



The THUNDER *Word*

Thunderbird Field EAA Chapter 1217 October 2024. Scottsdale, AZ

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Greetings from my corner of the hangar! At the August meeting, our VP Terry Emig took over the meeting duties. Carl Hancock was the speaker and he talked about restoring a Clip Wing Piper Cub here at Deer Valley. He is a "Content creator" for his YouTube channel "Fly With The Guys" and has over a hundred thousand people followed his progress. Luckily not all of them showed up to hear him talk!

Over the past couple of years before retirement I put together a bucket list of things I wanted to do. On that list was living on a boat for a month and cruising around Puget Sound in Washington. The plan was to have fun, get out of the heat and learn how to operate a twin screw powerboat. All boxes were checked and it's on to Desolation Sound next summer!

A bit of knowledge I wanted to share that was passed on to me this month by a 30,000 hour retired Delta Captain.

He decided after 24 years of owning his RV-4 that he wanted something a little more modern and with updated avionics. He set his search on a RV-7A and put his RV-4 up for sale and it sold immediately. He called his insurance company and since he had just paid his insurance he told them to hang on to the money because he was getting another plane. A couple of weeks later he finds his dream RV-7A and writes a check. He notifies his insurance company, AIG, and they get back to him and tell him that since it is now a new policy he has to pay \$8,500 a year to insure his new plane.

It turns out he should have bought the new plane first and added the RV-7A as an additional plane and then sold the RV-4. Some of the increase was also attributed to his age and starting a new policy. His insurance broker finally got a policy that has liability and a greatly reduce stated hull value.

Lesson learned - and his new plane is really nice!

Curtis

October Chapter Meeting

The October meeting of Thunderbird Field EAA Chapter 1217 will be held on Wednesday, October 16th. Join us at 6 pm for dinner; then the speaker starts at 7 pm. The location is the Barrio Restaurant in the Deer Valley Airport Terminal Building.

This month's speaker is Frank Kraljic who is the driving force behind the "Spirit of Man" a project to honor the Spirit of St Louis on its 100th anniversary, May 27, 2027. Come and hear about Frank and Nova Halls plans, ideas and reenactment of the historic flight. In the early 2000s, he formed Deep Sky, a production company in Scottsdale that produces commercials, TV series, and documentaries. A big thanks to Chapter member Tod Dickey for coming up with the idea. It should be a great meeting!

Guests are always welcome.

Coolidge Breakfast

Coolidge has resumed their Breakfast on the first Saturday of each month.

Casa Grande Breakfast

Casa Grande is also having their Breakfast on the last Saturday of the month.

READ AND LEARN

Everyday in the United States an average of around nine planes crash. Some are horrible accidents and some are just bird strikes. Every one of these reportable events has a lesson to be learned from someone's bad luck so maybe you won't meet a similar fate.

The first step in reading the "crash comics," as a retired FAA guy I know calls them, is to find them. One source is faa.gov, and scroll down to Accidents. Another couple of sources are a Facebook group called Aircraft Accidents, Aviation Safety Network or, for the more high-profile accidents, the Blancolirio Channel on YouTube.

Some of the lessons are pretty basic lapses in judgment or poor airmanship, but each one serves as a learning example.

CHAPTER HOLIDAY PARTY

We are looking for someone that might be able to host this year's annual Chapter Holiday Party. If you are interested in volunteering, give Curtis a call at 602-710-4494.

SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Currently our Chapter does not have anyone in these two positions mentioned below. If you might be interested, talk to one of our officers and we will work together with you on working with EAA national.

Technical Counselors

Technical Counselors are experienced airplane builders, restorers, and mechanics who volunteer their time to visit other EAA members

who are in the process of building or restoring their own aircraft.

The goal of EAA's Technical Counselors program is to help members present a "zero defect" aircraft at final inspection by the FAA. It's aimed at providing experienced builders to help you make the right choices during construction.

If you are building or restoring, tap into this member benefit early in the project to save time, money, and aggravation! Get the peace of mind that can only be had from an experienced builder looking over your work to provide you with a best path forward.

Flight Advisors

EAA Flight Advisors can help you find the right path to get you flying efficiently and, most importantly, safely.

The Flight Advisors program is designed to increase sport aviation safety by developing a corps of volunteers who have demonstrated expertise in specific areas of flying and making them available to EAA members who may be preparing to fly an unfamiliar aircraft.

Flight Advisors can help you plan your first flight, and determine if additional training is needed. Often, members who access this program qualify for more complete insurance, like "first flight" coverage under the EAA Aircraft Insurance Plan.

BUYING A USED HOMEBUILT

The following information is based on a webinar given by Vic Syracuse during EAA National Homebuilders Week. One of the topics covered the many items to look for when buying a used homebuilt. This webinar was presented by Vic Syracuse, who has lots of credentials to provide this information: 11-time aircraft builder, DAR for Atlanta MIDO, EAA Tech Counselor, 9900 hours in 73 different types of aircraft, longtime

columnist for KitPlanes and Sport Aviation, and owner of Base Leg Aviation in Georgia. The following summary covers just a few of the highlights of his talk – it definitely does not include all of his many excellent recommendations.

Vic began his talk by pointing out that buying an amateur built aircraft can be very attractive: good performance, maintenance can be less expensive (not always), faster adoption of new technologies, and there is a great support community. But there are pitfalls too. He pointed out that even though today's kits meet the 51% rule, that means much of the resulting aircraft can be left to the builder in such crucial areas as engine installation, avionics and systems – and not all builders really have the skills to do this. A potential buyer needs to find out who did the building and what their skill level was. Some builders made unknowing mistakes. Others use unsupported engines – not always a bad idea, but who did the homework to make sure they were safe for the new plane? In addition, since you can't see a lot of areas in the plane anymore, because they are covered up, make sure you get to see pictures taken during the build process. And he made the following important observation: "Paperwork/logbooks are just as important as the aircraft and not always understood by owners."

Some of the most important overall points to observe prior to beginning your search:

- 1) Spend time looking – don't just buy the first plane you see.
- 2) Always get a thorough pre-buy inspection by a person knowledgeable & experienced with the particular type of aircraft and engine (you may need two inspectors).
- 3) Do not get emotionally attached to the plane until you have completed a pre-buy inspection.
- 4) Explore acquisition costs (travel, ferry pilots, pre-buy costs)
- 5) Planes that have been in salt-air or that have been sitting for a long time or if they have only

had ground run-ups done on them may have extra issues.

6) Realize that an Airworthiness Certificate is applicable only if you also have the Operating Limitations paperwork.

7) Make sure you fit in the plane!

Suggestions for getting started:

- Fly sample aircraft if possible before settling on the type of aircraft you want.
- Talk to owners about their planes and find out what they might have done differently.
- Join type-forums and post that you are looking to buy and are seeking advice.
- Review your top 3 choices of planes for such items as safety record, builder/customer support, and manufacturer websites.
- Identify "needs" versus "wants." Some areas to consider: Fly solo or with friend or family? VFR or IFR? High wing or low wing?
- Be realistic about your budget, including insurance, fuel availability, hangar cost (make sure you can find one close to your house), engine/prop choices etc.
- Search trade publications to get ideas on price of the aircraft. Once you have found some planes you might be interested in, contact the seller. During discussions, here are some of the items you want to cover (the following list does not include all of Vic's points):
 - Have a checklist for reference when speaking with seller to make sure you discuss all important areas.
 - Ask for copies of logbooks and paperwork such as Operating Limitations.
 - Inquire about any modifications to the aircraft and how they were tested, such as alternative

engines or higher HP engines, increased gross weight, extended-range fuel tanks.

- Ask if the aircraft has been dormant for any length of time?
- Have all SB's been completed? These are mandatory for SLSAs and E-SLAs. When you actually go see the plane, there are more items to check off. Here are just a few:
 - Are all controls reachable, labeled, and working?
 - What is the condition of canopy and windows (crazing, cracks, holes)?
 - Is the plane airworthy? Are there signoffs for such airworthy items as the condition inspection, Phase 1 completion, transponder 24 month check, if needed?
 - Are circuit breakers labeled? When you take a flight in the aircraft, pay attention to the following (more items were listed in the presentation):
 - Does it start easily? Any grinding noises?
 - Brakes and steering feel normal?
 - Heat and vents work properly?
 - Clear radio and cockpit communications? Vic spent a lot of time explaining the importance of the prebuy inspection. He pointed out that the examiner should look at the following areas, among others:
 - Engine
 - Ignition systems
 - Fuel systems
 - Airframe inspection
 - Any modifications? He noted that E-LSA aircraft, built from plans, have to be exactly the same as the kit – or you have to have a written permission to have made a modification. If the

modification is not approved, then the plane is considered unairworthy and you aren't insured.:

When you are satisfied that this is the plane for you, here are some final steps to take:

- Negotiate final pricing
- Determine the payment process
- Agree and sign the contract
- Notify your insurance company before you move the plane. ➤ Get the signed Bill of Sale
- Send in your Application for Registration to the FAA

LAS CRUCES AIRSHOW

The second annual Las Cruces Air and Space Expo is being held on October 19 and 20 at the Las Cruces Municipal Airport. The spectacle will be showcasing airplanes and helicopters large and small, spacecraft and aerospace exhibits, STEM Activities, and more. This family-friendly event is perfect for the whole family, with activities and exhibits to keep everyone busy! Groove to the rhythm of live music performances that will keep the energy high throughout the event. Get your FREE general admission tickets prior to the event or pay \$5 at the door. VIP upgrades available!

DVPA Fall Pancake Breakfast

Saturday Nov 2, 8 AM. The DVPA will have its twice annual Pancake Breakfast at the North Wash Rack. FREE for DVPA Members.



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Just cool pictures



Chapter member Dr. Henry Givre's Cessna 120



Gee Bee replica makes its way to a hangar at Chandler

New Airplane

Chapter member **Bill Unternaehrer** made the first flight of his **RV-12iS** on **Sunday, October 6**. The plane was built by chapter member **Denny Myrick**. World renown aviation photographer and chapter member **Dave Roberts** captured the moment of return to earth with the **RV grin**.



New Member

We added a new member to our ranks after the last meeting. Her name is **Heather Lane** and she flies a beautiful **RV-8** based at **Deer Valley**.



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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
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