



## EAA Chapter 595 March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020

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### Minutes / Meeting of EAA Chapter 595 Rio Grande Valley

#### *April Announcements*

##### Birthdays

##### Anniversaries

#### *May Announcements*

##### Birthdays

##### Anniversaries

#### **NOTICE**

**Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic and the “Shelter in Place” order, the EAA Chapter 595 monthly meetings have been canceled until further notice.**

#### *Events*

President Don Schwanke called the meeting to the @11:02a.m. at Gulf Aviation in Harlingen, Texas with 18 members and 3 guests present. Since quorum was met official business was enabled.

The members present were as follows:

Don Schwanke	Phil Bowers	Byron Engle
Geneda Schwanke	Carol Heiser	Bob Heiser
Braxton Hornbuckle	Robert Silva	Jerry Gifford
Shirley Gifford	Cindy Vasquez	Monty Vasquez
Shirlene Jenkins	Merle Jenkins	Larry Wheelock
Ted Miller Jr.	Harvey Schneider	Robert Carter

The three guests were Able Gonzalez and his mom Rocio Gonzalez from Brownsville. Able is very interested in becoming a pilot. Our other guest was Ms Chris Elliot who accompanied Ted Miller Jr. Chris is from Indiana and is a retired flight attendant. Welcome to our chapter meeting Chris, Able and Rocio.



After intros Don asked Byron Engle for the treasurer’s report and the chapter is solvent. Jerry Gifford moved to accept treasurer’s report and seconded by Harvey Schneider. Motion carried.

#### **New Business:**

EAA recognized our chapter this month. Don received a letter saying that our Young Eagles program flew so many people and we were getting a check for \$140.00, which was a mistake, because it was only supposed to be for \$70.00. Ted Miller asked how the money is



generated and Don didn’t really know but in addition to the \$70.00 Byron could get reimbursement for fuel at a Phillips 66 fuel depot, but we don’t have any here locally. Byron also mentioned that he does get a discount at the Edinburg airport when Debora Pinto is there, but sometimes she isn’t available. Arlene Garza is also offering a

discount to all EAA members, so we really need to support her because we are allowed to use the meeting room every other month free of charge at Gulf Aviation.

Ted Miller then suggested since Byron is unable to get compensation, the chapter could give Byron \$70.00 for all of his efforts as the Young Eagles coordinator. Don asked if anyone would second and Jerry Gifford moved and motion carried. Byron said that he feels he enjoys the flights more than his passengers. He loves it! Thanks to Byron for always being such an awesome and amazing pilot and keeping the youth enthused in aviation! Mil gracias Sr. Byron!



Jerry Gifford asked the membership if anyone had heard of the Wright Flight program and proceeded to explain that it's a really big thing in Kansas. A retired general from the Air Force started it years ago. There are lessons for students and it comes with a workbook and the organization is very similar to the Young Eagles program, but is not affiliated with EAA. One year they asked Jerry to fly some students and they paid for 5 gallons of fuel for each student and Jerry took up a total of 12 that year. Don said it is recognized by EAA, even though it's not a part of the organization.



Vice President Phil Bowers asked Don if there was an update on the Ford Tri-Motor and Don said he's heard nothing yet. Don said they do that in a 2-part sequence where Florida is the first part and the second part is Texas. They are trying to work something out so we can take advantage of the winter Texans while they are here before they all leave. Many are already heading back home.

Merle Jenkins donated some books and magazines to the chapter for anyone of the members to take home if they would like. A big shout out to Robert Carter our chapter Webmaster who has been working on our new webpage. Great job Robert. Thanks for all you do for the chapter.

Don then asked for updates on projects:

He asked Monty Vasquez if he was flying his CX-4 yet which Monty replied, "Nope, not yet 'cause I am going to try to install the canopy without breaking it". Ted Miller asked Monty, "Come on, what's the holdup?" Don said that drilling the holes in Plexiglas is a kind of skill and if you modify the drill bit or use bits that are already modified, it should not be too much trouble.



Don asked Byron how his Turner Super T-40A is coming along. Byron said that he has worked on it more in these last two months than he had the last 15 years. The right wing is going together now and all the ribs are glued in. He has it all up north at his hanger in the Hill Country. Byron is also trying to work out all the kinks on his Cherokee 140 because he has been having electrical problems with the alternator and the voltage regulator short circuits and is hopefully going to get it all resolved soon.

There was no old Business up for discussion so the most important question of all was:

"Where are we going to go eat?" A few suggestions were Mexican restaurants and nobody was really interested so Ted Miller asked what about the barbecue place? Byron then said. "Well, there are two good ones, the Longhorn Cattle Company in San Benito and Texas Smoke on Harrison in Harlingen." After much discussion, Texas Smoke

won out. The majority of the members who have been there say the seating is great and there is ample room in there for a large crowd.

Before anyone could leave, Byron did his monthly VMC\IMC Club presentation for the chapter.

This month it was VMC-Visual Meteorological Conditions. Safety and proficiency through education and experience.

The first scenario was “The Lights Are Out” and after a two-minute scenario, we pause and discuss, “What would you do?” The members are involved in discussions about what they would individually do in that situation.

The second scenario was “Face-off and Take Off”. Another 2 to 2 1/2 minute real life scenario and again a brief question and answer discussion.

The last topic was “Smoking is Not Good for You” and a brief 2 minute scenario and members discussing what they would do in that situation.

Very good points and members all shared their expertise in the discussions. After Byron’s presentation Don entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Phil Bowers moved to adjourn and it was seconded by Ted Miller jr., the motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 12:02 p.m. with the membership going to enjoy camaraderie and great food at the Texas Smoke Restaurant.

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Respectfully submitted,  
Cindy Vasquez