

The FlyPaper

April 2014

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



From the President

As I said in last month's newsletter, things are starting to warm up in the aviation part of the world. When you read this, we will have made our final decision to fly to Sun-n-Fun! Still hoping the weather will hold. If any of you are going, let us know so we can post your experience. Or, even better yet, make a post to the Lowcountry Aviators Face Book page! That is a great way to share the experience.

If you go to our webpage, www.eaa477.org, you will get info about the April 12th Wings-n-Wheels event. Do go there and click on the link for that event. This event has really grown since the humble beginnings, and Roger Medlin has even better plans for this year.

From the report in the next pages, you will find that the March meeting changed from what was planned. Pat's third fabric covering workshop was delayed and we seized the moment to hear from Lt Col Hiram Mann, one of the Tuskegee Airmen, that was trained at RBW back in the day. We don't get an opportunity like that very often, and has only a day to get the word out of the planned change. We expect to have Pat's workshop for the May meeting.

We also had our Sportys Gift Card raffle drawing, and that went to Alex Yaitsky. Congratulations Alex! For all who did not win this quarter, we will again have a quarterly drawing starting in April, and the winner will be drawn at the June meeting. Same rules: members in good standing get a free ticket for each meeting they attend. Members and guests may purchase additional ticket for a dollar each. Ask Alex, he will tell you it is worth it!

I had some interesting sightings this month. You can read about those later in the newsletter.

Now for the Cozy report:

Just a lot of little details to get done, and, well family things that always need to be on the top of the list. Nevertheless, I have corrected the problem with the alternator, the seat belts are almost complete and many other little things, but more to do. I had hoped to have the inspection scheduled before the end of the month, but am delaying it for at least a couple of weeks. Lewis Blackwell is a very understanding guy.... OK, the panel is pretty simple, but this is all I need for the first 20 hours or so....

-Glen Phelps, President



March Meeting Report

As Glen wrote in his President's Report, we had a last-minute change of agenda for our March meeting (another reason to check www.eaa477.org for the latest info).

We were lucky to have retired United States Air Force Lt. Col. Hiram Mann, one of the original Tuskegee Airmen, speak at our meeting. Col. Mann currently lives in Titusville FL, but was visiting Walterboro for a historical event. He talked about growing up in the Depression, flying in WWII and his post-war career in the Air Force.



As a boy Hiram loved airplanes and would use his paper route money to buy balsa to build model planes. As with all boys of that era, his hero was Charles Lindbergh. Hiram's family was extremely poor and he had never touched an actual airplane, but he hoped to fly one day.

When it was obvious war was coming Hiram tried to enlist in flight school, but was denied because of his race. The heads of the military thought "negros" lacked the intellectual capacity to operate complex machinery like tanks & airplanes, and would probably run away in combat. But eventually (with a little prodding by Eleanor Roosevelt) the Army Air Corps did create a special "Red Tail" squadron and the recruits had to pass all the same training requirements as white pilots. Some washed out, but others, like Hiram passed & went off to war in Europe as bomber escorts. He said the bomber pilots loved the Red Tails because they were flying the new P-51Ds with long range tanks, so they could escort the bombers all the way into Germany & back. Even though they were treated as 2nd class citizens on the ground, they were respected and appreciated in combat.

After the war Hiram stayed in the Air Corps, then Air Force, retiring as a Lt. Colonel. He also obtained two PhDs. Not bad for a former bellhop who was told he didn't have the intellectual capacity to fly a plane!

After some Q&A from the audience Col. Mann had to

leave way too soon, for a long drive back to Titusville. We all appreciated the short time we had with this great American.

When the Col. departed the Chapter reconvened out in Glen's hangar for our typical cookout. Bruce once again did an outstanding job grilling the cheeseburgers & hot dogs. They were delicious!



Then we had the drawing for the \$100 Sportys Gift Card., with our illustrious President doing the honors. At first it seemed like there were some shenanigans going on because Glen drew his own name! But he graciously declined the prize and drew again, this time drawing Alex Yaitsky's name. Some of you know Alex owns a pretty Rans S-6 Coyote, so I'm sure he'll find some neat aviation goodies to buy with the gift card. Congratulations Alex!

-Kevin Thorp, Editor

(Note: More meeting photos on last page)

Treasurer's Report

One thing we've discovered is it would be nice if we could break even on our burgers and brat's at the monthly meeting. If you've been pitching in to help do that thank you very much, if not, we'd like you to think about it. Bruce does a wonderful job of whipping up a yummy meal. Thanks. Working on the corporate taxes.

Here's the report for March.

Beginning Bank Balance = \$2,251.57
Ending Bank Balance = \$2,311.34

Beginning Petty Cash = \$1.00
Ending Petty Cash = \$1.00

Beginning Balance = \$2,252.57
Ending Balance = \$2,312.34
Increase or (decrease) = \$59.77

-Lee Miller, Treasurer

RBW Sightings

There were several interesting sightings at RBW this month. The first was the Navy blimp. While this has been to the field before, what made this arrival interesting was the very strong winds! OK, can't really show that part of the event, but after more than an hour, they managed to keep it on the ground and tug it to the mooring mast.



The next day I was there to see them get it back in the air. It was later than most times, probably because they slept in after all the hard work the day before. This is an event I had not seen before. After getting the engines started, warmed up and cycled, the linemen assisted in getting it into position for a take off on runway 17. Well, aligned in that direction, but short of the taxi way for 5/23, like that leaves less than 1000 feet of runway.

I don't know why I thought these things just levitated into the air! They actually have to get enough forward speed to get the control surfaces to come into effect and rotate the ship nose up to propel it into the air. I thought he was not going to make it!

The next sighting was a 1965 (and that is a "late model") Dehavilland Beaver, owned by Barnstormer Classic



Aviation out of Trumbull, Connecticut. That is a really big airplane! Saw lots of them on our Alaska trip a few years ago. Didn't get a chance to speak to the pilot. My guess was that they were "on tour" or else just passing through the area on their way to the next event. I did get to hear it get airborne; just love the sound of round engines. Naw, don't think I could fit one on the back of the Cozy.....



A couple of days later, I saw two interesting planes on the ramp. Again, didn't get a chance to talk to the pilots, and thought I would have plenty of time, since the weather was not the greatest. One was an Arrow-Copter AC 10 by Go Gyro. The other you might easily recognize, an Air Cam. Both nice airplanes and both out of Baltimore, Maryland. So, I suspect that they were flying together. Never heard them leave, but they must have wanted to get home, since the day was off and on rain showers.



Maybe I don't have to go to Sun-n-Fun to see neat airplanes if they keep coming through RBW!

-Glen Phelps, President



Walterboro Air Show

WINGS & WHEELS

Presents

WARBIRDS

OVER WALTERBORO

Air & Car Show

APRIL 12, 2014

BEGINNING AT 12:00 P.M.
LOWCOUNTRY REGIONAL AIRPORT (RBW)

\$10 PER CAR LOAD

ALL AIRCRAFT THAT FLY IN ARE FREE

Special AV
Gas Prices for
Aircraft
Flying in.

PORTION OF PROCEEDS
GOING TO THE



WOUNDED WARRIOR
PROJECT



RONALD P. HARGRAVE, MD, FACEP
Senior Aviation Medical Examiner

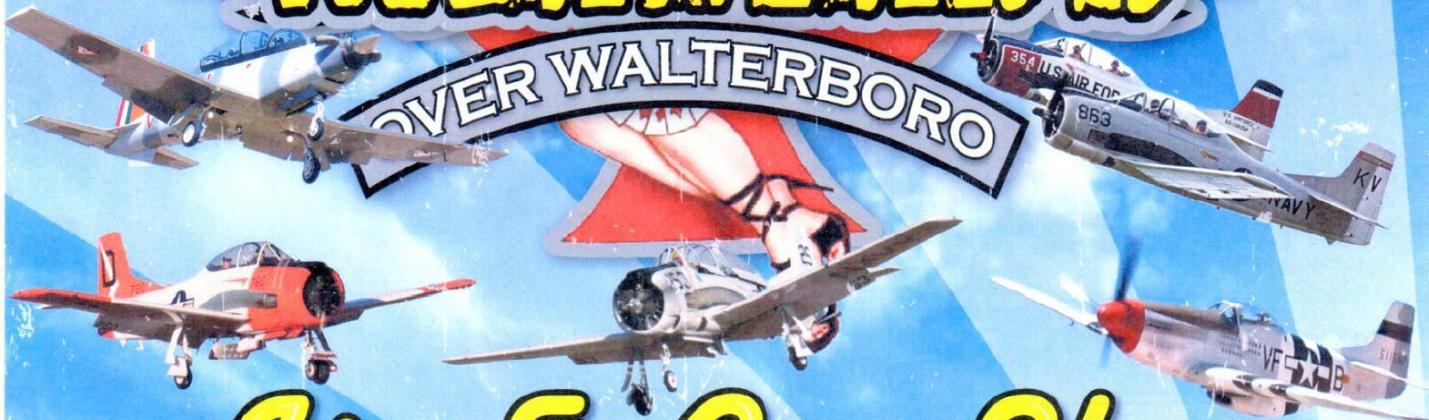
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LowCountry Aero
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- Helicopter Rides
- Airplane Rides
- Formation Flying
- Car Show
- Sky Diving
- Lakota Helo
- Sky Aerobatics



Do Airplanes Make You Smile?



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

Fill out the application on our home page (www.eaa477.org).

Or just drop in on one of our meetings & see what we're all about.

LowCountry Sport Aviation
EAA Chapter 477
517 Aviation Way
Walterboro, SC 29488
www.eaa477.org



President: Glen Phelps pres@eaa477.org (843) 571-3332

Vice President: Roy Carson carsonrr@lowcountry.com

Secretary: Michael Brown sec@eaa477.org

Treasurer: Lee Miller lemiller@eaa477.org

Newsletter Editor: Kevin Thorp thorp.kevin@gmail.com

Webmaster: Greg Horne gehorne@jws.com

Young Eagles Coordinator: Roger Medlin
acpilot.roger@gmail.com

Walterboro Wings-n-Wheels Coordinator: Roger Medlin
acpilot.roger@gmail.com



EAA Chapter 477 March 2014 Meeting