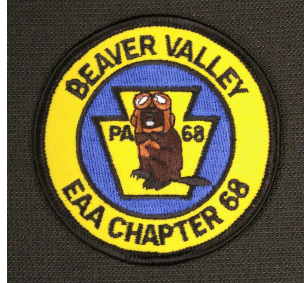


Newsletter



Beaver Valley EAA Chapter 68 founded 1958

October 31, 2019

Vol.3 Issue 30

The October meeting was a field trip in lieu of a regular meeting.

We all met at the NOAA, National Weather Service site in Moon Township.



Here we see how the “weather station” or Radiosonde is prepared for its daily flight into the upper atmosphere.

10/31/2019 STK



This is the process of filling the weather balloon with Hydrogen, which will lift the Radiosonde and collect data.



Ready for launch!!



And lastly we got to view the data processed in real time, accurate and up to date.

Our gratitude to the folks at the local NOAA Weather Office for taking the time to show us how they do it.

The next meeting will be at CCBC on November 5, 2019. The meeting will be valuable to attend for at least two reasons, you get to elect two officers, President and Secretary, and you'll hear about how you can powder-coat your airplane parts, at home.

The Prez sez....

Before long these beautiful October days will give way to other days that will demonstrate the long winter that lies ahead. Flying has been very enjoyable with cooler temperature, clear sky, and smooth air. What a thrill to have an airplane that will take us through this season where we can grab as many of these days as we can.

The other day I had the opportunity to grab one of those days and fly with Vicki up to Franklin, FKL, for lunch. The restaurant up there is world class and a fuel discount awaits those who partake of the menu.

After one of my better landings, I noticed a slight tipping on roll-out and accompanying thumping sound that comes with a flat tire. Previous experience has shown that the best way to deal with this is to keep rolling off the runway, taxiway, and into a parking spot. It is best not to turn a relatively minor incident into a BIG deal by closing the active runway and taxiway with a disabled aircraft.

A flat tire is an inconvenience wrapped in uncertainty. There is no Triple A automobile club 800 number to call for roadside assistance. On one previous occasion, the airport FBO offered to call their on duty mechanic over the weekend to help solve the problem. The cost? Any time other than 8 to 5 Monday thru Friday is charged at double the normal shop rate of \$75 per hour, with a minimum charge of three hours. Ouch! Four hundred and fifty dollars and that does not include a new tire, tube, and other incidentals. The likelihood of anyone stocking a 5.00 X 5 RV tire and tube is slim. That means FedEx overnight from Spruce or somebody, and then what about overnight accommodations and expenses? As they say, some things are so expensive that if you have to ask, you probably can't afford it.

The question remains about what exactly any one of us can do if we have a flat tire far away from home? While there are some situations that defy any preparedness such as an engine problem requiring a tear down, overhaul, and installation, we know someone who recently went through that nightmare, I have been considering the preparedness necessary for something decidedly simpler. I have decided to carry a replacement inner tube(the cause of the problem every time), but, replacing the inner tube requires other things. Tools... Wrenches, socket set, extensions, ratchet, jack, wood blocks, Van's jacking fixture, air valve tool, tire, tube talc, screwdrivers, air bib, air hose, compressor, cotter pins, safety wire, safety wire pliers, chocks, wire cutters, pressure gauge, extension cord, light, grease, degreaser, brush, shop rags, drift pin, hammer, bigger hammer...

Have I forgotten anything? Probably.

Try to carry all those items as a true Boy Scout and there would be no room for bags, and weight and balance would require serious consideration!

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I may not have an answer to the preparedness question, but, what I can tell you is that every time I have had a flat tire, five times in seven years, I have needed nothing.

Nothing.

Out of nowhere, someone I don't know arrives on the scene, offers their help, and makes it so that I can get on my way again.

Something about the bond that we all share as pilots, but also as builders of experimental aircraft brings out the best in us. Total strangers helping other strangers. I rented car the other day, drove home, loaded all the stuff I mentioned above, and drove back. Upon arrival, a gentleman walked out on the ramp, because he had seen me having dinner with my wife. He told me that there was no need for any of the tools I brought because he had everything in his hangar a short distance away to maintain his RV-6 and Monocoup. He not only offered me the use of his tools and shop, but he ended up doing all the work too. He changed the tire and tube, repacked the bearings, and helped me mount the tire on the airplane in the dark.

The Golden Rule comes to mind. I am constantly amazed at the goodness of other people who go out of their way, take their time, and help someone in need. A field fix is difficult even with the proper tools. The use of a well stocked shop and the expertise of an expert fellow is surprising and gratifying.

I am resolved to do the same for someone else in a similar predicament.

Vicki and I did manage to get lunch, although a tad late. We had dinner at 9:00 pm.

As to what could be causing these flats, I believe the root cause is tire pressure, or lack of it. These things happen when a temperature change occurs. Going from ninety degree days to forty degree days. It is difficult to access the air stem on an airplane with wheel pants, so perhaps more diligence is needed in the preflight. I inquired about the cost of a spare Cleveland wheel, brake disc, tire and tube mounted and ready as the spare in an automobile. Better sit down. A new setup as described is close to fifteen hundred dollars per wheel! I did manage to find an ebay bargain so I will be flying with a spare tire from now on.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, November 5, at 7:00 pm. CCBC is our location. Expect a discussion about Powder Coating.

This month we will consider nominations and elect a President and Secretary.

It has been an honor to be President of Chapter 68 and I offer sincerest thanks to all of you that privelege.

Tony Parilonis

Remember Tuesday November 5, 7:00 P.M. at CCBC

Hope to see you there!

Reminders:

The November regular meeting will be on Tuesday, November 5, 7:00 P.M. at CCBC

The “Breakfast Club” is still going strong, each Saturday at 9:00 A.M. , We will meet at the Brighton Hot Dog Shop in Chippewa.

President: Tony Pavilonis, Vice-President: Dave Brunberg, Treasurer: Dewey Clawson: Secretary: Stan Kocuba

Board Members in addition to officers, Ed Campbell and Kenny Gray

Newsletter Editor: Stan Kocuba