

PROPWASH

Newsletter of EAA Chapter 517, Inc.



December 2010

Western Montana's Aviation Newsletter

President's Message



During this season of gratitude and giving, I believe it is important for EAA 517 members to acknowledge how very lucky we are to have a heated chapter hangar, 47 active members, a steady income stream, and a supportive aviation community. Your EAA 517 Board of Directors shares this belief and voted unanimously at the Nov. 4th Board Meeting to donate \$250 to each of the six other EAA chapters in Montana. These checks have been written and mailed. One chapter, however, declined our donation because they are in very good shape financially.

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Celebration of Flight

When: December 17, 2010

Where: Holiday Inn Downtown Missoula

What: MPA Five Valleys Hosted Open Bar 1800 Hours

What Next: Dinner 1830 hours

What Else: White Elephant Gift Exchange

How Much: \$24.00 per Person

Please mail your check ASAP to:

EAA 517, PO Box 16446, Missoula 59808

Questions Call: Sherry 544-6182

Builder's Report

Co-Z

Hank Butzel - Cozy Mark IV - 5%

Glasair

Allen Burruss - FT S-II - 90%

Engine hung, preparing to mate wing and fuselage.

Piper Exp.

Brad Condra - Stretched Pacer 50%

Rand Robinson Eng.

Kris Leirfallon KR-2 - 40%

Rutan

Ed Lovrien - Limo-Easy - 25%

Sonex

Layre Parkins - Waix - 30%

Wings are done.

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Prez Sez

The Board also voted to help sponsor an exhibit booth at the 2011 Montana Aviation Conference in Helena. The idea is for all MT EAA chapters to share the expense and staffing of this booth as a way to attract new members and educate others about amateur built aircraft.

The Board also voted to amend the Chapter Bylaws so that the positions of President and Vice-President will be elected in even years (2012, 2014, etc.) and the positions of Secretary and Treasurer will be elected in odd years (2011, etc.) If you would like a copy of the Chapter Bylaws, please contact me and I'll e-mail a copy to you.

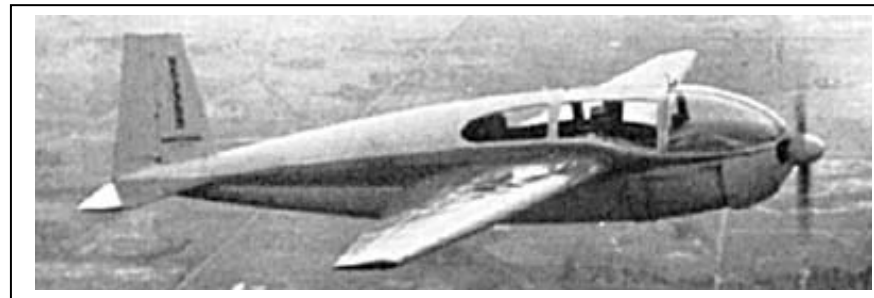
And, finally, a big thank you to Jeff Vercoe of the FAA's FAAST team for an informative presentation on certifying amateur built aircraft. The question and answer session after the presentation was especially useful and touched on many topics of interest to our members.

Until next month . . .

Sherry

Mystery Plane No More!

In November you saw a picture of our PropWash mystery plane. The airplane is the Thalman Aircraft Corporation T-4 Midwing. It was designed by Harry Thalman who had hopes of developing and certifying the Midwing as a four place production cross country traveler. Mr. Thalman was invited to bring his airplane to Missoula for the September 16, 1956, Western Montana Aviation Day. Mr. Thalman declined the invitation but requested an invitation for the 1957 event. I have found no record whether there was a 1957 event or if the Midwing was in attendance, if there was.



Thalman Aircraft Corporation T-4 Midwing

Harry Thalman designed and flew his first aircraft, the 60 Hp Thalman T-1, in 1935. This was followed by the Thalman T-2 (no information on this airplane) and then the 55 Hp Thalman T-3 in 1941.

Mr. Thalman designed the T-4 Midwing in 1949 using the 135 Hp Lycoming O-290 engine and through several modifications ended up with a 170 Hp Lycoming O-340 engine. The airframe was of all wood "geodetic" construction and the last variation had a "T" tail.

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Builder's Report (cont)

Van's RVs

John Barba - RV-6

Frank Bretz - RV-9A - 90%

Bryan Douglass - RV-10 - 65%
Continuing to work on the fiberglass components. Engine will be ordered this month.

Zenith

Laurens Ackerman - CH-601-50%

Ray Aten - CH-601 - 80%
The wings have been completed and the wings have been re-installed.

Terry Philips - CH-601 4%

Steve Rossiter - CH-750 - 49%
The propeller has arrived.

See Pictures Page 4



Thalman T-3

Mr. Thalman's focus was to develop a fast and efficient airplane for personal use and training. The unusual "Tear Drop" fuselage was blended with the midwing so the fuselage would contribute "its full share of lift." In the final version the company claimed the airplane would cruise at 165 MPH on 150 Hp while using 8 gallons of fuel per hour. The airplane carried a 5 hour fuel supply. The claim is the airplane would climb at 1,250 feet per minute.

As you can see in the pictures, the windshield extends to the nose of the airplane giving it a totally symmetrical fuselage shape. The designer felt this added significantly to reduced drag and increased efficiency. The windshield does open providing access to the engine compartment. This airplane was designed in the days when the tail wheel was still king, so the retractable tricycle gear with nose wheel steering were innovative features.

The airplane also used an "airline type throttle lever" which was unusual in general aviation airplanes of the time. Another unique feature was folding wings, which reduced the wing span from 40 feet to 23 feet for hangar storage. The airplane would almost qualify today as a "motor glider."



Factory Brochure

The Thalman T-4 Midwing represents another noble effort to introduce innovation to the general aviation community that fell short of actual production. There is no indication that a Type Certificate was ever issued and the only FAA record shows it as an Amateur Built Experimental aircraft. It appears that Harry Thalman passed away in the mid 1960s. The last sighting of the Thalman Aircraft Corporation's T-4 Midwing was also in the mid 1960s and FAA records show the registration as "revoked."

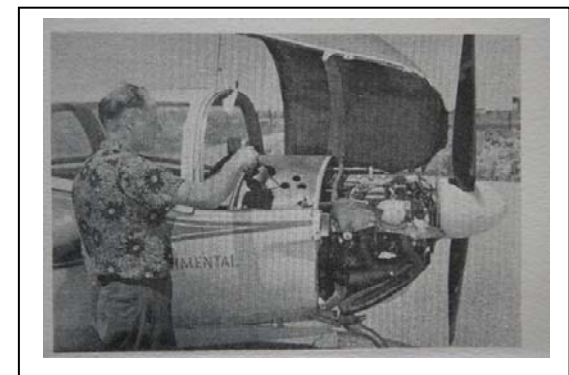
The letters between the Thalman Aircraft Corporation and the 1956 Missoula aviation

committee and the original Thalman Aircraft Corporation factory brochure are on file with the Museum of Mountain Flying, who loaned the material to me for this article.



Thalman Midwing 4 Pax & Bags

How You Get To Engine





Project Pictures



L. Akerman Zenith 601 Wing & Horizontal Tail



**Allen Burruss Glasair
With Engine Installed**

1997 Starduster Too For Sale
Contact Steve Rossiter
406 529-1601

Are You Seeing This Often Enough?



Missoula RW 29 Short Final

If you aren't getting out often enough to fly, you're not seeing this very often. This was taken by Dave Bell on a recent trip in a local Beech Bonanza. Many of us aren't seeing this often enough.

Will Rogers Wisdom

Never slap a man who's chewing tobacco.

Never kick a cow chip on a hot day.

There are two theories about arguing with women. Neither one works.

Never miss a good chance to shut up.

Always drink upstream of the heard.

If you find yourself in a hole, stop digging.

Lettn' the cat outta the bag is a whole lot easier'n puttn' it back.

NEW YOUNG EAGLES COORDINATOR SOUGHT

Our current Young Eagles (YE) coordinator, Gary Weyermann, has notified the Board that he would like to step down from this position. This is a key position for our Chapter and involves serving on the Board of Directors as well as coordinating YE events. Whoever serves in this position does not need to be a pilot or even own an airplane, but does need to be organized and calm under pressure. The YE Coordinator is responsible for filing the proper insurance paperwork (a one page form) with EAA national prior to any YE event, for lining up eligible EAA member pilots to fly the children, and for making sure volunteers are available to help with the ground operation. If you think you might have an interest, but want more information, please contact either Gary Weyermann at 546-8488 or Sherry Rossiter at 544-6182.

Other Bits of Wisdom

We never really grow up, we only learn how to act in public.

I asked God for a bike for Christmas, but I know God doesn't work that way. So I stole a bike and asked God for forgiveness.



EAA CHAPTER 517

Contacts

Web Site

www.eaa517.org

President

Sherry Rossiter
406 544-6182

Vice President

Jim Younkin
406 240-4024

Secretary

Duane Shinn
406 777-3184

Treasurer

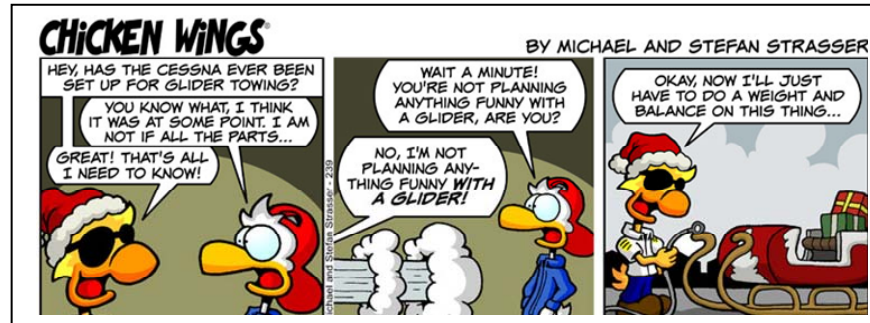
Edi Stan
406 829-3609

Young Eagles

Gary Weyermann
406 546-8488

Propwash Editor

Steve Rossiter
406 529-1601



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Do You Have Your Fly The Big Sky License Plate Yet?

2011 Dues Time

2010 is about to run out. In one month we will be writing 2011 on our checks. Speaking of checks, it's not too early to write you check for your 2011 EAA Chapter 517 chapter dues. Dues remain \$20.00 for individuals and \$30.00 for family. Please make your check payable to EAA Chapter 517, Inc., and mail to our Treasurer Edi Stan at PO Box 18264, Missoula, MT 59808.

CALANDER

Celebration of Flight
December 17, 1800 Hours
Holiday Inn Downtown

Next Regular Meeting
January 17, 1900 Hours
Movie Night
"Red Skies Of Montana"

Mid-Winter Chili Tasting
To Be Announced
January or February



Monty Ground Guiding
Horizon's Griz Special On
Its First Missoula Trip

