

FLYPAPER



February 2011

The Official Newsletter for EAA Chapter 477, Charleston, South Carolina

The President's Corner

I know it is getting warmer, but I still can't feel it. But, the thought of getting the flying machine out is obvious, I see it in our members and friends.

Make sure you stay up on the “calendar of events”, since we have a lot coming up in the months ahead. All associated are enthusiastic that this is going to be a good year with lots of interesting things to get involved in. More technical presentations, an “open house” at DYB with more experimental planes to drool over, getting the Cub Scouts involved in things of “wings”, an active year with plans for Young Eagles flights, another Wings-n-Wheels are just a few things that will happen in the first few months of this year!

Our last meeting was well attended. The last installment of the “composite fabrication” technical presentation was made where we actually cut a “wing core”. OK, that was just a couple of templates to show the process, but it was supposed to wet your appetite in regards to how EZ it is to build your own aircraft. More on that later in the newsletter.

Of course, if you want to build your plane out of sticks, (don't hit me Kevin), come to the next meeting!

My Cozy update:

I actually have done a lot the past week. It is a lot of fun and a challenge to make parts for the plane where there is no design. Of the many things completed, I am really proud of the throttle system. I have really spent some long hours there a couple of days. So much so, that Norman thought it would be good to have something to use to “rest up” every few hours. But really, I won't get too comfortable.

--Glen Phelps, President



January Meeting Report

16 members and guests turned out for our January 13 meeting at the Aero Club. This was a little more than expected, considering the frigid weather that night. I suppose most were interested in the "hands-on" composite presentation Glen provided. Either that or the pizza.



We began the meeting as usual, with socializing and pizza, then Glen discussed Chapter business; mostly upcoming activities. February is my JDT Aeromax presentation and (hopefully) a wood wing rib build demo. In March we will be meeting at the Dorchester County Airport on a Saturday for an "open house", including project visits and a cookout (Remember when the weather was warm enough for cookouts?). We also discussed inviting a Cub Scout den to join us that day to build balsa planes, like we did a couple years ago. That was great fun for the kids and adults. Walterboro Wings-n-Wheels is April 23 this year, and we've already had a couple planning meetings.

Later Glen began his demonstration, including a safety discussion and an explanation of the various materials used in composite construction. He mixed up some epoxy and showed the difference between the different fillers: flox (cotton fibers) and micro (tiny glass bubbles). After spreading some "goo" (my term) on a piece of scrap foam the real fun started when we went out to the hangar to hotwire an airfoil shape.

Glen brought his electric hotwire rig, a chunk of blue foam and a couple airfoil templates. He asked for two volunteers, and after a little coaching they were hotwiring a nice curved airfoil. Two more guys stepped up to hotwire the airfoil bottom. It was quite impressive and helped take the mystery out of composite construction. I'm sure all the attendees would agree it was a fascinating presentation. Thanks for sharing, Glen!



--Kevin Thorp, Vice President

Next Meeting

On Thursday, Feb 10th, 6:30 pm, at the CAFB Aero Club, Kevin will give a presentation on rib construction using the JDT Mini-MAX rib kit. The Mini-MAX is an aircraft designed to mini-mize everything. The space required to built, the cost and the time.

We will have pizza and cold drinks on hand and look forward to another great chapter meeting.

Recent Sightings at RBW

It was not the best of weather for going to the hanger to do some work on the Cozy. Rain, and some of it fairly heavy, but not the bone chilling cold of the week before. However, things needed to get done to meet my goal this year.

As I rounded the corner going onto the entrance road, lo and behold, there was a familiar sight; the MetLife blimp tied down in its customary spot. (They make RBW a regular stop when traveling up and down the coast.) Obviously, with the 400 foot ceilings, they were there for the day.

I ran inside the terminal to tell Roger what was outside (like he didn't already know). Then he said, "look what I have". He had received an e-mail from another person at the airport, with some really good pictures. There is even a good photograph of the airfield lit up at night. Some of the photos were provided by Jimmy Syfrett, who flies out of RBW.



Although I don't have any pictures of them, there are three trailers and three vehicles that support this dirigible. A total of 11 people support the pilot. This aircraft is certainly a lot smaller than the zeppelins of German infamy. I believe that the full-sized crew is only three people including the pilot.



Helium that fills the lifting envelope is inside what you see on the outside. What is outside is pressurized air supplied by small blowers. This air envelope outside the helium envelope, is pressurized from the engines during flight. When moored to its standard, as you can see in these pictures, portable electric blowers are used to keep the pressure inside that air envelope. A full set of generators is used to provide power for the blowers and the lights while on the ground.



Hopefully, one day I will be able to photograph entire process of tying the aircraft down. This would provide an opportunity to photograph inside.

I wonder if we could get them to bring this dirigible to the Wings-n-Wheels event?

--Glen Phelps, President

Low Country Sport Aviation, Inc.

EAA Chapter 477

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EAA477.org



Membership Application

You must be a current EAA Member to join Chapter 477

Name _____ EAA # _____ Exp.Date ___/___/___

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone; Cell _____ Home _____ E-mail _____

Send you meeting notices, newsletters, etc. via your e-mail? Yes [] No []

Today's Date _____ Adult Membership [] Student Membership []

Annual dues: Adults \$25.00 (if paid by Dec. 31 only \$20.00). Students \$12.

New members after Dec 31 pay dues pro-rated at \$2.00/month adults, \$1.00/month students.

Make checks payable to "EAA Carolina Lowcountry Ch. 477"

EAA 477 membership dues paid; Cash [] Check [] Amount \$ _____ Date Paid _____

Pilot Ratings (if applicable) _____ Types _____

Total Hrs. PIC _____ Experimental _____ Last Flight Review ___/___/___ Hrs. since last _____

Aircraft you have owned or own now _____

Aircraft you have built or building now _____

Aircraft you would seriously consider building/restoring _____

Skills you would be willing to share/help other members in their homebuilt project _____

Other skills/talents that can help our chapter _____

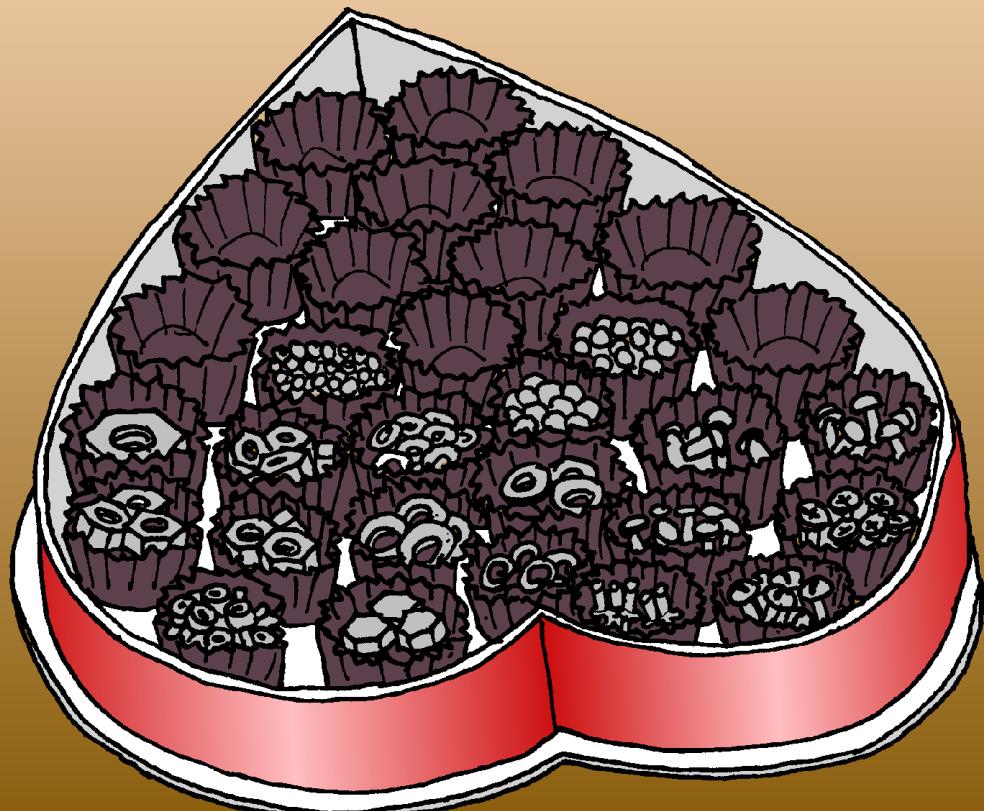
Comments/suggestions, including membership in other EAA Chapters _____

Thanks, and welcome to Chapter 477!

HOMEBUILDING TIP:

DON'T FORGET YOUR SWEETIE ON VALENTINE'S DAY.

AND A CHOCOLATE BOX MAKES A GREAT FASTENER ORGANIZER!



K.Thorp

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You're Welcome to Join or Visit EAA 477!

*If you're not already a member of EAA Chapter 477 we'd love
to have you join us!*

*Fill out the application included in this newsletter, or just drop
in on one of our meetings & see what we're all about.*

For more info go to eaa477.org

