

CATFISH SQUADRON

EAA CHAPTER 797



Live Oak, Florida



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Chapter 797 Meeting: March's Meeting is Cancelled due to S&F



EAA B-17 @ Lake City

EAA 797 Morning Fly-In Is cancelled due to Schedule Conflict with Sun & Fun 2021

From The Top

Hello everyone,

We had a good turnout once again for the March meeting. It was nice to see everyone, socialize, and get back to some normalcy. Thanks again to Allen Rice and his crew for helping with the pancake breakfast. This month we will not have a meeting due to Sun N Fun and the Cross City Fly-in. We will meet again in May.

Thanks to those who helped the Lake City Chapter with the B-17 event and flew in the B-17. The weather was beautiful both days, except for some fog and low clouds on Saturday and it was quite windy on Sunday. The experience of flying on the B-17 was a once in a lifetime and wonderful experience. It was a lot to take in. I learned some history, met some wonderful people, and heard some interesting stories.

I hope to see you guys at Sun N Fun or the Cross City Fly-in. If not, I will see you in May.

Christina Bedenbaugh

Chapter 797 President

Young Eagle News

This past week I participated in a Young Eagle webinar conducted by Chapters Staff John Eagan and Chris Gauger. I won't go into all the items discussed but of particular note is that for June, July, and August, chapters and pilots will receive double credits for any young eagles flown. With that in mind on June 19th we'll be conducting a small rally for a Tallahassee Boy Scout troop. Larry Pesek's co-worker Harald Aagaard is the Scoutmaster and is also a helicopter pilot for Air Methods. He has informed me to expect 8 scouts who are working on their Aviation Merit Badges. I realize that June 19 is the third Saturday and is our monthly pancake breakfast but in discussing it with Christina, we felt that it would be a great opportunity to introduce some young people to our chapter activities. We should also have a number of pilots and planes available to fly the kids.



Norman returns with a smiling Young Eagle

If we have pilots that haven't flown young eagles in the past and would like to please contact me at phancock54@gmail.com and I'll get you up to speed on the required paperwork. It will be necessary to complete the youth protection training online at the EAA website. The course can be located by logging onto the EAA website and selecting Youth and Young Adults, Free Young Eagle Flights then scrolling down to Pilot Volunteer Information and Resources. Select read more and you will be directed to the page with a great deal of information regarding the Young Eagle program.

The Youth Protection training is the first choice. Once the course is completed, you'll be sent an email with

your completion certificate. I will need a copy of that to keep on file. It's good for 3 years. Our ground volunteers should complete the course and be current as well. Pilots, we also have a Chapter 797 Young Eagle pilot information form to be completed that contains aircraft, insurance and pilot information.

One last point, individual EAA pilot members can fly Young Eagles on their own outside of scheduled rallies. You can order the registration materials at the EAA website or contact me and I have the materials and the logbooks on hand for you. Just remember to mail the signed registration forms into EAA national so that the kids can access all the benefits from participating in the program and so that Ch 797 will get credit for flying them. If you would like, get the forms to me and I'll mail them in. That way I can also keep a copy in my files.

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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

The normal monthly of the EAA 797 will conflict with the Sun and Fun event in Lakeland this year. I expect to be working there as a volunteer again this year at the Vintage Aircraft Building, so there will not be a regular VMC meeting the Live Oak airport for April.

The VFR question of the month:

We will be discussing this topic May: When receiving any clearance from the Air traffic control (ATC) IFR or VFR, what part do you have to read back? What part should you read back? Does any regulation govern it?

VMC: The “What Would You Do?”

The VMC Video which was scheduled for April is titled “The Engine Skipped Just One Beat!” (3:34) Now this video will be shown and discussed at the May EAA 797 meeting. Count me in! I want to find out how it ends, too!

*David Clarke Dechant
VMC Club Lead*

Joe’s Tri-Pacer

Member Joe Arbie’s Tri-Pacer is still for sale.

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More from David Dechant

Passing Notes on local young/future aviators

James, age 14, grand son of Jerry Cornwell, soloed in a 1-26 sailplane recently. Now he has received his first 90 day renewal of his solo privilege. Immediately after the renewal sign-off, he got a tow aloft in the 1-26. When he had cut loose he was able to find lift. In fact he stayed aloft for about two hours above of the city of Jacksonville!

Carrie “Load Master”

At the last 797 meeting Greg Boyette gave Carrie Johnston, a ride in his Schweizer 300 helicopter. It turned out the ride was a fairly long one, from 24J to the Johnston farm, located near O’Brien. Now here is the rest of the story.

Many people of O’Brien saw the helicopter as Greg flew across O’Brien on his way to Carrie’s home. It was then Debbie Smith saw the Bumble Bee and thought of using the helicopter for an Easter Egg Drop on the Saturday before Easter. Debbie is the wife of the Pastor Keith Smith of O’Brien Baptist Church. Debbie asked Greg and he agreed.

Greg Boyette’s bright yellow Schweizer 300, “The Bumble Bee” was the star of the Egg Drop. After a “test egg drop” several days earlier, all the details were worked out. With Greg flying, Carrie spilled 4000 plastic, candy filled eggs, from the helicopter. It took four trips from the nearby pasture to the grounds of O’Brien to reload, return and scatter all the candy filled eggs in the church yard in O’Brien

Greg topped off his flight by filling his empty seat as he returned to Lake City. He was able to introduce another youngster to aviation. He gave a ride to Mya Proesl, almost twelve years old, from O’Brien to Lake City, her very first helicopter ride! Thanks Greg, Mya and Carrie will remember the day for a long, long time.

Charla Johnston

The job was to change the fuel valve on A75-L300. There was not much room, maybe even a little less than that. Neither Frank Matthews nor I could reach into the cockpit and grip the nut, the last nut, in order to get it started. Despite our best and repeated efforts we were unable to get that last nut started. It was such that we were working from outside the front cockpit and reaching, stretching, deep inside the front cockpit to do the work.

As a last resort I called on Charla Johnston, the youngest of the Johnston clan. She was able to squeeze past the stick in the front cockpit and then wiggle forward into the battery box area. From that point, she could, with some difficulty, get the nut started if only I held the flashlight beam steady enough. With an open ended wrench I could do the rest, even though it was still slow going. But with Charla's help the job was complete! Does that make Charla the world's youngest A&P or the smallest?

David Dechant

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B-17 Event with 977

We assisted Chapter 977 in providing volunteers to assist with the ground operations supporting the EAA's B-17 visit to Lake City, FL. This email from Don Downes went out to all who helped:

EAA 977,

The B-17 Event is behind us. We sold ALL THE PORK. It is behind us too. Food grossed \$469!! I thank all the volunteers from both Chapters for all the help.

EAA flew 7 FULL FLIGHTS. They were happy with that after all the challenges getting the event "off the ground" (no pun intended). They also were happy with the sales of stuff from the van... shirts and stuff...

Great event overall. Weather was a bit windy but compared to rainy was nearly perfect!

We will have the program at next weeks meeting review pics and stories about this event. Anyone from the Live Oak Chapter that wants to join us the invitation is universal. (Next Wednesday 4/7 @ 7:15 with coffee and goodies BUT NO PANCAKES LOL)

Enjoy the few pics, but expect many more and video with personal accounts at next weeks meeting.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU! *Don*

Suwannee Valley Flying Club

The Suwannee Valley Flying Club is seeking people who want to fly. Our recent new members like to fly so much, they bought their own airplane or got a flying job. So, we are down to 4 dues paying members and we could have as many as 8.

The airplane needs to fly, but without dues paying members, it sits, longing for the sky.

So, if you are looking for about the cheapest way to fly a four place airplane in Florida, come on over to Cannon Creek where we keep 1481 Lima and get checked out.

The aircraft is a Beechcraft Musketeer, the initiation fee is \$200.00, and monthly dues are \$90.00 per month which includes one (1) hour of flying time.



Hope to see you soon,

Blue skies and tail winds,

Dave Holmes

Bill & Kyoung Clapp
 AzaleaAviation.com



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In Brief..

Chapter member Jim Culp is on Youtube! For all the interested parties, here's your link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NZs36kcR7vM&t=4s>

Holmes on Deck

Who owns the Ercoupe?

For years I have watched 99726 take-off on Sunday mornings, go to Williston, X60 and return. Never saw it fly except for the Sunday Williston trip.

To my surprise, one day Dennis Wolcott became the proud owner of 99726. How that happened, I do not know. The 'coupe was in our EAA hangar for a while, then poof, somehow it became Pete vanSpronsen's pride and joy.

Pete had the 'coupe long enough to fix up the brakes, annual the aircraft, and give his son's girlfriend a ride in the sleek, flashy airplane.

I have a relative that requested sport pilot training. That is another whole story that I should write. Cousin Mike has experimented with flying for many years. I told him about Pete's exotic aircraft. We considered trying to lease the aircraft. When it was all said and done, Mike became the new owner of 99726, well, sort of. Actually, his wife, Carol, became the new owner. Not really, it was his wife's money but the registration read, "Dave Holmes" is the new owner! That all came about because as a near zero hour pilot, the insurance was rather pricey. So, I became the proud owner of 99726.

During the 26 days that I owned (Carol owned) 99726, an aluminum fuselage and empennage aircraft with fabric wings, the 'coupe got polished.

Mike and I put about 40 hours on the mighty 'coupe. Finally, we came to the realization that Mike was not going to complete the course before going back to Michigan right after Easter. So, the Ercoupe changed hands again and is at Cannon Creek Airpark under the ownership of Bob Hoffman and Bill Shippee. The aircraft is now hangered about 1,000 feet from where it was hangered for about 23 years.

Dave Holmes

Cross City Event

Hey There Catfish Squadron, Hope everyone is doing well and healthy. After a wait and see pause the Cross City Airport Expo is going ahead for April 24, 2021 as planned. We've been meeting and decided today to go ahead. We watched the outcome of a couple local events, the last being this

weekend's Fiddler Crab Festival. They had 5000 people turn out and 140 of 150 registered vendors came. The other 10 blamed the miserable rain all weekend. Not a record but not bad.

We reached out to most of our participants right after we cancelled 2020's event. Many sponsors and a few vendors told us keep the money and sign them up for next year. The vendors have been slow to respond but it's picking up, Carol had good interest last weekend at the festival.

Stan has us in line with different military bases if they get clearance for the Covid, that's still pretty iffy. The Civil Air Patrol has the same problem. Good chance they're not going to make it.

Our usual Air Boss is confirmed, as are the Max Flight helicopters that sold rides the last 4 years. FOAA is coming with their Huey, they raised their ride price from \$50 to \$65. Hopefully it won't deter many, they sold 200 rides in 2019. Stan has a Stearman and Bulldog lined up to sell rides also. We're working live music like before, and are hoping for a good car show as usual, and of course the remote control planes the crowd loves. There's a good chance it will be smaller this time for obvious reasons, we going to do the best we can.

Of course we'd love to see everyone from the Catfish squadron. You all have been a big part of our success in so many ways. We realize it's the Saturday after Sun-N- Fun, we're kinda stuck, we planned it several years ago to coincide with Dixie County's 100th anniversary.

We wanted to let you know as soon as we were sure and today's it. I'm planning on being there Saturday for pancakes.

*See you then,
Dana Sheffield*

Azalea Aviation Happenings:

Some of the most stressful and exciting times in one's life are when they have to move...for work, new home, state, family....a myriad of reasons. Well its that time for us. As many of you know, Azalea Aviation has been located at Cook County Airport (15J) for the last 5+ years. Many of you have visited us during one of our many BBQ and FLY-IN weekend events. Some have come to be a part of our Engine and Composite Workshops. We

have grown and expanded while we have been there and progressed in the sales and build up of our Saberwing Aircraft and Spyder Engines. However, in order to progress to the next level of our focus, it looks like we will need to do more. As with many small airports, Cook County won't allow the kind of person to person training, camping, and manufacturing we planned to do anymore. When you lease buildings and property you are obligated to follow the limits imposed by the owners. Therefore, we have decided to move to a more suitable location where we can own our own buildings that will allow for the development we need.

Beginning in May, Azalea Aviation will be moving to Quitman Airport (4J5) in Brooks County Georgia. It is actually a little closer to our home in Valdosta and the drive will be less stressful than I75. They have a 5000+ foot runway and 3500 foot grass runway. On the weekend you may see a few sailplanes out for training and practice. We are planning to start building a 12,000 sq/ft hangar and Builders Assist Center on the airport as well as have space and amenities for campers...tent and RV. This building will also house much of our aviation related tooling and equipment that will be set up to provide a learning environment for young and old alike to take advantage of. We hope to be using the Young Eagles Program as well as our own internal courses to encourage the youth in the area to become involved in aviation. This facility would also have the ability to help builders with some of their projects through the use of tools and expertise available. We want to provide a welcoming environment to all who could use such a place to improve their aviation dreams. Of course Azalea Aviation is a business so there would be costs involved in the courses we will be teaching and use of the facility and employees. More information on that will follow or will be available on our website as time progresses.

Azalea Aviation is also purchasing a 2 acre lot and building just south of the airport where we will be setting up our new Main Production Facility. This building will have offices, composites, wood, and engine production capability. We start remodeling and preparing this building within the next couple weeks. We will post some of our progress on Facebook and on the website. There will be a lot of work to do. If anybody would like

to volunteer and help out we have a variety of jobs to do. There will be a lot of property cleanup and maintenance to do to be ready. The building will need some masonry work, bathrooms and offices remodeled, interior work spaces set up, electrical, lighting, painting and more. If you have time and ability to help please let us know. We can buy the food!

If you wish to be a part in our new growth and endeavor through volunteer actions, prayer, and financially please let us know. This is a very big decision we are making and plan on being available to the aviation community for years to come. If you have any questions, feel free to contact us at 229-834-8996.

Bill Clapp

Sun-&Fun Volunteers

Allen Rice is heading up our volunteer efforts at S&F 2021. If you are Volunteering, be sure to contact Allen Rice and insure that all your arrangements are made and he can schedule your involvement.

The campsites are free to volunteers once you have volunteered for a year. So, if you need to bunk with someone for this event, now is a good time to start those arrangements.

Sun & Fun is typically among our biggest revenue sources supporting our club building and all of our activities. It is beneficial for all members to help out and insure we have a successful showing. Our professional can-do attitude keeps us in good stead, ensuring our future as well as Sun & Fun's.

Allen Rice can be reached Via: (561) 289-6365

Or:

alrice352@gmail.com

Editor

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

