



EAA Chapter 595 September 11th, 2021

Website: www.595.eaachapter.org/

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Minutes / Meeting of EAA Chapter 595 Rio Grande Valley

September Announcements

Birthdays

Linda Peacock

September - 12

John Peacock

September - 19

Robert Carter

September - 29

Anniversaries

Jerry & Shirley Gifford

September - 18

October Announcements

Birthdays

Geneda Schwanke

October - 6

Donald Schwanke

October - 26

Carol Heiser

October - 26

Anniversaries

Events

Notices

This project will take a lot of effort from both club members as well as outside volunteers to become a successful education program as most of us envision. All ideas are welcome both from members of the chapter as well as those that are on our mailing list.

President Don Schwanke called the meeting to order @ 11:02 a.m. at the Edinburg airport with 11 members in attendance. Since we had a quorum, official business could be conducted.

The members in attendance were as follows:

Don Schwanke	Sebastian Montes
Geneda Schwanke	Cindy Vasquez
Robert Carter	Monte Vasquez
Byron Engle	Merle Jenkins
Ted Miller Jr.	Shirlene Jenkins
Jared Bird	

Don mentioned that the minutes for last month's meeting are on the website for all to read. He then asked Byron Engle for the treasurer's report and the chapter is solvent. Merle Jenkins moved to accept the treasurer's report and was seconded by Monte Vasquez. Motion carried.

Old business:



It was decided at last month's meeting that Debora Pinto and Arlene Garza would be presented with a plaque and make them honorary Chapter 595 members for all these two lovely young ladies have done by supporting us every month by furnishing a meeting room. In Debora's absence the plaque was left in her office.

Mrs. Arlene Garza will be presented her plaque at next month's meeting in Harlingen at Gulf Aviation.



The other old business is the RV-12 project. Don passed around a 13 page booklet detailing the many options available that we may go to make this project happen. Ted Miller asked Don if there was any more progress in finding a sponsor or a place to work on it and Don said there was no progress at all. Ted asked how many people in our chapter are willing to volunteer their weekends or Saturdays for a year and a half or longer if needed. Then Ted read something to the chapter about some experience that a gentleman went through while working with students. This was in Daytona Beach, Florida and the comments that this man made was that he was one of several volunteer mentors for a an RV-12 being built at a high school and it took them 2 years to complete.

He said... if anyone is wondering whether or not to volunteer, he gave an insight to what it was like. Some of the students were very highly motivated and took direction well and some were not. It was interesting to watch them read their manuals on their smart phones. We had manuals printed out but they didn't seem to care for them and many had no knowledge whatsoever of tool usage. There was a lot of productive coaching on that topic. It took 2 full years to complete and fly, the airplane. It felt like a pretty big accomplishment when it made the first flight. With all this said he mentioned that he used a lot of time and emotional energy, but he felt it was all well worth it. Ted expressed that we as a chapter, do need to make a decision whether we are going to proceed with this project, or move it on to someone who can, because we are not sure that we actually have the manpower, the financial, nor the physical resources to do this project. Ted said to Don that this was an admirable project and Don is to be commended for all of his time and energy to secure it for us, but he thinks we are the wrong chapter to try to take this on and maybe we should offer it to another EAA chapter for whatever the costs for that we need reimbursement.



Don stated that we have actually been waiting for schools to begin and see if they are interested and asked Robert Carter if he had heard anything from any school. Robert said that he hadn't and that he will not approach any schools until the chapter makes a decision as to which direction we are going to proceed. Robert doesn't want to go and commit the schools to this, then have the chapter sell the project or drop it. Once we make the commitment which direction we are going to go, then Robert will talk to the Boy Scouts and the schools again to try to get them to commit to the project.



Don asked for any comments on how to rid ourselves of it and Sebastian Montes asked if it would be possible to partner with the Civil Air Patrol, as he is becoming a CAP member and there are lots of youngsters who may possibly commit to going to our meetings. Sebastian asked about the financial aspects and if there was an assessment of that, to which Don said we would need at least \$80,000 to \$90,000, depending on the engine and the avionics. Sebastian then said before we consider giving up the project and go back to option A, which is to keep it and to start a funding campaign where we could advertise. We would also have to secure a group of youngsters who would be willing and interested in building this aircraft, a hangar plus a team of dedicated adults to help supervise and oversee the youngsters. Sebastian will commit to talk to the Civil Air Patrol leadership and present them with this opportunity to try to get a response from them to see if there is some interest on their part. Robert Carter said that if we are going to go down the road of giving it back to EAA, then we should instead give it to one of the groups that have been successful because this project will be put in another lottery and another chapter may go through this same situation as we are going through now. Robert said either donate it or sell it. Don seemed to be in agreement with Robert and felt that in the event that we do decide to get rid of it, we really

need to have a plan and think about our next move. Robert's idea seemed to be the most logical way to find someone who may have the capability to finish building and we should proceed in that direction. Don's suggestion was that in order to be fair, we should continue to solicit and answer questions of people who want to do it. At the next meeting, we will make a decision to either continue forward, or find a new home for it. Everyone was in agreement with that.

Jared Bird then commented that once a decision is made and if it's to get rid of it or sell it, he can call some of his buddies from another chapter that may be interested in it. These friends of Jared's have built RV-8's and RV-12's, so they are knowledgeable in that area.

There was no new business to discuss.

After all the discussion about the RV-12, the question of where to go eat came up and it was unanimously decided that the Texas Roadhouse in Edinburg is the best place to go eat.

Don entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Merle Jenkins moved to adjourn and seconded by Monte Vasquez. Meeting adjourned at 12:02 p.m.

The next meeting is on Saturday, October 9, 2021 at Gulf Aviation in Harlingen.

C y'all there
Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Vasquez

P.S. Congratulations Don Schwanke for being awarded the FASST Master Pilot Award from the FAA!

