



THREE ZERO NINER

October 2006

Meets every 3rd Monday in Charlotte, NC

EAA Chapter 309 was founded in 1973 by a small group of aviation enthusiasts. Since that time, the membership has grown in size and experience. Members come with a variety of skill and experiences. Current members have aviation backgrounds ranging from student pilot all the way to Airline Transport Pilot. Several are A&Ps and all share a love of aviation. Membership is open to anyone interested in aviation and learning about the construction of Experimental Aircraft.

Chapter 309 is planning to build a home at Gastonia Municipal Airport. Chapter activities include visiting member projects, seminars, fly-ins, Young Eagle Flights, and a good dose of Hangar Flying!



October Dinner Meeting Sam and Neal Stewart's Skybolt Project

The Stewart Brothers have taken on the scratch building of a Stearman Skybolt. Sam has been building the wings while brother Neal has cut, fabricated and welded the fuselage frame. From the Stearman web site:

"The Skybolt is probably the best combination sport/acro plane..." - Budd Davisson

"Among four and six cylinder experimental aerobatic biplanes, the Skybolt is clearly the gold standard. The Skybolt is capable of extreme, on-the-edge aerobatics, yet it is polite, predictable and forgiving in the air and on the ground.

"There are some 450 Skybolts licensed in the US and another 200 or so around the world. The Skybolt is by far the most popular 2-place experimental biplane, and is loved for its perfect, classic biplane lines. There is maximum room for pilot and passenger, and the Skybolt is comfortable and practical for cross-country trips and sport flying. Clean, well constructed examples cruise at nearly 180 mph. Skybolts have always been popular on the airshow circuit."

We will visit the Stewart project on Monday, October 16, beginning at 7:00 PM. Sam will cook hotdogs and have refreshments available.

President's Corner by John Wigney

The September chapter meeting held at Mike Moore's Avworks shop in Mooresville was well attended and I believe everyone enjoyed the enthusiastic presentation of engine know how. Mike has invited us back for follow up visits which we will discuss for the 2007 season. We are also grateful to Hans deBot for the tours in his adjacent deBotech carbon fiber component facility - very interesting.

Upcoming events include an Oct 16th visit to Sam & Neil Stewart's Skybolt project, followed by the Lincoln County breakfast fly-in on Nov 4th. The November dinner meeting will be at Gastonia Airport and the December Christmas dinner meeting will be at the Acropolis in Cornelius.

Your board continues to explore options to find a permanent home for the chapter and at our Oct 10th board meeting we will be discussing a very attractive opportunity at Lake Norman Airpark which has been presented to us recently. The basic details of this proposal will be sent out for review by the membership following the board meeting.



2006

Here's the **schedule of upcoming Dinner Meetings planned for EAA 309**. Go ahead and mark your calendars so **YOU** can **BE THERE - EVERY THIRD MONDAY OF THE MONTH** beginning at **7:00 pm**

- Monday, October 16 - Tour of Neal and Sam Stewart's Skybolt Biplane Project.
- Monday, November 20, Meeting with Gastonia Aero Club at the Gastonia Airport - Presentation on Aircraft Clubs and Partnerships.
- Monday, December 11 - EAA 309 Christmas Party at the Acropolis Restaurant in Cornelius.

If you have a suggestion for an upcoming speaker or tour, please let Kevin Cromie know! We need your suggestions and ideas for programs in 2007!

Scratch Denver.....

21.9 Hours in a Cessna 172

By Gary Witt

What started as a trip to Denver and a stop in Minnesota became a Minnesota-only due to lousy weather in Tennessee. I departed on September 21st figuring I would "fly out of it" by mid Tennessee.

First stop was McMinnville, TN (about 60 miles southeast of Nashville) due to low clouds and strong winds. I rested over night (RON) in the pilot's lounge because their police cruiser had a blown engine. The next morning was not any better but again the weather map looked like its western edge was close. Wrong again! This time the winds was so severe and turbulent it would change my heading 45 degrees without cockpit input. Then it would swing me back through center and 45 the other way.

Enough of that; I reversed course only to find the cross wind at McMinnville beyond my skills. On to Murfreesboro where the runways were aligned with the wind. You realize I am still only half way through Tennessee. Again no courtesy car but a willing worker took me to the Hampton Inn situated in the middle of commodious malls. Two more RON's.



**Chapter 309
Charlotte, NC**

YOUR NAME

Earl has the following nametags ready for you to pick up at the next meeting:

Ray Brown, Joe Bowling, Ross Gresley, Chuck Leavitt, Tad Sargent, Dana Poston, Berhane Selassie, Ron Szot, Michael Tucker, and Dave Weaver.

If you are not on the list above, and do not have a name tag, please call Earl to order your name tag. Name Tags are \$10 each. Contact Earl Fortner - Phone or e-mail Earl at 704-455-5326 or efortner@vnet.net

By now the Denver trip was wasted - schedules blown. On Sunday I had to take a taxi to the airport-no willing worker on Sundays. We must have had 6 inches of rain Friday and Saturday. The creek behind the motel was at flood stage. Lots of wind and lightning. If the airplane had been gone I would not have been surprised. I do remember re-tying the lineboy's knots, thank goodness.

I am no longer flying a plotted course. I set Mount Vernon, IL into the GPS and followed its directions. I made two stops in Iowa before landing in Fairmont, Minnesota. I was now so early for the MN event that I decided to explore towns near my eventual destination. Mankato High School (MN) was my graduating school in 1946. I was returning for my 60th reunion.

I had a car reserved for the 27th but I was there, finally, on the 26th. Enterprise found me a car early so I toured the perimeter of Mankato. I had gone to the 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades on Winnebago 30 miles South of Mankato so I drove there, visited with the school's administrator, found an antique store (closed) and had lunch. In all I visited eight more towns on 26 and 27 of September. (I found one wrist watch and on pocket watch to repair when I got home.)

The party on the 28th was great but the

(Continued on page 6)

Chapter Officers

President:
John Wigney
704.664.4167

Vice President:
Kevin Cromie
704-366-8529

Secretary:
Don Sink
704.663.5834

Treasurer:
Sam Stewart
704-588-0776

Directors:
Dale Ensing, Sara Forrest, Bill Repucci, John Schroeder & Bob Thayer

Young Eagles Coordinator: Don Sink
Technical Counselors:
Kent Ashton, Neil Stewart, Dale Ensing, Andy Moscarelli, Ron Murray, Ronnie Brown and Glenn Babcock.

Flight Advisors:
Dale Ensing & Ronnie Brown

Newsletter & Web Page Editor:
Ronnie Brown
704.892.5122

THREE ZERO NINER

...-- ----- ----.

Monday, October 16. Project Tour of the Stewart Skybolt biplane project. Sam is cooking hot dogs and refreshments will be available. Starts at 7:00 pm. See pages 6 & 8 For directions

North Carolina:

Thursday, Oct 12 - Planning meeting at Lincoln County Airport beginning at 5 pm for the 11/4 Fly-In.

LANEY'S FLY-IN is set for OCTOBER 14th. Last May there were 80 aircraft that flew in. Food is free. Located NE of Lincoln, Designator is N92. Email Howard Cochran for more info at w4ppn@hotmail.com

10/14/2006 - 10/15/2006 New Bern, NC -- New Bern MumFest Fly-in. Email: kendaub@cox.net
Web: www.EAAChapter1711.org

10/15 - Wings Over Wayne Airshow at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base - Goldsboro, NC. 9AM - 4 PM

10/21/2006 Louisburg, NC -- Ball Airport (79NC) Annual Fly-In

11/4/2006 Goldsboro, NC -- Wings Day Fly-In at the Wayne County Airport (GWW), Goldsboro, NC. Light Sport/GA aircraft displays, vendors, etc. Email: tfreeman@dot.state.nc.us
Web: www.faasafety.gov

Saturday, November 4 - EAA Chapter 309 Fall Fly In at Lincoln County - 10 am - 4 pm. Hotdogs and Hamburgers, Young Eagles. Email rtdiver@alltel.net

South Carolina:

October 14 & 15, 2006 - EAA Chapter 186, Flyin' & Cruisin' Festival - Winchester Regional Airport (OKV). See www.EAA186.org

10/20-22 - Bishopville, SC -- Carolina Sport Flyers Annual Fall Fly-in, Lee County Airport (Butters Field 52j).
Email: patches11us@yahoo.com

These events were downloaded from



Mark your Calendar

See www.eaa309.org/309mm.htm
for 2006 Schedule



By Jim Schnicker

I attended the VA EAA Fly In at Dinwittie VA on September 30 and October 1. I flew the Tailwind up and helped park airplanes on Saturday. I flew up on Friday afternoon to avoid the anticipated heavy traffic into a non-towered airport. There was a steady flow of traffic, sometimes five in the pattern at one time but otherwise not bad until about noon when there were more leaving than arriving. They did not have an airshow this year (cost), and they were concerned about how much of a crowd they would have at the gate. Sunday was very slow and I left to come home about noon.

Friday night EAA Headquarters supplied pizza and ice-cream to the volunteers and Ron Waggoner from EAA hosted the evening with some insight from Headquarter. His main agenda was getting input from the several chapters that were present re: concerns and issues that EAA needs to work on. Two main topic surfaced. One the LSA movement and the other was costs. There is a long way to go with LSA. Headquarters position is: if LSA were a marathon, then we are at about mile two. Costs are related to everything. LSA certainly isn't an inexpensive way for someone to get into aviation. There was another subject discussed, that relative to Young Eagles. There was a minority who believe we are targeting the wrong age group, too young. The general opinion is that we need to follow-up following a ride and be sure the parents are involved and not just bring the young person out for a free ride and to be a babysitter.

During the Friday night discussion session there was some discussion that Chapters needed to give more effort to getting younger people more involved in EAA at all levels. A very large percentage are those that are retired or at least

(Continued on page 4)

THREE ZERO NINER



EAA 309's discussion group

By Ronnie Brown

"Google Groups is a free service which helps groups of people communicate effectively using Email and the Web. Every group has a home page hosted by Google where members can start new discussions or reply to older topics.

"Every group also has its own Email address to help its members stay in touch with each other. Members can read and search all public Google Groups content, including more than 1 billion postings from the Usenet bulletin board service, dating back to 1981. Every group has its own Google-fast search, making it easy to find discussions locked away deep in your group's archive."

You can access our group at www.groups.google.com/group/ea309. Our group's Email address is ea309@googlegroups.com

(Continued from page 3)

in that age bracket. The argument can be made that the "Sr. Generation" probably has the best time and money to enable them to take on these tasks, being leaders and organizers.

A thank you dinner was given for the volunteers Saturday night. It was followed by a wonderful program about the Enola Gay. A retired AF Col. did the program. I am sorry I missed his name. He was involved with every step of the airplane's restoration. They are still trying to run down details and hardware to fill some open areas.

He presented a very good program providing a historical background to the airplane and mission, but also the long restoration process and the present exhibition of the airplane at Dulles.

While I was on the F-18 engine flight test at Pax River, the EAA Chapter got a tour of the Restoration Center and we saw the main section of the airplane. At the time, 1980, there was doubt that the restoration would ever be done due to the controversy surrounding the "horrific mission" this airplane represented.

We had a good weekend and met some great folks. We had a wet field from a rain on Thursday night and then rain Saturday night raised concerns about getting 200 n.m. back home but the sun was shining by 0900.

WANT ADS

Ken Poindexter owns Carolina Sport Aviation, a Quick-silver dealership located at Lake Norman, NC that specializes in light sport aircraft which are amphibious or just on floats. He can be reached at 704-226-8260.

Gastonia Aero Club Membership For Sale PA-28 180, C-172, C-182 All IFR Certified \$3,300.00. The least expensive way to fly in the Charlotte area. Contact: Jonathan Bissette @ 704-853-0607 or via e-mail jonathanbissette@bellsouth.net

FOR SALE - 1/4 Share 1995 Bonanza A-36. 2450 hrs AF, Zero time 300 hp Cont Engine, leather interior, like new paint, tip tanks, KLN90B GPS, Argus moving map, King KX155 Nav/Coms, King autopilot, storm scope, ADF and DME. \$75K. Call Conni at 704-875-1200.

Hanger spaces for rent @ Lake Norman Airpark (14A), \$220, call Conni at 875-1200.

Don't forget Sid Morris' North Harbor Club for a wonderful lake side dinner. Located at Exit 30 on I-77



Pictured above is the 34z, offered by Sid Morris and Morris Marine Group. Motorboating magazine says "Twice the fun for half the fuel! One of the most imaginative and well-thought-out boats seen in some time."

More info at www.morrismarinegroup.com

THREE ZERO NINER

...-- ----- ----.

UNDER CONSTRUCTION



Thank you to the "Dr." Tad Sargent for cutting the canopy on Randy RV-7 recently. Steve Glasgow & Tim Bolton along with Tad's wife Terri also lent a hand. Thanks to all! Randy Utsey



Remember - Chapter 309 of the EAA is now a charitable organization as defined by 501(c)3. Your donations may be tax deductible!

\$100 hamburgers

by Ronnie Brown

Here's a few places you can go for lunch within easy flying (or driving distance).

My favorite is **57 Alpha Cafe** at Rutherford County Airport - (FQD). Ron's restaurant boasts a sign that says seats 100 - 10 at a time!. He has excellent sandwiches and Mexican food and some of the best Banana Pudding you'll ever eat! Open from 10 am until 3 pm - 7 days per week. Ron also picks and grins while playing his own compositions every Saturday afternoon on the newly constructed deck.

The Runway Cafe at Martinsville (MTV) is a bit further to fly to, but sits right in the middle of the airport facing the runway and has a nice outdoor patio. The food is very good and the scenery enroute is fantastic in the fall.

Montgomery County Airport (43A) has a restaurant within walking distance. 43A is about 18 miles due east of Stanly County airport near Star, NC. \$5 gets you a meat, two country vegetables and a glass of sweet tea.

Every Friday, the folks at Speedbird Aviation at Morganton Foothills Regional Airport (MRN), cook hot dogs and hamburgers at noon.

And on Saturdays, the folks at Lancaster Aviation, McWhirter Field (LKR), Lancaster, SC cook a delicious home made stew at Lunch.

Every FIRST Saturday of the month, there is a breakfast fly-in at Rebel field in Northbrook which is located about 15 miles west of Lincolnton. It starts around 8:00 am and is hosted by Dave Cummings (mint green Rotorway Exec). He always has Eggs, sausage, pancakes, coffee. The field is at N35 29 07 W81 24 50. The field is 1,600 feet - turf - basically unobstructed from one direction. RVs, Champs, and Cessnas there during the annual fly-in. See <http://www.nbiultraport.com/> for details.

Mark Mauney has his fly-in every last Sunday of the month at Mauney Field in Cherryville. It is on Hwy 274 exactly 2 miles south of hwy 150. You'll see a sign on the left that says something about Dog Training - Turn left onto the gravel road, then left again toward the field. Good hot dogs!

And I am still planning to make it down to the big first-Sunday-of the Month Brunch at Greystone Field (17FL) north of Ocala, FL. This is the field that John Travolta parks his 707 next to his home.

If you have a favorite \$100 Burger flying destination - let me know and we'll include it!

THREE ZERO NINER

...-- ----- ----.



September Dinner Meeting at Avworks

Thanks to an invitation by Mike Moore, we had a great tour of his shop in Mooresville. Avworks is an extensive machine shop which rebuilds aircraft and hot rod engines. It features an engine dyno, crankshaft balancing equipment, a boring machine, and just about anything else needed to build a quality engine.

We had nearly 40 people show up for the tour, so Mike asked shop neighbor, Hans deBot to show half the group his shop. Hans builds parts for the racing industry using primarily carbon fiber. One of his biggest jobs is to build bodies for Riley Racing. Riley builds sports cars for the Rolex series which includes the 24 Hours of Daytona held in February. But Hans also makes a lot of parts for NASCAR including brake cooling ducts using carbon fiber. The shop was still in the moving phase, so lots of tooling was in boxes and laying around awaiting assembly.

Mike Moore is a big aviation enthusiast and was tickled to have EAA 309 visit his shop. He has offered to host future meetings, for example, welding, sheet metal, FAR's, etc.



Click to get more info.

(Continued from page 2)

weather the next morning was marginal. Bumpy under a 5,000 ceiling of Cumulus Straightus. By Decorah, IA the breaks were large enough to consider climbing but Illinois-Valley Regional was fast approaching so I waited. After VYS I climbed to 11,500 (necessary to get above the tops) and was rewarded with a 28 knot tail wind. I was reading 135 knots GS on the GPS.

Next stop HAD to be LOZ in KY. Gastonia was 490 miles and even with the tail wind, I would end up over the Great Smokies low on fuel-not good.

I had departed at 9:25 and arrived at Gastonia (AKH) at 6:30. With the time change something is amiss time-wise here but the Tach said it was 9.8 hour flight and my butt thought it was a 24 hour flight.

A point interest: Paducah, KY has been a destination for me before. I have a friend there so have visited the city. A few years ago the city built a 12 wall to keep the Kentucky river out of down town. From Murfreesboro to Mount Vernon, I flew over Paducah. Water everywhere. The river was three times wider than normal, farm land was flooded, water was lapping the bottom of the bridge to Indiana and points NW.

I'm told the dyke held. Downtown was spared. Artist paint the history of Paducah on the city side of those 12 foot walls. If you go there be sure to visit the walls.

Directions to Sam Stewart's home:

Go south on I-77 to Westinghouse Blvd, exit - go right to the west on Westinghouse.

Go across Tryon Blvd and continue to Steele Creek Rd (Hwy 160) and turn Left.

Go about 1.5 miles and turn right onto Sledge Rd.

Go about 3/4 miles on Sledge Road. Sam's home is on the right (13916), with a large garage on the right side of his home.

Call Sam at 704-588-0776 if you have any questions or if you should get lost.

Membership

We Need You!

Drive 2006

As always Chapter 309 is looking for new members. This page should be removed and given to a potential member.

The form can be used to pass along enrollment information about the EAA and this chapter.

About the EAA

The EAA is for both pilots and non-pilots who are interested in the dynamic world of flight. The organization, founded in 1953, offers activities for the entire family on the local, regional and national levels. EAA also offers support programs for those who are building and restoring aircraft.

The EAA is dedicated to serving all of aviation by fostering and encouraging individual participation, high standards and access to the world of flight in an environment that promotes freedom, safety, family and personal fulfillment.

If YOU like airplanes and the people who fly them, **EAA** is for you! For only \$40 you can be a member of EAA (\$58 outside the U.S. and Canada). EAA offers something for enthusiasts of every age and interest - pilots, designers, builders, dreamers and doers - anyone who enjoys the unique freedom made possible by flight. All are welcomed into EAA's growing family.

Call the EAA Membership Department at 1.800.Join EAA (1.800.564.6322) or visit www.eaa.org



EAA Chapter 309 Enrollment Form

Name: _____ Spouse _____
Family

Address: _____ Membership? (Y) or (N)

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____(H) _____(W)

E-mail Address: _____

Pilot Rating: _____ EAA Member Number: _____

Aircraft Owned(?): _____

Current Project(?): _____

Membership is open to anyone interested in aviation. Dues are \$25 per year. Mail Enrollment Form with Check payable to EAA Chapter 309 to:

Sam Stewart
13916 Sledge Road
Charlotte, NC 28278
704-588-0776

Pass it On!

EAA Chapter 309
c/o Ronnie Brown
18816-6 Nautical Drive
Cornelius, NC 28031

THREE ZERO NINER
.....
.....
.....

NOTICE: The EAA 309 Monthly DINNER MEETING will be held at 7:00 PM, Monday - October 16 at 13916 Sledge Rd, Charlotte. See page 6 for written directions.

Call John Wigney at 704-664-4167 for more information.

