

The TAILSPIN



December 2009

ORLANDO YOUTH AVIATION CENTER

Happy Holidays!

Jim Thomas
Prez Sez

Looking Back ... And Ahead

Remember Y2K

...and how the world as we know it was going to come to an end? Can you believe that was 10 years ago already... where does the time go? I don't remember when I first determined how old I'd be at the turn of the century (or millennium). Probably seven or eight and my age (47) would be so old I couldn't relate. It was older than my father was at the time, which was positively ancient! As it turns out, I was wrong anyway. There was no year zero, so the actual date of change was Jan 1, 2001, and I hadn't taken that into account. That wasn't what would affect our computer systems and other electronics either, but I digress...

My point is that we're about to enter the "10s" and soon the "teens"! As experimenters, we're blessed that the best in technology for our planes reaches us before it reaches certificated planes and we now have more data available to us than ever before. Many of us take advantage of these advancements to the extent we're able, and there's some amazing stuff out there. Most of the avionics manufacturers try to help us keep them updated to the latest software version for free or at least a nominal fee.

Data collection

While we can use this new technology to collect information on our aircraft, we also have the technology to collect on ourselves. **Sandi Vogelpohl** has offered to collect background information on those of you who wish to share yours with others. We have such a wealth of knowledge and experience among our membership; I agree that it would be nice to know a little bit more about each other. Some of us are homebuilders and others don't care to be involved in the building process. Some of us came to aviation from a military career, while others found their wings in another fashion. At this point, I'm not sure at this moment how we'll go about collecting all this data, but I promise it won't be a huge, daunting, questionnaire. I'm thinking maybe a series of short surveys via email. We'll figure it out and let you

(Prez Sez, cont'd. on page 3)



CHRISTMAS PARTY! Tue, Dec. 15

Dubsdread Country Club
549 W. Par St., Orlando

Cocktails 6:30 pm
Dinner 7:30 pm
Pirate Gift Exchange After Dinner



Upcoming Events

Chapter Christmas Party	Dec 15, Tues Cocktails 6:30 pm, Dinner 7:30 pm Location TBD
Chapter Meeting	Jan 19, Tues Meeting 7:30 p.m. Showalter Flying Service, Orlando Exec
Young Eagles Rally	Jan 23, Sat Flying 9 am—11 am Showalter Flying Service, Orlando Exec

Celebrate The Season With Your Flyin' Friends!

You sure don't want to miss the last meeting of the year. It's our Chapter Christmas Party!

This year should be extra nice. Pat and Barbara Phillips have arranged our evening at Dubsdread Country Club. They fix a pretty good buffet—chicken in wine sauce and roast beef on our menu. There's a cash bar, and our infamous Pirate Gift Exchange.

But you have to make advance reservations. The absolute deadline is this Friday, Dec. 11. It's \$29 pp. Send the number of people attending and a check to: Bob Kosar, 2319 Spings Landing Blvd., Longwood, FL 32779, 407-786-5265.

If you want to join the Gift Exchange, bring a gift for pilots, \$5-\$10 range. Where else can you give away cheap pliers to someone who'll really mean it when they say 'Thank you'?



Clubhouse Update

The "Crew" is making good progress

Our new Chapter clubhouse is coming along. There's even a sign on the hangar.

Of course, progress always seems slow at first, but a lot has happened. **Bruce Hotz** is leading the Clubhouse Crew along with **Tim Sweeney, Shawn Mack, Robert White, Bob Kosar, and Kenny Eads.**

So far, Bruce and Robert have gotten the lights working in most of the area, so it's possible to see to get work done. Bruce found a small air conditioner that cooled off one office pretty well.

The Crew met as a group last Saturday and went over the building in great detail. The good news is that they pretty much came to consensus that we can wind up with a pretty big meeting room. So we can be comfortable in our meetings and have plenty of room for other activities, such as the OYAC classes.

As expected, we'll still have an office

for Chapter business, a library to house our books and tapes and Chapter history documents, and a tool room.

At the last meeting, the members approved up to \$3500 for materials to fix up the facility. There will be some lumber and drywall, and a lot of paint and flooring. We may need to add a little more to cover things like air conditioning, but so far, the guys have done some pretty good scrounging—well worthy of aircraft homebuilders.

Pretty soon, they'll be calling on the rest of us to roll up our sleeves and lend a hand. Don't worry, you'll get plenty of notice.

One big job is to paint the hangar. That's part of our agreement with Showalter to use the facility. Right now, we're looking toward winter when the skies are usually bright and rain free.

But, soon, very soon, we'll be moving into a new home.

OYAC Classes

Begin Jan. 9

Teachers needed

The Young Eagles' question, "What's next?", gets answered, again, next month.

Orlando Youth Aviation Center's popular *Introduction to Aviation* course for kids age 10-15 starts its winter session on Saturday, Jan. 9, 2010.

The class started about five or six years ago and has continued to grow in popularity. It covers a pretty wide range of aviation topics from basic aerodynamics to model building, traffic control tower operations, aircraft construction, chart reading, weather planning and flight planning. It all leads up to a cross-country graduation flight with each student getting a chance to sit at the controls and do a little flying.

Classes are just a few hours on Saturday mornings. If you could lend a hand as a teacher's aide (mostly answering questions), please contact Barbara Walters-Phillips at flypatbarb@aol.com.

Young Eagles

The Best Laid Plans ... Next Rally Jan. 23 at Orlando Executive



Things don't always go as planned. We missed out on our Young Eagles Rally on Nov. 21, due to the closing of Rwy 7-25 at Orlando Exec. for changes to taxiway A-1.

The construction was announced at the last minute, but fortunately a couple of weeks before the rally, so we could postpone it. There was an attempt to move it to the 28th, but we couldn't muster enough support during the holiday weekend—especially on short notice.

The next rally is still planned for Jan. 23, 2010, at ORL on the ramp at Showalter Flying Service. Please mark your calendar and consider helping out on ground crew or flying.

Carolyn Biter has resigned as Young Eagles Coordinator. She did a great job during her year as coordinator, especially in the getting good promotions. We flew quite a few kids at the rallies she set up. A big thanks to Carolyn for a job well done.

That means the Chapter needs to find a new coordinator. If you'd be interested in taking over this important, responsible, and rewarding job, please email Jim Thomas at jim.thomas@tropicalsoul.com. If you like kids and love airplanes and want to make a difference, there's no better way to do it.

Changing Of The Guard

New *Tailspin* editor, two directors

One of the neat things about belonging to a group like EAA 74 is that everyone gets a chance to participate.

Every two years, new executive officers are elected, with a peaceful transition worthy of American tradition (preceded by a lot less vitriol, too). Each year, we elect two new directors to serve a three year term on the board. This year, **Chuck Bull** and **Tom Carveth** were elected to be directors for the 2010-2013 term.

Another change is happening on Jan. 1, too. On that date **Tim Sweeney** takes over as Chapter Newsletter Editor (Tom will continue with the website). This is an important position—the newsletter is the glue that keeps the Chapter members in touch with what is going on. We're lucky to have Tim. He's a builder (soon to be our second Technical Counselor?), participates in Young Eagles, flies a LOT, teaches the OYAC radio communications class with **Jim Buchan**, is working on the Clubhouse Crew and is always ready to lend a hand. Exactly the person needed to carry on *The Tailspin* each month.

So, help him out. When you have a story or hear about some interesting aviation-related activity, share it with Tim so he can share it with the rest of us.

Small Miracles

Some presents last a lifetime

Well, folks, it's coming up on Christmas, and therefore time for something a bit out of the ordinary. No, not anything about Santa or the odd elf or so, but a very real experience which I cannot explain. If you can, I'd sure appreciate it - it has bugged me for years.

A long time ago, when all of my grown up kids were really kids who thought that Daddy knew everything (they were ALMOST right!), we were driving up to visit the grandparents who lived on a lake in South Carolina. It was a fairly short drive up from home in Savannah, but the kids were still working into the "Are we there yet?" syndrome anyway, and I was looking for a little distraction for them. It showed up in the form of a rainbow, perfect for my purposes - it was a perfect bow, all colors vivid and bright, and best of all, it arced across the sky directly in front of us and terminated in a field about 100 yards from the road!

This got the kids attention all right, and they were all caught up in the gorgeous rainbow so close, and then remembered about the pot of gold at the end of it. This started a whole new ballgame - "come on, Daddy, why can't we stop and look for the pot of gold, the end of the rainbow is RIGHT THERE! We don't even have to look, we can find it right away!". This seemed to amuse Beverley somewhat more than I

thought the situation justified, so I put the imagination in high gear to work a way around this. I found one.

"A pot of gold is not all there is to rainbows," I said. "There's something even better than that. If you find the end of the rainbow, you can find the gold, but if you go all the way UNDER the rainbow and come out on the other side, you will have happiness all your life, and that's worth more than all the gold there is!" After a moment, the ooh and ahhs slowed down, and they said "Lets go under it, Dad!".

"OK," I said, "but sometimes the rainbow just disappears but the magic is still there." Of course, I thought that this would cleverly cover the disappearance of the rainbow as the sun angle changed and the diffraction was no longer visible.

So, on we went, kids faces glued to the windows, closer and closer until the bow arched over the car. "That's strange," I thought. "It shouldn't have lasted that long." Strange indeed - the rainbow not only remained visible, it looked almost close enough to touch, and so brilliant it was hard to look at as we drove under it - and out the other side, with the rainbow bright and clear the whole time! The kids were enchanted, Beverley was surprised, and I was absolutely dumbfounded - All perti-

nent laws of physics said that this could not happen, you MUST have the proper sun angle to see the diffraction that forms the rainbow, and you absolutely CANNOT see a rainbow from both sides - but we had just done it!

The magic worked - we have been blessed with more happiness in the following years than many folks see in a lifetime, and as far as I know, the kids have never figured out that dear old Dad was running a scam on them, so I still look pretty smart to them. I know better, of course, but I ain't talking. I may be dumb, but I ain't stupid!

I need a favor, though - I know that what we saw was impossible, but we saw it anyway. If any of you can think this one through and come up with something that can work around the physics of optics involved, I'd appreciate it if you would share it with me.

But then, they have just managed to change the speed of light, one of the basic and immutable constants that a LOT of science is based on, so who knows - maybe minor miracles to impress the kids are NOT impossible. After all, this is the season for one of the world's great miracles, so why not?

Merry Christmas, Y'all.

Bob

(Prez Sez from page 1)

know sometime early in the New Year.

Volunteer opportunities abound!

1—Our new clubhouse . You've read in these pages about our new clubhouse. We formed a committee at the last meeting and that committee has been hard at work trying to figure out how best to remodel the space we have. That process may well be complete by the time you read this, but will certainly be done by the first of the year. We'll be having weekend work parties and maybe even some during the week for those who have time available. You don't need heavy duty construction skills. If you can work a paintbrush or swing a hammer, your help is needed!

2—Orlando Youth Aviation Center. A new class series gets underway on January 6th. Take a look at the subjects on the website (you can get there from www.eaa74.org) and if you have some knowledge of any of the subjects, I'm sure the lead instructors would love to hear from you. Email oyac@eaa74.org to volunteer.

3—Sun 'n Fun. Believe it or not, it's just around the corner and planning has already begun. We have several volunteer chairs or co-chairs in our club. We'll announce them either here in January or at the January meeting.

That's it for this month. We'll see you at the Christmas party!

Jim