

FEBRUARY 2018

PROPWASH

A NEWSLETTER OF EAA CHAPTER 517, INC.



From the chapter president



Steve Rossiter

One month down, eleven to go. The rest of 2018 is going to be exciting! We have our Annual Chili Feed coming up this month and the first three days of next month is the Montana State Aviation Conference. With the AOPA Regional Fly-in happening in June, this year will go fast. With any luck, the fire season will be kind to us and allow for way more flying than last year.

Our first ever Saturday hangar flying and donuts and coffee session was a spectacular hit (more elsewhere in the PropWash). As a member organization, your Board of Directors can't cover everything, so member help is needed to assure the continued success of our organization. We need volunteers for the Aviation Conference. Also, more about that below.

Our regular January Chapter meeting was a disappointment. Because there were only four members present. The upside was that we had enough soup and those there had a good time. The last installment of the Dream of Flight was very interesting because those of us there actually saw the events



depicted. That was scary that we lived in what is now considered aviation history.

Later this month I will be sending out a survey to all members. We haven't done that in a few years and the time has come to check the pulse of the membership about how we can improve activities for you. Please

respond when you get it: we need the help to better determine the direction of the Chapter.

That's it for now. Let's make 2018 the best year ever for EAA Chapter 517.

*Be safe,
Steve*



ANNOUNCEMENTS

The EAA 517 Annual Mid-Winter Chili Feed

The annual mid-winter Chili Feed will be on Saturday, February 17, 2018, starting at 1200 hours ending when we run out of chili or around 1500 hours at the EAA hangar in Missoula. Please get out your favorite chili recipe and start preparing. Please contact me to let me know by e-mail or text, if you are bringing a pot of chili. This will allow us to plan on what will be needed for setup. We will let other chapters know what we are doing as well as the Missoula aviation community. That means we won't likely have too much chili. Remember, historically, the chili feed is almost as much fun as the Wright Brothers Dinner. Because of this event, there will not be a Chapter meeting on Monday, February 19.

Volunteers Needed March 1, 2 & 3

Volunteers are still needed to help man the booth at the Aviation Conference. We need staffing at the booth to sell fundraising raffle ticket for two different raffles. Several of us on the Board of Directors will be tied up with other hosting duties, so we won't be available. Please let Sherry Rossiter know when you would be available so she can develop a schedule. She can be contacted at ssrossiter@aol.com or by phone or text at 406 544-6182. We will have credential to get the duty volunteers into the conference. Thanks.

Fly The Big Sky

We now have many new EAA Chapter 517 members. It is time again to talk about EAA Chapter 517's "Fly The Big Sky" specialty license plate. The Chapter initiated this program in 2006 and since then we receive a check from the state each month at the rate of \$20 per plate sold or renewed. This income has allowed the Chapter to provide more scholarships each year than any other

organization in the state. Of course, this income also helps support such things as Young Eagles and other youth and adult education events.

It is our hope that each of our Chapter members has at least one "Fly The Big Sky" plate for the vehicles they own. It is wonderful when all the vehicles in one family are sporting this plate. All of us who "Fly The Big Sky" should be proud and brag about it on your vehicle license plate.

You don't have to wait until your normal license renewal cycle to get your "Fly The Big Sky" plate. You can go to your local county treasurer's office to get the plate. They will collect the fees and you will keep your normal renewal cycle. The state has a one-time fee above the \$20 they send the Chapter, so be aware.

So, if you don't have a plate, please help support the Chapter programs and get yours today. The more of these license plates that are on the road, the more aware the general public is about Montana general aviation. This is always a good thing.

For Sale

1 LightSpeed Thirty 3G headset and 1 LightSpeed 25XL headset. Buy one or both. MAKE OFFER. Call Judy Kline at 406-370-4727.

Ladies Love Taildraggers offering scholarships

The Ladies Love Taildraggers organization is providing six scholarships for women by women – all to train women to get a taildragger endorsement, learn aerobatics or mountain flying. Most of the scholarships include travel expenses. Must be female, at least 18 years of age by May 1, 2018; hold a minimum of a sport pilot certificate; write a short post about your prior training experience; and be passionate about tail dragging. Deadline to apply online is midnight February 28, 2018.



Calendar of Events

February 17, 2018 – 1200 – 1500

Annual Mid-Winter Chili Tasting
Place: Missoula Hangar

February 19, 2018

No Regular Chapter meeting
March 1, 2018

No Aviation History / Movie
Night

March 1-3, 2018 – 1200

Annual Montana Aviation
Conference
Place: Missoula Holiday Inn
Downtown
EAA Chapter 517 is a co-host and
exhibitor

March 3, 2018

No Coffee and Donuts event

March 19, 2018 – 1800

Regular Chapter meeting – Details
pending

April 16, 2018 – 1800

Regular Chapter meeting – Details
pending

May 21, 2018 – 1800

Regular Chapter meeting – Details
pending

June 15-16, 2018 – All Day

AOPA Regional Fly-in
Missoula International Airport

June 19, 2018 – 1800

Regular Chapter meeting – Details
pending

July 18, 2018 – 1800

Regular Chapter meeting – Details

pending

August 20, 2018 – 1800

Regular Chapter meeting
Details pending

September 17, 2018 – 1800

Regular Chapter meeting
Details pending

October 15, 2018 – 1800

Regular Chapter meeting
Details pending

November 19, 2018 – 1800

Regular Chapter meeting
Details pending

December 17, 2018

Annual Wright Brothers Dinner
Details pending

Movie and Aviation History Night

By Steve Rossiter

We have now had three successful movie night gatherings. However, I think we could have improved attendance. Those of us who have participated have had a good time discussing the movies, laughing at the errors, and going over the history they sometimes depict. It appears that doing this on the first Thursday of the month may not be the best night. I'm concerned that members may not yet have read the PropWash and don't remember the event is happening.

The Board of Directors has decided to change Movie Night to the second Wednesday of each month to help assure members have a little more lead time. In February, we will have the movie night on Wednesday February 14, 2018. The movie is the Ernest Gann classic story

and movie "The High and the Mighty" with John Wayne and Robert Stack. How can we possibly go wrong with a movie which includes the Duke? This event is at 1800 hours at the MSO hangar and we will have popcorn and soft drinks.

Oh boy! As my wife was proof reading this she penciled in the following: "And how is this supposed to make the wives happy?" Well OK, so it is Valentines Day.

So here's my idea, invite your wife out to a movie and any wife that doesn't want to watch the movie can join my wife in the tower where they will drink a little wine and visit. When we see how many people are there, we can even order a pizza. Guys, does that sound like a good idea, or what?



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BUILDER'S REPORT

Glassair

Allen Burruss

FT S-II – 100%

Phase one flight test complete!

RANS

Dan Dixon

S7S Courier – 15%

Rutan

Ed Lovrien

Limo EZ – 50%

Sonex

Larye Parkins

Waix – 30%

Van's RV

John Barba

RV-6

Zenith

Duane Felstet

CH-750 75%

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Builders, please send updates to the newsletter editor at cburson@gmail.com so this list can be kept current.

Share thoughts on alternating meetings

By the 517 Board of Directors

Since 2002, EAA Chapter 517 has alternated the monthly Chapter meeting between Missoula (MSO) and the Chapter hangar in Stevensville (32S). The primary reason for this was to share the travel time load when attending meetings. The Bitterroot members would only need to travel to MSO every other month and the northern members would only have to travel to 32S every other month. Everyone was showing consideration for others. Good idea! We are a very unique EAA Chapter by accommodating members in this manner.

Unfortunately, for the last few years the Board of Directors has

noted a drop off in attendance at our Stevensville meetings. More often than not, more northern members showed up at the Stevensville meeting than Bitterroot members. Not a good situation.

One of the things the Chapter recently did was to reconfigure the EAA trailer so that it would be easy to have everything needed in the trailer for a meeting at either location. This included tables, chairs, grills, and everything needed for a meal event. Thus the trailer has become our “Chuck Wagon.” When we made the trip with the trailer, for the most part, we didn’t need tables and chairs for the Stevensville meeting because our attendance didn’t exceed the number of people

that could be accommodated with the tables in the 32S hangar.

Some of the members of the Board have been pressing to stop the alternate meeting practice due to the lack of interest. Other Board members have wanted to continue to meet the commitment made to members concerning alternating meeting locations.

At the January meeting in Stevensville there were only four people present, two members from the Bitterroot and two from Missoula, both Board members. What should we do? You will have the opportunity to share your thought in the upcoming survey.





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