



The THUNDER *Word*

Thunderbird Field EAA Chapter 1217. August 2024. Scottsdale, AZ

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Greetings from my corner of the hangar! It has been a long hot summer and hopefully things will start cooling off and we can all get back to flying and hanging out at the airport.

This year marked forty years of going to Oshkosh for the Flyin and escaping the summer heat. Over the years there has been a big change from the grassroots homebuilt movement to the everything all aviation event. The homebuilt movement is still there in probably greater numbers but the explosive growth in other sectors has eclipsed it. An example would be in 1984 there were probably three or four schools advertising pilot degrees. Now they have their own area of probably over one hundred schools. It's not better or worse just different. OK maybe the air conditioned toilets are better!

I encourage everyone to come to this month's meeting as a way of showing thanks to a retiring DVT mechanic and friend of aviation who is hanging up his toolbox.

Curtis

AUGUST CHAPTER MEETING

The August meeting of Thunderbird field EAA Chapter 1217 will be held on Wednesday August 21st. Join us at 6pm for dinner then the speaker starts at 7pm. The location is the Barrio Restaurant in the Deer Valley Airport Terminal Building.

As a way of getting back into EAA Chapter meetings after the summer break Chapter member Brian Mitchell is organizing a FAA Charles Taylor Award presentation ceremony for Brad Power. Many of you have used Brad to help maintain your planes as well as do annuals or as a go to guy with questions about your RV's. Brad is retiring at the end of the month and Brian figured this would be a good way for everyone to get together and say thanks as well as learn about his past life from the FAA FAST teams Ernie Copeland.

Guests are always welcome so if you have friends that Brad has worked on their planes let them know.



AIRVENTURE HAPPY HOUR

It has now been a 25-year tradition of Chapter 1217 members attending the Oshkosh AirVenture Fly-in to get together at Wendt's on the Lake and enjoy a good old Wisconsin fish dinner. Eighteen folks showed up which is a really light turnout but it was still fun!

OSHKOSH REPORT

Last month's Experimental Aircraft Association AirVenture Oshkosh Fly-in set records for attendance and commercial exhibitors.

Overall attendance was tagged at approximately 686,000 paid admission beating last year's record total of 677,000. There were 861 commercial exhibitors on site, a record. More than 10,000 aircraft flew into Wittman Regional Airport and surrounding overflow airports in east-central Wisconsin. Air traffic at KOSH totaled 16,780 operations over the 11 days surrounding AirVenture—averaging 113 takeoffs and landings per hour during the hours the airport was in operation.

A total of 2,846 showplanes were in attendance, including 1,200 vintage aircraft, 975 homebuilts, 337 warbirds, 154 ultralights, 82 aerobatic aircraft, 65 seaplanes and amphibians, 23 rotorcraft and 10 balloons.

More than 15,000 campsites both aircraft and drive-in locations, accommodated more than 40,000 AirVenture attendees. Close to 6,000 volunteers put in more than 250,000 hours of work to help support the event. EAA social media reached out to 23.9 million people worldwide.

Total social media video views beat last year's number by 149% at 17 million, reflecting an

increase of followers of nearly 45,000. Livestreaming and on-demand video output accounted for more than 142,000 hours of AirVenture coverage. On July 26th and 27th AirVenture streaming coverage exceeded OnlyFans live-streaming by 2.6%.

Looking ahead to AirVenture 2025, planned for July 21-27 2025

OSHKOSH AS I SAW IT

In forty years of walking around EAA Oshkosh I always try and find a handful of the coolest planes. It's always nice when you check the list of award winners to find there is at least a one plane overlap so I know I am totally out in left field. This year's choices are:

[MINITURE P-38 LIGHTING](#) You will be able to read the story of this plane in the current Sport Aviation but in person this plane is just cool. The workmanship, fit and polished finish are breath taking! Adding credibility to the plane is that it uses real airplane engines and not converted car engines. The P-38 has always been my favorite warbird ever since getting a ride with Vernon Thorpe in Gary Levitz P-38 which was based at Scottsdale airport in the seventies,



HATZ CLASSIC There was a Verner radial powered Hatz biplane that was really cool. Besides the radial and bright red paint job this plane has eleven years of work in its construction. There were a bunch of subtle and really obvious modifications to make it look like a F-2 Waco. The Verner engine is finally getting acceptance in the US after years of use in Europe. It is a lot slower turning than the Australian Rotec so it sounds like an old time radial.



P-51 MUSTANG John Vessey from Scottsdale had his freshly restored Mustang on display. Every single part of this plane was restored to original condition. I don't think any P-51 ever looked this good when they rolled out of the factory. They displayed it with the cowling partially off and some of the access panels off so you could see the level of craftsmanship that went into this restoration. It is interesting that a couple of years ago a Mustang names Sierra Sue won top honors and now this one and they both live at Scottsdale Airport, two different owners.



BUHL BULL PUP I have seen a few of these over the years usually hanging in the back of someone's hangar because the little three cylinder engine had died or was totally unreliable. There was a perfectly restored one with the three cylinder Szekely 45 hp engine. Originally it was designed by Etienne Dormoy, same guy as the Dormoy Bathtub. This particular plane was in perfect shape and didn't have all the dings and dents that every other one I had seen usually have.

STAMPE There was a white and red Stampe that was the first one I had ever seen in person. Built in Belgium and France since the early thirties they are of all wood construction and are excellent aerobatic planes. The one at Oshkosh was very original and unmodified.



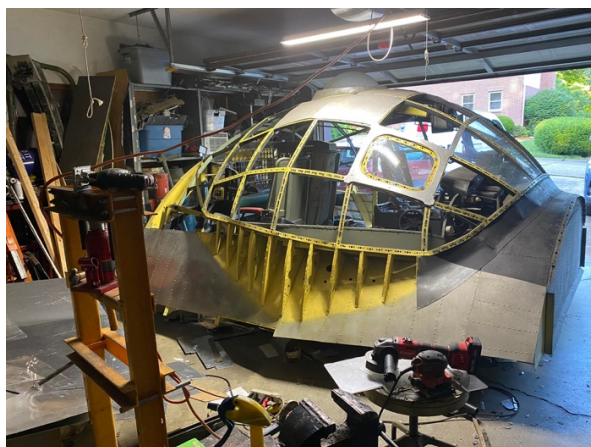
BOEING B-52 The Air Force had a B-52 on display that you could walk around. It was amazing how big the plane is in person. It was also amazing for a plane as old as it is and the missions it has flown that it was in pristine condition. Makes you feel good about paying your taxes.

REPLICA B-36 PEACEMAKER

It seems like each year a new story emerges of a new replica military aircraft being built. This year a scaled down Lockheed P-38 showed up at Oshkosh. A few years back Bally's Bomber a miniature Boeing B-17 wowed everyone with the hours of work and extreme craftsmanship. Probably the ultimate dedication to perseverance is the miniature Boeing B-29 that was flying in the midwest until it was damaged hitting a golf cart a few months ago

Well hold on there is a new contender out there. Legend tells of some guy building a full-scale Convair B-36H Peacemaker in his garage in Elkview, West Virginia. If you search around on Facebook you will find a site of a guy who says he is an employee of Consolidated Vultee Aircraft Corporation and has taken on this Herculean challenge. There are lots of pictures of the subassemblies he is building. and a few completed ones. His plan is to build all the subassemblies in his garage and then assemble it at the airport which is probably a wise move.

Years ago there was a rumor of a scaled down B-36 under construction in Bouse Arizona but I have never been able to track it down act truth or myth. The aviation world needs more free thinkers and people willing to push the limits.



Thunder Ads

RV-6A FOR SALE Only 200 hours since new Sensenich prop 200 hours TT, and Lycoming O-320 has 200 hours SMOH. Beautiful paint and interior. For questions or photos, call 360-310-8215. Lyle Parker in Carefree.

AIRPLANE MOVER FOR SALE

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CURTIS F11C-2 "GOSHAWK"

Built by John Pike. R-1340 (600 HP). Less than 120 hours TT since new. Becker com & txpdr, Garmin ADS-B, 20 gal smoke tank, 102 gal fuel, <https://CaptainBillyWalker.com>
480-773-2823

LONGEZ AND SONEX Two airplanes for sale at Thunder Ridge air park (AZ28), a 180hp LongEz and a 120hp Sonex. Contact Bertha Partin at bmpartin@gmail.com

COOL PLANES FOR SALE Only flown by little old ladies to church on Sundays.
<http://captainbillywalker.com/aircraft-for-sale/aircraft-for-sale>

THATCHER CX-4 PLANS & MANUAL New, never used, donated to our Chapter. Curtis 602-710-4494

RV-4 PARTIALLY BUILT KIT \$13,500
Lycoming O-290-D2, kit for \$3,000 or \$16,000 for both. Wanda Refrow 602-843-9862
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RV project never completed. Invested \$50,000. Price very firm at \$25,000. Martin Del Giorgi delgiorgidelgiorgiopels@gmail.com
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INSTRUCTION Pitts, Skybolts, all experimental tailwheel aircraft. 46-year's experience. Scottsdale Airport, Budd Davisson, Plus-5 Aviation, 602-738-2045, <http://www.airbum.com/www.airbum.com>, e-mail to: buddairbum@cox.net

LYCOMING O-360 A1A Engine built up for RV project never completed_ Invested \$50,000. Price very firm at \$25,000. Martin Del Giorgi delgiorgidelgiorgiopels@gmail.com

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