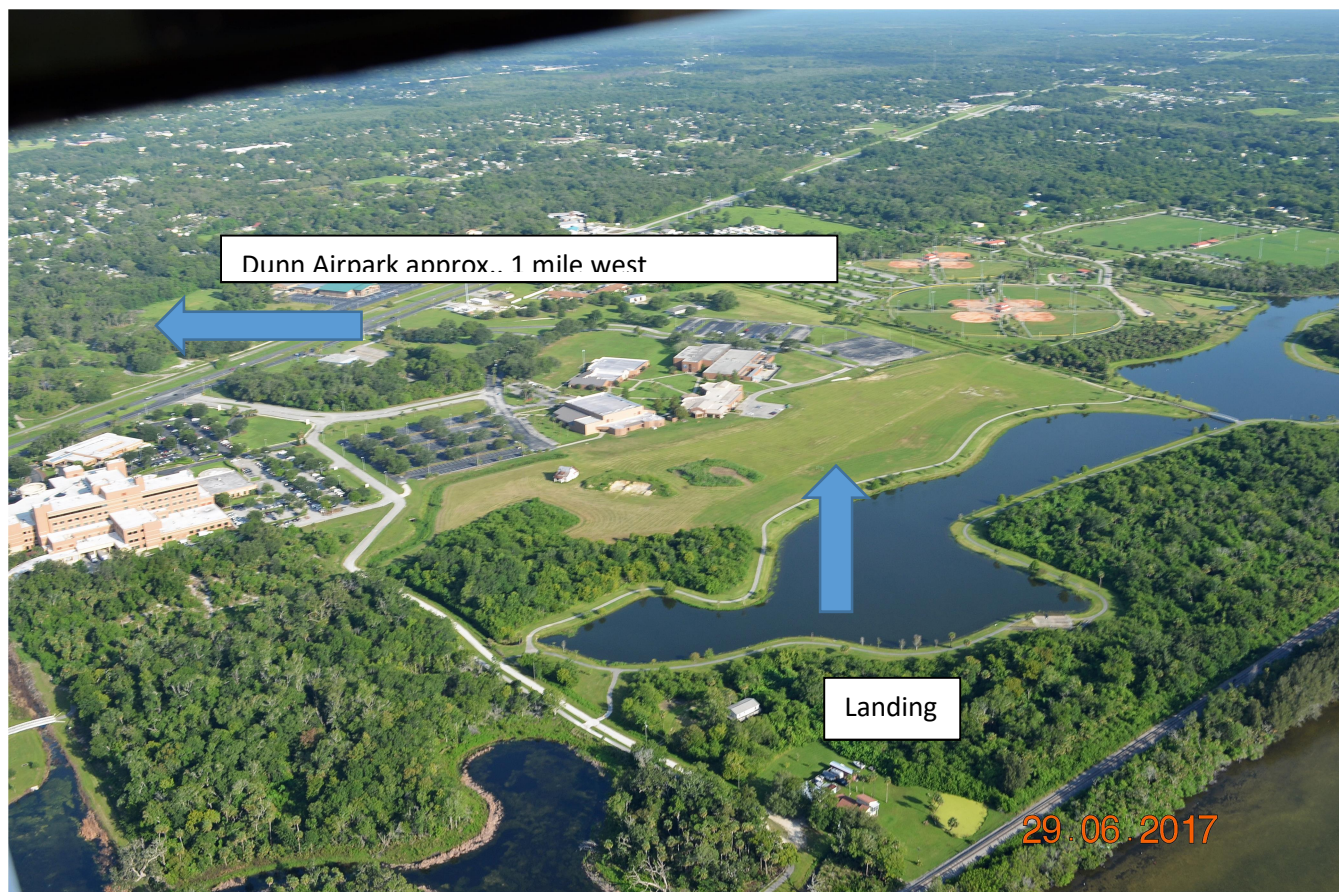


EAA Chapter 866 Smilin Jack Newsletter July, 2017



This is Chain of Lakes Park behind Parrish Hospital. Dunn Airpark flyers take note, one of ours used this to land on NO damage done to plane or anything on the ground! Commendable!

Greetings Members and Friends of EAA Chapter 866,

Les Boatright

Happy Early Independence Day!! I hope you all have a Happy, Safe, and Fun-Filled Fourth of July! With all the long hours of daylight, this is a great time of year to do some aviating, just make sure you steer clear of the “Bombs Bursting in Air” and other Independence Day Holiday Hazards. But most of all, don’t forget that we’ll be serving up some Firecracker Hot Flap-Jacks on the morning Saturday July 1st. I hope to see you all there!



PANTHER UPDATE

As most of you know, since the beginning of the year I've been working with two other chapter members, your V.P. Ed Brennan, and also Bob Rychel to build a Panther Light Sport Aircraft. One of the great things about building this airplane is the fact that it gives me something else to write about in the monthly chapter newsletter. That reminds me You other builders out there who have some amazing projects underway, we'd love to read something about your projects too. Tell us how they're coming along, and send a few pictures. I know there are at least a dozen active builder projects in our chapter right now with at least 3 that are close to being finished. So why not take a moment and send us something for next month's newsletter.

Back to the Panther, our 3-man team has continued to make steady progress on the machine since we started it in January of this year. It seems like the airframe went together very quickly, and then it seemed like things got slower as we've spent much of the last two months working on plumbing, wiring, fairings, engine baffles, and many other little details. But it is coming along and we're working through a punch list of things left to do. Just this past week, we performed the very first power up of the electrical system, tested the radio and transponder, installed the propeller and canopy for flight, and tested the integrity of the fuel system. It's really exciting to see it coming together! We'll be ready for some taxi testing

before ya know it. So, if you're at the airport and see something flash by your eye in July, it's not the "Rocket's Red Glare", it just might be a little Red Panther!



SOMETHING TO FLAP ABOUT

Having grown up on a small family chicken farm in rural North Florida, I have to admit this next story kinda caught my attention. It turns out, as our great nation prepares to celebrate its 241st birthday, some folks out near Tucson, Arizona are preparing to attempt a great and unprecedented achievement in the field of aviation and space flight. As I write this, a small company called World View Enterprises is on the verge of launching a high altitude research balloon called Stratollite. While the launching of helium-filled high altitude balloons is not a new thing, this one will be aiming for an altitude of nearly 100,000 feet, while at the same time carrying aloft a Zinger fried chicken sandwich from the Kentucky Fried Chicken franchise!

Rumor has it that a Sonny's BBQ sandwich was originally slated to fly this historic mission, but it was "pulled" at the last minute after being caught hitting the sauce!



Of course, the flight has many other important scientific, technical and engineering goals. The company plans to develop the ability to keep the balloon and payload aloft for months at a time, possibly providing communication services or a variety of remote sensing capabilities while keeping itself above one part of the Earth's surface. Still, you gotta wonder if someone had been breathing too much from the Helium bottles when they got the idea of floating a chicken sandwich into space.

You can read more about the historic mission here:

<https://www.theverge.com/2017/6/22/15841148/kfc-fried-chicken-world-view-balloon-stratollite-space>

“Ah say, Ah say, Ol’ Boy, If your gonna put a Chicken Sandwich in space, ya oughtta have the common decency to send along a tub of coleslaw!”



LAST MONTH

If you missed the chapter meeting in June, you missed a wonderful presentation from chapter member Ray Jenkins! Ray brought a great slide show and talked about his work with the FAA Office of Commercial Space Flight, and focused his talk on the ongoing efforts by Virgin Galactic to make spaceflight more commonplace and more accessible. We learned a lot of details from Ray about the spaceplane called SpaceShip2, which can rocket up to 6 paying passengers plus 2 flight crew members to altitudes in excess of 100 Kilometers! Um . . . just Watch Out for high-flying chicken sandwiches! Ray also provided insight into the unique launch aircraft called WhiteKnight2. Both of these flying machines share something in common with our homebuilt airplane hobby. Like our air machines, they are carefully handcrafted, with each one being a one of a kind machine.

Also at last month’s meeting, I talked a little bit about some changes that are coming to our pancake breakfast starting with this next breakfast in July. After something like 18 years of being a hard-working volunteer at the Chapter 866 breakfasts, Loretta Gilbert is hanging up her apron and retiring from breakfast duty. I figured out that is well over 200

pancake breakfasts, and very likely more than 25,000 breakfast customers that she has helped to serve during that time! We owe Loretta a huge debt of thanks for her years of tireless service to the chapter! She has certainly earned the right to hang up her apron and hand over her responsibilities to some other folks. Thank You Loretta, we wish you the very best!

Do you remember your first solo flight around the traffic pattern without your flight instructor? You've worked hard and practiced, you've prepared as best you can, and you have confidence that things will work out OK, but you're still a little nervous that you may have forgotten something. Well, we have a wonderful group of talented, hard working, well trained, and well prepared chapter members and volunteers who support our breakfasts each month. As we line up on final approach for the breakfast this Saturday, I am confident that we will do it with Flare! As always, we strive to provide good food, friendly service, and the best little EAA pancake breakfast in Florida!

Best Regards,
Les Boatright (EAA Lifetime #563003)
President EAA Chapter 866,
The *Smilin' Jack* Chapter

Young Eagle Rally?

We have traditionally held a Young Eagle rally on the 3rd Saturday in October and this year that happens to be on the 21st. Do we want to do a Young Eagle Rally this year? If so we probably should be starting to plan for this. We pretty much have planned things the same way for the past couple of years and this would be the basic idea for this year also for the rally day. It all follows the format laid out by EAA for these things. So, the mechanics for this will be no problem. Insurance and permits are easily taken care of and we have never had a problem lining up chapter member volunteers to register, escort, ground school and fly the youth. The struggle for me has been to find enough candidates to fly! Since Loretta and I moved here as retirees we've had not had much involvement with the youth of the area. This wasn't a problem when we did this with our last EAA Chapter 400 in Central PA. **HELP!** I need help with this part. We typically fly 30 to 50 Young Eagles at our rallies and we can usually round up 5 to 10 planes and pilots to do this. Last year we had around 25 – 30 and it was a struggle for me to find candidates. One year we did 50 new Y-Es. You can really, really help by finding scout troops or organizations involved with youth that we can make presentations to. So, if you are part or know an organization to approach about this lets approach them. If we have at least 8 planes and have 50 youth to fly, in 4 or so hours we can fly about 50 Y-Es. There is a CAP squadron at TICO and there has been some communication with them lately about another matter. If we involve them, possibly they can help round up some children to fly. We can also involve the cadets at our event possibly. We can advertise for this but could be overwhelmed by the response. There are some limitations for a big rally at Dunn due to space and co ordinating efforts with the Sky Dive operation. Do we want to do a Y-E rally? For me it has always been the most fun annual chapter event.

Larry Gilbert Young Eagle Co-ordinator EAA Chapter 866



This Month's Flying

Larry Gilbert

The month went by so fast that it's hard for me to remember what flying we actually did! On the third Sat. Loretta and I flew down to Valkaria for their breakfast along with Ben in his Piet. And Jeff in his Kitfox. Good fun! Mark Briere and I flew over to White airport near Zellwood for grins and giggles one day. As some of you know, that flight takes you through the VFR Corrida in a complex airspace involving Sanford class C and Orlando Class B airspace. It's not difficult but if there's a couple of low flying clouds hanging around it'll keep you on your toes staying legal. Summer haze is also a factor and the Bithlo towers (1749') are out there waiting to snag you. Les and I made a couple of flights and stayed in the pattern doing takeoffs and landings. He's getting prepared to fly the Panther that he and his partners are finishing up. He was communicating with a Skyhook in the pattern on one of those days. He'll tell you about this if you ask, probably.

If you fly out of Dunn (X21) you know that if you lose the engine on takeoff you better have a plan because there aren't many places to land and I don't think I can get the Citabria back to the departure runway from 450' and below unless I have done a very short takeoff and maintained VX to that altitude with just myself in the plane. I have a plan. What's your plan?? Want to talk about it?

A couple of weeks ago a Dunn pilot made a successful emergency landing on the turf of Chain of Lakes Park which is probably less than a mile East of the airport. Don't know the details of why he had to land there but I give him a LOT of credit for pulling it off. No damage to the plane or anything on the ground either!

The Chapter Breakfast Evolvment

Loretta Gilbert, my wife, has been deeply involved with our monthly breakfast since we started this 18 yrs ago. She has worked harder than anyone at this and has always strived to make this as enjoyable to our eaters as possible. Now she has stepped down and will be able to actually enjoy these breakfasts. I'm glad!

Below is a copy of the resignation letter she submitted to Les, our president. In case you're interested.

Larry

6/5/17

Dear Les,

After much consideration, I feel that I need to apologize for an attitude that I have about how things are now done concerning the breakfast. I've probably taken this much too seriously and I'm not the kind of person who knows how to delegate. I'm sorry that I aggravate and irritate workers who have only the best interest in making our breakfast successful. These workers are dedicated, faithful, and hard working and it's so wrong of me to continue to push my agenda and I know no other way.

I feel that I must step down and let someone younger who has a better attitude and is willing to make and keep the breakfast enjoyable for EVERYBODY. I must face the fact that I am too set in my ways and too old to change. Doing this now will allow someone else a whole month's preparation for the next breakfast.

I cannot express how sorry I feel for hurting anyone.

Respectfully,

Loretta

How about a flying story for the newsletter about your first solo or a scud running trip you made when you weren't as smart as you are now. Anything that you have had happen that is interesting to read about. Ever had an engine quit? How about that takeoff when you barely cleared the outhouse at the end of the field. Anything like that that has actually happened to you while flying is great. Ever get caught in a Tstorm? We need stories to help with our newsletter. If you have one get in touch with me via my e-mail address.....Larry

Some Reminders about upcoming events:

Date	Event	Place/Info
July 1	OUR 866 Monthly Pancake Breakfast	Building 10 / 8-10 am
July 5	Regular Chapter 866 Monthly Mtg	Building 10 / 7:00 PM
July 15	Valkaria Chapter 1288 - Pancake Breakfast (every 3rd Sat.)	Valkaria Arpt (X59) 8-10:30 am at EAA/VAA Hangar
July 24-30	OSHKOSH – EAA AirVenture 2017 (Blue Angels) http://www.eaa.org/en/airventure/ea-airventure-tickets	Wittman Regional Arpt (KOSH)
Aug. 2	Regular Chapter 866 Monthly Mtg	Building 10 / 7:00 PM
Aug. 5	OUR 866 Monthly Pancake Breakfast	Building 10 / 8-10 am
Aug. 19	Valkaria Chapter 1288 - Pancake Breakfast (every 3rd Sat.)	Valkaria Arpt (X59) 8-10:30 am at EAA/VAA Hangar
Sept. 27	TENTATIVE - Chapter 866 Tour of the Institute of Military Technology (IMT) private collection. Planning in Work. Limited to 25 chapter members	Wednesday 1:30 – 5 PM at Knight 701 Columbia Blvd, Titusville, FL 32780 www.instmiltech.com
Oct. 21	Chapter 866 Young Eagles Rally (Planning in work, Mark your calendars)	Arthur Dunn Airpark, Building 10 / from 8 AM to 1PM, weather permitting
Oct. 27-28	2017 AOPA Fly-In Location #4. Tampa, FL http://www.aopa.org/fly-ins	Peter O. Knight Arpt (KTPF)

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Chapter officers

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Monthly Bkfst Sat July 1, 2017

8:00 am Bldg.10

Dunn Airpark, Titusville

Monthly Meeting Weds, July 5

7:00 pm Bldg. 10

Dunn Airpark, Titusville, FL

