

The TAILSPIN



March 2008

ORLANDO YOUTH AVIATION CENTER

It's Time To Renew Your Chapter Membership

Jim Thomas
Prez Sez

Sunny Outlook

Chapter steak night at SnF, Bob White fly-in

Daylight Saving Time is back, so now we can look forward to more natural light for Tarmac Time. I hope you enjoyed seeing **Edy Lindsey's** project last month as much as I did. We don't currently have anything scheduled for this month's meeting, but I'm still looking and I hope you will, too. If you know of anyone with a project, please let me know. It doesn't even have to be a whole project, perhaps someone is building a tail, or an aileron and could bring that to show the construction technique.

Sun 'n Fun is right around the corner. I'd hoped to camp there for the duration, but the Clerk of the Court has different plans for my time. I got a Jury Summons for April 9th. I know the old joke about people being convicted by a bunch of people not smart enough to get out of jury duty, but I must be one of them, because I've never been able to come up with a good excuse.

That said, we have lots of folks who will be there for the entire show and you can volunteer to help out in any number of ways. Hopefully, most of them will be at the meeting Tuesday. Remember, volunteers get in free! **Robert White** and **Bob Kosar** have a "Steak Night" and have decided to open it up to the Chapter this year. They pick up steaks from Costco, who always have great cuts of meat, and grill them up. This takes place sometime towards the middle of the event, so if you'd like to join them, bring some cash so they can pick up a steak for you, too. What better way to get to know your fellow members than over a well prepared meal?

Saturday, March 15th, the chapter is hosting a "Young Eagles Volunteer Appreciation Day" picnic at Bob White airfield in Zellwood. **Mike Sills** came up with the idea to provide flights to those folks who always have to stay on the ground while the kids fly. If you're interested in flying some of them please contact Mike at mikepilot1@earthlink.net

The club is supplying fried chicken, but you need to bring the fixin's. We have a lot of snacks and soft drinks left over from our Young Eagles rallies and since they have expiration dates in the near future, I'll bring them, too.

This month's program will be the AOPA GA Secure video we

Next Meeting Tue, Mar 18, 7:30 pm

*EAA-AOPA Airport Security Program
&
AIRVenture Video*

**Showalter Flying Service
Orlando Executive Airport**

Upcoming Events

Chapter Meeting	Mar 18, Tues Meeting, 7:30 p.m. Showalter Flying Service, Orlando Exec
Fantasy of Flight Young Eagles Rally	Mar 29, Sat Setup 7:30 am, Flying 9 am-11 am Fantasy of Flight
Sun 'n Fun Fly-In Spring Celebration of Flight	Apr 8—13, Tue—Sun Aircraft displays, daily air show, workshops, marketplace Lakeland Linder Airport
Chapter Meeting	Apr 15, Tues Meeting, 7:30 p.m. Showalter Flying Service, Orlando Exec
Young Eagles Rally	May 17, Sat Setup 7:30 am, Flying 9 am-11 am Southeast Ramp, Orlando-Sanford Int'l
Chapter Meeting	May 20, Tues Meeting, 7:30 p.m. Showalter Flying Service, Orlando Exec

didn't get to see last month and also a new video from EAA promoting AirVenture. I've watched it and it's really quite good. I hope you'll enjoy it.

If I don't see you Saturday, I hope to see you Tuesday. If we turn up something for Tarmac Time, it'll be posted on our Yahoo Group email. If you haven't joined it, yet, please do it now!

Jim

Sun Shines On Bob White 'Old' Eagle Day

Planes and fried chicken at a grass strip field—what could be better?



After flying almost 10,000 Young Eagles, Mike Sills thought it might be time to have a get together just for Chapter members.

So, about 20 or so Chapter members gathered at Bob White Field to share an afternoon enjoying each other's company at a grass strip airport.

Flying in were Mike Sills, Tim Sweeney, Chuck Bull, Greg Garrison, and Don McLendon. The others drove in bringing salads, drinks, brownies while the Chapter picked up the tab on some KFC.

The nice thing about Bob White is the many different planes you'll see. Pat Phillips has completed restoration of his J-3 Cub—a beautiful job, as close to original as he could make it.

Tony Johnson opened his hangar to show off his L-3, painted up in yellow and blue military training colors.

Earlier in the day, Jim Bu-

chan participated in a golf ball drop to benefit the Kiwanis Club where he and Harvey Readey are members.

As you might guess, most of the talk centered around building, flying and different types of planes. Sunny skies and warm temperatures made it perfect day for some shade tree hangar tales.

What's next? If you have ideas, bring 'em to the meeting and tell Jim Thomas. He promises to be all ears. Or drop him an email—jim.thomas@tropicalsoul.com.



Young Eagles

Fantasy Of Flight Rally Our annual special for Boy Scouts



On the 29th of this month, we bring our Young Eagles program to Fantasy of Flight for a special Young Eagles Rally for the Boy Scouts. Steve Gatlin, Mike Sills and Tim Sweeney have been hard at work behind the scenes. Steve wrote this note to the Chapter:

Our EAA74 Young Eagles/BSA event Mar 29th at Fantasy of flight will soon be upon us.

Plans are progressing nicely. We have 154 kids registered to fly and we have stopped taking flight reservations. There is no waitlist so those who have not registered will not fly.

There are 250 people registered to camp which includes the scouts, scout masters, relatives, family, etc. Civil Air Patrol, Deland Wing will be on hand to handle parking of aircraft, cars, campers, and to provide logistical and security support. We anticipate 12-15 aircraft participating in the event. Needless to say, this is a lot of people.

Due to the large number of people and events, we are recruiting as many volunteers as possible. Volunteers are needed for the following positions and areas of responsibility:

- Registration
- Dispatch and Dispatch assistants
- Runners

- Simulator operators
- Radio Communications
- Spotters
- Set-up and break down
- Campground registration

If you are able to volunteer please let me know. For those who desire, complimentary dry camping is available Friday through Sunday in a reserved area away from general camping. Motor homes, RVs, and tents are welcome. Porta-Potties and potable water are available.

If you can help out or have any questions or concerns, please contact me at 407-432-6156.

Thanks again for your support and I look forward to seeing everyone at Fantasy of Flight.

Get The Bugs Out

It's no fun sharing the plane with nature's stinging fliers

Well, Spring has sprung, and the Ides of March are upon us. Our friends to the north are scraping the ice away from the hangar doors, while those of us blessed with warmer climes are washing off the grime of winter from our favorite flying machine and preparing to fling our bodies through footless halls of air again.

It is a time to celebrate the goodness of life again, and some of you lucky ducks did just that last Saturday at Bob White airport. There is nuthin' better for an airplane nut than gathering with friends on a pretty spring day, giving each other "buddy flights", watching other aviators aviate, and eating good food al fresco.

Unfortunately, this is also the time that some of our furry friends also wake up, move out, swap amorous glances with each other, and look for a nice warm, dry airplane to set up housekeeping in. Favorites are the planes tied down in a grassy area followed by planes tied down anywhere, with planes kept in a hangar somewhere around the end of the list.

No planes are immune to infestation, however. Even aircraft that are flown regularly and sleep in nice, hard floored hangars can find themselves hosting various unwanted guests here and there in the various nooks and crannies available in airframes. A really good, thorough search throughout the structure of the planes is an excellent idea that can prevent unpleasant surprises.

There are some areas that need more attention than they usually get, and these are the frequently overlooked openings in the airframe that allow access to flying insects. What I am referring to here are the small open areas around control cable pass-throughs, less than perfect seals around fairing strips, and the intake openings for cabin ventilation. These in particular can provide access for some really nasty visitors -

think wasps and hornets suddenly pouring into the cabin through the fresh air vents during takeoff - or any other time for that matter. You and I both know that insect stings are not usually fatal, but they can make you kill yourself.

Back in the days of yore, before auto A/C became standard equipment on most all cars, there were many accidents caused by drivers suddenly realizing that they had company aboard in the form of a bee or wasp. Almost invariably this knowledge provoked an immediate reaction of letting the vehicle tend itself while the driver swatted, swore, dodged, and spoke in tongues. This is bad enough in traffic, but think about even one thoroughly irritated hornet finding itself blown out of a snug nest and through the vent into the pilot's face just after liftoff. Think of your significant other yelling "Bugs, bugs" as she/he tears off the belts and begins to leap about the cabin, beating the snot out of the pilot and everybody else on board with a hat/shoe/newspaper, etc. Not a pretty picture, and one that has ended in more than one funeral.

Take the time to carefully explore the depths of the fresh air vents and tubes, look into open spaces in the rear fuselage, and inspect the whole airframe for snug little bug spaces. It's a whole lot better to get stung on the ground after poking an indignant yellow jacket with a stick than having said yellow jacket delivered down your shirt collar while you're busy aviating.

Take a little time to put your mind at ease. Besides, good friends are hard to replace these days - I can't afford to lose any more.

Be careful out there.

Bob

It's Good To Belong

Renew Your Chapter Membership

Funny thing, but on Jan 1 each year our Chapter membership officially goes to zero. Because that's when it's time for everyone to renew.

To be fair, a few stalwarts actually renew early, but most of us wait. And wait. So far, meaning as of March 4, only 27 members have renewed. That's out of a typical 60. In other words, 33 of us are procrastinating. Probably the same ones who haven't done their taxes, yet either.

You know how much you enjoy Chapter membership. So, if you're one of 33, please write a check for your dues while you're thinking about it. Bring it to the meeting. Or, if you really can't make it: PO Box 140571, Orlando, FL 32814.

Join The Group

Know what's going on? You would if you joined the Chapter's Yahoo! Group. For example, you'd have known about the fly-out to Valkaria. And been right up to date on the picnic at Bob White Airport over the weekend.

So join up and join us. You can go to Yahoo!, search Groups for EAA 74, or go to our site, www.EAA74.org, and click on the Forum link at the top of the navigation buttons. Then just follow the directions.

This newsletter is once a month. But the group is every day. And you can even post messages. Or questions. Like the recent one about how to find long-term disability insurance for pilots. See? You should be a member of the Group, too.