

# FLY PAPER

July 2009

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



## The President's Corner

Our June meeting came right on the heels of the Walterboro Wings n' Wheels event. Didn't have much time to even catch our breath. Thanks go to Don Alexander for hosting the excellent project visit, which you can read about later in this newsletter. I enjoyed seeing some faces that I had not seen for a while.

Many thanks to those that pitched in to get the June meeting together. Some of us were still feeling burn-out after the big "WWn'W" event in May. I am very pleased to say we have a great group of guys in Chapter 477.

We have a pretty ambitious schedule for the rest of the year, if everything goes according to the plans we are looking at. As such, we are going to need more than ever to count on the help of our members in assisting with some of the work to be done. I hope when I give you a call, you can find time to assist with these efforts.

This can be a busy time for many, as families plan vacations. This is going to happen to me too. Fitting this into a building schedule and work around the home front is always a challenge. As a matter of fact, I will be gone for a lengthy period during this time, but it will allow me to spend time with my twin brother. Hopefully we will visit Oshkosh too. If that happens, you will read about it in the September newsletter.

### Now for an update on my Cozy Project:

The cowling is off the plug and only attachment points are to be finished. Engine fuel system and ignition system are just about done. Prop is just about ready to mount. I was hoping to have engine start by the end of the month, but a little glitch has prevented that.



Unfortunately that glitch may take until later August to remedy since I will be gone for almost a month. That is a little more than frustrating, since I should have been able to prevent it. But there are many more things that can, and are being done.

-Glen Phelps, President

## Upcoming Events

**July 9 - Thursday 6:30 pm**  
**EAA Chapter 477 Meeting at the CAFB Aero Club** (see [www.eaa477.org](http://www.eaa477.org) for a map). John Schmidt will talk about his Little Wing autogyro, Rotax 912 maintenance and AeroLIFE products. We'll be serving pulled pork BBQ and coleslaw, so bring your appetites, and a few bucks for the "tip jar".

**July 11 - EAA Chapter 242 Young Eagles rally at KCUB (Columbia Owens airport).** Contact Ron Shelton at [sheltr@mindspring.com](mailto:sheltr@mindspring.com)

**July 12 – SC Breakfast Club** Salisbury, NC ([KRUQ](#))

**July 26 – SC Breakfast Club** Anderson Regional Airport ([KAND](#))

**July 27 - August 2 – EAA AirVenture**, Oshkosh, WI. See page 3 and/or go to [www.airventure.org](http://www.airventure.org)



**Aug 23 – SC Breakfast Club** Moncks Corner ([KMKS](#))  
Hosted by EAA Chapter 477

## June Meeting Report

We met on June 11 at Don Alexander's hangar at the Summerville airport. He has a beautiful Van's RV-8 that's very close to it's first flight and this is Chapter 477's 3<sup>rd</sup> visit to observe the progress on his project. About 19 or 20 people showed up and in addition to the project visit, we had some great hamburgers & hot dogs grilled by our resident chef, Bruce Huffines.



We were also treated to an awesome weather show: High winds, "Poltergeist" clouds, driving rain, sheet lightning and finally, a rainbow. (Nick hightailed it back to CHS in his LongEZ when the lightning started in the distance).

Glen talked a bit about the recent Walterboro Wings & Wheels event and John Schmidt's presentation at our upcoming July meeting.

### About Don's RV-8

Why did he choose that design? The reputation of Van's Aircraft company. The RV-4 was considered, but might not be able to handle his "larger" friends. If he had to do it over he might chose the RV-7 for the side by side seating.

It has a TMX 0-360 engine (180 HP, carbureted) and a fixed pitch prop.



It's taken 9 years to get this far, including 1 year off due to a move. The biggest challenge was balancing construction & family life. Of course the family comes first.



He started out taking "baby steps" on the empennage construction then as he built more parts he build more confidence. The plans reflect this; the empennage plans are much more thorough than the wing or fuselage plans.

Don informed me the plane has 14,000 rivets. That's 28,000 holes and 56,000 deburring steps!

He said the most difficult parts were the fuel tank (finding a weeping leak), the compound (confounded?) curved front baggage door, and especially the canopy skirt.

Don received good support from Van's help desk. Also from other RV builders on the Internet



Don Alexander, Sr. is his construction partner. He also also had help from wife Barbara & 9 yr old daughter Abigale, who is growing up with the aircraft project.

*(cont. on next page)*

## June Meeting Report (*continued from page 2*)

Don has been taking transition training in an RV-6 at Mallard's Landing, Georgia, and feels confident he'll be ready when the plane is ready.

The construction is now in final steps - cleaning up the firewall forward. After that, sign off & first flight (Don probably won't "advertise" this event until it's over).



What was the most rewarding part of the project? In Don's own words: "The most rewarding part is not something that you would imagine. Most people would think that it would be some sort of building milestone. With me, the most rewarding part has been the many people that the project has allowed me to meet along the way. I built the project in my garage which opens up to the street. You would not believe the interesting people who have stopped by on a whim to visit with me as I worked at night or on the weekends...truly amazing people. I have had many Vets drop in and spin yarns about their days in the War and sharing some of their close calls with me."

"Many children would pace at the end of the driveway trying to sneak a better look and figure out what was going on in the shop. It was always a delight for me to invite the kids in and give them a little bit of stick time... kids are the most fun with their endless questions!!! This has been the best part of the project. I miss this now that I am at the airport."

Good luck Don, and thanks for sharing your project!

Note: to see more photos of this, and other Chapter 477 events, go to [www.eaa477.org](http://www.eaa477.org) then click the "Photo Albums" button.

-Kevin Thorp, Secretary

## EAA AirVenture 2009

A few highlights of the "big show" in Oshkosh, running from July 27 to August 2:

- ◆ 700,000 predicted total attendance
- ◆ 10,000-15,000 aircraft
- ◆ 2,500 show aircraft (if they were lined up side by side they would be 5.2 miles wide!)
- ◆ Over 500 technical forums

Pitcairn PA-18  
Autogiro



Icon Amphibian



WhiteKnightTwo



Airbus A380



Comedian/  
ventriloquist/  
EAA member/  
helicopter pilot  
Jeff Dunham



## Treasurer's Report

June 09 beginning balance	\$2140.16
Receipts	0.00
Expenses	358.41
Petty cash	60.00
End of June 09 bank balance	\$1781.75

Note: These numbers do not reflect reimbursements (for our printing & postage expenses) we expect to receive this month from the Walterboro Airport Commission & Ollie's Concessions.

-Rich Hassell, Treasurer

Does this get your attention?



*Then you're obviously interested in sport aviation!*

*If you're not already a member of our chapter we'd love to have you join us. Or just drop in on one of our meetings & see what we're all about.*

*For more info go to [www.eaa477.org](http://www.eaa477.org)*

## Fabric Covering Workshop

Most of you have seen Pat Wetcher's beautiful Marquart Charger biplane. He might be able put together a fabric covering workshop for those interested in learning these skills.

For more information email [thorp.kevin@gmail.com](mailto:thorp.kevin@gmail.com)

### LowCountry Sport Aviation, Inc.

P.O. Box 62582  
North Charleston, SC 29419



President: Glen Phelps

Vice President: John Disher

Secretary, Newsletter Editor, &  
Webmaster: Kevin Thorp

Treasurer: Rich Hassell

Young Eagles: Doug Shorter

Web Site: [www.eaa477.org](http://www.eaa477.org)

BOEING'S ANSWER TO THE AIRBUS A380:



**THE 747 "TRI-DECK"**

K.THRP 7-1-09

**Low Country Sport Aviation, Inc.****EAA Chapter 477**

P.O. Box 62582

North Charleston, SC 29419

www.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 or \$20.00 if paid by Dec. 1. Students \$12.

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

Make checks payable to "**Low Country Sport Aviation, Inc.**"

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

Pilot Ratings (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_ Types \_\_\_\_\_

Total Hrs. PIC \_\_\_\_\_ Experimental \_\_\_\_\_ Last Biennial \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ 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!*