



Hangar 13 News

Formerly The Gremlin Gazette

Newsletter of the

Chattahoochee Valley EAA Chapter 677

Columbus, Georgia

since 1979

In this issue:

- Member Spotlight
- RCAC News
- Young Eagle News
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Calendar

Mar 7
AOPA ASI Seminar

Mar 17
Maule Aircraft
Fly-out

Apr 7-9
TITV Air Show

Flyboy Turns 80!

We celebrated John Hart's 80th birthday at our chapter *Dinner and a Movie* night. John and Pat's son, daughter in law and beautiful granddaughters joined us for a Ziti pasta and garlic bread meal followed by a viewing of the World's Greatest Aviation Celebration, AirVenture 2016.



EAA CELEBRATES YOUNG EAGLES 25TH

2017 marks the 25th anniversary of the Young Eagles program, which has provided more than 2 million young people ages 8-17 with an introduction to the world of personal aviation

To celebrate, EAA has planned a variety of events and activities throughout the year starting with a special 25th anniversary exhibit in the EAA AirVenture Museum.

AirVenture 2017 attendees are invited to join EAA for a birthday cake celebration and show their pride in the Young Eagles program with special 25th anniversary T-shirts and hats that will be available during the convention. EAA will also host a Young Eagles volunteer dinner on July 26 to thank those who make the Young Eagles possible and successful.

As a special thank you to pilots who fly Young Eagles during this anniversary year, EAA has created a commemorative prop card and a set of decals. In addition, a special 25 for 25 pin will be given to pilots who fly at least 25 Young Eagles during 2017, and they will also receive recognition on the Young Eagles website.

From EAA HQ

Editor's note: This month, Ken Sines became the first chapter pilot to achieve 25 for 25



President's desk

Change is Good!

Earlier this month I attended the Chapter Leader's Academy in Oshkosh, WI. Fifty chapter leaders from around the nation came together to discuss chapter operations and hear from EAA staff on variety of topics, such as, fundraising, insurance, chapter governance, financial management, strategic planning, etc.

With the encouragement of HQ and the approval of your chapter leadership, we've made the following changes to our operations.

1— Effective immediately, chapter dues are now \$20 year for all members, regardless of age. Family membership will be an additional \$20. We're making this change to get away from dues being a fundraiser. Dues should be to provide member benefit and take care of our fixed costs (insurance, national chapter dues, state registration).

2— Chapter events rather than business meetings—Monthly chapter gatherings or events will focus on **AVIATION, EDUCATION & SOCIALIZING**. We've already had two such events this year. In January we meet for chili dinner and an FAA seminar. This month twenty-seven attended our chapter ***Dinner and a Movie***.

3— Name tags—All paid members will receive an official EAA Chapter name tag. Once received and distributed, we'll encourage all chapter members to wear their name tags at all aviation events. The name tags come with a magnetic backing, so they work on a variety of clothing.



4— Young Eagles Goodies— We'll soon start selling Young Eagle items at our rallies and other chapter activities. We'll start with patches, pins, buttons and stickers and look at t-shirts and hats later. It's not meant to be a huge fundraising scheme, just an opportunity for the community to purchase Young Eagle mementos.

Here's to aviation, education and socialization in 2017!

Others news—

Be sure to checkout [Allen Allnoch's photos](#) from the Chapter Leader's Boot Camp, he and Jack attended in Carrollton.

The monthly Chapter Video Magazine is available at [EAA Channel](#)



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Ernie Kelly
Ken Sines
Charlie Sykes
Rocket Rick Payne

Eagle Flights Coordinator

Rocket Rick Payne

IMC Coordinator

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Todd Shellnutt
Glenn Mathews
Reginald Benford
Steve Wurst
Earnest Shelton
Haywood Turner III
Dick French
Charles Hanna
Dennis Lanier
Vernon D. Prater
Harold Buck
Leroy Story
Ronda H (Bud) Schuman



Member Spotlight

Steve Culpepper

If you're of a certain age, or just a classic movie buff, you may be familiar with the 1952 film, "The Quiet Man," starring John Wayne and Maureen O'Hara. The plot is a classic 1950's romantic drama/comedy. The twist is that the lead character, Sean Thornton, says little and lets his actions do the talking. Steve Culpepper is EAA 677's version of "The Quiet Man." I don't think he's a boxer, but I can't be sure; he doesn't talk much. He DOES keep things running smoothly during our Young Eagles rallies and has attended more of them than any other member, missing only a few since he joined the chapter. He has earned the "Perfect Attendance" award at least once, although he was not present to receive it the first time. (Can you spell "ironic?")

Steve also has an almost encyclopedic knowledge of general aviation aircraft, their specifications and capabilities. If you're having issues with a weight and balance issue, just ask Steve what the gross take-off weight of your aircraft is – odds are, he'll know. He LOVES general aviation; in addition to his long-term role in EAA 677, he also demonstrated extraordinary faith and patience to help launch the River City Aero Club, of which he is vice president. Because there's more you don't know about Steve, let's see how he answered this month's questions.

How'd you get into flying and why did you pursue your PPL?

After attending Thunder in the Valley in 1997 (first year), I got hooked on aviation. It wasn't until 2005 that I made the decision to start flight training at CSG Aviation; about a year later, I had my pilot's certificate. That was one of the proudest moments in my life.

What attracted you to EAA and EAA 677 in particular?

I wanted to meet and enjoy aviation-related activities with other pilots and aviation enthusiasts. Also, getting to be involved with Thunder in The Valley airshows is always more fun with the men and women in EAA 677.

How is it you remain so incredibly calm when everything seems to be going nuts at our Young Eagles rallies?

Remember, "Keep calm and fly on."



Best memory of EAA/ or flying?

Going to airshows where I could see new planes and meet new people. I've gone to many airshows; Thunder in the Valley is always one of my favorites...until I make it to Oshkosh for Airventure!

Why do you think someone should get involved in general aviation and EAA?

If you love airplanes and want to get involved in aviation, start as early as possible in life. I think the Young Eagles program offered by EAA 677 is one of the best ways to introduce aviation to young people. That's why I like being involved with Young Eagle rallies.

What do you think is the easiest way to get into general aviation?

Know a rich friend with an airplane! Really, find other people in the aviation area to talk to about flying – like EAA Chapter 677 here at the Columbus Airport. Also, River City Aero Club has members ranging from new pilots to airline veterans. That's another group that loves to talk about aviation. You just have to go ask like I did. You won't regret it! See ya around the airport!

By Ernie Kelly, Membership Coordinator

River City Aero Club

By President Tom Swilling

River City Aero Club (RCAC) has gone from only a few members with a shared dream to having a plane and more than a dozen pilot



members and a great group of social members in less than two years. We are now looking for a second plane and a place to keep them. We're growing and trying to continue to offer

Young Eagles

We had a light volunteer turnout for the February rally, but the kids kept coming. Ken and Bill kept the aircraft moving and a dedicated ground crew of eight lined up the passengers.

Bill Buck became the second chapter pilot to achieve 10 for 2017 and Ken Sines became the first to achieve "25 for 25."

It's official, we earned 536 credits for a total value of \$2680 in 2016. These credits provide support for our Air Academy Scholarships and support our Young Eagles program and youth outreach activities. Thank you to all that volunteer each month and especially to the aircraft owners that fly more than 10 young eagle mission each year.

Beginning this month, we'll advertise our Air Academy Scholarship program year round. A



a good value for pilots with different missions - some ready for long cross-countries. Others of us just enjoy local sightseeing flights and introducing the joy of flight to kids and adults who have never flown in a light airplane. One of our new members is working with one of our approved flight instructors (Dan Dawson) to earn his instrument rating.

We look forward to showing off N14KM at Thunder in the Valley for the first time this year. We hope to make new friends and add more pilots and social members to our roster.

Flying - Friends - Fun. That is our guiding mantra.



special page has been added to the [chapter website](#) and posters and informational flyers will be available for Young Eagle rallies and other chapter events

In other news—

A new [museum exhibit](#) opened at EAA Aviation Museum to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Young Eagles Program.

Be sure to subscribe to [EAA's new blog](#) established to encourage participation in recreational aviation through inspirational and educational content.

Book of the Month

***Forever Flying* – R.A. “Bob” Hoover with Mark Shaw – Pocket Books (1996)**

On March 1, AOPA announced it would present the 2017 AOPA R.A. “Bob” Hoover Trophy to Sean D. Tucker. Sean is the second recipient; the first was Bob Hoover himself, who received it in 2016, several months before his death in October. With the great Bob Hoover on my mind, it seemed only fitting to recommend his autobiography, ***Forever Flying***, as this month’s selection from the EAA 677 chapter library. (Another gem donated by Phil Johnson.)

There are not many books I would read twice. ***Forever Flying*** is an exception. An autobiography, it has the gravitas of truth that brings credibility to stories that would otherwise seem incredible. I mean, who initiates a dogfight with Chuck Yeager when Yeager is in a jet and you’re in a P-38? Bob Hoover, of course.

And even though it’s an autobiography, and Bob Hoover was skilled at many things, he was a storyteller, not a writer. Co-author/ghost writer Mark Shaw does an excellent job of remaining transparent, letting Bob tell stories while Shaw provides punctuation. It’s a great combination.

It’s hard to imagine the man Jimmy Doolittle introduced as “the greatest stick-and-rudder pilot who ever lived” was airsick the first several times he flew. He later said the reason he was so smooth on the controls was so he wouldn’t get sick. That was the first of many challenges Hoover tells of overcoming in ***Forever Flying***. Some were as a result of skill; others were just because of sheer luck. As you read, you’ll realize luck is most often on the side of those with Bob’s skills.

From his earliest flight lessons, through WWII (I loved the first-hand account of his stealing an FW-190 to escape a German prison camp and nearly being killed by Dutch farmers when he landed in Holland), to Korea, and then during his time as a test pilot for North American Rockwell and as an airshow performer, Hoover’s stories are engaging whether or not you fly. But if you *are* a pilot, you will learn as much about being a better pilot from ***Forever Flying*** as from any text published by the FAA. Probably more.

In fact, the story of his battle with the FAA – which suspended his medical certificate for 18 months for no reason any normal person would consider valid – further underscored how determined and how classy he was. The biggest lesson Hoover shared from that nightmare is how important relationships are. Even the best pilot in the world would have remained grounded by bureaucrats had it not been for his friends around the world, particularly the tens of thousands of fans in the EAA who offered emotional and financial support while he could not fly, and published a flier entitled “Let Bob Fly.” Not surprisingly, the EAA made sure the FAA administrator received a copy of the document when he visited Oshkosh in July 1995.

Bob Hoover had a lot of friends because he was a friend. I was privileged to meet him at airshows once or twice, and heard him speak at the International Council of Air Shows convention in Las Vegas late in his career. Despite his age and the crowds, he was always gracious. Sean D. Tucker is receiving the Hoover Trophy this year because Bob insisted on it. Not a dying wish, but close to it. No wonder the committee’s vote for Tucker was unanimous.

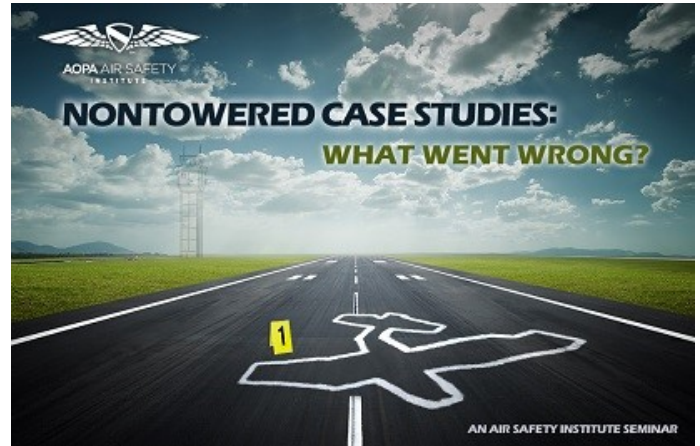
When you get the chance, borrow ***Forever Flying*** from the bookcase in the EAA office and open it randomly – I guarantee you’ll find a story you’ll like. And then another. And another. Before long, you’ll realize the greatest stick-and-rudder pilot who ever lived is also one of the greatest storytellers who ever lived.

Review by Ernie Kelly

On the Scope

AOPA Aviation Safety institute In Person Seminar

**Tuesday March 7 @ 7 pm
Columbus Technical College
Patrick Hall**



Chapter Fly-out

**Maule Aircraft
Moultrie, GA**

**Meet at Flightways
March 17 @ 12:30 pm
Launch at 1 pm**

**Aircraft owners:
Please contact Gary or Jack if
you can fly**



20 Years of Thunder

**Our “Can’t Miss”
Event of the Year**

**April 8-9
10am—5 pm**

