

The FlyPaper

May 2014

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



From the President

As I said in the report for the April newsletter, April is the month to really get things kicked off. And that is what we have done, individually and collectively as an aviation community!

Five of us jumped in Roger Medlin's Seneca and took off for Sun-n-Fun. I have made this trip many times car, and one time by rented airplane. There is no doubt that flying there and back in the same day is the way to go. And it was a LONG day. I'll include a short report later in the newsletter of my observations. Maybe Roger, Mike, Roy or Lee will give their impressions. For some of the group it was their first experience.

The next highlight was the Walterboro Wings and Wheels event, which "took the place" of our regularly scheduled meeting. A good number of our members were directly involved in some portion of the event. Then there were others that were available to welcome visitors and introduce them to sport aviation.

If you missed the event, you missed the best turnout there has ever been! Record gate, record number of vendors, record number of show cars on the field and an outstanding airshow! We may not have achieved the same number of aircraft on the field as we did with the first event, but the mix was superior! Roger Medlin was the central figure in getting this event together. I know he will say that numerous key volunteers assisted him in making things really come together, but I'll let him tell you all about it later in the newsletter.

There is also another announcement I am excited to make: Roger Medlin has been approved by EAA to be a Flight Adviser. This is a tremendous achievement for Roger, something to be proud of and a great asset for EAA477.

Our next meeting is on May 10th. The featured presentation will be by Pat Wechter, who will present the third and final installment of the fabric covering workshop. By the time our local members and guests have read this, they will already have received an email announcement and invitation to attend. Because this is a hands-on workshop, those interested in attending need to be there by 10:00 AM. Even if you don't think you will ever cover an aircraft in fabric, I would encourage you to consider attending. Thank you Pat for taking the time and expense to do this for us! Make sure to read the articles later in this newsletter, visit our website www.eaa477.org and our Facebook page, "Lowcountry Aviators".



Now for my Cozy report.

It is said that the reason for allowing individuals to construct amateur aircraft is for the "learning experience". That is an understatement! And along the way, we get the chance to meet some outstanding people. One I have come to know is Lewis Blackwell, the DAR that will do my inspection. I am not going to tell you all about Lewis, because he has offered to address our group in the future on several interesting FAA subjects. But, all that is to say that I have not quite gotten to the point that the inspection can be done. Since I am leaving for Iowa to visit by twin brother in a week, it seemed impractical to "push to the last day" just to let the plane sit in the hanger. I will probably will be ready, but we will get back together when I return. Notable achievements: changed position of the fuel selector valve, completed second weight and balance with approved ballast weights, transponder wired, pitot static system completed and tested (leaked at first) and a bunch of other little things...

-Glen Phelps, President

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 4 – SC Breakfast Club, M.B Hardee Airpark [SC21](#)

May 10 – EAA Chapter 477 Meeting, 10am, Walterboro Airport

May 18 – SC Breakfast Club, Whiteplains [SC99](#)

Wings and Wheels Report

Another wonderful day in Aviation at the Lowcountry Regional Airport, Walterboro, SC has passed, but what a day it was. The 6th Annual Wings and Wheels air and car show drew spectators, up to nearly three thousand five hundred folks. Aviation enthusiasts came to enjoy a fun filled day of airplanes and show cars. Over 60 airplanes graced the skies of RBW, and 133 cars of all types showed up to dazzle the crowds.

Walterboro Sky-Divers kicked off the event by parachuting on to the airport grounds while carrying a large American flag as the national anthem played in the background. During the air show spectators were able to watch pilot Bill Finagin perform aerobatic stunts in his Pitts biplane, then other aircraft flying precision formation. Finagin's stunts were so mesmerizing that drivers stopped their cars alongside Robertson Boulevard to watch the show from outside the airport fence.



Indeed it was a perfect day, the weather, the flying, the food, and the crowd was everything and more than we had hoped it would be. Planning has now begun for next year's Wings and Wheels. And Oh yes, its going to be bigger and better!



As usual, a portion of the proceeds from the event went to benefit the Wounded Warrior Project. There were numerous veterans on hand for the vent, as they were honored in a ceremonial ride by local embers of the Patriot Rider Motorcycle Club, while Lee Greenwood's "God Bless the USA" played in the background.



Well there you have it. Remember, keep those wings level and you eyes to the skies, you never know what you might see.

Roger Medlin, Wings and Wheels Coordinator Chairman

Sun 'n Fun Report

This was not my first time attending Sun-n-Fun. Over the years, I have attended many times, but this was a chance after two years of not being able to make it. Riding down with Roger Medlin in the Seneca was much faster than the Cherokee I took many years ago and beats hands down driving! Lee Miller, Mike Brown and Roy Carson went on the trip too.

The weather was outstanding for the trip and was one reason that a lot of planes were on the field. Nevertheless, it just was not as big as the late 90's when I first started going.



There was a good assortment of vendors represented on the field. More "general" items of interest that had nothing to do with aviation, but interesting stuff. As you might imagine, there were a lot of "high tech" items all around. Missed some of the old regulars and thought that they might have succumbed to market pressure, but found out that they just had not decided to attend.



I had a good chance to speak to an assortment of vendors, which was one of my primary goals of going.

In years past, there were tents that housed forums for various subjects of interest. Those tents have been replaced by a three story building with rooms for the presentations. There was none to my interest the day we



were there, so I did not go into the new building, but I am sure it is nice to get out of the heat and humidity.

Alternative engines applications were essentially nonexistent! Similarly, other items of amateur aircraft construction "workshops" were very sparse. This also was evident on the flight line where several types of experimental aircraft could be found in the past. Vans was well represented and there was actually one of eleven registered White Lightning aircraft there from California, which the owner was selling. A really good looking example.



The "ultralight" flight line had many new types on display. I like to visit there to see what is new. Gyrocopters were well represented.

While the afternoon airshow is not my main attraction, but it seemed to be better than ever.



It was fourteen hours from leaving Walterboro to return, so it was a very full day, but most enjoyable. Thanks Roger for the "magic carpet".

-Glen Phelps, President



(Editors Note: Read Mike Brown's SnF report in next months newsletter)

Treasurer's Report

Slow money month for the Chapter as our monthly meeting coincided with Walterboro Wings n Wheels. Congratulations to Roger and everyone who helped on a successful car and airplane show.

On a personal note I went to my first National (actually international) Fly-in. Sun-n-Fun is an event that should not be experienced on a day trip. I got hot, walked way over my allotted mileage and still didn't get to see everything I wanted and attended no seminars. I even went to the Sporty's tent, but they didn't have what I wanted that day. Next time I'm going camping and enjoy the whole experience.

Don't forget to support Pat and his third and final "fabric workshop" at 10a.m. on the 10th.

Beginning Bank Balance = \$2,311.34
Ending Bank Balance = \$2,331.34

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

Beginning Balance = \$2,312.34
Ending Balance = \$2,332.34
Increase or (decrease) = \$20.00

-Lee Miller, Treasurer

Next Meeting

SATURDAY, May 10, WALTERBORO AIRPORT
Special Start Time: 10:00 am

We're starting a little earlier because Pat Wetcher is hosting Part III of his 3 part series on fabric covering. At this meeting Pat will take us through the silver and finish coats. If you attended either of Pats previous workshops you know this will be a lot of fun and very informative, even if you're not planning on building or restoring a fabric aircraft.



May 10

Then about noon Bruce will fire up the grill for some delicious burgers & hot dogs.

And don't forget about the \$100 Sporty's Gift Card Raffle!

Hope to see you there!

RBW Sightings

I was in the hanger when I heard a plane calling downwind for runway 9. Don't know why I looked up, but when I did I noticed the plane was really moving rapidly. So, I needed to go to the ramp and take a look.

This was one small airplane!! The owner stated that it had gone through seven "hands", in its lifetime, and twice through one of the owners.

The aircraft is Cassutt III M, a fully aerobatic racing machine! The current owner says that it is being used as a cross country machine. Not bad at that either. The Continental 0-200 nets almost 190 mph on 6 gal/hr. Although, there is not enough room for the stewardess to bring drinks. OK, he stops every two hours of flying to stretch his legs, but has covered a lot of real estate in that time.



This particular plane has the date of manufacture of 1972. Along the way in in so many hands, it had been painted several times. The current owner decided to remove some of the paint, and in the end took off over five pounds of the stuff. He has yet to do another paint job, but I'll bet he is careful on how much to add.

-Glen Phelps, President

June Meeting

On June 14 we will be hosting a Young Eagles Rally.

More details will be in next months newsletter, but if you would like to assist with flying or "ground school", or if you know of any youths interested in aviation, please contact Roger Medlin, EAA Chapter 477's Young Eagle Coordinator. email acpilot.roger@gmail.com



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.

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A few more Wings-n-Wheels photos (see page 2)

