

THE CLECO

EAA Chapter 393

Letter from the President

Volume 31, Issue 12

December 2003

January 2004

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Notes of Interest:

- **Meeting:** Wednesday January 28th at the Buchanan Field Terminal Building located on John Glenn Drive in Concord and will begin at 7:30PM. Visitors are always welcome.
- **Club Fly-Out:** January 31st 10am CCR terminal.
- **Board Meeting:** Next meeting is February 5th at 7:30pm at CCR Terminal. Members are welcome to attend.

Well I certainly had a good time at the Holiday Party. The decorations were wonderful, the food was excellent, and I had a great time talking to people. I want to thank everyone for helping to make it such a wonderful event. I had worried that the MDPA clubhouse location might be cramped, but it seemed fine. It is always a struggle to find the right combination of location, food and economy; perhaps this is a recipe that will last for another year or two.

Unfortunately, the next task that confronts us is the defense of Buchanan Field from the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors. Their chairman, Mark DeSaulnier, seems desperate to close the airport. Notwithstanding his claims that he "supports" the airport, he keeps coming up with activities aimed at closing it. At the same time, it is clear that we must keep up the public pressure on him. Public pressure got the Board to accept the earlier Economic Impact Study, and now it is mentioned as a standard to be met by the current proposals. I believe that public comment emboldened Gayle Uilkema to insert the action item in the proposal that the County contact the FAA and get their opinion before this whole project consumes a lot more time and money. This concept was clearly stated at the last Supervisors meeting that a lot of pilots attended, but it was ignored in this latest plan put forth by Supervisor DeSaulnier. I suspect that public input made it politically "safe" to insert the provision to consult the FAA. There is clearly a lot going on behind the scenes that I do not have a clue to. I would recommend to the members that they get active and do some legwork to distinguish fact from fiction and plot an effective course of action.

As I leave the office of President, I am pretty happy with the accomplishments of the last two

years, yet there is still much to be done. Our accomplishments rest on the efforts of our members and include the construction of several aircraft, many enjoyable fly outs and other social activities, and our Young Eagles activities. I look on leaving the office not as getting uninvolved, but rather as an opportunity to get additional members more involved. I look forward to Peter bringing new ideas and new energy to Chapter 393 to continue and improve on those tasks that we are good at, and to find new activities that engage the membership and bring in new members. I know from experience that the Chapter leaders are dependent on the good ideas of the members, so give your ideas to Peter. In the category of "to be done" is, unfortunately, the preservation of the airport from developers. Another "to do," in my opinion, is continuing to increase our interaction with MDPA. They have much to offer, and there should be more collaboration with them. This would also include other airport organizations, but we seem to interact most with MDPA. We should also make more use of our web site to communicate with our members. The members should be less shy about sending material to Bruce to go on the web site. And send it to Jordan for the Cleco, too!

Personally, Sara and I start work on a Lancair IV-P in April at Lancair's builders' workshop. We are greatly looking forward to that, admittedly with a little trepidation on my part, as I have never tackled anything on this scale before. I will be around the airport a lot more, and I am depending on getting lots of good advice from all the members.

Happy Holidays and happy flying,

Harvard

Young Eagles

The State of California has the most registered pilots for the EAA Young Eagles program with 3,201 with the next closest state being Florida with 2030. Also stands to reason that the State of California pilots flew the most Young Eagles in the world with 86,745. The next state was Wisconsin with 68,104. I believe that we in California can be proud of ourselves for the contribution we made to the accomplishment of reaching the goal set by the EAA National Headquarters.

Since the EAA began flying Young Eagles, Chapter 393 has flown 1,527 youngsters. Most of them in the last 2 years. I believe that we at our little chapter can be proud in assisting the EAA in reaching its goal of flying 1 million kids.

Thanks to the members and pilots for a job well done.

Pat Peters,
Young Eagle Coordinator

Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors Meeting

Tuesday, December 2, 2003 1:30 PM

By Harvard Holmes

As advertised, the Board of Supervisors discussed and then passed the resolution directing the county to prepare an RFP for alternate uses of Buchanan Field. There is a lot of material on this, including a draft of the resolution on the MDPA web site. There were 22 speakers at the B. of S. meeting, with about 20 in favor of keeping the airport as an airport. Supervisor Gayle Uilkema added the provision that the county seek the FAA's position, in writing, before we spend a lot of taxpayer time and money on what could turn out to be a dead end.

Harvard Holmes has sent email to AOPA and to EAA. Both have responded. AOPA is more experienced and will probably have the lead role in this struggle. AOPA had a note in their weekly email bulletin about the Buchanan Field situation; they feel that it is very clear that the FAA will not allow the airport to be closed. There is also a rumor that the present Airport Support Network (ASN) liaison Leo Saunders, may step down. Dianne Cole is interested in this position.

Holiday Party Planning

Saturday, November 22, 2003

Attending: Guy & Linda Jones, Evangeline Peters, Harry Heckman, Bruce & Susan Hobbs, Harvard & Sara Holmes, Scott Achelis, Ray & Mary Ann Nilson, Bob & Sally Belshe.

We will meet with MDPA to decorate their meeting room (where we are having our Holiday Party) at 7:30 on Friday, December 5. MDPA will provide a tree, decorations and extension cords. Bring decorations if you wish, but be prepared for a surplus of decorations - yours may not be used.



*"Chapter 393 has
flown 1,527
youngsters"*



*"...an RFP for
alternate uses of
Buchanan Field."*

Sara will bring cider and cookies for the decorating party. Harry Heckman volunteered to bring HIS homemade nut brittle and Gabi and Ernst volunteered to bring some Christmas cookies from their bakery.

We are having white table clothes and red napkins. Bob Belshe agreed to pick them up from the caterer (Sunrise) on Friday afternoon. Sara is bringing greenery, pine cones and holly. Bruce and Susan Hobbs are providing red, white and green candles for each table as well as wood for the fireplace. Linda Jones has icicle lights and 4 boxes of swag lights. Gabi Freitag offered a "winter wonderland" setup for the dessert table. Scott will provide wood for the fireplace as well as the miniature airplanes for the table decorations and some other items to be given away. Pat Peters will bring left over sodas and bottled water from the Young Eagles rallies. Ernst and Gabi Freitag are providing White Chocolate Cheesecake with Raspberry Swirl for dessert. Tracy Peters is managing the slide/video show. Sally Belshe will bring a hot water pot for the cider on Friday and Saturday.

We will have people pick up their name tags and meal tickets in the outer room.

We reviewed the schedule for the dinner.

Sara and Harvard and a few others will arrive before 5 to let the caterers in.

Hors d'oeuvres will be served at 6 pm.

We will have a slide show and/or video going during appetizers.

Dinner will be served at 7 pm.

The Caterers will provide coffee, tea and biscotti.

After dinner, Harvard will present awards, then Pat Peters will present certificates to YE pilots, and then Tracy Peters will present the Chapter Perpetual Trophy. Then Harvard will raffle off the toy airplanes at each table, and the musical sculpture, both donated by Scott Achelis.

Holiday Dinner Decorating Party

Friday, December 5, 2003

By Harvard Holmes

There was quite a good turnout, and the decorating went quickly and well. A special commendation needs to go to Scott Achelis, who brought a truck load of firewood and left with a truck load of recyclables and trash. He managed to get \$90 for the recyclables that went to the MDPA treasury.



Pictures taken during the decorating party on December 5th.



EAA Chapter 393 Annual Holiday Party

Saturday, December 6, 2004

By Harvard Holmes

All 67 attendees had a great time. There may be some pictures. We had a fire, audio visuals by Tracy Peters, slide shows by Tony Tiritilli and Harvard Holmes, catering by Sunrise Catering, and dessert by Alpine Pastry & Cakes (Ernst and Gabi Freitag). Thanks to my wife Sara for all her hard work organizing this event. Other contributions were wine, candles and other decorations as mentioned earlier.

We had certificates of appreciation for the officers, and certificates of accomplishment for first flyers Rick Lambert, Ernst Freitag, Bill Black and Mark Stafford; and for Doug Knight for getting his pilots license. Pat Peters handed out certificates of appreciation for his Young Eagles ground crew and pilots.



Party Goers



More Party Goers



More Party Goers



Bruce Hobbs being recognized for his duties as Webmaster.



Louis Goodell being recognized for his duties as Secretary/Treasurer.



Guy Jones being recognized for his duties as Vice President.

EAA Chapter 393 Annual Holiday Party (cont.)



Jordan Jones being recognized for his duties as Newsletter Editor.



Bob Belshe being recognized for his duties as the Membership Chair.



Pat Peters being recognized for his duties as Young Eagles Coordinator.



Rick Lambert being recognized for his duties as Technical Counselor, he also received a First Flight Certificate.



Ernst Freitag gets a certificate for first flight!



Accepting for Bill Black's First Flight.



Congratulations Doug Knight on obtaining your Pilots License!



And the debate continues as to which one is which.

Informal Meeting Notes

November 19, 2003

Our meeting was moved to the MDPA clubhouse as a result of a last minute notification by the Airport Administration that another group reserved the Terminal Building. Thank you MDPA for the use of your clubhouse!

The most important business was the election of new and returning officers. Peter Degl'Innocenti and Ken McKenzie had agreed to be nominated for president and Peter was elected for 2004-2005, as certified by Bob Belshe, who agreed to lead the vote counting committee. The other incumbent officers had all agreed to run for another term, and were unopposed, and were elected by acclamation.

General Announcements:

- Pat Peters noted that the EAA had reached their goal of flying 1,000,000 Young Eagles before December 17, 2003, the 100th anniversary of flight. Pat noted that we are still getting calls from people interested in Young Eagle flights, but, due to the uncertainties of the weather, no more scheduled flights were planned for this year. Pat encouraged individual pilots to continue flying youngsters who they knew. Pat related the story of one child who is ill, who greatly enjoyed his Young Eagle flight.
- Scott Achelis is continuing to sell items on Ebay, which have been donated to Chapter 393. About \$450 has been realized so far.
- Harvard Holmes has received a donation of old issues of Sport Aviation from Olga Jones, on behalf of Larry Jones, who used to be a member of Chapter 393.
- Louis Goodell announced that the responses for the Holiday Party were increasing. [Ed. note: about 59 had signed up by November 30th.]
- Tony Tiritilli's presentation on Web Cams has been sent to Bruce Hobbs, who, we trust, will get these links up on our web site as time permits.
- There was positive feedback on sending links to the current Cleco via email, rather than filling the users' email with the actual Cleco. This allows those with slow email links to download the Cleco when it suits them and avoids swamping limited mailboxes.

Introductions and Progress Reports:

- Scott Achelis has 420 hours on his RV6A and recently went to Port Townsend, and Friday Harbor, WA.
- Fred Egli reported that the Runway Incursion (alerting) system at CCR was having technical problems.
- Bob Belshe has ordered a three-blade MT electric prop for his Lancair 235/320.
- Ray Nilson is considering an Eggenfellner Subaru 6 cylinder engine with a wooden prop for his RV9A. The Eggenfellner representative recommended this over a 4 cylinder with an adjustable propeller.
- Bruce Seguire has his experimental Swift down for work on the electronic ignition - it should be back together this week.
- Doug Knight got his pilots license on October 31 - congratulations!
- Rick Lambert is working on a Europa. The Glastar on floats that he was working on has now flown 10-17 hours and has flown off water.
- Ernst Freitag now has 124 hours on his RV8 with no problems. He gets 2000'/min on a cold day. As his family grows he may have to consider something larger.

- Ron Robinson has almost 1000 hours on his Glasair I. He recently went on a trip to South America (commercial L) and had a great time.
- Tony Tiritilli has a Cherokee 235, which is currently on San Juan Island, waiting for good weather to come home. He will be renting out his place in Roche Harbor.
- Tracy Peters is starting the planning for Golden West in June 2004. He and his dad continue to work on their RV. They have a Jabiru 8 cylinder engine for it.
- Pat Peters reports that the cowl for their RV is longer to fit the Jabiru engine.
- Pete Wiebens has 620 hours on his Glasair III. He has bought an Apollo UPS stack

Informal Board Minutes

Thursday, November 20, 2003 by Harvard Holmes

Holiday Party plans were reviewed. Fred Egli and Harry Heckman volunteered to bring wine for the party.

Pat Peters suggested that we invite Mike and Carol from Sterling Aviation, and Will Whitaker from the tower (perhaps with a date). He was asked to proceed.

Harvard will call the National EAA office to request certificates for an additional officer and first flights (Bill Black, Ernst Freitag, Rick Lambert, and Mark Stafford) and for our first pilot, Doug Knight.

A larger screen is desirable for showing slides of the past year's activities. Jordan Jones will get a screen.

Harvard will call the airport office to confirm scheduling. They bumped us again tonight and we had to go over to the Sheraton to meet. (Done. The schedule seems to be in their calendar until next November.) The Airport office has a new scheduling system. When Harvard spoke to Diane in the office, he suggested that the meeting schedule could usefully be made available to read on the airport web site.

Treasurer's Report

Checking Balance: 1443.85

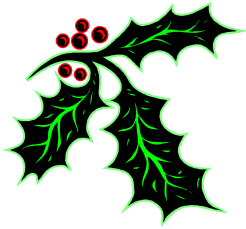
Savings Balance: 2590.68

Total: 4034.53

Are you missing a name tag? Did your name tag melt? Need to pay your Chapter Dues? See Louis Goodell for more information!



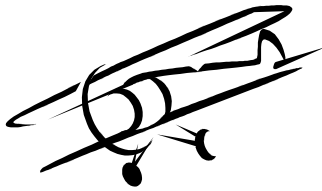
EAA Chapter 393 Annual Holiday Party (cont.)



The Young Eagles Ground Support.



The Young Eagles Pilots.



Will Whitaker receiving thanks from Pat Peters and the Young Eagles pilots.



June Goodell (in red) won the Music Box raffle. Jordan Jones also got in trouble for the ears on his wife Annette!



A very big thanks to Sara Holmes who organized the event.



And last but certainly not least, Guy Jones was presented the Perpetual award for all his dedication and hard work he has given to the club! Way to go Guy!

Letter from the New President

Welcome to a new year of being part of EAA chapter 393. I truly hope that this year will be full of new events, milestones, and goals for our chapter and our members.

The most overt “new” thing with the chapter is me! I am your new president. This is quite a new sort of undertaking for me and I am already in debt to our outgoing president, vice president, board members, and special chairmen. With their continued support and yours the transition should be smooth and dynamic. This is an excellent time to supply the chapter with your own input. New ideas and new involvement by you to whatever degree you see fit are always welcome.

The fight to save Buchanan Field continues. Reports from members in attendance indicate that County Supervisor DeSalinier was cut down to size by the Concord City Council. The City Council was prepared with the facts on how good a moneymaker the airport can be. The ultimate retort came when the City told DeSalinier that if he didn't want the airport Concord did! Though he may be licking his wounds we haven't seen or heard the last of DeSalinier yet.

We have some excellent speakers lined up thanks to Guy Jones. Guy is also working on a very ambitious project to get a nationally known aviation speaker that will draw quite a crowd.

The new year brings a slew of New Years resolutions. One of mine is to return all those borrowed tools and odds and ends I haven't been using. It keeps the peace with friends and neighbors. It could work wonders within the chapter too. So if you have any “extensively” borrowed items from other chapter members it may be a good time to clear the air and your hangar or garage too.

I'd like to see this be the best year for chapter 393 with plenty of flying, building, and help from all of you.

Yours, P-40 Pete

Informal Board Minutes (January)

January 8, 2004

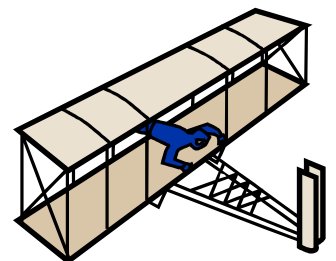
Peter Degl'Innocenti, Louis Goodell, Jordan Jones, Bob Belshe, Harvard Holmes, Pat Peters

Discussion Items:

1. Rehash of the Concord City Council meeting of January 6, 2004 and the presentation by Mark DeSaulnier on closing Buchanan. The presentation was not well received by the council.
2. Louis Goodell will facilitate getting Peter Degl'Innocenti on the signature card for our bank account at Wells Fargo.
3. The Holiday Party almost broke even, losing \$200 to \$300.
4. Cleco status: The December Cleco was composed and on the web, but it has not been sent out. The Board decided that with little material for January, it made sense to combine the December and January Clecos. Material for the Cleco is due January 13.

Regarding the number of newsletters retrieved from the web versus the number mailed via the post office, Louis estimated that about 40 were retrieved from the web and about 55 (including complimentary copies) were mailed.

5. Peter has to work most Saturdays. Harvard agreed to be the flyout chairman for the coming year.
6. Jordan will include in the Cleco Dianne Cole's summary of the Concord City Council meeting with Mark DeSaulnier.



Concord City Council meeting of January 6, 2004


Friends of Concord Airport Coalition



The meeting at the Concord City Council on January 6, 2004, was extremely lively and positive. Supervisor Mark DeSaulnier presented the same general information as at the Dec. 9th Board of Supervisors meeting, beginning with "we have a housing crisis in Contra Costa County". He continued to insist this was a "study", to close the airport. The city council members asked very tough and pointed questions, some of which Mark DeSaulnier was clearly unprepared to answer. Concord mayor, Helen Allen, told Mark DeSaulnier that if the county does not wish to run the airport, the city of Concord will. There is provision in the FAA Grant Deed, and FAA regulations that the city of Concord, or some other entity, could take over the airport, should the County move to close it.

The new elements of Mark DeSaulniers presentation were the designation of the Acme Dump as a potential replacement airport site, "or possibly southern Solano County". He noted, "what else can you do with an old dump, but pave it over?" Missing from the discussion, or documentation, was the plan to build up Byron Airport to replace Buchanan. So the plan is obviously changing in response to the flaws being pointed out, and seeing if anything sells.

We had at least 20 pro-airport people present, many thanks to those of you who could make it on short notice. There were 4 speakers, Ed Norris, attorney representing Seeno Corp, Dave Long, Duane Allen and myself.



*"Acme Dump as a
potential
replacement airport
site"*

The coming months will be getting more intense, and we will strive to keep you informed in a timely manner.

A copy of Mark DeSaulniers letter to the FAA, concerning the "study to close CCR" is attached. You will note, it does not request FAA guidance concerning the possibility of closure. Interesting reading. (If you have difficulty reading it on screen, printing seems to produce a sharper copy.)

Keep smiling,

Dianne Cole

Friends of Concord Airport Coalition



December Fly-out

Saturday, December 27, 2003

There was no meeting at the Terminal Building before the fly out as Harvard was delinquent in getting his act together. Nevertheless, a few last minute calls put Harvard in Bob Belshe's Lancair for a trip up to Lampson, where we met Harry Heckman. On the way back, I took this picture of Harry from Bob's plane.



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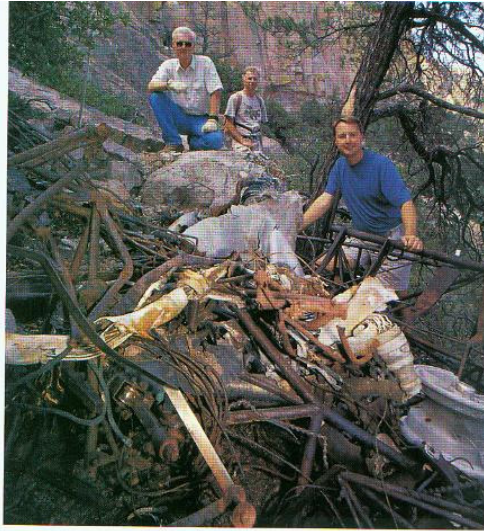
*Vacation with your
airplane!*



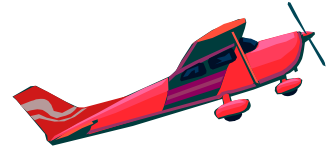
This Months Speaker

Barring some catastrophe, our speaker will be Dave Peterson. He is the guy in the center in the photograph, which was taken from an article in Air & Space Smithsonian. I contacted Dave, who is a teacher in Livermore. He has furnished me with a series of just over 50 photographs taken at wreck locations all over the western United States. Duane Allen is going to assist me, once again, in getting these into a PowerPoint format. The title will probably be some permutation of the original title, "CRASH JUNKIES." Included is at least one local wreck, on the slopes of Mt. Diablo.

—Guy Jones



Wreck chasing "combined a lot of things I was interested in—hiking, history, planes," says Fuller (right, with fellow hobbyists, from left, Jim Fusco and Dave Peterson).



EAA CHAPTER 393

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