

# CATFISH SQUADRON

## EAA CHAPTER 797



Live Oak, Florida



\*VOLUME 22 \* NUMBER 04\*

April 2022

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## Chapter 797 Meeting: The Monthly Meeting is April 16, 2022



**Hauling Students @ Sun & Fun**

## EAA 797 Morning Fly-In Pancake Breakfast Is on April 16, 2022

## From The Top

Great job everyone; I want to thank everyone who came out and volunteered both at the Cross City fly-in and at Sun n fun. It's now time to start planning for our own WOS Event which we will be discussing at the monthly meeting on Saturday.

*Tommy Diedeman, President*  
Email: [eaachapter7974u@gmail.com](mailto:eaachapter7974u@gmail.com)  
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## Cross City Report

Despite weather problems Chapter 797 came through with plenty of help for the 8th Cross City Airport Expo. The forecast went back and forth all week, finally the morning of April 2nd it called for storms beginning around 1 or 2 o'clock. Cancellations started late Thursday but Saturday morning by land and air you began arriving as always.

For couple hours children enjoyed the Kiddie Squadron, signed up for future Young Eagles flights while many of you helped control the surprisingly large crowd in attendance.

Tallahassee Helicopters sold rides in their R-44 steadily as long weather permitted. The remote control pilots provided needed entertainment for the

crowd. Weather limited the car show to about 20, despite this about 80 vendors had a busy morning. Unfortunately about 11am our luck ran out, heavy rain and persistent lightning signaled the day was over.

At this point the Catfish Squadron was appropriately named, everyone was in the water picking up and loading. Some aircraft got out ahead of it, others had to be left and picked up later. Many people rode home soaked, we sincerely hope no one got sick.

As with Wings Over Suwannee this event continues to grow, we had 106 vendor spots sold, picked up several new sponsors, attracting participants from further away and are having more repeat attendees. The military and other government agencies continue to help when possible.

Just as in past years Chapter 797 is a big part of our success THANK YOU! Some left the next day for Sun-N-Fun, all of you took the time, trouble and expense to help us. There's not room to list each of you so THANKS TO ALL will have to do. Looking forward to Wings Over Suwannee in October.

On behalf of the Cross City crew, *Dana Sheffield*

## 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 did put on a rousing presentation last month. The VMC Club always prods our minds and provokes thought on the unique past time we call aviation

Be sure to be early enough to the meeting as it is a very informative and thought provoking subject every time.

*Editor*

## In Brief

“An airplane-loving design student’s senior project gave rise to a family business dedicated to building scaled replica fighters “the right way.” ScaledBirds is a Groton, Connecticut-based company with plans to offer affordable kits for radial and inline engined mini-fighters, engineered as sport pilot compatible”

The whole article can be found at:

<https://www.avweb.com/air-shows-events/sun-n-fun/scalebirds-radial-powered-curtiss-p-36-60-replica-sun-n-fun-2022/>

*Editor*

## Fun Place to Fly



The RAF maintains airports for you and I, check out their site to expand your experiences.

[https://generalaviationnews.com/2022/03/19/pilot-shelter-in-the-works-at-creighton-island-airstrip/?utm\\_source=TPOA&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=20220321](https://generalaviationnews.com/2022/03/19/pilot-shelter-in-the-works-at-creighton-island-airstrip/?utm_source=TPOA&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20220321)

**Eric Davis, RAF Ambassador**

404-423-3842    [edavis@theraf.org](mailto:edavis@theraf.org) | [TheRAF.org](http://TheRAF.org)

## Suwannee Aero LLC

**AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE, REPAIR  
AND INSPECTIONS**



## Sonex For Sale

I find that I must sell my nearly finished Sonex project with many upgrades and additions.

Needs to be painted and assembled. Email me at - [safe4flying@gmail.com](mailto:safe4flying@gmail.com) - for information.

Located at Kitty Hawk Estates airpark - FL09.

*Richard Stauffer*

## The Journey

I remember the words said to me as a 7<sup>th</sup> grader like fingernails on a chalkboard: “well, you’ll never be a pilot”. Those words we said to me by an ophthalmologist after a routine medical exam in middle school discovered that I couldn’t see out of my right eye. Of course, coming from a family of pilots, I didn’t want to do anything else. For years I’ve accepted the fate given to me by my doctor. It wasn’t until I was well into my 20s found an article online talking of a 747 Captain with one eye. I did more digging and discovered the often not talked about route of SODA- Statement of Demonstrated Ability. Armed with this knowledge, I started Private Pilot training with Dave Holmes in 2014.

Thinking I’d never get past the 3<sup>rd</sup> class- I stuck with being just a private pilot and flying my Mooney all over the country until a good friend

connected me with more information on going after the commercial certificate. Sure enough I

applied for my 2<sup>nd</sup> class medical and SODA (with another flight) and during the depths of COVID shutting down the entire aviation industry, I was hired into a survey operation. I put in my notice with my employer and left to grind out 1500 hours. I spent the next year flying survey in a 172- we flew around 8-10 hours a day, every day. First cornfields in Illinois, then roads in South Carolina. I knew I wanted to go all the way to 1<sup>st</sup> class and the airlines so I strived for some Part 135 knowledge. I spent almost a year in Maine flying 208 Grand Caravans



for a FedEx Feeder during the cold winter months. Shedding ice and shooting CAT1 approaches down to 1800RVR while single pilot at night really was an eye-opening experience.

At the end of COVID when the airlines started back up, I did my last chase for the 1<sup>st</sup> class. More eye exams. More paperwork. More letters to OKC. Finally, with one more medical test flight, I was given a 1<sup>st</sup> Class Medical, no restrictions and subsequent SODA. Then I was hired by PSA Airlines, a regional airline owned by American Airlines. The last 6 months I’ve been bouncing around between Dallas, Dayton, and Charlotte doing in-house training and as of a few days ago I finished my Airline Transport Pilot certificate in the simulator along with the CL-65 type rating for the Bombardier CRJ-series airliner. With that, I am now 1 of only 148 pilots in the United States operating under an ATP and 1<sup>st</sup> class Medical for Monocular Vision (according to the FAA’s latest data).

It’s been an eye-watering experience (pun intended) and I’ve spent my free time online in different social media groups trying to mentor other would-be pilots suffering from the same affliction I have. So far, I know two other people I’ve helped that are now pilots. The last two years has been a long and difficult road, but I’m finally at the ‘summit’ of trying to get where I wanted and I really hope to spend more time at social events here at EAA 797 now that I’m home and not out trying



to grind away at something else. Well, who knows- maybe I can finally start studying for my CFI?

*Alex Melia*

An advertisement for Philip A. Carnevale MD. The background features a fighter jet flying through clouds. The text includes contact information for two locations: Lake City Gateway Airport and Parthenon Medical Center. It also lists his credentials as a Certified Senior Aeromedical Examiner and his ability to conduct all classes of FAA Flight Medical and DOT Exams. Contact numbers and email are provided at the bottom.

Lake City Gateway Airport  
3526 East HWY 90  
Lake City, FL 32055  
Office: 386-755-3535  
Fax 904-212-2026

Parthenon Medical Center  
5105 Bowden Road  
Jacksonville, FL 32216  
Office 904-374-0260  
Fax 904-212-2026

**PHILIP A. CARNEVALE MD**  
CERTIFIED SENIOR AEROMEDICAL EXAMINER  
ALL CLASSES OF FAA FLIGHT MEDICAL and DOT EXAMS

813-220-2228      pcarnevalemd@hotmail.com

## Sun & Fun Report

I'm happy to report that Sun N Fun 2022 is in the books. Our EAA 797 Flight Line Tours project was a success once again for the 31<sup>st</sup> year. First of all, I'd like to thank our 59 volunteers who donated their time, manpower and expense to make the project a success. There is no way that we could do it without you!

A special shout out goes to Timmy Smith, Tommy Diedeman, and Randy Grimes for donating their tractors for the week. As you may know, SNF couldn't get tractors for us this year so we had to drag our own 180 miles to Lakeland. Talk about déjà vu' all over again, we used to do that back in the 90's. On the bright side, not paying tractor rental, saved us about \$800 per day. We also saved money this year by cancelling out the tent and table rentals and bringing our own. More work for sure but our intrepid volunteers were up to the task.

The week was not all work though. After work each day we toured the grounds drooling over planes and trying to avoid spending money in hangars A, B, C, D, and E. Members Neil and Jolynn Negley treated us to a Steinhatchee fish fry, BBQ, and left overs dinner for 3 nights. Monday night we all went to Fred's and gorged ourselves, Friday night we enjoyed the fish fry hosted by FSACCA at the Vintage headquarters. Saturday night some of us went to the OX-5 clubhouse for an Italian dinner. Needless to say, we were well fed.

This year we did something a little different and hosted the Sleepy Hill Middle School aviation classes on Friday and gave approximately 120 student tours. It did jam us up by taking 2 wagons out of service for 2 hours but the PR was worth it.

Sunday is always break down day so after our last tour at 1:30PM we took all the tents down, loaded up the truck, returned the wagons to the campground and loaded all



the EAA 797 equipment onto Ed Conrad's camper. By the way, Ed will be at the pancake breakfast this Saturday; we could sure use your help to unload. Tommy, Randy, and I all dragged tractors to Live Oak.

The financials are not final due additional income to be received and expenses not yet reported but I can report some tentative numbers. So far, our gross income was \$6175.25, expenses so far are \$1852.00 (SNF 30%), for a tentative net of \$4323.25. I estimate that we will still owe SNF about \$500 in additional expenses. I'm still waiting on their invoice.

See you at the pancake breakfast meeting on Saturday.

*Allen*

## Pictures? Anyone?

Thank you Live Oak Team! I plan to come up for the October event. As you get flyers and plans together, shoot me a JPEG or PDF and I'll get it onto our local Facebook pages: Cross City Fly-In and Business Expo, Visit Dixie, Cary On Destinations, Inc. Dixie Count Public Library, and my own personal page.

I've also opened access to the galleries from 2017 and 2018. Feel free to download whatever you want for promoting your event or sharing with friends and family or others promoting the event. You all have supported us every year since 2015. Thank you friends!

Wings Over Suwannee 2017

<https://the-curious-diver.smugmug.com/Wings-Over-Suwannee-2017>

Download Password: WOS220411JeffCary

Wings Over Suwannee 2018

<https://the-curious-diver.smugmug.com/Wings-Over-Suwannee-2018>

Download Password: WOS220411JeffCary

If you have any problems, let me know. I can just make this available public. Anyone though could then download.

*Jeff Carey*

## Stripping in Tight Spaces

I uncovered the fuselage and tail surfaces of the Pixie. The original builder painted with an epoxy primer and then a urethane top coat. The problem is he painted with a brush and did not spray. The heavy brush strokes left lines that eventually cracked. I did not want to take to a commercial blaster so I used aircraft paint stripper and wire brushes to remove the paint. I bought a can of the 3M Spray Gun Cleaner (Harbor Freight \$6.99) and it does an amazing job of removing paint in welds and hard to get to places. I bought some of the Preval Spray bottles (Home Depot) to finish painting. Since there is no hose to drag around, they work really well to get into tight spaces and to do touch-up painting.

Now for fabric work.

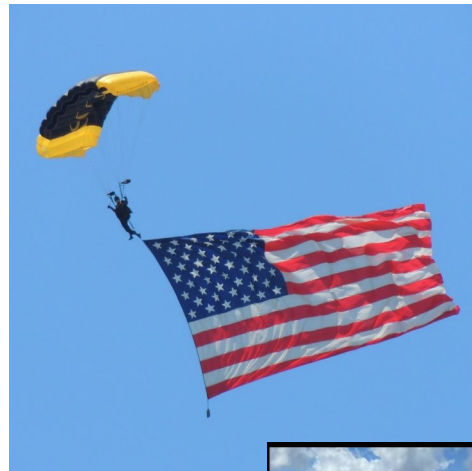


*Curtis McClung*

## Members in Absentia

James Culp is still in Physical Therapy and David Clarke is also on the injured list. I urge you all to keep them in your thoughts if you are unable to visit.

*Editor*



**S & F  
In a  
nutshell**



## 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)



Relax, Alex. You've earned it.

## Afterword

As always all good things must come to an end. Thus it was for Flightline Tours as we announced to the crowd- last chance to ride the Flightline Tour wagon this year. But what a wonderful week of priceless memories we have to take with us

It all started on Sunday when the wagons were washed and tires aired up for the big event. On Monday the crew gathered again to have a painting party. And move a few Porto potties to the new location as the tents were put up and properly tied down for the event. Then on Tuesday the fun really began. Selling tickets and giving rides to everyone that wanted to ride. Everyone of the volunteers gave something and those special ones gave a lot. On Thursday we got rained out early, but we make up for it on Friday-Saturday and Sunday. Everyone was able to get their coffee and lunch breaks and I'm happy to report through the entire week no one was injured. Many chapter members helped with the loading and unload. Moving the steps back and forth in the process. Ticket sales were great and the chapter will be able to keep the lights on for another year.

A HUGE -Thank you to everyone that helped make this all possible. Donating the tractors as needed and moving the supplies back and forth from the clubhouse.

New friendships were made and old ones renewed. I'm already looking forward to seeing everyone back again next year.

*Ed Conrad*



Hand of God