

DECEMBER 2003

NavCom

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 Road, Lawrenceville, GA



Season's Greetings



Congratulations

To Our New Officers for 2004 & 2005

President – Larry Bishop Vice President – John Reitz Secretary – James Welch Treasurer – Mike Stewart

New Board of Trustee Members – Chip Lewis & Duane Huff

1st Saturday Pancake Breakfast Program

2004's first Pancake Breakfast will be held on January 3rd. The program on "The NASA Experience" will be presented by William Randolph "Randy" Avera.

Randy, born in Augusta, is a 1973 high honors graduate of George P. Butler High School. The recipient of numerous awards and scholarships, he received his BA in Aerospace Engineering from Georgia Tech in 1977.

From 1977 to 1991 Randy was employed by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida. He Worked in the Space Shuttle Program, Vehicle Engineering Directorate, Mechanical Systems Division, Orbiter Structures and Mechanical Systems Section.

Randy was the responsible (Continued on Page 5)

Come Join Us

...for our Annual Holiday Banquet

Don't miss our annual holiday festivities. Chapter 690 will celebrate the holiday season on Friday night December 12th (our regular meeting night) with the traditional dinner and program. The event, held in the Chapter Building, is for all the family - spouses, kids and significant others. Gathering time will begin at 7:00 with dinner served at 7:30. Each family is asked to bring a vegetable, salad or dessert to serve 12. Our members always outdo themselves with the wonderful holiday dishes they prepare for our dinner! As usual, the chapter will provide the meat, drinks and table service. For those who have not attended one of these banquets in the past, it is recommended that fasting for at least two days would be good preparation for this sumptuous banquet.

EAA 690 Experiences Magic in December!
As a special treat, "Tomdini," better known as Tom Kelly, will be our entertainment. You won't believe it when you watch him levitate right before your very eyes! When Tom isn't baffling audiences, he can usually be found participating in Civil Air Patrol events as a faithful senior member!

The evening will include the induction of our new officers and presentation of awards, including the Member of the Year. It's a wonderful opportunity to wish the new officers good luck, to thank the outgoing officers for their efforts on our behalf for the past two years, and to participate in an evening of fun, food, and fellowship.

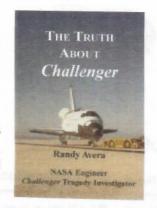
Request for Help with Holiday Dinner Preparations - The hangar needs to be cleaned, set up and decorated on Wednesday, December 10th for the Holiday Banquet. Volunteers will also be needed to clean up after the dinner on Friday. Please call Lnor Levine at 770-394-5466.

Snapshots



← Mike Merritt presented a fascinating program about Lockheed Advanced Development Projects – the Skunk Works at the Nov. 14th Chapter meeting. Mike and his wife Nancy flew over early enough to join a group of EAA members at Valentino's for dinner before the meeting.

Dust cover for "The Truth About *Challenger*"-published January 28, 2003 by Randy Avera. Randy will be the speaker after the 1st Saturday in January Pancake Breakfast (January 3rd). ⇒



EAA's Countdown to Kitty Hawk to be Featured on Discover Channel in December

A two-hour documentary, The Wright Brothers: First In Flight, premiered on The Discovery Channel, featuring extensive focus on EAA's Countdown to Kitty Hawk celebration, presented by Ford Motor Company, and the construction of EAA's authentic reproduction of the 1903 Wright Flyer by The Wright Experience, Warrenton, Virginia. The documentary follows the parallel paths of the Wrights in 1903 and The Wright Experience in 2003 as Ken Hyde and his team employ "reverse engineering" to interpolate the brothers' design process and results from existing Wright aircraft and parts, family correspondence, and other sources.

EAA President Tom Poberezny appears in the documentary to describe the centennial celebration's significance along with EAA's Countdown to Kitty Hawk festivities, which culminate in the actual flight of the Flyer reproduction precisely at 10:35 on December 17, 2003.

The program first aired in September. Portions of the original program will appear on Discovery, along with same-day footage from EAA's Countdown to Kitty Hawk celebration and the planned first flight re-creation at Kitty Hawk, on December 17 at 9 p.m. The program will be repeated at midnight and the next day at noon.

QST, QST, QST -

The North Carolina Special Events Group of radio amateurs is putting a station on the air from Kitty Hawk, NC to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Wright Brother first flight. They will operate from Dec 12 through the 17th using the call W4B. Since Bill Coleman went to the effort of getting the call W4LZU assigned to Chapter 690, I thought it would be appropriate to put it on the air for the first time during that time period. If any ham radio operators in the Chapter (or non-hams) are interested, please contact Joel Levine, 770-394-5466 or ilevine@akorn.net.

A Reminder – Chapter Dues are Due

Chapter 690's Fiscal and Membership Years begin on January 1st - so chapter membership dues are due at the first of the year. They can be paid at the Holiday Dinner or mailed to our new Membership Chairman H. Glenn Clark at 2143 Mountain Creek Dr., Stone Mountain, GA 30087.

Dues may also be paid on-line at www.eaa690.org through PayPal. Select the Membership Folder in Web Links.

Georgia's Centennial of Flight Celebration Concludes with a Grand Finale



A Dinner Dance and Silent Auction will be held at the Delta Airlines Heritage Museum Hangar on Saturday, December 13th. The evening's music will be by the Modernaires and dinner will be provided by Low Country Barbecue. Attire for the evening is period clothing or casual. Tickets for the event are \$50 per person. Groups can reserve tables of ten for \$500. Profits from the evening will go to the Wingman Scholarship Program.

The winner of the "DC-3 for a Day" Raffle will be announced at the dance. \$50 buys you a chance to travel with 9 of your closest friends to a SE destination of your choice — certain restrictions apply. A limo will take the winner and guests to a nearby point of interest or to a restaurant for lunch. Contact Debi Huffman at 678-874-7136 or debi.huffman@fernbank.edu for info or to purchase raffles or dance tickets.

The NavCom

The NavCom is the official monthly newsletter of EAA Chapter 690, serving its members and other persons interested in the advancement of Aviation.

Original articles, art and photos are invited and welcome. Submit articles in Word 97 or ASCII format and pictures in jpeg, tif or bitmap format via email to: Inor@akorn.net

Deadline for submissions is the 15th of each month, unless otherwise announced. Due to Christmas and New Years, the deadline for the January 2004 NavCom is Monday, December 19th.

Permission is hereby granted for the reproduction of NavCom articles by other EAA Chapters, provided that proper credit is given to the author and to the NavCom.

Thanks to 690's "Postmaster" Barney Barnes and his merry band who fold, staple & mutilate the NavCom for distribution and mailing.

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The President's Pitch

By Duane Huff



Thanksgiving has come and gone but EAA Chapter 690 has many things for which to be thankful. The first thing that comes to mind is the great meeting / working place that we are privileged to have. There are still things to be completed, such as a deep sink for the kitchen, New Standard wings finished and out of the tool room so that tools can be put in the room and readied for working there. Thanks to Debi Huffman for the marvelous programs she has arranged for our regular meetings and the Centennial of Flight programs at Fernbank. Thanks to Joel Levine for the speakers and activities after the pancake breakfasts promotion of the chapter. Many thanks to Mike and Jennifer North and crew that have prepared and served the breakfasts for us. We should be thankful for a very successful and safe Young Eagles program and give

thanks to the pilots and ground crew that have given so much to the Young Eagles. The fly-outs and fly-ins (GAFI) were great. Many, many thanks to each officer, chairperson and volunteer that has worked so hard for Chapter 690 through out the year.

In the first President's Pitch, I looked at the meaning of the word pitch and from that compared our term as a flight or journey. We have throttled back, gone to low pitch and landed. We will taxi to our December meeting, take on a new crew and be off on another exciting trip. Come along for the ride and give your continued support for this crew. With our help and support, maybe this will become a Super Sonic or a Shuttle flight.

Remember, EAA Chapter 690 stands for Fun, Food, Fellowship and Flying. Keep the projects progressing and the airplanes flying!

EAA 690 Air Academy Scholarship Available

If you know an interested young person between the ages of 12 and 18, they are eligible to apply to the EAA Air Academy. EAA 690 offers at least one scholarship each year, and this year the Centennial of Flight Wingman Scholarship Program is also offering scholarships to help offset the cost of this experience.

Interested applicants should visit EAA.org to get the current application, fill it out and attach it to our scholarship application, and submit it to the Chapter by March 15, 2004.

Each year the recipients report back to the Chapter their experiences. They make you want to go back to your youth! If you have questions, contact Debi Huffman at 678-874-7136 or debi.huffman@fernbank.edu.

Georgia Celebrates Centennial of Flight with Scholarships

Georgia students interested in attending aviation or space related programs during 2004 still have time to apply for funds from the new Wingman Scholarship Program. Qualifying programs include aviation summer camps, space camps, accredited flying schools and soaring programs.

Applications are due by December 31st, and scholarship recipients will be announced in February 2004. A completed original application for the program that the student wishes to attend must be attached. Other requirements are listed on the application form.

Funds for the scholarships are being raised at the Grand Finale on December 13th (see article on page 2). For more information and application forms, contact Debi Huffman at 678-874-7136 or debi.huffman@fernbank.edu.

MESSAGE FROM EAA PRESIDENT TOM POBEREZNY (From www.eaa.org)

November 13, 2003

Dear EAA Members:

Today is truly a day to celebrate! As of this morning, we have successfully completed our initial goal of flying 1 million Young Eagles. If I had the opportunity, I would congratulate each of you personally for your role in reaching this historic milestone, but with an army of more than 85,000 volunteers who have supported the program over the past decade, this letter will have to express my appreciation.

The 1-million mark was reached because of you. You and your fellow members wholeheartedly believe in the mission of Young Eagles, which is to introduce young people to the world of aviation and provide an inspiring flight experience. You have now done that more than 1 million times since July 31, 1992. Many in the aviation world thought our goal was impossible. You proved them wrong. We can be extremely proud of what has been accomplished.

This has been a journey of discovery and we have learned much along the way. When Young Eagles was launched, it was thought to be a good idea. Today, as we celebrate this accomplishment, the success of the program proves it.

Young Eagles represents one of the most significant achievements in aviation. We have given the gift of flight to more children and families than any other civilian program in history. The reasons for our success are many, but your "can-do spirit," your attention to high standards and dedication to safety are among the most important.

So does that mean that it's over and we stop flying Young Eagles? No. The program will continue into the future because you have told us how important it is to remain involved with young people, working together to build aviation's future. Young Eagles has become a part of the very fabric of EAA. Our mission is too significant to stop now.

Young Eagles is working. We are promoting aviation. We are bringing children and flight together in a meaningful way. We are making a difference in the lives of young people. We have provided motivation for children to stay in school or pursue lofty goals, such as attending a military academy. A significant number of former Young Eagles have earned their pilot's license and have returned to fly their own Young Eagles, completing the journey started with their initial flight.

The Young Eagles program will continue to provide a high-quality, satisfying experience for young people. In addition, your headquarters staff will strive to provide the tools and support our Young Eagles desire, as they explore all the world of aviation is able to offer them. Young Eagles will build aviation's next century.

Thanks for your effort, leadership and dedication.

Sincerely,

Tom Poberezny EAA President

LZU Runway Status Update

From the office of Matt Smith, LZU Airport Director: "Because of the cold weather forecast for this weekend there will be no work performed on Runway 7/25. The full length of Runway 7/25 will be open for use.

The work scheduled for this weekend will be started next weekend on December 13, 2003 at 7:00 a.m. (local) and will continue through December 15, 2003 at 7:00 a.m. (local).

The work scheduled for the weekend of December 13, 2003 will be started on December 20, 2003 and will continue through December 22, 2003 at 7:00 a.m. (local).

Celebrate the Centennial By Flying!

November 26, 2003 - If you're one of the lucky 35,000 who have a ticket for the December 17 centennial of flight celebration at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, your day is set. But what about the rest of us? How can each of us, as EAA members and Chapters, mark this grand event? One of the best things you can do to honor what Orville and Wilbur accomplished in 1903 is get in your aircraft and fly! Fly a Young Eagle, fly a friend, or fly alone ... just FLY! ... (Cont. on EAA web-site: www.eaa.org.)



Thanks a Bunch

For all of her assistance with articles, info and printing of the NavCom, thanks so much to Debi Huffman.

Your dedication is much appreciated!

EAA Chapter 690 Meeting Minutes - November 14, 2003

Respectfully Submitted by James Welsh

Chapter Vice President Debi Huffman called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited and members and guests were asked to introduce themselves.

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as written in the *NavCom*. There were no reports from the Treasurer, the Board of Directors, the Board of Trustees, or Food Services. Debi reported Tom Kelly the magician is still on tap to provide entertainment during the Christmas banquet on Friday, December 12. Duane is busy wooing another choral group, as Callenwolde has bowed out due to a scheduling conflict. As a reminder, the Chapter will provide the meat and the drinks for the feast. Members are asked to bring their favorite holiday foods to share. More details will follow in the *NavCom*.

Lee Craymer tells us membership hovers in the 220 area, with a noticeable amount of turnover. As opportunities present themselves, we are all encouraged to ask the old members to "re-up." He will relinquished Membership Chairman responsibilities shortly. Joel Levine has a new schedule for the Pancake Breakfasts. Some of the programs evoke the recent Centennial of Flight series and include:

December 2003: Jack Jones and his pursuit of a flying saucer. January 2004: The NASA Experience. February 2004: Airships, Gentle Giants of the Air. March 2004: North to Alaska in a Cessna 172. April 2004: Believe it or NOT... a View from the LZU Tower. May 2004 - Wings Weekend. June 2004: Annual Poker Run. July 2004: Annual Airplane Wash

Dave Ostergaard gave the final report for this year's annual Hangar Dance. We made money on both ticket sales and the auction, despite a food sponsor's lack of follow through the day of the dance. Many heartfelt congratulations and a round of applause to Dave, Joel Levine and Lee Olson for making this the best Hangar Dance in recent memory.

The Chapter flew 43 YEs on November 1. Debi tells us EAA has reached the one million mark for YE, and one very fortunate individual has been chosen for the December flight at Kitty Hawk with General Chuck Yeager. Debi expects a heavy YE turnout Saturday, December 6. Lnor Levine needs all submittals of NavCom material by the end of next week to meet the publishing deadline imposed by the Thanksgiving Holiday.

There was no old business to discuss. Frank Wilcox, as chairman of the officer of the nominating committee, presented the list of nominees for Chapter officers and Board Members. Also up is election is the Member of the Year. Ballots were distributed, voting was held and results were announced. The new officers and Board Members will be installed during the annual Christmas banquet and include:

President: Larry Bishop
Vice President: John Reitz
Secretary: James Welsh
Treasure: Mike Stewart
Board of Trustees:
Duane Huff and Chip Lewis

The Member of the Year will be announced at the annual Christmas banquet.

Announcements included a request on behalf of Duane Huff to please advise him of any completed aircraft projects or restorations so they can be recognized and plaques given at the Christmas banquet. Also, the next two Centennial of Flight programs include Learning to Fly and an in-depth look at Pearl Harbor.

The meeting was adjourned. After refreshments, we enjoyed a presentation by Mike Merritt of Lockheed. He gave us a fascinating inside look at the F/A-22 Raptor being built by Lockheed in Marietta, Georgia.

Respectfully submitted by James Welsh, EAA #705644.

Bio Info on Randy Avera (Cont. from Page 1)

lead Engineer for the Space Shuttle Orbiter's structural systems construction, functional testing, launch, landing, and recovery operations. He served as a Mechanical engineer for installing and launching Shuttle payloads such as:

- Space Lab
- Galileo to Jupiter probe
- Ulysses Solar Magnetic Observer probe
- Hubble Space Telescope

He was a Principle Investigator for the Space Shuttle Challenger crash investigation (1986, Vehicle Breakup Analysis Team, Presidential Commission.)

From 1991 to 2003, Randy worked for FAA at the Atlanta Aircraft Certification Office, Systems & Flight Test Branch, Aircraft Mechanical / Electrical / Software Systems. He was a Responsible Systems Engineer primarily for passenger and freighter Transport Category aircraft design certification and continued airworthiness. He has extensive training and experience in Aging Aircraft Systems, electrical systems design and wire routing as well as in aircraft Crash Investigation.

Randy is the author of "The Truth About *Challenger*"-published January 28, 2003. "The Fantasy of Safe Flight" is scheduled to be published in 2004, and "Aliens Confirmed!" is to be published in 2004 or 2005.

Classifieds

Ads run for 3 months. If you would like to continue the ad for an additional 3 months you must request it through the editor by email, snail mail or phone call. This limit is set to keep the ads current and effective. Ads will be dated with month and year at the time of submission or renewal.

BUILD YOUR HANGAR AND HOME

On 5+ Acre Lots - Close to Atlanta (1.5+ hrs. Drive-Time)

Deerfield Landing - 2900' Grass Strip easy to find (2 mi. north of GA Power Stacks in Milledgeville) Close to Hospitals, Shopping, Colleges, and...Lake Sinclair is just "across the street".

Be one of the first to choose your dream lot! Beautiful setting... must see to appreciate!

For more information, call Sheryl Black or Ken Sharp @ 478-968-7588 10/03

FOR SALE: RV-6A

130 Total Time 0320 Fixed Pitch **VFR** Bendix- King Avionics GPS Mode C Always Hangared, NDH Excellent condition \$62,000 Contact Ron Kidd at 678-966-0281

Ercoupe For Sale

1946 Ercoupe 415D Reluctantly For Sale. I will be posting the following in other venues soon, but would like to get the word out to serious Ercoupers

650 TTEA (not a misprint), 120 SMOH. Most Outstanding Ercoupe Oshkosh 2003. Restored look, modern avionics, everything rebuilt/replaced 2001. Dual fork, Clevelands, Alternator, Oil filter, Shoulder harnesses, new Exhaust system/muffler, new accessories, original panel plus IFR 6-pak, KX155 nav/com, Becker remote Xponder, new red/gray interior, polished fuselage, bubble windshield. Possibly lowest time Ercoupe in world and hangared for last decade. Comes w/2 spare wings, spare fuselage, spare main gear, 2 sets spare cowlings. Regularly flown since 11/2001 restoration, 110mph cruise, solid plane. \$42,500. It ain't cheap folks but it really doesn't need a thing. Contact David Tulis/Atlanta before 10pm 404-634-3576 or via e-mail dtulis@mindspring.com. Reason for sale: New baby.

See pix of restoration at: http://www.thisoldplane.com/whatsnew.htm pix of Ad at: http://www.thisoldplane.com/ERCOUPE.pdf

10/03

Limited Offer -JetSol | 4 Gallons (only)

The fantastic professional cleaner that we use for our annual airplane wash -

Usually available for sale only in minimum quantities of 6 gallons -Available in the AeroShoppe at our cost of \$30 each.

Coming Soon - AeroShoppe

The EAA 2004 World of Flight Calendar

List Price \$12.99 Sale Price \$11.00

Also on Sale -Oil Analysis Kits (\$12.00) and Chapter 690 Logo mugs (\$8.00). Signed books, patriotic novelties, aviation toys.

For Sale: WW-I E-3 EINDECKER FIGHTER REPLICA

Includes rights to production and all tooling and jigs, etc. One complete plane needing cover, engine and much inventory for further production. This comprises substantially all assets of the "Airplane Factory," Dayton, Ohio. Oshkosh debut photos available & details.

Contact Scott Perkins -678-290-0507 or e-mail: 2scott@bellsouth.net

12/03

1958 Piper Comanche-180-132, N5119P for Sale

An extensive annual was recently done by Jim Moore, IA at LZU which includes most of the following:

TTAF 2915.6 SMOH 1295.33 Compression #1-73/80, #2-77/80, #-3-76/80, #4-76/80 New Carbureator Heat Shroud

New Exhaust, a/c right New Starter and Starter Cable

New Left and Right Magneto

New Aeroquip Fuel and Oil Hoses

New Landing Gear Bungee Cords New Main Wheel Brakes & Linings

New Main Wheel Tires

New Exhaust Muffler New Exhaust Tailpipe NDH

Complete Logs

Invoices & Receipts Past 12 years

IFR Certified

Instruments arranged in T category Audio Panel - Terra TMA 340D - 3

Light Marker

Navcom # 1 - Bendix King 155 TSO

Navcom # 2 - MX 12

Yoke Mounted Push Talk

Transponder - Altitude Reporting Narco AT 50A

Heated Pitot

Shoulder Harnesses Front Seats Sound Insulation Installed Under Cabin Flooring

Interior - Very Good

Exterior - Very Good

Some hail marks occurred before painting

Aircraft flown about 20 hours last year and due to family circumstances I believe it should be available to a new owner. Excellent condition and flies beautifully. Interested parties are welcome to contact Jim Moore, IA, for reference. I have owned this aircraft for the past 12 years. Should anyone in EAA be interested I can be reached at this e-mail, chancy@compuserve.com. Gene Chancy. 12/03

WELCOME NEW

John Blake

Peter Joslin

John Patrick Bratton

Michael Langley

Jim Buckner

Kenneth & Theresa Lilja

Dennis Custance

Bob Minnis

Barry Doublestein

Jamie Painter

Larry Dyson

Scott Perkins

Tina & Phillip Heil

Charles Pickron

Glen Horn

Julie & Bill Pitts

H. Todd Jennings

Terry Stachur

EAA Chapter 690
Lawrenceville Airport
8:00 to 10:30 AM





Free Programs
Start at 10:30 A.M.

- → January 3 The NASA Experience
- February 7 Airships The Gentle Giants of the Air
- → March 6 North to Alaska By Cessna Skylane
- + April 3 Believe It or Not -

A View from the Tower

+ April 30, May 1, 2 -

5th Annual Wings Weekend

- → June 5 = Annual 690 Poker Run
- → July 3 Annual 690 Airplane Wash

Will Your Next Aircraft Be A Flying Saucer?

Guest speakers for our 1st Saturday Pancake Breakfast and Program on December 6th will be Mr. Jack Jones, Randy Avera and John Nichols, principals in Geobat Flying Saucer Aviation, Inc. Jones, President and designer, along with his engineering team, will discuss the Geobat, a flying saucer-like vehicle. They will review the principals of the design and its progress beyond the flying model stage and into the future.

"Testing using radio control models shows good overall performance, combining outstanding Short Take Off and Landing (STOL) performance, estimated cruise speeds of 180-220 mph depending on power and cruise altitude, and eyewatering aerobatic performance" says Jones. Furthermore, "the design concept provides for excellent forward visibility combined with transparent floor panels creating a helicopter-like cockpit environment." A display of the Geobat design is now on exhibit at the Museum of Design (associated with the Smithsonian



Institution) located at the Marquis II Office Tower in downtown Atlanta. Details of the vehicle can be seen on the company web-site, www.geobat.com. The design first appeared in the April 1997 issue of Popular Science magazine and has caught the attention of the United States Department Of Defense. In 2000 the Geobat was a top-ten semi finalist in Discover Magazine's awards for Technological Innovation.



Yikes! I should have listened when Dad told me not to get too close to the runway! (Sure hope this doesn't disqualify me from getting my Young Eagle certificate!)

Check the latest news on the Centennial of Flight Celebration at Kittyhawk, NC on the web at: www.firstflightcentennial.org.

POLLY HAS ARRIVED SAFELY IN ROTHERA, ANTARCTICA!

Sunday, November 30, 2003 - Polly Vacher, the British pilot who is trying to be the first person to circumnavigate the globe solo over both poles in a single engine aircraft, landed at 2004 hrs zulu on Saturday after an 8 hour flight from Ushuaia. She is watching the weather to fly her Piper Dakota on to McMurdo. You can check her latest info on www.worldwings.org.

Polly, who left on her adventure on May 6th has flown a total of 217hrs 18mins to date. She hopes to endow an annual flying scholarship for a disabled person through her flight.

NavCom

Newsletter of EAA Chap. 690

Editor: Lnor Levine 1340 Nerine Circle Dunwoody, GA 30338



Place Stamp Here

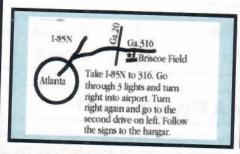
Come Join Us!

Regular monthly meetings — On the 2nd Friday of every month (except for August's Post Oshkosh Bash). In the Chapter Building at 8:00 p.m. Hangar flying before & after!

Pancake Breakfast and Aviation Program or Activity – On the 1st Saturday of every month, in the Chapter Building.

Breakfast served 8:00 - 10:30 a.m.

Free programs start at 10:30 a.m.



DECEMBER MEETING -

Friday, Dec 12th, 2003 at 8:00PM

Annual Holiday Dinner. Awards. Installation of Officers.

Entertainment by Tomdini

Visit the EAA 690 Website at www.eaa690.org



More than 35,000 EAA member-pilots and 50,000 ground support volunteers achieve remarkable goal - introducing young people to flight

EAA AVIATION CENTER, OSHKOSH, Wis. — (Nov. 13, 2003) — The largest youth aviation initiative ever conceived has reached its lofty objective, as the Experimental Aircraft Association's (EAA's) Young Eagles Program reached its goal of giving 1 million young people a free demonstration airplane flight by the centennial of the Wright brothers' first flight on Dec. 17, 2003.

Andrew Grant, a 15-year-old high school sophomore from German Valley, III., was registered as Young Eagle No. 1,000,000 this week, with the official announcement made by EAA President Tom Poberezny during a news conference today at the EAA AirVenture Museum. Grant was flown on Oct. 25, 2003, by pilot Rick Ellis (EAA #469164) of Freeport, III., who has flown more than 860 Young Eagles since 1995.

"It's difficult to put into context the true achievement of flying one million Young Eagles," Poberezny said. "When we announced the program in 1992, there were many people who thought flying a million kids was simply unattainable. Through the efforts of tens of thousands of dedicated EAA volunteers, both pilots and ground personnel, the dream became reality. To them we say, literally, 'Thanks a million,' and celebrate this historic achievement. The aviation community owes these people a debt of gratitude, because they have helped secure the future of flight." (See letter from Tom Poberezny on Page 4.)

Grant and his family, along with Ellis, have been invited to Kitty Hawk, N.C., next month to attend EAA's Countdown to Kitty Hawk, presented by Ford Motor Company, the official ceremony celebrating 100 years

of powered flight. During the Dec. 17 festivities. Grant will fly with Gen. Chuck Yeager, the first person to fly faster than the speed of sound Chairman of the Young Eagles Program since 1994. This flight will formally recognize the 1 million Young Eagles and all the volunteer pilots who participated in the program.



Andrew Grant and pilot Rick Ellis.