

Illinois Valley Beacon

March 1996

Volume 3 Issue 3

Breakfast Saturday, March 2nd at *Doc's Mt. Hawley Inn*, 8412 N. Knoxville Avenue, just East of Mt. Hawley Airport, beginning around 8:00 AM. See you there!

March Meeting Change

This month only, we will meet on the *first Wednesday* of the month, March 6th at 7:30 p.m. at the *First Christian Church*, 6400 N. University Ave. at 7:30 p.m. The First Christian Church is located just north of the new Post Office on University Avenue.

March is going to be our annual projects night. Bring the largest piece of your homebuilt project that can easily be carried, and be prepared to make a short presentation to the other Chapter members.

Last Month We met at the First Christian Church, 6400 N. University Ave. on Wednesday, the 14th at 7:30 p.m. There was a big Birthday Cake with the Chapter logo reproduced in frosting in the center. In February our Chapter realized its Twentieth Anniversary with a **BIG** Birthday Party.

Special Certificates of Appreciation were awarded to the thirteen current Chapter members who were present at the beginning. They are in alphabetical order: Ozzie Beckham, Brian Briggerman, Delbert Dester, Don Eckard, Victor De Croix, Bill Engel, Eric Manuel, Ken Rhoads, Larry Roberts, Ted Smith, Guy Snyder, John Stauthammer and Jerry Trumbold.

The Chapter Charter with the signatures of all the original members was on display and Vic DeCroix and Guy Snyder both had a few words to say concerning what it was like during those formative times. See the following article from Guy.

Other business: Chapter Secretary Scot Decker will be out of town for the next three or four months. Scot is training to fly the C-130's the Air Guard has out at Greater Peoria Airport. Joe Rex has volunteered to act as Secretary in Scot's absence. Most of you received a subscription card

to Trade-A-Plane in this month's mailing. (we were a few short). These cards will be inserted in our March and September mailings in exchange for a free subscription for the Chapter. Contact Sam Sisk if you want to borrow the Chapter's copy. When the hangar is ready for occupancy, the Trade-A-Plane will be available there.

Saturday, March 2nd

The Rockford EAA Chapter is hosting a dinner program where the featured speaker will be NASA Space Shuttle Commander Robert "Hoot" Gibson. The cost is \$22.00. Morrie Caudill and Neil Pobanz are planning to attend and Brian Briggerman has a ticket he would like to sell and more tickets are still available. Contact either Morrie or Neal if you are interested in having dinner with "Hoot" Gibson.

The Spirit of '76

by Guy A. Snyder

Dennis has asked me to write a piece concerning our thoughts when we started Chapter 563 in 1976. Hence the following.....

When was Chapter 563 conceived? Was it February 18, 1976? Or November 1975.....or August 1973...or 1974...or 1975? Maybe some time in the early 1970's with the demise of Chapter 207? Technically, probably all of these dates, for they all fanned the flame of desire to see some chapter activity.

Chapter 207 had originated in LaSalle, IL, and had "drifted" south to Chillicothe, IL. I attended my first EAA chapter meeting at Weber's boat house in 1969. There was no newsletter, only meeting notices sent to interested parties. When the notices stopped the chapter faded into history, but there was always that flicker of hope that its activity would rekindle.

In 1970 the annual EAA Convention had moved from Rockford, IL, to Oshkosh, WI. Each subsequent year the small group from the Peoria area would camp in the "North 40" (now occupied by various vendors and the Fly market). Evening conversations always seemed to gravitate to the lack of chapter activity and the desire to see something get started around Peoria.

In November 1975, Vic and Joann DeCroix and my wife, Janet, and I made a visit to the EAA Museum/Headquarters in Hales Corners, WI. During the trip we discussed the idea of starting a chapter and decided to talk to someone at EAA. Our inquiry to Ben Owen revealed that someone from East Peoria had recently been sent a starter package with all the info we sought.

Upon our return, that person, Bob Decker, was contacted and a meeting was arranged at Wernsman's Restaurant in Germantown Hills. It was decided at that meeting that Vic and I would take the information sent to Bob Decker and pursue starting a chapter.

In December, Vic and I attended Springfield Chapter 137's meeting to get a feel for how things were run in a working chapter. The meeting was held at a chapter member's home in his garage, which contained his Ercoupe restoration project. This experience helped urge us on to our goal of getting a chapter started.

By January we had compiled a sizable list of EAA members and aviation enthusiasts in the Peoria area and had talked to Bill Houlihan, who was then managing Mt. Hawley Airport, about having an informational/organizational meeting in the airport lounge. Notices were sent out and posted at the various airports in the area, and on February 18, 1976, (Octave Chanute's birthday) Illinois Valley Chapter 563, EAA became a reality.

Mindful of the lack of a newsletter in Chapter 207, I decided to keep the communications flowing to our membership by becoming the newsletter editor. That effort lasted 13 years before I stepped aside and handed off The Illinois Valley Beacon to "new blood." Our current newsletter editor, Dennis Mellen, does an outstanding job.

Twenty very fast years have elapsed since that night in 1976. Twenty Presidents and groups of fellow officers have presided over our chapter. Some were repeat performances by dedicated members who believe in the goals of EAA and Chapter 563.

I can honestly say that I have never observed an unworthy President in our chapter. All who served have done so with the drive and conviction deserving of the office. When I hear our founder, Paul Poberezny, praise the efforts of EAA Chapters, I know Chapter 563 is high on his list.

Our charter was signed in July 1976 at Waddell

Airport, two hundred years after the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Today the deep commitment to sport aviation and EAA is as strong as it was then. I feel it could be said that we have truly displayed "The Spirit of '76."

Thanks to Jim Rinkenberger!

Last month's newsletter outlined the progress being made on the Chapter hangar at Mt. Hawley Airport and mentioned that one of the first orders of business will be furnishing the hangar.

We were in need of a TV to play aviation videos during our meetings and asked for a donation. Jim Rinkenberger, who only recently joined the Chapter, graciously fulfilled our request by providing a 19 inch portable TV.

Dave Cook had previously offered to donate a used VCR. Many Thanks to both of these fine gentlemen!

It was also mentioned in the same article that when we move into the hangar we will be needing folding tables, chairs, work benches, shelving and storage cabinets. It is still early, but if you have items that are not presently being used or you run across something that might be useful to the Chapter, keep us in mind.

Ozzie Beckham mentioned that the Bloomington Chapter asked each member to purchase a specific model plastic outdoor stacking lawn chair. Each member has their name on the back of their chair and the chairs can be easily stacked in the hangar and they will never rust. This is an option we may want to consider.

Videos & Books

Have we got a special deal for you! For a limited time only! From March 1st thru April 30th Oshkosh is having a sale on selected video and book titles.

Enclosed you will find a confidential price list of the discounted items. These prices are not available to individuals. If you are interested in purchasing one of these tapes or books, either as a donation to the Chapter or for personal use, bring your order with you to the March meeting.

If you can not be with us in March, contact Chapter Treasurer Al Phipps at 6305 N. Suffolk Dr., Peoria, IL 61615, phone 693-2943. All individual orders will be combined into one large Chapter order, so that we may take advantage of the discounted prices.

B-17 Returns

Oshkosh's B-17

"Aluminum Overcast" will once again be on tour this summer. Chapter 563 will coordinate the return visit at the Greater Peoria Airport. The B-17 will be on display June 10th thru the 12th.

The Civil Air Patrol has agreed to help with crowd control. Additional Chapter volunteers are needed to help host this event.

Ultralight Safety Seminar

The 15th Annual Illinois Ultralight Safety Seminar will be held in Springfield, Illinois on Saturday, March 2nd at the Transportation Administration Building, 2300 S. Dirksen Parkway. The seminar is free. Registration will be from 8:00 to 9:00 A.M. (required). The program will begin promptly at 9:00 A.M. For further info contact Richard E. Anderson at 309/447-6919 or Dale Rust at the Division of Aeronautics, 217/524-5269.

Airworthiness Alerts

submitted by Al Lurie

American General Model AA-5 Cheetah Dorsal Fin, Report # 5530.

The pilot reported experiencing tail flutter, and maintaining control in crosswinds was difficult. A precautionary landing was made without further incident. After exiting the aircraft, the pilot noticed cracks in the dorsal fin. (See diagram in next column)

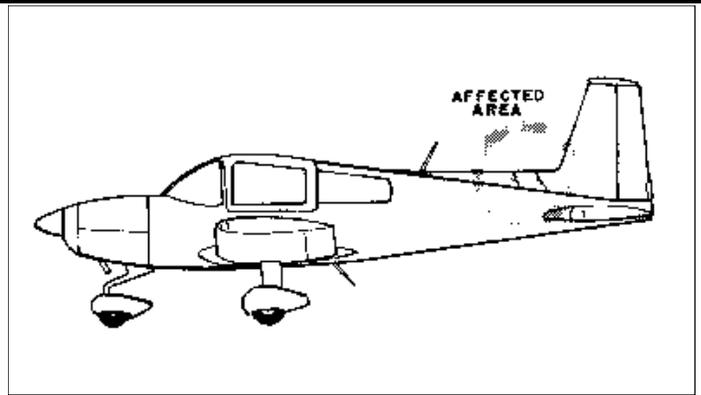
The cause of this problem is unknown and is being referred to FAA engineering for consideration. Part total time — 2,493 hours.

Cessna Model 152 Aerobat Cockpit Floor Board Crack, Report #5321.

While changing the right side seat rails, the floor board (P/N 410238-1) was found cracked. The defect was located at the aft end of the inboard seat rail. Additionally, the floor board under the left seat inboard seat rail displayed evidence of chafing.

Both the new and old seat rails were found to have "sharp edges," which the submitter believed contributed to this problem. It was recommended that all sharp edges be chaffered prior to installation to prevent this type of defect. This submitter reported finding this defect on two like aircraft. Part total time — 8,068 hours.

Cessna Model 172M Skyhawk



Ground Handling Damage, Report #5510.

Here is another report of horizontal stabilizer damage caused by ground "mishandling." This type problem has been reported many times in the past yet we continue to hear of new occurrences.

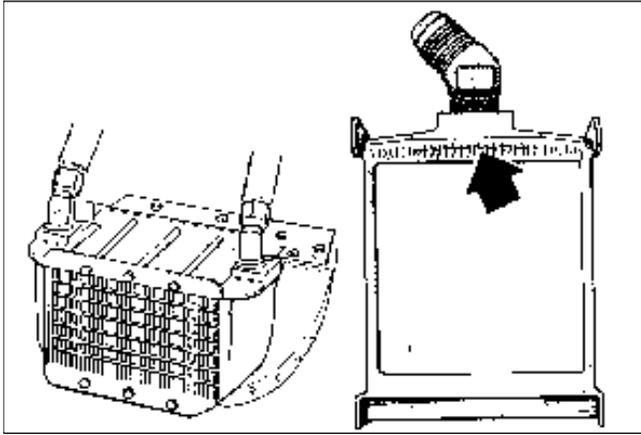
During an annual inspection, the center section of the horizontal stabilizer was found deformed and cracked. Although there may be other possible causes for this damage, it was most likely caused by ground handling or movement of the aircraft by hand.

The submitter stated that Cessna now has a "heavy duty center section spar and skin replacement." An easy method of checking for this type damage is to apply light hand pressure, in an upward direction, at the outboard end of each side of the stabilizer. If "oil canning" of the skin occurs at the inboard end of the stabilizer, it may indicate there is further damage such as previously reported. a rigorous inspection of this area should be accomplished at every opportunity. Part total time — 3,801 hours.

Thorp Model T-18 Engine Model Lycoming O-360 Oil Cooler, Report #7921

While in flight, a boss (welded to the oil cooler at the inboard side) broke in the weld area. This resulted in oil being pumped out of the engine creating a large amount of smoke in the cockpit and the oil pressure dropped to zero. Fortunately, the aircraft was over an airport at the time of the incident and a safe landing was initiated.

The submitter state that this oil cooler (P/N 8406R) is manufactured by Stewart-Warner, and the installation of this oil cooler on his airplane is standard on most T-18's. The submitter also stated that experienced aircraft welders told him, that if a weld is properly done, the material around the weld should break rather than the weld itself. Part total time — 112 hours.



Sea Stalker

The Sea Stalker is a

New England based amphibian aircraft project looking for interested participants. The hull and fuselage of this four place, composite, kit prototype have been molded and the wing panels fabricated.

The next two major design and building hurdles are the sponson/strake wing roots and the pedestal (i.e. pylon) mount for the multi-blade propeller.

The Sea Stalker is driven by a "buried" aluminum 32 valve computerized Lincoln V-8 auto engine developing 280 hp.

For more information contact: L.T. "Tom" Pittendreigh, P.O. Box 668, Moodus, CT 06469-0668. Message phone / Fax* 860-873-9912.

For Sale — KR 2 Project

Last summer long time friend and Chapter member Chuck Hausam passed away. Chuck had been working on a KR 2 in his spare time. Chuck's wife Virginia reports that "He left lots of KR 2 parts and a VW aircraft engine for me to dispose of." If you have an interest in continuing this project, please phone Virginia at 637-7840.

Tailwind Plans

Aircraft Spruce &

Specialty of Fullerton, CA has acquired the rights to the Wittman Tailwind from the estate of the late Steve Wittman, thus ensuring that this simple, high performance homebuilt design will continue to be available to homebuilders. Contact: Aircraft Spruce & Specialty, 201 W. Truslow Avenue, P.O. Box 424, Fullerton CA 92632, phone 714/870-6771, Fax 714/871-7289 for more information.



Calendar

March 2nd — SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

15th Annual Illinois Ultralight Safety Seminar at the Transportation Administration Building, 2300 S. Dirksen Parkway. The seminar is free. Registration will be from 8:00 to 9:00 A.M. (required). The program will begin promptly at 9:00 A.M. For further info contact Richard E. Anderson at 309/447-6919 or Dale Rust at the Division of Aeronautics, 217/524-5269.

Calendar (continued)

March 6th and 7th — CAHOKIA, ILLINOIS

22nd Annual Illinois Midwest Aviation Safety Seminar at Parks College. 217/785-5798.

March 9th — PEORIA, ILLINOIS

Heart Of Illinois Ultralights meeting at Fred Mathews home, 9230 Picture Ridge Rd, Peoria at 7:00 P.M.

March 23rd — LEBANON, INDIANA

4th Ultralight/Light Plane Safety Seminar. 317/324-2424.

April 14th thru 20th — LAKELAND, FLORIDA

22nd Annual Sun 'n Fun Fly-In, Inc. Spring Celebration to Flight and Convention at Lakeland

Linder Regional Airport. 941/644-2431.

May 4th — ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

Aircraft builders seminar sponsored by Wicks Aircraft and EAA Chapter 32 at Spirit of St. Louis Airport. Contact James Cone, 314/928-8703.

May 12th — GREATER PEORIA AIRPORT

Statewide Civil Air Patrol meeting, starting at 8:00 A.M. Fred Genge will be providing us with more information about this event.

May 19th — ROMEOVILLE, ILLINOIS

EAA Chapter 15 Annual Pancake Breakfast at Lewis University Airport. 312/735-1353.

May 19th — MT. MORRIS, ILLINOIS

EAA Chapter 682 Fly-In Breakfast. 815/732-7268.

June 2nd — DEKALB, ILLINOIS

EAA Chapter 241 Fly-In Breakfast at DeKalb-Taylor Municipal Airport. 815/758-8434.

June 3rd thru 29th — OTTUMWA, IOWA

15th Annual Light Aircraft Construction Workshop. 1-800/726-2585, ext 183.

June 8th and 9th — WATERLOO, IOWA

My Waterloo Days Airshow '96. 319/234-7745.

June 9th — ROCK FALLS, ILLINOIS

EAA Chapter 410 Fly-In/Drive In Breakfast. 815/626-0910.

June 21st thru 23rd — OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA

Gathering of Canard — Type aircraft at Clarence Page Municipal Airport. Contact Pete Peterson, 405/946-5003.

June 29th and 30th — AURORA, ILLINOIS

Alexander SportAir Center Aircraft Building Workshop. Registration starts at \$149; contact Alexander SportAir Workshops, 1-800/831-2949.

July 4th — MT. MORRIS, ILLINOIS

EAA Chapter 682 Fly-In Breakfast. 815/732-7268.

July 12th thru 14th — BURLINGTON, WISCONSIN

Great Lakes Regional Aerobatic Contest. Five categories, sponsored by IAC Chapter 8. Rental aircraft and safety pilots available. Contact: 414/761-0134.

July 24th thru 28th — MENTONE, INDIANA

Popular Rotorcraft Convention at PRA Mentone Airport. Contact: PRA 219/353-7227.

August 1st thru 7th — OSHKOSH, WISCONSIN

EAA OSHKOSH '96 — Annual EAA Fly-In Convention at Wittman Regional Airport. Contact EAA, 414/426-4800.

September 7th — LINCOLN, ILLINOIS

Heart Of Illinois Ultralights "Fun-Fly '96" at the Logan County Airport.



CHAPTER 563 OFFICERS

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