

The TAILSPIN



January 2009

ORLANDO YOUTH AVIATION CENTER

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Welcome to another year of flying, fun and friendship!

Looking back on 2008, we had a pretty eventful year—a number of great speakers, picnics, kids experiencing their first flights, \$100 hamburger flyouts, a few nice parties, some new planes in the sky, and a few new ones in the shop. Looking ahead, the forecast for 2009 is for much more of the same. Don't miss the takeoff!

The Prez Sez—Ouch!!

Usually, this space is filled by the wit and wisdom of our leader, **Jim Thomas**. Unfortunately, our buddy is temporarily grounded, and not just from flying. About two weeks ago, he didn't please the doctors during a stress test. He also didn't please them in a heart cath procedure the next day. They weren't going to be happy until they got to open up his cowlings. So, they did. While they were in there, they installed a heart bypass—in fact, *five* heart bypasses—and topped it off with a pacemaker (which may be temporary), before sending him home. As you may imagine, our boy is resting—a lot. But his spirits are good, and he's chomping at the bit to get back to the Chapter and his airplanes.

A Soldier's Story

This month our guest speaker is **Richard Ortega**, USAF Retired. Most of us are familiar with Richard's infectious smile, seen regularly at our Young Eagles rallies and OYAC classes. This living American hero is a fixture at the Veterans Day Parade and many, many other events and ceremonies. On those days, he wears his uniform, complete with a chess board-size display of ribbons that tell the story of an incredible military career. You can hear the spoken version at the Chapter meeting. Just one of his achievements—work on the Norden bombsight for the Enola Gay. You can see that you don't want to be late this Tuesday.

Young Eagles At Sanford Next Saturday

We're back in the air for kids again Saturday, Jan 24, at Southeast Ramp at Orlando-Sanford Int'l. Once again, **Krysty Kress** has graciously arranged to let us use their beautiful hangar and ramp space and has arranged special fuel pricing. We could use some help at the registration table and escorting kids. Setup is at 8 a.m., flying from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Come on out, and bring some kids.

Next Meeting Tue, Jan. 20, 7:30 pm

Guest Speaker
Richard Ortega

Showalter Flying Service, Orlando Executive Airport

Upcoming Events

Chapter Meeting	Jan 20, Tues Meeting 7:30 p.m. Showalter Flying Service, Orlando Exec
Young Eagles Rally & Pancake Breakfast	Jan 24, Sat Flying 9 a.m.—11 a.m. Southeast Ramp, Orlando-Sanford Int'l.
OYAC Test Pilot Youth Simulator Flying	Jan 31, Sat and Feb 7 Sat Class 1 p.m.-4 p.m. Elite Flight Simulations
Chapter Meeting	Feb 17, Tues Meeting 7:30 p.m. Showalter Flying Service, Orlando Exec
OYAC Glider Competition	Feb 21, Sat. Morning (exact time TBD) University of Central Fla, Engineering Bldg.
Chapter Meeting	Mar 17, Tues Meeting 7:30 p.m. Showalter Flying Service, Orlando Exec
Young Eagles Rally & Pancake Breakfast	Mar 21, Sat Flying 9 am—11 am Showalter Flying Service, Orlando Exec
Chapter Meeting	Apr 21, Tues Meeting 7:30 p.m., Tarmac Time 6:30 p.m. Showalter Flying Service, Orlando Exec
Sun 'n Fun Fly-In & Air Show	Apr 21-26, Tues-Sun Daily 8 a.m. until dark Air show 2 p.m.-5 p.m. Sun 'n Fun campus, Lakeland Linder Airport

Dues are Due!

Chapter memberships renew every January!
\$25 includes all family members.
Please bring your check to the meeting, or mail it to:
EAA 74, PO Box 140571, Orlando, FL 32814

Beating The Winter Chill

And the joys of homebuilding are endless

Well, Christmas and New Years Day are behind us, and here we are in the middle of an unusually mild January watching most of the rest of the country getting its collective brains beat out by one winter storm after another.

Fortunately, due to an inspired decision to head south from Ole Virginny a little early so that we could attend the Chapter party, we missed out on almost all of the agony going on up in the frozen Nawth. This also allows me to call my brother who is still pretending to like ice and snow and gloat a little over the obvious advantages of being not only the older brother, but also the smartest. After all, he's up there and I ain't!

Anyhow, I just cannot tell you how much Beautiful Beverley and I enjoy and appreciate seeing all of our friends in Orlando – well, almost all. Tom Carveth came down with the flu or some other scrofulous ailment, Alan Wise was out of town, Jerry Lutz and his gorgeous new bride Jeanne were both reported to be down with a case of the Bad-Offs, and several other Ole Buds were conspicuously absent for reasons unknown.

Notwithstanding this (wherever did I come up with THAT compound word?

Some part of my misspent youth, I suppose), we had a royal blast meeting and greeting, and stealing a couple of great presents. To top this off, the Vons threw a blowout of a party at their house before the end of the year where we got to meet some of the folks we had missed before. After all of this celebrating and carrying on, we got to help youngest whelp Adam move into his new (to him) house. This has kept us pretty busy running back and forth between Sun 'n Fun campground and Orlando, and I have not crawled into the business end of an airplane in too long a time.

You may recall that in my last article I reported on the first flight of the SeaRey. To make a short report out of it, the landing did not work out well. Everything went swimmingly on the initial testing, waddling the controls about, etc, right up to the touchdown at Louisa County Airport. As the plane touched down (gently, before anybody gets out of hand here) the left gear collapsed and I went on a short cross-country through the weeds and stuff off the side of the runway. Some relatively slight damage was done to the bottom of the hull, a little paint, a couple of pieces of the retraction system, and my pride.

A couple of weeks of work in the han-

gar, and we were ready to fly again. This time, my brother was elected to take her around the patch a few times. He did this in fine fashion making several low passes and getting comfortable with the bird, and then set up for the landing. Once again, everything went well right up to the landing part – he touched down, rolled out, and as he slowed almost to a stop to turn onto the taxiway, WHAM! Once again, the left gear folded! Once again, rebuild the gear, which really got hurt this time.

We think we finally found the cause of all this, this time. The left main gear down-lock lever had an apparent flaw in the shape of the locking slot which allowed the gear to unlock and collapse. Replaced that, the hydraulic pump and various other rods and stuff, got ready to fly again – and the \$%&&#* radio crapped out! Tore it out of the plane, brought it to Florida with us, let John at Executive's radio shop fix it, and sent it back to my brother in Virginia.

Too cold to fly by now, so no more flight test news until there is some. In the meantime, you'll just have to suffer along with more homely philosophy from the Homely Philosopher.

Be careful out there.

Bob

OYAC Classes Put Young Minds In Flight

What's next?

That's what we used to hear from parents at every Young Eagles Rally right after their kids flew. We used to point to the EAA Academy and some of the other youth groups around Orlando. Now, we have a homegrown answer.

Thanks largely to the efforts of **Louie Turek** and **Barbara Walters-Phillips**, volunteer teachers, pilots and local businesses, we can now describe a progression of three diverse and engaging aviation classes. The eight-week "Introduction to Avia-

tion" for kids age 10-15 is now in its sixth year. Yes, six. The Winter 2009 session is in progress each Saturday in the classroom at Showalter Flying Service. Hugely successful, the series can always use the help of more teachers.

For two consecutive Saturdays, a kid can be a "Test Pilot" at Elite Simulations near UCF. **Stephen Gatlin** sets up the company's flight simulators giving kids a chance to be PIC of aircraft from a Skyhawk to a Baron to a King Air, a helicopter and even a B-2. You can join the fun showing kids how to fly. The third annual Glider Competition pits teams of middle school kids against

each other to see which can design and build a glider that can fly farthest. This year, the competition will combine with SECME, a non-profit promoting education in engineering and the sciences. Flight line assistants are needed.

Louie, Barbara, Showalter, Elite and the many volunteers who have pitched in have really helped EAA 74 build the Orlando Youth Aviation Center into a terrific local program.

You can be a part of it by contacting Louie at aerospace_pilot@yahoo.com, or Barbara at flypatbarb@aol.com.