

Ole Miss

by John C. Luck

An old silver airplane sits in one of the outbuildings of the Smithsonian Institution's Silver Hill museum and storage complex. Aside from an odd catwalk built onto the aircraft, to allow access to the engine while in flight, this plane looks much like many others flown in the 1930s. But 44 years ago some 10,000 spectators came out to meet *Ole Miss*, as her wheels touched down on a Mississippi airport.

The story of *Ole Miss* begins at a small airport in Meridian, Mississippi, in the early '30s at the beginning of the depression. Two brothers, Fred and Algene Key, natives of Meridian, had been appointed managers of the new Meridian Municipal Airport. During the depression, in Mississippi as in the rest of the country, many people weren't sure where the next month's rent was coming from. Business at the airport was scarce.



There were few commercial contracts and little student flying. There was ample time for dreaming, however, while waiting for the occasional customer. Al and Fred decided that the airport, Meridian and aviation in general needed some publicity. Why not attempt an endurance flight? Several records had been set recently. Two brothers, John and Kenneth Hunter, had set an official endurance record of 24 days aloft without landing, in 1930. The Keys decided to make an attempt at a new world record.

Sponsors and a plane had to be found. W.H. Ward, a friend of the brothers, donated a Curtiss Robin J-1 Deluxe, a small 165-hp airplane. It was named *Ole Miss*. The Meridian Chamber of Commerce and the Meridian American Legion furnished some financial support. Modifications were made to *Ole Miss* to prepare her for the long flight. A wireless telegraph and an extra 150-gal. fuel tank were installed. A hatch was cut into the top of the cabin to allow food and supplies to be lowered from a supply plane. [Full Story>>](#)



John's Jabberings...

By John Glasford

The last meeting attendance was pretty slim and I would guess most were concerned about the election outcome. We now have that behind us and need to look at what our chapter is going to do in the coming year. The agenda is posted in this newsletter, so please look it over and come ready to discuss what our chapter needs moving forward.

November has flown by and we are looking at the Christmas season. As we now are getting into colder weather we need to think about how that affects our flying and preparation for trips. Jerry Densmore will be giving us some insight on winter time aircraft storage and flight safety.

Our long range planning needs to get started now, so we are prepared for the events we want to attend, host, and use to get more interest in general aviation. I am looking for members that would be willing to serve as board members for the chapter. We will be deciding the direction for the chapter to go and how to best use the funds we have for the open house event. If you feel this is something you would like to be a part of please contact me.

Once again, as I wrote in the last newsletter, it's time to roll up our sleeves and get to work on expanding general aviation in the western South Dakota area. Remember this is a group effort. No one person can do this alone, so become an active part of this chapter. Don't wait to be asked if you have ideas and resources that will help make this event a success!

I will see you at the meeting!

December EAA Chapter 39 meeting agenda –

Old business:

KRAP open house lead event item

EAA Chapter 39 open house host responsibilities

GAAC responsibilities for the open house

Rapid City Regional Airport open house responsibilities

Financial organization of the funds for the open house

Dates and timing of the next open house event

Other future events hosted by the EAA Chapter 39 from ideas out of the planning meeting

Chapter Christmas Party

Location

Guest Speaker – Tentative, John Wilkenson Spitfire pilot in WWII

New business:

Officers change

Action item groups

Program:

Jerry Densmore

Winter flying safety

Aircraft readiness for winter flying

Aircraft winter storage



Watch your emails for information about the annual Christmas party! We'll finalize plans at the December meeting.

Notice from the treasurer:

Membership dues for 2017 are coming due soon. Our chapter memberships dues are \$20, which includes a Chapter 39 patch. Molly Benkert, our newsletter publisher, needs current email addresses of all members for the monthly newsletter - *Flyboy News*. Our roster needs updating. Please ensure we have current addresses, phone/cell numbers and EAA member numbers. Thank you.

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, December 13

at **Chapter 39 Clubhouse**

6:30 Hangar Talk

Treats will be provided by Steve Hatfield

7:00 Meeting

Program: Jerry Densmore – Winter Flying Safety and Aircraft Prep

(If you don't have a gate pass, call John (858-5850) from the gate.



Hangar Space Still Available

Hangar space available at KRAP - Contact Rob at rsburton@enetis.net

Tweety Bird (PA28) that was in my hanger got sold to someone in PIR so I've got a hanger spot available if anyone is interested. --
Thanks! Brad [605-574-4952](tel:605-574-4952)

December Birthdays:



Al Fisher—1st
Forrest Foster—1st

Chapter 39

Officers

President	John Glasford
Vice President	Mike Harmon
Secretary	Gary Schroeder
Treasurer	Scott Christiansen

Volunteers

Newsletter & Web Manager	Molly Benkert
Young Eagles	Brenda Nolan
Safety Officer	Jerry Densmore

Tech Advisor Jerry Densmore

TREASURER'S REPORT

By Scott Christiansen

Balance brought forward.....	\$4010.17
Income:	
Dues X 1.....	20.00
Expenses:	
Molly for webpage.....	49.95
Nametags.....	48.92
Balance on hand.....	\$3931.13

November Minutes

By Gary Schroeder

- Meeting was held at the Club house
- John called the meeting to order at 7:00
- Minutes read and approved
- Treasures report given-----\$4010.17

Old Business

- There was discussion about selecting event attractions for the next open house, such as a DC-3, the National Guard demonstration, a Jaws of Life demonstration, or Vintage Pilot Association. We need to determine when the attraction is available to be able to set a date for the event.
- John advised the GAAC committee voted to transfer the funds from the previous open house's to our EAA chapter to be put into a separate account for future events.

New Business

- The Christmas Party will be at the Museum at EAFB. Scott and Arie will be organizing the party. John Wilkinson a Spitfire pilot may be the speaker. Possible dates will be in January.
- EAA Chapter renewal is due in November and 2016 Chapter dues can be paid to Scott any time now.

Jerry Densmore will tell us about winter operations and safety next month.

Meeting adjourned

Mystery Plane



Can you identify this plane? See page 6 for the answer.

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Roll Call and Determination of Quorum

Bert Corwin called to order the regular meeting of the General Aviation Advisory Committee at 10:00 AM on October 29, 2016 at Rapid City Regional Airport Fire Station. Quorum was met.

The following persons were present: Bert Corwin, Craig Uhre, Shawn Gab, Les Mittleider, Milo Schindler, Gary Telkamp, Patrick Dame, John Glasford, Rob Burton, Rick Belsaas, Brent Warren, Jonathan Pondish, Miranda Maleki, Marc Boddicker, Darrel Sauder, Bill Eldridge, Derek Leiviestad.

Approval of minutes from last meeting

Dr. Corwin read the minutes from the last meeting September 15, 2016. Milo moved to approve minutes, Les 2nd, all approved.

Old Business

Open House/Fly In

- ☐ John stated EAA Club will take over the ongoing yearly GA Open House
- ☐ Shawn said the remaining funds from the past Open House would be transferred to EAA for the specific purpose of future Open Houses. Funds total about \$5,000.
- ☐ Craig moved to transfer net funds from GA account to the EAA open house account. Les seconded. All approved. GA Committee
- ☐ There was discussion about future need for funds for the GA committee. It was decided there was no need.
- ☐ Bert explained the history and function of the GA committee. It was a forum for ideas and concerns from the GA community. It was discussed mailing information from the GA committee to all GA participants. Would like to see more GA participants attend the GA committee meetings.

New Business

Airport Update

- ☐ Patrick Dame talked about forming a Council made up of heads of different aviation groups to work on legislation and other aviation issues state-wide.
- ☐ Construction to continue on GA apron next March.
- ☐ New airport equipment is arriving in next couple of months

GA hangers

- ☐ Bill Eldridge said the Airport Board did not want to be in the hanger business. They were looking to private investors to build hangers. They are working on ways to encourage future hanger construction, i.e. standardized plans and possible grants.
- ☐ Patrick has talked to the building code dept. There is a problem of commercial vs private code. They consider hangers to be commercial, therefore must have double sheetrock or concrete between hangers.
- ☐

☐ Old T-hangers will not be torn down until a replacement solution is decided. New T-hangers are not economically viable and will need about 3 years for total redevelopment of the old T-hanger area.☐ Bill asked for ideas from the GA community on hanger size and other requirements, in order to do standardized plans with prior approval of the city code dept.☐ There was discussion on cost sharing of extra hanger space of individual hangers, without having to become a commercial airport entity.

Adjournment

Next Meeting January 21st, 2017 10:00AM Dr.

Corwin adjourned meeting

.Minutes submitted by: Craig Uhre

The Handley Page HP-42 "Helena" of Imperial Airways. 1932



The Handley Page H.P. 42 was the world's first four-engined aircraft. It was also the largest at the time. The H.P. 42 made its first flight on November 17 1930. A total of eight aircrafts were built for the new Imperial Airways. [For more>>](#)

Mystery Plane: **The Monsted-Vincent MV-1** [For more>>](#)