



December 2013/
January 2014

News and Information for the Gwinnett County Chapter of the Experimental Aircraft Association
Chapter 690 Meets in Hangar #1 of the Sport Aviation Complex at Briscoe Field, 690 Airport Rd, Lawrenceville, GA

NavCom

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Special points of interest:

- **Sat. 1/4-Pancake Breakfast** 8:00-10:30 followed by a fabulous program.
- **Tues. 1/7-Chapter Board Meeting** at 7:30pm
- **Fri. 1/10-Chapter Business Meeting** and an interesting program starting at 8pm
- **Sat. 1/18-Young Eagles** starting at 8:30am

Having just closed out 2013 (faster than we could have imagined-but we say that every year) we start 2014 with optimism and hope for a blessed and healthy New Year for everyone. We also look forward to some very familiar events and activities as well as several new and exciting adventures.

One of or **THE** most highly enjoyed events that makes EAA 690 the best chapter in the state at the very least is our Pancake Breakfasts. **Jill Balthaser and her crew** make the *First Saturday* of each month possible and we are extremely thankful to them for providing us with numerous delicious items to enjoy while we get in some great hangar talk and fellowship.

Young Eagles is another one of the backbones of EAA 690 and we are

extremely proud of the level of interest it generates throughout the community. In 2013, we flew over 200 young people. A special **"Thank You"** to **Duane Huff** who recruits students from the surrounding schools and other organizations. And, of course, the program would not be possible without the unbelievably energetic pilots and ground crew that volunteer their time, their planes and so much more. We appreciate each and every one of you.

With a new Board of Directors and members in other new positions, we look forward to a meaningful and fun 2014. And we look forward to you joining us for every activity you possibly can.

SEE YOU SOON!!!!

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A Very Festive Christmas Party

Our annual Christmas/Holiday Banquet was fabulous as usual. What makes it so wonderful is sharing time with our regular 690 family AND being pleasantly surprised when we see friends we haven't seen since last year or in some cases for several years. The visits with those folks make the holiday even more special and we are so glad they could join us.

As always, the chapter provided scrumptious turkey and ham as well as

the beverages. And we all were very pleased to share traditional dishes we always make, new ones that we wanted to share or even those that were made at the store. Whatever the case, we had our appetites satiated and then some. We are very thankful to the kitchen crew and others that helped make the evening happen very smoothly.

Please enjoy pictures of the event on pages 5 and 6.

Another Disappointing Young Eagles Day

December 21, 2013

Those of us that enjoy the smiles on the kids faces as they get ready to fly and then as even bigger grin after their flight were very disappointed again in December.

The weather didn't look good from the start-foggy, low clouds, rain. But then for a few minutes there appeared to be a window of opportunity. Several of the young people that showed up were given a briefing and a few even loaded in the planes. But then the weather got bad once again. The field went IFR and

there was no chance of flying anyone on that day.

We look forward to trying again on January 18th.

Thank you to those chapter members that weathered the weather to be there just in case there may have been a chance to make more kids smile.

We look forward to bright skies and lots of smiles in 2014!!!!

Where Do You See Yourself?

See A Need, Fill A Need

We often ask ourselves how we can get involved with a group or club we belong to. Whether it be with our church, with a charity organization or let's say with EAA Chapter 690. We are always looking for people to help with projects but often they aren't able to be done because we don't have anyone that can lend a hand.

During the next few months, we'll be asking you to think about where you can help make your chapter

even better. The hangar needs a bit of a facelift, maybe that's something you think you can help with. We believe Jill can always use an extra hand in the kitchen. There are many more ideas that we will provide you with. Also, don't hesitate to come to any of the officers or friends and suggest something that you'd like to see done or something you'd like to help with. The opportunities are very numerous and our/your chapter needs you.

A Message from the President

Happy New Year to all of our EAA 690 NavComm subscribers. I am pleased to have the opportunity to serve the chapter as President for the next two years. Your new officers have already had some discussions and are working on plans for the coming year. We are close to finalizing a date for Ron Alexander's DC-3 in late spring. We are in discussions with EAA National for visits from the Ford Tri-Motor, the B-17 or both. We are targeting PDK as the airport for those visits and hope to meet soon with folks at PDK to work out details. These are important fund raisers for your chapter to have the funds needed to operate through the year.

As we finalize the dates for these visits we will need volunteers to help. Volunteering is a big way that each of you can help your chapter continue to be looked upon as one of the best in the country. Please be ready to step up and help as these opportunities become available. Last year we were not able to have any large fund raising events and our financial condition suffered as a result. We were forced to rely on member dues and income from our breakfasts as our main sources of income. Because of this we ran at a loss for 2013. We will work hard to turn that around in 2014 and going forward. We would appreciate each of you paying your chapter dues at your earliest convenience. You may pay at the breakfast or pay online by going to www.eaa690.org and using the links on the home page.

One of our goals in 2014 is to offer more flying events for our members and non-members. You'll find you don't have to be a pilot to participate in these events. We have implemented a new chapter database application at www.eaa690.net that allows us to provide additional information and capability not available through our regular website. If you have not been there yet, please check it out. If you received this newsletter

through email then you already have a user account. All that is necessary is to go to the site and click to Log In. At the bottom of the log in page is a link for [Forgot Password](#). Enter the email address that this newsletter was sent to and you will be sent a link allowing you to reset your password. Once that is complete, you can log in and update your personal info so it is up to date. No one, other than administrators, will be able to see your personal information except you. The only exception to that would be if you choose to participate in the Fly Buddy program or a Flyout Event as a pilot. Look around the site to see what information is offered. I will detail the various programs in other articles.

One of the areas of concern for us is the Friday evening meetings. Attendance has declined for these meetings. We have decided to continue them through, at least, the first quarter of 2014. We look forward to your input on what would interest you enough to attend these meetings. We are also looking at adding other events during the year beside our breakfast and our usual dinners. One idea we are working on is Trivia nights. The trivia will be aviation oriented and a team competition. Initially we would propose to charge \$5 per person and provide pizza and soda for that charge. We will communicate other opportunities throughout the year for our members to participate in.

Since this chapter is for you, I would love to hear any and all ideas you have for us. You can send these to me via [email](#). Of course you can always speak to me at a meeting with your ideas and feedback. I look forward to 2014 as a fun and exciting year for EAA 690 and hope you will too.

eea690.net - A New Place To Visit!

Late last year we went live with www.eaa690.net as an addition to our regular site at www.eaa690.org. The first question is why two separate sites? The original site is provided by EAA national and has limited potential to do some of the things we'd like to do for our membership. With that in mind the new site was developed with a database backend that will allow us to more easily keep track of our membership and provide more information.

Hopefully you have checked out the site and looked around a little and maybe even update your personal info. I would like to take a few moments to talk about some of the features. On this site we introduce a program known as FlyBuddies. We know that we have folk in the chapter that are currently not flying and would like to and others that are flying and would love some company now and then. Those that are flying and would occasionally be willing to take chapter member along as a passenger are what we call FlyBubbies. How do you become a FlyBuddy? You must Log In to the website and go to the Lists selection on the menu and pick the appropriate list, Member or Inactive Member. Find your name in the list and there should be a link to Edit next to your name. Click on the Edit link and go down until you see the FlyBuddy check box and click on it and submit. Your name, home phone and email address will now be listed on the FlyBuddies list so others can contact you and make arrangements to go flying!

The second feature I would like to mention is the

Flyout Events feature. All year long there are events around the southeast. We will do our best to keep new events added to this list. If you click on the Flyout Event link you will see a list of events. With each event is a website link for the event, the event airport identifier and a description. If there are pilots attending that have open seats their names and email address will be listed with the event. If you are a pilot attending one of these events and will have an open seat(s) you can add yourself to an event very easily. You must be Logged In to the site first. Once logged in go the Flyout Events list and select the event you will be attending. You should see a link for Add Pilot. When you click that link you will enter the first date you will attend, the last date you will attend and the number of open seats you have available. Once you submit that info you will see your name and email address listed with the event.

The last feature I'd like to mention is the Restaurants page. This list was provided by John Kimmons. It is a list of airports in the Southeast that have restaurants or a museum either on field or nearby. Each airport listed had information with it. You will want to verify the info provided before you head somewhere to be sure as this information can be quite volatile. If you would like to see an airport added to the list send me an [email](mailto:) with the appropriate information included.

Let's have fun this year and fly!!

H.R.3708 - General Aviation Pilot Protection Act of 2013

There is legislation in the House currently that could be very important for you as a pilot. You can read the text of the bill [here](http://www.congress.gov/bills/112/3708/text/1/000). In short the purpose of the bill is to allow you, as a PPL, to fly up to a six passenger airplane with a maximum gross weight of 6000lbs VFR to an altitude of 14,000 feet with only a valid state driver's license.

If you are in favor of this legislation moving forward I would ask that you contact your Representative and Senators and ask them to support the bill.

Our Party in Pictures

So Much Food, So Much Fun, So Many Awards



More Christmas Joy



**Member of the Year-
Herb Rusk**



Classifieds

Members ads run for 3 issues. If you would like to continue the ad for any additional time, please email your request to the editor at barbara_epstein@hotmail.com



Mark your calendar - You won't want to miss out on any of Chapter 690's meetings and activities.

Our regular 1st Saturday Pancake Breakfasts feature aviation programs or activities. Our meetings, on the 2nd Friday of each month, include programs on a variety of topics.

Commercial Ad Rates

Business Card Size: \$10 / Issue

1/8 Page: \$15 / Issue
\$40 / 3 Issues

1/4 Page: \$25 / Issue
\$60 / 3 Issues

Support our Advertisers!

Hanger Space Available

Space available for a "Van's RV aircraft in the EAA Hangar #4. For details, call **Clyde Schnars @ 770-769-7177**

The Chapter 690 AeroShopper

... is a great place to find some unique & high quality gifts.... for birthdays, holidays, or just because ...

Gift cards (sets of 8) and ceramic coasters (sets of 4) featuring aviation photography by our own John Slemp.

Beautiful Airplane Wood Carvings-Small-\$5, Large-\$10

Oil



Analysis Kits-Only \$12

Large coffee mugs-\$15

Sport bottles - \$12

The Aero Shoppe has even more plane related items and more great gift items.

2014 Chapter Web-Site

Most of you know that the Chapter web-site www.eaa690.org contains a wealth of information.

Please go ahead and register for the secure members only portion. While you're at it, up-load your photo.

The chapter also has a website at www.eaa690.net

Speaking about photos, if you have photos of Chapter events, send them to [John Slemp](mailto:jlevine@bellsouth.net) or Joel Levine, jlevine@bellsouth.net for posting to the web-site's photo gallery.

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Newsletter of EAA Chapter 690

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