



NavCom

News and Information for the Gwinnett County Chapter of the Experimental Aircraft Association December 2001



By Joel Levine

ACROBATICS! This month, Leonard Pace, Phil Harcourt and Elgin Wells, Sr., members of the International Acrobatic Club (IAC) Chapter 3 will discuss the art, skills and requirements of aerobatic flying. IAC members practice their flying skills with a focus on the Regional and National competitions held throughout the country. Several IAC3 members have honed their skills to International recognition level while a few may be seen performing at local airshows. The program will focus on the safety and pilot proficiency General Aviation pilots develop by learning the basics of Unusual Attitude Recovery as well as the enjoyment gained in mastering this "3-dimensional aerial ballet." Breakfast is served from 8:00 a.m. 'til 10:30 a.m. rain or shine. The program starts at 10:30 a.m. Bring the whole family to the airport!

On a separate note, it would be greatly appreciated if any member completing or knowing of a completion of a homebuilt or restored aircraft during the preceding year e-mail the name of the member doing so to Duane Huff, <duanehuff@yahoo.com>. Each year at our annual holiday meeting and pot-luck dinner these individuals are recognized for their accomplishments.

Lastly, we expect to have several Young Eagle Candidates ready to fly Saturday morning. If you have not flown at least ten Young Eagles this year, now is the time to do so. Don't forget, TEN is the magic number! If

you enjoy aviation, give a young person that same opportunity. ➔

Holiday Party Friday Dec 14

By Margaret Wilcox

On Friday Evening December 14th all chapter members are invited with their families and/or interested friends to celebrate the holidays at the Chapter Building. This is our regular meeting night - the second Friday and two weeks from the Pancake Breakfast this month. We will celebrate with a dinner served at 7:15. Each family is asked to bring a vegetable, salad or desert to serve 12. The chapter will furnish the meat, beverages and table service. Gathering time will be at 6:45. Dress is informal.

After dinner we will be entertained by a good friend of our chapter, Col. Hal Weakly. Hal is the retired pilot of the EAA B-17 - the Aluminum Overcast. He is also a WWII veteran, the only living person who piloted a B-17 during W.W.II and is still currently qualified to pilot the veteran aircraft today. He retired this summer at Air Venture in Oshkosh where he was a popular presenter of forums in the EAA Museum. He has also recently spoken to school groups in Cobb county. We know he will entertain us with many memories of his outstanding career.

The program will include awards and presentations, recognition of past officers and installation of new officers. Expect a few surprises to recognize the season and help us all to get into the holiday spirit.

The chapter building will not only be decorated for the season but it will be open for all to inspect the interior remodeling which is nearing completion. If you have not seen the new mezzanine, expect to be surprised with all the new amenities. Lee and Carol Craymer are the general chairpersons who are coordinating this meeting. We look forward to seeing all EAA members for this "You can't miss this one!" event. ➔

EAA Air Academy

By Duane huff

Scholarships! The EAA Air Academy holds three summer camps each year. They are: (1) Primary Aviation Fun Camp for youth ages 12 & 13, (2) Intermediate Aviation Experience Camp ages 14 & 15, and Aviation Leadership Camp, ages 16,17,& 18. Chapter 690 will be offering two and possibly four tuition scholarships to these camps for next summer. (Dates are not known at this time.) It is important to begin the process of finding candidates for these scholarships at this time. For more information and scholarship applications, contact Duane Huff at meetings, email at duanehuff@yahoo.com or phone at 770-921-4423. ➔

On The Road

With Frank and Margaret Wilcox

There are aircraft museums all over the country and Frank can find one wherever we travel. On a recent trip to Portland, Oregon we had the opportunity he had long desired - to

see the world's largest aircraft - the SPRUCE GOOSE. The Hughes HK-1 (H-4) Flying Boat is now housed in an especially built, new home in the small farming town of McMinnville, Oregon about an hour's drive southwest of Portland. The craft was rescued by Mr. Delford Smith, owner of Evergreen Aviation also located at McMinnville, and his son Michael King Smith. Unfortunately Michael, who was director of the Evergreen Museum which is now 10 years old, and who had submitted the winning proposal to obtain the aircraft when it was to be sold in 1988, was killed in a tragic auto accident. The museum is now dedicated to Capt. Michael Smith an F-15 pilot and Lead for the 123rd Fighter Squadron of the Oregon Air National Guard when he died.

To tell you more about the SPRUCE GOOSE, we quote from the brochure supplied by the museum. "The world's largest aircraft ever constructed was flown only one time on November 2, 1947. This plane represents one of man's greatest attempts to conquer the skies. The single hull prototype was built as a personnel and materiel carrier. The aircraft was designed to fly trans-Atlantic to avoid the World War II German submarines that were sinking Allied ships.

"To produce the giant, Howard Hughes and his staff worked from 1942 to 1947, spending \$18,000,000 federal dollars and \$7,000,000 of Hughes, own money. Henry Kaiser, steel magnate and 'Liberty' Shipbuilder, conceived the idea of massive flying transports, and turned to Howard Hughes for aviation expertise. Hughes took on the mammoth task, along with the government mandate not to use materials critical to the war effort (such as steel and aluminum), Nearly six times bigger than any aircraft of its time, the Flying Boat is made out of wood!

"Completed in 1947 after the end of World War II, the winged giant made only one flight. The unannounced decision to fly was made by the pilot, Hughes himself, during a taxi test.

The flight went only a little over a mile at an altitude of 70 feet for about one minute. But the short hop proved to skeptics that the gigantic machine could indeed fly!"

Although given several official names, the press insisted on calling the aircraft the "Spruce Goose", a name which Howard Hughes detested. The irony is that most of the wood used in the craft is actually birch chosen because it is light, strong and resistant to spitting, dry rot and deterioration. Other woods used were maple poplar, balsa and yes, spruce.

The Flying Boat never flew again. It was stored away, out of the public eye for 33 years guarded by the eccentric Mr. Hughes who paid for the storing at a cost, some say, of \$1 million a year. It was in immaculate condition and always ready to fly!

After Hughes death in 1976, the plane was acquired by an entrepreneur who moved it into a massive domed hangar next to the famous ocean liner Queen Mary in Long Beach, Calif. It was on display there, for a price, until 1988 when it was again up for sale and acquired by the Evergreen Aviation museum.

Since the craft never flew again, you may wonder how it got to Oregon. It was disassembled in 1992, loaded on a barge and taken up the coast to the Columbia River, and then down the Willamette to Portland where it remained for several months until the water level in the Willamette was low enough for safe passage under the many bridges. It was loaded onto transport trucks for the last 7.5 miles to McMinnville where it was again placed in storage. Temporary hangars were built and many volunteers (aircraft enthusiasts like us) began work on the restoration. It was finally once again open to the public in its beautiful new home in June of 2001.

Fun Facts about the Spruce Goose:

Wingspan - 319 ft. 11 in. - longer than a football field.
Tail Span - 113 ft. 6 in - wider than the wing span of a B-17.

Height - 79 ft. 4 in. - tail is as tall as an 8 story building.
Length - 218 ft. 8 in.
Power - 8 Pratt & Whitney R-4360, 3000 horsepower engines.
Propellers - 8 with diameter of 17 ft. 2 in.
Weight - 300,000 pounds
Weight loaded - 400,000 lbs. (maximum take off weight)
Normal Crew - 18
Capacity - 750 troops or two Sherman tanks.
Estimated performance:
Cruise Speed - 141 to 150 mph at 5,000 ft.
Top Speed - 227 to 231 mph at 5,000 ft.
Range - 2,975 miles with 12,500 gal. fuel
Service Ceiling - 17,400 to 20,900 ft.

Other facts:

Hundreds of beach balls were used to fill empty spaces in the back of the hull and in the floats under the wings to ensure buoyancy in case of an accident.

Seven tons of nails were used, then removed to shape and form the wooden piece. A tall man can walk upright inside the wings, though he would have to crawl to get to the very tips. During its only flight, crew members were in the wings observing the engine operations.

The greatest boost ratio ever installed on an aircraft. For each pound of pressure exerted on the control yoke by the pilot, the elevator received 1,500 pounds of pressure to move it.

There is more to see than the Spruce Goose at this museum. The aircraft currently displayed include a Curtis Jenny, replica of the Wright Flyer, W.W.II fighters from England, Germany, Russia and the U.S. displayed in a group. They have a B-17, the 1955 North American T-28B Trojan that Frank helped build in Columbus, Ohio and many more. Although we have seen these aircraft in several museums, it is good to know that aviation history is important in all parts of the country and no matter where you live, you are not too

far from a place where these old aircraft are restored, appreciated and on display for future generations to enjoy. →

NavCom Editor Position Open

By Will Morris

It's been fun, but I just wanted to get the word out. I'll be coming up on a year in February and it has been an extremely rewarding experience. However, much to my regret I cannot continue to dedicate the time and effort needed to maintain this publication in the manner in which it deserves. If anyone is interested in this position please contact Will Morris at willow55us@yahoo.com. This is a great opportunity for someone to really be a part of this great chapter. It would be best if the person volunteering for this position have access to Microsoft Office 2000. →

Young Eagles- Soaring Again

By Duane Huff

With the restrictions on flying in the Class B airspace lifted, Young Eagles were able to soar again. On Saturday Nov. 3rd., our 690 pancake breakfast and Flying Start morning, three young people took their Y.E. flights and received their certificates. They flew with Greg Bitzer, Joel Levine and Duane Huff. Susan Hendricks a co-worker with Debbie Huffman at the Fernbank Science Center, took an Old Crow flight with Ray Minton.

Beautiful flying weather was the order of the day on both the 3rd. and the 10th. of November. during the week a group of Scouts were scheduled to fly on Saturday the 10th.. The preflight was conducted for thirteen scouts and friends and then given their Young Eagles flights and certificates. Ground crew included Dave and Jeannie Ostergard, Greg Jannakos, Lnor Levine and Bill Ferguson. Pilots were Joel Levine, Lee Craymer, Forrest Wilson, Skip Gadd and Duane Huff.

Many, many thanks to all who have helped in the Young Eagles program in 2001. EAA Ch. 690 has flown 303 Y.E. this year, with one more event scheduled for the first of December.

Pilots that have flown 10 or more Young Eagles will receive certificates of appreciation at the December meeting. Please be present. Also the chapter will receive credit of \$1.00 per Y.E. flown by each pilot flying 10 or more Y.E. We now have 251 credits. Any pilot that completes 10 or more missions before the first of the year, the chapter can receive these credits. (See article on EAA Academy for more information.) →

November Minutes

by Tom Dubrouillet

The meeting was called to order by President Miller who led the Chapter in the Pledge of Allegiance. Introductions followed where members present introduce themselves and report on aviation activities. 50 members and guests were present.

A motion was made by Mike North and seconded by Bob Zahner to accept the minutes as published in the NAV/COM.

Duane Huff reported for Membership Chair Dale Schonmeyer that Chapter 690 finished 2001 with over 190 members and that the first three have paid up for 2002. Please complete a Membership form and get your dues into Dale at the next meeting.

Chapter Treasurer, Charlie Sego reported that the Chapter is solvent.

Frank Wilcox reported on the Building Project that the kitchen hood has been installed along with lights and electric grill. Hopefully the kitchen will be fully functional for the Pancake Breakfast in December. The Pilots Lounge is complete with furniture donated by Michael Stewart and carpeting obtained and installed by Tim Fulmers efforts. Thanks guys!

Publicity Chair Joel Levine reports that the December Pancake Breakfast program will be on Getting Started in Aerobatics by Elgin Wells. In January we have Phoenix Aviation Insurance, and in February - Cockpit Emergencies.

Young Eagles Chair Duane Huff reports that the Chapter has flown 290 young Eagles so far in 2001. Also, Duane explained to the Chapter that for each pilot that flies at least 10 YE's, Oshkosh gives a \$1.00 credit to the Chapter toward tuition at the Air Academy. Duane made a motion that the Chapter use the accumulated credits and supplement that with treasury funds to sponsor one young person to the Air Academy next year. Joel Levine seconded the motion. Discussion ensued and Mike Stewart called the question. The motion carried with none opposed.

Lee Cramer - Holiday Party Chairman reported that Hal Weakley, WWII B17 pilot, would be our speaker at the Holiday Party on December 14th. Lee made a motion that the Chapter provides funding for the meat(s) for the party as was done last year, and a small plaque to show our appreciation to Hal Weakley. Charlie Sego seconded the motion. No one offered any discussion, so Mike Stewart called the question, and the motion carried with none opposed. Lee also asked for some volunteers on Wed the 12th of December, to assist with clean up and decorations for the party.

Frank Wilcox reported to the Chapter on airport security measures. The only change at this time is that the Chapter will have to man the entrance gate during all Chapter activities where the public is invited.

Officer Elections were held. The new Chapter officers are President - Duane Huff, Vice President - Debbie Huffman, Secretary - Lou Freedman, and Treasurer - Michael Stewart. The new Trustees are Terry Adams and Forrest Wilson. The 2001 Chapter 690 Member of the Year is Come to the Party on Dec 14th to find out! →

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 encouraged. Submit articles preferably in an MS Word format, however ASCII format will also be accepted. Pictures can be in almost any format. Submit via email to: willow55us@yahoo.com

or mail to:

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Deadline for submissions is the SUNDAY BEFORE THE PANCAKE BREAKFAST

THE NAVCOM is edited by Will Morris and published by Dr. Debi Huffman. Also thanks to Barney Barnes and his merry band who fold, staple, mutilate and mail the NAVCOM each month.

In keeping with the spirit of all aviators, permission is hereby granted for the reproduction of the NAVCOM articles by other

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Events Calendar



Visit the EAA 690 Website at <http://www.eaa690.org>

December 1 - LAWRENCEVILLE, GA - Chapter 690 Introduction to Aerobatics Program, 770-613-9501

December 1 - MARATHON, FL - Chapter 1241 Young Eagles Rally, 305-743-0835

December 1 - FORT PIERCE, FL - Chapter 908 Pancake Breakfast at St. Lucie International Airport, 561-464-0538

December 8 - PUNTA GORDA, FL - Chapter 565 Pancake Breakfast/Young Eagle Rally, Charlotte County Airport, 941-627-1700,

thayerv@earthlink.net

December 8 - PELL CITY, AL - Chapter 1320 Fly-In Breakfast, 205-338-9500

December 8 - MERRITT ISLAND, FL - the Brevard Aviation Assoc & the Merritt Island Air Service Pancake Breakfast benefit for the Marine Corps Reserve "Toys for Tots" Campaign

January 5 - LAWRENCEVILLE, GA - EAA Chapter 690, Flying Start Program & Pancake Breakfast. 770-613-9501.

January 19, 2002 - FORT PIERCE, FL - Chapter 908 Pancake Breakfast at St. Lucie International Airport, 561-464-0538

February 2 - LAWRENCEVILLE, GA - EAA Chapter 690, Flying Start Program & Pancake Breakfast. 770-613-9501.

February 23, 2002 - FORT PIERCE, FL - Chapter 908 Pancake Breakfast at St. Lucie International Airport, 561-464-0538

February 23, 2002 - MARIETTA, GA - Chapter 268 Fly-In Breakfast/Young Eagle Rally, 770-529-9023

Classifieds

Ads run for a total of 3 months. If you would like to continue the ad for an additional 3 months you must request it through the editor by e-mail, snail mail or phone call. There is no problem with keeping them running, but we need to get old ads weeded out or the new ads will become ineffective. All ads will be dated

with month and year at the time of submission or renewal.

For Sale: Warren Knight Propellor Protractor Current model - 23-1990 w/ manual Asking \$350.
Call Dick Richards - 770-935-1211
08/01

For Sale: EBC 302VR elt beacon, has voice and phone jacks. good condition, \$125.00 plus postage and

ins.. removed from my cessna 170 for a upgrade to a 503 model. Thanks.
ovscott@mindspring.com 08/01

For Sale: Garmin GPS 195 - \$695.00
Includes manuals, carrying case, external antenna, yoke mount. Alan Langford (770) 339-3674
alang@mindspring.com 09/01

Chapter Information & Misc. Items of Interest

By Lnor Levine

Come to the November Meeting

Vote for our new officers for the next two years, and... cast your vote for the **Outstanding Chapter 690 Member**. We have many dedicated and hardworking members from whom to choose, and we have accomplished much this year. Example: Just look at the mezzanine! Need an idea? Here's a list of our previous Members of the Year:

1984	Harold Stalcup
1985	Harold Stalcup
1986	Frank Wilcox
1987	Harold Stalcup
1988	Donna Forbes
1989	Mac Forbes and Ken Sharpe
1990	John Henderson
1991	Jeff Boatright
1992	Steve Ashby
1993	Charles Sego
1994	Mike & Jennifer North
1995	Duane K. Huff
1996	David L. Posey
1997	Sue Adams
1998	Joel Levine
1999	Lnor Levine and Frank Wilcox
2000	Tim Fulmer
2001	?

The balloting is secret and the recipient will be presented the award at the December Holiday Banquet.



Thanks a Bunch!

We received some wonderful gifts this month that we wanted you all to know about, and for which we are most appreciative.

Thanks to Tim Fulmer, the carpeting for the mezzanine was donated by Preferred Commercial

Floor Covering in Canton, Georgia. Then the carpeting was professionally installed by Bob Bitz. Anyone who has seen this done knows what a job that is! Thanks so much!

The next marvelous gift was most of the furniture needed for the upstairs lounge, library and office. Mike Stewart was re-doing his offices, and graciously offered us a large conference table, 4 desks and lots of comfortable chairs. Along with the comfortable sofa donated this summer, we have a great start on the finishing touches needed for the mezzanine. Thanks Mike!

Be sure to take a look at when you are at the hangar next time!

Monthly Pancake Breakfast
EAA Chapter 690
Lawrenceville Airport
8:00 to 10:30 AM



first Saturday

- Nov. 3 – Flying Start Program
- Dec. 1 – Introduction to Aerobatics
- Jan. 5 – Changes in Aviation Insurance – Doug Johnson Insuramerica
- Feb. 2 – Dealing with Cockpit Emergencies – Dave Hirschman
- March 2 – Wing-n-It – General Aviation on TV, Jeff Tate
- April 6 – Sport Pilot Review and Update (Sun-n-Fun Week)
- May 3, 4, 5 – 2002 Georgia Wings Weekend
- June 1 – Poker Run

Watch for announcement of more of next year's First Saturday programs and activities

Come Join Us

Regular monthly meetings – Held on the 2nd Friday of every month (except for August's Post Oshkosh Bash). In the Chapter Building at 8:00 p.m. Hangar flying before and after!

Pancake Breakfast and Aviation Program or Activity – In the Chapter Building. Breakfast served 8:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Programs start 10:30.

2001 Raffle Garmin 195 GPS

Donated by Joe Friend

The raffle proceeds will pay to sponsor one young person to the EAA Air Academy at Oshkosh.

*DONATION \$10.00 – Limited to 90 tickets
(45 Sold So Far – Halfway to Our Goal)*

Drawing will be held upon the completion of ticket sales.

WINNER NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN!

See Lnor Levine at the regular monthly meeting, pancake breakfast or other chapter events.



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