



## EAA Chapter 17-- Knoxville, TN

### Aviation Humor

*From Ed Dumas, Newsletter Editor, EAA Chapter 17*

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**Young Eagles**

???  
This could be you!

#### An Airline Classic, Found on the Internet

An award should go to the United Airlines gate agent in Denver for being smart and funny, and making her point, when confronted with a passenger who probably deserved to fly as cargo. This is a TRUE story...

A crowded United flight was canceled. A single agent was rebooking a line of inconvenienced travelers. Suddenly an angry passenger pushed his way up to the desk. He slapped his ticket down on the counter and said, "I have to be on this flight, and it has to be FIRST CLASS!" The agent replied, "I'm sorry sir. I'll be happy to try to help you, but I've got to help these folks first, and I'm sure we'll be able to work something out."

The passenger was unimpressed. He asked loudly, so that the passengers behind him could hear, "Do you have any idea who I am?" Without even hesitating, the gate agent smiled and grabbed her public address microphone. "May I have your attention please?" she began saying, her voice bellowing throughout the terminal. "We have a passenger here at the gate, WHO DOES NOT KNOW WHO HE IS. If anyone can help him find his identity, please come to the gate, it would be most helpful...!"

With the folks behind him in line laughing hysterically, the man glared at the United Airlines agent, gritted his teeth and said, "#&!\$% YOU!"

Without flinching, she smiled and said sweetly, "I'm sorry, sir, but you'll have stand in line for that, too!"

*Ed Dumas*

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## B-17 UPDATE: VIDEO HELPING OFFICIALS UNDERSTAND INCIDENT

May 12, 2004 - As analysis of the landing incident that damaged EAA's B-17 Aluminum Overcast continues at Van Nuys Airport in California, EAA officials are beginning to get a clearer picture as to exactly what occurred after the airplane touched down safely on Wednesday, May 5. EAA reported earlier this week that recently obtained video footage shows the entire incident from approach to touchdown, rollout, and gear collapse.

"The video shows the whole landing sequence in great detail," said EAA Museum Director Adam Smith. "As had been reported by the crew, the airplane executes a normal approach and the touchdown is very smooth. As the landing roll out is completed, the tailwheel is unlocked and a severe shimmy is evident right away. A couple of seconds later, just as the airplane is beginning its turn to exit the runway, the right main undercarriage collapses followed almost immediately by the left."

Attention at this time is focused on the position of the landing gear as the airplane touched down. Close scrutiny of the tape indicates that the gear was not 100 percent fully extended on both sides.

"On at least one side the downward travel of the gear appears to have stopped slightly short of the normal position," Smith said.

Meanwhile, officials have a "reasonably good idea" of the repairs that will be needed, and they are working out the best way to go about making them. No timeline has been set for completion of the aircraft inspection or ensuing repairs. EAA has a long-established B-17 Maintenance Fund that is specifically earmarked for maintenance of the aircraft. To learn more, visit EAA's B-17 website at <http://www.eaa.org/>.

### Editors Note:

For additional information, please see the pictures on Page 5. We don't yet know how this will affect the scheduled arrival of Aluminum Overcast in September to GKT, but we will keep everyone informed as we learn more. Many thanks to Jeff Hooverman for sending the pictures and update about the B-17!

## Jim Briggs RV-9A project is June program.

Jim has been working for 2.5 years on this innovative design and has the wings and tail assembly completed and most of the fuselage completed. It was a standard kit, not a quick built design. His house is off Old Niles Ferry Road in Maryville.

Here are directions: Take Alcoa Highway south toward McGhee-Tyson airport (TYS). Pass TYS, then merge onto US-129 South toward Alcoa. Go 9.6 miles then turn LEFT onto Willis Road. Go 0.3 miles, then turn RIGHT onto Old Niles Ferry Road. Go 0.9 miles then turn LEFT onto Timbercreek Drive. Note that if you pass a stop sign at Mint Road and Old Niles Ferry you've gone too far! Jim's house number is 443 Timbercreek Drive, 5<sup>th</sup> house on the right. Jim will have a sign out front to direct you to the house.

We will meet at Jim's house on **WEDNESDAY, June 9, 2004 at 6:00 pm**. Note that this meeting date is different from the normal meeting date and may be different from meeting dates announced earlier!

Upcoming Programs: Ken Carpenter's Tiger Moth at Sky Ranch and a KR-2 in Karns will be upcoming programs. More details soon!

## Write Your State Representative!

### AOPA WORKING TO PREVENT TENNESSEE AVIATION FUEL TAX HIKE

AOPA has been hard at work in Nashville to head off a more than 100% increase in the state aviation fuel tax rate. Thanks in part to AOPA Southeast Regional Representative Bob Minter's efforts, a bill (S.B. 3454) that would reverse the tax hike, which would take effect next January, has already received unanimous approval in the state Senate's Finance, Ways and Means Committee. It's now moving through the House. Last year, Tennessee and dozens of other states passed "streamlined sales tax" bills designed to bring some consistency to how states apply sales and use taxes. But in Tennessee, the bill would raise the sales tax rate on general aviation fuel from 4.5% to 9.5%. Immediately after the streamlined sales tax bill passed, Minter began working with legislators to win relief for GA pilots. The bill currently working its way through the state House contains a technical correction amendment that would eliminate the hike before it ever takes effect.



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anytime on weekends.**

### Newsletter Editor's Corner

*By Ed Dumas Jr, Treasurer/Newsletter Editor EAA Chapter 17*

We are working on a new EAA Chapter 17 website which will be active in the coming weeks. We have secured a domain name so the address will be easy to remember. The new site will be <http://www.eaa17.org/>. We will have all the basic information about the Chapter including officer names and contact information, archive copies of the Mountainland Flyer newsletters, and a host of links to useful web sites.

As always, if you want to pay dues, please send them to me at the address below, checks please (\$20 per year, checks payable to EAA Chapter 17).

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## Chapter 17 Classified Ads

1943 Boeing PT-17 Stearman – She's a beauty! See it at DKX or on the web at <http://www.huua.com/stearman/>. Call David Senn (865) 482-3178.

A Champ & Engine/Prop: One 7BCM-CONV airframe, recovered, with C-85, almost ready to fly and a Continental C-65 with prop, zero time. Located in Murfreesboro. Call Lester Smith (615) 308-4764.

Glasair I Project – Call Ken Carpenter for details (865) 693-0457.

Instruments needed for an IFR C-172, new or used, good-looking, legal. Call Gordon Webster (865) 717-0917.

Six 2004 EAA Calendars are still available! Call Ed (865) 670-8473.

## **Protect Our Planes (POP) Gears Up for Flight Line Safety Volunteer Opportunities**

People from around the world come to EAA AirVenture Oshkosh for primarily one purpose: to look at thousands of aircraft that converge on Wittman Regional Airport. To protect these airplanes - and spectators - the POP (Protect Our Planes) Team monitors flight line activities to make sure visitors abide by the time-tested Oshkosh rules: no smoking except in designated areas, and no food or drink within 10 feet of any airplane.

POP now seeks volunteers to join its team from Monday, July 26<sup>th</sup> (the day before the convention) through Sunday, August 1st. POP patrollers must be at least 14 (ages 14-17 need a parent/guardian with them) and enthusiastic. No experience is necessary - all you need is a smile - and there's a place for people of all fitness levels. It's a great way for families and/or groups to enjoy EAA AirVenture "from the inside." If you're interested in volunteering, visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ProtectOurPlanes/>

## **Glitch Interrupts Delta's Atlanta Service**

ATLANTA (AP) - A computer glitch kept Atlanta-bound Delta Airlines flights on the ground for about 6 1/2 hours Saturday. The problem was fixed Saturday night, but the carrier said it was still experiencing delays. Delta spokeswoman Liza Caceres said Saturday night the nation's third-largest airline didn't know how many flights had been affected.

The problem arose about 3 p.m. EDT. Flights that were in the air at the time the glitch occurred were allowed to land in Atlanta, Caceres said. Caceres did not provide details of the computer problem but said, "This is not a safety or security issue." Kathleen Bergen of the Federal Aviation Administration said Delta told the FAA it had a problem with computers that calculate weight and balance and handle information related to preparing for flight, as well as gate information.

"It was not safety-related in any way," Bergen said.

Livi Jester and her husband had driven from Greenville, S.C., to Atlanta to await the arrival of her grandmother on a flight from Miami.

"They keep telling us that the flights are being delayed every 15 minutes," Jester said.

## **Upcoming Events**

EAA Chapter 1016 will hold a fly-in June 12th BY INVITATION ONLY to EAA Chapters within an approximate 225 NM radius of Asheville. Airports included in the air tour will be Asheville, Hendersonville, and Transylvania County. For details please go to <http://www.eaa1016.org/airtourposter.html>

There will be a Fairchild Reunion and Fly-In September 18, 2004 at Rider Jet Center, Hagerstown, Maryland (HGR) 2pm - 6pm. There will be a display of vintage Fairchild airplanes and memorabilia, an A-10 air show & pilots reunion, and a free showing of "Hagerstown: Remembering Our Aviation Heritage"

**B-17 Update:** Here are some pictures from the B-17 landing incident.



**B-17 immediately after landing**



**B-17 with gear extended**

Dear Fellow EAA Member,

Over the past two decades, thousands of young people have participated in the aviation experience of a lifetime at EAA's summer aviation camps. For many of them, it became an important steppingstone in both their personal development and appreciation for aviation.

The EAA Air Academy programs are supervised and administered by top-notch aviation instructors and enthusiasts who offer more than 200 years of combined teaching experience. From the moment a participant arrives, the sky is the limit as a dynamic aviation experience unfolds and close friendships with fellow aviation enthusiasts begin.

All camps are conducted at the EAA Museum and Leadership Center complex in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, with the residence portion of the program at the impressive Air Academy Lodge.

This year, by popular demand, we have expanded the age range of the Air Academy to include youth camps for 10 and 11 year olds. This means we now accommodate 10 to 18 year olds through a range of different camp experiences. You can enroll or learn more about each camp at our website: <http://www.airacademy.org/> or by calling us at **888-EAA-EAA9** (888-322-3229).

Yours sincerely,

Chuck Larsen, EAA 31303  
Director - Museum & Resident Education  
Experimental Aircraft Association, Inc.

P.S. Remember that the EAA Air Academy is not just for kids! Adults can register for 3 different heritage camps featuring the B-17, Spirit of St. Louis, and Ford Tri Motor. Visit our website for more details.

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Please Deliver To:

**EAA Chapter 17**  
**SPECIAL Meeting Date!**

**Wednesday, June 9 at**  
**6:00 p.m.** at Jim Briggs  
RV-9A workshop – Di-  
rections Inside!

