

EAA Chapter 565 General Membership Meeting February 7, 2024

Attendees - 40 members, 1 guest

The meeting was called to order by President McClure at 7pm with the Pledge of Allegiance

Glenn Hansen introduced himself as a guest. He recently moved to Punta Gorda from Maryland. He doesn't own an airplane at the present time, but does rent.

Our guest, Rob Fulton was introduced.

Rob served in the Army in the 1st cavalry in Vietnam as a Cobra Helicopter Pilot and flew over 300 missions. He flies both helicopters and fixed wing aircraft and spent time in Alaska flying helicopters in the logging industry. He also flew DC-9's, and was an EMS helicopter pilot for 10 years. To say that he has a very diversified aviation career would be an understatement.

Rob related in detail his experiences in Alaska's Lost River in the Bering Straits flying a Bell 47 helicopter as well as a Cessna 185 and the various situations that he found himself in during that part of his career. He's written a book entitled "Up in the Air, A Pilot's Journey". His presentation was very interesting and well received.

Ken Hill gave a treasurer's report and stated that for the last month we're in the black. We had large bills that were paid for the annual EAA Chapter renewal as well as insurance that is required by the EAA national office. The income generated from members dues, as well as the breakfasts and dinners covered our expenses for the month.

Don Willecke asked that anyone that hasn't yet paid their 2024 chapter dues to please do so when possible. He's updating the membership roster.

Scott Sorensen reported that the photos from the FFAST presentation are now on the web site.

Dick Solar made a very interesting safety presentation on accident statistics. Between 2020 and 2021 the number of accidents increased from 1050 to 1124, however the amount of hours flown increased as well, as more people are flying more hours. Approximately 18% of the accidents are fatal. Most accidents occur in daytime VMC and 70% are pilot related. Loss of control is the greatest cause of accidents, and the greatest loss of control occurs when making the base to final turn. Weather related accidents have also increased. Of the 12 VMC into IMC accidents that occurred, 11 were fatal. It's very important to avoid these situations, and if the turn to final is off at all - go around. It may save your life.

Larry reported on the FFAST presentation that was held at Chapter 565 on January 20. There has been a lot of great feedback on the event, which addressed communication with ATC as well as non-towered airports. The event was well attended and received.

It was reported that the January Pancake Breakfast was an attendance record breaker. Those that regularly volunteer to make it a success were recognized including Ken Hill, Ray Ryan, Regina Dugas, Carol Ayers, and Don and Sue Willecke. The next Pancake breakfast will be held on Saturday, February 10th from 8 - 10am. The cost is \$8 pp.

The January Member dinner was also a huge success and those that made it possible were also thanked. In fact, the member dinners are so popular that future dinners will be capped at a maximum of 50 people to keep the room from being too crowded. The next Member Dinner will be held on Saturday February 17, with the social hour starting at 5pm and dinner at 6pm. The cost is \$15 pp and will consist of Ribs from Wally's as well as baked beans and potato salad. The sign up list was pretty well full by the end of the meeting.

Members and guests are invited to coffee and donuts every Saturday morning at the EAA 565 HQ from 8 - 10am. This is a well attended weekly event with lots of good conversation.

The Florida International Airshow has given our Chapter a check for \$2000 to recognize the volunteers that worked at the airshow from our EAA building. The Airshow recently held a thank you event for volunteers that volunteered directly through the airshow at the Military Heritage Museum. Our Chapter is hosting a thank you luncheon on February 24 for members that volunteered through our Chapter.

It was announced that our Chapter is providing a \$500 scholarship to a deserving student of the Charlotte Technical College High School Aviation Maintenance Program. The school does a great job of training aviation mechanics, but some students have a hard time financially, and hopefully this scholarship will help one student make ends met.

Our Chapter is also donating \$100 to the United Way in conjunction with the Airport's "Aviation Gives Back" campaign. It's a worthy cause, and more information can be found on the airport web site.

The ongoing construction on Golf Course Blvd (north of the Sheriff's office) will become the new airport maintenance facility. The remains of the old facility next to our building will be moved there when completed.

It's also been reported that construction at the restaurant in the Air Center is nearly complete and the restaurant is slated to open sometime in March.

The next Membership meeting will be held on March 6th at 7pm. Please plan to attend if you want to sign up for the March Membership dinner, as the list fills up fast.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Don Willecke, Secretary