

EAA Smilin 'Jack Chapter 866 March 2017 Newsletter



Deborah and Richards' newly finished Silence Twister – see story N600ZF in this newsletter



Prez. Report

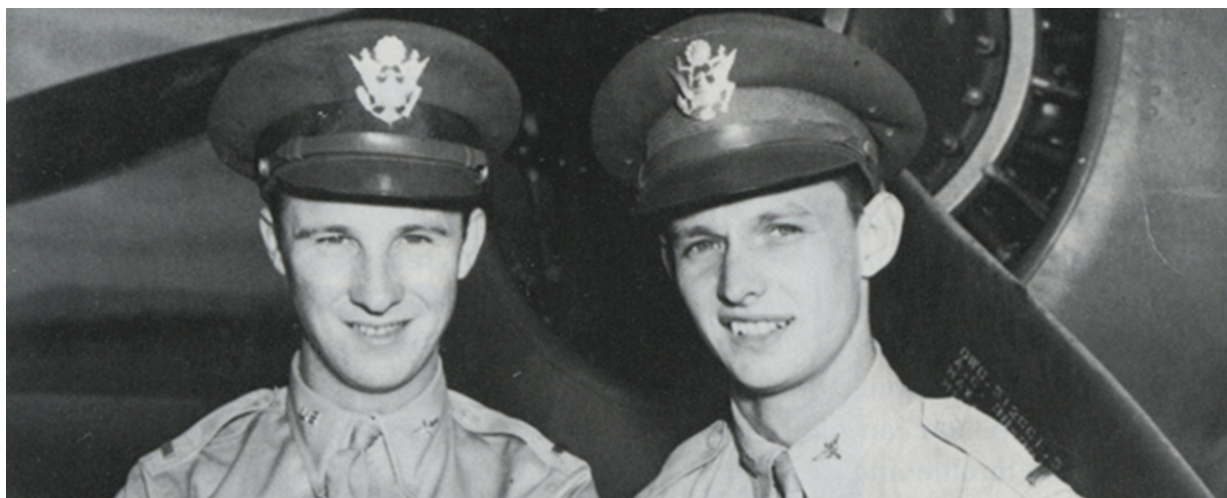
Greetings Members and Friends of EAA Chapter 866,

If you missed the regular chapter meeting last month, you missed a really interesting presentation from one of our chapter members, Casey Fesperman. Casey's presentation was mostly about two fighter pilots who both flew during the attack on Pearl Harbor (on opposing sides of the battle no less!) and who BOTH became close personal friends with Casey during the course of his life. Those two brave pilots were US Army Air Corps Pilot Kenneth M. Taylor flying a Curtiss P-40 Tomahawk, and Imperial Japanese Navy Pilot Zenji Abe who flew a Aichi type 99 "Val" Dive Bomber from the Japanese flagship, *Akagi*.

It was fascinating to hear the accounts of that infamous day as told by someone who had first-person knowledge of the people who were there and who played key roles in this historic battle. Casey not only shared his stories of the two men, but also shared photos and a post card he had personally received from Lt. Commander Zenji Abe. Casey was instrumental in getting the two men from the opposite sides of the battle to meet and become friends. Casey also made it possible for Zenji Abe to take to the air again with him again in a private airplane. Well Done Casey!!

It was amazing to learn from Casey's story that Lt. Commander Zenji Abe most likely avoided being killed in action at the Battle of Midway because he had instead been assigned to attack Dutch Harbor in the Aleutian chain the day prior as

part of a diversionary tactic. As a hero of Pearl Harbor, Lt. Commander Zenji Abe had first seen this assignment as a dishonor, being sent away from the main battle, but later in life he came to realize it was a great blessing that he had lived for many years. He later wrote a book about his experiences entitled "The Emperor's Sea Eagle, a Memoir of the Attack on Pearl Harbor and the War in the Pacific".



Brig Gen. Ken Taylor (Left) and George Welch (American P-40 pilots on 12-7-1941)

Learn more about their story here:

<http://www.historynet.com/american-aviators-aloft-pearl-harbor.htm>



Lieutenant Commander Zenji Abe of the Imperial Japanese Navy

Learn more about his story here:

<http://www.historynet.com/lieutenant-zenji-abe-a-japanese-pilot-remembers.htm>



Pearl Harbor Pilots - Ken Taylor & Zenji Abe w/ Artist Craig Kodera

We had another terrific turnout at our March pancake breakfast! We must be doing something right because folks keep coming back. I have to thank every one of our members who come out and help to cook and set-up and clean-up each month!! You all make our chapter great, and I'm proud to be associated with all of you! Of course, we're also very thankful for all the good folks who come out to enjoy a nice morning meal at the airport and watch the planes fly over. It sure beats the breakfast burrito at the local drive-thru lane.

You may have noticed that, in addition to pancakes and eggs, we also offer cloth patches for sale at our monthly pancake breakfasts.



About four years ago, we designed and ordered some two-hundred *SMILIN' JACK* cloth patches for our chapter members and friends. We don't make much money on them, but they're a great way to show off our chapter on our jackets and hats, or just to keep as a collectible. Over the last couple of years, I've had the opportunity to hand them out to friends, to a few EAA staffers, and even a couple of Blackhawk pilots from the U.S. Customs and Border Protection. It's a simple way to build a relationship and also help folks remember who we are. One of our members, Bruce Hotz, has done the same sort of thing for many years at Sun-N-Fun by giving out free Balsa wood model airplanes to youngsters he comes across. It's a wonderful idea, and I guarantee that simple act of kindness by Bruce will make those youngsters remember their trip to Sun-N-Fun with great fondness for years to come.



We have steadily sold patches to our members and breakfast guests at a rate of about 3 or 4 patches per month. They're now all about gone. So we're about to re-order another batch of patches, but this time we're gonna go BIG and order about 500 of them. First of all, we get a better price per patch by doing a larger order, second we shouldn't run out of them for a loooong time, third we'll eventually get all of our money back and then some as we sell them off, and finally it gives us another opportunity. That is, I'd like to see the chapter take the opportunity give a free *SMILIN' JACK* patch to every Young Eagle who fly's with us at this year's Young Eagle Rally. It's not much, but will give them something a little extra along with their log-book and paper certificate to act as a keepsake to remember their special day with us. And if you recall, inspiring our young people is part of the 5-Point Plan I outlined for Chapter 866 back in the February newsletter. . .

President's ongoing 5-Point Plan for Chapter 866:

1. Don't Break Anything!
2. Airplane Building & Flying
3. Safety
4. Community
5. Youth Involvement

Maybe you will find an opportunity to share your love for flying, building airplanes, and all things aviation with a young person. I know it will make a difference.

Before I sign off, PLEASE REMEMBER . . . There will be **NO regular Chapter Meeting on April 5th**. We will see you at the pancake breakfast on April 1st (No Foolin').

And I hope to see a bunch of EAA 866 members in Lakeland at Sun-N-Fun; April 4th thru April 9th

Best Regards,

Les Boatright (EAA Lifetime #563003)

President EAA Chapter 866,

The *Smilin' Jack* Chapter



N600ZF

Back in the '90's, we published a book for a gentleman who lived in Australia. His novel, titled ZRS was an alternate history of WW2. What if airships had been on station and found the Japanese Fleet in time to warn us? The focus is on a battle fought over Darwin, Australia, between the Axis and the Allies. The little fighter plane with a nomenclature of BuAer Design 124, would have fit right up into the fictional airship, The USS Long Island. (In fact it was designed for just that. If the United States had built another rigid airship, it would have been part of the fighter contingency, along with the SBDs already flying.) When Silence Aircraft announced the Twister in 2004, we were amazed at how closely it resembled the little fighter on the airship! We fell in love. The original plan was for Richard and his buddies to all go in together and build a Twister. We all know the story of the last space shuttle; so the dream project could not be completed; most were scattered to the four winds in search of employment. In 2010, when Richard made farewells to co-workers at a lay-off party, Mark Ariza mentioned that he knew someone who could teach me to fly. I came to my first EAA meeting in Titusville, boldly announced that I wanted to build and fly my own airplane. Big talk for someone who #1, did not know the difference between an elevator and an aileron, and #2, had never taken a flying lesson! Through our friend, Mark Ariza, I met Larry Gilbert, who does have an airplane, is a CFI, and was willing to teach me to fly. For 2 years we kept at it and I finally earned my private pilot ticket in September of 2012. Somewhere in the intervening 2 years, this kit plane, a funky little German number made out of carbon fiber and composites came on the market for the third time. I flew to California, made my deal and arrangements to get it home to Florida. The Twister arrived on 13 October 2011. There were a lot of boxes full of parts I was just learning the names of. Where to begin? Well taking an inventory seemed like a good idea, so we carefully catalogued everything, making up "kits" to organize the work. Both Richard and I were chomping at the bit to get going, but I knew he was right on this. He got the "organizational" gene in the family. Neither of us knew much about composites and had to learn from scratch about hardeners, resins, epoxies, polyesters, vinyl-esters, applying tapes, fabrics and the right kinds of weaves, the saturation rates, curing rates, temperatures and proper ratios, fillers and what can and can't be done with fiberglass. The Sport Air Workshop gave me the edge on this one. The big pieces of the hull were already made-fuselage, wings, control-surfaces. It was the finishing work and manufacturing of many parts that challenged our skills. Since the pieces were just general shape and size- the fuselage was not symmetrical left to right- fitting and finishing, rigging and fitting everything together was where the skill came in. We used what I learned in the workshop to make that happen, Richard brought his skill with electronics, using specialized tools and his great skill as a modeler to plan, design and execute what we thought would be the best course of action. Five and half years of putting every thought and 3200+ hours of labor plus those hours of many helpers, has finally brought us to the end of major construction. There have been a few heartbreaks on the way-leaking fuel pumps and filters, landing gear that is slightly off but correctable, spars that did not fit and an engine that required a lot more

work than we envisioned. It is all together now and our little Twister, with her beautiful and elegant lines is almost ready to take to the skies.

The question that every builder asks, “Was it worth it, would you do it again?” Can only be answered one way-“You better betcha!”



Deborah Van Treuren

The Panther



It's been painted except for a couple of items like the cowling and wheel pants and Bob told me that they'd have it assembled and the engine nailed on by Sat pm! This is the Panther kit offered by SPA that they started in January of this year. I've visited the shop where they are building this a few times and have observed that this is a magnificent kit and is built very strong. It is a single seat aerobatic tail dragger with an O235 Lycoming power plant. They are going to have a good time flying this one!

Larry

New Eggenator equipment!

Master Eggenator Deborah Van Treuren has been signed off to solo on the new (to us) grill that will be used exclusively for cooking eggs at our monthly breakfasts. Ain't it a beauty? This was donated to us by Tim Matlack. We'll call it the "Matlack" grill. Advantage: Bigger space to cook eggs on and will possibly speed up the line of folks that come for our breakfast. This Saturday will be the shakedown trial for the new "Matlack" grill!



It's like Road Service for Airplanes!



Rick came out to Dunn on Saturday morning to fly his EZ. After a stressful weeks work at the Kennedy Space Center..... Aughhhh – dead battery! Not to worry though, Dunn ground crew (DGC) has got you covered – jump start and he's on his way!

Flying West

I hope there's a place, way up in the sky, where pilots can go, when they have to die-
A place where a guy can go and buy a cold beer for a friend and comrade whose memory is dear;
A place where no doctor or lawyer can tread, nor management type would be caught dead,
Just a quiet little place, kinda dark and **full** of smoke, where they like to sing loud and love a good joke;
The kind of place where a lady could go and feel safe and protected by the men she would know,
There must be a place where old pilots go, when their paining is finished, and their airspeed gets low,
Where the whiskey is old, and the women are young, and the songs about flying are sung,
Where you'd see all the fellows who'd flown West before,
And they'd call out your name as you came through the door;
Who would buy you a drink if your thirst should be bad,
And relate to the others, "He was quite a good lad !".
And then through the mist, you'd spot an old guy you had not seen for years, though he taught you to fly,
He'd nod his old head and grin ear to ear, and say "Welcome my son, I'm pleased that you're here.
For this is the place where true flyers come, when the journey is over and the wars have been won.
This is heaven my son - you've passed your last test!".

Submitted by Ray Thomas -----



Submitted by Ray Thomas

Zack Mosley: Civil Air Patrol's Cartoonist Aviator

By Capt. Sybrian Castleman, CAP
Zephyr Airport Cadet Squadron, Commander

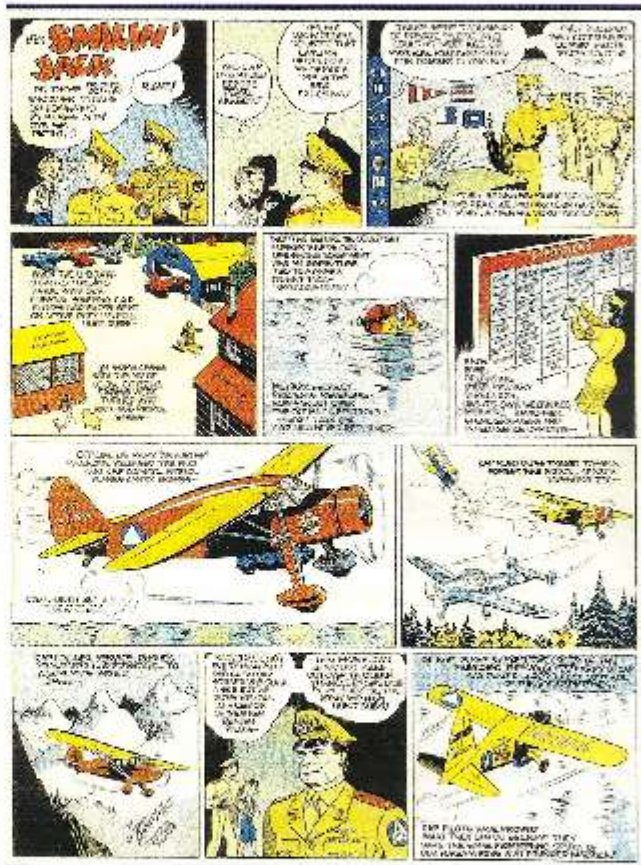
The Adventures of Smilin' Jack comic strip was the creation of cartoonist Zack Mosley. Originally, the comic strip was debuted in 1933 as *On the Wing*, but after a few months, the Chicago Tribune changed the name. His comic strip was published in over 300 newspapers for 40 years.

Mosley was an avid aviator. During World War II, Mosley moved his art studio to a corner of the hangar at Coastal Patrol Base 3 so he could continue his work on the syndicated comic strip and volunteer with Civil Air Patrol as a pilot.

He used prominent Civil Air Patrol members to base some of his cartoon characters upon, including Florida Wing's first commander Wright "Ike" Vermilya who was Mosley's inspiration for the character Long Distance Ike. Mosley created several of the Smilin' Jack comic strips with Civil Air Patrol as the subject matter, helping promote CAP.

His Civil Air Patrol career included serving with the Coastal Patrol anti-submarine mission where he flew 300 hours, and was awarded the U.S. military Air Medal. He also served as a Florida Wing Commander, a Public Affairs Officer, and was a member of the executive board for Civil Air Patrol.

Mosley ended his Civil Air Patrol career with the grade of Colonel and was inducted into the U.S. Air Force's Hall of Fame three years after he retired the Smilin' Jack comic strip in 1973.



Source:
Palm Beach Historical Society Special Exhibit Teachers Guide "War in Florida Waters", Feb-Sept 2010
visit their website at: www.historicalsocietypb.com for the full Teacher's Guide.
Wikipedia article, Zack Mosley, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zack_Mosley
Official Zack Mosley website, www.smilinjacks.com
visit their site to see additional Smilin' Jack comic strips
Jill Mosley, daughter of Zack Mosley

NO APRIL CHAPTER MEETING
Due to conflict with Sun n Fun

Some Reminders about upcoming events:

Date	Event	Place/Info
April 1	OUR 866 Monthly Pancake Breakfast	Building 10 / 8-10 am
April 4-9	Sun-N-Fun Fly-In (http://www.sun-n-fun.org/)	Lakeland Linder Arpt (KLAL)
April 5	CANCEL Regular Chapter 866 Mtg	CANCEL due to Sun-N-Fun conflict
Apr. 10-14	Brevard County Schools Spring Break Week	
Apr. 15	Valkaria Chapter 1288 - Pancake Breakfast (every 3 rd Sat.)	Valkaria Arpt (X59) 8-10 am
Apr. 21-23	Staggerwing and Radial Reunion 2017 (A Fly-In for lovers of Round Engines!)	Craig Field, Jacksonville, FL (KCRG) (www.RadialReunion.com) check it out!
Apr. 28-30	Wings Over Suwannee Fly-In/Drive-In Festival. Hosted by Suwannee County Airport & EAA 797	Live Oak, Florida (24J) (www.WingsOverSuwannee.com) Free Admission & Camping
Apr. 29	Rusty Pilots Seminar presented by AOPA Ambassador Jamie Beckett (Hosted by EAA Chapter 797 . . . <i>"The Catfish Squadron"</i>)	Live Oak, Florida (24J) http://www.797.eaachapter.org/
May 1	FAA "BasicMed" reform goes into effect	https://www.aopa.org/news-and-media/all-news/2017/january/12/aopa-details-basiced-rule
May 3	Regular Chapter 866 Monthly Meeting	Building 10 / 7 pm
May 6	OUR 866 Monthly Pancake Breakfast	Building 10 / 8-10 am
May 20th	Valkaria Chapter 1288 - Pancake Breakfast (every 3 rd Sat.)	Valkaria Arpt (X59) 8-10 am
May 20-21	90 th Anniversary of Charles Lindbergh's New York to Paris flight	http://www.charleslindbergh.com/history/paris.asp
June 1-4th	National Biplane Fly In Junction City, Kansas	Freeman Field, Junction City, Kansas (3JC) http://www.nationalbiplaneflyin.com
June 3	OUR 866 Monthly Pancake Breakfast	Building 10 / 8-10 am
June 7	Regular Chapter 866 Monthly Mtg	Building 10 / 7 pm
July 24-30	OSHKOSH – EAA AirVenture 2017 (Blue Angels) (http://www.eaa.org/en/airventure/aaa-airventure-tickets)	Wittman Regional Arpt (KOSH)
Oct. 27-28	2017 AOPA Fly-In Location #4. Tampa, FL (http://www.aopa.org/fly-ins)	Peter O. Knight Arpt (KTPF)

Chapter officers

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Treasurer – Herman Nagel 21425 Hobby Horse Lane Christmas, Fl 32709 407 568 8980 bhnagel@earthlink.net

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No Monthly Meeting in April!

Chapter Monthly Breakfast

Sat. April 1, 8:00 am – 10

Dunn Airpark Bldg. 10

Sun n Fun

Lakeland Airport (LAL)

Lakeland, Fl

April 4 - 9