

FLYPAPER



May 2010

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

The President's Corner

As I have said in the past, April and the start of spring sure gets the pilots back into the air or out to the hanger. It's certainly true this year.

We had some recent chances get out to aviation events. Many of you might have gone out to see the Blue Angels over Charleston Harbor. I know others, like Kevin, Rich and I, went to Lakeland Florida to attend Sun-n-Fun. You will find a short trip report and links to a lot of photos from the Sun-n-Fun event later in this newsletter.

This will also be the last newsletter that will be telling you about the upcoming Walterboro Wings-n-Wheels event. The next newsletter will be telling you all about the great success we had! Or at least I hope it will be a success. This event will take the place of our regularly scheduled May meeting.

As most of you certainly know, we had a sad note this last month, with the death of one of our members, John Ratcliffe. The cause of this tragic accident is not known yet, and may take until the end of the NTSB investigation before we have an indication of the cause. I know many of you will miss John as much as I. A tribute to his life will be found in this newsletter.

Now for my Cozy Update:

As reported last month, I have a major home project underway. Shortly after the April newsletter went to press, I experienced a tragedy in my family. Paul Bailey, who was to marry my daughter Lindsey, on June 5th was killed in a one-car traffic accident. Needless to say, tending to my daughter's grief is foremost in my agenda. Many thanks to those that are assisting with my responsibilities for EAA477 during this time. The home project will be done in the near future, then I'm back on the Cozy project. My Sun-n-Fun visit really helped get the "Experimental" juices flowing again!

-Glen Phelps, President

Upcoming Events

May 8-9th

ShawFest 2010
Shaw AFB, Sumter SC

May 9 – Whiteplains

Plantation Airport ([SC99](#)) –
South Carolina Breakfast
Club

Saturday May 15 10:00-2:00

Walterboro Wings-n-Wheels
(rain date May 22)



May 23 - South Carolina
Breakfast Club at Holly Hill
([5J5](#))

May 29 – The First Annual
Barnwell Wings and Wheels

June 6 - South Carolina
Breakfast Club at Cheraw
Municipal Airport ([KCQW](#))

John Ratcliffe
1940 - 2010



Husband ♦ Father ♦ Pilot ♦ Friend

My Dad had his pilots license when he and my mother met. He earned it at the Aero Club here in Charleston. My mom remembers a wall of shirt tales, signifying all those that had soloed there.

During his time in the Navy he built a Smyth Sidewinder to 80% complete. There was nothing they owned that was more important to Dad than that plane. When they moved it went first into the biggest U-Haul they could rent. If there was any room left the rest of their stuff would go in. When he retired he didn't have enough time to work on the Sidewinder because he had to work so hard to support his family. He decided to give the plane to an old pilot to complete.

In 1986 Mom and Dad started a printing business because he didn't want to spend the money on business cards he needed for another small company he had back then. He started getting requests to print cards for friends and it took off from there. After 20 years, in December 2006, they decided to close their printing shop.

He was going to need a hobby during his "2nd retirement" so he decided to get re-certified to fly,

and chose the Kolb Mk III as the aircraft to build. For 3 to 4 years he labored, modified, and strengthened his Kolb. He made great friends and filled his days with meaning, sweat, aching muscles, laughter, and good company - his flying buddies and his best friend, my Mother.

My Dad really enjoyed his time with you. Now he will always be with you whenever you take to the sky. He knew that for anything you do to have meaning you have to earn it, step by step. And to do what you love. For him that was flying.

He was a man who died while living.

-Shawn Ratcliffe

April Chapter 477 Meeting

Date: April 8, 2010

Location: Charleston AFB Aero Club

A blessing was said in memory of John Ratcliff at 1845. Everyone enjoyed wonderful barbecue from Stans. The meeting was called to order at 1910 by Glen Phelps, President with 15 members present.

Introductory Remarks: Glen congratulated Paul Ely on his upcoming 95 year old birthday Tuesday April 13th. The members sang Happy Birthday to Paul with such enthusiasm and talent you just had to be there to truly appreciate it.

Glen read a few tidbits that Paul has experienced in his 95 years:

- He was 3 when WWI ended – 1918
- He was 12 when Lindbergh flew to Paris – 1927
- He was 22 at the time of the Hindenburg disaster – 1937
- He was 32 when Chuck Yeager broke the sound barrier – 1947
- He was 38 when the EAA was formed – 1953
- He was 54 when Neil Armstrong walked on the moon - 1969

New Business: Glen reminded everyone about the upcoming Wings n Wheels www.wings-n-wheels.org event May 15th (May 22nd rain date). Glen will be contacting members very soon to help during the event so please mark your calendars. The event team is doing a great job finalizing the details of this years event. We are expecting an excellent turnout; five food vendors will be on hand to provide plenty of food for all attending. 150 show cars and 100 aircraft are expected to attend. There are pilots who have committed to attending from all across our state and NC.

There will be a special hospitality tent where pilots will be able to get out of the sun and socialize with other pilots. Grab bags full of various goodies will be provided to pilots and show car attendees. Security is being coordinated so pilots wanting to leave their aircraft will have someone to keep an eye on the aircraft while they are gone.

A tractor show is scheduled downtown Walterboro for the same day as the Wings n Wheels event, the city is providing shuttles which will run from downtown to the airport and back so we expect additional local folks in attendance.

Two charities have been designated to benefit from the Wings n Wheels day. MUSC Children's Charity and the Veterans' Victory House. Donation boxes will be set up where attendees can contribute.

Members participated in a short discussion about edict instructions in the form of a poster posted as everyone enters the field. Items should include; NO SMOKING, NO TOUCHING AIRCRAFT/CARS, CHILDREN MUST BE SUPERVISED, ETC...Kevin Thorp will develop the poster with assistance from Mick Ugolini.

Jim Wilson has offered to host a EAA 477 chapter meeting at his home in Cross SC. He has a beautiful grass runway and hanger with aircraft in various stages of construction and completed condition. Date TBA, Glen Phelps reminded everyone to be eligible for membership in the 477 chapter you must also be a current EAA member. There are still a few members who haven't paid this years dues. Chapter membership roles are currently being reviewed and updated.

Presentation: Brett Grooms gave a presentation Surviving an Off Field Landing which included tips and safety gear which can help pilots/passengers in the event of an off field landing/ditching. * **Note:** this presentation was scheduled prior to the most resent tragic aircraft incident.

Glen advised members its possible they might receive calls from the media about John Ratcliffs recent accident. He advised everyone to be very careful what you say during a phone call. Members should stick to the facts and not speculate on the cause. It was agreed the best thing to do would be refer any media inquires to Glen Phelps, President.

Meeting Adjourned at 2055.

-- Brett Grooms, Secretary

Our Next Meetings of Chapter 477

May 15 – 10:00am - 2:00pm, Lowcountry Regional Airport (RBW), Walterboro, SC

For our May event we, along with the Walterboro Cruisers and the Walterboro Airport Commission are hosting "Walterboro Wings-n-Wheels". We need all Chapter 477 members to step up to volunteer. This will be a great event!

June 10 - 6:30 pm CAFB Aero Club

Ed Hensel will give a presentation on purchasing a LongEZ from Washington state and his adventures bringing it back to South Carolina. Should be very interesting! Hot pizza and cold sodas will be served, so bring a few bucks for the "tip jar".

Trip report: Sun-n-Fun 2010

Our group consisted of myself, Kevin Thorp and Rich Hassell. Of course all the hotel rooms in Lakeland were booked, so Thursday we drove to Orlando, where we had a hotel room and then early Friday morning headed to the airshow. Our agendas differed, so we broke up to take in what each of us had intended. Thanks to cell phones, (two to beam up Scotty), we were able to meet for lunch and to take in mutual interests.

Of course there is not enough room or time to describe here all the neat stuff that we saw, so I'll just note a few things that got my attention.

At least the parking rates and entrance fees didn't go up again this year. In general, it appeared to us that the attendance was down again both in transient aircraft and traffic in the vendor's displays. However, technology (especially cockpit electronics) is greatly increasing! Lots of manufacturers are getting into the synthetic vision displays.

The KR-1, KR-2 and KR-2S are now being offered in kit form by nVaero. Plans are still available from Rand Engineering. But, the kit is very refined, and would offer the builder a way to really speed up the construction of the plane.



It also appears that the engine of choice is shifting to the Corvair power plant producing a very reliable 100 horsepower. Like the VW engine, the addition of a "fifth" (main) bearing makes this an even better engine of choice.



The kit manufacturer is being really honest when they say to expect to spend around \$30K for the KR-2S before you get done. But, performance figures are good.



We also saw the Personal Cruiser, a roomy V-tailed composite aircraft designed specifically for the Corvair engine. The designer is flying a good looking prototype, but there are no other examples that appear to be in the air yet.



The fabric covering forum tent seemed to be well attended, but the wood and composite tents were small without much traffic when we were there. The alternative engine tent was also "small".

There was no lack for places to spend money. We all purchased small goodies, which of course, are well justified to have in the shop for working on the car, house as well as an airplane. I found a great deal on a 760 channel hand held COM radio, the Vertex Standard, Pro VI. This was offered as a good discount and came with the headset adapter, antenna adapter, and a alkaline battery back up cartridge. It can also be used to transmit to flight service and receive on a VOR, along with a lot of other features. One of those being "submersible", which I hope is not used.

There was an excellent highly modified Cozy IV parked in the homebuilt area. Neat scoops on the down draft cooling, IO-540 engine, retracts, blended winglets and “Cozygirls” strakes. And what a beautiful paint job!



Talk about LSA! The LSA “mall” was filled with a lot of interesting planes. Piper and Cessna aircraft manufactures were also present with their versions of the LSA. There are too many to put on this page, so click here or go to the “Photo Albums” link on www.eaa477.org to see our Sun n Fun photos. From all evidence, it appeared that the “LSA mall” was getting a lot of traffic. This would also agree with what we have been reading in the aviation news.

The Thunderbirds were the main attraction for the airshow. A lot of other performers were also present.

But to digress a little bit, I had to really admire the “amphibious” aircraft that was next to one of the little lakes. This airplane really did fly back in the 1980s. What a fisherman’s dream! Even has a hand-operated bilge pump in case you take on a little extra water.



We noticed that the traffic at the “ultralight” strip was down, but as always, there were quite a few aircraft making the pattern. We saw this interesting ultralight canard buzzing about. Probably not quite as fast as a Cozy, but looks like a lot of fun. Have a picture, but no room left to include it. Please check out the photos at eaa477.org

As usual, we left Sun n' Fun tired and dusty, but with a renewed enthusiasm in sport aviation! Hmm... when is Oshkosh?

-Glen Phelps, President

Treasurer's Report

April 2010 Beginning Balance	\$2021.15
Monthly Receipts	\$80.00
Monthly Expenses	\$227.23
Petty Cash	\$30.00
End of April 2010 Bank Balance	\$1873.92

--Rich Hassell, Treasurer

Low Country Sport Aviation, Inc.
EAA Chapter 477
P.O. Box 62582
North Charleston, SC 29419
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!



**LowCountry
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President: Glen Phelps
Vice President: Kevin Thorp
Secretary: Brett Grooms
Newsletter Editor, &
Webmaster: Greg Horne
Treasurer: Rich Hassell
Membership Chairman:
Ed Hensel
Young Eagles: Ed Roberts
Web Site: eaa477.org

*You're Welcome to Join or Visit
EAA477!*

*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

