



# The THUNDER *Word*

Thunderbird Field EAA Chapter 1217 February 2025 Scottsdale, AZ

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Greetings from my corner of the hangar! At our January Chapter meeting Randy Brooks spoke about his career in aviation. He focused on opportunities he had and how with a lot of hard work and dedication he turned them into a career. He also emphasized how important the friendships he made opened a lot of doors for him. His airshow career took him from flying Stearmans, Pitts, Eclipse . and L-39's. so he got to fly some cool planes.



It was fun to witness the historic final flight of the Coulson Martin Mars flying boat as it splashed down in lake pleasant

*Curtis*

## FEBRUARY CHAPTER MEETING

The February meeting of Thunderbird Field EAA Chapter 1217 will be held on Wednesday, February 19th. 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 Chapter member Lyle Parker who is going to talk about his retirement projects building and flying an RV-6A and an Air Cam. Flying an air Cam isn't an accurate description its more of an adventure in your own personal IMax world.



Guests are always welcome



## MARTIN MARS SPLASHES DOWN IN ARIZONA

After three air turnbacks over a three month timeframe the Philippine Mars finally made the first leg from Sprout Lake British Columbia to Alameda California on Sunday February ninth. What was planned to be three day visit changed into a brief overnight stay. Tuesdays mission plans also had a little kink thrown in. Instead of flying to San Diego the new flight plan had them going straight to Arizona. Whether it was because of potential weather or just a desire to get the flight over with no one was really sure.

The coconut telegraph had earlier alerted many of us that the Roosevelt Lake destination was a decoy and that Lake Pleasant was the actual destination. Taking into account the take off time and distance and 180 mph cruise speed it looked like it would show up at five PM. At exactly that time the Martin Mars came into view being escorted by a PB4-Y2, AT-6, Navion, RV-8 and a really fast Sikorsky S-76 helicopter. After a low pass the Mars did a tight turn around at the north end of the lake and landed. It was then towed to its mooring in the southwest corner of the lake. Plans were to bring it out of the water Tuesday and start the dismantling in preparation for being trucked to Pima Air Museum in Tucson.





## SPEAKER TURNS 100

Two time Chapter guest speaker Sergei Sikorsky just celebrated his 100th birthday this month! The son of the designer of the helicopter, Igor Sikorsky, Sergei has led an incredible life of service and contributions to vertical flight. and the helicopter community and retired as VP at Sikorsky Aircraft.

Sergei has some great stories of his life that he loves to share. One of my favorites was him talking about Howard Hughes and the toy helicopter he bought for Sergei in Japan that he still has. Later he met Hughes girlfriend at the time Jane Mansfield



## BUCKEYE AIR FAIR

Mark your flying calendars The Buckeye Air Fair is coming up February 14-16. The 2025 Air Fair will feature an airshow, vintage and military aircraft, action-packed demonstrations topped off with a night airshow. There will be Aviation Academy exhibitions and so much more. The AOPA is sponsoring it and more information can be found at [AOPA.org/buckeye](http://AOPA.org/buckeye).

## CACTUS FLY IN

Friday and Saturday March 7th and 8th are the dates for this years Cactus Fly In at the Casa Grande Airport. This year we have moved the Cactus Fly-In to the second full weekend in March—This change should guarantee perfect weather in Casa Grande.

Please have a look at the

website: [www.cactusflyin.org](http://www.cactusflyin.org)

There you will find some changes from last year

1. Friday evening Hosted Happy Hour at the **TCB** hangar starting at 5:00pm
  - a. Beer, wine, soft drinks, snacks
2. Saturday evening banquet has moved to the terminal building:
  - a. Italian dinner buffet with two entrees at \$30.00 per plate
  - b. Limited Seating
  - c. Prepurchase reservations available as shown on website
  - d. Happy hour at 4:00pm
  - e. Dinner at 5:00pm
  - f. Guest speaker at 6:00pm
3. RV parking (dry) on the Airfield both Friday and Saturday (March 7 and 8) nites; \$20.00 weekend fee requested
4. Aircraft Parking North of the terminal bldg. on first-come-first-serve basis for pre 1957 (manufactured) aircraft
  - a. Please complete a registration form that can be downloaded from the website
5. Hot Rod and Antique auto parking West of the Terminal bldg.
  - a. Please complete a registration form that can be downloaded from the website

6. KCGZ fuel island will be closed (for pedestrian safety concerns)
  - a. Fuel truck service available by checking-in at the Terminal Service desk
7. The "Runway 5 Café" is up-and-running in the terminal building ☐ good food at reasonable prices
  - a. Additional food truck concessions will be located around the periphery of the display car parking ramp

If you would like to volunteer on Saturday your help would be appreciated. No experience required! We will train you. Call Rusty Gavagon 480 221-0446



## Pilot Deviations

12/18/2024 Altitude & Route Deviation

Unknown Pilot Certification

Airplane Was Out of Mexico

Phoenix TRACON (P50)

The deviation was reported when the Gulfstream 5 climbed above the ATC assigned altitude, and failed to follow the assigned course, and conflicted with traffic inbound to Phoenix Sky Harbor. There was no loss of separation.

1/5/2025 Altitude Deviation

Unknown Pilot Certification

Phoenix TRACON (P50)

The pilot deviation was reported when the Learjet 35 had descended below his assigned altitude of 5,000 feet.

1/7/2025 Altitude Deviation

Unknown Military Pilot Certification

Phoenix TRACON (P50)

The pilot deviation was reported when the Military KC135 descended below the published altitude.

### CLASS DELTA AIRSPACE DEVIATION

12/29/2024 Entering Class Delta Airspace Without First Establishing Two-Way Radio Communication

Private Pilot

Phoenix Deer Valley (DVT)

The pilot deviation was reported by the Deer Valley ATC when the Piper Super Cub entered their Class Delta Airspace without authorization.

### RUNWAY INCURSION

12/17/2024 Entering A Runway Without Authorization



Commercial/CFI Pilot

Prescott Airport (PRC)

Ground Control (GC) instructed a Cessna 172 to taxi via Taxiway C and hold short of Runway 21L on Taxiway C5, and the read back was correct. Later the Cessna crossed the Runway 21L edge line at Taxiway C5 without ATC authorization, and GC told the pilot to stop. A Bombardier CRJ200 was departing Runway 3R because of performance characteristics, and the Local Controller canceled the takeoff clearance. The closest proximity was approximately 2,800 feet lateral.

12/19/2024 Entering A Runway Without Authorization

Unknown Pilot Certification

Prescott (PRC)

The pilot deviation was reported when a Cessna 172 taxied across a runway without ATC authorization

The unregistered Hang Glider crashed under unknown circumstances within the city limits of Casa Grande, and the deceased uncertified pilot was found 3/4 of a mile from the crash site. The Pinal County Sheriff will be taking over jurisdiction of the incident

Date: January 18, 2025

Source: APA Member

Location: Prescott (PRC)

Type: Cessna 210

Injuries: Unknown (Uninjured)

Pilot Certification Unknown

The airplane lost power on approach to landing on Runway 03R at Prescott (PRC), and landed on a road 1200 feet short of the runway. There were no injuries or damage reported.

## FEBRUARY 2025 AVIATION ACCIDENT & INCIDENT SUMMARY

Date: December 15, 2024

Source: FAA

Location: Near Casa Grande

Type: Unidentified, Unregistered Hang Glider

Injuries: 1 Fatal

Unregistered Pilot

# Thunder Ads

## **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 [bmpartin@gmail.com](mailto: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  
[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 Giorgi [delgiorgidelgiorgiopels@gmail.com](mailto:delgiorgidelgiorgiopels@gmail.com)

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)

## **ANNUALS, RESTORATIONS, FABRIC WORK**

Eloy Airport Julie White 520-466-4157



## **I help aircraft buyers and sellers!**

SteveThompson, Carefree, AZ (480)-980-9846  
<https://partner91.com/>

## **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,  
[www.airbum.com](http://www.airbum.com)

If you would like to submit an Aircraft related Ad email it to: [eachapter1217@aol.com](mailto:eachapter1217@aol.com)

