



NEWSLETTER

EAA 297 - KITTYHAWKERS

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MERRY CHRISTMAS Y'ALL

PRESIDENTS CORNER

EAA Chapter 297's Christmas Party will be held on Saturday, the 3rd of December in the "No Whining Saloon". A social hour will begin at 1800 (6:00 pm for Marines), and dinner will start at 1900. The party is already preparing for tasty meats typically enjoyed at Christmas. Chapter members are requested to bring a covered dish or a dessert. Alcohol has always been enjoyed at the party... Just remember it gets very dark after sunset, and we want everyone to be safe.

Expect some gag gifts and entertainment. There has always been lots of fun at the party, and it should be the same this year!

See you at the party.

Dave

CHRISTMAS PARTY

There have been Christmas decorations up since Halloween. There have been multiple Christmas parades and flotillas. Santa Claus is busy at the Mall. Black Friday and Cyber Monday have come and gone. All of these events may have taken place; but we, EAA Chapter 297, will officially mark the start of the holiday season with our annual, gala Christmas Party.

The festivities will commence at 1800 (6:00 PM) on Saturday December 3rd in the No Whining Saloon (Stag Air Park Chapter Clubhouse) for our social hour. Please bring your favorite beverage to enjoy and share. The Christmas feast will be served at about 1900 (7:00 PM). It will include both holiday turkey and ham, and for a change of pace a grilled beef brisket. Please contribute a covered dish of

your choice for the delight of fellow chapter members and guests. When you have determined the dish that you would like to share, please contact Cindy "CJ" Spencer and let her know of your selection.

Her phone number is (910) 686-7051. Her email is: cdixie101010@gmail.com

Following dinner we will inaugurate our new President and his cabinet; we will recognize Dr. Jonathan Crane for his contribution to aviation in the Wilmington area; and then we will host our traditional White Elephant Gift Exchange. If you desire to participate in the gift exchange; rummage around the house or hangar for your most "prized" and "useful" possession, and then wrap it "inconspicuously". On arrival please hide it under the clubhouse Christmas Tree. When it is selected and opened, we can all discover the treasure that was selected and the sheer delight of the recipient. Then the trading can begin. (By the way, who has the cast belt buckle with the fighter jet on it? Will it make its annual appearance?)

FALL FLY-IN

Once again our Fall Fly-In was a great success. The weather was a gorgeous "Carolina Blue" and the temperature was perfect. (Several days before, my brother-in-law shoveled seven inches of snow in the frozen north.) The winds were a bit brisk, out of the north, and several pilots regaled us with descriptions of the excitement it caused on landing. I suspect it was the wind that kept many regulars, who fly light tail draggers, from attending. We missed you. But, on the brighter side, we were not enduring a hurricane.

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Chapter members contributed a significant effort in the preparation for the event. As mentioned last month a crew of stalwarts completed the painting of the clubhouse. But the efforts continued. Prior to the November meeting Nancy and Sam McGowan shampooed the clubhouse carpet. That took a lot of work when you consider that all of the furniture had to be moved to complete the task. Thank you Nancy and Sam!



On the day before the fly-in a crew arrived to help the set up of the clubhouse and grounds. Later that same day Drew Holbrook braved the heights of the silo and replaced the windsock. The old one had been torn to shreds during the hurricane. The new one allowed pilots to observe the prevailing crosswind.



Folks with airplanes and automobiles started arriving early on Saturday. Aircraft were arriving from Wilmington, Morehead City, and Burlington. The restored automobiles from the Wilmington area parked along the hangar and enjoyed a view of the runway that allowed them to judge the landings. I got to listen to a monster of a V-8 engine that was stuffed into a Pontiac Firebird as he maneuvered into his parking spot. What a powerful sound. The only engine that makes a more “manly rumble” is a radial aircraft engine on takeoff roll. One of the prettiest aircraft to attend was an old Navy T-34B that flew in from Burlington by a father and son team.



Anne Goodwin, Anna Spencer, and her Mom Cindy manned the Registration Booth and did a superb job of making our guests feel welcome.

Later, Anna ably served as the Raffle Ticket Sales Lady. She actively canvassed the entire fly-in and sold hundreds of raffle tickets. Thank you Anna for your salesmanship and efforts! Without you, our fly-in would not have been a financial success.

Dr. Howard Mueller set up his music system and played an eclectic selection of music that had lots of toes tapping and heads bobbing.



Don Rhodes supervised the fly-in from his golf cart and provided transport for anyone who wanted to ride along. He was the moving movie platform for Matthew Heiskell's drone. Matt captured and edited an outstanding video of the fly-in that can be viewed on YouTube at the following address. He captured some great flying sequences and added some inspiring music to the video. It is exciting to watch. Click on the hyperlink enjoy it.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qlOJqBlzt6c>



Bob Richardson, 90 years young, was sporting the flight jacket that he was issued as a young

bomber aircrew member during World War II. He was proud to show us that he could zip it up around a waist that is currently the same size as when he was nineteen. The back of his jacket has an original painting of his aircraft. It was completed by one of his fellow aircrew members. The depiction is detailed and well executed. I am amazed that it has kept its color and quality for these many years. Bob must take good care of his flight jacket.

Our chapter flyers were active. Randy Allen was caught flying his new pride and joy. He has recently acquired a beautifully restored Taylor Craft which is a speedster in comparison to his old J-3 Cub.



Jim Flippen flew many of the students from the Jacksonville Christian Academy Aviation Program in his Aeronca Champ. The students were all smiles and excitement after their flights. And Ken McGee had his Robinson all wound up and was flying any of the members of the antique automobile club who wanted to see the world from a loftier perch.

The team from Jordan's Chapel provided a delicious lunch for the crowd. This year they changed their menu slightly. Along with their famous bar-b-que pork they served hamburgers with all the fixings.

But a well rounded diet demands dessert after lunch. Bob Hugel and his wife hit the spot with their flavorful ice cream. Bob hauled the "Sam's Flying Scoops" trailer from Smithfield where it is normally set up at the Johnston County Regional Airport. His ice cream is well worth the flight, and would sure go well after a "one hundred dollar hamburger".

Following all of the vote tabulation Jerry Collins emceed the Raffle and the Awards Ceremony. Marcus Truskey was the big winner of the day. He

was voted the "Best Aircraft" for his beautiful Cessna-172. Obviously the voters took note of the snazzy new paint scheme and the restored interior. And if that weren't enough Marcus also won the 50/50 Raffle. Congratulations!



Our own Gary Henderson was voted the winner of the "Best Car" award for his pristine Ford Thunderbird. The Flight Jacket was won by David Flynn of Currie, NC. I am sure he will be showing off his new jacket as the weather gets a bit cooler.



Thank you to all who attended and participated in our fly-in and car show. It was a fun event, and that alone made it a resounding success. While we all enjoy looking at airplanes and automobiles; and we marvel at the craftsmanship that restored and maintained them; let us always remember that it is the people around us that make our chapters, and these events, an extraordinary success.

NOVEMBER MEETING

Our November meeting was a eventful one. We made the final plans for the Fly-In, elected our new officers, and then made plans for the December

Christmas Party. Our newly elected officers for the 2017 year are as follows:

President – Tom Goodwin. Tom has been an active and enthusiastic member of the chapter for many years and ably served as our Vice President during 2016. He is raring to go and has a lot of great ideas.

Vice President – Aubrey Thompson. Aubrey has been an active member of the chapter for many years and has started the restoration of a Cessna 150. He contributed his talent and electrical skills to the painting of the chapter clubhouse.

Secretary – Jim Flippen. Jim has been an active member of the chapter for many years and often helped our gourmet chef prepare his legendary meals. An experienced rotary wing pilot he is soon to have a new helicopter at Stag.

Treasurer – Jerry Collins. Jerry assumed the duties as Treasurer when Phil Sharpe departed. He has considerable experience in the financial industry and an excellent attention to detail and numbers. He has volunteered to continue to perform our accounting tasks.

Newsletter Editor – Mark Thoman. Mark was "voluntold" that he would continue as the chapter reporter and editor.

Master Chef – Ken McGee. Ken will continue as our chapter's Master Chef. The culinary masterpieces that he creates have become legendary. There is not a diet designed that can resist the delectable delights Ken conjures up for our Saturday meetings. He has graciously volunteered to continue his monthly performances.

FLYING CLUB UPDATE

Jerry Collins – Stag Air Park

The process of starting a flying club, ancillary to EAA Chapter 297, continues. By way of background, the survey forwarded to chapter members yielded sixteen interested individuals. Their willingness/ability to fund an initial, one-time, assessment for start-up costs ranged from \$250 to \$1,000. Additionally, their willingness/ability to fund monthly dues for costs not covered by income from flight hours, ranged from \$0 to \$100.

An initial start up budget was presented at the November Board of Directors meeting. Unfortunately there is a significant gap between the initial funds required and the immediate funds that

could be available based on the survey. The critical issue is the initial cost of the purchase of an aircraft. While an aircraft is available, for a reasonable \$26,000, there are insufficient funds available, from the interested members, to make the purchase possible.

After due consideration, by the Board of Directors, it became clear that a "friendly" financier would be required. A bank loan would not be within the financial reach of the flying club. But, the club project could move forward if an individual purchased the aircraft, and then either sold it, or leased it, to the club at a monthly rate that would be within their financial means. This arrangement would allow the club to spread the financing costs over an extended period of time. Finding that special "friendly" financier is the challenge that must be met for the project to continue.

Any interested financier is encouraged to contact Jerry Collins, EAA Chapter 297 Treasurer, via email at g.collins.nc@gmail.com or via phone at (910) 617-9703.

FUTURE EVENTS

December 2016

Saturday 3rd **EAA 297** – Chapter Annual Christmas Party in the Chapter Clubhouse.

6:00 pm Social Hour – 7:00 pm Dinner Served

Sunday 11th South Carolina Breakfast Club, (KSPA)

Sunday 18th South Carolina Breakfast Club, (S17)

Sunday 25th Christmas Day

Saturday 31st New Years Eve

January 2017

Saturday 7th **EAA 297** - Chapter Meeting 10:00 AM in the Chapter Clubhouse.
Lunch in the No Whining Saloon 12:00 PM

Saturday 14th Chapter Board of Directors Meeting in the Chapter Clubhouse Meeting time to be announced.

February 2017

Saturday 4th **EAA 297** - Chapter Meeting 10:00 AM in the Chapter Clubhouse. Lunch at 12:00.

Saturday 11th **EAA 297** - The Chilly Chili Cook-Off and Fly-In 10:00 AM at Stag Air Park

HUMOR

A young man named John received a parrot as a gift. The parrot had a bad attitude and an even worse vocabulary. Every word out of the bird's mouth was rude, obnoxious and laced with profanity. John tried and tried to change the bird's attitude by consistently saying only polite words, playing soft music and anything else he could think of to "clean up" the bird's vocabulary.

Finally, John was fed up and he yelled at the parrot. The parrot yelled back. John shook the parrot and the parrot got angrier and even ruder. John, in desperation, threw up his hands, grabbed the bird and put him in the freezer. For a few minutes the parrot squawked and kicked and screamed. Then suddenly there was total quiet. Not a peep was heard for over a minute.

Fearing that he had hurt the parrot, John quickly opened the door to the freezer. The parrot calmly stepped out onto John's outstretched arms and said, "I believe I may have offended you with my rude language and actions. I'm sincerely remorseful for my inappropriate transgressions, and I fully intend to do everything I can to correct my rude and unforgivable behavior."

John was stunned at the change in the bird's attitude. As he was about to ask the parrot what had made such a dramatic change in his behavior, the bird continued, "May I ask what the turkey did?"

