. Note: Linda Prendez was kind enough to visit San Geronimo and write about her experience at the airport. Following is her article as it appeared in the San Antonio Express-News. The printed copy had a couple of pictures whereas the soft copy does not.)*

Express-News: Northwest  
**'A sense of freedom'**

By Linda Prendez  
San Antonio Express-News

Web Posted : 06/19/2001

From 2,500 feet in the sky, cows and other livestock grazing in pastures look like ants on broken pieces of checkerboard. Above Medina Lake in a Beechcraft Sundowner 180, passengers feel like they're floating, but really, the rate of speed is 120 miles per hour.

"It's a sense of freedom. You leave all your worries on the ground and you're up in the air," says Don Staats, an avid flyer at San Geronimo Air Park, an 87-acre residential, public-use airport that is celebrating its 20th anniversary this month.

Flight "gets in your blood," said Dave Baker, one of the 10 founders of the tiny airstrip located on the outskirts of Northwest Bexar County.

"Once you get the sensation, you want to do it all the time," he said.

Nearly 80 children and teens saw the earth from a bird's eye view and experienced that feeling on June 9, when they were treated to their first trips in small aircraft. The rally was part of San Geronimo's anniversary celebration, which included displays of modern and antique planes, food, music, and, of course, flight.

Residents of the air park, who are members of the Experimental Aircraft Association, are working toward a goal of tak-

ing a million children, ages 7 to 17, on their first trip in small aircraft before the 100th anniversary of the Wright Brothers' first flight at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, on Dec. 17, 1903.

One objective of the national effort is to get children interested in flying, a pastime that is not quite as popular today among children as it was in recent decades, said Dan Cerna, another San Geronimo resident who helped purchase the land in 1981 and learned to fly a plane when he was 16.

"When I was 12, people who flew planes were heroes in World War II. You wanted to be like them," he said.

Back then, children could ride their bikes into local airports to see planes take off and land all day, he said. Today, he said, larger airports aren't accessible that way. That's why Cerna and his partners purchased land on FM 471, six miles outside of Loop 1604.

"There was no place for the little guy to fly anymore. You use up half a tank of gas just getting down the runway," he said.

Small aircraft are allowed at larger airports, like San Antonio International, but pilots must abide by more stringent regulations and there is more traffic, he noted.

So to feed their hunger for flight, the partners pitched in funds to purchase the acreage, where they would eventually build homes, hangars and other facilities. Originally, the land was subdivided into 28 one-acre lots for residential development. The owners recently began to offer more lots near the park's runway for other flight enthusiasts who want to be able to take off in their planes from their back yards.

"It's just like people who want to live on lakes because they love boats or near golf courses. Our interest is flying," Baker said.

Said Lew Mason, another San Geronimo founder: "If you like the sound of an airplane starting up at 7 a.m. in your backyard, it's the place for you."

The hum and putter of a small plane is music to some people's ears, he said.

And, it's a lot less stressful than driving.

"You can go up, down, right or left," he said, "and nobody's going to honk at you."

[lprendez@express-news.net](mailto:lprendez@express-news.net)

06/20/2001

## Other Important News...

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### “Win a John Deere Gator!”

The EAA Southwest Regional Fly-In is raffling off a John Deere Gator to raise funds for the Sept 01 Fly-In. I think you can all picture your selves in one of these little machines. David Talley will be coming by during the chapter meeting giving you the opportunity to buy some tickets at \$5 a piece. So come on, support our regional fly in and take a chance to be a winner!! (*Ed Note: If you win this baby and don't want it, I'll beg you for it!* ☺)

*...from the computer of Julius Junge...*

A couple of sites you might want to mention---  
[www.thirtythousandfeet.com](http://www.thirtythousandfeet.com) and [www.affordaplane.com](http://www.affordaplane.com)

Links are fabulous

Julius

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## IT'S CALENDAR TIME!

By Joanne Warner

The all-new, 2002 EAA calendars have just been offered by headquarters. As you have just seen in Sport Aviation, they are priced to individuals at \$10.99 plus shipping and handling.

**FLASH!** Our chapter is going to send one big order in—and the total cost is going to be \$8.00 each. Yes—the best Christmas present you can get or give—one that lasts 13 months—is available for Chapter members at this terrific, discounted price.

The catch is this: To make this happen, I need to have your order—along with Eight Bucks—for each beautiful calendar you want—and no later than September 8, 2001 (a meeting date for Chapter 35). And I guarantee you'll have yours at the November meeting.

I will be taking orders and money starting with this July meeting. Do yourself a big favor by placing your order early. Please!

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### Texas Airport Directory

For those of you that did not see the order forms at the chapter house, the 2001-2002 Texas Airport Directory is available for purchase. It lists all the open to the public airports with airport layouts and services information. They are \$6.00 per copy and can be ordered from:

Texas Department of Transportation  
 Aviation Division  
 P.O.Box 5020  
 Austin, Texas 78763

They take a check or money order made out to TxDOT, Aviation Division.

(PS: Someone out there has the order form/information for fly-in restaurants. If you do, please let us know so that we can publish the info. Thanx)

Words of Aviation Wisdom ...

*When a flight is proceeding incredibly well, something was forgotten.*  
 Robert Livingston, 'Flying The Aeronca'

EVENTS AND HAPPENINGS

*(If you know of any local aviation events or happenings we can share with the chapter, call Miriam or David at 210/521-2359.)*

14 Jul - EAA Chapter 35 Meeting. Food/socializing at 4:30pm. Meeting 7pm.

15 Jul 01 - San Angelo, TX. Aviation FunFest w/ the Thunderbirds. 915/659-6409

24-30 Jul 01 - Oshkosh, WI. EAA Adventure Oshkosh

1 Aug 01 - PAISA/GAPA meeting. Gathering of safety minded pilots, instructors and students. Meets first Wednesday of every month, 7pm, at the Hallmark Institute on Wetmore adjacent to San Antonio International. Info: Steve Carlson 545-2376.

8 Sep 01- Greenville, TX. 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Majors Field. 903/457-4044 or www.gvl.esys.com

21-22 Sep 01 - Abilene, TX. South West Regional Fly-In. www.swrfi.org. \*New dates\*

29 Sep 01 - Arlington, TX. EAA Chapter 34/ Arlington Municipal Airport (GKY) Open House. David Jackson 817/465-7253.

3-8 Oct 01 Sweetwater, TX. Women Air Service Pilots Reunion. 800/658-6757.

5 Oct 01 - Midland, TX. Grand Opening Aviation Art Gallery at American Airpower heritage Museum. Tami O'Banion 915/563-1000

6-7 Oct 01 - Midland, TX. CAF Airsho 2001. 915/563-1000 or www.confederateairforce.org

13 Oct 01 - EAA Chapter 35 Young eagles Fly-In.

13-14 Oct 01 - El Paso, TX. Amigo Airsho. 915/545-2864 or www.amigoairsho.org

20-21 Oct 01 - Houston, TX. 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Wings Over Houston Airshow. 713/644-1018 or www.wingsoverhouston.org

20-21 Oct 01 - Ft Worth, TX. Ft Worth/Alliance Int'l Air Show. 817/890-1000 or www.allianceairport.com

8 Dec 01 - EAA Chapter 35 Christmas Party.

Instructor Available. Chapter member Bob Brown CFI SE ME INST Rotorcraft. Will provide free flight review for chapter 35 members. 830/612-2371.



FOR SALE: '43 T-craft L2A, DCO-65. Cont. C-85-F. TTAF: 1094, SMOH 127. Contact: Jim Havens 210.680.7882.

WANTED & FOR SALE

Chapter members in search of or have items for sale, or need to post a service, may place a free add in this column. Call Editors Miriam or David Talley @ 210.521.2359 or EAA35@starband.net

"Remember...Caveat Emptor...buyers beware!"



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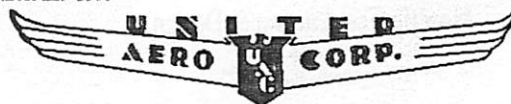
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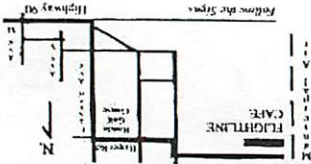
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Please support those businesses that support YOUR local EAA chapter.

### The Official Newsletter of EAA Chapter 35, San Antonio, Texas

Norris Warner, Membership Chairperson  
719 Oak Hills Road  
Pipe Creek, Texas 78063-5652



Name & Address here

#### When Do you Meet?

Second Saturday of the Month  
Dinner 5:30 PM  
Social Hour 6-7PM  
Meeting @ 7PM

#### Where do you meet?

(See Map)  
Call Any member listed  
On Page 2 for help



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