

EAA Chapter 565

General Membership Meeting

March 5, 2025

Attendees - 40 Members, 4 guests - Scott Sorenson's brother, Greg and his Lady Alice Straka (both from Wisconsin), and Bruce Armstrong's son Aaron, and his grandson .

The meeting was called to order at 1900 by President McClure with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Treasurer Ken Hill reported that for the first quarter of 2025 the Chapter had a net gain of \$4,036, and we currently have a balance of \$19,033 in the bank. Ken also reported that the Civil Air patrol has paid their bill of \$1,200 for 2024 rent of our building, and there was a member that generously donated \$2,000 to the Chapter. Thank you!

Secretary Don Willecke reiterated that the 2025 dues should be paid, since the last day to pay them and remain in good standing is April 1. If a member is not in good standing, then they will not be able to attend the ever popular member dinners, the Christmas party, and may be dropped from the membership roll. If you haven't yet paid, please do so now. An email was sent out to all that have not yet paid their dues - so please get them in before April 1!

President McClure once again asked for a volunteer to step up and help out with the maintenance duties around the Chapter building. These duties would include mowing the grass when the sod is laid down, as well as small maintenance tasks as they arise. If there is not a member that's willing to do the job, then we will have to look at having this hired out - and as a result there may have to be a mid year increase in the dues. Even if two or three members would volunteer to split up the duties it wouldn't be that big a job. The maintenance people would have to be members that are here in the summer to be able to mow in the rainy season when the grass will be growing quickly. If anyone might be willing to help out - please contact Larry.

Larry also again brought up the subject of our Chapter's potential involvement in the EAA young eagles program. There is some interest from a few of our members to fly young eagles, but there really hasn't been any interest from any member to organize and run the program. EAA Chapter 66 has said that they can help set up the program for us, so we wouldn't be organizing the program from square one. If nobody volunteers to take charge of the program, then there really isn't enough interest to have a young eagles program in our Chapter. If anyone wants to step up and take charge of the program, please contact Larry and we can establish a program in our Chapter.

Larry also updated the Membership on the status of several members that are ill. Doug Williams was improving and may be back in the area, but Larry couldn't get in touch with him before the meeting. Charlie Melot is still in assisted living, and any members that would like to visit him are encouraged to do so. Dennis Kirk, who is recovering from a stroke, continues to improve and is still in a wheelchair but is getting hydrotherapy and is planning on moving back into their home next to the Navi-Gator. He is the owner of the Navi-Gator bar and grill. Jeff Sherwood's wife Betty recently passed away. Jeff and Betty were planning on attending our last member dinner (chili), but Betty wasn't feeling well so Jeff attended alone. When he went home he found that Betty had passed away. Her funeral was held on March 4th in Louisville. Please keep Jeff, Dennis, Charlie, and Doug in your thoughts and prayers.

Scott Sorenson reported that Tommy Cowan asked to put an ad on the website looking for anyone that has a tug to sell. The ad is posted, and if anyone knows of a tug for sale for a Diamond DA40, please contact Tommy.

Dick Solar gave another very interesting presentation - this time on 3 "Aviation Myths". The three Myths deal with the effects of a headwind, lift opposes weight, and the "dangerous" downwind turn. Some common beliefs about these three things are not necessarily true and it made for some interesting discussion.

The membership was reminded of the Saturday morning coffee group at the Chapter building. We meet at 0800 until about 1000 with coffee and donuts. The conversation is always interesting and different. Check it out!

This coming Saturday (March 8) is the monthly pancake breakfast. It's open to any that would like to attend and enjoy great pancakes, sausage, eggs, coffee and juice. The cost is \$8 per person and is always popular. Breakfast is served from 0800-1000. Mark your calendar!

The next Member Dinner will be held on Saturday, March 15. The menu will include ribs, coleslaw, and cornbread from Wally's in Port Charlotte, as well as appetizers, side dishes and desserts brought by the attendees. The cost is \$15 per person to be paid at the door. You must sign up for this event in order to attend, and be a member of EAA 565. The sign up sheet was passed around at the membership Meeting, and if you weren't able to attend the membership meeting but would still like to attend - please contact Larry. The dinner is restricted to 50 people. Happy hour (BYOB) is from 1700 to 1800, with dinner being served at 1800. This is always a very popular event and is always a great evening spent with friends.

Sun n Fun will be held this year at Lakeland Airport from April 1-6 and the cost is \$45 per person per day for EAA members, and \$50 for the general public. Florida residents can attend on Sunday, April 6 (the last day of the event) for \$35. Parking is \$20 per day at the door, or \$12 per day in advance online.

The maintenance building in the area where we used to park is coming right along, and when completed will store airport equipment and have two 12' doors facing the ramp. There are also possible plans for a hangar north of the new maintenance building (where the old self serve pumps were) for a large hangar to house a Boeing 737. There are big changes underway at our little (not so little anymore) airport.

There being no more business, the meeting was adjourned at 1950.

Respectfully Submitted,

Don Willecke, Secretary