

# CATFISH SQUADRON

## EAA CHAPTER 797



LIVE OAK, FLORIDA



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PRESIDENT: TOMMY DIEDEMAN

386-623-3224

Vice President: Christina Bedenbaugh

386-365-5816

EAA Ch. 797 Mailing Address: 13344 80 Terrace Live Oak, FL 32060

SECRETARY: NORMA BOLYARD

352-316-5759

Treasurer: Pete vanSpronson

813-298-4929

WEB SITE EDITOR: LARRY PESEK

Newsletter Editor: David Poirier

Mailing Address: 22015 117<sup>th</sup> Dr.

386-479-4107 O'Brien, FL 32071

Web: <https://chapters.eaa.org/ea797>

## Chapter 797 Meeting: The Monthly Meeting is September 16, 2023



Always get the Backhoe in the divorce...

## EAA 797 Morning Fly-In Pancake Breakfast Is on September 16, 2023

## From The Top

Hello 797, I hope you all are doing well and survived the storm unscathed.

I feel at this time it would be best if we canceled the taco Tuesday event we had scheduled for tomorrow at this time. Our clubhouse came through the storm with little damage but I know there are many of you still dealing with the aftermath of the storm. We will plan another get together on the last Tuesday of the month instead. (9/26/23 Taco Tues?)

We will be going ahead with our normal business meeting and breakfast on Saturday September 16th. Where we will be offering a free breakfast to all our members to help with your recovery from the storm so please come out and join us if you can.

Hope to see you all soon

*Tommy Diedeman  
797 President.*

## News Wanted!

This is your newsletter. I am very happy to see that several people have stepped forward with their experiences to fill these pages. Let us know how your project is going or where you've been. It's your newsletter, let's make it about you.



*Editor*



## VMC Club

Greg Boyette preceded the August monthly meeting with a safety filled VMC discussion.

### Topics discussed:

- ✈ Be sure that some one knows your progress. My wife & I text our progress. "Landed @ KCTY for fuel, headed home in a little bit" Gives the search and rescue where to start.
- ✈ SPOT satellite texting system was also discussed see: <https://www.findmespot.com/en-us/>
- ✈ MOSAIC is coming and Rainbow Aviation was suggested as an information source.
- ✈ Traffic conflicts were also discussed.



*Editor*

## Bill Harden / Guest Speaker

Bill Harden discussed the long term plan for the airport including the taxiway and runway improvements done. A large new hangar is planned.

No frequency change is expected and the subject of Mogas is still up in the air.

## Let 'em Track You

Ninety six years ago Charles Lindberg successfully completed his historic flight from New York to Paris. No one knew where he was until he hollered to an Irish fisherman "Where am I?" He became known as 'Lucky Lindy' and rightfully so since he didn't know how to navigate (but that's another story).

Prior to his record 1927 flight, 4 men had died, 3 were injured and 2 went missing trying to win the transatlantic prize.

Ten years later in July 1937, Amelia Earhart and Fred Noonan disappeared in the Pacific somewhere near Howland Island. Obviously no one knew their location either.

More recently in September 2007, world record balloonist and billionaire businessman Steve Fossett put his Super Decathlon down in the Great Basin Desert between Nevada and California. Despite an extensive search, he was not found until a year later.

Times have changed fortunately and technology now affords pilots several solutions that can help save lives. Many of us have some type of ELT installed in our aircraft. The newer 406 MHZ ELT's even give your position and will transmit it to emergency responders. The 121.5 ELT's are basically useless, let's face it. Still, even a 406 ELT doesn't transmit your position to your family and friends or show your track and give them peace of mind.

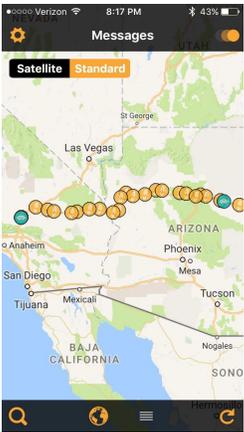
But what if you want something that does way more than an ELT? How about a small device that constantly tracks your GPS position while you are flying and reports exactly where you are on a map to all your friends and family in real time? There are several



excellent trackers, AKA personal locator beacons (PLB), on the market. The one I'm familiar with is the SPOT. When turned on, it automatically sends out my custom message to all my friends and family: "I'm flying please follow my track on your phone. If my progress stops for more than 5 minutes, and I'm not at an airport, please call 911 and report my position". If I've landed and I don't need help, I press the 2<sup>nd</sup> button which tells everyone: "I'm on the ground and safe". The 3<sup>rd</sup>

button is the SOS button to bring out search and rescue.

Today there are several different brands of personal GPS trackers that can save your life. Most were originally designed for boaters and hikers who are usually out of cell phone range, but that's not a problem for a PLB since it transmits to the satellites. Within the past 10 years, pilots have started using these PLB's, usually at the urging of their loved ones. These little miracles house a GPS receiver and a satellite transmitter. They all have different features, price points and plans, but amazingly they are affordable. Some, like SPOT, even save your track so that you can download your trip to review later.



For the past 7 years, my grandson and I have used SPOT trackers and like them a lot. I've flown coast to coast, and over a lot of desolate mountain and desert terrain without worrying about being found. He has flown to Oshkosh and the Bahamas several times. The peace of mind it gives my family is priceless.

SPOT claims 9,526 rescues so far. They used to give the unit away for free at Sun N Fun if you signed up for the tracking service for just \$12/month.

Don't be like Steve Fossett. Your \$billions in the bank won't do you any good if rescuers can't find you.

Here is a list of a few PLB/trackers. You can purchase them on-line or at Bass Pro Shop and Cabelas.

SPOT FindMeSpot.com

ACR Electronics ACRARTEX.com

Garmin inReach Garmin.com/en-US/p/592606

*Allen Rice*

## Nominees

It's that time again and the same old people are doing the same old things. So, we need some new blood to step up and take the reins for 2024.

Bring your nominations, or volunteer yourself to take us through 2024.

**Bill & Kyoung Clapp**

AzaleaAviation.com



**Saberwing Aircraft & Spyder Engines**

Phone: 229-834-8996

Email: mail@azaleaaviation.com

1301 W Rountree St/Quitman GA31643

## Serious Experimental

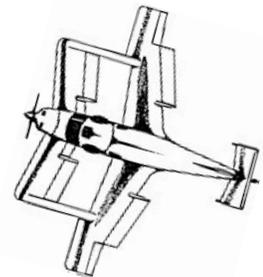
Using a commonly available IO-360, this tandem wing STOL from the mind of Burt Rutan is a serious experimental.

With its forward swept main flying surfaces, this canard departs from even what Burt himself would call "normal".



The canard design is inherently not a platform for short fields, so the Grizzly was an airframe to test what the limits were of the canard layout in the STOL mission.

"It even featured one of Burt Rutan's three original patents, this one for a wide-chord flap suspension system (US Patent Number 4614320)."



For a complete article, Click here:

<http://stargazer2006.online.fr/aircraft/pages/grizzly.htm>

*Editor*

## Idalia was scary..

I wish I could say I was as brave as the Rice's sticking it out at Ancient Oaks in Steinhatchee, but I woke up at 0530, heard it was briefly a cat 4 and hightailed it to Cross City for 1.5 hrs until the eye passed (Crystal was in Gainesville). The drive back was scenic and probably not smart as I crossed a downed line and dodged all the trees. Seeing the Steinhatchee River run backwards at 5 or 10 mph from the bridge was worth it.

Thanks to our Prez Tommy for checking on us, what a guy! I know we're all grateful for no injuries during the storm but in the way of a public service announcement, PLEASE DON'T USE ANY GASOLINE TO BURN DEBRIS! We've flown many of these PSAs over the years and one again today. He said it was mixture of diesel and gasoline but evidently **any amount of gasoline is too much**. I don't have many of those left in me as I'll probably be retiring or going part-time in November, thanks to all for your retirement advice.

I took a break to fly N385MA up to Ohio for a long weekend. But before the trip had to sort out a 200 rpm mag drop that popped up after annual. Thanks to Pete, Doug, Brad, others who assisted in tools/troubleshooting. After triple checking mag timing and re-checking plug gap, spark picture and wires, ended up going with new Tempest plugs on my Slick mag and that got me just within the 150 rpm drop in the POH. Oh, about that landing at the semi-closed Perry airport the other day, we'll save that until the statute of limitations are up!

*Larry Pesek*

**Suwannee Aero LLC**  
**AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE, REPAIR  
AND INSPECTIONS**



*Doug Libby*

(386) 776-2780      A&P IA      19432 161<sup>st</sup> Court  
(386) 314-5891cell      O'Brien, FL 32071  
[LibbyABD@aol.com](mailto:LibbyABD@aol.com)      Suwannee Belle Airpark (9FL0)

## Thomasville Fly-In

Hopefully you've marked your calendars for October 13-15 because the 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Thomasville Fly-In will be here soon! We are All Systems Go for a great event and we hope you'll be joining us. Here is the site for you, as you begin your flight planning:

<https://thomasvilleaviationclub.com/tviflyin/>

## Tailwind

I'm sure that I missed something or someone and I welcome healthy criticism.

You can send comments, questions, ideas or articles to:

[dave@davesflyin.com](mailto:dave@davesflyin.com)



Missing man formation for members flown west.