



EAA Chapter 595 December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015

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

### *December Announcements*

#### Anniversaries

#### Birthdays

**Jerry Gifford**  
December 23<sup>rd</sup>

### *January Announcements*

#### Anniversaries

#### Birthdays

**Sharon Lung**  
January 12<sup>th</sup>

#### Next Meeting

#### Gulf Aviation

January 9<sup>th</sup> 10:30am

Guest Speaker:

**Samara Cokinos**

Topic:

**Aviation Weather**

The meeting was called to order at 2:33 p.m. by president Don Schwanke after a fantastic potluck luncheon. Quorum was finally met with 17 members & 1 guest attending. Dues were taken by treasurer Byron Engle and chapter awards were handed out by president Don.



The recipients were:

Don Schwanke, President & Tech Counselor

Phil Bowers, Vice-President

Byron Engle, Treasurer, Secretary, Newsletter Editor, YE & EF  
Coordinator and Flight Advisor

Robert Carter, Webmaster

Larry Wheelock, Tech Counselor

Merle Jenkins, Tech Counselor

John Peacock, Tech Counselor

President Don asked for acceptance of the published minutes, which was unanimously accepted. Byron was finally able to give a treasurer's report, as quorum was finally met. Report was accepted as read by the membership.

President Don asked the membership for any old business and some discussion was made about the FAA Safety Seminar that morning. It was on aviation weather, given by Channel 5 morning weather person Samara Cokinos.



New business: Don mentioned that Byron had cornered her to give a presentation to the chapter at the January or February meeting. Samara has impressive credentials: she is a graduate of Embry-Riddle University School of Aeronautics and is finishing up her master's degree in Aviation Weather from there. Her husband is a licensed A&P mechanic and holds a commercial pilot's license. Byron made arrangements with Samara and she will be giving a presentation at our Jan. 9<sup>th</sup> 2016 meeting. Byron also asked the membership for permission to buy lunch for any and all presenters/speakers at the meetings and after a vote, was unanimously accepted.



Elizabeth Robertson was congratulated for her efforts at soloing last week! She had soloed some months ago in North Texas, but this one is leading to her private license. She has only about 5-6 hours of solo time to put in, a dual cross country and a solo cross country to complete and she will be a real, live private pilot! She already has her ground instructor's license and intends to continue (as money allows) to work toward her instrument rating and commercial license. You go, girl!

Many flying adventures (stories) were told of by the membership and a lot of aviation was spoken for the next half hour. President Don then asked the membership for a location for the January 9<sup>th</sup> meeting and Gulf Aviation was selected. Byron has made the reservation for the conference room for the 9<sup>th</sup> of January 2016 from 10:30a.m. until noon.



Don spoke about the installation of his new fuel tanks in his wings and how everything worked and that things were progressing well.



Bob Heiser spoke about his Zenith CH750 with a William Wynn Corvair engine conversion and the way it was progressing.

Jerry Gifford related a story about making aircraft parts for WAC Aircraft Corp, Paris Tennessee and is just about to go into production for him if he's not careful.

Ted Miller had a drawing for a door prize and Debora Melvin won the prize! Congrats, Debora!

President Don told some horror stories about the DAR program that the FAA enacted years ago. Some DAR's are charging an arm and a leg for inspecting homebuilts because the FAA inspectors are not coming to do the inspections themselves. It is difficult and expensive for a DAR to become certified to do these inspections because the FAA either doesn't have the budget or the time to inspect as they used to do, so many have to bring their projects to the San Antonio FSDO office for inspections or hire a DAR. It is a dilemma and it needs to be addressed soon.

President Don had the membership show their appreciation to Ted Miller for his hospitality by having the chapter membership at his home for the annual Christmas banquet. Thank you, Ted for your gracious hospitality! You are appreciated!

Don called for a motion to adjourn the meeting; Ted so moved and Phil Bowers seconded. The meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

Submitted by Byron Engle, secretary/treasurer Chapter 595 Rio Grande Valley