

Hangar Flyin'



April 2007

President's Message

Spring has sprung and from the tower it looks as if there is a lot of itching for flying going on. If you haven't noticed the controllers are working off the new radar system now, the old one has been shut down permanently. The presentation is all digital and much clearer. We can now see the different levels of weather (not color) from 1-6 however we can only inform you of the type of precipitation associated with that level. Still it is better than what was used before.

Next week the Collings Foundation will be flying in a B17, B24 and B25 on April 9th around 3pm and parking on our ramp. These beautiful aircraft are a part of the Wings of Freedom Tour and will be on display through noon April 11th, thanks to the sponsorship of Abilene Aero. It costs nothing to come out and walk around the aircraft, \$10 if you want to go in the aircraft and a few hundred dollars if you want to fly in one of them. You can find more information at www.collingsfoundation.org. Chapter 471 will be providing some refreshments during this event so if you want to help come on out. I will be there all three days and could use some support from our members. Tuesday evening at 6:30 pm there will be a couple of combat veterans talking about their experiences on a particular aircraft. J.E. Smith was a pilot on a B24, Doug Winkles was a gunner on a B25 and I am still working on a B17 veteran. I am sure there will be some interesting stories told and for those members who come out that evening, your hotdog, soda and popcorn are free. Please try and make it out, we will be in our hanger.

The new door is in and operational on the west side so those without badges can come in that way or through TSTC gate. AirFest 2007 has taken to the skies and should prove to be a very exciting event with Dyess as our wing man. Gray is working hard on this project and deserves a big pat on the back for making it happen. There will be more information on this in the coming months. See ya'll at breakfast.

National Young Eagles Day

June 9th is National Young Eagles Day and Chapter 471 will be flying as many as we can. Chris Ulibarri has resigned as the Young Eagles coordinator due to a family illness and a new job in Kansas. Thanks Chris for all you have done for this program. **Mark Reed** has volunteered to take his place and I am sure he will also do an outstanding job. As this date approaches Mark will be calling upon the membership for pilots to fly kids so please if you can say "yes".

Breakfast

April 14th is the big breakfast day! We are going to try a full breakfast at our hanger. I hope we still have all the cooks. We will be using paper plates and plastic ware for the time being. Serving will begin at 9am.

H3 Roof Trim Finally Fixed

It took the skillful hands of **Mark Reed** and **David Bradshaw** to get the roof trim bolted-down so it could stand up to our West Texas winds. The original method of attaching the trim just didn't cut it and ended up "flapping in the wind" for a couple of weeks until equipment and manpower could be coordinated. Also, a big thanks to **Heath Polasek** for bringing out his lift to use in the repair.

Blackie Mears Starts Hummelbird Project

Blackie Mears started his Hummelbird project a couple of months ago and is making very impressive progress. The Hummelbird is an all aluminum, plans-built aircraft. The finished plane will have an 18 ft. wingspan and cruise about 105 mph. As Wes Hays puts it: "As usual, Blackie's quality of work is exemplary."

(The following pictures were provided by Wes Hays)



...and here's what a completed Hummelbird looks like.



Loren Henson's Taylorcraft Project Progressing Along Nicely

The URL below will take you to pictures of the Loren's Taylorcraft L2M project. Loren says the pictures are from before he got it until recently. It is progressing very well. There are 116 photos in all, so far. This web site is update occasionally.

http://gallery.taylorcraft.org/main.php?g2_itemId=7577

Here's a picture of the project plane "many years ago." More pictures like this and recent pictures can be found on the website.



Web Editor

Chapter 471 has a new web editor, **Steve West**. Arlis has had to resign this position due to other personal commitments. Thanks Arlis for a great web site and for helping get Steve started.

Movie Night

April 28th is movie night at the hanger. **Gary Hockensmith** is bringing the movie Flyboys. We will start around 6:30ish. There will be popcorn and soda.

Oshkosh or Bust!

All aboard for AirVenture 2007! We need to start a list of all those who are flying up this year so please email me if you are going and who is going with you. Our group is planning on leaving the middle of the week and catching the last half of the show. It has been mentioned to change the overnight stop off point to somewhere other than Kirksville due to the closing of the Aviation restaurant at the motel. Any suggestions? Again I will be driving up for the whole week in case you need me to haul something for you.

Calendar of Events

April 5th 5:15 pm – Board of Directors meeting at our hanger
April 9th thru 11th – Wings of Freedom Tour in front of our hanger
April 14th 9am – Big Breakfast at our hanger
April 28th 6:30 pm – Movie night at our hanger “Flyboys”

EAA Chapter 471 Officers & Directors

President ~ Charlotte Rhodes
Vice-President ~ Gray Bridwell
Secretary ~ David Bradshaw
Treasurer ~ Loren Henson
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