

PULSAR FLY IN

by Tom Gibbons

I recently attended a reunion of Pulsar builders and flyers held in Lawrence, KS over the weekend of September 19-20. I have not attended this in quite some time but boy was it enjoyable to go to it again. Just to set the story right, I have been working on my experimental aircraft, the Pulsar since October 1990. Yes you heard right, 1990!! I guess I don't know what made it such a slow project all these years except to say life just got in the way! At one time I remember posting something in our newsletter about selling it but never got a hit which was a good thing because I relented and never thought about it again. I think, dream and look at it almost everyday as I love this little airplane. Anyways, on to our recent fly in.



The fly in starts on Thursday afternoon with arrivals at the airport and then head to our hotel for refreshments and pizza and lots of Pulsar talk. People come from all over the states and we even had one from New Zealand and I think England in past years. They either have built and are flying there planes or have purchased a kit from another builder. Some have bought a flying Pulsar and have come to find out more about. With the later

more popular nowadays as many have changed hands a few times.

The next day starts at 8AM sharp in the hotel conference room to begin the first of many presentations. Greg Smith who was the main person to get this going in 1998 after the original manufacturer sold off the business starts off with a nice welcome and then we go around the room introducing ourselves. It helps as we can hook up with the ones who sparks our interest as to finding out information needed. Then the next was a nice presentation from a representative from Garmin whose main office was nearby in KS. He talked about their line up of avionics for experimental aircraft.

Then Greg talked about some of the safety recommendations that need to adhere to on the aircraft. There was also a fun presentation from a Pulsar pilot who was an F15C Air Force pilot and he described his action and missions during the early 1990's over Iraq. Fun time.

Another fun presentation was from Uncle Bob, as we call him, from California. He used to work for a major aerospace company and he is our technology guy for composites and metals. He starts off with fun stories that makes us laugh then gets into his recommendations for various fixes and ideas.

There are other presentations from other people and all was good. Of course we broke for nice lunches and even dinners both Friday and Saturday and you know what that means in Kansas, BBQ! Great meats and ribs for good meals.

Saturday morning we are up early and head to the airport to look at some Pulsars and maybe get in some flights. As you can see we had one RV6 and an RV10 come in to which are/were builders. What a difference in size when you compare



a Pulsar to RV10! Yikes! It was raining that morning so not good for flights but all good walking around talking to builders and flyers about their projects. I for one found out a neat solution to adding hydraulic brakes to my plane that previously has band brakes.

Lunch was served in the FBO that and finally a little break in the weather to which





three planes left. The plan was to head to the Amelia Earhart museum on the airport in Atchison, KS and many of us did. It is possible to fly to it but the runway was down for work so all had to drive. It was about an hours drive there but fun for me talking to friend of mine, Ray, who drove there. Another friend Jim, was going to ride with us but as usual he wanted to give rides to whom ever wanted one. Always SO kind in that way. The museum was nice and enjoyable. Then we headed back for some beers at a near by Mexican restaurant to chat with some of the gang. Then back to the hotel for a nice, BBQ rib dinner and then presentation of awards to those who flew in. We also talked about the future of this fly in as it has shrunk in recent years due to the Pulsar being as old as it is and not being produced anymore since about 2008 or so.

All in all it was good to be back and seeing some familiar faces and talking and having fun with everyone. The Pulsar may be a small little plane but the looks and performance of it sure make it a wonderful plane as a tested to many people. I just hope we continue to see more of them and of course.....FINISH MINE!

Tom Gibbons

Pulsar 1 with a Jabiru 2200.

