

# The TAILSPIN



June 2007

ORLANDO YOUTH AVIATION CENTER

*Jim Thomas*

**The Prez Sez**

## Wow! What A Month

**New Director, Young Eagles policy, oily mess**

**W**ow, what a month June has been so far!

Your board has finalized the Young Eagles schedule for the year, and we welcome Tim Clifford to the board - Welcome aboard, Tim, I know you'll be a big help! We still have board positions open, and as always, feel free to come to the board meeting on the first Tuesday of each month.

We also decided to fly Young Eagles exclusively under EAA's guidelines which allow pilots with at least 250 hours to participate as long as no compensation is given.

Last month's Stearman Picnic was a great success, in spite of the howling winds prevailing most of the month. I'd like to thank Pat and Barbara (Walters) Phillips for generously donating both their and their gorgeous airplane's time. All y'all that brought food and beverages helped everyone have a great time, me especially... Stick time in that beautiful bird is about as much fun as you can have with your clothes on!

I'm writing from Louisville, KY, where my daughter just gave birth to a beautiful baby boy. Suzanne drove up and I came in the Bonanza, solo. In my 11 year flying career, I'd never flown that far and the weather gods set me back a day. Then the idiot gods got me. I topped off the oil the day before I was to leave, so I didn't bother checking it on my preflight. Turns out I hadn't got the filler cap completely tight and it departed the engine at 100' AGL. It took a few seconds to realize why the windscreen was getting so dirty so fast, but when I saw that dark streak leaving the oil door, I advised the tower I needed to land immediately. I flew a normal pattern and landed, taxied back to the hangar and was met by the curiosity seekers and the airport authority. Satisfying them all, I proceeded to clean all the oil off the engine and the airframe. I then added a new step to my preflight - Check oil filler cap is secure!

The next big XC is the return to base and following that - Mecca - AirVenture Oshkosh. I may return in time for the meeting on Tuesday, but the weather gods may have other plans. Regardless, we have a great speaker - Diego Alfonso - longtime pilot examiner, now working for the FAA. Hope to see y'all then!

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## Welcome To The New *Tailspin*

**Digital version replaces print edition**

**S**tarting with this month's issue, the *Tailspin* will be published in a digital version, replacing the print edition that we have known for years.

The rising costs of postage and printing are behind the change. With the last increase in first class postage, the cost to produce and print the newsletter average about \$60 each month. Since most members have email, everyone at the last Chapter meeting agreed that the money could be better spent in other ways. Those few who don't have email will still get the *Tailspin* by mail, but it will still save the Chapter a lot of money

Over time, you'll see more changes that will take advantage of this format—color, more photographs, links to stories or sites with useful information.

As always, your suggestions, stories and ideas for *Tailspin* are appreciated. Just email the editor at [planetom@cfl.rr.com](mailto:planetom@cfl.rr.com).

### *In This Issue*

- Flight Safety
- Better Mousetraps
- Young Eagles Fall Rallies Set
- Picnic Wrap-Up

**Next Meeting—Tuesday, June 19, 7:30 p.m.**

*Guest Speaker—Diego Alfonso*

Showalter Flying Service, Orlando Executive Airport  
400 Herndon Blvd.

## Chapter Meeting

# Flight Safety

Diego Alphonso shares the view of years in the cockpit

If you are one of the lucky ones, you took a checkride with Designated Pilot Examiner, Diego Alphonso. The event was serious business, of course, but he could put a nervous student at ease, making the whole thing actually enjoyable. It could even turn into a learning experience.

Now, Diego is with the FAA, overseeing the activities of examiners, so now he can't give check rides anymore. Too bad.

On the other hand, he can still share what he knows. Diego has presented many seminars on piloting, airspace, cockpit resource management and more. He has flown many types of planes, trained many pilots and checked out many more. He will bring that experience to the Chapter meeting this month and combines it with the perspective of the regulators to give us some fresh insights on flying safely.

The meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. in the classroom at Showalter Flying Service. Be there early to get a seat.

## ***A Stearman, Fried Chicken 'n Cowboy Baked Beans***

**Chapter picnic a flight of fun**

Sitting in the shade along a grass runway, chomping fried chicken and feasting on the sights and sounds of Pat and Barbara Phillips' beautiful Stearman PT-17.

About 30-odd Chapter members' and guests agreed it doesn't get better than that as we all lounged about at Bob White Airport in Zellwood. Pat gave rides to 15 lucky volunteers, but everyone admitted they were having a great time just being there. That wasn't too hard given the bounty of food—salads, fruit, pies and Pete Luke's secret recipe Cowboy Baked Beans.

Watch for the photo album to be posted soon on the website.

*Bob Hayden*  
Plane Talk

# Flying A Better Mousetrap

Look out for stowaways

Ok, all you lucky ducks out there who have survived another rigorous Florida winter, not only is it spring, it's almost summer. We all know what that means - beautiful sunny days, seductively warm nights, summer breezes, and gobs of nubile young lovelies out gathering sunrays in mini-bikinis and other related semi-clothing. It's great to be young and alive in Florida!

There is one minor fly in this particular ointment, however. We are not the only species alive and celebrating spring and stuff. No, I am not referring to mosquitoes here - I am restricted somewhat in the language I can use in these epistles. I am referring to the somewhat larger, not only equally irritating, but downright dangerous outdoor residents who like to move somewhat indoors when it is time for the young ones to arrive. Think birds, mice, or moles, whatever. Mickey and Minnie they definitely are not!

With the end of winter, breeding season begins for these and other such residents of the smaller Florida wildlife groups, and they begin looking for nice, dry, and protected places to have their impending family additions. Take a good look at your favorite flying machine, and you are looking at a prospective, if not actual (yet), mouse or bird condo! Do not let the fact that your aircraft of choice is tied down on a nice, firm concrete or tarmac surface, or in a snug hangar, lull you into a false sense of security. These critters will travel incredible distances to find a good home, and your plane is it!

Once established, not only is it a nice nest, but also a great restroom for the group - and mouse urine is only slightly less corrosive than sulfuric acid, and bird droppings are not much better. It was much worse in the days when planes were mostly tube and fabric, but metal aircraft are almost as susceptible to damage, and usually a lot more expensive to repair. Nibbling on insulated wires is also great fun,

and indulged in frequently, not to also consider the delicious fabrics, etc. in the upholstery. In short, your airplane is Nirvana to mice and also birds, especially at this time of year.

What can you do about it? Well, back to basics, folks. Do a preflight, and make each one a good one. Check all the usual things, and then recheck inside the cowling (a favorite place for bird nests). Looking into the air intakes is not enough. If you have not flown in several days or a week or so, pull the cowling and really look the engine compartment over. This is not a bad idea after even a relatively short period of inactivity. I have seen surprisingly large amounts of grass, trash, plastic, and rags packed into and around empty spaces in the cowling in a matter of hours by industrious birds. Mice are sneakier. They try to hide in and behind upholstery, panel linings, sound proofing, and anything else handy, including instrument panels. You have really got to get down and under stuff to look for evidence of inhabitation, and aggressively push and probe into dark spaces. This includes fuselage areas that are normally not seen much between annual inspections, especially towards the tail cone area and under the floorboards. Use not only your eyes and fingers, but your nose. If mice are in your plane, believe me, you will be able to smell them! There is nothing else that smells like mouse urine, which is a good thing. One noseful of that aroma is enough to last you for a long, long time, and once smelled, never forgotten!

Do yourself a favor. Pull the inspection plates, open the cowling, take out the seat cushions, give everything a good look, feel, and sniff. You'll be happy to find nothing, and lucky if you do find something that could be trouble in the future.

Be careful out there

*Bob*



# Fall Rally Dates Set

## New FAA Air Tour Rule sanctions Young Eagle flights

Young Eagle Rally dates were set for Fall 2007 during the June meeting of the Board of Directors.

The current schedule is:

- September 22 in Sanford
- October 20 in Orlando
- December 1 in Orlando

Dates and locations are subject to change.

The September rally will be our first time to fly in Sanford. Krysty Kress, the manager of the Southeast Ramp, has offered to make sure everything is in place so that we can fly kids there. She even has some ideas about getting some kids from the Sanford area—making it possible for more kids around Central Florida to take part. Some of you may remember Krysty when she worked at Executive Air Center, bought by Sheltair, on the west side of Orlando Executive. She was a leading volunteer for Orlando AirFair, so we can be sure of a successful rally in Sanford.

In other business, everyone involved

with Young Eagles has been carefully watching the FAA's new Air Tour rule. The rule, which meant to further define the requirements of charitable flights, at first seemed to limit Young Eagles rallies by permitting organizations to present no more than four charitable flying events a year.

Then a clarification from the FAA to EAA stated that the rule was meant only to apply to events where pilots receive compensation as defined in the FARs. In a nutshell, as long as Young Eagles pilots receive no compensation of any kind, they are exempt from the provisions of the new Air Tour rule which include registering each pilot with the FSDO for each event, and other requirements that would be hard for EAA chapters to manage.

Just to confirm EAA 74's position, at the June board meeting, the directors voted that the Chapter's Young Eagles rallies will be operated per EAA's guidelines with no compensation for pilots.

### EAA 74 Calendar of Events

Chapter Meeting & Tarmac Time	Jun 19, Tues. Tarmac Time – Aircraft display 6:30 p.m. Chapter Meeting, 7:30 p.m. Showalter, Orlando Exec
Chapter Meeting & Tarmac Time	July 17, Tues Tarmac Time – Aircraft display 6:30 p.m. Chapter Meeting, 7:30 p.m. Showalter, Orlando Exec
Chapter Meeting & Tarmac Time	Aug 21, Tues Tarmac Time – Aircraft display 6:30 p.m. Chapter Meeting, 7:30 p.m. Showalter, Orlando Exec
Chapter Meeting & Tarmac Time	Sep 19, Tues. Tarmac Time – Aircraft display 6:30 p.m. Chapter Meeting, 7:30 p.m. Showalter, Orlando Exec
Young Eagles Rally	Sep 22, Sat. Set-up 7:30 a.m., Flying 9 am—11 am Southeast Ramp, Orlando-Sanford Int'l.

*Tarmac Time is weather permitting*

#### Places to Fly and Fun Aviation Events Online

- <http://www.floridapilot.com>
- <http://www.fun-places-to-fly.com>
- <http://www.aerovents.com>

## EAA CHAPTER 74



Chapter meetings are the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 7:30 pm at Showalter Flying Service, Orlando Executive Airport, 400 Herndon Ave. Everyone interested in aviation is invited.

#### Officers

- President – Jim Thomas
- Past-President – Bob Kosar
- Vice President – Barbara Walters-Phillips
- Treasurer – Bob Kosar
- Recording Secretary – (open)
- Corres. Secty & Newsletter Ed—Tom Carveth

#### Directors

- (open), (open) ('07)
- Jerry Lutz, Bruce Hotz ('08)
- Tim Sweeney, Jim Buchan ('09)

#### Technical Counselor

- Jim Buchan, 407-855-6893  
(also Flight Advisor)

#### Young Eagles Coordinator

- contact Jim Thomas  
jim.thomas@tropicalsoul.com

#### VISIT US ONLINE

[www.EAA74.org](http://www.EAA74.org)

#### Web Editor

- Tom Carveth, 407-898-8433  
planetom@cfl.rr.com

## Orlando Youth Aviation Center



Sponsored by EAA Chapter 74, the mission of the Orlando Youth Aviation Center (OYAC) is to introduce all youth to aviation positive learning experiences, primarily via it's Youth Aviation Classes.

#### Officers

- President/Director 1 – Louis Turek
- Vice President/Director 2 – Jerry Lutz
- Vice President (NV) - Kim Showalter
- Secretary/Director 3—Mel Scherf
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- Director 8/Legal Advisor—Patrick Phillips
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- Director 10—Glenn Ball
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- Director 13—Bob Kosar

#### Associate Sponsor

American Institute of Aeronautics & Astronautics

The OYAC is a 503(c) organization. Contributions are tax deductible and will be applied to continuing OYAC's youth education program and to it's building fund. Contributions can be mailed to the OYAC, 400 Herndon Ave., Orlando, FL 32803