

EAA Smilin' Jack Chapter 866

Newsletter

January 2023



They've finally arrived!

Adam Cherwinski and Brad Berry have flown their new nice Cessna Cardinal in from California!

Ain't she beautiful?

These Two have been working on buying and getting this plane to Titusville for a couple of months



And now a few words from EAA 866 President Elect: Ott Thiele

Thank you all for your support – I’m going to continue to need it.

I fly because no one likes my driving. For example I finally got my wife (Tracey) to quit complaining – all it took was some ear plugs and a mask.



Figure : Problem solved!

This month I am modifying a car hauler to transport and rescue aircraft and to haul my Gyroplane from Alabama to X21 so I can fly off the 40 hours here.

I’ve been really busy this last month building my new Gyroplane and test flying it in Italy.

Below is a photo of the 1st day of the build. The fuselage slides onto the frame and is held in place with rivets and bolts. The factory has been having supply chain issues resulting in delayed shipments of finished Gyroplanes. Per Factory management, only the USA and Israel require the experimental rating for an Airworthiness Certificate.



Figure : Midday of 1st day of my Gyroplane build in Italy.

If you haven't already done so- please fill out the Chapter survey from Corporate so we can get more brownie points.

Please Come to the January 4th 2023 EAA 866 meeting and/ or the January 7th Fly-in Breakfast to sign up for the EAA Chapter 866 Annual Party on January 21st 2023 at the Indian River Preserve Golf Club on 3950 Clubhouse Dr., Mims FL 32754 so we can get a good head count.

For 2023 I am considering several topics such as:

- **Benefits of using oxygen when flying.**
- **Maybe persuade a TICO or New Smyrna air traffic controller to come to our meeting and explain how they operate and their issues. Or maybe I could video them to share with the Chapter.**
- **A Chapter data base that the members can share so new members can identify older members and older members such as myself can remember the names of newer members (and old members). It would also be nice to know members Tail Number so if they are flying cross country some of us can follow along to insure they get where they are going safely – I do this for my Gyroplane friends sometimes.**
- **What to do when the weather gets bad (besides praying to Jesus). See photo of flying between the clouds from Florida to Ohio.**



Figure : Flying VFR between the cloud layers.

In closing, I would like to thank all of you for your support over the years.



Figure : Ott & Tracey at The Grove Church for Christmas Eve.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Ott - Ottmar D Thiele, President Elect, Cell: 614 404-7588, Email: odthiele@iecc.org - Or odthiele@earthlink.net



from *Kathy Anderson*

Kathy Anderson flying her Viking powered RANS S21

. The member spotlight this month is on our new Chapter President for 2023

Who has the most unusual first name in our chapter? I say it is Ottmar – better known as Ott Thiele.

Ott was born in Newark, Ohio. His parents were immigrants from East Germany. As a matter of fact, his father drove a 5 ton truck, through a communist checkpoint in Berlin. His family was in the back, protected by a piano. He crashed through the gate, escaping to West Germany and freedom after World War II.

After the harrowing escape, he worked as a stone mason rebuilding West Germany. Later, the family was sponsored by relatives in Ohio which lead them to the United States.

Ott's family owned a small hotel on state road 40 between Newark and Zanesville, Ohio. Ott, his parents, brother and two sisters made a meager living there until interstate 70 was built – at which time, the hotel lost most of its customers. As a result, his dad went back to work as a stone mason – a trade he passed on to his family.

In high school Ott dreamed of flying. He would think about all the places he could fly to – but he had no money to learn. As time went on, he started college at OSU, working two jobs and studying for two majors – Electrical and Nuclear Engineering. About the time he was ready to graduate, the Three Mile Island Nuclear power plant accident occurred. Ott decided that Nuclear Engineering would not be a wise profession to pursue, subsequently he was hired by GE as a field engineer.

For 10 years, Ott travelled all over the world working for GE: installing earth moving equipment, power plant installations, repairs and maintenance. Wanting to spend more time at home, he spent the next 8 ½ years installing power systems in the states. In 1995 he decided to start his own power engineering business, which he continues to this day.

Ott never let go of his desire to fly. In 2008, he began light sport flight training. He flew 14 different aircraft, his favorite being the Jabiru J230D. He obtained his Sport Pilot license but was a bit discouraged at the cost of renting these aircraft and the price of a new one was more than he was willing to pay. So, he decided to get his private pilot license and look for a more affordable ride. He passed his flight test and spent 2 years looking for the right plane for him; he found it in Minnesota: a 1975 Cardinal. He enjoyed the plane and flew it back home to Ohio, then flew

it back and forth to Florida. His wife was a real estate broker and wanted to use the plane for looking at properties from the air. This was a good idea, but the speed, the bumps and the angle of bank needed to view property were not to her liking.

In 2017, they made another trip to Oshkosh for Airventure. There they took demonstration rides in an Autogyro Cavalon gyrocopter. Tracey was all smiles after her ride and Ott knew a gyrocopter was probably in his future.

Ott spent 2 years researching gyrocopter flying and finding out which manufacturer offered the unit that would be best for them. He settled on the Magni M24 – manufactured in Italy. After 5 years of flying his Cessna Cardinal, he sold it and traveled to the Magni Factory to build his gyrocopter through their factory assist program – that was October of 2019.

His completed gyro was shipped to Alabama in February of 2020. He had about 10 hours of training and discovered that the ADSB system did not function- it was not properly installed. Ott left while the system was repaired, then Covid-19 interfered with all of our lives and he did not return to pick up his gyro until June of 2020. He flew another 20 hours and then flew the machine home to Ohio. That summer he flew all around the Great Lakes, then flew to Florida in the fall. The only downside to the machine is the cold he experienced while flying over the Appalachian Mountains.

June 3rd Ott flew into FD92 Southerland Strip. The Gyroplane was taxiing on the 29 end of the runway with the rotor spinning and slid sideways off the high crown due to the wet grass. Oak tree limbs with hanging Spanish moss grabbed the rotor and the rotor inertia dragged the Gyroplane into the trees. Due to the high cost of shipping parts from Italy and associated repair costs, the insurance company decided to total the aircraft. The Lord had a better plan. The lower Euro Exchange rate allowed Ott to build a better replacement Gyroplane in Italy for less than the repair cost of the damaged aircraft.

Note: to reduce weight, most light sport aircraft (fixed wing and gyros) do not have differential braking to help turn the aircraft. In fact, when you brake, the aircraft tends to go straight especially on wet grass- especially with light loading on the nose wheel.

Recently, Ott flew to Italy to build another gyro – one with upgrades and improvements. The new machine will be shipped to Alabama early this winter – then before long – our new chapter president will again be in the skies over Arthur Dunn.



The election

New President!! Before the December meeting started, some of us were waiting for the nice meal that the chapter provided and we airport bums were having the usual pre meeting chats and Ott Thiele came along and started campaigning to become C866 president. I listened for a while and decided that I would vote for him. I don't think he's going to be able to keep all of those campaign promises though without raising our annual dues to an unreasonable level! I think he mentioned that if we voted for him, we'd all get 10 gallons of 100LL free every month and free tickets to Sun n Fun for as long as he is president. I just do not think he can do that! Anyway, I will be waiting for him at the gas pump for my January payoff. >

The meeting started on time and after some discussion about things like the annual winter party and some roof work at bldg. 10. President Kathy announced that this would be her last year as president of our chapter. She asked for nominees who were willing to hold the offices of president and vice president for the year 2023. Ott was nominated and that was seconded and an election by a show of hands was held. A lot of hands went up and a chant of "OTT – OTT – OTT" went up! Well, our new president is Ott Thiele! Then it was time to move on and elect a new VP, Chris Lauver stepped up and he was elected as vice president, unanimously! We're lucky to have these two who are willing to take this on and they will do a good job too, in my opinion. When you see these two guys be sure to encourage and congratulate them.

Kathy (bag of tricks) Anderson and Ben Charvet did an outstanding job as Pres. and VP for the last two years and we should be grateful to them for their efforts too. Tell em thanks.Larry

Kathy Anderson flying her Viking powered RANS S21

This old picture is of one of our C866 members any idea which one?



Capt. Carlos Rosaly 3rd from left



The Blues Bros showed up at our hangar during the holiday week (Ott and Carlos) (Pres. Ott was on the campaign trail doing a little back slapping and hand shaking before the election!)

They are part of the Dunn Airpark X21 cast of characters!

Be Sure to check out the page below from Charlie Becker at EAA Headquarters, especially if you're about to start building an aircraft

Homebuilders Week – Online Event Starts January 23

An online opportunity to learn about all aspects of building your own aircraft

By Charlie Becker, EAA Homebuilt Community Manager

EAA will be hosting our third annual Homebuilders Week online learning event for aircraft builders:

(www.EAA.org/HomebuildersWeek). It will be five straight days of educational forums covering a broad spectrum of aircraft building topics. It will start on Monday, January 23, 2023, and run until Friday, January 27, 2023. The live online presentations will be open to everyone interested in building their own aircraft. Sessions will start at 11:30 a.m. CST and run until 8:30 p.m. CST daily.

This event is an opportunity for a new person to jump in with both feet and learn a lot about the wonderful world of homebuilding. We will cover areas like getting started successfully and techniques when building with sheet metal, composites, steel, and wood. But it won't be just for the newbie; we are offering in-depth talks on panel planning, engine selection, FAA certification, flight testing, and selling a homebuilt aircraft. There will be something for every builder, whether you are just starting out, knee deep in a project, or just received your airworthiness certificate — it is going to be a great learning opportunity.

EAA is working with industry experts, kit manufacturers, and other subject matter experts to provide top-notch material for builders. The sessions will be live and allow time for attendee questions. Recordings will be archived and available to EAA members for review.

EAA Homebuilders Week coincides with the 70th anniversary of the founding of the Experimental Aircraft Association in 1953. Those founding members of EAA lit the fuse on the homebuilt movement that provides affordable access to aircraft ownership and today has spread worldwide.

EAA Homebuilders Week is possible through the generous sponsorships of Aircraft Spruce & Specialty Co., Dynon, Scheme Designers, Inc., and Van's Aircraft, Inc.

Homebuilders Week Schedule

January 23 - 27, 2023

All Time Central

www.EAA.org/HomebuildersWeek

CST	Monday 1/23/2023	Tuesday 1/24/2023	Wednesday 1/25/2023	Thursday 1/26/2023	Friday 1/27/2023
11:30-12:45	Building an Aircraft: What You Need to Know- Charlie Becker	Composite Construction Basics- Mark Forss	Top Five Project Killers- Lisa Turner	EAA's Homebuilt Movement: Past Accomplishments and Future Opportunities -Jack Pelton & Charlie Becker	Amateur Built Aircraft Certification Process-Joe Norris
1:00-2:15	Wiring Basics - Dick Koehler	Buying a Used Homebuilt- Vic Syracuse	Flight Testing Basics-Gary Baker	Lycoming Engine Installation - Dave Prizio	Working with Wood 101- John Egan
2:30-3:45	TIG Welding-Charlie Becker & Earl Luce	The REAL Culprit in HB Accidents- Ron Wanttaja	Zenith Aircraft Kits & Plans- Sebastien Heintz	Panel Planning-Stein Bruch	Advocacy Update: MOSAIC, Fuels & More - Tom Charpentier & Rob Hackman
4:00-5:15	Sonex Aircraft & AeroConversions Products- Mark Schaible	Fabric Covering Basics - Mark Forss	Advanced Flight Systems- Rob Hickman	Garmin Experimental Avionics Solutions- Brad Brensing	Plans Built Aircraft: The Affordable Option-Tim Hoversten
5:30-6:45	Sheet Metal Basics - Mark Forss	Dynon Avionics-Michael Schofield	Gas Welding -Budd Davisson	Choosing Wheels & Brakes- George Happ	Van's New High-Wing RV-15-Greg Hughes
7:00-8:15	Kit Selection - Paul Dye	Van's RV Aircraft Kits-Greg Hughes	Finding an Engine for Your Homebuilt-Mike Busch	Painting Your Plane: DIY or Use an Expert?-Craig Barnett & Ken Reese	Maintenance Horror Stories - Vic Syracuse

To sign up, visit:

www.EAA.org/HomebuildersWeek

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Monthly Meeting

Weds. Jan. 4th , 2023, 7:00 pm

Bldg. 10 Dunn Airpark

Titusville, Florida

Monthly Chapter Breakfast

Sat. Jan. 7, 2023, 8:00 am

Bldg. 10 Dunn Airpark

Titusville, Florida

BIG PARTY

Sat. Jan. 21, 2023

Indian River Preserve

Mims, Florida

SEE Flyer attached to this email