

# The FlyPaper

February 2017

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



## Words From the President

Let me know when winter finally arrives, the weather for the most of January has been in the upper sixties and lower seventies, not a cold January. As for the 477 chapter things have been very good. Much thanks to Todd Givens who was our speaker at our January meeting. Todd did an outstanding job on instructing pilots on correct pattern entry and the right communication when landing at a non-controlled airport.

Also special thanks to the pilots of the 477 chapter who flew thirty five Young eagles to start the day, which launches us for 2017 and the Young Eagle program.

As for our SCBC (South Carolina Breakfast Club) things didn't pan out as I had hoped, mother natural showed up with lots of liquid sunshine or in other words it rained, and rained and rained some more. But yet even with the down pour we had a faithful group of about twenty five show up for breakfast. Special thanks to the folks from Backyard BQ who came out and cooked and outstanding breakfast. Check out SCBC on facebook for pictures and a report of the breakfast.

Well on to bigger and better things for February and the chapter's next meeting, February 11<sup>th</sup>. Michael Brown, our vice president, will give a briefing on the March's dead reckoning contest, which I mentioned in my January word. Michael will give the details on how the flights will be conducted and how the contest will launched. Everyone is invited to participate as either a pilot, or part of the flight crew, which will keep time and help with scanning for the targets. Prizes will be awarded to pilots and flight crew who win.

Young Eagle flights will begin at 0:900 with pilot briefing at 08:30. We have decided to size down on our number of YE's we are flying to a smaller number so we can give more quality time for each Young Eagle flown.

As we look forward to the spring just a couple of reminders of upcoming events. First, the Brunswick Air show, which start March 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> at the Brunswick Airport in Brunswick GA. Second, the Blue Angels at the MCAS in Beaufort, SC April 29 and 30<sup>th</sup>, along with some of the Air Force's finest aircraft; a air show you don't won't to miss. Finally Young Eagles super rally May 13<sup>th</sup> at RBW, (Low country Regional Airport). Lots of airplanes and hopefully a few war birds will be stopping by. This will be an all day event with food and drink vendors on the field to serve an open house at RBW. Mark your calendars for the events and make plane to attend as many has you can. We will keep you posted on events as they become know.

Well that should cover it for now, and as I always say, "Keep those wings level and fly safe".



Roger Medlin  
President EAA 477



## Upcoming Events

### EAA477 Chapter meeting

February 11th Young Eagles at 8:00 with meeting at 11:00. Burgers and dogs on the grill after the meeting

### South Carolina Breakfast Club:

**February 5th** Columbia SC  
KCAE

**February 19<sup>th</sup>** Greenville SC  
KBMU

## January Chapter Meeting Report

14 January 2017

1115 start time

20 in attendance

Taken by: Diana Belknap, Secretary

- Roger: Welcome to all. Had 34 young eagles flying today!  
Todd Givens is here to discuss pattern landings and communication
- Glen, Treasurer: Pay your membership dues. Insurance is paid. Chapter dues are paid.
- Roger -- Announcements:
  - Next weekend, 22 Jan, SC breakfast club will be here at Walterboro. Backyard Burgers is cooking (starting at 0730). Breakfast is \$8, and will be served between 0830 and 0930ish. Get here early to catch a meal before they run out!
  - At our Feb meeting, Mike will be presenting a powerpoint program to refresh our memories on dead reckoning so we will be ready for a little competition to be held in March. Those who would like to partake will be asked to find 3 “targets”, keep track of the time it takes to get to each one, and whoever gets closest to their pre-estimated times wins.
  - Construction on the runways starts in February.
  - Blue Angels will perform last weekend in April at Wings Over the Golden Isles.
  - 13 May is our Young Eagles Rally. Many chapters from the south will come and participate. Could be 2-300 kids in all! Might have some war birds come in, food, open house.
- Todd – Good Communication Practices (The following is a general outline.)
  - Prior to your flight, listen to all means of flight information: Duats, Flight Service, local weather forecasts...educate yourself.
  - Pre-planning is key. Chart supplements are updated every 56 days. Use them.
  - Communicate 10 miles out.
  - Listen to traffic, AWOS, etc.
  - Who (am I), What (are my intentions), Where (am I).
  - 2 miles out be at pattern altitude.
  - Don't say, “Traffic in the vicinity, please advise.”
  - Instead, listen and learn!
  - And constantly be on the lookout. Scan consistently. Visual is wayyyy important! Don't get sucked into your gadgets with your head down!
  - Lastly, when in the traffic pattern, if your motor were to quit, always be sure you'd be able to land on the runway.Finished at 1225 after a few general questions from pilots.
- Lunch with friends out at the hanger.

### Article of Interest

Submitted by

Roger Medlin

The article posted on the next page was recently published regarding a young man that had a great desire to learn all he could about aviation. Along the way, he had the opportunity to take a Young Eagle ride. Maybe we can say the rest is history. But this is what the program is all about: fueling the desire of flight. While few might ever progress as far as Conner, without the experience he has had, it might nor ever happen. This serves as a testimony to all of our volunteers that put so much into the program. I hope it continues to inspire you as much as it does for youngsters like Conner and the other like him.

# Connor McKinlay



## MEET THE LOWCOUNTRY'S YOUNGEST PILOT

BY TIM WOOD | PHOTO BY LLOYD WAINSCOTT

**By the time he was 4, Connor McKinlay was steering his mom's boat up Skull Creek and able to maneuver his way down the May River to the sandbar.**

It looked like he would be following his mom's path to a boat captain license.

But as much as he loves the water, he is mesmerized by the sky. At just 9 years old, Connor is flying propeller planes as part of the Experimental Aircraft Association's Young Eagles program.

"As a baby, it was clear he loved planes," said his mom, Christine Sullivan. "We would sit outside on the bench staring at the private plane field at Hilton Head Island Airport. He'd watch them takeoff and land, takeoff and land. The pilots took a liking to him. They'd see Connor waving and they'd do doughnuts or come talk to him and invite him inside to see their planes."

His love turned into passion thanks to a layover in Atlanta during a family vacation to Walt Disney World two years ago.

"The Delta pilot was saying hello to everyone and he saw Connor playing with his plane toys," Sullivan said. "The pilot

commented on the toys but Connor told him what kind of planes they were and what model plane we would be flying in."

The pilot invited Connor to see the cockpit and told his crew all the information the then-7-year-old knew about the plane.

"It was so cool," Connor said of the experience. "I knew I wanted to do more of that."

Sullivan said Connor began watching anything about planes he could find. He watched documentaries about plane crashes and told his mom, "You have got to always pay attention to your instruments."

He began studying turbine engines when he was 8 and can tell you exactly how they work. He flies simulators in video games, but the real experience was what he craved.

He got the chance to make his dream a reality when Sullivan began networking with the close-knit island pilot community. Her inquiries led her to pilot J.T. Willingham, who was so impressed with Connor's knowledge that he offered to give him his first flying lesson.

"My friends say, 'No way, you don't fly planes,' and I just smile and say, 'Yeah, I do,'"

Connor said of his pilot-in-training status.

He has taken six lessons thus far as part of the EAA Young Eagles program in Walterboro. He is now able to take control while in flight and has practiced landings. He can't fly solo or navigate a takeoff until he's 16, but rain or shine, Connor is soaking up every bit of information about flying he can find.

"He loves the ground lessons just as much because he learns all about pre-flight checks, checking oil and flaps, instruments and how to navigate when taxiing," Sullivan said. "He's all smiles, no matter the weather."

And he's learning with teenagers, some twice his age.

Connor is more challenged by the new braces on his teeth than the lessons. He loves the Concorde, but also loves jumbo jets because of the engineering, he said.

He even plans to design his own plane one day.

"I'm still figuring out what kind of plane," he said. "I have a couple of designs in my head." **M**

# Young Eagles Report

Jeff Grigg

We had a great day flying our Young Eagles. Approximately 35 kids went up thanks to Rodger, Jeff, Mike, Don and Scott. The day began with a presentation to the kids, many of whom were from the Stall High School ROTC by retired General Mitchell.

After his presentation Jeff gave a brief safety briefing and up we went.

We were also joined by some youngsters from the Boy Scouts. All in all I think everyone had a good time.

I would also want to point out Barbara on the computer and "Fish" leading the Tuskegee crew.

When we look for kids for the program one of the things we look for is a child's curiosity or desire to learn more about aviation. If you know of that child that always looks up to see what is overhead, please pass along information on the Young Eagle program. Remember there is no cost to the child or his parents.

We do have a few requirements, age 8 to 18 although an older student is better. A parent or guardian must have fully filled out and SIGNED the waiver of liability. Without it they can't go up. This is something we are enforcing.

In addition to the plane ride the student may, depending on the pilot and weather, be allowed to handle the aircraft. In addition to the certificate they also will receive their own log book. On the back of the log book is a registration number. They can use this to register with EAA and get a free online ground school from Sporty's pilot Shop!

If the new Young Eagle really wants to go for flight training we have Ace Basin Aviation, Todd Givens on the field, and they will then qualify for a free 6 month subscription to Flight Training magazine. Just see me for more details.



I was asked last month about colleges with aviation curriculum. There are numerous colleges and Universities from Embry-Riddle to North Dakota State. In the back of each Flight Training magazine are ads for colleges and flight training schools, in addition they devote an issue usually once a year to colleges. We always have a few extra copies in the FBO. They can contact AOPA as well.

Well that's enough for this month. If you have any prospects let myself or Roger know.



## ***Treasurer's Report***

*Glen Phelps*

January was an active month for the treasury. We picked up dues from another six members and received donations beyond that to support our activity.

Expenses were minimal for items needed for the cookout, with a check written for \$48.55 to cover those items.

I would like to remind some of you that have not yet paid the 2017 dues to do so as soon as possible. There will be a reminder going out to all “delinquent” members in the month of February.

The financial summary is as follows:

Beginning balance =	\$2,383.36
Ending balance =	\$2,667.81
Increase or (decrease) =	\$284.45