



# The THUNDER *Word*

Thunderbird Field EAA Chapter 1217 September 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.

At the August meeting we had a packed house to honor local mechanic Brad Power with the presentation of the Charles Taylor Master Mechanic and Wright Brothers Awards. Brian Mitchell was the point man getting the FAA Air Safety Team on board and collecting the necessary letters of recommendation. The event was a great way to say thanks to Brad for working on our planes and wish him well going in to retirement.

I am headed off on one of those bucket list adventures this month and our Chapter VP Terry Emig has stepped up to run the meeting and handle member discipline and interventions in my absence!

When I come back the weather will be cooler and I will see you at the airport.

*Curtis*

## September Chapter Meeting

The September meeting of Thunderbird field EAA Chapter 1217 will be held on Wednesday September 18th. 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.

This months speaker is Carl Hancock. Carl has restored a Clip Wing Piper Cub here at Deer

Valley and is what is called a "Content creator" for his YouTube channel "Fly With The Guys". Based on his 115,000 subscribers he is reaching a lot of pilots and future pilots with his stories of restoring his Cub. With the Cub flying he has some really cool ideas to keep his subscribers engaged and get people involved in grass roots aviation.

Guests are always welcome.

## COL. ROGER K. PARRISH



The City of Mesa unveiled their newest Hometown Heroes Banners last month honoring Col. Roger K. Parrish. Many of you will remember Roger as a long time Thunderbird field EAA Chapter member who passed away last year. If you want to see the Banner it is located in front of the business located at 117 West Main Street in Mesa.

Chapter member Billy Walker deserves recognition for spearheading this and working with the City of Mesa to make this happen. The City of Mesa had a long tradition of Banners recognizing local services members... Thank you all for your service to our great Nation..



## WIN A 1940 PIPER J-4 CUB COUPE

or \$25,000 Cash

**2nd PRIZE: \$5,000 cash**

**3rd PRIZE: Lightspeed Delta Zulu Headset**

**Winners will be selected Labor Day, 2024**

**Raffle Tickets \$50 each or 3 for \$125**

**Click this link for details and to enter the raffle:**

**<https://rafflecreator.com/pages/52380/aerocareers-piper-j-4-cub-coupe-raffle>**

All proceeds support the charitable and educational missions of AeroCareers NFP, a 501(c)(3) whose mission is aerospace career education and mentoring.

## BEECHCRAFT PLAINSMAN

The Beechcraft Plainsman was a car that was in some ways the car of the future. The Beechcraft Plainsman Concept Car was a car made in 1946 by the Beech Aircraft Company in Wichita, Kansas. The Plainsman was fitted with an air cooled four cylinder Franklin engine driving a generator, which in turn powered four electric motors, one for each wheel. It was fitted with fully independent air suspension. It also had an aluminum body. It weighed 2,200 pounds (1,000 kg), its top speed was 160 miles per hour (260 km/h), and could carry six passengers. Generous windows and curved doors blended into the roof of this fastback design. Crash protection was built into the design. Only two were built.



# SAMSON SWITCHBLADE FLYING CAR

Several years ago a guy from Los Cruces New Mexico, Jerry Clark, talked at a Chapter meeting about the Samson Switchblade flying car he had ordered. After the meeting he said that he probably wouldn't live to see his flying car because he was in his eighties but he had invested several million dollars in what he hoped would be the future of flying. He did make it into his nineties but never got his flying car. Each year at Oshkosh I check out the Samson booth to see how they are doing..

The plane/car flew in 2022 but they are still fine tuning it get it ready for production.. These are the latest developments.

The tail retraction is simpler than before, and the changes will increase the speed of assembly and reduce maintenance.

Along with the improvements in aerodynamics and performance, the interiors are also being upgraded to allow the original design more room from side-to-side. More room for people, elbows, coffee cups - the usual! The front trunk or 'frunk' is still large enough for roller bags or traveling golf club sets. Storage behind the seats has been limited a bit, but space is still there for personal items.

The side windows have been increased in size to provide better visibility and greater safety. We are engaging automotive designers to complete the interior and exterior design prior to making molds, while working on wings and tail that are already fixed in design and not subject to change.

The Eyes Forward Display (functions as a digital dash for Ground Mode, and

changes to include critical aviation information for Flight Mode) is being revised slightly to present a fresh but familiar round dial instrument cluster that is easy to read at a glance for most people. We found that as nice as the futuristic tape displays are to look at, the function in normal use requires a display that can be easily read and understood at a glance. We still plan on including driver adjustable color schemes both to match interior choices, and also to accommodate people with color blindness. More on this to come!

Many people over the years have told us that they will get their pilot certificate in order to have and use a Switchblade. Our marketing surveys of Regional Travelers (those who take trips of 200-500 miles) showed that 80% of the people who were willing to pay the price of a Switchblade (and would spend a week at the factory to get that price) were also willing to get a pilot certificate in order to use the Switchblade to improve their lifestyle. This seems to be backed up by the student pilot increase statistics, and so we find it credible.

Samson has embarked on the path to provide Switchblade flight training, and private pilot training, in a program specific for the Switchblade. We encourage people to get their Switchblade and use it for pilot training, as it will reduce the cost of pilot training in half. You also learn in the vehicle that you intend to fly, which is really ideal. Much more efficient and comfortable than learning on one or more planes and then doing a transition to the Switchblade afterwards. We feel that the Switchblade will be easier to learn with and has additional safety features built in, not found on typical training aircraft, that make flight safer for new pilots.



## Seen at Oshkosh



Sonex high wing prototype



## JUST COOL PICTURES



Some of you may remember seeing the Martin Mars at Oshkosh a few years back. I believe this is it's final flight to a museum on Vancouver Island. The Snowbirds accompanied the historic plane. The second photo is from the internet.

# 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**

Gasoline powered.  
Terry Emig 520=705-8385

**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 [bmartin@gmail.com](mailto:bmartin@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  
[w7lov@cox.net](mailto:w7lov@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 Giorgiodelgiorgiopels@gmail.com  
**Services, ETC**

**HIGH-PERF TAILWHEEL, AKRO**

**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](mailto:buddairbum@cox.net)

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**OIL COOLER REPAIR AND SALES**

Chapter member owned. R & E Cooler Service 800-657-0977 [www.oilcoolersvs.com](http://www.oilcoolersvs.com)

**FLIGHT INSTRUCTION, ETC.** Airplane: Private: Commercial, Instrument, ATP, ME; and Lighter than Air: Private and Commercial. Fred Gorrell 602-942-2255, 602-418-2045, [fgorrell2@cox.net](mailto:fgorrell2@cox.net)

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