



Minutes / Meeting of EAA Chapter 595 Rio Grande Valley

November Announcements

November Events

Sun Valley Aviation (KHRL)

November 22, 2014
Coffee & Doughnuts
Safety Seminar
9:00am to 11:00am

November Birthdays

Larry Wheelock
November 20th

Shirley Gifford
November 27th

November "Meet & Eat"

November 16th @ 1:30pm
Chili's in Weslaco

Upcoming Announcement

December Birthdays

Jerry Gifford
Decemberr 23rd

December Meeting

Christmas Banquet
December 14th

The meeting was unofficially called to order at 2:01 p.m. by president Don Schwanke. As quorum was again not met, no official business was conducted. Therefore the election of officers will be postponed until the December banquet/meeting/installation of officers at Ted Miller, Jr.'s house. The pot luck banquet will be held on December 14 at 1:30 p.m. His address is 3518 West Chapin Rd., Edinburg, TX and if you get lost, his phone number is (956) 457-6979.

There was a slight improvement in the attendance this month; there were 8 members and 1 guest attending. They were:

Don Schwanke
Byron Engle
Jerry Gifford
Phil Bowers
Robert Carter
Gerry Close
Larry Wheelock
L.V. Howell
Patrick Haslem

Gerry Close announced that chapter member Ed Mishou has passed from this earth a few months ago. He will be missed.

Don then talked about the modifications being made to his "Air Force One" (Van's RV-12). There is a man making a complete new fuel tank system which incorporates 4 long aluminum tubes (2 in each wing) that fit in the main lightening holes in the wing ribs, culminating in a small (approximately ½ gallon) header tank in the fuselage. Don already has the header tank and is waiting for the rest of the system to be made and shipped. This seems to be an improvement over the old system, which had a 20 gallon tank in the fuselage behind the passenger's seat with only 15 gallons useable. The new system contains approximately 26 gallons, all but a cupful useable.

There are some new improvements to the engine as well; a new steel flywheel (instead of the aluminum one), a different method of lubrication for the gearbox and a new oil tank that fits under the engine with a dipstick to check the oil level.

Byron then spoke about a new lithium-ion battery jump-start kit available at Lowe's (among other retail outlets) and that the entire kit, including various attachments such as, jumper cables, phone/iPad charger/adaptor, cigarette lighter adaptor, etc. This particular one weighs only 2 ½ pounds complete with carrying case (which fits in the flight bag) and has 400 amp starting capability. Byron tested it on his Cherokee last Saturday when the battery wouldn't pull the starter fast enough to start the Lycoming. It worked great. These new batteries are amazing.



There was a lot of discussion about the tragedy of the Spaceship II crash and the many things that can (and sometimes do) go wrong. Everyone is waiting for the results of the ongoing investigation.

There was some discussion about the light sport requirements for various aircraft; what is legal and what is not and what is involved with the certification process.

Byron brought up the possibility of moving the meeting time and venue to another day and maybe floating the meetings to other sites. Bob Carter offered to e-mail a questionnaire to the membership at large for input, as the membership seems to be waning. It has been almost a year since the chapter meeting met quorum and there is business that needs to be voted on. EAA headquarters requires a minimum of 10 paid members to be in attendance before quorum is met for chapter business to be accomplished. Phil Bowers mentioned the possibility of meeting at an airport again so some members could fly in, but no particular airport was mentioned. Chapter 595 has always had a problem with venues and maybe a questionnaire to the membership at large will give some ideas that would be helpful and increase interest and voice concerns before this chapter dies a slow, lingering death. We do have an open invitation to have meetings at KEBG (Edinburg International) and the FBO is open 7 days a week. Robert Carter suggested Tuesday or Thursday evenings or Saturday mornings for possible meeting days, if Sunday is a problem. The membership needs to respond so the officers will have the input needed to make the changes. Bob Carter will send out a form to each member with an e-mail address so they can vote electronically if so desired. We have an officer or 2 to vote into office no later than December, so if you are a paid-up chapter AND national member, please consider voting on this ballot that Bob will send out. The officers are in the process of making some changes to better serve the membership, but they cannot do it without the input from the general membership, so please take the time to either come to the next meeting (and banquet), or send your vote/suggestions via e-mail. The chapter belongs to the membership and you, the member needs to do your part with your input. There have been many complaints about problems with the chapter, so now is your chance to help make the necessary changes. If not, don't complain.

On a lighter side, Bob Carter's still working on his Mooney. The interior is pretty much in along with new insulation (should be a LOT quieter), unfortunately there is an issue



with the elastomeric paint and the seats, photos show the darker grey applied but had some lifting issues when the masking was done for the lighter gray (where the tan still is), paint and seat covers were shipped back to the manufacturer's lab to resolve the issue. Still has a few things to do yet; repair of the corrosion in the tailcone, landing

gear retraction tests and a lot of little odds and ends to take care of before test-flying the plane. He will also be changing the oil and replacing all the fuel and oil hoses and firesleeves as the due date for replacement is long past. A lot of work for some gain.

Byron Engle's doing a little work on his project along with a new battery for his Cherokee, but has been busy with summer/fall instrument repairs to do much on either project. Things are slowing down now, so maybe something will be done soon. There is another William Wynne sponsored Corvair College in San Marcos February 27 through March 1st and he plans to run his new engine there (if everything works out to everyone's satisfaction). It will either run well or self-destruct. Either one will definitely bring entertainment to the locals. A report will be given on the results.

Patrick & Mailinh Haslem will be moving to Maryland, as he's getting a promotion in his career. He will also be closer to his father, who is having some health problems at present. Here's wishing Patrick & Mailinh good will in all his endeavors.

For anyone that flies or wants to, there is a coffee and mini safety seminar at the new FBO at Sun Valley Aviation at Valley International Airport in Harlingen. If you want to drive in, go East on Grimes Street and go about 1 ½ miles past Loop 499. Turn left where the sign says "General Aviation" and go until it dead ends. It's the last building on the left (the brand new one). Park and walk in. If you're interested in aviation, you'll be welcome.

In closing, I would like to remind everyone that this is your chapter and it's up to you to help make it a better one. You will only get out what you put in, so please make the effort to give your input/opinion and you will be rewarded.

Byron