



The Denton Flyer

Newsletter of EAA Chapter 661, Denton, TX

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Minister of Finance

Director of Youthful Enthusiasm

Co-Director of Y.E

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Next Meeting:

Remember, we are meeting at our new location at US Aviation, 4850 Spartan Drive, on the field at KDTO. As before, please go in the double doors on the northwest corner of the building and go up the stairs. The first door on the right will be Classroom Bravo. The meeting starts at 1200, on Saturday, 7 May.

Our guest speaker will be our own Darrin Towers. Darrin was born and raised in Texas, has been married to Lois for 33 years and works as an engineer for Halliburton where he started as a drafter in 1991.

While in high school Darrin completed ground school for his private license. However, like so many of us, he wanted to start flying but didn't have the money at the time. Instead of pursuing a pilot's license, he started building and flying RC planes off and on over the years. As his hobby progressed, the RC planes got bigger. In 2018 he had the financial wherewithal to get his Sport Pilot Certificate. After that, he started looking at kit planes. He picked up a Zenith kit and started building in August of 2019.

At The Last Meeting:

At the meeting in April, we heard from Andrew DeLaTorre. Andrew talked about his experience flying corporate aircraft in and out of Antarctica.

Why EAA?

Our chapter membership is as varied as EAA itself. We have pilots who are flying planes they have built. There are pilots who are flying experimental aircraft they purchased. Some of our members own and fly certificated airplanes. There are people in our

chapter who have neither a pilot license nor an airplane, but they share our interest in aviation. It's true that the "E" in "EAA" stands for "experimental." However, the focus of the national organization of EAA is as diverse as its members.



So, why should you belong to EAA if you are not building or flying an experimental aircraft? Let's look at some of the things that EAA provides its members:

- Flight planning tools
- Coordination with the FAA and other agencies to maintain and improve our access to general aviation
- Community outreach to attract and educate people about all that personal aviation can offer, keeping this relatively small community viable
- A chance for fellowship with others who share our enthusiasm for aviation

Even if you are not building or flying experimental airplanes, membership in EAA can enhance your aviation experience. EAA's work to preserve our access to the National Aerospace System is worth the \$40 per year for national membership. Moreover, a glimpse inside the monthly Sport Aviation magazine will reveal many articles that pertain to maintaining and flying personal aircraft of every persuasion. If you only fly certificated airplanes – or you don't fly at all, please consider what your membership in EAA does for you and everyone involved in personal aviation. We are glad to count you as one of us.

Name Tags:

We have EAA Chapter 661 name tags, and you can have one with your name on it. It starts out with the EAA logo and "Chapter 661, Denton, TX" as shown below. You can take it home and decorate it as you choose. If you like, ask Stormy to fire up the Brother Label Maker and print you a label with whatever you choose.



Member of the Month:

This month, we inaugurate our new feature, the Member of the Month (MoM), penned by our Membership Czar, Tony Jones.

I hope that the new month finds us with calm winds and clear skies. Buck Rivets has been kind enough to open some space in the newsletter for a member of the month feature. Our goal moving forward is to use this space to highlight the many skills and backgrounds found in our growing chapter.



This month, I have chosen Stormy Weathers as our inaugural member of the month! Stormy was more than kind enough to offer his services as the guinea pig for this new venture in our chapter, and we should all give him a big thank you! Stormy's willingness and eagerness to help with this project is a perfect example of his personality. He is the perfect mix of comedy, intelligence, and experience wrapped up in a welcoming and humble crust. Stormy's aviation background is mostly based in the

military aviation sector with some enjoyable GA times throughout.

After being unable to qualify for pilot training in the military due to vision issues, Stormy remained determined to make a career of aviation. He received his Aerospace engineering degree from the University of Illinois. While there, he received a commission in the Air Force through the AFROTC program. That led to his first assignment at Wright-Patterson AFB in Dayton, OH where, in 1983, he earned his private pilot's license flying a Piper Tomahawk through the Aero Club on base. Stormy's career in the Air Force would take him everywhere from a navigator in the WC-135, to an aerospace engineer on the A-10 program. He eventually joined the civilian ranks working as a contractor and later as a civil servant acting as the lead aero performance engineer on the A-10, T-37, T-38, and F-4. Stormy was even lucky enough to work as a Flight Test Engineer, primarily on the C-17. Stormy retired in 2020 after working on the F-16, V-22, and F-35 production teams in Ft. Worth.



Stormy now owns a beautiful 1984 Mooney 231 with his son John and is building an RV-8A. The Mooney is nicknamed "George" in honor of the line from a Bugs Bunny cartoon, "I will love him and squeeze him and call him George". The RV-8A project started in 2006 while Stormy was working at Edwards Air Force Base and began in a hangar rented from Dick Rutan! The wings are 80% complete and the tail feathers are hanging like new age art in his dining room. (I've got to mention that

idea to my wife.) Stormy estimates the total project at 13% complete. Next time you see Stormy be sure to say hello and ask him what his TRC number is at. Or, better yet, ask him what in the world is a TRC number!?

Happy Flying!

Tony Jones

Chapter Membership Czar



Who's going to AirVenture?

Are you planning to go to AirVenture this year? Are you flying or driving? Where are you planning to stay? We are taking an informal survey to see who is going from the chapter. Perhaps we can meet up at Kelly's for a Chapter 661 Off Site. I'll promise no minutes will be taken and no action items assigned.



After the Meeting:

What do you do after the monthly meeting at KDTO? It's typically still early Saturday afternoon when the meeting breaks up. Some of us are considering an informal lunch outing. That might be a hamburger at one of the fast food venues along University. Or, we might venture farther out. We can swap lies and do some real hangar flying. Heck! If the featured speaker made us laugh, we might consider taking him or her to lunch. Grab Tony the Membership Czar sometime during the meeting and see what the plan is. Have an idea about where we might go? Be sure to pass that on to Tony or one of the other chapter leaders.



Help Wanted:

The "Help Wanted" Section is new to this publication. Do you need help with something on your plane? Perhaps you are looking for someone with a particular skillset. Maybe you just need an extra set of hands with a task. We have quite an array of skills here in Chapter 661. This section is a way to reach out to your fellow chapter members. If you have a request to go in the "Help Wanted" section, send email to our Chief Editor, Buck Rivets at flynwx@pobox.com.

Christmas?

That's right. It's only April and we're already thinking about this year's Christmas party. One of the featured events for our Christmas party experience will be an auction, both silent and live! Christmas is eight months away. Nevertheless, it's not too early to start gathering donated items for the auction. Brace yourselves! This will blow your socks off! How about a hot air balloon ride, for instance? It all benefits your local EAA chapter, including programs like Young Eagles! More details to follow! Please reach out to Heather Fahle if you have items to donate.

Cheers,
Heather

