



EAA Chapter 17-- Knoxville, TN

President's Comments

From Don Miller, President, EAA Chapter 17

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Next Meeting!

Wednesday, July 7,
6:00 p.m. in the DKX
classroom!

General aviation hasn't experienced the number of changes we have seen in the past three years since World War II. Licensing, regulatory, technology and record seekers have all contributed to the picture. The electronic panel, commercial space program, the increase in private jet manufacturers, recreational license prospects, improved GA safety record and improved training methods seem to outweigh the other negative factors such as temporary airspace restrictions. The picture seems bright with a few potholes along the way. We are still in the game with the AIR CLASSIC:

Bambi and Wilmer, plus Linda Meese and Martha Miller carry the flag for DKX –

Flying Wichita, Kansas to, well, Wichita, Kansas...

Via Lamar, Colorado; North Platte, Nebraska; Gillette, Wyoming; Huron, South Dakota; Eveleth, Minnesota; Sheboygan, Wisconsin; Hannibal, Missouri and back to Wichita in the Air Race Classic June 23 - 26, 2004. Flying their Diamond DA-40 180 Wilma Brantley and Leigh Castleberry started on June 23 at Wichita's Mid-Continent airport early on June 23 with Wilmer as pilot. Wilmer, an officer of Chapter 17, has really taken to flying since the family bought a new Diamond last year. We hear that Bambi and Wilmer landed safely completing the circuit in three days.

International YOUNG EAGLE DAY - June 12th

Our Young Eagles program has launched the second century of flight! International Young Eagles Day (IYED) 2004 on June 12, 2004 saw Chapter 17 on center stage at Sky Ranch. First established in 1994, IYED is a day that focuses our attention on the Young Eagles Program. Last year, more than 10,000 Young Eagles were flown on IYED alone. That's an incredible amount of activity. Most chapters participate on a year-round basis, but we have set aside one day to focus on the Young Eagles Program. 69 young people were lucky enough to have an introduction to powered flight from the experts in Chapter 17 and ETGAA. Five Boy Scout troops, Three Cub Packs, one Venturing Crew, a grandson, home-schooler's and many individuals filled out the group. Flying were Ken Carpenter, Mark Collins, Dale Grubbs, Lee Erickson, Don Miller and Dave Vickers. Working registration was Jean Lester, Pam Summers, and Susan Grubbs. Ground School instructors were Bill Lofgren and C.D. Martin. Jim Golden performed loading and several others helped with parking. Leon Ridenour gave pre-flight inspection tours. Lisa Walli helped with parking.

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June 2004

VOLume 21, issue 6**SAD NEWS...**

I hate to start out a newsletter with sad news, but one of Chapter 17's members was killed in an aircraft accident in June. Miller Wilder, former President of Chapter 17 died from injuries sustained in a glider towing accident.

Miller had moved to Peoria, Arizona for the summer to work for Turf Soaring towing gliders and working as a flight instructor. Miller was taking a break from school, where he was a Masters student in Aerospace Engineering at the University of Tennessee Space Institute in Tullahoma, TN.

The accident flight began on June 13 in the late afternoon with Miller towing a Schweizer 1-26 glider with a Piper Pawnee tow plane. Miller was flying the tow plane when just after takeoff (approximately 300 feet), the tow plane pitched sharply upward, then stalled and did a two-turn spin before impacting the ground vertically. The glider was able to release and make a safe landing.

Weather conditions at the time of the flight were good. The weather was VFR with winds at approximately 10 knots gusting to 17. The NTSB has completed its preliminary investigation and concluded that the aircraft was in working order and that control continuity was found between the flight surfaces and the cockpit area.

The complete NTSB report can be found at the following world-wide web site address: http://www.nts.gov/NTSB/brief.asp?ev_id=20040616X00817&key=1

EAA Chapter 17 sends it deepest condolences to the parents and family of Miller Wilder.

B-17 UPDATE: GOOD NEWS!

June 23, 2004 – As most know by now, the EAA B-17 Aluminum Overcast was damaged in a landing accident in Van Nuys, CA a couple of months ago and it was questionable whether the airplane would be able to finish the tour started earlier this year. One of the scheduled stops is GKT, Sevierville/Gatlinburg airport on September 7 and 8.

GOOD NEWS! The EAA has located a replacement B-17 to finish the tour and there will be a B-17 at GKT on September 7 and 8! Ralph Wallin and Bill Lofgren have done an excellent job of coordinating the arrival of the B-17 and securing volunteer effort to ensure the visit will be a success. If you are interested in participating, contact Ralph at (865) 609-2712 or Bill at (865) 577-2692.

To learn more, visit EAA's B-17 website at <http://www.eaa.org/>.

NEXT MEETING!

Come and hear about Burt Rutan's SpaceShip One and its historic flight as the first commercial spacecraft. We will have a presentation on the SpaceShip One, its designer, and its pilot.

Did you know that Burt Rutan and Mike Melville appeared on the Tuesday June 22 episode of Jay Leno? If you missed it, come to the next meeting and see a video tape of the show. They both said some very surprising things!

The next meeting will be at DKX, Wednesday July 7, 2004 at 6:00 pm.



**An 18 minute video of the
YOUNG EAGLES Day
in high quality DVD is now
available at \$15.00 per copy.**

**Call 405-7896
after 8:00 PM weekdays
anytime on weekends.**

Newsletter Editor's Corner

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

Check out the new EAA Chapter 17 site at <http://www.eaa17.org/>. We 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. If you have any suggestions about changes or additions to the new web site, please e-mail me at the address below. All suggestions are welcome!

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.

Private craft soars into space, history

The first privately funded spacecraft lifts off from an airstrip in the Mojave Desert.

MOJAVE, California (CNN) -- The man who became the first person to pilot a privately built craft into space called his flight "almost a religious experience" after his safe landing Monday morning.

Test pilot Mike Melvill landed at Mojave Airport, about 80 miles north of Los Angeles, California, after taking the rocket plane SpaceShipOne to an altitude of more than 100 kilometers (62.5 miles) -- the internationally recognized boundary of space.

Melvill told reporters he had "a hell of a view from 62 miles."

"The colors were pretty staggering from up there," he said.

"Looking from the Earth up there, you know, it's almost a religious experience. It's an awesome thing to see. You can see the curvature of the Earth. I could see all the way out, way out past the islands off the coast of Los Angeles."

SpaceShipOne lifted off early Monday morning in the Mojave Desert, carried by the jet White Knight.

As the pair approached 50,000 feet, SpaceShipOne decoupled from the jet. After a brief glide, Melvill ignited the spacecraft's engines and ascended into space at Mach 3, three times the speed of sound.

Melvill said once he reached weightlessness, he opened a bag of M&M's in the cockpit, and the candies floated for three minutes while the ship soared high above California.

The spacecraft returned safely, but control problems revealed after the flight forced Melville to cut it short and use a backup system to keep SpaceShipOne under control.

He said trim surfaces on SpaceShipOne -- movable surfaces on the craft's wings -- jammed during supersonic flight. The craft rolled 90 degrees twice during its vertical ascent and veered more than 20 miles off course in a few seconds.

"Right at top, I tried to trim the nose up, that's when I had the anomaly and had to switch to backup," he said. The craft peaked at 328,491 feet (100.12 kilometers), just 408 feet (124 meters) above the international boundary of space, according to Scaled Composites.

Upcoming Events

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"

Pictures from the June 9 meeting at Jim Brigg's workshop:



Lee Erickson lending a helping hand



Lots of folks lending a hand!



Ken asks: Where is the mag switch?

President's Corner (From Page 1)

AND AOPA POINTS OUT GOOD ECONOMIC FIGURES FOR INDUSTRY

There's literally more buzzing going on in the general aviation industry, as Boyer pointed out. Single-engine piston aircraft sales were up 11 percent in 2003, and shipments remain strong in 2004. There is even greater activity in the avionics market as owners upgrade their aircraft. Shops are booked up three months in advance, and owners are spending an average of \$27,000 on new avionics. Another good indicator is student pilot starts. In 2003, the number of new students increased 2 percent, more than offsetting the decline of foreign flight students since the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. More than 16,000 new pilots are expected to be added to the rolls by 2005.

DRM

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Please Deliver To:

**EAA Chapter 17
Regular Meeting Date**

**Wednesday, July 7 at
6:00 p.m. at DKX. Come
learn about Burt Rutan's
SpaceShip One!**

