



www.eaa252.org

December 2004

Oshkosh - Sport Aviation Capitol of the World

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December Chapter 252 Meeting
7:00 pm - Monday night - December 6th
Sonex shop - East side of Wittman Airport

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Elo Pickett Annual Christmas Party
Munsil Williams farm and airstrip
Saturday morning, 10:00 AM - December 11th
Bring a dish to pass.

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EAA's "Christmas in the Air" Open House
December 11,12,13 (Sat, Sun, Monday)
Monday evening is the big night!
Music, gift shop discounts, free admission, snacks

New Officers chosen for 2005!

The Chapter Nominating Committee left the nominations open to all members. No nominations from the members were received. So the Committee solicited a good number of members to become officers, with all of them stating they could not do it at this time. The committee then prevailed upon several members who have all the qualities for leadership that we should be looking for and found a slate of extraordinary people who were willing to accept the responsibility and would do an excellent job. These names were discussed by the present officers and directors group, and had overwhelming support. Therefore, we dispensed with the expense and effort of a member-wide mail vote, and these nominations will become the new officers.

President - Charlie Becker
Vice-President - Steve Lark
Treasurer - Frank Friedman
Secretary - Doc Mosher

Doc Mosher will continue as editor of the Pylon newsletter and Dee Mosher will continue as temporary webmaster and Pylon publisher.

With the new roster of officers, we can look for some changes, including the night of the week on which we hold our monthly meetings. For years it has been on a Monday night, but the time may be here for a change to another night.

The new officers will start their terms on January 1st.



Charlie Becker



Steve Lark



Frank Friedman



Doc Mosher



Dee Mosher

New ELTs required by 2009

Your present 121.5 megahertz ELT will be replaced by the new 406 Mhz ELT which will cost about \$1,500 instead of \$500. Just a word to the wise. The new one is "more precise" but also contains a 121.5 transmitter for zeroing in. Our present 121.5 units are reported to open garage doors, airport gates, etc. Some present day TV sets emit a 121.5 signal.

Ol' Tattered Wingtips
Doc Mosher



Well, here we go again. It may seem like Ol' Tattered Wingtips delights in jumping on the Transportation Security Administration, but that is not the case. We wish TSA did not persist in doing such dumb things. And we are not even talking about the new flight instruction rules that require the flight instructors to gather information on their students to ensure that they are really US citizens (or not). One Canadian flight instructor who has lived in the US for years is in the position of holding files on his students to prove that they are US citizens. Here is a foreign national who is responsible for the records on US pilots! Just doesn't seem right.

But deeper than that - it turns out that the Homeland Security Department Inspector General's office has brought to light the fact that last year the HSD had a little ceremony for 543 TSA employees, including one "lifetime achievement" award (the TSA itself was only 2 years old last year).

The "good employee" awards were held at Washington's Grand Hyatt Hotel, one of the capitol's most expensive venues. The entire activity cost over \$461,745, including some \$200,000 spent on travel and lodging. TSA gave its senior executives bonus checks averaging \$16,000, more than any other federal agency has given. The IG's office found that TSA had failed to document adequate justification of a third of the 88 cases it audited. The report said that TSA had short-changed many low-level employees, a far lower percentage of which received bonuses. "A substantial inequity exists in TSA's performance recognition

program between executive and non-executive employees."

The response from TSA? - it's all justified. The reason for the Hyatt? All the other hotels were full for Nov. 19th. And what other hotel could handle 1,200 people, half of them guests?

This occurred after TSA had been shown so many times to have screwed up all during 2003.

Fortunately, House and Senate members are getting pretty upset at all this. They also have the reports that TSA recruits new people basing at lush resort hotels, while the recruits are offered little more than minimum wage pay.

Less than 3% of non-executive employees got any bonuses.

AS Senator Byron Dorgan (D-ND) said: "Of all the agencies, that's the one that's supposed to be working full-time against terrorist attacks."

Chapter 252 members - have you written to your two Senators and to your Congressman? Or maybe you think TSA is giving the USA its money's worth.

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Congress OKs commercial space flight

By a vote of 269-120, the House OK'd civilian space flight. The big argument was over how to "protect" ticket buyers from the risks of such flight. "After being informed of the risks, people can and should be able to decide to buy a ticket . . ."

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Wisconsin Aviation Hall of Fame

The recent dinner honoring the two new members of the Wisconsin Aviation Hall of Fame named Duffy Gaier and Field Morey as this year's recipients.

Locally, our Oshkosh area is well represented in the Wisconsin Hall of Fame.

These include
Warren Basler
Bill Brennand
Leonard Larson
Roy Larson
Tom Poberezny
Paul Poberezny
Preston Wilbourne
Steve Wittman

Museum Doings

AirVenture Museum has had a string of special events including the "Haunted Museum" and the "Paper Airplane Weekend." Were you there?

On December 17th, there will be a full evening of aviation, including dinner in the Eagle Hangar, with the speaker being Mike Melville, pilot of the X-Prize civilian SpaceShipOne.

The Museum is assembling a new Ultralight Tribute exhibit in the Restoration Center. A number of pioneer ultralights will be suspended from the ceiling as a tribute to this part of EAA that did not exist until about 30 years ago. Inter-active touch screens, the first of many throughout the Museum, will be a feature in the Restoration Center.

New FAA Website for You

Ray Peterson of the Milwaukee FSDO Sends us this info. The FAA is discontinuing the printed safety information that you receive in the mail. Budget concerns are causing this. Pilots and mechanics are being urged to register their own e-mail addresses at the new website, so you will get notification of safety seminars and other events.

You do not need to register if you simply want to peruse the website. FAA promises it does not sell your e-mail address.

<http://www.faa.gov>

The FAA website gives you access a whole library of information. The new website is just now coming on line, so be patient.

Drunk driver alert - - -

On Nov. 8 at the Baraboo-Wisconsin Dells airport, Bill Wenkman had 3 airplanes in his hangar, when sheriff deputies saw a woman drive her car 3000 feet across the field and right into Wenkman's hangar. The car launched itself on a 30 degree ramp, hit the ramp at 60 miles an hour, and went 6 feet in the air, completely over a parked snowmobile. The car came down atop a PA-30 fuselage which rolled forward and on into the left wing of a PA-24. The right wing of the PA-30 embedded itself into the tail of the PA-24, destroying it. It continued into another PA-30.

Damage to Wenkman's airplanes total \$158,000. He carries \$100,000 worth of insurance. The 83-year old Wenkman is taking his FAA airframe and powerplant exam this week. He'll be busy.

New TSA Rule - does it apply to you? Yes!

The new TSA rules mandating flight instructors to ensure that their students are actually US citizens (and personally keep the paperwork on file) apply if you are:

- 1) a US citizen seeking anew certificate or rating (except balloon, glider, airship).
- 2) a flight instructor providing training for a new certificate or rating.
- 3) a flight school.
- 4) a resident alien or US-visa holder seeking flight training.

Tough rule, kinda dumb.

Quick Notes

We hear that good friend Rudy Frasca's company in Urbana IL has received FAA approval for both IFR and VFR training using the Frasca "TruFlite H" simulator system that Frasca builds. That new system is already being delivered to helicopter operators around the world who use Bell, Augusta, S300, R22, and R44 helicopters. You go, Rudy!

EAA Air Academy summer camp gets re-accreditation from American Camping Association. The Air Academy has received this accreditation for many years now. Good going, Chuck and crew!

**SpaceShipOne Project Dinner
Friday, Dec. 17, 6:30 pm**

Mike Melville, EAA'r and ubiquitous Oshkosh visitor and new civilian astronaut will be the speaker at the 2004 Wright Brothers Celebration dinner in the AirVenture Museum's Eagle Hangar. Tickets are \$30 each. Reservations are at 426-6880.

Mike was the pilot of the first two flights of SpaceShipOne, when history was made by a civilian team going into space. This series of flights won the Ansari Award of 10 million dollars for Burt Rutan and Scaled Composites.

Now, the company is starting to design and build vehicles for Sir Richard Branson that will take tourists into space.

Great evening. Be there!



Mike Melvill & SpaceShipOne



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