

# CATFISH SQUADRON

## EAA CHAPTER 797



Live Oak, Florida



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## Chapter 797 Meeting: The Monthly Meeting is March 18, 2023



From the Tower

## EAA 797 Morning Fly-In Pancake Breakfast Is on Mar 18, 2023

## From The Top

As I have mentioned, March is shaping up to be a very busy month. By the time you read this, we have flown YEs at 24J, are getting ready for our monthly meeting, and preparing for Sun-N-Fun 2023 in Lakeland.

After the meeting, we really could use some help getting the tents, tent poles and all the equipment ready to go for the following week.

Please remember that our April meeting will be moved to April 22nd due to our participation with the Cross City fly-in.

*Tommy Diedeman, President*

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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

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

How low can you go?  
The FAA actually decides what can be defined as a “Congested Area”. This picture is of a 4-way intersection in



South Western Georgia. There are farms on three corners of the intersection and a small breakfast diner on the fourth corner. It can be minutes between cars passing through, but someone thought it needed to be labeled.

I hope I’ve illustrated how dangerous it can be to have indistinct boundaries. Always err on the side of caution and never arrogantly tell the authorities they are wrong when they are out standing in your field.

Airspace limits came into the flight level discussion and some experiences with bird strikes were shared. Disney’s restricted airspace, wildlife zones, tethered radar balloons and the recent addition of UAV corridors for large (usually military) drones were discussed.

Methods of insuring you have sumped all the water from your tanks were also explored. If any of this seems unfamiliar, I suggest you look up the strange subjects and make them familiar.

*Editor*

## From the Tower

Alysia Helfrich visited us to share her perspective from the Tower at Lake City Gateway Airport. Alysia touts a hefty amount of experience in air traffic control, and was happy to share her perspective.

*“It was a pleasure and an honor to be asked to join you last month. Thank you so much for the conversation, the laughs and helping me feel welcome.”*

*I appreciate a great group of local flying public that seem to care and concern themselves with us controllers and what we do.” Alysia, via eMail.*

It was refreshing to get the Tower’s view of the interactions we all experience from the cockpit. My takeaway was: 1) read back clearly, 2) don’t step on the mic, 3) pay attention to the other traffic, 4) pay attention to the other pilot’s read back, 5) once down, get off the runway when safe to do so, 6) do not turn off onto another runway unless so directed (yes, that “when possible” did not include the crossing runway).

The Tower is responsible for whatever happens on that runway and they can get anxious if you dally coming or going. They are mentally timing out the movement on the field and the choreography gets complicated by unpredicted movements. So, communication is key.

Thanks to Alysia, it was an informative visit.

*Editor*

## More 100LL News

As usual, the fears we live with are best grounded in a small bit of truth. We’ve heard that we need the lead in our fuel for a variety of reasons from a variety of directions.

Paul Bertorelli is an AvWeb contributor who has done some research and made a video that clears up a lot of the questions. See it here:



<https://youtu.be/ovJBjZTjsk>

*Editor*

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## Clubhouse News

The lights in the clubhouse are LED now and they are brilliant! Yeah!

Also, the scales are repaired and re-certified. The weather forecast looks iffy for our Pancake Breakfast, but it's always a good time! Can't wait to see everyone!

*Editor*

## Cross City Fly-in

We're on downwind turning base for the Cross City Airport Expo on April 15<sup>th</sup>. If it stays VFR we have several interesting things inline for departure. Including FOAA offering thrill rides in their Huey for \$75, R-44 and vintage Stearman flights will be available. (Don't know the costs yet)

A skydiver will display the flag during opening ceremonies escorted by some of the Lima Lima T-34 team. They and a number of their friends with the Red Stars, mostly Yak-52's are supposed to be there. Of course we file a flight plan just to see what really happens.

Since the first year in 2015 the Catfish Squadron has been a vital part of making this event work. I can't name all you have brought and all we still need. A problem every year is escorting aircraft through the crowd. If you have a golf cart, mini bike or such and enjoy yelling at inattentive people have we got a job for you. Just as important, is showing up and answering airplane questions to a curious public. Don't think your plane is too common, remember when you were a kid, they're all cool.

Next month we'll be on final and I'll have the latest approach instructions. First everyone enjoy Sun-N-Fun. The Cross City Crew

On Tuesday June 20<sup>th</sup> the 41<sup>st</sup> Air Race Classic departs from Grand Forks, ND. (KGFK) on its four day trip to Homestead Fl. (X51) This year's route stops at nine airports along the 2358 mile distance with Cross City (KCTY) being the eighth checkpoint. Most are expected to arrive there on Thursday, the 22<sup>nd</sup> Volunteers are needed to help with a variety of things.

This all women's race has had several names dating back to 1929 with many notable pilots participating through the years. It is precision flying that is closely timed, handicapped and documented.

In recent years there have been 40-55 entries usually made up of 2 or 3 pilots. All flying is done in VFR conditions and daylight hours, therefore overnight stays are required. Prizes are awarded in a variety of categories. Obviously there is much more to it, log on to [www.airraceclassic.org](http://www.airraceclassic.org) for details.

Anyone interested in helping: contact one of the Cross City crew, we have some time to get this together. Thanks.

*Dana Sheffield*

## Shamrock Fly-In

It's time again for the good food worth flying for. The annual Shamrock Fly In @ Cannon Creek Airpark is on March 18, 2023 at 11:30AM.

Info at 977.org, SocialFlight.com, or FunPlacesToFly.com.

It's always a good time.



*Editor*

## Larry's Log

So I got home from work tonight and find a box at the door with my airplane number on it. Didn't think I ordered anything lately. Turns out to be some early, long lost maintenance records! I just won the mx lottery! I bought N385MA 3 years ago knowing first 5 years or so were incomplete but my first aircraft so what did I know? The box has a name and address from Stuart Fl so a thank you note is certainly in order. There are still some great people in aviation. I'm looking forward to unraveling the first couple of years.



*Larry Pesek*

## 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)



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**Saturday**  
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**9 AM to 3 PM**



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