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# CHAPTER 690

# NAVCOM

May 1996

## Winner Takes All

by Frank Wilcox

If you haven't heard already, and I'm sure most Chapter 690 members have, President Duane Huff's "Award Winning Aeronca Chief" was judged Classic Division *Grand Champion* at Sun 'n' Fun '96. A few months ago, the Chief, a little bit shinier and with many less air miles, was judged Classic Division Best of Class at Oshkosh '95. Two top awards in less than a year! Dreams, with hard work, do come true!

As Duane and I sat there in the FAA Forum room and watched the many awards being made for Warbirds, Ultralights, and Contemporary Aircraft, the hope was of course that the Chief might win one of the Classic Aircraft awards. The judges had been impressed when they looked the plane over and Duane had shown them pictures and explained how the restoration was done. There was plenty of competition, both in quality and quantity. Many people had stopped by and looked the Chief over in detail, especially former Chief owners and pilots. All were very complimentary about the craftsmanship and authenticity of Duane's work. So as the awards for the Classic Division began, there was some anticipation that one would go to the Chief. To enhance the presentations at the Awards Night Celebration, a colored slide of each winner was projected on a large screen as the plane and owner were announced. Winners were announced for Best Custom, Best of Type, Best Finnish, Best Restored, Judge's Choice, yet still Duane's Chief did not appear on the screen. The head classic judge, who was presenting the awards, said, "and the last award in the Classic Division, the Grand Champion is..." and on the screen flashed a very good 3/4 front view of Duane's plane, "an Aeronca Chief owned by Duane Huff of Lawrenceville, Georgia." Shock is an

understatement for the expression that registered on Duane's face, but after a few seconds, he pulled himself together and "floated" to the stage (still unbelieving, I think), accepted his award, and "floated" back to his seat. Wow! The hoped for, but unexpected, had happened.

A round of congratulations followed the awards presentations. We all went out for dinner with former Chapter 690 member Steve Dunn and his friends. Steve now lives in Dallas. He too was a top award winner one year with his restored L-19 that many of us envied and occasionally flew in. It was quite an evening of reminiscing—an appropriate conclusion to all of the excitement we had just experienced.

I don't know if the Chief knew that it was so famous, but I do know that on the flight home the next day, everything went like clockwork. The landings were smoother, the airspeed a little higher (or was it the ground speed, Duane), and she flew straight on the GPS planned flight path—from airport to airport. Some people say that inanimate objects don't have feelings or brains, but I'm not so sure after the outstanding ride we had coming home. Maybe it was payback to Duane for all of his hard work and persistence in bringing a tired old 1947 Aeronca Chief back to a new life. It is a new life that is recognized by expert and amateurs alike as "the Classic Grand Champion" of Sun 'n' Fun '96, the second largest worldwide gathering of aviation enthusiasts. Congratulations Duane and Aeronca Chief NC 3420E. May both of your lives together and separately be filled with many hours of aviation fun.



# Presidential Pitch

President Duane Huff

There is good news and bad news this month. The bad news is that the Balloon Festival has been canceled. This means a loss of anticipated income for Chapter 690, necessitating more diligence at our other fundraising projects to meet our expenses. The Budget and Finance Committee held their first meeting on April 1. Greg Jannakos was elected chairman and Bill Bailey was elected recording secretary. A preliminary report was given at the April chapter meeting.

The good news in the area of finance is that we do not have to pay personal property taxes on our assets. Steve Ashby received a letter from the Gwinnett Board of Assessors, dated April 5, 1996, stating that we meet the qualifications set forth in O.C.G.A. 48-5-41 and were granted exempt status in Gwinnett County. This will be reviewed in two years.

Thanks, Joel, for helping plant the tree given to Chapter 690 by Chapter 1062 and presented at the dedication ceremony by Katie Parks and Richard Hogan, 1062 President. This was a very thoughtful gesture and a unique gift that will help us keep in mind the cooperation between the chapters as we watch it grow and see its beauty beside our hangar.

## Honduras Adventure

The 737-A300's wingtips seemed to brush the mountains as we approached the field at Tegucigalpa, Honduras. The base leg was a quick, steep 180 degree turn to final and the landing was on a narrow, rough runway—the only runway. The Honduran Air Force is based at the airport and consisted of a few DC-3s, a C-130, and some helicopters. There were also a couple of other DC-3s and a DC-4 parked along the runway that were possibly restoration projects. A future 690 project? Ha! If you are interested in my mission trip to Honduras, talk to me about it some time.

## Sun n' Fun

The "Award Winning Chief" performed well going to, while at, and returning from Sun n' Fun '96. Frank and I were delayed by fog at Macon and returned to Henry Co. to wait for it to lift. We soon went on our merry way and arrived just before the the field closed at Lakeland. The flight back was shorter because we came on a more direct route and had a good tailwind. But once again (I can't seem to have an uneventful flight), I was delayed at LZU because a Cessna 172 was in the middle of the runway with a blown tire. I circled the field in the rain until the plane was removed. Finally cleared to land, I touched down on 7 thankful to be safe on the ground and home again.

The Chief performed best on the ground at Sun n' Fun, being admired by all. On Thursday evening after going through all the awards where the Chief might possibly be honored, much to my shock and surprise it was announced as the *Classic Grand Champion!*

## In closing...

I received a letter from Scott Fuller, Airport Director, about violations of FAR 91.113—"Right of Way Rules." I can't imagine any one in EAA causing an aircraft on approach to abort, but I thought I should bring this to your attention. Keep flying safely.

Please support our upcoming events:

The fiberglass workshop on May 11, 1996;

The Poker Run on June 1, 1996;

The Young Eagles Rally.

Keep your wings level and the airspeed up, Duane.

**Award-Winning Aeronca Chief**

**Award-Winning Aeronca Chief Owner/Restorer**





# Chapter Calendar

## May 11 — Fiberglass workshop

at the Chapter 690 Hangar, 10 am. Whether you want to just build a little faring for you BelchFire 5000 or build the whole plane, this workshop will get you off the dime and moving! For more info, call Greg Jannakos at (404) 296-0937. Chapter 690 workshops historically have been loads of fun and extremely educational. Bring a friend! Heck, our welding workshops of years ago is what got me to join the Chapter!

**May 25-26 Fly-In Airshow, Toccoa, GA EAA Chapter 1011**  
706-779-3446.

**May 8 —Aviation Safety Program, Gwinnett Co. Airport (LZU; TWR 124.1) 7-9 pm "On Landings, Part II."** Sue Adams 770-613-9501.

**May 10—Chapter 690 monthly meeting, 8 pm, Chapter Hangar, Gwinnett County airport. 7:30 hangar flying.**

**May 18—G. Pilot's B'fast Club, Mallard's Landing (GA04).** Zip Hinton 770-957-1546.

**May 25-26—Fly-In Airshow, Toccoa, GA. EAA Chapter 1011 GBPC, RW Moore 706-779-3446.**

**June 1—Chapter 690/Cloud Dancers "Kick Off the Summer!"** Poker Run! Prizes! Refreshments! Deadline to buy hands is May 27. Call Sue Adams at 770-613-9501. LZU Tower 124.1.

**June 6-9—Balloon Championship CANCELED!!**

**June 8—International Young Eagles Day Celebration.**

Greenville Downtown Airport (GMU). SC YE flights, CAF B-29 and B-24. 1940s dinner/dance. Julie Wrenn 1-800-359-7838.

**June 14—Chapter 690 Monthly Meeting, 8 pm Chapter Hangar, Gwinnett Co. Airport. 7:30 Hangar Flying.**

**June 29-30—28th Annual Cracker Fly-In, Gainesville (GVL), GA. Pancake B'fsat on Sat., 7:30-10. Airplane judging, rides, flea mkt, and more. Mic 770-531-0291; Bobbie Savage 770-718-1966.**

**June 30—EAA Chapter 611 Gainesville (GVL) hosts the GPBC catered with old fashioned cooking. Sue Adams 770-613-9501.**

**June 15 —Visit Nieuport project**

**July 13 —Visit Starduster project**

**August 1-7 —Oshkosh, WI. EAA Oshkosh '96. 414-426-4800.**

**August ?? — Post Oshkosh gathering—Replaces regular meeting!**

**October 12-13—5th Annual Fall Biplane Classic. Gwinnett County Airport (LZU Twr 124.1) 7:30-5:30. Biplanes, Homebuilts, Warbirds, rides, food. "Odd-winged" aircraft welcomed, too. ALSO, both days, GPBC: pancakes, sausage, juice, coffee, FUN.**

Note: We are looking for someone to run a Weight & Balance Seminar. Also, we need ideas for new events. Please contact me (Greg Jannakos) at (404) 296-0937.

## NavCom Policy Change

Due to budgetary constraints, the NavCom soon will be available only to current Chapter 690 members, EAA chapters that exchange newsletters, and by individual subscription of \$5.00 per year.

If you are a Chapter 690 member with dues paid, this announcement does not affect you. If you are wondering whether your dues are paid, next month we will run a list of members in good standing. **If you do not see your name on this list, JUNE's NavCom WILL BE YOUR LAST NavCom!!** To continue receiving the NavCom, you can either join (re-join?) Chapter 690, or buy a \$5/year subscription. Subscription payments can be by check (to EAA Chapter 690) or cash and should be sent to Sherry Langford, Chapter Treasurer, 271 Clarion Road, Lawrenceville, 30243



## This week only! Gwinnett Co.LZU

Tower: 124.1 — Grd: 121.8 — ATIS:128.625

Motto of the Controllers: We may be stupid, but we're mean!

Note: No guarantees that these numbers or attitudes will hold for next week!

We'll have more on the abomination called a "Control Tower" at LZU next issue. Just remember, it's your tail in the air, not their's.

## Auto Fuel at Peachstate (3GA7)

You may have heard that Stone Mountain Airport will close permanently. We're looking into this, but already they have lost their fuel pumps (please, no EPA gripes—those loons at St. Mt. knew they had leaks for 15 years. I want the EPA catching people like that!) Wayne and I went shopping for auto gas, and the nearest pumps we could find were at Peachstate. Pretty far, but well worth the trip! They have an AMAZING collection of planes under restoration, including: a TravelAir Speed Wing, an Aeronca C2, a DeHavilland Tiger Moth, a Lockheed Electra, and many, many other interesting planes. Ed and Max are two of the friendliest folks you'll ever meet, and they will take the time to show you all the projects! Quite the opposite of treatment at some operations that are soon to be no longer with us...

## FOR SALE

For Sale: Van's RV-6A Empennage & Wing Kit:Wing inc. factory-assembled main spar. All plans and assmby video tapes incld. \$4200; Garmin 55 AVD GPS Receiver: Yoke mount with est. power plug, remote antenna cable. \$500; HobbyAir Power Fresh Air Respirator: Single mask system. Never used. 50' airline. \$275; All For Sale by Alan Langford, 339-3674

For Sale: 1968 Cessna 150, 230 hrsSMOH Approx. 5700TT, AT-50A XPDR + ACK Mode C; Intercom, ADF, MK-12B (360) King KX-145 (720), Audio panel/MKR BCN REC, Wheel pants - red & white, has lots of TLC; 7/95 annual - \$15,500 Firm, N50132 - based at Lenora, Reason: Need full 4 place; Ken Sharp (770) 979-4233 (H); (770)750-6025

VARIEZE, 90% complete rebuild, O-200 300 SMOH. Warnke prop, IFR instrumentation and radios. In law school, no time to finish. \$7950 firm. Terry @ 404-257-8794.

Wanted: Challenger II or Rans S-12. Bobby Hester <hester@hop-uky.campus.mci.net>

**The NavCom needs submissions! If you have any news, a story to tell, etc., please drop us a line! Jeff Boatright (404/315-6869) or Wayne Whitaker (404/296-6883)**

**Chapter Calendar**  
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May 11 — Fiberclass workshop at the Chapter 690 Hangar, 10 am. Whether you want to just build a little faring for you BelchFire 5000 or build the whole plane, this workshop will get you off the dime and moving! For more info, call Greg Jannakos at (404) 296-0937. Chapter 690 workshops historically have been loads of fun and extremely educational. Bring a friend! Heck, our welding workshops of years ago is what got me to join the Chapter!

Larry Bishop  
6527 Rosecommon Drive  
Norcross, Ga 30092

