



THREE ZERO NINER

November 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!

Sam and Neal Stewart's Skybolt Project

The Stewart Brothers have taken on the scratch building of a Steen Skybolt. Sam has been building the wings while brother Neal has cut, fabricated and welded the fuselage frame. From the Steen 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 had a very good turn out for this project visit at Sam Stewart's home Monday, October 16. Sam and gang cooked hotdogs and set up tables in a garage. Although there was a bit of rain, the temperatures were just right for a hot dog and a tour of the Skybolt.

Sam has the wing structure pretty well built, while brother Neal, cut and tacked the steel fuselage tubing. The finish welding was by a Skybolt employee and the welds are beautiful and the fuselage is on its wheels. Next - an engine!



President's Corner by John Wigney

Despite cool conditions, skies were clear and we had an excellent turn out at the Lincoln County fly-in on 11.4.06. Sam Stewart, Kevin Cromie, David Borders and Allison Cromie did their usual outstanding job on the meal. I have to complement Sam on his grits. Thanks also to all the helpers, especially to Ronnie Brown for coordinating the raffle and the welcome table, and to Don and Gwen Sink for running the Young Eagle activities.

A small sub-committee has been working on the details of master plan layout and features for the planned chapter workshop and break room / clubhouse facility at Lake Norman. These details will be reviewed at our next board meeting on 11.13.06. Further progress on the purchase of the land by our prospective landlord still awaits resolution of an estate settlement.

(Continued on page 2)



309'ers WEB SITE www.eaa309.org

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2006



**Chapter 309
Charlotte, NC**

YOUR NAME

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, November 20, Meeting with Gastonia Aero Club at the Gastonia Airport - Presentation on Aircraft Clubs and Partnerships. Starts at 7:00 pm. Hotdogs for supper!
- Monday, December 11 - EAA 309 Christmas Party at the Acropolis Restaurant in Cornelius. Social begins at 7:00 pm - Dinner at 7:30 pm.

We need your suggestions and ideas for programs in 2007!

(Continued from page 1)

Our next dinner meeting will be at Gastonia Aero Club on Monday, 11.20.06 at 7pm where there will be a brief business discussion followed by a presentation on 'Aircraft Clubs & Partnerships'. For December, Ravi Thakkar already has planning underway for our Christmas dinner meeting at the Acropolis Restaurant in Cornelius on 12.11.06. Details will be advised.

UNCC DESIGN PROJECT

by Dale Ensing

Just before I went into the hospital, I exchanged a couple of e-mails with a UNCC student to gather more info on their project and told them I would like to help but would be out of contact for a week or so and would get back to them as soon as I could.

I am now about ready to do that. All I can tell you at this time is that it is three UNCC students fulfilling the requirements of doing a Senior Design Project of designing an ultralight. They are also looking for a "sponsor" to help them build it.

Name Tags are \$10 each. Contact Earl Fortner - Phone or e-mail Earl at 704-455-5326 or efortner@vnet.net

2007 Officers

Here is the list of nominations which were announced at the last dinner meeting. We plan to vote on these at the Gastonia meeting on 11.20.06.

President - Bill Repucci – new position
 Vice President - Kevin Cromie - continuing
 Secretary - Bob Allen – new position
 Treasurer - Sam Stewart - continuing
 Directors:
 Dale Ensing - continuing
 John Schroeder - continuing
 Bob Thayer – continuing
 Bob Dobbins – new position
 Tad Sargent – new position
 Ex Officio (non voting)
 John Wigney - continuing

Non-Board: Newsletter editor – Ronnie Brown
 Web page editors – Ronnie Brown & Howard Cochran
 Membership – Ken Poindexter
 Young Eagle coordinator – Don Sink

2007 Dues

We will be mailing dues statements early in December. Dues for 2007 will be \$25

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

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EAA 309 Christmas dinner on December 11 at the Acropolis.

by Ravi Thakkar

The menu for the Christmas dinner is on page 8. We will charge \$20 per person which will include taxes and gratuity.

We will be playing Chinese gift exchange like last year. People would have to confirm their attendance to Ronnie with an entree choice, including how they want their steak cooked if they choose the NY strip. We want to do it so the food comes out with names on it and if we have a seating chart the food will come straight to you without disruption and questions on what you are going to eat.

You will need to bring an aviation or EAA related gift costing \$10 to \$20. ONE gift per couple or per person if you are coming alone. Please RSVP to Ronnie Brown by Friday, December with your entree selection (and if you are ordering NY strip - how would you like it cooked).

FIRST FLIGHT!

by Ronnie Brown

EAA 309 member, **Jim Hurd purchased his Wheeler Express** in Canada after it had suffered a go-around accident.

Jim picked up the badly damaged plane and brought it home in March of 2005. After 18 months of tediously rebuilding the damaged fuselage belly, purchasing replacement wings, a new three blade prop and new paint job, his Wheeler Express was ready to fly.

The beautifully repaired Express flew October 13 at Statesville airport with Jim at the controls.

Jim asked me to thank Andy Moscarelli and others in the chapter for all of their assistance and knowledge during the rebuilding process.

CONGRATULATIONS JIM!!!!



#\$!@!!\$ Adel Clamps!

by Bill Repucci

Tonight while installing my brake lines I had an epiphany. Recently Ronnie Brown told me how Dennis Hallman used safety wire and a piece of aluminum as a piston ring and spring compressor.

For some reason I was thinking about that conversation while installing my brake lines. Like most builders I have learned to loath installing Adel clamps and as I was preparing to do so a light went off. Twisting safety wire around the tabs of the Adel clamp might just hold them closed while I install the bolt. Sure enough, it worked like a charm. Once the nut is started I cut the safety wire and finish tightening them.



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



**Gwen Sink and Libby Schroeder putting on their
“Gee, it is cold” act.**

by Ronnie Brown

The Fall Fly In at Lincoln on Saturday, November 4 was indeed “chilled” by the return of genuine fall weather. 30 degree temperatures greeted the folks that arrived for the 8 am breakfast.

But cooks **Sam Stewart, David Borders, and Kevin Cromie** had the firehouse all steamed up and it was plum cozy. There was plenty of eggs, sausage, biscuits, coffee and orange juice (OH, SAM, WHERE ARE THE GRITS!!!) Sam was caught enjoying his breakfast when he suddenly remembered that he had cooked **3 gallons of grits and they were sitting in his car!**



As the morning sun warmed the ramp, more and more planes started flying in. Although this event was dampened by the cold weather, we did have a good turn out of RV's, a couple of ultralights, a helicopter, and several other birds.

Don and Gwen Sink and Libby Schroeder signed up about a dozen Young Eagles. Terry Davies (Velocity XL, Robert Weatherwax (Grumman Traveler). Andy Moscarelli (RV-6A), John Wigney (Europa), and Ronnie Brown (Velocity) gave rides. Several “wanna-be” builders also got a ride.

In fact, there was a ramp full of folks between 10:30 and 1 pm (several folks looking for Breakfast!). Perhaps, next year we can make this a Brunch and take care of folks who would rather stay warm until the some heats things up!

Thanks to Bob Thayer, Lincoln airport manager Jeff Lynn, Kristen and Fred and all of the other folks who made this year's Fall Fly-In a 5th annual success!!!!

RECOVERING NICELY!!!

We hear that Dale Ensing and Ron Murray are both recuperating from recent surgeries - we wish them speedy recoveries!



So, this how an RV-9 escapes from the basement!

THREE ZERO NINER



The Stouts Zenith 801 Update: Visible progress always seems to be lacking when it comes to wiring. In the past few months I have been working on the wiring including the weatherproof connectors for the engine to allow the engine to be unmounted easily. Switches are being wired and circuit breakers and fuses are receiving their runs of wire.

The engine buildup has seen some progress as well with an expensive order of fittings from Summit Racing arriving. The oil cooler has been plumbed as well as the oil return for the reduction drive. The oil pan has been sealed and the bolts torqued. The radiator has been mounted, but after attending the Rotary Roundup I will be enlarging the holes to provide isolating grommets to allow for some expansion and vibration damping.

As we speak I am heating the intake runners and flange in preparation for brazing the center runners to the flange. I smell the oven cooking off, so I must be off before Valerie notices the oven has been borrowed again :-)

WANT ADS

HANDMADE! HOT AIR BALLOON NECKLACES MAKE AN 'UPLIFTING' GIFT FOR CHRISTMAS!

Many styles and colors available. \$8.00 EACH, TWO FOR \$15.00 Call Sue at 704-232-0367 for these unique items

Sue has the **2007 FAR/AIMs** in stock for \$13.00 each. SAVE \$3.00 OFF THE FBO PRICE! Call 704-232-0367 today to get your copy!

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.

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Bill Repucci - RV9

I'm back on the road again so progress has slowed down some, which is has been very good for my wallet.

On Thursday, November 9th, I picked up the freshly upholstered seats from Leon Brown (704-262-7887). Mr. Brown is located in Concord and is the same person who stitched up Tad Sargent's seats. He did an equally outstanding job on my cushions and I'm very pleased with the results. I elected to go with a dark gray leather and sheep skin slip covers. The sheep skins were chosen because of the comfort they will provide in both hot and cold weather. Mr. Brown stitched them as a seat cover because when they start to look dingy with use, they can be remove them for cleaning or replacement.

Other interior touches have been the installation of blue electroluminescent strips on the bottom of the roll bar. This is more of a courtesy light than an in-flight cabin light.

Between the sheep skin covers, blue electroluminescent (EL) light on the roll bar, and red EL lights above the switch panel; can you say, "Pimp my plane?"

The throttle quadrant is now connected and appears to be working with full throttle and mixture movement. (This is a non-standard installation as Van's provides Cessna style venire throttle and mixture cables with the kit.) The electrics seem to be working fine, with a pesky hum tracked down and cleared up by repositioning a ground wire. The brake lines have been filled and pressure tested. Although I suspect I will be changing the hard aluminum brake lines to flex lines all the way down the gear leg. That and I may have to remove the landing gear to get the plane out of the basement. Details, details, details...

Which leads me to the next major milestone, trying to extricate the project from my basement. Thane States has offered to come over and help replace the single, 32", basement door with a 64" double door. The double doors are currently sitting in the garage and should be installed this weekend.

On the engine front, the RV-9 is on the gear, the engine is hung, and I'm about to start working on the cowling and baffling. Earlier in the week I received an Email notification that the P-Mags (<http://emagair.com/default.asp>) shipped. They are the last major engine component to install.

Ronnie Brown once told me I will be done when all the boxes are empty. Well, I now have a LOT of empty boxes but there are still a few more to go, so I guess I'm not done yet. I'm still not sure where I'm going to base this thing when I'm finished. I probably won't worry about that until moving day, plus or minus.

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UNDER CONSTRUCTION



On October 9th, **John Schroeder & Ron Szot** watched N58WP take to the air under the control of Ron Galbraith, a Lancair professional test pilot and instructor. A post flight inspection revealed a slight seepage of oil around the main alternator that was fixed by re-torquing the nuts.

After re-calibrating a couple of engine instruments, the remainder of the day and following day were spent getting the dual instruction required by the insurance company. Despite a four day loss of flying for weather and a broken transponder antenna, the Phase One testing was signed off on October 23rd. The airplane performed as expected and all of the test parameters were close to what other Lancair ES builders have had.

It flies like a dream and is as fast as we had hoped it would be. We are especially pleased with the performance of the Tru Trak autopilot. When it is coupled to the Garmin 480, the combination is awesome. Our thanks to everyone in the Chapter for their words of encouragement, assistance and counsel, especially John Wigney, Andy Moscarelli, Jim Schnicker and Ronnie Brown. For those in the building process: hang in there. It truly is worth the time and effort!

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

From **Keith Hegedus** - I am working on my RV6A again. Current project is on the canopy. Andy (Moscarelli) has been giving me instruction on cutting and laying out the canopy. Great help!

EAA 309 Discount at MSC Industrial

By Bill Wilson

I have been working with Jim Harris, outside salesman for MSC, an industrial supplier, to obtain a pricing discount for EAA 309 members. Jim Harris said for the chapter members to receive a discount they should call the MSC branch in Charlotte @ 704-521-8400. The inside person or contact will be Jim Bridges. When talking to Jim Bridges identify yourself as a EAA 309 member referred by Jim Harris. Jim Bridges will have pricing information to let you know your price for items.

Jim Harris wants me to let him know if there are any problems obtaining a discount so he can resolve the problem. Normally a pricing structure is set up for a company, but since we will be calling as individuals, he wanted to try this method of contacting a specific inside sales person.

The MSC catalog is over 4500 pages. I have been buying tools from them to build my Thatcher CX4. I will receive the same benefit as all other 309 members.

When I worked for the railroad we purchased many shop tools from MSC. We found them to have a large inventory, they ship quickly, and were very accurate with their paperwork. The MSC website is: www.mscdirect.com My email address is in the membership directory and my website is: www.safepilot.net

I am hoping if this idea works out, we could use the buying power of a large group with other vendors, also.

Ron Miller - RV7A: "My project is coming along well. I hope to fly at the end of November. I just don't know what year yet. Seriously, I am getting close and having fun building." *(Editor's note: "This is quite an accomplishment since Ron's project is in Atlanta where his dad lives. This gives him time to be with his dad!")*

Welcome New Members:

Glenn and Robin Babcock - building a new home at Lake Norman Airpark, built a Velocity, Glenn has Commercial & Instrument ratings; A&P, EAA Tech Counselor.

Jack Kirkland - Lives in Huntersville, Commercial and Instrument ratings

John Holland - Owns a Cherokee.

Peter Katz - Lives in Pineville, Private, Inst rating, >1000 hrs flying, RV9A project, Aero Medical Examiner

Martin McConnell - Lives in Charlotte - Private, C172, Quicksilver GT500/Quicksilver S2 Projects.

Carl Murphy - Lives in Gastonia - Pvt., Piper Cherokee

Bill Hartin - Wingsport Aviation in Salisbury.

Pete Peterson - Lives in Mint Hill. Would like to build a Zenith 601.

Radomir Zaric - Lives in Charlotte - Building an RV7A and TMX O360 engine

Dean and Naomi Unterreiner - Live in Mocksville. Comm, MELS, Owns a Velocity.

Kristin Kleinschmit - Bradshaw, lives in Denver, Loves Restoring aircraft, restoration and upholstery, and love Flying. (She is also one of the young ladies who fuel aircraft at Lincoln County!)

I had proposed at a recent board meeting that we should set a goal of 100 members for 2007. Guess what? **We have reached a mile stone - we have 106 members NOW.**



Click to get more info.

Commercial ads available

by Ronnie Brown

Beginning in 2007, EAA 309 will offer commercial ad space on its web site www.eaa309.org and in the monthly newsletter to Sponsors of EAA 309.

Each ad will run for one year in both the newsletter and on the web pages. Your display ad would be approximately 3" wide and 2" high (similar to the example below). The cost would \$200 per year. Contact Ronnie Brown at 704-892-5122 or romott@roadrunner.com



TECHNICAL COUNSELOR CORNER

I have enjoyed the last couple of months helping builders and rebuilders like Bill Repucci with his wiring and Jim Hurd as he put the finishing touches on his Wheeler Express.

Jim's plane has turned out to be absolutely gorgeous and a real fast flier! It is powered by the same IO550 Continental as Ron and John's Lancair - as well as Terry Davies' Velocity. These beasts put out over 300 hp and they go like CRAZY!!!

Kent Ashton and I also met new Velocity owner, Dean Unterreiner at Salisbury. Dean purchased a top door, 173 with retractable gear and an M/T prop. The variable pitch prop really motivates a Velocity on take off. I flew with Dean last weekend and helped him polish his Velocity flying skills. The original builder did a very nice job building this Velocity, as it features a lot of craftsmanship and nicely engineered construction. Dean just needs to put a nice paint job on it and he will have a beauty!!!

I also helped inspect a Velocity for a friend of Terry Davies. This Velocity was on the other end of the scale. Stuff not built or maintained very well. It managed to fly up from Florida and made it back home safely - but I wouldn't want to fly in it!!!



Welcome EAA 309

Christmas Party Menu Selections

Appetizers

Spanakopita, cheese sticks, onion rings, chicken tenders

1/2 Roasted Chicken and Potatoes

*Seasoned with herbs and spices, Served with lemon potatoes
and fresh sautéed green beans.*

Seared Atlantic Salmon

*Topped with lemon olive oil dill sauce with a side of fresh vegetables
and baked potato.*

N Y Strip Steak

*A tenderful and flavorful 14 oz cut cooked to your liking.
Served with baked potato and fresh sautéed vegetables.*

All above entrees come with a garden house salad.

*Coffee, Tea, Water, Soft Drinks
Dessert: Cheesecake or Carrot Cake*

Cash Bar Available

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
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NOTICE: The EAA 309 Monthly DINNER MEETING will be held at 7:00 PM, Monday, November 20 at the Gastonia Aero Club hangar at Gastonia Airport. Our own Bob Allen will make a presentation "Aircraft Flying Clubs and Shared Ownership" Take Cox Rd Exit off I-85 and go south to the airport.

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

