



THE *SPORT FLYER*



February 2004

!!! NOTICE !!!
February Meeting will be February 19th
At West Houston Airport

Want Back-Issues? See Chapter 774's Website at: www.eaa774.org

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Rick Human
15803 Knoll Lake
Houston, Tx. 77095



February Chapter Meeting

The February chapter meeting will be Thursday, February 19th at West Houston Airport, 7:00pm. Our speaker will be Les Smith. Les is Rowan's chief pilot and he will give a presentation on flying helicopters from Vietnam to Alaska to the Gulf Coast for more than 30 years. Should be extremely interesting so hope to see you there!



Dues are really Due !!!! Really!

Yep! It's that time again. Funny how it always happens once a year. But the good news is that the dues have not gone up, and are still only \$20. Plus, you still get the 2004 EAA Calendar! What a bargain!

You can bring your payment to the next meeting and give it to Rick Human, or send it directly to him at:

Rick Human
15803 Knoll Lake
Houston, Tx. 77095

WEST HOUSTON PILOT GETS WACO BIPLANE TO GO WITH LEATHER JACKET

Texas pilot Mark Zeller woke up Sunday morning thinking it would be a normal day. Little did he know that he was in for the surprise of his life. He is the proud new owner of a bright red Waco biplane--the very one AOPA members have been dreaming about for the past two years.

Zeller, 42, arrived at West Houston Airport just west of Houston thinking he was being interviewed for a video about new pilots. As the interview wrapped up, AOPA President Phil Boyer stepped around the corner to introduce himself. To thank Zeller for his help,

Boyer offered him a Waco Centennial of Flight Sweepstakes leather flight jacket. "Now that you have the Waco jacket, don't you think you should have the airplane to go with it?" Boyer asked as the hangar doors opened to reveal the pristinely restored 1940 Waco UPF-7 biplane, valued at \$250,000.

A stunned Zeller replied, "Fantastic! This is unbelievable." As he got his wits about him, Zeller shouted, "I won an airplane today. That doesn't happen every day!" A crowd of friends and well-wishers cheered as the airplane was rolled out of the hangar for Zeller's inspection. Zeller, a third-generation pilot, was joined at the event by his 19-year-old son Clint, his friend Joyce Keyser, and his father Peter Zeller, himself a pilot. Peter's father was also a pilot.



PASSIONATE ABOUT FLYING

Zeller started flight training four years ago, partly inspired by his father and grandfather. He joined AOPA two years ago. Shortly after earning his pilot certificate he purchased a 1968 Cessna 172 for traveling around Texas and to visit his younger son, Bobby, who lives nine hours away by car. The 172 makes quick work of such trips, Zeller said. The Wisconsin native is a Houston-area general manager for Palm Harbor Homes, one of the largest manufactured home builders in the country.

"You have disappointed a whole lot of other AOPA members," Boyer told Zeller. "I've had an opportunity to fly this aircraft, and I'm almost envious of the fun you're going to have with it."

While high winds Sunday prevented Zeller from getting his first flight in his new airplane, he did start the big radial engine, the throaty roar thrilling the crowd. Woody Lesikar, owner of West Houston Airport, a thriving privately owned, public-use airport, played host to the event.

Zeller's bright red Waco UPF-7, fully restored by Rare Aircraft in Owatonna, Minnesota, was the sixty-third out of nearly 600 built. It spent nearly half a century in private hands after World War II, eventually ending up at Rare Aircraft (www.rareaircraft.com) where it was waiting for someone to come along and fix it up.

AEROBATIC LEGEND DUANE COLE PASSES AWAY

February 3, 2004 - Duane Cole, longtime EAA member, air show performer and aerobatic instructor, passed away of natural causes Tuesday morning in Burleson, Texas. He was 89.

Duane, who was membership cardholder EAA No. 8, earned his private ticket in 1938 and his instructor rating in 1940. That year he flew his first air show and for the next 15 years taught aerobatics to Civilian Pilot Training Program students, Royal Air Force Cadets, and U.S. Army Air Force Cadets.



He was inducted to the International Aerobatic Club's Hall of Fame in 1987, and International Council of Air Shows (ICAS) Hall of Fame in 1995.

"Duane Cole's legacy and impact on aviation, aerobatic training, and safety will be remembered," said EAA President Tom Poberezny. "His decades of contributions came not only in the air, but his nine books will leave a lasting legacy for many years to come."

Duane was a longtime friend and colleague of EAA Founder and Chairman Paul Poberezny. "I've known Duane for 53 years, and he's been a longtime supporter of EAA," said Paul, who noted that Duane was the 47th person to join the organization. "He was involved in the early years of EAA and flew a lot of air shows-I would say the majority of the EAA air shows over the years up until 10 years ago when he lost his medical. Duane was an inspiration to a lot of people in the air show business; it's all he did all his life."

Duane's Taylorcraft is enshrined at the EAA AirVenture Museum.

Duane is survived by his wife, Judy, who performed as his wing rider. Awards over the years include the 1962 and 1964 National Aerobatics Championship. He also was very involved in the Reno National Air Races where he served as director. Duane has been on nearly 1,500 airports (a world record) in 47 states, 10 foreign countries and two U.S. territories. He lectured throughout the country and had over 30,000 hours of flight time.

Need AWOS? Just Call On Your Cellphone

In a nifty new service for pilots, a quick toll-free phone call can now connect you to any AWOS in the U.S. -- if you don't mind having to listen to a short advertisement before you get to the weather. The service, aptly called "anyAWOS," is a new product offered by Mackinac Software. One of the co-creators of the system, Bill McUumber, told *AVweb*: "Although my company is a software company, I am an active IFR pilot and thought it would be useful to be able to check conditions on the fly -- hence this system." After dialing the toll-free number (877-any-AWOS, or 877-269-2967), callers can enter any three-digit airport ID and -- after choosing from a list of possible matches, and listening to a word from their sponsors -- they will be connected to that airport's AWOS or ATIS. For those times when you have already received a briefing and just want an update on the current conditions before departure, this is easier than looking up the AWOS/ATIS phone number. In a news release, the company says the service allows pilots to easily check actual, right-now weather conditions at intermediate and destination airports while en route, or anytime -- for example, checking downstream conditions on the ramp during a gas stop. "We just announced this yesterday, and we are absolutely amazed that the call volume is ramping up already," McUumber said on Friday.



How many times have you landed at an airport and would've liked to have known what the approach and runway looked like? Now you can view runways, approaches and aerial views posted by pilots across the country by logging on to AirstripAmerica.com.

What is Airstrip America?

AirstripAmerica.com is a free site dedicated to establishing an online photography database of the nation's landing facilities, including grass strips, airparks, taxiways and landmarks. Information is provided for pilots, by the pilots who have landed there themselves.



Go to www.airstripamerica.com

SHORT FINAL...

Tower: "Skyhawk xxx, follow Baron on four mile final for 17L". Skyhawk: "Baron in sight."

A little later... Tower: "Skyhawk you're 10 knots faster than the Baron. Slow down".

Skyhawk: "Yeeha!!!" (Followed by hysterical laughter.)

Tower: "Right... Not something you hear every day."

Heard on the Ellington Field ATIS on Christmas Eve.: "... on initial contact advise you have Ellington information Rudolph."