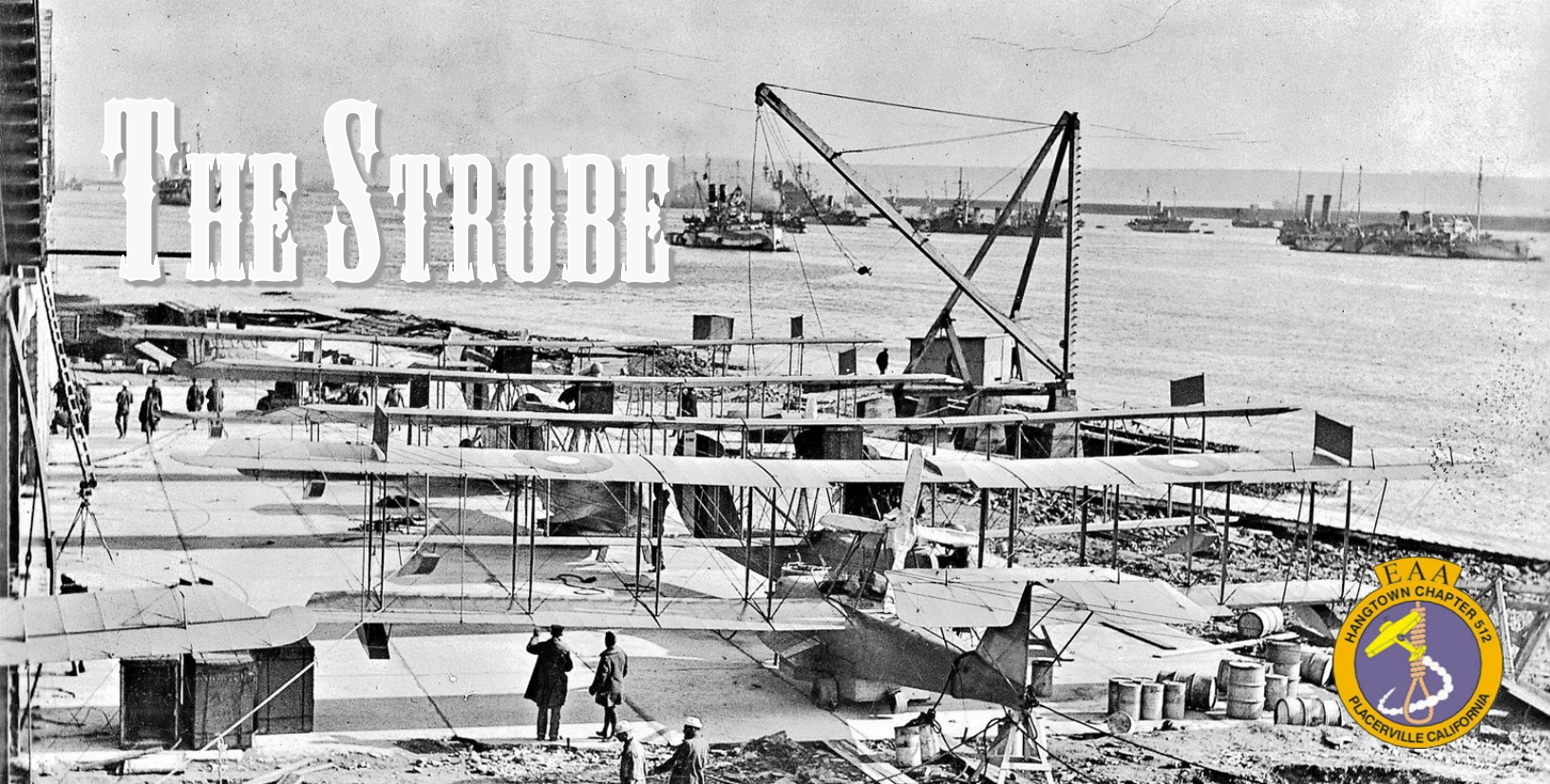


# THE STROBE



EAA 5I2 Placerville

*Seaplanes being assembled at Naval Air Station, Brest France, circa 1918*

Dec 2022

## Prez Sez...

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

**Tribute to a Member** - Past president, treasurer, secretary, Young Eagle pilot, builder, friend of the chapter. Not many people have done more or been more involved in the chapter than Al Herron. Al tendered his resignation from the Chapter Board of Directors in late October but intends to remain an active member of the chapter. We wish him and Gail well and many more years flying his RV-7A out of Placerville to the back country of Idaho or the coastal airports in California.

**Hangar sold 5 years after pilot dies** - Five years ago I remember the door to Pete Thomas's hangar on the west end was open for the first time in my memory. Inside, two of his three aircraft were packed in along with pinball machines, motorcycles, and a Volvo. It took his wife 5 years to clean out the hangar and sell off the planes. Yesterday I was excited to meet the new owner take possession of the hangar and

## CHRISTMAS PARTY

December 21

Social Hour at 5pm

Dinner at 6pm

Details on pg. 4





find a home for his Cherokee 180. Buck Burns retired from SpaceX as a production manager and settled into his home in Placerville with his partner Liz. Welcome to the neighborhood!

New tenants at the airport are vital to the sustainability of the airport. They bring enthusiasm and a sense of revival, an airworthy plane and a new homeowner in the neighborhood. That's real progress.

Hangars are so much in demand that buyers compete in an unfair silent market and drive the price sky-high. The county has essentially imposed a moratorium on hangar construction for 20 years. I have written about hangar use or misuse in the past. It is time for the county to permit aircraft owners to build new shelters for their aircraft on the east end. In the mid '90s, 200 aircraft called Placerville home.

**New Ray Aviation Scholar:** Sam Garcia of Placerville graduated from high school last year and is attending Folsom Lake College studying mechanical engineering. He was selected and approved by the chapter board for the 50/50 matching fund scholarship. He started flight lessons in November and should earn his private pilot certificate by next summer.

**Adopt-A-Highway Program:** Our second workday was Saturday December 17. The chapter is assigned the 2-mile section of Highway 50 between Exit 34 and Exit 35, from Cambridge Road to Cameron Park Road in both directions. If you want to volunteer for the program, contact Judi or Jim W. to get on the list. A 15-minute training video is required. Our plan is to meet one Saturday each month at McDonalds, usually the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend subject to good weather, and begin walking the shoulder facing traffic at 9AM. A dozen or more people will split into two groups and spend about two hours collecting litter. For our efforts, the chapter will earn \$500 each month. This is a 5-year contract. We currently have 25 people not counting spouses on the list, but we need a few more. We can make this fun and rewarding by

taking those earnings to build our scholarship fund and hangar improvement fund.

If you wish to sign-up for a work party, go to [www.chapters.eaa.org/aaa512](http://www.chapters.eaa.org/aaa512) select Adopt-A-Highway from the menu OR select [Schedule 2023](#), complete the form and SUBMIT.



Zane, Eric, Pat standing, Neil, Tracey, PJ, Ben, Sam, Rob standing, Curt, Beki, John M, Dale, John V, Jim W behind the camera

**Chapter Projects:** Tim Sullivan installed (work in progress) a new big fan in the center of the hangar to drive warm air down to short people and elves.

**Holiday Party at the 512 Hangar:** Not too late to RSVP. Wednesday December 21. Social Hour at 5, dinner at 6. \$10 per person. Bring a side dish or dessert. Optional gift exchange. Gift less than \$20.

**Meeting Minutes:** Chapter board of directors meeting minutes formerly attached to the end of the Strobe are now uploaded to the website on a new page:

<https://chapters.eaa.org/aaa512/chapter-misc/bod-meetings>

Jim Wilson



# CHAPTER LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

An ongoing challenge for the chapter is encouraging participation in leadership positions. Chapter 512 rarely has a shortage of volunteer workers to help with the numerous activities we so successfully execute. Our members are selfless, hardworking and competent, always putting in effort above and beyond what is asked for, and sometimes we ask for a lot. None of this happens, however, without someone to manage and direct these activities.

Chapter 512 has been fortunate to have had a long, unbroken succession of talented officers and directors, right from the start to the best of my knowledge. We have always managed to fill these leadership positions – but sometimes just barely! In some cases, officers (much to their credit) have stayed on longer than they may have intended due to a lack of a willing replacement candidate. Every October the chapter is required to present a slate of candidates for our Board of Directors, followed by an election in November. Often the slate of candidates only comprises the existing incumbents. You might think this is a good thing, indicating satisfaction with the existing leadership, and to an extent it is, but in the long term it isn't. Here's why: the long-term health of the chapter depends on having a pool of members, familiar with the chapter culture, procedures and programs, willing to take on leadership positions. Not only does this prevent burnout of existing officers, it ensures continuity of chapter goals while offering fresh perspectives and balancing of priorities.

There may be many reasons for members to be reluctant to step up as candidates. These may include too much time commitment, not wanting to offend existing officers by running for their position, not feeling qualified, or maybe just fear of public speaking. I can't help much with the latter – I get terrible stage fright myself – but let

me address the others. Yes, there is more time commitment because of monthly board meetings plus some work assignments and communication needs in between, but usually it's pretty minimal. Plus, the board meetings are normally pretty fun. Most board members only serve for one or two one-year terms, so it doesn't need to be an overly long-time commitment. Which brings me to the second point: after a few terms, most board members are ready to pass their duties on to someone else. Even if they aren't, they won't be offended by someone running for the position. (Would you want them in the position if they were? This is supposed to be fun). They'll likely be delighted to have someone in a backup position. The really good news on this is the way our board of directors (five chapter officers plus two general directors) is set up. The four main officers are President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The fifth officer is the position of past president, who serves as kind of mentor/advisor to the president. Two General Directors fill out the Board. Some people, due to life and/or professional experience, can come into one of the main officer positions directly. The General Director positions are intended to be temporary and let someone who may be new to serving on a Board learn the ropes and prepare to become an officer. Bottom line: you won't get thrown in over your head.

This coming year, please consider tossing your hat in the ring for a Board position. If you have a specific position in mind, it's OK to approach the current position holder to see if they are looking to step down and perhaps coordinate with them. The more candidates we have on our election slate, the richer the chapter and the wider our possibilities for growth and improvement.

*-Al Herron, former Chapter Board Member and President*



Martin PBM-3D Mariner engine maintenance in cold weather



**When we asked you to “Contact the Tower”, that’s not what we meant...**

## Dear Reader

The newsletter is made up ENTIRELY of content submitted by YOU. If there is something you’d like to share with the membership, *don’t talk yourself out of it!* Send your stuff to this easy-to-remember email address at:

[more\\_right\\_rudder@yahoo.com](mailto:more_right_rudder@yahoo.com)

It’s that simple.

**Sincerely,**

**The Editor**

# CHRISTMAS PARTY

December 21

Social Hour at 5pm

Dinner at 6pm

RSVP to Jim Wilson

\$10 per person, bring a side  
dish or dessert



## Coffee and Doughnuts

most Sundays at  
KPVF FBO  
sometime after 8:30am  
to  
sometime before lunch



# ***EAA 512 Movie Night Presents***



After more than thirty years of service as one of the Navy's top aviators, Pete "Maverick" Mitchell is where he belongs, pushing the envelope as a courageous test pilot and dodging the advancement in rank that would ground him. Training a detachment of graduates for a special assignment, Maverick must confront the ghosts of his past and his deepest fears, when he leads TOP GUN's elite graduates on a mission that demands the ultimate sacrifice from those who choose to fly it.

**Date:** Sunday January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 6:00 pm social, 7:30 pm movie

**Location:** Glenn and Judi Gordon's Hangar – 3204 Western Drive, O61

**Snacks & Drinks:** Potluck ... please bring something to share. Beer and Soft Drinks will be provided.

**Comfort:** We have some seating available, but feel free to bring a folding chair to ensure you have a comfy place to sit. We'll have a couple of heat lamps going.

**Donations:** Please consider a donation of \$5 or whatever is comfortable to you. The funds raised go towards aviation scholarships for our young EAA members. A few below:

Left to Right: Jaeger (checkride next), Sam (5.2 hours), Nathan (PPL), Zane (solo xc next)



**PLEASE do this→ RSVP: glennandjudi@gmail.com or text Judi at 847.414.7773**

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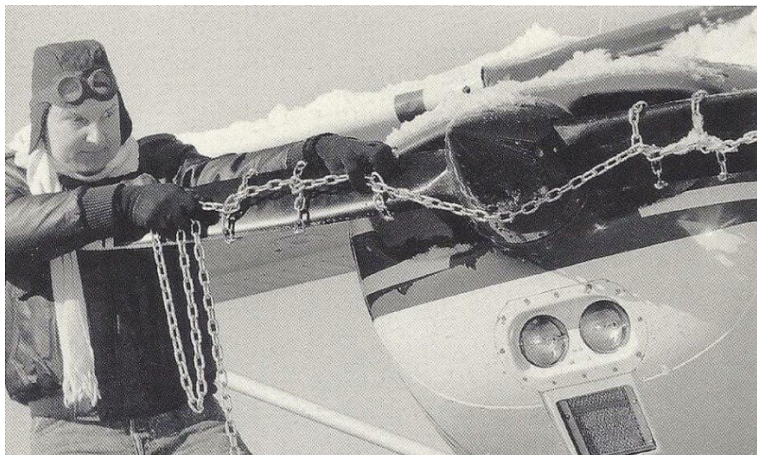
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"Chaining Up" for Winter Flying

