

Hangar Flyin'



December 2006

President's Message Charlotte Rhodes

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving and that all your families are safe and well. We have added three new members to the Chapter and they are: **BJ Baldridge, Dennis Rowan and Ben Mallon.** If you know them already or when you meet them, please give them a big welcome. Breakfast this month was a little chilly starting out but we all made it through. I remember laughing to myself one time when I looked up and everyone was huddled around the one heater we had and we didn't get a picture. On November 18th, Susan, David, Seymour, Gay, Lew, Jim and I braved the cool night air again and watched "High Road to China" in the hanger. Good flick and a great time again with no pictures. What has happened to all our picture takers? We are going to try and keep the same schedule going after the first of the year with breakfast and movie night as long as it isn't too cold. We have some heaters lined up to use when needed.

In the **November elections**, two board member positions were filled with **Audie Gill** and **Steve Krazer.** **David Bradshaw** will continue as Secretary. These are two year terms which begin January 1, 2007. Thanks to everyone who agreed to run for a position and to those who are finishing up their term. The by-law change passed and it will be amended to reflect the change.

Don't forget, **December 16th is the Christmas party at the Hanger**, if you haven't already, please call or email me to let me know if you are coming or not so I can order the food. I have only gotten thirteen RSVP's so far. **Also, be sure to see more information about the party in this newsletter.**

We are still working with the Airport on the changes we want to make with our hanger but nothing has been approved as yet. I have invited either Dan Weber or Don Green to our next Board meeting so we can discuss with them what it is we actually want to do.



That's it for now, stay warm and hope to see some of you at the Christmas Party.

No Breakfast for December

As in years past, there will not be a chapter breakfast in December. This is usually a very busy time of year for most members and not a good time to hold a breakfast.

If it is not bitterly cold in January, we will attempt breakfast on the 14th. There will be information in January's newsletter posted on the website and in a mass email about the breakfast.

NEWSLETTER CHANGES COMING WITH NEW YEAR

Let me first start off by saying that the newsletter editor's job is still open and I would love to hand-over the duties to a willing

member. In the mean time, I'll continue putting the newsletter together until relief comes along. But, it will come with some changes.

Beginning January, I will no longer print, assemble and mail newsletters. Instead, the newsletter will be available on the chapter website for viewing and printing. In this age of technology, I would suspect that there aren't very many newsletters being printed and mailed among all the EAA chapters. The annual postage expense alone is over \$300 and this money could be put to better use in the chapter. Arlis Wright, the chapter's webmaster, continues to make improvements to the 471 website. With the ability to get information out quickly along with the savings, the decision for the change was easy. Here's how it will work:

I will compile newsletter information and articles as I usually do. When I have completed the newsletter, I will send it electronically to Arlis. Arlis will post it to the website in PDF format. It is my intent to have the newsletter to Arlis and ready for posting on the website no later than the Tuesday before the second Saturday of the month. (As you know, we have our breakfast on the second Saturday of each month.)

Our chapter website is:
<http://www.eaa471.org/>

If there are members that do not have access to the internet or lack the necessary computer skills, perhaps you can have another member print you off a copy. Another alternative is to (cont'd.)

use the computers available at the Abilene Public Library. We will continue to use mass e-mails and the website to get information or reminders out to members as necessary. So, check the website regularly.

Finally, I will gladly accept articles and information for the newsletter. The best method to get that information to me is via e-mail. (sjevans"at"cox"dot"net) In order to get it into the next newsletter, it needs to be sent to me before the first Saturday of the month. Otherwise it will go in the next month's newsletter. Please, do not send newsletter articles directly to Arlis. This will only complicate matters. Thanks to all the members who actively support our chapter.~ Sam

SEYMOUR RECEIVES WRIGHT BROTHERS MASTER PILOT AWARD

Seymour Beitscher, our friend, our director and all around good fellow has recently been honored by receiving the Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award. John Boatright, the FAA's Safety Representative, presented Seymour with this coveted award after 50 years of piloting without an accident or incident.

Seymour began his flying career in 1953, he has flown many different aircraft since then and holds a commercial with single and multi-engine land ratings. Some of the aircraft he has flown starting with the C140 ragwing are; Luscomb, Super Cub, Comanche, Navion, C150, C170, C172, C182, C310, Twin Navion, 35 Bonanza, Aero Commander 500, Twin Comanche(in which he instructed twin engine ratings), Beech T34 and his most favorite, his own F51 Mustang.

Seymour served in the Colorado Wing as Flight Safety and Standardization Officer for several years earning the rank of Lt. Colonel. He participated in more than 20 Search and Rescue

missions while in Colorado. Our friend and director is 80 years old, active in the Chapter and has flown more than 50 Young Eagle missions earning a Young Eagle Flight Leader cap. Seymour is often seen flying medically needy people to and from their appointments for Angel Flight, a strictly voluntary organization, in his own C-Turbo 310.

Seymour has been a resident of Abilene for more than 30 years and is well known throughout the community. Seymour is married to his charming bride, Norma "Gay", and is an ever-loving grandpa to his 11 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild.



EAA Chapter member Seymour Beitscher (r) receives the Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award from FAA Safety Representative, John Boatright.



IT'S LIKE RIDING A BICYCLE BY LOREN HENSON

October 28, 2006 began with cool temperatures and calm winds. Larry, my oldest son, sent me an email on Friday and asked if I would like to fly to Odessa to see Lauren, his daughter compete in the Marching Band Contest. They live in Haslet, Texas and she is a senior at Northwest High School at Justin. I was anxious to go. But he threw in a kicker; I was to fly the ABI-ODO leg.

I had not flown my Cessna 172, N2514U, for several years. Its home is at Hicks Airfield, T67, and north of Fort Worth since 1999. Both of my sons live in the area and fly it often. I go there as often as I can and see how it is doing.

They are doing a good job of keeping her in good shape. Larry flew in from Fort Worth at 9:30 am. Well, I digress. I drove to ABI and Larry flew in from Fort Worth at 9:30 am. After refueling, we were ready to go.

I was a little nervous. I had not sat in the left seat for a long time. He had more confidence than I did. We boarded 2514U with me in the left seat. The engine cranked off on the first turn, as usual. It has always had a good engine. I learned very soon that I had a problem. I was much older and my hearing was not as good as it used to be. I had a hard time understanding what the (cont'd.)

controllers were saying. Larry took care of that and all I had to do was fly the plane. The take-off was smooth. After reaching the end of 17R, I turned to a heading of 270 and continued to climb to 4500 ft. to pass over Dyess. The air was smooth, hardly a bump. Then, I learned that I had another problem. I could hardly see the GPS because of its size and the glare of the sky. I began to realize that I must be getting old. The flight to Midland was "smooth as silk". Midland approach gave us a vector to 240 deg and 5500 feet. After we passed their area, we were released to ODO. I was feeling very good about the flight. It had been a lot of fun and had gone very well. Then, I realized that I was going have to get 2514U on the ground. The nervous feeling started to come back. I turned toward the airport and headed perpendicular, mid field to RWY 16, turned downwind and then base. I had forgotten that my left wing was going to block the runway from view. My first instructor began to talk to me again. "Just stay in the turn, keep it steady and you will be right on the mark". Sure enough, it worked again. There it was right in front of me. I set 10 deg flaps, idled the engine at 1700 rpm, turned final and lined up on the center line, pulled the throttle all the way to idle and began a nice slow decent. 2514U was feeling great. She knew exactly what to do and responded perfectly. A little correction here and there and she was settling toward the end of the runway. OK, now look down the runway; get ready for the flare. It was still steady and right on the center line. Start the flare; hold it off the ground; keep holding. I could remember the instructor saying "the object of landing an aircraft is to keep it off the ground as long as you can. Just let it settle in." It was feeling good. Keep holding. The flare was smooth and the landing was "greased in". Larry looked at me and said "Wow".

We parked the plane, tied it down and went to the football stadium. It was a nice day. Northwest High School won second place in the contest, and would be going to San Antonio for the State finals. It was late night when we returned to ABI. It was a great day. I really felt good flying 2514U again. I checked my log book when I got home and realized that I had not flown her for 10 years.

~ Loren ~

**EAA 471 Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
November 2, 2006**

Present:

- Charlotte Rhodes
- Seymour Beitscher
- Don Bledsoe
- David Bradshaw
- Grey Bridwell
- Harold Cannon
- Sam Evans
- Loren Henson
- Steve Krazer

Meeting called to order 5:15pm
Discussion of meeting room plan.
Motion made by Don Bledsoe to accept plan layout by Sam Evans & David Bradshaw. Motion passed. The plan will be submitted to the building committee that consist of Audie Gill, Gray Bridwell, Tim McMurray and Arlis Wright. The committee is to determine cost, and Grey Bridwell will manage the volunteer(chapter members) effort. Discussion of various methods of raising funds to supplement existing funds to complete the project. Ie. Spaghetti dinner, fly market, pledges, assessments, appealing to the membership. We now have 2 T hangar meters, so we must pay an extra meter charge. This will be looked into and possibly waived.

Meeting Adjourned 6PM.

Respectfully submitted by
David Bradshaw, Secretary



**Christmas Party
Information**

The December 16th Christmas party invitations have been sent out to all chapter members. In case you didn't get yours, contact Charlotte Rhodes as soon as possible.

325-669-9825

charlotterhodes@hotmail.com

If you have gotten your invitation, be sure to RSVP as soon as possible.

Dinner is \$15 per person and will be Joe Allen's bar-b-que with all the trimmings; BYOB

Entrance to Hangar 3 will be through the northwest gate. If you do not have an airport access card, there will be a phone number attached to the entry box for you to call. (you'll need a cell phone) Someone will come to let you in. Be patient, there's usually enough traffic through the gate that you shouldn't have any trouble getting in.

There will be a "white elephant gift exchange". Bring a gift (\$10 or less) if you would like to participate in the exchange. (I think I have a bucket full of drilled-out rivet heads I'm bringing as a gift! ☺)

Gray Bridwell is putting together a video of chapter events from the year and is always enjoyable. Additionally, Gray has informed us that Van's Aircraft has sent shirts, caps, information packets, and DVD's to all the Abilene Van's Aircraft kit builders. These will be given out at the Christmas party.

The party will be great fun and a first for Hangar 3! Just think...we won't have to do those silly elections during the party! Just come and enjoy!

In Tuition \$

By Gray Bridwell

As I write this article the final touches of our RV-10 project are in the works. FAA inspection and registration may be the hold up. Only one teaser photo been placed in the newsletter, so the project has built itself just like Van says in his "RV Story" video, just the progress was nothing, now finished. One day it is out of the box and three years later it flies. Simple as that! Not really, but it sounds good. Our family RV-10 will make its first appearance in the Christmas video in a completed form. It has been a great project. In the months of building and buying airplane parts, I find that the kids college savings account balance now has enough money to buy a burger and fries (Not super sized of course \$). So the RV-10 now has a name.

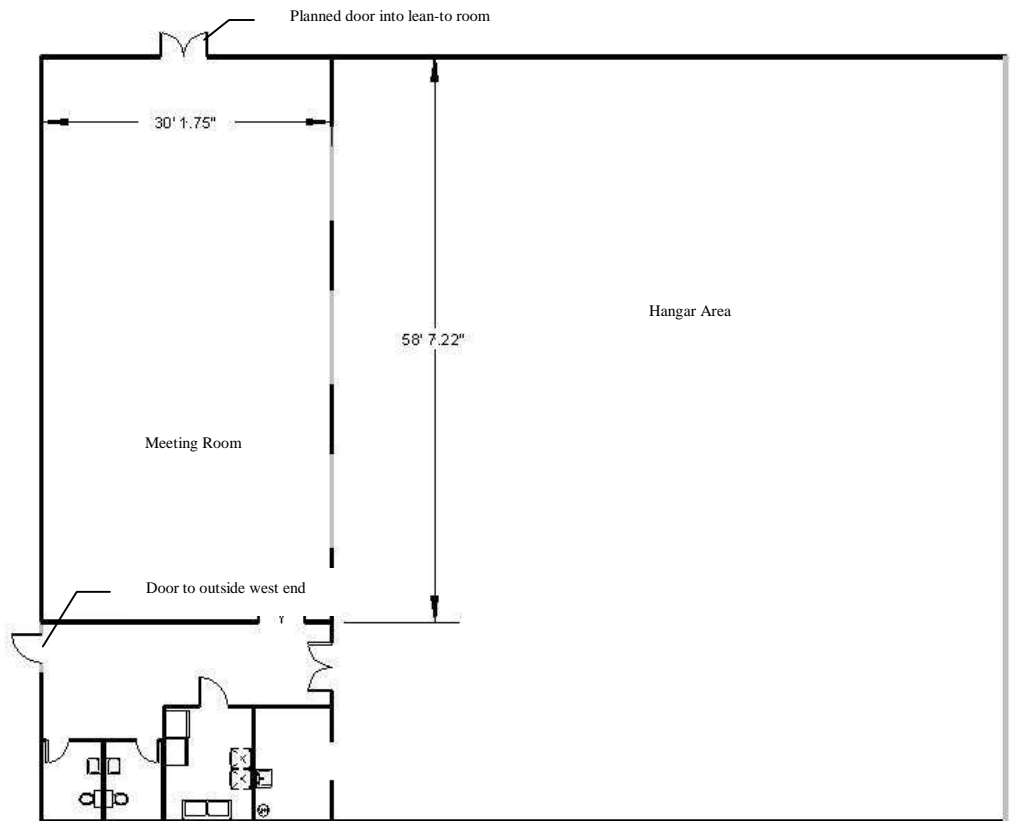
In Tuition \$

So every time we get into the plane, we will in fact be in the kids tuition. Great investment don't you think! Please see the debut of ***In Tuition \$*** in the Christmas party video..... Gray

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Dec 7th - Board of Director's Meeting, H3 5:15pm
Dec 16th - Christmas Party, H3 6:00pm
Dec 30th - Movie Night and/or some New Year Cheer
Jan 5th - Board of Director's Meeting, H3 5:15pm
Jan 14th - Breakfast, H3 9:00am, if not too cold
Jan 28th - Movie Night, if not too cold

Shown below is the planned layout for the meeting room in Hangar 3.



Dues & Hangar Rent

☆ **Due Soon** ☆

Membership dues and hangar rent are **due January 1**. Chapter 471 annual membership dues is \$30. If you have a chapter T-hangar and/or Hangar 3 space, the annual rent is \$695 each. Please submit dues / rent to Loren Henson. You may pay these at the Christmas party if you like.

EAA Chapter 471 Officers & Directors

President ~ Charlotte Rhodes
Vice-President ~ Gray Bridwell
Secretary ~ David Bradshaw
Treasurer ~ Loren Henson
Director ~ Seymour Beitscher
Director ~ Steve Krazar
Director ~ Harold Canon
Director ~ Don Bledsoe
Director ~ Tim McMurray
Past President ~ Sam Evans

