

EAA 292

INDEPENDENCE

OREGON

Taildragger



March 2020

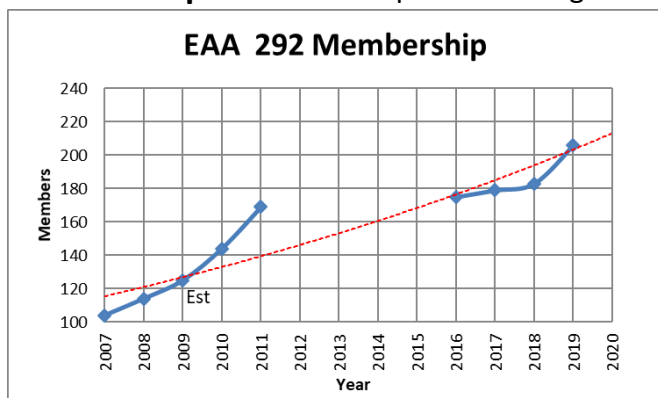
Next Chapter Meeting will be Saturday March 14th at 10am at the Clubhouse

If you have not yet done so, please pay your Annual Chapter Dues (\$35)

Send check to EAA Chapter 292, 4803 Airport Rd., Independence, Oregon, 97351

President's Message

Membership: With our Chapter's recent growth, there has been a lot of discussion about membership. To



the left is a chart that plots our membership over the past 12 years. If you think like me, you'll see some problems with the chart:

- 1) Why did we see staggering growth from 2007-2011?
- 2) Why is there a gap from 2011-2016?
- 3) Why are the slopes different?
- 4) **Why does it even matter?**

I'm going to try answering the first 3 questions before I get to the 4th. In 2007, the Chapter was housed in its newly built Chapter Clubhouse, which was probably the best of

its kind anywhere in the country. New members were being brought in, but as members dropped, or didn't pay their dues, their names were never removed from the roster. Attrition is common to any organization, so you want to make sure that growth always exceed attrition. There was a thought, and we still have some of it today, of "what does it hurt to keep old (unpaid) members on the roster?" So, in-fact our membership in 2011 wasn't 170 paid members. Actually, we don't have the records of how many members there were! Even today, we are missing records from 2011 to 2016.

When Al Cleveland was re-elected President in 2017, we tried to get a better handle on membership. We decided that if a member was inactive (i.e. hadn't paid their dues) for 1 year, we'd take them off the roster. Needless to say, we had an immediate "drop" in membership! One of the changes I implemented when I became President was to start recording monthly the number of Lifetime, Standard, Student and "Other" membership. To the right is a chart since May of last year when we implemented the change.



Question #4; Why does it even matter? Looking at the red trend-line in the top chart, we were on a healthy growth rate of ~5% per year. Over the past year, the Chapter's growth has accelerated to over 22%! To understand why this important, we need to take a step back...*How big "should" the Chapter be? Is there a point where we will be "too big?"* Most of our Chapter meetings have 40-50% attendance...or 80-100 members. *If everyone showed up, could they even all be seated?* Facility resources and planning is something the Board is going to take a close look at this Spring. With the new hangar expansion and the addition of the toolroom which consumed some meeting space, there is a prevailing thought that our general meeting room needs to be expanded; How much? Will our kitchen accommodate 200 members...what about 300 or more?

Why have we grown so rapidly? This is another "question behind the question!" Let me list a few reasons I think we can attribute to the growth:

- 1) The Internet – Interest in our website and Facebook page is definitely on the rise.
- 2) The Simulator – We have new members who've signed up just because they want to use the sim
- 3) Interesting Projects – The DH-2 and Facetmobile have caught a lot of national interest
- 4) The Fly-In – We gain regional attention with a "best-in-class" event.
- 5) Technical Resources – Builders and flyers flock to our Chapter for help on their projects
- 6) Youth Program – Our program is steadily adding students and pilots to the industry.
- 7) Clubhouse & Expansion – Best in the country! To quote Ernie Moreno; "Build it and they will come!"
- 8) Word of Mouth – Our members are proud of our Chapter and talk about it...a lot!

Summarizing, "success breeds success!" This was just recognized by EAA National when EAA 292 was awarded one of the coveted Gold Medallion ratings given to only the highest rated Chapters in the country.

However, with rapid growth comes risk. As we add programs, we need more meeting rooms and space...**and, we need more volunteers for the programs.** As mentioned earlier, the Board will be looking at the situation and giving guidance as to what steps we should be taking to handle these wonderful times. **Enjoy the ride!**

Simulator Program: This month's program will be on the Flight Simulator, and how you as members can take better advantage of it. We have about 80 members signed up to use it, but it's only being used ~3-4 hrs per week. Hear about how you can make yourself a better pilot, save money, and the potential future of a more advanced simulator featuring a "glass cockpit." Chuck West will be the speaker and has committed to working with any member who want to see how it might help them. Come on the 14th to hear more.

Batteries & Chargers? Wow...the combination of last month's Chapter meeting and VMC/IMC club



meeting were a little sobering. Larry Claussen had a great presentation about the advantages of using Lithium-based batteries for improved performance and weight savings. Dave Ullman tag-teamed and discussed some of his research and what was happening in the Lithium battery industry. Anecdotally, Vince Homer followed by reporting on a Lithium battery explosion and fire that he had just experienced while charging the batteries for the DH-2 machine guns. Several days prior to our meeting, Mike Short had presented a scenario at the VMC



Damage from Lithium battery fire

club meeting about a real-world case of phone battery-charger catching fire while in-flight.

I began thinking about my own flying situation. In my Sonex, I have the traditional 12V "lighter outlet" which I regularly keep my phone or tablet charger plugged into. In my Lancair, I routinely have an Android tablet plugged into a "high power" USB outlet on the pilot side, and 2 phones charging on the left, copilot side.

Sometimes I also install a GoPro or other camera system, stand-alone or plugged in. Honestly, I never gave any consideration to a battery or charger fire. Remember, a lithium battery fire cannot be put out with a fire extinguisher (but you can use the extinguisher on everything else that catches fire!). The other consideration is the smoke & hazardous gases that are released. Will you be able to breathe or see out the windshield? In some planes, opening a window is an option...although that might accelerate the fire. In other planes, like the Lancair...safely opening a window or door isn't really an option.

There were some suggestions offered; keep some fireproof gloves or oven mitts within reach. (in the real-life case, the pilot burned his hands to the point that flying the plane was difficult). I logged into Amazon.com and searched for "Fireproof Battery Bags," there are actually a lot of product choices available with a wide range of prices. For anyone curious, here is the search I used <http://tinyurl.com/wuy5mf5>.

The point of this long-winded soliloquy is to have everyone of our Chapter members be aware of the extra risk that Lithium battery powered devices...and their chargers, add to our everyday, routine flying. I doubt that I will stop flying with my tablet and phone, but I will probably keep a pair of fireproof gloves with me!

New Hangar: I'm happy to announce that Bruce Patton has volunteered to head-up the new hangar expansion committee. With Bruce's strong project-management background and leadership, hopefully we can move forward with this exciting project...and keep it within budget! We are still getting suggestions of Olympic pools, spa's, bars, pickleball courts, etc... so keep your great ideas coming (to Bruce now)! 😊



OK, really???

Buildings, Tables, & Chairs...oh my! There continues to be confusion about reserving the Chapter's hangar, tables and chairs. As a reminder, any member (in good standing) can make a reservation for our assets. Currently, Bob Schwarzler is maintaining the "paper" calendar and Al Cleveland has been updating the online, electronic calendar. The tables and chairs are free if they are available. For Chapter events there is no charge. There is a nominal \$35 fee for use of the building for non-Chapter, aviation-related events and activities. If your event is non-aviation (or airpark). Contact Bob or Al to determine if it's possible. Remember, bring back ALL tables and chairs immediately after your event, and tell someone if something is broken so that we can get it fixed, or at least account for it!



Facetmobile & Other Projects: Anyone who's walked into the Chapter hangar during the past month has enjoyed the aroma of Stit's process Polyfiber! Indeed, the Facetmobile is coming along. We've been getting a lot of interest from our website and Facebook page about the status. Dr. Bob Engle assures us that it'll fly in the summer (he's just not saying "which" summer!). Stop by his bay and check-in with him. The Lancair 4P and Kolb MK III Classic are all making progress. The plan is to move the Lancair back to Henry Bartle's hangar so that the exterior work can begin. This'll also free up the bay for the Kolb to be finished (by summer?).



Ordering Nametags: At last month's meeting there were several members who wanted name badges. As you've noticed, the majority of the members have gone away from the old-style paper badge to the new engraved plastic style with magnetic clasp. Following is the procedure for ordering a new badge. You can print out just this page, or we've also included the form as an attachment to this month's e-mail. We'll try to get the form up on the website too.





How to Order an EAA 292 Nametag

1 Fill out the form!

Name _____

Address _____

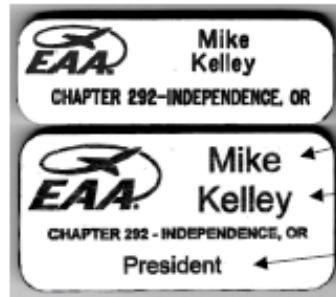
e-mail _____

Phone Number _____

2 Pick Out Your Nametag! (check which one)

I Want **SMALL**

I want **LARGE**



Line 1

Line 2

Line 3 (optional)

3 Design Your Nametag: (all blue lettering)

How I want my name to appear: Line 1 _____

Line 2 _____

If you ordered a **LARGE**, you get to specify Line 3!

(recommendations: Office held, Aircraft built, Aircraft owned, etc.

There is a 26 characters limit including spaces & commas. Fewer is better!)

Line 3 _____

4 Pay for Your Nametag:

A) Print & fill out this form.

B) Put it in an envelope along with a \$10 bill or \$10 check

C) Drop off in the EAA 292 locked drop box (by kitchen)

(or mail check to EAA 292 4803 Airport Rd., Independence, OR, 97351)

No orders will be accepted without pre-payment!

Board Meeting Minutes

Board Meeting 2/8/20

- In attendance, Mike Kelley, John Roberts, Rich Harrison, Vince Homer, Bob Schwarzler, Mike Short, Dave Ullman, Jerry Pryce, Steve Wheat, Denny, Tim
- Mike opened the meeting @ 8:35
- Ernie and Al are not here today.
- Items for General Meeting
 - Vince is going to talk about battery Safety
 - Dave is going to talk about YE and the Lancair
 - Mike S is going to announce the VMC/IMC club will be eligible soon.
- Sec Report – Membership now stands at 24 Lifetime, 194 annual (as of 2/7 76 have not paid for 2020), and 6 students (none have yet renewed for 2020). Total is 224 possible.
 - Jerry said he will pay for the student's renewal.
- Treasury report
 - Budget - all is good but questions about youth, should the chapter fund the youth for \$2000?
 - Jerry suggest young last year's budget for the fly-in for this year. Questions about youth and if or what fundraisers will be done.
 - Final budget will be put out after the Board Retreat meeting. Need to figure out the youth and adult build fund buckets.
 - Bob suggested that those that are involved in the discussion have a side meeting to hash out.
 - Mike and Ernie put together a proposal for the Builders Group Budget, Jerry made a motion to accept the budget, Bob second, approved.
- Youth - Dave. Meeting 4PM on Wednesday, picked a date for the Youth Aviation weekend as April 18 & 19. Dave has a brochure to distribute to the schools.
 - Dave will discuss at the Wednesday meeting about what kind of fundraiser to do.
 - Youth Build. Working to find insurance for the Lancair.
- Vince Facilities - no major issues.
 - Mike brought up that that mice have been in the kitchen. A reminder will go out to make sure the kitchen area is kept clean.
 - Sound defending still being researched, Vince is leaning toward a commercial product.
 - Mike talked about the future hangar project and still working on different ideas.
- Builders report - Kolb - Denny reports that it should be complete by the end of the quarter.
 - Dave - Lancair Lawyer fees are now at \$1800. Final papers have been signed with the estate. When Henry gets back in town it will be moved to his hangar.
 - Still waiting for the cowl on the 701? Do we build our own?
- Fly-In - Steve Wheat. Vans has been confirmed and should be providing the tent. There was a meeting with ODA. Cubcrafters put up \$1,000 for a sponsor spot.
- Monthly content
 - March – Chuck will demo the club flight simulator
 - Working with Lightspeed and Vashon Aircraft on future programs.
 - Still working on the rest of the year.
- Mike will announce the chapter has achieved "Gold Status".
- Steve Heinrich will be leading up the gift and endowments committee.
- Board elections in December. A nominating committee will need to be established.
 - Jerry and Dave suggested we ask for the committee be made up of General Membership (non-board) members.

- Mike will host a Long-term planning on March 20th @ 1PM - 8PM at the clubhouse.
- Jerry and Mike are going to go over the bi-laws this next week.
- Fire extinguishers have been serviced. Discussion was brought up about using some old fire extinguishers for training. Dave is going to reach out to the fire department about this.
- Dave is looking at a new Name Tag board.
- John announced that he just got the first payment for the RV-12 Youth Project from the purchaser.
- Mike Short will be running a video of the Wings program.
- Mike ended the meeting @ 9:45

General Membership Meeting 2/8/20

- Mike opened the meeting at 10:05
 - A headcount showed 60 people in attendance.
- Mike introduced visitors.
- Mike asked for those that need name tags. Mike will have the information in the next newsletter. Dave will build a new name tag board.
- Sec Report. – We have had up to 224 members which includes 76 that have yet paid for 2020 as of last night. Several more have paid since then.
- Treasury report. Budget is still in flux for the year due to late decisions around the Fly-In. We have money in the bank.
- Mike talked about the proposed new building and is looking for a person to head up the committee for this project.
- Mike talked about the nomination for new officers for the vote in December. Mike asked for some members that would help us put the slate together.
- Vince - facilities. No major issues, just asked people report issues.
 - Mike talked about keeping the place clean as we have had reports of mice in the kitchen.
 - Jerry talked about the Defibrillator and asked that we not stack chairs in front of it and the first aid kit. We are working on providing training on the first aid equipment
- Steve Wheat will hold the first Fly-In meeting at Wednesday @ 7PM
- Dave talked about the Teen Aviation Weekend, and looking for folks to help out with it. Date is April 18th and 19th.
- Dave talked about the Lancair 4P. Asked for folks to help out with finishing it.
- Mike talked about their Rays Scholarship and we look to have missed a deadline to nominate someone.
- Mike announced the chapter has reached "Gold Status" and displayed a banner from EAA that was given to us for that achievement.
- Chuck went over the upgrades on the chapter simulator that he has been working on. He also talked about several students that used the simulator to help them move into Aviation careers.
 - Chuck will be doing the presentation next month.
 - All members are welcome to come use the simulator. Chuck is the sim manager, and handles the scheduling.
- Mike Short talked about the VMC / IMC. Starting now the VMC / IMC club will now be able to give Wings credits.
- Builder reports
 - 1X update
 - Vince from Salem brought in the propeller he hand built for his Model A Pietenpol project.
 - 701 project update
 - Steve Wheat - RV-7 update
 - Bruce - working on Lancair

- Eric talked about the Quad City Challenger he just purchased.
- Mike talked about doing a "Light Flight" presentation again in July. This would be an Ultralight presentation as was done last year.
- Break
- After the break Mike showed a short video on the FAA Wings Program. This is
- Mike introduced Larry Clausen. Larry talked about lithium batteries. He talked about the advantages and safety features of the Earth-X battery.
 - Dave Ullman did the second half of the presentation on battery design and electric aircraft designs.
 - Vince Homer showed his WW1 Lewis machine gun replica that has lithium batteries to power it. He had a runaway battery explosion with it while charging the batteries.
- Mike ended the meeting at 12:05



Al Cleveland takes the Dimona out for a joy ride. I don't care how much horsepower you have; it's just not going to fly!



The Chapter Adult Build group's Kolb is getting close to completion.

2020 Fly-In and STOL Expo

This year's Fly-In is starting to take shape. Steve Wheat is getting his team going and the early indications are we have a great start on putting on another Steller event. Steve and his staff will be looking for help. Please contact Steve and see where you can help out. Steve can usually be found almost every day at the clubhouse working on his RV-7. Steve's e-mail is seattlerally@hotmail.com

Here is this year's poster and patch. T-shirts for this year's event will be based on the poster design.

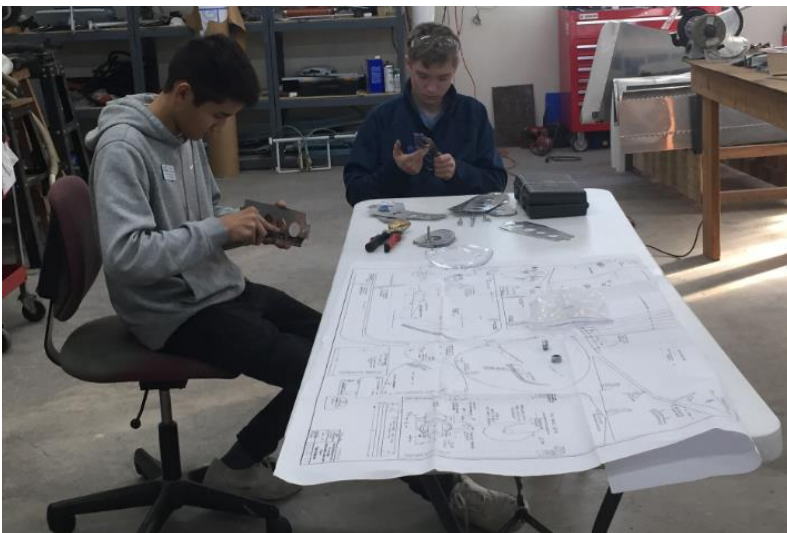




Youth Activities

Mark your calendars: **Teen Aviation Weekend April 18-19**. David Ullman will be lining up speakers and registrars during March. Let him know if you want to be a part of this event or if you know teens who want to attend (ullman@davidullman.com).

The first Young Eagles Rally of the year is June 13. Cindy Woodworth is managing this (cindywoodworth1@gmail.com). Contact her to help on the ground or in the air.



As usual, we can always use additional mentors on Saturday build sessions. The RV-12 is well underway! Just show up at 9:00 to be a part of this project.

