

## No October Chapter Meeting

### November Meeting On Schedule

As everyone is aware, we did not have our October Chapter Meeting due to not having a place to hold our meeting. The Grundy County Farm Bureau is not renting out their meeting room until at least the first of the year. After sending out an email about this, we've actually had a couple people step up with ideas and locations to hold our meeting. Stay tuned to the November newsletter for an update on the location, but it looks like we should be able to hold our November meeting as scheduled!

## Chapter Elections Coming Up

Our November meeting is our annual Chapter elections. Up for election are President, Treasurer, and 3 Board Member Positions. Without an October meeting to try and get people to volunteer to run, it's going to be a little more difficult to get people to step up, but we NEED YOU!

Please read Brian's President's Corner on Page 2 and seriously consider stepping up.

If you are interested in running for any of these positions, please contact Brian DePung at 630-774-9057 or email [bdepung@gmail.com](mailto:bdepung@gmail.com).

## CONGRATULATIONS

### Flight Training Scholarship Winner - Justin Ellis

Justin Ellis was awarded a flight training scholarship from the US Air Force. The program is called AFROTC You Can Fly Program. He was awarded the money for flight training that will be paid directly to his flight school. He will have to complete flight training by June 2021.



## CONGRATULATIONS

### Michael Foss - First Flight

On October 19th, Michael Foss successfully flew his RV-8 for the first time and also celebrated his 50th birthday! Here is his write up:

So today was an awesome day for a couple of reasons. One, it was my 50th birthday and second, I got to fly my RV-8 for the first time! It has been 7 years, 7 months, and 15 days since I started the build process. The flight was 1.5 hours and the RV flew straight and true. It was an incredible day to say the least. My RV-8 is painted to honor the P-51 Man O'War of the 334th FS.

Congrats Mike! We can wait to see it and have you join in on some fly-outs.





## President's Corner...

Greetings Chapter 95 family and friends!

Sorry for the delay in the newsletter! With the meeting not falling on the final Friday this month, I thought I had an extra week! Unfortunately, we were unable to hold this month's meeting anyway, so at least that made getting the newsletter out

before the meeting deadline less of an issue! Several times in recent years, we've looked into finding a different location to hold our monthly meetings, especially during the colder months, but aside from the limited access caused by the stairs at the Farm Bureau, it's nearly perfect in every other way. Some good temporary ideas have come forward to help get us through until we can meet there again, so hopefully we will actually hold an in person meeting next month, especially since we hold our elections at the November meeting. Details on how we're going to handle the election this year are still being discussed, but having an actual meeting would definitely help! I'm also hopeful we can still come up with a way for those who are uncomfortable with attending a meeting to vote remotely (or if we have to cancel again).

Speaking of the election, I'm sorry to say that I will be stepping down as your chapter president. I've been honored to be president of this chapter, but I must resign. I was actually planning on stepping down as vice president when my term ended last year, but the unfortunate need to finish out Doug's term as president was a duty I did not want to

walk away from. I am open to remaining on the board and will certainly do my best to help the next president as much as possible. The position is not as hard nor as time consuming as I once thought it would be, so even though I'm thinking someone who is retired or at least has more time on his or her hands would be ideal to step up and take over, being busy is certainly not a reason to back away from throwing your hat in the ring. I'd also say this chapter needs someone with more ideas and creative thinking to step up and take over, but honestly, there's plenty of that in the chapter. What this chapter really needs is someone who can bring that spirit out of us! I encourage all of you to seriously consider a role in chapter leadership! It's been a great experience for me! One I'll likely return to someday! Please contact me or any of the other officers to get your name on the ballot for any of the positions up for election this year.

I feel we may have lost some of the momentum we had due to this crazy year, but I also feel this year may have brought out the pent up energy in many of us that will push this chapter forward into the future! We need people who can use that energy to keep this chapter alive and active to step up and take on these leadership roles. Right now, at least, I'm not someone who can do that. My hope is that several of you will step up and we will have an actual contest for the open positions, complete with smear campaigns, wild debates needing mute buttons, foreign interference and conspiracy theories galore! Ok, maybe we don't need THAT much excitement! But I do hope all of you at least seriously consider running for office this month and that there is great interest in leading this chapter into the future! This chapter needs you!

Stay safe and healthy!  
Brian

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## Home For the Holidays "Parade"

If you remember, last year Tom Ellis put together an amazing float for the Morris "Home For the Holidays" Parade. He is willing to lead this effort again, if the chapter would like to participate. ANY new ideas are welcome! If you have some ideas and/or want to participate, please contact Tom (815-405-5082).

Here's the information on the event:

2020 Home For The Holidays events are looking a little different this year, and the Lighted Holiday Parade is no exception. Rather than a traditional parade, we are bringing a stationary, drive through parade to downtown Morris. Entries will line Franklin Street between North Street and Washington Street, and the public will be invited to drive through to view entries. This year's parade is scheduled for Friday, November 27th at 5:30pm.



# More Wonderful World of Doug Harford Flying Stories

Continued from last month's newsletter

## Story 13: Mexico!

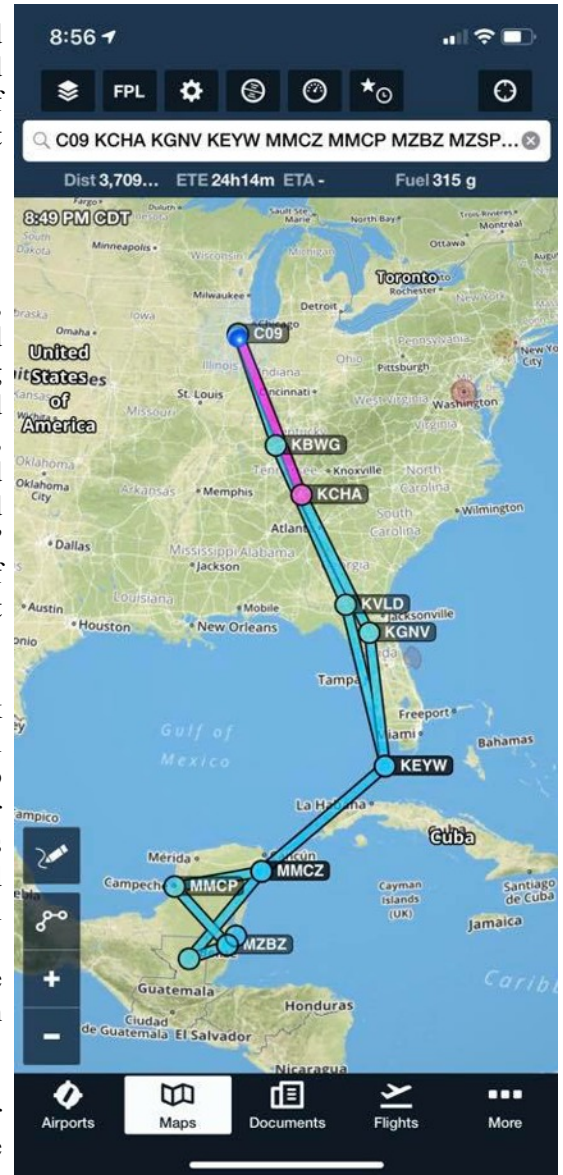
We had such a great time with Jim and Margi on the Bahamas Trip we could not wait to do another trip. For us that was a February 2014 Trip they had planned to Belize and Guatemala. Deb and I love Mexico, so the idea of overflying Mexico was not going to happen, so we added a week on the front of our trip to visit Cozumel and Campeche..

When Deb and I were much younger we vacationed in Cozumel every year. Before cruise ships and all-inclusive resorts, Cozumel was a wonderful place. I would scuba and Deb would snorkel along, we would eat the best seafood, and live a charmed existence. This story is not about Cozumel, but we loved this place. I had my old 182 at that time and they had an island-hopping airline called Aero Banana. 182s painted bright yellow flew tourists around the Yucatan. My dream was to paint my plane yellow and move to paradise, but years slipped away, cruise ships came with the huge resorts and our island disappeared into the abyss of progress. Years later I would make a good friend in Campeche Mexico and Campeche became our "middle aged" Cozumel. We also love Campeche, so it made sense to incorporate both of these dream destinations into this trip. Three countries in one trip takes a lot of planning, about 2 months' worth of planning!

At the bottom is a map of our trip, but for readability I am going to break this story into three parts, Mexico, Belize, and Guatemala. Jim's original plan for Belize overflew Cozumel. Jim had some bad experiences in Mexico and didn't want to manage the group there, so we were on our own for Mexico. Standard trip south through Florida to Marathon Key. It was Valentine's Day Weekend, so Key West Rooms were \$600 and up. We opted for Marathon Key. The next day I filed an instrument flight plan for Cozumel Direct hoping to get the airway that lies right along the Cuban Coast. Nope! They sent me out over the Gulf with no hope of making land if an engine fails. Later I found, that you have to file the actual airway name, which worked coming home.

Leaving Marathon and reporting Key West to open our flight plan, I hear Flight Service telling 2 Navy F18s to watch for me as we head out over the Gulf. They acknowledge having me in sight and right then went by on both sides and straight up! How cool is that! Wow! 3 ½ hours over the Gulf to Cozumel reporting to Miami, then Havana, and finally Merida Mexico. Language not a problem.

Landing in Cozumel is one of those old dreams you would not expect to happen, and here it was! Blue Caribbean Sea, Island, cruise ships, it was spectacular for an old farmer from Mazon! Upon landing a pickup pulls up and lets 4 military out with guns. Both wings, nose, and tail. In Mexico they have 2 years compulsorily military, so I assume this is busywork. The young men are pleasant and try to communicate, so we are having fun. Bags out on the ramp and open for the drug dog and visual inspection. Move on to paperwork. Two hours later and \$300 lighter we are done. We learned then fuel and paperwork is ½ price in pesos. Next time we hit the ATM! One interesting thing in Cozumel they had Raptors tied to small stakes by the Commandant's office. I am not sure what these are for, bird control??



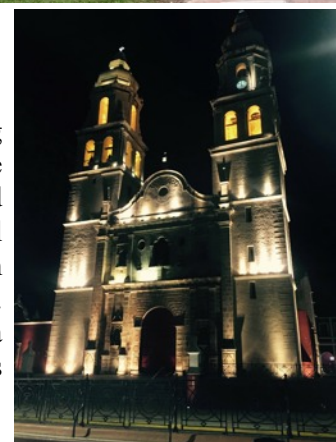


We find a small hotel downtown and set out to see what we recognize and it isn't much. Wow, has Cozumel changed in twenty years! We planned a two day stop, but decided to leave in the morning.

Flight plan filed for a 1-hour flight to Campeche. ATC "Fly a 10 NM DME ARC to on course heading." DME ARC! What is that! Reached in the pouch and there it was thanks to Bruce Limbach who had printed out Approach Plates for Mexico. Whew, that was easy! And a bit sloppy, but no one said anything. On course across the Yucatan low jungle, but Merida wants us at 10,000', so they can track me on radar. Hazy day, so not so pretty. Landing Campeche was in broken English, but no one was there, so no drama.



Carlos and family! A sight for weary travelers! He scoops us up and to his house for a big Mexican Breakfast in the garden. Carlos built a new house in the Hacienda Style, where all the rooms connect outside. What a wonderful design! From Kitchen to veranda across the courtyard to the bedrooms. We spent the night in Campeche, which is a World Heritage site and just all around beautiful. Now we head south to a beautiful condo AAK Bal we share with Carlos in Chompoton, which is a small fishing village along the Gulf of Mexico in the State of Campeche. Best and freshest seafood ever! Chompoton is also home to spectacular ruins Edzna, a refurbished Hacienda and great lunch place Hacienda Uayamon, and lots of exciting markets and other places to explore. Explore Chompoton.



Driving out to the condo we pass a young woman selling stone crab claws alongside the road. Supper! We relax and eat great for a couple days, until its time to go the Belize.

Next morning, we are up early with afternoon thunder storms forecast. Carlos mees us at the airport and sends us off. Go through customs and we are off. Not so fast, when we checked in at Cozumel, they were calling me "Comandante" which I liked, and a title I was trying to get Deb to use. They didn't stamp my passport for entry, because I was crew, and this did not pass muster with Campeche, who spent the next four hours writing a nasty letter about Cozumel. Off at noon, climbing to 10,500 for VFR Flight plan to Belize City. Merida needs the altitude to track me. Light thunder storms ahead, but should be no problem. Be back in a couple days with our Belize story.



### Story 14: Belize

Doug and Deb's big adventure continues! Mexico, Belize, and Guatemala, this story covers the Belize piece of our journey. Leaving Mexico about 15 miles to Belize Border we get a call from Merida Center, "You are not cleared into Belize Airspace!" What!! I have Deb grab the file folder; I know I filed the paperwork. Remember I said two months of preparation for this trip. Looked in the Belize pocket and there was our entry form. Now 5 miles from border and we can't just pull over, so all kinds of options running in my mind!!! "Merida, 3306C here's my entry number for Belize City' 3306C call Belize Center

frequency xxxxxxxx with that information.” Now entering Belize Airspace and severely puckered. “Belize Center, 3306C with an entry number.” I read the number and they cleared me in! That took a couple years off my life! You really need to be organized on these trips. Landed Belize City easy flying!

At Belize City we are met by customs and an older man named Rudy. Rudy (pictured with Deb next to baggage conveyer) wanted to “Handle me” through customs for \$80. I don’t need no stinking handler! I just went through Mexico (Cozumel wanted \$800 for handling) with no problems, English speaking Belize should be easy. I was wrong, after 4 hours of run around, with Deb being made to wait in the circle on the floor, (and we all know how much Deb likes to stand in someone’s circle) I was told to give our luggage to the airline attendant. I’m not on the airline. Don’t worry they will pass it out to the ramp for us. That didn’t happen! Now here comes Rudy strolling through and I ask how much it will cost to get our luggage back from the airline. Rudy say’s no problem, let me get that for you and has the airline pass it out. Rudy’s way of telling us to pay the \$80 next time. There will be no next time!



Four-hour delay getting out of Mexico and escaping their bureaucracy to land head on into Belizean Bureaucracy! Tired from the bull-shit and wanting to find a motel and a drink, we hop in our plane to find that San Pedro Island, our final destination, was not in our Garmin GPS. Thanks for Foreflight which was fairly new at that time, it had the location and 30-minute flight had us landing on Pan Pedro Island. Done for the day!



We arrived two days before Jim and Margi’s Group. We had never been to Belize and decided three day was not enough. San Pedro is tropical and filled with smaller hotels and family owned restaurants, so it is our kind of place. We spent the next day exploring with our golf cart, which all the tourists use for transportation. I thought about scuba diving, but coupled with the responsibility to fly, decided against it and used the next day to rest up for the group arrival. Jim and Margi show up and we are off to a Rum Punch Reception hosted by San Pedro Island. Meeting all this group for the first time we realize there is another couple from our Bahama’s Trip. It is fun meeting all these new people who had just completed a flight from Key West to Belize City nonstop! Jim flies a Cessna 172 RG, so he is the slow plane and always arrives last.

The next day we were scheduled to snorkel with sea turtles, swim with nurse sharks, and manta rays. The nurse sharks are harmless and both rays and sharks are being fed, so you are swimming in the middle of a swarm of movement. Fun, I guess! By this time, we are joining small groups and just exploring. San Pedro is interesting. I didn’t care for Belize, because it seemed a bit pointless tourism, but Deb liked it a lot! There were lots of middle-aged women on women’s weekend type trips. Heavy drinking and partying. I think the safe environment makes this a perfect location for that kind of trip.

It is interesting that Jim and Margi have dropped Belize from this trip opting for more sea side Guatemala. Caribbean Flying Adventures Guatemala Trip This might be a good time to talk about escorted trips. Jim charges less than \$500 for this trip and all the planning you need. Very reasonable! There are others that range from Caribbean Sky, Baja Bush Pilots, to Air Journeys that will take you around the world in your jet. No one offers a better trip at affordable prices than Jim. When you go with Jim, you will know how to do that trip by yourself and not need him again. Many operators do the planning and you just fly your plane, which is great if that is what you are looking for. Next stop on our “Big Adventure” Guatemala!

## Story 15: Guatemala

Deb and Doug’s Big Adventure continues. It is February 2014 and we are off today for Guatemala. The plan is to fly to Belize City for fuel and Belize Exit Paperwork and on to Flores Guatemala. We were with the group today, so customs went easy. We also had to take all the fuel we could, because Flores did not have gasoline and I did not want to return a third time to Belize City, but rather go direct from Flores to Cozumel for fuel and home from there. From Belize City to Flores was a day of white puffy clouds at our assigned altitude, but not really a problem.

Arriving Mundo Maya Airport, we find Flores is on Lake Peten Itza. The lake is big and has an island the site of the original city. In Flores, the Airport Workers line up off the left wingtip in a straight line when you land. This had been practiced, and it was apparent that they wanted business. Since we were the first trip by small planes, they wanted to make a good impression. As pilot, I moved down the line and each person asked for some document and wrote in the giant book each

person carried. At the end of the line they handed me a stamped document and I was done. They asked for some irrelevant things, but this could not have been more different than Belize! They wanted us there and I see why Jim now uses Guatemala instead of Belize for his trips.

You land in the middle of the Guatemalan Jungle; it just seems right to take a lake cruise to a museum and see a small zoo. Jim already has this lined up, so, throw your bags in the room and hop in one of these small boats. However, all the boats leak! We have to bail water whenever the boats are loaded, but that just added to the adventure!

So, what's next other than a Rum Punch Reception hosted by the Guatemalan Tourist Agency! This was one of the best receptions we have been to on a trip. Jim is good at getting to local governments to chip in and it's fun to see what they think we would like.

The next day we are off to Tikal Mayan Ruins. Deb and I have visited a lot of Mayan Ruins in Mexico, but these are bigger, less restored than some, and more jungle. The pictures show some of the wildlife in the zoo and also the ruins just hanging out looking for a handout. There are some big temples that are work to climb, but it was a good day exploring with new friends. We stayed in a hotel on the lake about 10 miles from the ruins, so, transportation is always fun, this was an old school bus from the US all painted up by the owner, with loud horns, and other entertaining devices.

The people you meet on a trip like this; Supper was a new adventure. An impromptu Guatemalan Hors d'oeuvre at the pool, ordered by a couple in our group from some local specialty shop. The hors d'oeuvres went well with the Guatemalan Liquor another couple supplied. I suppose by this time I was due to let go, and limited letting go has never been my strong suit. I let go too much and two of us (my new best friend) got smashed! Supper was a two-mile ride to the Island and we all took TUK TUKS! If you have never been in a tuk tuk, they are small three wheeled taxis in developing countries. Deb and I sit in the back and the driver steers with a bicycle handlebar. Tuk tuks are fun from India to Guatemala, but this night my drinking buddy challenged us to a race and the ugly American I always try to keep bottled up came out and paid my driver to win. Supper was a bit of a blur.

At breakfast with a well-deserved hangover we met another unique couple who were flying a Turbo 210 Cessna. Their turbo had blown before landing Guatemala, and they were trying to figure out what to do. Guatemala has no fuel. They were going home to Texas, which is not the route for the rest of us, they are going West across the lower Gulf of Mexico. This couple owned a Subaru Junkyard in South Texas, and rebuilt Subaru's which he sold "No money down," to locals and his wife was the repo department. She took them back after an average of two payments. I mention this because they are not a stranger to hullabaloo! To stop in Mexico entering from the South, there are only two airports and Jim had told him to check with me about other options. Cozumel is East and Tapachula MMTP is South of us, so he doesn't like either. There is no way he has enough fuel to make Texas, and how do you estimate a blown turbo effect on mileage? After he announced he is going direct Texas, I handed him my business card and told him he had to e-mail me and tell me how it went. Mexico is particularly difficult if you break rules, I had just heard from one of Jim's friends who filed IFR for Cancun from the south and they let him do it and fined him \$5000! I received an E-mail that night saying he had declared a fuel emergency in Veracruz, landed, got \$3.50 gas and flew back to Texas! I guess you just have to be Bold!

If you look at the picture of our planes on the ramp, you will notice a new Turbine Pilatus. There is always one in every crowd. This couple bought a Harley on credit, and made a custom seat for themselves. The Harley Seat became so popular they started manufacturing them and now own a paid-for Pilatus and fly the Caribbean!



So, with a full-blown hangover we leave for fuel in Cozumel and then Key West. First we fly across low jungle and Tikal to the coast of Mexico. The coast of Southern Mexico is a low ground and not inhabited by many. After reading Jimmy Buffet's "A Pirate looks at 50" Deb and I have always wanted to bum around there, but there is no power, infrastructure, or even roads to support tourism, so this is my only chance to see it the way Jimmy does when he arrives in his Grumman Albatross, "Hemisphere Dancer." The town you see in the picture is Punta Allen. I need someone to fly there for me, since my seaplane days are over!



Land Cozumel, get fuel and lunch, hangover almost gone! File G765 Airway, instead of direct Key West which was the group consensus. Into the plane for clear skies and a light headwind, pick up my clearance and there it was! They gave me the Airway that takes us along the coast of Cuba! Little did I know that two years later Deb and I would fly to Cuba.



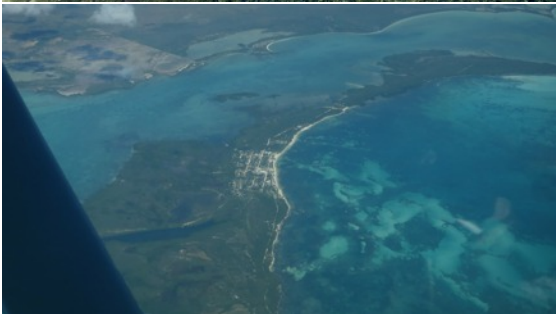
When you land you are supposed to be in a 15-minute window, so the headwind is a little more than we anticipated, so when I got the handoff from Havana to Miami, I told Miami to advise customs (ADCUS) we were 20 minutes behind schedule. We landed Key West with no problems, but Deb is always concerned about drugs.

When we land, they just walked around the plane with a Geiger counter and say we're good, but they added in that they left a message for me on my phone and I should ignore that. So now I'm curious. Miami told them we were running behind and gave them the arrival time in Zulu and that would be 6 hours later in the middle of the night. Turns out the Customs guy left me a rant about showing up at midnight and I was going to have to stay in the plane until they come in. I see why he would like to ignore it and sure he wished he could delete it. I deleted it for him.

Easy trip home from Key West, dreaming about becoming Jimmy Buffet!

From "Coastal Confessions"

"They say that time is like a river  
And stories are the key to the past  
But now I'm stuck in between  
Here at my typing machine







## 2020 Chapter 95 Calendar of Events

### November

20 - Chapter Meeting 6:30 pm

### Project For Sale - Sonerai II

Sonerai II project for sale - was flying at one point. Has 71.2 TT. Will be sold as parts. Needs a propeller. Old wooden prop is not serviceable. Aerovee engine. All build materials and engine manual included. Asking \$4,500 (Donation will be made to Young Eagles Fund)

Call Tom Ellis with any questions 815-405-5082.



### Chapter 95 Officers:

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**NEXT MEETING: TBD**

**Location: TBD**

Visit our website at <https://chapters.eaa.org/ea95>

Do you know someone who might be interested in joining our chapter? Please bring them to our next meeting and let them see what we are all about. Membership dues are \$25.00 per year.