



# NavCom

JANUARY 2016

News and information for the Gwinnett County Chapter of the Experimental Aircraft Association

Chapter 690 Meets in Hangar #1 of the Sport Aviation Complex at Briscoe Field, 690 Airport Rd., Lawrenceville, GA

## About EAA 690

EAA 690 is a Chapter of the Experimental Aircraft Association, located at [Briscoe Field \(LZU\)](#) in Lawrenceville, Georgia. A diverse chapter with over 250 members, we offer a wide range of aviation-related activities on a regular basis. While the Pancake Breakfast and our monthly meetings are the norm, we also are heavily involved in youth education through EAA's Young Eagles program and our Aviation Explorer group, regularly conduct fly-ins, and host historical aircraft such as EAA's B-17 "Aluminum Overcast", the Ford Tri-Motor and Ron Alexander's DC-3.

Our technical counselors are some of the best in the business, and willingly donate their time to homebuilders, as they progress through the various phases of constructing an aircraft. We have pilots with a wide variety of experience, from former airline and military pilots to general aviation pilots with a private certificate. "Hangar flying" is a fun part of the mix, and our facility is often used for aircraft annual inspections, meetings, special events, and training. We also have an extensive array of aviation tools for loan to members, and a library full of aviation information.

Come join us on the first Saturday of every month at the hangar to enjoy a \$6 Pancake Breakfast, and to learn more about EAA 690

## EAA Chapter 690 to Build RV-12

We are going to build an RV-12! We have met the initial goal of \$2,000 and blasted through it. We've created a blog site just for this project, to see the latest info on this project go to [rv12.eaa690.net](http://rv12.eaa690.net).

### The empennage kit was ordered Jan. 19th

As we enter the New Year we are excited about building the RV-12. This project will allow us to gain experience in the build process and ultimately give our members and others a Light Sport alternative not currently available at KLZU.

We expect to have a meeting very soon for all those interested in working on this project. If you have RV building experience and want to help out by mentoring, please let us know. We are looking forward to getting this project kicked off and beginning to see an airplane come to life.

## Chapter 690 Piet Progress 1/2/2016

Great progress was made today and we passed a milestone, the left wing ribs and spars were connected.

Steven Agudelo, Carolyn Coppinger, Kyler Eliston, Jonathan Mesfn Fkreyesus, Alex Kirkland, Alex Straka and Derrick Williams did outstanding work on this phase. Mentors were Hugh Colton, Art Farmer, Duane Huff, John Post and Rick Mathisen.

Next week we will install the diagonals and compression members. Great work everyone! The excitement is building as we see things coming together.



Our Youth building the Piet, how exciting!

# EAA 690 Membership Report

January 2016

By Jeanne Ferguson

As of the end of 2015, EAA Chapter 690 had 315 members. During the year there were approximately 50 new members and members that reactivated their membership. It was an amazing membership year and hope that 2016 will see more new members, reactivated members and members involved.

Report for January 2016 is as follows:

Total Membership – 179 (which is fantastic for January)

31 family memberships (which count as 2, and sometimes more)

43 individual memberships

12 student memberships.

Barbara Epstein and Jeanne Ferguson will have a table set up at Pancake Breakfast and Chapter Meetings in February and March to take dues. Dues may be paid by check, cash or credit card. Credit card payment can also be made at [mkt.com/ea690](http://mkt.com/ea690)

It is going to be an incredible year, so come join the fun!!!!

## EAA 690 Annual Holiday Party

What a great event. Excellent turn out, great friends, incredible food and the desserts were abundant and wonderful.

This years event was held Dec. 22nd in the chapter hanger. A special thanks to all the volunteers that put in time decorating, preparing food, planning entertainment and awards. It all came together and delivered a very nice time for one and all.

Lots of good food



A Christmas Story



Presidents Msg.



Deserts got a lot of attention



The 690 Carolers



Musical interludes



## The NavCom

The NavCom is the official monthly newsletter of EAA Chapter 690, serving its members and other persons interested in the advancement of aviation.

Original articles, art and photos are invited and welcome. Submit articles in Word 97 or ASCII format and pictures in .jpg, .tft or .bmp format via e-mail to: tj1227@bellsouth.net.

Deadline for submission of articles and pictures is the 20th of the month, unless otherwise announced.

Permission is hereby granted for the reproduction of NavCom articles by other EAA Chapters, provided that a proper credit is given to the author and to the NavCom.

The NavCom is published electronically on a monthly bases and distributed to Chapter members and other interested parties. Printed copies may be available upon request.

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## The Presidents Pitch

By Randy Epstein



### Wide Open Throttle

Last year was a big year for EAA 690. We grew to 300 members and experienced a lot of things together. We saw the completion of the glider monument thanks to many chapter volunteers and the assistance of several local companies, without which we might still be trying to figure out how to make it happen. We got the hangar painted thanks to chapter volunteers, especially Chris and Nancy Capps. We went to Air Venture and watched Jeanne feted as the Ground Volunteer of the Year for 2015 at the Young Eagle's dinner. We saw the chapter begin a youth program with the hope of stoking the interest of aviation in our young adults. The first program was a ground school under the guidance of Mike Burns. Next up was the build program being guided by our wonderful chapter mentor group, now under the guidance of Rick Mathisen and Hugh Colton. Last came the flight simulator sessions hosted by Brian Michael and Wes Rid-dick. At our Christmas get-together, we celebrated a great year by handing out certificates to many recipients and presenting Brian Michael with the Member of the Year Award. We elected executive officers for the next two years and new trustee members for the next three years. That is just some of the highlights of 2015. So now we begin 2016.

We're not about to slow down, instead we are moving forward with a wide open throttle! We are getting ready to build an RV-12 as a chapter project under the guidance of Jerry Fischer and Brian Michael. This will be exciting and when completed will provide the Hangar 6 Flying Club with a Light Sport Aircraft for members to rent. The youth are continuing to make great progress on their Ultra-Lite Pietenpol project and we look forward to seeing that plane come together as the year progresses. We've started the year off nicely flying 24 Young Eagles already. This month John Post and his Aeroventure Flying Club hosted a Rusty Pilots program in the chapter hangar and had a good group of attendees. In March, not only will the chapter host a Rusty Pilots program in association with Advanced Aviation but the chapter will host Representative Rob Woodall after breakfast. He will be present to speak about the Pilots Bill of Rights that recently passed the Senate and now awaits passage in the House. Rep. Woodall will also answer questions about the bill, so make your plans now to be there.

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## Good things happen when people volunteer!

One of our young eagles, Tim DuBose, lost his logbook and Young Eagles Certificate recently. His great grandfather, Maj. Bob Mell, contacted our member Bob Krone asking what could be done. As a result, we called EAA National and they were very helpful in researching the flight of Tim DuBose and giving us permission to retype his certificate and provide Tim with a new log book. Our thanks go to all the goods folks at EAA Young Eagles for their help, to Bob Krone for moving this forward and to Jeanne Ferguson for her follow up and diligence.

Below is a personal Thank You from Maj. Mell on behalf of his great grandson Tim.

Great Job everyone!



Thank You

Dear Bob & others,  
Thanks so very much  
for reissuing my  
great-grandson's certificate.  
We are most appreciative  
of your kindness & organization.  
It is a wonderful job that  
y'all do. Timothy is now a

devoted plane enthusiast  
& has already had 2  
flying lessons.

Thanks again

Bob Mell

James R. Mell flew North American B-25 Mitchells from a base in Corsica at the end of World War Two. He flew 58 missions and had to return on just one engine on a mission because of enemy action. He goes by Bob and separated from the AAF as a 1st Lieutenant. Here are a couple old photos that I scanned for Bob some time ago. He's the one in the lower left corner in the group photo.

From Bob Krone



Maj. Mell in his B-25 Mitchell



Maj. Mell is front row left



## UPCOMING AVIATION EVENTS



### Chapter Events

#### **Pancake Breakfast & Program**

Saturday, Feb 6 at 8:00 AM-11:00 AM

#### **GARS Meeting**

Tuesday, Feb 9 at 7:00 PM-9:00 PM

#### **Chapter Business Meeting & Program**

Friday, Feb 12 at 7:30 PM-10:00 PM

### Everything You Wanted to Know about Drones

The 1st Saturday in February Aviation program and Breakfast will be presented by Mr. Cliff Whitney, owner of Atlanta Hobby. The topic will cover multi-rotor craft commonly called drones. Details to follow.

### April 5th to 10th, 2016

Website: <http://www.sun-n-fun.org/sun-n-fun-intl-fly-in-expo/>

Airport: KLAL



In 1974, SUN 'n FUN was created by a small group of dedicated aviation enthusiasts. The annual event, held in April, has grown into the second largest event of its kind in the world and is Florida's largest annual convention. The six-day event on 2,200 acres has been recorded to have a \$64,000,000 direct and indirect economic impact on the I-4 corridor in Central Florida as media from around the world cover the event that offers, jet teams, aerospace related exhibits; educational forums, aircraft static displays, professional gatherings of aviation and economic development groups; daily and evening airshows that include adrenaline pumping aerobatics, a veterans plaza and women in aviation arenas. Light Sport aircraft flies above parking areas and many performers are seen on the grounds with vendors and students. Youth activities that include a new young pilot campground; International visitors hospitality; evening entertainment, a women's' pavilion and souvenir shops are highlights for visitors from more than 80 countries. Held at Lakeland Linder Regional Airport in Lakeland, FL, air traffic movements for the event elevates the airport to the 'busiest in the world' for one week. For the other 51 weeks of each year, activities on the SUN 'n FUN Convention Campus include public and private events in the facilities on nearly 200 acres. The Aerospace Center for Excellence (ACE) has introduced Aerospace Discovery at the Florida Air Museum in a dynamic fashion as it incorporates aviation history into hands-on interactive learning stations for students of all ages. SUN 'n FUN makes more than \$430,000 of scholarship funds available annually to students in Polk County entering an Aerospace Industry career to cover the cost of flight lessons and/or college tuition for 4 years. An estimated \$2.1m is invested by SUN 'n FUN to augment public education programs in Polk County annually. Mission Statement SUN 'n FUN's mission is to preserve and enhance the future of flight through world-class events, inspiring and educating people of all ages. Our Guiding Principles are based on respecting and honoring the past, building teams, caring, counting and communicating, appreciating volunteers and staff, being accountable, professional and goal-oriented, doing what you do best, better, ensuring quality before quantity, having the courage to take a leadership role and, last but not least, contributing to the communities we serve.



## Upcoming Events cont.

### EAA 690 March 5th

#### Congressman Woodall and Rusty Pilots

The 1st Saturday in March Aviation Program and Pancake Breakfast will be in two parts. Part 1 will be Member of Congress, Rob Woodall, Representative from the 7<sup>th</sup> District. **Woodall will be talking and taking questions regarding the Pilots Bill of Rights 2.** The PBOR2 passed out of the Senate and is now headed to congress. Representative Woodall has been a Member of Congress since January, 2011 and resides in Lawrenceville. Woodall is a graduate of Furman University and the University Of Georgia School Of Law.

The March 5th program will begin at 10:00 and is open to all. An all you care to eat Pancake (and eggs, sausage and biscuits, etc.) Breakfast and/or refreshments are available beginning at 8:00 AM in the EAA Sport Aviation Center, 690 Airport Road, at Gwinnett County's Briscoe Field. The price of breakfast for adults is \$6, children under 10, \$3. Ample aircraft and auto parking is available. For additional information contact Randy Epstein at [randy.epstein@windstream.net](mailto:randy.epstein@windstream.net).

### EAA 690 Monthly Youth Ground School

Tuesday February 16, 2016 7:00 PM-8:30 PM  
This event is held monthly on the Third Tuesday of the month. EAA 690 welcomes youth 14 and above to attend our monthly youth meeting. We are currently working on ground school for pilots conducted by Mike Burns.

### Plant City Florida

#### Planes Trains and Automobiles

FREE ADMISSION - \$5.00 PARKING Display, Demonstrations, and Information: Planes, Helicopter, Remote Control Planes, Model Trains, Automobiles, K-9 Demos (11,12:30, & 2), PC Police & Fire Departments, CSX Safety. Other Things to Do: Free Flights for Kids (limited) Provided by the EAA Young Eagles (ages 8-17, registration closes at 1:00 pm), Kids play area, Vendors, Boy Scout Badge Opportunities, Cub Scout Activities, Computer Flight Simulators. Opening Ceremonies at 10:30 am Trophy Presentation at 2:30 PM

Location: Plant City Airport (KPCM)

For more information Contact Peggy Watson, 813-754-3707

### EAA1489 Breakfast Fly-in

Join us for our famous breakfast of pancakes, eggs, sausage, grits, fresh fruit, coffee, and orange juice.

#### Airport Information:

Flying W Air Ranch (9FL1), Bushnell FL

**Contact** - Steve Bensingner

**Website** - <http://flyingfoolz.org/>

**Email** - [foolzinfo@flyingfoolz.org](mailto:foolzinfo@flyingfoolz.org)

### EAA 797 Hangar Talk Fly In

Join us on the last Saturday of the month 8-10AM for free coffee and donuts and lots of airplane talk.

#### Airport Information:

Suwannee County Airport (24J) Live Oak, FL

**Contact** - Allen Rice

**Phone** - 352-498-5533

**Website** - <http://EAA797.net>

**Email** [Allen@AllenRice.net](mailto:Allen@AllenRice.net)

We make a concerted effort to verify the content of the NavCom is accurate and up-to-date however, readers are advised to verify with a third party before making plans or taking acting based on the information provided here. Programs and planned activities can and often are changed, modified or cancelled without notice.

# Snowbirds Include AirVenture 2016 on Schedule

## Team's first appearance at Oshkosh since early 1980s

December 23, 2015 - The Canadian Forces Snowbirds, one of the most popular military aerial demonstration teams in the world, announced EAA AirVenture Oshkosh 2016 as part of its schedule, which would be the first time the team would be back at Oshkosh in more than 30 years.

EAA AirVenture Oshkosh, the 64th annual Experimental Aircraft Association fly-in convention known as the World's Greatest Aviation Celebration, is July 25-31 at Wittman Regional Airport in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. The Snowbirds are currently scheduled to have a public practice over the grounds on Friday, July 29, with full performances as part of the daily afternoon air show on Saturday and Sunday, July 30-31.

The Snowbirds, officially designated as 431 Air Demonstration Squadron, were created in 1971 and have a nearly 40-year connection to EAA, as they were the first military team to perform at Oshkosh when they flew over the EAA fly-in in the 1970s. They have not appeared at Oshkosh since 1983, as their primary schedule commitment each year is to Canadian air shows. "It is truly thrilling to have the Snowbirds schedule an appearance at Oshkosh for the first time in more than 30 years, and we can now begin working through the logistics necessary to support the team," said Rick Larsen, EAA's vice president of communities and member services, who coordinates AirVenture features and attractions. "Longtime EAA members and Oshkosh attendees speak fondly of the elegant precision aerobatics that the Snowbirds brought to the EAA fly-in, and have often asked when they would return. We were very happy to discover that EAA AirVenture 2016's dates and the Snowbirds' schedule availability aligned and we could welcome them back to aviation's family reunion at Oshkosh."

The Snowbirds fly Canadair CT-114 Tutor jets in approximately 60 air shows each year. The nine aircraft used in the performances are piloted by experienced team members from the Royal Canadian Air Force. During the show, the pilots fly at speeds ranging from 110 to 465 mph (180 to 750 km/h) and in formation with distances as close as 4 feet of wing overlap. Comprised of exciting loops, rolls, and solo passes as well as graceful nine-jet formations, the Snowbirds' show includes more than 50 different formations and maneuvers over each 35-minute performance.



## The Presidents Pitch cont.

Brian Michael is working with the folks in the Georgia Tech Flying Club to put together an air rally for some time this year. We have Sun n Fun coming up in April and I know many of you will make that trek to Lakeland.

I hope, that as a member of the chapter you will look for ways to get involved. One need we have currently is for someone to take over the moderation and posting on our various Social Media sights. We have a group page on Facebook, a Twitter account and an Instagram account. For lack of a better term, I'm going to call this a Chairman of Social Media. Social media plays a large part in today's society and we need to continue to be engaged on a regular basis. If this is of interest to you please let me know and we can talk about what is required.

We also need some folks to come forward to volunteer to keep the hangar clean and ready for our events. That would encompass picking up the chair and tables once or twice a month and mopping the floor. While not a glamorous job, it is necessary and the more folks that volunteer the easier it is to get it accomplished.

We have some other exciting things that will be happening within the chapter and when the time is right I will bring those things to you. We are so blessed to have such an active chapter and it is not lost on me how many of you are a big part of the success we enjoy. Let's keep it up and keep the momentum going!!

# Heidi Who?

*By Chuck Roberts*

As many of you know, Chapter 690 offers a one-week youth aviation summer camp in early June. In the first two years, subjects/activities were nearly all fixed-wing oriented (partly because most of our members are fixed-wing-only pilots). The only nod to rotary-wing was a brief visit to see a helicopter and even that was not always successful. In 2013, at the last minute, I offered to give a white-board presentation on helicopter fundamentals. When the summer camp was over I volunteered to give a “real” rotorcraft class which would include a “real” helicopter trainer the next summer camp (June, 2014). Although I’m not a rotorcraft pilot I recognize rotorcraft are a significant part of aviation and feel we should offer such information to our students especially because there is so much difference between fixed-wing and rotary-wing flight fundamentals.

It was my hope to get one of the Experimental – Amateur Built (E-AB) helicopter companies to donate an un-airworthy old model, without engine, which I would then modify for the classroom trainer (cut main rotor blades to about 5 feet tip-to-tip, shorten the tail boom, cut tail rotor to about 16 inches tip-to-tip, and provide a very slow electric drive for both rotors). However, after sending letters to the three major companies (and calling) it became apparent I would have to design and build such a trainer from scratch.

Since the beginning of time people have been solving design problems by using whatever they could find but, to my knowledge, they never have given such a design approach a name. I have: I call it “Foundgineering” the process of engineering a solution to a given set of design goals using “found” objects. To start with, the design would be driven by some basic dimensions: the size of my pickup truck bed, the size of the seat (my wife, Gay, had a great idea to use a car seat from the junk yard), the height of the main rotor to safely clear the heads of the students and instructor yet pass through the door of my shop, and so forth. So I got a Nissan Altima right front bucket seat and designed the main frame and tail boom so it would clear the pickup truck tail gate by about an inch when closed. I already had the electric gear motor but it was about 4 times faster than I wanted the main rotor to spin so I used a 4-to-1 v-belt pulley reduction. To quote the king said in The King and I: “et cetera, et cetera, et cetera”. Or, as my neighbor, a Boeing 777 captain said: “Helicopter? Oh yeah; an oil leak surrounded by 10,000 parts attempting to thrash themselves into oblivion!”



After 334 hours spread over 56 work days our chapter’s new helicopter trainer was complete. Jeanne Ferguson, one of our chapter volunteers, you see her at most chapter events, told my wife Gay: “she (referring to the trainer) must have a name!” So Gay drew up a list of female names beginning with the letter “H”, we looked it over and selected “Heidi”. Hence, you will always hear us call her Heidi, the helicopter trainer. Here’s a snap-shot of Heidi, Gay and myself in front of our hanger.

If you go to our chapter website, <http://www.690.eaachapter.org/> you will find, on the right-hand side of the home page a link to a short video where you can see the parts move.

As this project involved the creation of most of the moving parts (rotor blades, mixing unit, controls, drive system) there was quite a bit of machining on the lathe and, of course, all the welding. We plan on offering a set of articles and pictures, here in the NavCom, over the next several months describing the project and its challenges.

## Attention Pilots, Volunteers and Chapter Members

Please send us your comments, notes or full blown articles regarding your experiences both past and present, include pictures if you got'em. Your input to the NavCom adds flavor, color and interest to our publication. Don't worry if you are not a writer, our large professional staff of copy writers, editors, typesetters and letterpress operators are at your disposal and eager to assist. (don't expect miracles, we will do our best). Your input is welcome and appreciated.

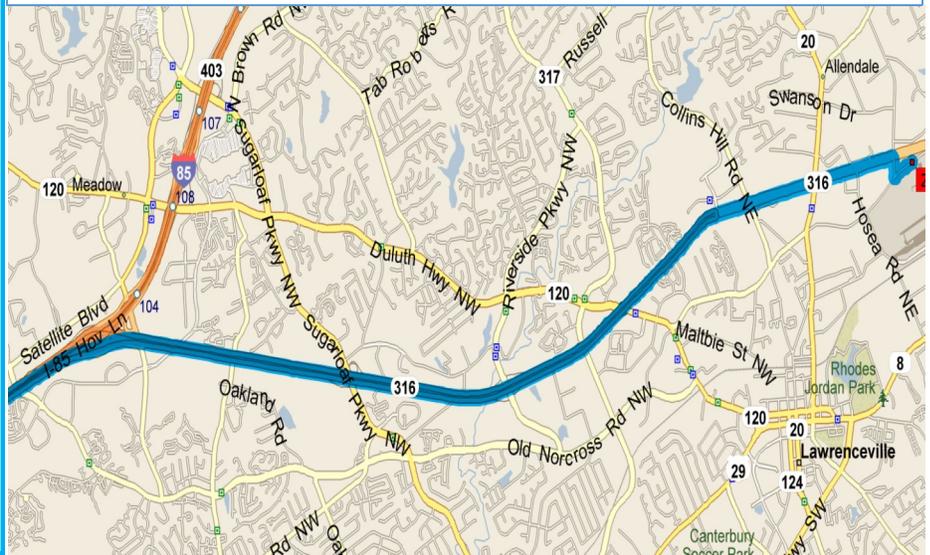
Email to [NavCom@eaa690.org](mailto:NavCom@eaa690.org)

### Directions to EAA 690

I85 North to GA-316

Take GA-316 to Hurricane Shoals Rd NE and turn right

Go to Airport Rd NE and turn left, Go to 690 Entrance on the right.



## Visit the EAA 690 Chapter Website at [www.eaa690.org](http://www.eaa690.org)

### Annual Chapter Dues

Chapter 690's Fiscal and Membership Year begins on January 1st. Dues are due and payable on the 1st of January.

Dues may be paid at meetings, mailed to our membership chairman, Ms. Jeanne Ferguson or paid on-line. To pay online visit the Chapter web site, [www.eaa690.org](http://www.eaa690.org) and click on "Membership" then follow the prompts for the type of membership you wish to apply for.

### Chapter Badges Available

New members badges can be found pinned to the tie on the Chapter bulletin board next to the main entrance to the Chapter hanger. For anyone that needs a replacement name badge or would like to get one of the new full color badges please see Duane Huff during any Chapter function.

### E-mail Update and Request

Chapter members and other interested friends of Chapter 690 are alerted and reminded of chapter planned activity, timely aviation news and other items of interest via NOTAMS sent by our President Randy Epstein. To be sure you continue to receive these informative announcements please be sure to notify Jeanne Ferguson, [jmarief@bellsouth.net](mailto:jmarief@bellsouth.net) if you have a change in your preferred email address.

### Your Assistance is Requested

As always, our great chapter runs best when we have volunteers that will step up, pitch in and get involved. Announcements are made at most chapter functions for those projects and activities where we need additional volunteer help. Please lend a hand, your help is needed and greatly appreciated.

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