

History of Chapter 732

By Barry West

Some of you have asked me about the history of the chapter. I am not the best person to do this but probably the only one to volunteer. I don't go back to the very beginning and don't really know when the chapter got started. There were



several aviation organizations operating then. The first one I was interested in was the Northwest Arkansas Flying Club because the main intention was to fly to places and this is what I did a lot of in California. Here is a picture of a picnic with a few of the members including Jack Macy, Jim Taylor, Charley Scott, Tom Kendall and myself.

EAA Chapter 732 and the Northwest Arkansas Flying Club were pretty much composed of the same

People. Some of those that were active and contributed to the Chapter are not around anymore, or at least we don't see them very often are Jack Macy, Charley Caldwell, Doug Stone, Charley Scott, Steve Chambers, Tom Wyatt and Joe Terminella.

Then some of the early contributors have gone west: Floyd Harris, Wayne Larabee, Jim Halbert, Bob Harlan and Rex Stewart.

The main purpose of the NWA Flying club was to have groups of pilots go on flying trips. These are called flyins. I participated in many flyins in California, traveling to locations in the western part of the United States and into Mexico. The NWA Flying club put together several flyins. The participants in these flyins were both Chapter 732 members and NWA Flying Club members.

I participated in most of these and managed to get some pictures.

In about 1997 the NWA Flying club was limping but Chapter 732 was doing well. Most of the members of the flying club were also members of 732 and we decided to merge the flying club into the chapter. The only assets of the flying club were an old trailer, a few folding tables and some chairs.

Also about this time we picked up some new members that contributed a lot to the chapter. Some of these were Chip Gibbons, Doug Stone, Lester and Mickey Ward, Jim Wimberly, Dave Bowman, Troy Bates and Steve Chambers. Some pretty good things happened about this time. The chapter acquired the trailer. This was done pretty much because of several major contributions from a few members.

And during this time we had some significant activities. Twice we had flour bombing contests at Huntsville in front of Charley Cogers hanger. I forget what the target was but several planes would fly over one at a time and drop paper bags full of flour on a target. We also sold pancakes and biscuits and gravy at the balloon fest at the Bentonville airport and again at an activity at the Springdale Airport.

As I recall, we asked Walmart to donate the tables and they refused but donated \$1000 which paid for the tables that we still use. Jack Macy built the fixtures in the trailer so the tables and chairs could be carried.

Building

One of our main activities and what is the heart of the EAA was building airplanes and many were built from the beginning and continue to be built; some were simple (no airplane is really simple) but others were quite advanced. We helped each other and received tons of help from the master builder, Jim Younkin.

About 2001 we awarded placques for building and flying our planes and we got a picture of all of us that had done so at that time.



Here we are in front of Charley Cogers hanger, from the left, Charley Scott, Jim Halbert, Doug Stone, Wayne Larabee, Mickey Ward, Joe Terminella, Steve Chambers, me and Jack Macy. Rex Stewart is missing.

Meetings

We have always had monthly meetings the same as now. I have a few pictures of some of the meetings and will try to say when each occurred. Many of these meetings were to review projects.



Here is a picture of a meeting at my house when the Kitfox was under construction. And below that is one in Bill Smith's hanger. The Kitfox was under construction so time must have been about 2000. Many meetings were to see projects under construction but there were those that were social and some were instructional. The second picture here is Bill Smith at one of our Christmas meetings at the Wyatt hanger in



Huntsville. Bill was telling a story. That was probably about 2005. Ruth Wyatt was very good at putting these Christmas parties together. Part of these occasions was requesting people to talk about their aviation experience. Bill was good at that.



This is a picture from one of our meetings in Bill Smith's hanger about 2000.

Young Eagles

Young Eagles has been very active since the beginning with several pilots flying more than 100 Young Eagles. We flew them from Drake Field, Springdale Airport, Rogers Airport, Neosho, mo and Huntsville Airport. I think we flew them 3 or 4 times a year.



This is Bob Harlan doing one of his entertaining instruction classes at the Air Museum, Drake Field. He was very good at entertaining the kids





Some one asked me why the pilots are so willing of their time and cost to fly the kids. I answered that it was for the smiles the kids had after landing.

Fly Ins

One of the major activities in the earlier days was our flying trips to various locations. I was thinking we really didn't travel very much but when I checked my log book we visited 19 locations in about 14 trips. Some were pretty long distance and overnight.

I will list them here with the dates from my log book.

Durango, Silverton and Mesa Verde, Colorado: On June 1, 1997 about four air planes NWA met up with four or five planes from California in Durango, Co. and rode a train pulled by an antique steam engines up the canyon of the Animas River to Silverton, Co, an old mining town. The next day we visited the cliff dwellers homes at Mesa Verdi, Co.

Panama City Beach: Also in 1997 we took a trip to Panama City Beach for a pontoon boat ride out to an island for a picnic.

Los Alamos and Santa Fe, New Mexico: On October, 5 1998 some of us flew to Los Alamos, NM and toured where they developed the first nuclear bombs and the second day we went to Santa FE, NM before returning home. We were also joined with some of my flying friends from California.

Savannah, Georgia: 1999, I rode with someone else and can't find exact date. We toured the 8th Air Force Museum and ate at a famous restaurant owned by somebody named Paula something.

Chaco Canyon and Monument Valley in New Mexico and Arizona/Utah: On May 15, 2000 we went to Chaco Canyon in New Mexico. This is the ruins of an area where 1000 years ago thousand of people lived and built homes in the desert. Google it. Then we had a side trip to Monument Valley. Google that too.

Albuquerque, NM: September 14, 2000, A big trip for the balloon fest.

There were multiple short (one day) trips.

Gaston's for lunch, 1997

Little Rock for the IMAX theater, 1998

Ft smith to visit Razorback Approach, 1999

Mt Ida, Ar. for lunch, 2000

Bartlesville, Ok, several times for the big fly in there

Mt Petit Jean, 2003 to visit the car museum

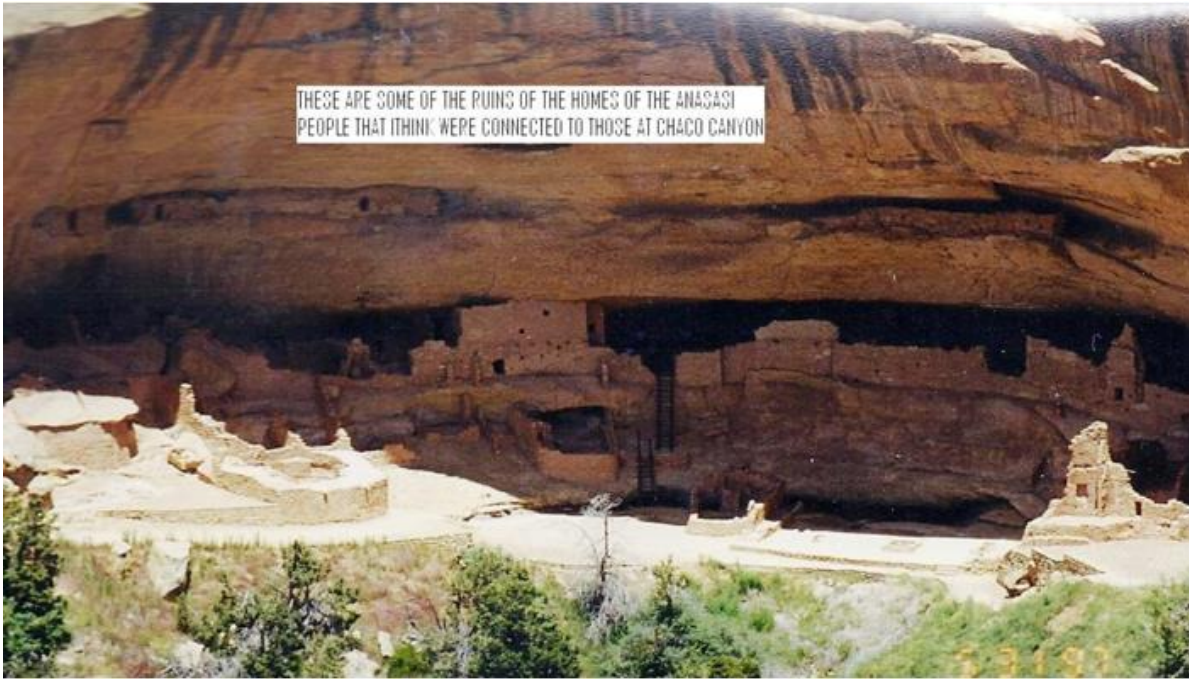
There may have been others but the thing is we did a lot more traveling than I thought. I think there may still be a lot of traveling. There seems to be a pretty good group going to Oshkosh each year.

This is the group preparing to get on the train up to Silverton through the Animas River Canyon.

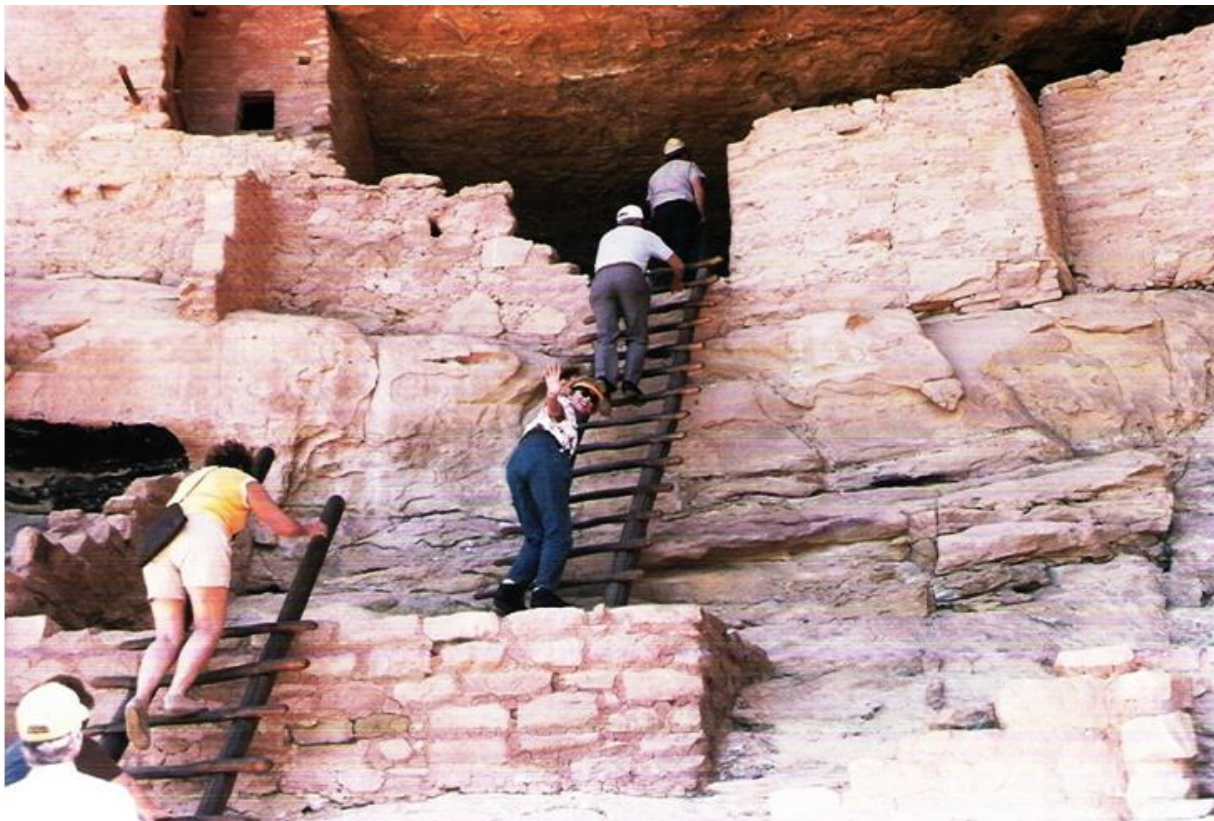


This is some of us on the train to Silverton. I don't recall the altitudes but I guess Durango is about 5000 ft and Silverton is a lot higher

THESE ARE SOME OF THE RUINS OF THE HOMES OF THE ANASAZI PEOPLE THAT I THINK WE'RE CONNECTED TO THOSE AT CHACO CANYON



After the train ride to Silverton we went to Mesa Verde where the cliff dwellers lived.



On that same trip to Los Alamos we also visited Santa Fe and the canyon of the Green River which merges with the Colorado to form the Grand Canyon. Some of the people here are Bob and Jeanine Axsom, Charley Scott, Garnet and Sue Collins and Tom and Ruth Wyatt.



The group that went to Savannah is posing in front of the Mighty Eighth Air force Museum. Some of the members here are Charly Scott, Bob Axsom and Bill Keating,





This is a few of some of the planes we flew to Bartlesville. The biplane was built by Jack Macy and the other two were built by Scott Musgrave and Steve Chanbers



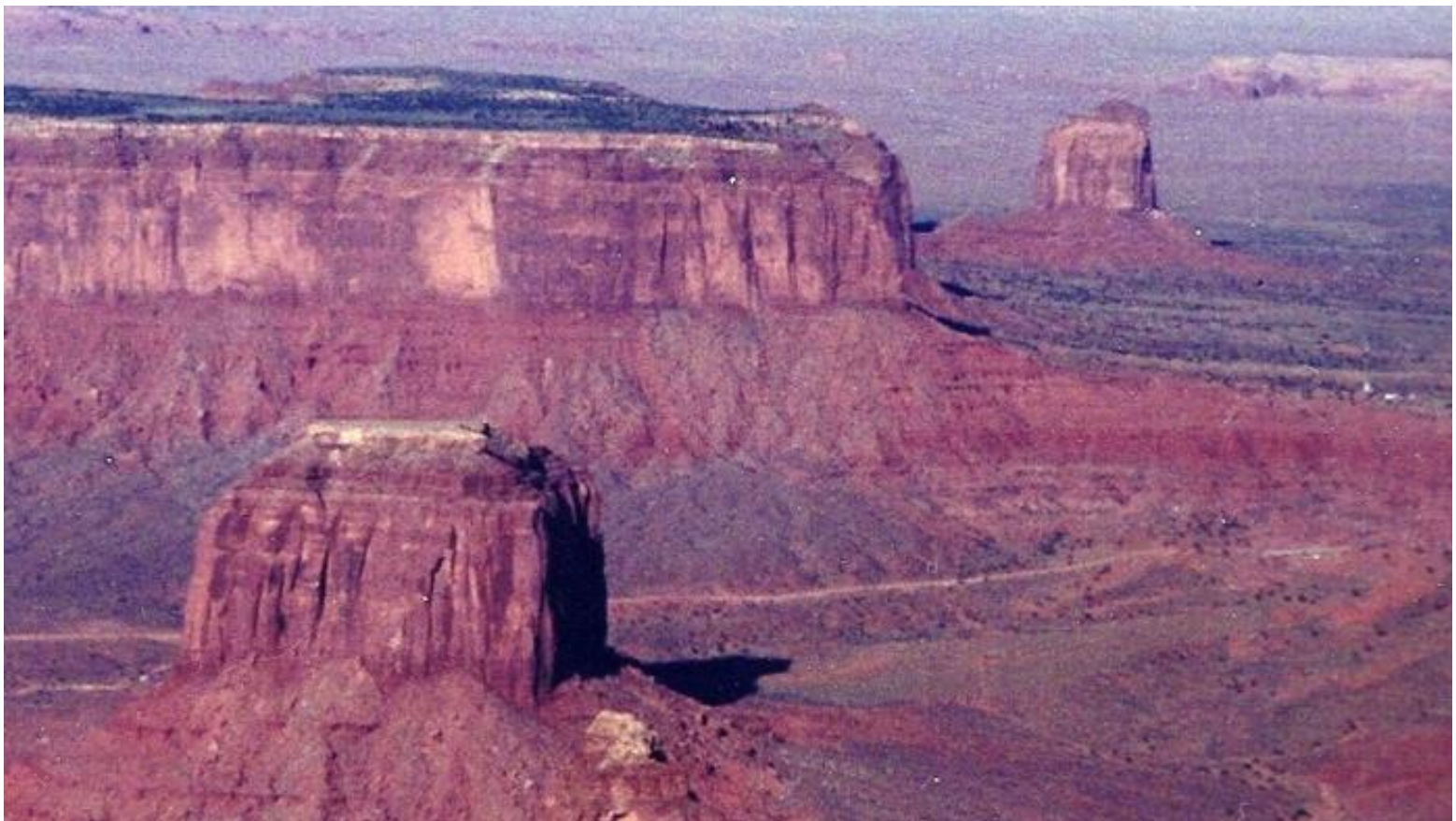
This is a group from Chapter 732 about 2004. It include Lance Ashmore, Troy Bates, Chip Gibbons, Jack Macy, Rex Stewart and Wayne Larabee.



This picture of the ruins of Chaco Canyon was taken by a passenger from Bob Axsom's airplane. It is a very interesting place. Look it up on google.



This is some of the ruins from ground level. I'm not sure who the people are.



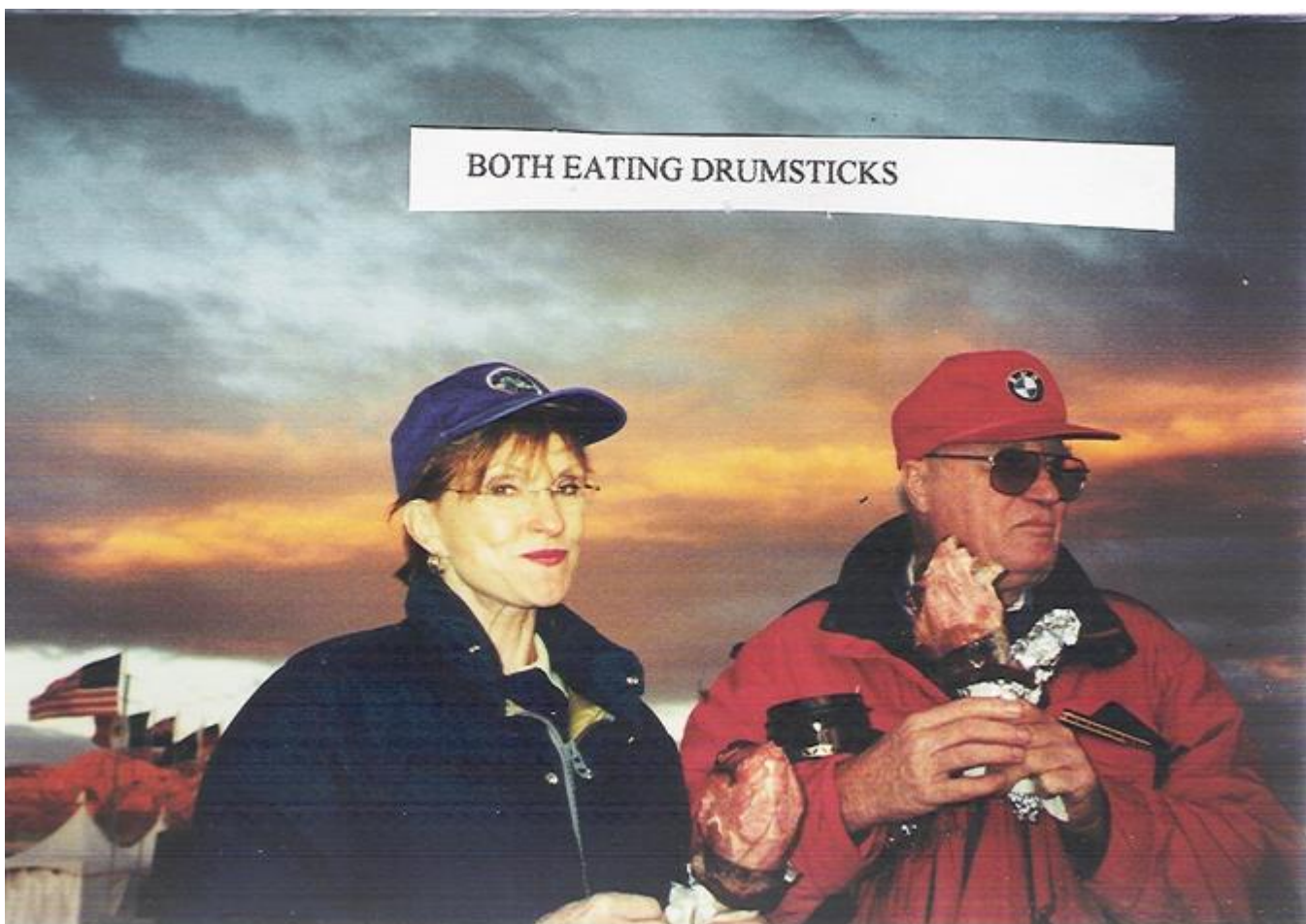
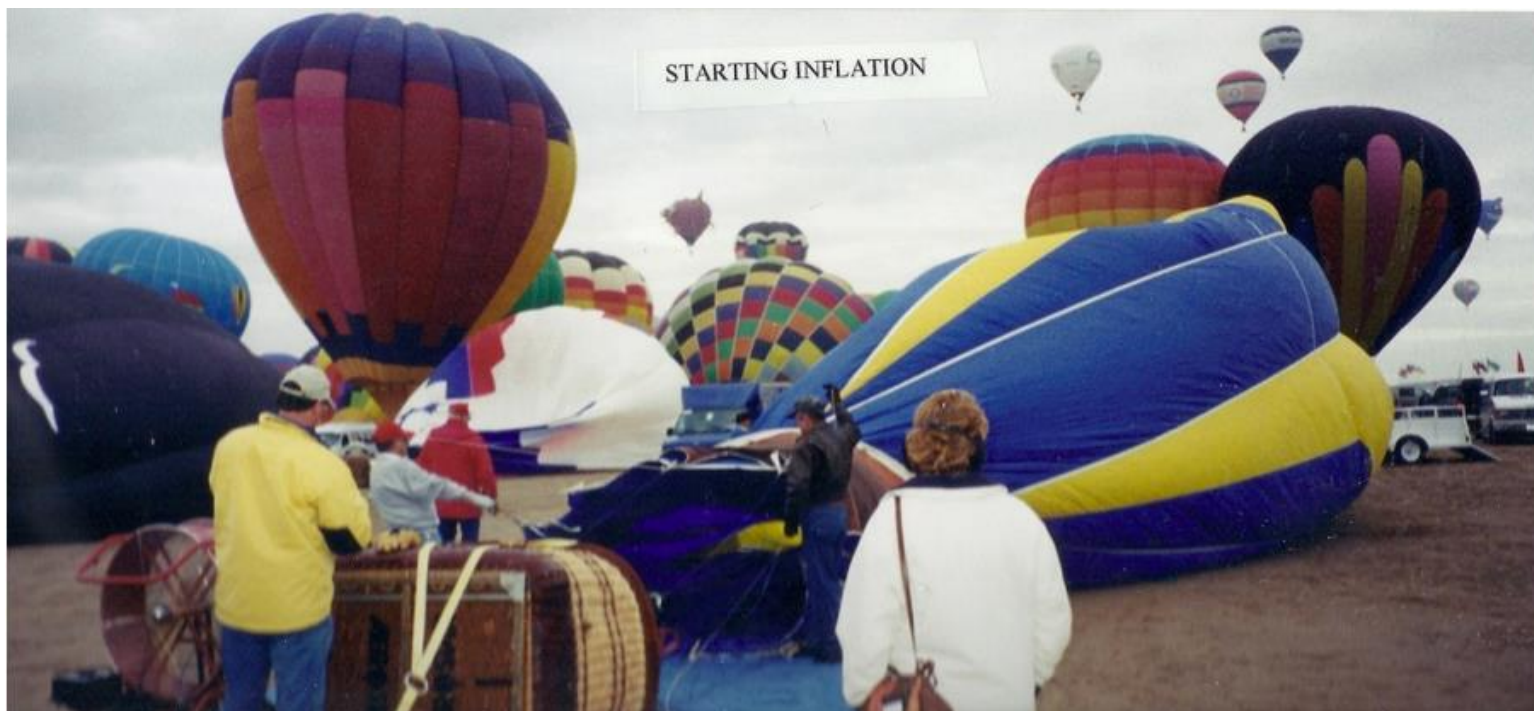
I took these pictures as we approached Monument Valley. While there we all got in an open bus like vehicle and were escorted around the area by an Indian driver. He gave us a lot of information about the valley and stopped for lunch and built a fire and cooked hamburgers for us.



This is a small section of the park. There is so much to see. There are a lot of pictures on google and more information.



This is from the trip to Albuquerque and the Balloon Fest. Some of us helped inflate a balloon that belonged to Darrell Weiland from Bentonville. Three of the people in the picture are me, Bill Smith and Rex Stewart. I think the lady in the white coat is Ruth Wyatt. The guy in the yellow jacket is fellow balloonist and current chapter President Randy Resh assisting with the inflation.



Bill and Camelia that morning before working with the balloons eating turkey drumsticks.



Randy and Dollie Resh's balloon Majestic Rainbow on the launch field at Albuquerque in 2000

The banner from Randy and Dollie's balloon signed by Bill and Camelia Smith, Ruth Wyatt, Sharon West, Floyd Harris and Chip Gibbons. This was before Randy was in the chapter.



Oshkosh

A large group from Chapter 732 attended the activities at Oshkosh each year starting about 1996 and continues through this year (2015.) Back then we usually got together one night at a restaurant. Here are a couple of pictures but I can't put the proper years on them.



This one was in 2007. We all had a good time.

Another favorite place was Leon's, an old fashion drive in ice cream parlor where some of us got together at the end of a long day at the convention.



THE END

Footnote from Randy Resh:

I decided to contact EAA and see if they could tell me when Chapter 732 was actually formed. I would have guessed sometime in the early to mid 90's. The response I got back was that the Chapter was originally chartered in June 5, 1981, original name was West Central Ozarks Experimental Aircraft Club, Inc, was originally based in Berryville (location of our November 2015 meeting) and that the original 10 members were: Alfred Iller of Berryville, Larkin Floyd of Berryville, Keith Austin of Kimberling City, Albert Smith of Berryville, Lyman Squires Jr. of Berryville, Larry Coatney of Berryville, Gordon Baugh of Harrison, James Connors of Eureka Springs, John Saxon of Harrison and Randall Woolaway of Cassville.