

# THE STROBE



Placerville EAA 512 Newsletter

May 2020

## Prez Sez... *Trimming for Safe Flight Attitude*

There are definitely some advantages to being a pilot right now. For one thing, especially if you're an aircraft owner, there's never a shortage of projects to keep you busy. Just washing and waxing your plane can occupy an entire weekend (for those of you who remember weekends, before all the days blended into one long continuum). Then there are all those long-deferred maintenance items we can finally get to, and log books to get caught up on, databases to be updated, etc. And, of course, we can still fly. Judging by the lack of traffic at the airport, I suspect a lot of people think we're not allowed to. And while there are certain types of operations we absolutely shouldn't be doing, as far as I can determine there is no prohibition against just taking your plane up and boring holes in the sky. Just to be sure, I contacted both the El Dorado County and State of California COVID-19 information hot lines. Neither could find any restrictions specific to aviation. Nor could I find anything on the FAA, EAA or AOPA web sites. As long as social distancing is maintained, it seems the general consensus is that it would be no different than going to the store or getting out for exercise or other activities considered essential. And as far as social distancing goes: six feet? How about 6,000 feet from anyone else? Now, obviously some common sense needs to be applied. You wouldn't want to land at a faraway airport where you might risk spreading virus (emergency response flights excepted of course), or take someone up with you that isn't part of your household. But as far as local flying for currency and just plain mental health, go for it!

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## NO GENERAL MEETING

The EAA Chapter 512 general membership meeting on **May** is **CANCELLED** due to COVID-19.

**HOWEVER**, a Zoom meeting will be hosted on Wed @ 7pm. For more information on this meeting please refer to the *Prez Sez* article located on pg. 1. For more information about what is Zoom, visit: [support.zoom.us](https://support.zoom.us)



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How many of you are taking advantage of this downtime to make upgrades to your planes, or maybe work on building a new one? Personally, I'm making progress on a planned panel upgrade with some shiny new electronic boxes. If you have a project going, please take some time to write up a little something about it and submit it for the Strobe. Our newsletter editor, Helen Brand, does an outstanding job researching and creating the layout every month, but she really needs content from all of us to keep it interesting. It's a great way to keep participating in the chapter.

Another thing to help keep you busy, and maybe see some familiar faces again, is to participate in our virtual chapter meeting this coming Wednesday. Instead of the EAA hangar, we invite you all to join us on Zoom. It's free, all you need is some kind of internet-enabled device with a camera and microphone. This can be a smart phone, tablet,

or a video-equipped laptop or PC. Jim Wilson will be sending out an invitation at least a day or two prior to the meeting (or use this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81743625915>). If you haven't used Zoom before, I'd suggest you download the free version of the app now and try it out (<https://zoom.us>). It's pretty easy to use, actually. Jim will be online fifteen minutes early at 6:45 on Wednesday to give newcomers a chance to sort out any issues. Don't worry about "messaging up"; we'll help you figure it out and it will just add to the fun anyway. We're looking forward to seeing you all there!

By: Al Herron

## 2020 Membership dues are due!

Send your check for \$20 payable to EAA 512 @

**Judi Gordon**

**3212 Western Drive**

**Cameron Park, CA 95682**

Please include you and your spouse's date of birth (year is unnecessary).



In place of the canceled in-person general meeting, Jim Wilson will be hosting a Zoom meeting on Wednesday, May 20, at 7pm. If you are interested in joining the virtual get-together please access this link on 5/20/2020:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81743625915>

An email was sent out 5/17 providing more info.

## ALERT! PHISHING SCAMS

Because our chapter leadership email addresses are available on our website, it is easy for scammers to "spoof" emails to appear to be from the EAA Chapter. **None of our chapter officers will ever ask a member to make purchases on behalf of the chapter** without prior personal contact or discussion, and never for non-specific items. Be particularly leary of any email requesting purchase of gift cards, transfer of funds, or other requests of a purely monetary nature. If in doubt, take no action and contact a chapter board member.

# Keep Your Avgas Fund Intact

## (A FEW SIMPLE TIPS ON INTERNET SAFETY)

Chapter 512, along with just about everyone else on the planet that uses the Internet, has increasingly been hit with all manner of e-mail scams that attempt to exploit our publicly available information. Here are a few simple tips to keep from falling prey to some of these scams.

Remember that most of our officers and activity coordinators have their e-mail addresses and other information such as phone numbers posted on our web site and in other publicly accessible locations. This is a necessary risk that we assume in order to promote our chapter.

There are many bad actors on the Internet trying to trick you into opening bogus e-mails. They range from almost humorously inept attempts to trick you into sending them money to e-mails containing (usually via links) extremely sophisticated “malware” that can infiltrate your hard drive and give hackers access to anything on, or linked to, your computer including your ID, bank account access, etc.

Be extremely suspicious of any e-mail or other message (including phone voice or text) you receive asking you to make any kind of financial transaction, or to supply personal information, on behalf of the chapter. WE DO NOT make these kinds of requests to our chapter members, even by phone. If you’re not sure, contact the

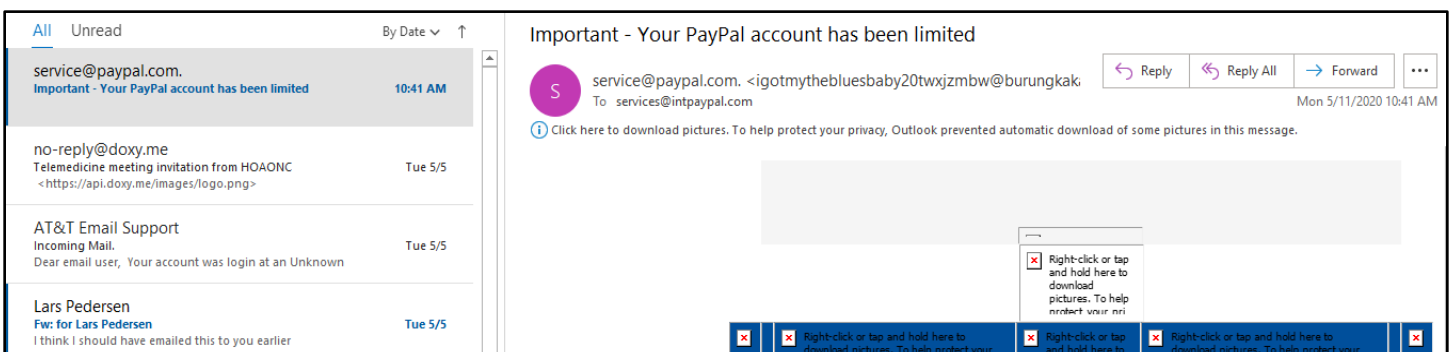
person listed as the sender via a phone call to a known number (i.e., not one listed in the email) or other means. Absolutely do not take any action without checking first. Sending the person a *new* email using a known contact is OK, but never reply to the suspect email. Don’t worry about inconveniencing us, we’d much rather take the call than have you take the fall.

For any suspect email, one simple thing you can usually do is check the sender information to make sure it makes sense. The e-mail highlighted below claims to be from PayPal, and even has the reply e-mail address of [service@paypal.com](mailto:service@paypal.com), which seems legit. But take a closer look. Notice the actual e-mail address listed to the right of that. You can be pretty sure that PayPal doesn’t have any official corporate e-mail account named “I got my [sic] the blues baby...” I’m also pretty sure they don’t have a mail server located in Burungkak (wherever *that* is). In most e-mail browsers you can (without opening the e-mail or clicking on anything) hover your cursor over the link to see this information. DO NOT click on any link! Incidentally, this screenshot is from my personal e-mail browser “trash” file. Three of the four e-mail shown here are fraudulent; two of them showed up on the same day, which is not unusual.

If you do receive such an e-mail, treat it as toxic. Make sure you use the preview pane in your e-mail browser so you don’t have to open the email to see its contents. NEVER click on any links in the e-mail. The best course of action is to simply delete the e-mail without opening it. Another, more proactive option is to report it to law enforcement. The FBI has an Internet fraud site at <https://www.fbi.gov/scams-and-safety/on-the-internet>. There is a link there on how to file a report as well as additional safety tips.

Like the air traffic controller said, “y’all be careful out there!”.

By: Al Herron





# LOG BOOK

**4/26/20** River flow report for the North Fork of the American river. The water is still flowing downhill.

Jason Brand



**5/3/20** Social flying and more than 6ft apart. (And more than ten words long)

Jason Brand



**4/7/1994** April 7, 1994. I (Rob) was working on the BD-10 program in Missouri when we needed someone to fly down to Sharpe Field, Alabama, to pick up some parts. Sharpe Field is where the Tuskegee Airmen trained. Being an aviation history nerd, I jumped at the chance to see this site firsthand. I climbed into our Cessna 182 RG, N2623C, and flew 3.0 hr. from St. Charles, MO, to Tuskegee, AL.

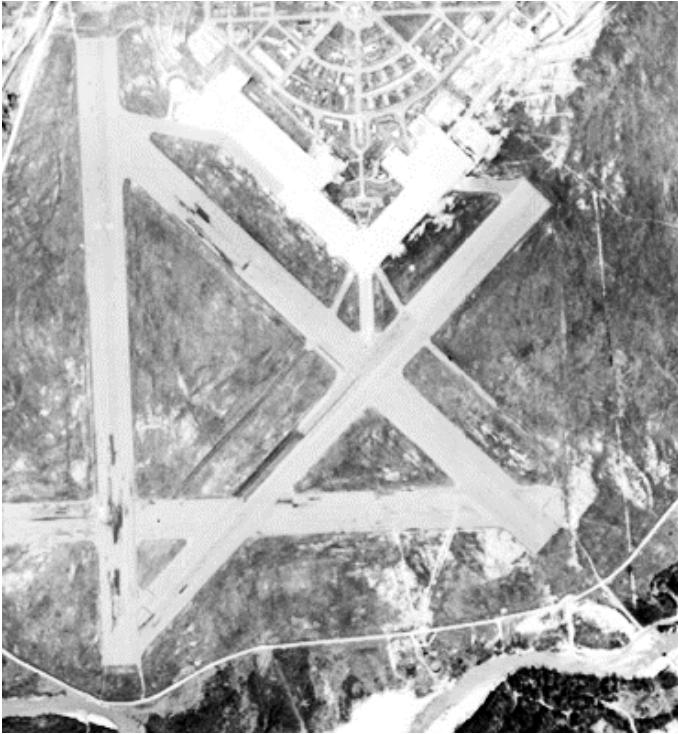


Growing up on the east coast, I was used to old, WWII coastal defense airports that had 5000' long, 150' wide runways. I was expecting the same in Tuskegee. What I found was a single, narrow runway, with weeds growing up through it. The buildings around the airport were obviously old, military constructions, but they, too, looked like they hadn't been maintained since the 1940s. I was extremely disappointed. My impression was that the government had given the black pilots shoddy facilities in order to set them up for failure.

*Continued on page 5...*

Continuation from page 4...

More recently I learned that Sharpe Field, in the day, had four, wide, 5000' runways (above left). With base closures and land redevelopment in the 1960s & 70s, the airport fell onto hard times. By 1994, when I was there, it looked like the photo on the right. Today, even that no longer exists; it's an overgrown, private strip. I'm happy I got to visit this site before it was totally snuffed out.



Rob Bulaga

**4/22/20** Departing KRDD on a beautiful spring morning! My home town and favorite place to visit!

Audrey Brand



# YouTube Video

An awesome video following the Blue Angels and the Thunder Birds as they fly formation over New York City. In case you're looking for something to watch!

[www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)

Link sent in by: Tim Sullivan

**FOR  
RENT**  
*Hangar Space*

The Gordon Family (Cameron Airpark - O61) sold their biplane and now have room in the corner of the hangar for a homebuilt approx. 25' wingspan/21' long. A Pipistrel Virus SW (motor glider) lives in the hangar too.

This is a nice hangar at a private airpark residence. It has a bathroom, electricity, lighting, and a compressor too.

For more information, please contact

Judi Gordon at:

[glennandjudi@gmail.com](mailto:glennandjudi@gmail.com)





# RV-7A Panel Upgrade

It's what in my family is called "As Long as I'm In Here Syndrome". It originated as how, back in the 70's, my brother's replacement of a \$5.75 hydraulic valve lifter morphed into a \$2500 "blueprinted" engine overhaul on his Chevy pickup. In my case, it was the ADS-B mandate, which I'd managed to procrastinate well past the January 1, 2020 deadline (hey, these things don't just not happen, you have to diligently not work at them). I already had one of the older generation Grand Rapids Technologies EFISs with the AHRS and WAAS GPS, which works just fine thank you very much, but my panel only has an older analog dual CHT/EGT temp gauge (a "take-off" from a friend's Lancair panel upgrade, which reliably shows dubious numbers on three out four cylinders, and none of the fourth, most of the time) and just basic oil temp and pressure gauges. After spending a large part of last year's prime flying season chasing down high oil temps that turned out to just be a bad sender unit, I felt it was time to get some engine instrumentation from the current century. I knew GRT had a nice engine information system (EIS) for a reasonable price; turns out they also had a nice ADS-B Out solution that was priced competitively with the mavionix TailBeacon unit.

Oh, and look, *as long as I'm in here*, for a couple of AMU (aviation monetary units) more, I can upgrade to a new, shinier EFIS display too! Sold!

So, with boxes of new goodies in hand, I got out all my old original build records from 2007. Looking at my old "as-built" schematic, I realized much of it should have been labeled "as *not* built" (I'm starting to sense a pattern here). On top of that, when I had printed the old schematic out I'd had, um, "access" to a large drafting plotter that could spit out 36" x 48" paper; now I only have an 11 x 17 printer. I decided to take a couple of days and rework my schematic. That was six weeks and well over a hundred hours of drafting time ago. I'm now finally ready to start cutting metal and try to figure out how to fit ten pounds of gizmos into a five-pound panel. If you get my reference. Tune in next time for an update.



By: Al Herron

# Contacts

## Chapter Board of Directors

### President:

Al Herron (530) 626-4165

E-mail: herronpvf@sbcglobal.net

### Previous President:

Tim Sullivan (530) 417-0761

E-Mail: timpvf@pacbell.net

### Vice President:

Jim Wilson (916) 337-6700

E-Mail: james.wilson.consulting@gmail.com

### Secretary:

Robert Bulaga

### Treasurer:

Judi Gordon (847) 414-7773

E-mail: judieaa512@gmail.com

### General Directors:

Dick Wampach (530) 677-8251

E-Mail: rwampach@att.net

John McPherson (530) 626-4334

E-mail: jgmcplt@pacbell.net

## Chapter Committee Chairmen

### Membership:

Judi Gordon (847) 414-7773

E-mail: judieaa512@gmail.com

### Young Eagles:

Jim Wilson (916) 337-6700

E-Mail: james.wilson.consulting@gmail.com

### Webmaster:

Tim Sullivan (530) 417-0761

E-Mail: timpvf@pacbell.net

### Newsletter Editor:

Helen Brand (530) 306-3205

E-mail: more\_right\_rudder@yahoo.com

Scholarship Chair: New committee

### EAA Flight Advisor:

Hal Stephens (530) 263-3699

E-mail: arohal@comcast.net

### EAA Technical Counselor FAASTeam Coordinator:

Dick Wampach (530) 677-8251

E-Mail: rwampach@att.net

# Things

## Canceled

- May General Meeting
- June Pancake Breakfast
- Oshkosh 2020
- Shaking Hands

# Things

## Pending

- July Pancake Breakfast
- Things to Do N' Ads
- My Sanity

# Things

## To Do

- All things Aviation
- 
-

**EAA Chapter 512**  
**Monthly Board of Directors**  
**May 13, 2020**  
**Minutes**

Meeting called to order at: 7:08 p.m. by: Al Herron

**Board Members Present (Online Meeting):**

✓ Al Herron, <i>President</i>	✓ John McPherson, <i>General Director</i>
✓ Jim Wilson, <i>Vice President</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Dave Lugert, <i>General Director</i>
✓ Judi Gordon, <i>Treasurer</i>	✓ Tim Sullivan, <i>Past President</i>
✓ Rob Bulaga, <i>Secretary</i>	

**Business from the Floor, Changes to Agenda** - none

**Approval of Minutes** – approved; 5 – Ayes, 1 - Abstain

**Board Member Reports**

➤ **Al Herron – President**

- COVID-19 risk assessment & activity justification – Since the Corona virus is highly contagious, there is no vaccine, and there is no treatment, we will continue to severely limit Chapter activities.
- Annual budget – A rough draft of a proposed 5-year plan was presented. Board members are asked to review it and get back to Al with comments and suggestions. The budget includes projects previously discussed and laid out. In order to properly fund these projects, the timelines and priorities have been reset.
- Tool locker – The Chapter needs a tool locker/cabinet large enough to house our new scales. This needs to be a secure locker. The Board has earmarked \$350 for its purchase.
- Refrigerator – In order to provide more space, we are looking to sell our two refrigerators and replace them with a single unit that is “refrigerator only”. We will retain our freezer unit.

➤ **Jim Wilson – Vice President**

- Pancake breakfast – The June Pancake Breakfast has been cancelled. We will re-evaluate the July breakfast, but there is a good chance that all breakfasts for this season will be cancelled. El Dorado county has provided a list of requirements for restaurants to reopen. We are not a restaurant. We are considered a Public Event. Public Events have not been approved yet.
- Internet access in hangar – The airport’s new Wifi system is up and running. It’s use is primarily for airport surveillance and security. It cannot support high speed internet service in our hangar. We will continue to investigate ways to get internet for our Chapter.
- Kitchen area – We have a new stainless serving cart that will be assembled shortly. Since Pancake Breakfasts are on an indefinite hold, we will postpone purchasing and installing a hood over the cooking area.
- Bob O’Hara Memorial Rescheduling – Per Bob’s daughter’s request, Bob’s Memorial has been rescheduled for October 10<sup>th</sup>.
- Ray Aviation Scholarship – Our Chapter has been approved for a Ray Aviation Scholarship. Our candidate for this scholarship is Andrew Gordon, who will use the award to get his Sport Pilot License. Andrew still needs to complete the application. We will aid him in this endeavor.
- October 20 General Meeting – We will try to have next week’s meeting via Zoom. Judy Gordon will try to arrange a presentation by David Shelton, who has developed a large, belly cargo pod for his aircraft.



➤ **Judi Gordon – Treasurer, Membership**

- Banking account balances:
  - Cash and checks on hand: \$730.80
  - Chase Checking 6001: \$15,014.58 (of which \$5,705.70 is earmarked for scholarship funds)
  - Chase Savings 8668: \$2,922.01 (Airport security account held in trust. Not property of EAA 512)
  - Total as of 4/30/2020: \$15,745.38 plus \$2,921.94 in Airport Security Account.
- Zenith Tail Kit – A tail kit that fits a Zenith 650B or 750, has been donated to the Chapter by one of Judy's neighbors. This kit is worth \$800-\$1000. Listing the kit for sale has gotten one interested person, from the east coast. Shipping to the east coast will cost \$500-\$600. We will continue to look for other customers.
- Headsets – Skywagons has offered to donate a "tub of headsets" to the Chapter. Presumably, they have already tried to sell these headsets, with no luck. Since most of our pilots already have headsets and there isn't a big market for used headsets, we have declined their offer.
- Receipts for 2019 - \$15,061.62. This number is required for IRS reporting.
- Quarterly Financial Report – Judy presented the Profit/Loss report for the first quarter of 2020.
- Membership List – We reviewed and updated the Chapter Membership List. At this time we have 93 Group Memberships. 58 are paid up, 35 have not yet paid their annual dues. The 58 paid up memberships represent 107 people.
- Reimbursements – The Chapter will reimburse Jim Wilson for his \$15/month expense for Zoom meetings.

➤ **Tim Sullivan – Past President**

- Web site – The new web site is up and running, <https://chapters.eaa.org/ea512>.
- Balcony Renovation – Tim will continue designing and pricing out the new balcony railing.

**Committee Reports**

- **Dick Wampach - IMC/VMC** - Dick will be stepping down as the IMC/VMC coordinator. For the near term, we will investigate participating in Zoom meetings with other chapters. Once gatherings are allowed again, we will see about getting a new host for our meetings.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:49 p.m. by: Al Herron**