



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

February Announcements

Birthdays

Betty Engle

February – 6

John Dockendorff

February - 13

Anniversaries

Robert & Carol Heiser

February - 4

March Announcements

Birthdays

Gerald Close

March - 1

Byron Engle

March - 1

Anniversaries

Byron & Betty Engle

March - 9

John & Nancy Dockendorff

March - 29

Events

The February meeting of Chapter 595 was held at Gulf Aviation again because of two conflicts: the CAF Airsho in Brownsville and the Garmin presentation at Sun Valley Aviation. Don Schwanke, Robert Carter & Byron Engle were at T65 2 weeks ago and made an executive decision to go to Gulf for the convenience of all concerned. The next meeting WILL be at Edinburg March 11, 2017 at the terminal building at 11:00 a.m. Thanks for understanding Debora Melvin @ KEBG and Arlene Garza @ Gulf and for your patience and understanding.

The February meeting was called to order by VP Phil Bowers at 10:59 a.m. in the absence of President Don Schwanke who was ill and bedfast.

There were 13 members present and they were:

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|---------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| Phil Bowers | Byron Engle | Larry Wheelock |
| Robert Carter | L.V. Howell | Jerry Gifford |
| Hap Day | Ted Miller, Jr. | Elizabeth Robertson |
| Cindy Vasquez | Monty Vasquez | Shirlene Jenkins |
| Merle Jenkins | | |

There were 3 guests (one became a member at this meeting, however):
Jim & Rita Miller from Iowa (he's a new member, now)
Charlie Haines (Hap's son-in-law from Houston)
Adrian Gutierrez (was a previous member, will be again, soon)



Since quorum was again met Byron Engle gave a treasurer's report and the chapter is still solvent.



The treasurer's report was moved for acceptance & seconded and Phil asked if there was any old business. There being none, he then asked for new business; Don Schwanke was supposed to go to Ft. Worth for some recurrent training for testing his RV-12 (aka Air Force One), but he came down with something that has laid him pretty low. He's in bed trying to recover and had to

cancel his trip to FTW. There's always a fly in the ointment somewhere, isn't there Don?

Ted Miller spoke about the Garmin presentation that occurred in the morning before the meeting and clarified several things about ADS-B and what Garmin is doing about it. Garmin has a really neat little EFIS that is certified as a primary instrument to replace the attitude indicator in certified aircraft (as well as homebuilts). It was passed around at the Garmin meeting for all to see and it's a marvel in a

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VERY SMALL package! It also has airspeed and altitude as well as direction (with a WAAS GPS installed, that is-read that as \$\$\$\$\$).

Jerry Gifford then spoke about the new improvements that have been done to T65 (Weslaco) and there are more being made. Runway extension, lighted wind socks, etc.

Robert Carter spoke about his Mooney project and how many times he had to order the same thing 3 times! It's been on jack stands for about a month and he's

ready to finish up and go flying! He says the landing gear retraction mechanism had to be overhauled and things are going back together and will be working very soon. His workmanship is first rate! Many thanks to Bob for helping Byron repair his wife's motorcycle. Byron held the flashlight pretty well while Bob did the hard stuff.



Michelle Robertson came to the meeting after a long absence and is working toward her instrument rating and commercial license. She says she should have her instrument rating sometime in late March and has applied for a scholarship to the 99's for her commercial license. She already has her ground instructor's rating for private, advanced & instrument ratings and this has all happened in less than one year! She received her private license last March (2016)! She's put in a LOT of flying time since then (she has about 215 hours); a lot of it was helping a friend (who also is an instructor, I believe) fly pipeline patrol outside of Houston in a Cessna 172. You go, girl! You're gonna pass all of us pretty soon!



Ted Miller then spoke about a pilot shortage in the military that's been happening for a long time, now. Because of cutbacks in congressional support, military pilots don't get to fly very much and it takes millions of dollars to train them, so they ETS from the military and hire on to the airlines. The airlines are also short of qualified pilots, so they pay well and promotions come rapidly, so the military loses. (If Elizabeth



keeps going the way she is, she may hire on with the airlines someday, who knows?).

Ted continued on about the new 3rd class medical revisions that Congress made the FAA enact and it will affect a lot of people. There's a lot to it and the details are on the EAA and AOPA websites, but the gist of it is, anyone who has had a 3rd class medical in the last 10 years and has NOT had it revoked for any reason, may go to any licensed doctor (not only an MME), fill out the forms and may be qualified to fly under most of the same rules that any 3rd class medical allowed before (there are a few exceptions, however). Read all about it in the aforementioned websites.



Hap Day spoke about his problems with the FAA and his medications and will try to drop his 3rd class medical also after hearing Ted's speech. One of the only things he won't be able to do is fly into Canada; he'll need a 3rd class medical or (more likely) have a pilot friend with him who has a medical. He can then fly across the border.

Elizabeth told the membership that in March, she's going to Refugio to take glider lessons. She says that the instruction is free; she will only have to pay for the tow (to get the glider airborne) and the hourly rate for the glider (which is a LOT more affordable than powered flight). WOW! You're really impressive, Elizabeth Michelle! Keep it up!

The meeting was moved for adjournment by Jerry Gifford and seconded by Monte Vasquez. The membership voted to go to the Longhorn Cattle Co. for a great lunch. The next meeting will be at Edinburg International March 11, 2017 at 11:00 a.m. at the terminal building. See you there!

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