



NEXT MEETING

Saturday May 4, 11:00, Chapter Hangar-Finally

Burgers and Dogs (and other good stuff) to follow-invite your friends.

President's Message

Freedom to Fly?

We members of EAA 725 continuously respond to challenges as we strive to fly in light aircraft of various designs. Obstacles abound before us.

FAA rules about initial licensing of pilots, followed by periodical physicals and bi-annual flight reviews present obstacles that we must overcome.

Although weather may be fair, clouds, rains, and winds of recent months often curtailed our chances of flying.

Our aircraft or those we rent must pass annual maintenance and airworthiness inspections that verify their airworthiness and safety for elevating pilots and observers into the sky. Aircraft owners cringe at repair cost for labor and parts. Optionally, they may to some extent provide intense, knowledgeable manual labor to perform certain specified tasks.

Our VFR airspace may be compromised by national security requirements, necessary forest fire containment efforts, heavy smoke and haze, and air breathability. Traffic restrictions for light aircraft around major airports constrict our usable airspace.

Even so, we are gifted in contrast to our European and some Asian lands where civilian VFR aircraft may not operate, may not levitate. Fortunately, we have advocates such as EAA and AOPA who push back against the restrictive government pressures that could slowly further erode our civilian VFR airspace.

The esprit de corps we share and demonstrate to overcome our continual challenges forms a special bond that unites us, pilots and visual observers. We continue to prevail, working our way daily, annually preserving our freedom to fly. Rejoice in the continual ingenious accomplishments in developing flyable alternative aircraft, and of our own men and women in flying, repairing, and flying again. We succeed and enjoy this precious bond.

Good weather has arrived and we begin to fly more often, again and again. See you at the airport!

Clear skies!

Nate

April Meeting Minutes

Call to order: 11:00 a.m. by Pres. Nate Riffle

Pledge to U.S. Flag: 11:01

Guest and new member introduction: Guests, Pam Palmer and Zach Leitch

Member attendees: Dick Smith, Stan Loer, Dennis Crawford, Phil Cloutier, Kathy Cloutier, Michelle Rochette, Joe Williams, Nate Riffle, Ed Lee, Derek Reed. Note: Derek retired from the Chapter after this meeting. He was our senior member in his 90's, originally from England in the World War II timeframe viewing the Battle of Britain locally. Subsequently, he personally built six different aircraft and flew them.

50/50 Second Chance: raffle not conducted, Treasurer absent.

Treasurers Report: Dennis Crawford provided a brief report from Treasurer, David Applegate. The Chapter has \$3071.64 in the bank. Rough notes from this meeting document that Jed Keller, member #1305049, has paid his dues.

Airport Advisory Report: by Stan Loer. Not recorded in rough notes.

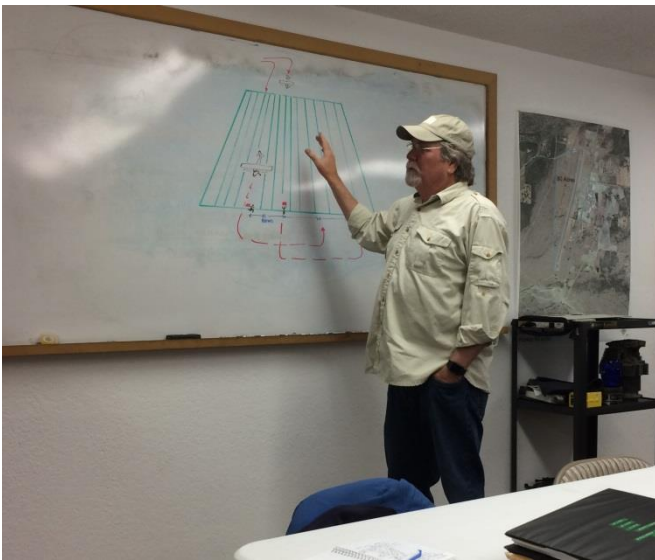
Old Business: Pricing on hangar overhead lighting LED tubes. A 4 pack of 8 ft long tubes on internet source, Amazon, costs more than equivalent lighting from local source, Costco, in 4 ft long lengths. Resolved: buy from Costco on an as-needed basis rather than storing spares in the hangar.

New Business: Joe Williams will buy ball caps for members on pre-approved design for all those signing up for caps. Price will vary, but may be less than \$15 each. Joe will advise when ordering for members is firmed up.

Antique Aircraft Club visit from Washington State is coming up in near future. Members are seeking ways to generate publicity for our Chapter 725 in anticipation of this visit. A committee composed of Stan Loer, Dick Smith, and Phil Cloutier will seek methods and report back to a monthly meeting.

Fly-Outs and other Activities: as the weather improves, Prospect, Myrtle Creek, and other nearby destinations may be spontaneously selected by pilots and passengers for visits.

Presentation: Joe Williams lucidly provided pictures and recollections of his youthful 13 year-old adventures as an assistant marking spray lanes for low-level crop dusting near Corpus Christi, Texas. The protection for such a role back in those early 1950's years was minimal and he noted health symptoms that may stem from those early lively adventures.



That was then. Joe shows how the fields were laid out and how flaggers would have to race from lane to lane to provide the distant flag sight target for the pilots as the spraying progressed across the field.



And this is what cotton looks like in the field.



Joe points out the stages of growth when spray is applied. Green: Spray for Boll Weevils. Brown with the cotton showing would be just after a "drop-leaf" chemical similar to Agent Orange has been applied. Yech!



And this is now. No more flaggers. A light bar driven by GPS programming tells the pilot when he is aligned properly for each spray pass.

Adjourn meeting: 11:58 a.m. by unanimous vote.

May Meeting Program

This will be an event more than a program and will take place after the barbecue. Our hangar will welcome local hang glider pilots led by member Dave Palmer who will introduce us to a "Parachute Repack Clinic". This is conducted in conjunction with the annual required parachute repacking interval. In this exercise, each pilot is hoisted into the air, hanging from a rafter. He/she is then spun to simulate loss of control of the hang glider and deploys the emergency chute. The techniques are evaluated by observing pilots and we can only imagine at this point some of the comments that might be offered, but we'll certainly hear them Saturday. The chutes

are then suspended overnight to “relax the folds” and then repacked and reinstalled in the harnesses, thus completing the 2nd part of the clinic. So how many of us have ever heard of a “Parachute Repack Clinic”? Certainly not me and I suspect I have a lot of company. Another routine activity that’s part of a segment of recreational aviation about which many of us know very little. Should be a lot of fun to watch and learn.

Around the Chapter

A lot more tinkering than flying for the first half of the month. But mother nature decided to give us a break last week and local pilots were able to get air **under** the tires for a change. Felt really good to polish out a few rust spots.

Joe Williams seems to always get the news before anyone else. He reports that Richard Colton has sold his Ercoupe to someone in the Seattle area and will deliver it to the new owner. May be interested in replacing it with a Cherokee.

Hats are coming: Joe has confirmation that the hats shipped the 24th. That should put them here in time for the meeting.



Dennis put in a lot of hours polishing and it shows. He says he now has all the accessories for his English Wheel and will soon be ready to tackle his cowlings project. Maybe after the annual is done?

Joe Williams photo.

Dick Smith’s Hornet saga continues. The electronic components he sent out for inspection bench tested OK, so some new troubleshooting ideas will join the list. In the meantime, his CH701 fuselage will find a home in my hangar while he builds up an engine and gets it installed. We had to amputate the wings, but that’s what was required to make it fit. Besides, they can be stitched back on with no ill effects when the time comes.





Joe Williams caught the spring fever bug big time. But it was to the chapter's benefit as he blew out about 75 lbs. of hangar dirt and wiped down the tables with 409. Almost ready for the first barbecue of the season. I tried to hire him to do my house, but he wasn't interested. Not even for \$7.50/hr.



A few late photo entries. Back to Myrtle Creek on Friday. No bicycles this time, but a courtesy ride to Seven Feathers Casino for Joe, Phil, Dennis, and Zack. Beautiful sky, but the word was that moderate to severe turbulence was encountered on the trip back with strong crosswinds at both ends. Barf bags for dessert?

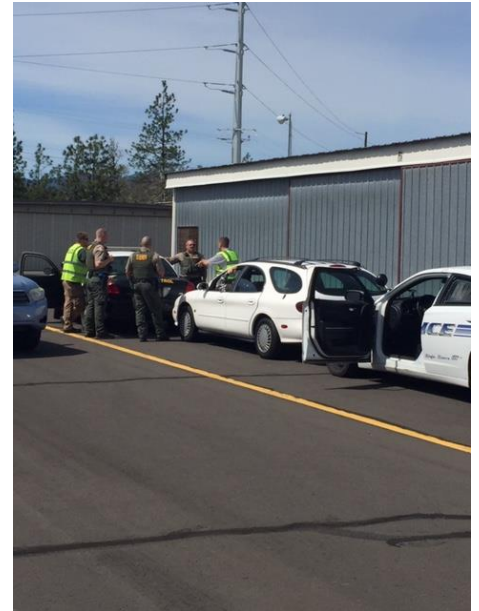


Around the Airport

Our sleepy little airport was anything but this last month. From the 15th to the 19th, the Grants Pass Department of Public Safety used the airport for a week-long training exercise. Joe Williams had a front row seat for all of the action and provided the following pictures. Also, after several weeks of preparation, Mac's trailer was finally demo'd (see "And Finally") to make room for a new residence. I don't know how long it had been there, but I think it preceded my arrival. I suspect its replacement was long overdue, but the blank space that's there now just doesn't look right after all these years.



Come out with your hands up! We've got you surrounded on one side!



Be on your best behavior.
Smoky's here.

Who's the bad guy this time?

Joe said that one exercise in process came to a screeching halt when he opened his hangar. They all wanted to check out his Ercoupe! Maybe as a potential future aerial surveillance platform?



April 22 visitors. A beautiful RV8A and 7A bookended by a pair of Bearhawk Patrols. The RV's were from Medford and are a part of the West Coast Ravens formation flight demonstration team. They were here for a practice session with local member Brian Paris. A whole bunch of them will be here, as they were last year, for Airport Day. The Patrols are from Cottage Grove, built by Dennis Reynolds and Donna Svoboda. Hope to see them here for Airport Day too.

Joe Williams photo.

I'm pretty sure this beautiful RV8 was the 4th in the 4-plane formation. It's registered to Steven Senegal from San Bruno, CA.

Look at that sky! How could you not want to go flying on a day like that.

Joe Williams photo.



But not all smiles: You probably heard or saw news reports of a recent RV8 crash at Brookings with 2 fatalities. While the pilot/owner was from Crescent City, he based the aircraft here. His name is James Penticoff. He actually was a chapter member several years ago while he was building. While an infrequent visitor, some of us got to know him a bit and even flew with him a time or two, myself included. No report on the cause of the accident and probably won't be for some time. Accident investigations proceed slowly and deliberately unless there's something so obvious that it cancels out all other possibilities. So, for the time being, all we can do is mourn the loss of a fellow aviator and extend our sincere condolences to his family.

Future Happenings

May 10: Going away party for Department Specialist Barbara Rodriguez. Noon at the FBO. Come say goodbye and wish her the best. She is getting married and moving to Arizona. IN THE MIDDLE OF SUMMER!

June 1: Ashland Airport Day

June 15: Grants Pass Airport Day. We are doing breakfast. \$7 adults, \$4 children under 12.

June 29: OAHS "Wings and Wheels". Vintage aircraft, automobiles, motorcycles, and bicycles. Cottage Grove, OR. Highly recommended. **Note the date correction. I erroneously had previously shown it on the 22nd.**

June 29-30, new entry: Chapter 495 (Roseburg) fly-in/campout at private airstrip OR17, Glide. This is about 12 miles east of Roseburg. Nate forwarded the e-mail from chapter event coordinator Kevin Bruton so all should be up on the details.

July 9-11: Puget Sound Antique Airplane Club Air Tour visit to Grants Pass. Open invitation to join them on the Hellgate Jetboat dinner cruise July 10. Tom says plenty of room. Make reservations direct with Hellgate. Boat leaves at 4:00.

July 12-13: Wallowa County Fly-in and Airshow. Joseph State Airport, Joseph, OR.

Aug. 3: OAHS Jim Wright Memorial Stearman Fly-in. Cottage Grove

Aug. 10-11: "Warbirds over the West". McNary Field, Salem, OR.

Aug. 16-18: EAA Chapter 292 Fly-in Weekend. Independence, OR. A great EAA event. EAA292.org/fly-in for info. **Registration is now open.**

Aug. 23-24: Airshow of the Cascades. Madras, OR.

Aug. 31 (Sat, Labor Day Weekend): Second annual OAHS "Great Oregon Homebuilt Fly-in". Cottage Grove

Sept. 6-8: Annual WAAAM (Western Antique Aeroplane and Automobile Museum) Fly-in, Hood River. **If you don't have a bucket list, start one and put this on it.**

And Finally



Going, going



Gone!

Joe Williams photos

**EAA Chapter 725
Grants Pass Airport-3S8**

Meets: 1st Saturday of the month- 11:00 AM

Nate Riffle.....President

Dennis Crawford.....Vice President

Office Open.....Secretary

David Applegate.....Treasurer

Stan Loer.....Newsletter Editor (stazel@cpros.com)

Ed Lee.....Webmaster

<p>www.eaa725.org</p>
