



Happy New Year to All!

NEXT MEETING

Sunday, January 6, 2:00 PM

FBO Training Room

President's Message

This is a moment to pause and review our accomplishments of the past. Our activities in support of our airport have been tabulated by letter to the Airport Manager. Copies were sent by email to most of the workers at those activities. In addition, minutes from each meeting during the past year further document additional flyouts, flyins, and recreational gatherings. Our thanks goes to all the diligent workers and presenters for the Chapter meetings. These pilots have provided a window into the flying lives of our aviators and airborne observers. What variety and fun!!

We begin this new year resolving to improve our outlook, activities, and achievements. On January 4th of this new year, an extra meeting of members is planned at the airport FBO at 9:00 a.m. to discuss our current numbers status and recommend paths and activities to improve our appeal and grow our numbers. This will include a discussion for contingency planning should we not be able to remain open as an EAA Chapter. Your participation may provide new insights or overlooked improvement possibilities.

On our first regular meeting of the new year, Sunday, January 6, 2019 at 2:00 p.m. at the FBO, we must choose two new board members, Vice President and Secretary. Joe Williams is stepping down but staying on board as a member. Brent is physically gone, but his heart and wife's, Donna, are still with us as evidenced by their trip from Montana to attend our Christmas party.

Come and join us at these meetings! We love the good energy and dedication of these fellows and girls!

Clear Skies,

Nate

December Meeting Minutes (Courtesy President Nate)

Occasion: Annual Christmas Party held at Grants Pass Country Club

Call to order: by President at 7:05 p.m. est.

Pledge allegiance to U.S. flag

Guest introductions: Grants Pass Airport Manager, Mr. Larry Graves, his Department Specialist, Barbara and fiancé, Steve.

50/50 Chance drawing: net income for Chapter: \$19.

New business: Chapter 725 Board Member Awards sent from EAA headquarters, Oshkosh, Wisconsin

President: Nathan Riffle

Vice President: Joseph Williams

Treasurer: David Applegate

Secretary: Brent Battles

Newsletter Editor Stan Loer

Other business: Deferred until next meetings on 4 January 2019 and 6 January 2019

Adjourned Meeting at 7:29 p.m.

Let the fun begin!!

January Meeting Program

Unless there is a last minute change, the “program” will consist of a report on the conclusions and recommendations from the 9 AM Jan. 4th brainstorming session (see President’s Message) and request for any additional suggestions from members who were not able to participate. So come prepared to join a lively discussion of how we can “market” our chapter to the area aviation community and plan interesting, educational, and fun activities for the year. A new year, new challenges, and new opportunities.

Catching Up

As you know, we have an annual county ground lease assessment for our hangar footprint. For many years we have been satisfying this lease obligation by taking on airport improvement projects approved by the airport manager. Well, several weeks back, Larry informed us that he had no record of work performed for 2013-2017. We all knew that wasn’t correct but, without documentation, he had no choice but to charge us back lease for these years, but he was quite willing to give us time to collect data he could use to mitigate the charge. I didn’t save the original e-mail, but I remember it amounted to several thousand dollars. Talk about a wake-up call. A flurry of activity ensued as current and past officers and other members re-created records associated with the campground development and maintenance, shower house labor, painting the compass rose (again), refurbishing the auto gas truck, and several other activities for which we could claim credit. It fell to Nate to collate all this information and provide it to the airport office. Barbara then generated a spread sheet which Larry used to calculate our updated obligation. Bottom line: **Our account is now credited with \$4400.00 against future ground lease assessments!** Of course, we need a system to document our labor on future projects and provide it annually, but thanks to all who contributed their efforts to bring our account up to date. Thanks also to Larry for giving us time to clean up our oversight and to Barbara for putting our data into a useable form so that it could be properly evaluated. All’s well that ends well, and this ended very well indeed.

Around the Chapter

I think many of us have settled in for a long winter's nap with visions of blue skies filled with airplanes dancing in our heads. Or maybe I'm the only one hibernating. In spite of the onset of winter, there's a bit of activity to report. Phil is completing his condition inspection so he'll be ready for the new flying season. Santa's elves are still working on Joe's engine, so he'll get a belated Christmas present hopefully sometime soon. Dick and Beth will be back from the sunny southwest by the time you read this, so work will soon resume on the Hornet. Hope they brought some of that warm desert sunshine back with them. That's all I'm aware of for now. But the January newsletter couldn't possibly be published without some commentary on the annual Christmas party and a few photos to help fix it in our memories. After all, it's our major social event of the year.

Thanks to Dennis for coordinating the arrangements with the Grants Pass Country Club (again). By my recollection, this was our 4th Christmas party there. My how time does fly. But I think we'd all agree the location is hard to beat. Great food too and we had a good turnout. We also got to say hello again to Brent and Donna who came all the way from their new home in Montana. We miss them a lot but, for a few hours, we could act like they never left. The "White Elephant" gift exchange was a lot of fun as usual with a few surprises and several multiple exchanges. Wonder how many of those same gifts will show up again next year?

Joe's photos are by far better than mine, but I got more of the gift exchange. However, not all the gifts are easy to identify in the pictures (didn't take notes), and some of my photos came out slightly fuzzy. Had to be the camera. Oh well, it's the spirit(s) that counts. Here are some of the better ones.



Members and guests gather in the lounge for cocktails and conversation before dinner. (JW)



Christmas decorations in the dining room added to our festive mood.



The gift exchange table before the onslaught began. (JW)



Toys for tots. We didn't forget the kids either. (JW)



Somebody PLEASE ring the dinner bell!! (JW)



The "Management" table, chapter and airport. This was Barbara's last Christmas party with us as she and her fiancé will be moving to Arizona next summer. Arizona? Summer? Shouldn't you be there now? (JW)

In keeping with the season, I'll call this the "Bah, Humbug" gesture. But someone else decided they needed the gloves worse than Joe, so he later got a 2nd bite of the apple (as did many others). Next time around he snagged a piston.





Not sure, but I think Derek got a bathrobe. Should have insisted he model it. A missed opportunity.



Don scored a damaged runway light, a victim of the infamous "Fly Baby" incident.



Doug looks like he's ready for a trip to the frozen north.



Looks like Dave just couldn't pass up that runway light. Sorry, Don.



OK, I give up. A wall hanging to replace the runway light?



Lose the hat, get a good book. All that's needed now is a comfortable chair in front of a roaring fireplace. Well, maybe a hot buttered rum too.



A Captain's hat for The Boss. How fitting. But that tool in Larry's right hand looks downright diabolical.



I think the wording on the cup says "Always classy, never trashy". That's Cheryl for sure.



Nate looks nothing like a penguin but I think he got one of their scarves.



Last but not least. Our "Gift Distribution Facilitator" Dennis got an aviation-themed lamp. Says it will have to go in his hangar-no room in the "man cave". But I suspect he knows exactly what and where everything is.

And that's a wrap for another year. Savor the good times we've had over the last 12 months and look ahead to more as we start a new year. Maybe we can come up with a few more social event ideas since we have so much fun at this one.

Remember: 2019 dues are due. Come to the January meeting and renew your membership for the new year. It's only \$20. Or mail to:

**EAA Chapter 725
1333 Brookside Blvd.
Grants Pass, OR 97526**

Future Happenings

This will be a work in progress as we move into a new flying season. If you're aware of any events coming up in the next few months, let me know. This is where they will appear.

And Finally

I opened my big mouth last summer and ended up with an assignment for this summer: Organize a July 4th visit to Brent and Donna's place in Montana. Geez, it was just a casual comment. Now I'm on the hook.

The 4th is on a Thursday this year. Fly, drive, saddle up, doesn't matter. They say they can handle the whole lot of us, so maybe we can get a caravan headed that direction late June. They've put out the invitation so I'll keep the idea front and center. Not too early to at least start thinking about it.

EAA Chapter 725 Grants Pass Airport-3S8

Meets: 1st Sunday of the month- 2PM

Nate Riffle.....President

Office Open.....Vice President

Office Open.....Secretary

David Applegate.....Treasurer

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

Ed Lee.....Webmaster

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