

President's Message Charlotte Rhodes

I hope everyone has been staying warm and well. I for one am ready for the warm weather to come and stay. Last month's breakfast at Golden Corral was well attended despite the ice. I think we had close to twenty people show. After breakfast most of us sat around talking until close to noon. We will be meeting again this Saturday, February 10th same place, same time.

This year we will be attempting a little fundraising for the refurbishment of our hanger. Audie, Gray and Tim have outlined what needs to be done and put a dollar figure to each project, all totaling \$173,658.00. It is a five year plan with estimated costs on the higher side so there will be fewer surprises. This will be several years' worth of fundraising, work and satisfaction for a job well done. Letters for the members who have made pledges to the building fund will be going out soon and for those who haven't a letter will go out to you asking you to please consider doing so. We will need to raise what we can from our membership before we can approach an outside source. We discussed several ideas at the board meeting and as soon as it warms up, we can get moving.

We have a t-hanger available, so if anyone knows someone who wants or needs one, send them this way.

Airventure Oshkosh is not far away so start those plans to go.

On the Air Traffic side, just so everyone knows, as of February 5th we can no longer use "taxi into position and hold". The FAA has placed so many restrictions on this procedure that it makes it not feasible for us to use. We still have a lot of training going on in the tower so please try and be patient with the controllers. I said, "please" and "try" ok.

Until next month.

Hanger Rents and Dues

We still have several members who need to pay their dues and hanger rents for 2007. As a reminder, March 31st is a hard deadline for bringing everything up-to-date. After that your name will be dropped from the membership list and if you have a hanger, **you will be asked to vacate it.**

N68TG Takes to the Skies!

by Gray Bridwell

After three years of building and several slow times waiting on parts to be manufactured, N68TG has taken to the beautiful skies over west Texas. The plane lifted off in the first 500 feet and was climbing at 1000 ft/min before I could figure out where to look to see if I had full throttle.

After figuring out I was airborne and doing well, I exclaimed "She flies like a scalded dog boys" Cam Benton and Russ Dave's came from Lubbock to fly chase and they were well welcomed as a security blanket for the maiden voyage. Check out the footage Cam shot that is posted on Youtube http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6iDeL8YgKyk More footage will be shot, but this is the "real" first flight. To sum it up, the plane flew great, better than advertised, and I can't wait for the weekend to spend 8 or 9 hours in the air!

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