

# EAA Smilin 'Jack Chapter 866

## Newsletter October 2019



Upcoming Events: **Guest Speaker Vince Santorelli from American Aero Services**

I'd like to encourage everyone to come out to our next regular Chapter meeting on October 2<sup>nd</sup>. We've had several really interesting and educational presenters this year, and it looks like we have another exciting one lined up for the Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting! I'm sure most of you have heard about the Warbird restoration and maintenance facility, American Aero Services, located about 30 miles to the north of us at the New Smyrna Beach Airport (EVB). The folks at American Aero Services recently completed a seven year restoration of a Grumman F6F Hellcat, and they recently took it to Oshkosh. Our very own Deborah VanTreuren has a contact at American Aero Services, and managed to arrange for one of them to come to our next meeting and give us a talk about the F6F restoration. Time to read up on the Hellcat before Wednesday. It should be a very interesting presentation!!

*Les*

Collings Foundation Grumman F6F-3N arriving at Oshkosh 2019, (photo by Parr Yonemoto)

EAA News about the Hellcat Restoration:



***Greetings Members and Friends of EAA Chapter 866,***

September was a pretty exciting month, with the threat of Hurricane Dorian causing us to cancel our regularly scheduled Chapter meeting as a precaution. All of the local schools and the Kennedy Space Center were closed that first week of September, as were many local businesses and restaurants. I'm sure we're all very thankful and relieved that the storm threat passed us by and stayed offshore, resulting in only minor effects for us. We had only mild winds and rain, and our Chapter building never lost power. As local businesses began to re-open late in the week, we were able to stock up on supplies and hold our regular Chapter pancake breakfast on the first Saturday of September as usual. After a about week of being on storm watch, the pancake breakfast was a really nice return to normalcy for everyone! We had about 112 hungry folks come out for breakfast that Saturday. A big Thank You goes out to everyone who came for breakfast, and a Great Big Thanks to all our chapter members and volunteers who helped to make it happen!!

Since we missed our regular meeting last month, I'd like to remind our chapter members again about the proposed updates to the Chapter Bylaws. All current, dues-paid Chapter members should have received an e-mail copy of the proposed bylaws updates on or around Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019. Please take a few minutes to review these bylaws before our upcoming October 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting, and bring any questions or comments you have to the meeting. The electronic delivery to members (on Sept 2nd, 2019) of the proposed amendments serves as a written notice of intent to vote on adoption of the new bylaws. In order for the bylaws to be adopted, a simple majority vote of the members present is necessary, per Article VI, Section 1(f). So please make an effort to attend this month.

Another great reason to attend this month is our guest speaker, Mr. Vince Santorelli. Mr. Santorelli is from American Aero Services in New Smyrna Beach, a renowned warbird maintenance and restoration facility. He will talk to us about their 7 year restoration of a Grumman F6F Hellcat. Our very own Deborah VanTreuren will be acting as the "President for a Day" and asked Mr. Santorelli to speak at our Next meeting. See below for more information about the F6F, and don't miss this one folks!

Lastly, our annual officer elections are coming up in about 2 months. If you are interested in serving as a chapter officer or board member, please let one of the current officers know. We would like to get nominations in place at the November meeting.

I look forward to seeing you all at our meeting this Wednesday, and again at our pancake breakfast on Saturday (10/05), and we can always use an extra hand at breakfast!

**Keep on Building, Flying, and Flippin those *Smilin'-Flap-Jacks!***  
Les Boatright  
EAA Lifetime #563003  
President, EAA Chapter 866  
The *Smilin' Jack* Chapter

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**My Oshkosh Trip Report . . . w/ pictures and everything!**  
By Les Boatright

If you're like me, you've gotten both your September and October issues of Sport Aviation magazine, and both of them are chock full of amazing professional photographs from this year's EAA AirVenture Convention in Oshkosh. Despite being an airplane nut all my life, an EAA member for about half my life, and reading about this event for as long as I can remember, this year was my very first visit to the world's largest Fly-In and airplane family reunion! It was the 50<sup>th</sup> year

that the EAA Convention was held at Wittman Field in Oshkosh. I took my family along for a road trip, and we made sort of a 2-week Summer vacation out of it, stopping at a few other attractions along the way back. It's hard to summarize the trip in just a few words in a Newsletter, but that's OK because it's been said that a picture is worth a thousand words. So I'll share a few impressions and a few thousand words worth of pictures with you from our Oshkosh 2019 trip!

First of all, I wanted to make sure to represent the *Smilin' Jack* chapter, so I stopped by the Blue Barn and placed a pin on the map for our home chapter. I even signed our chapter up for a drawing that gave away a Mig Welder, but alas, we didn't win.



Chapter 866 President putting our little chapter windsock on the big map!

Well, Florida is blocked in this view, so you'll have to take my word that I found the right spot on the map to stick our flag pin! I met a couple of terrific volunteers at the Blue Barn.

I've told several people that I was simply overwhelmed by the Sheer Bigness of it all! I've never seen so many airplanes in one place at one time. There must have been 80 acres of homebuilt airplanes (mostly RV types) parked in countless rows, wingtip to wingtip! It was the most number of warbirds that I'd ever seen in one place, and they had formations of warbird flyovers every day. Every aviation vendor imaginable was there. We were there for 4 days, walked several miles, covered a lot of ground, and I feel like we didn't scratch the surface.





**My daughters, Emily & Christina pre-flying a C-150 at KidVenture.**

**One of the more memorable events for my girls was their experience at KidVenture. They learned about air traffic control, got to operate an ATC simulator, learned about weight and balance and how it effects an airplane, flew a jet fighter simulator, and even learned how to pre-flight a C-150. They not only found the proverbial Bird's Nest in the engine compartment, but they said the bird was still in there, AND two little eggs too! Those EAA folks don't miss a lick!**



**We quickly discovered the various trams, and managed to make our way all the way down to the Ultralight area at the South end of the venue.**

**There were a couple of nice CGS Hawk kits on display. The kit supplier is located here in Florida, and I've been hoping to get them to come speak to our chapter at some point. I have a friend who tells me that these kits go together super fast!**



The Pietenpol Aircampers had a very nice presence at Oshkosh. No doubt this was in part due to the celebration of the Pietenpol's 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and also the Pietenpol Fly-in that was held the week prior at nearby Brodhead, Wisconsin.



The "Skeeter Eater" really reflected its owner's personality!



Powered by a C-85, the "Skeeter Eater" had a really nice "Cowl Ornament". I've been told that parasite drag doesn't matter much at Pietenpol speeds.





**A Corvair powered Pietenpol illustrating the variety of engine options available to the do-it-yourself builder**



**Ford Model A powered Pietenpol, it was reported to have 50HP.**





**This Dyke Delta was one of the original attendees at the 1<sup>st</sup> EAA Convention held in Oshkosh, 50 yrs ago.**



**Christina in awe as the F-22 Raptor makes a maximum performance climb.**





**How about this for an oxymoron: a New Production Rotary engine.**

**This engine was run on its stand several times during the show. It is a modern day reproduction of a Gnome Monosoupape 100hp rotary engine. It was specifically reproduced for use on authentic reproduction WWI aircraft such as the Sopwith 1 ½ Strutter (below). The engine is built by Classic Aero Machining Service of Blenheim, New Zealand in partnership with Kip Aero who produces highly accurate replica kits for WWI aircraft. For a mechanical engineer like myself, this engine was simply a functional work of art !**



**Emily posing with the reproduction Sopwith 1½ Strutter from New Zealand.  
(<https://www.kipaero.com/>)**





**This Beautifully restored 1928 DeHavilland Gypsy Moth was just jaw-dropping in its fit and finish!!**

**More on the Gypsy Moth:**

<https://www.ainonline.com/aviation-news/general-aviation/2019-07-22/freshly-restored-1928-gipsy-moth-new-airventure>

<https://www.eaa.org/airventure/eaairventure-news-and-multimedia/eaairventure-news/eaairventure-oshkosh/07-27-2019-91-years-young>



**Oshkosh is also about seeing great friends! We caught up with our very own Deborah VanTreuren right before she taught a class on composites.**

**And we didn't see the HALF of it folks! We could've been there all week and not seen everything, not even close. There are a couple hundred more pictures that I didn't have room to share in the Newsletter. The EAA Museum is a world class aviation museum, with beautiful airplanes, lots of history and plenty of interactive educational displays. It's worth the trip all by itself. I look forward to my next trip to Oshkosh, and the Aviation Family Reunion!**

**Les Boatright**



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<https://www.eaa.org/airventure/eea-airventure-news-and-multimedia/eea-airventure-news/eea-airventure-oshkosh/07-27-2019-Hellcats-Hues-Are-Quietly-Competent>

EAA Warbirds in Review at Oshkosh ( mins):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Nu8pfzb2m0>

“Meet the F6F Hellcat”, a pilots introduction film to Flying the Grumman F6F (20 mins):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JUziAyx6hG4>

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### *Aviation Day at Burn’s Sci-Tech...*

*Deborah Van Treuren*

A chance conversation at the September 866 breakfast with Mike Arman suggesting we may want to participate, in a small way, of course, in Aviation Day at the local Charter School on the 25<sup>th</sup> September.

Well, never one to shrink from a challenge, I hinted to Richard that it might be a good motivator to get *Abra-ca-Deborah* back in the pink. We steamed ahead at a feverish pitch to get the Twister ready for a return to flight condition and static display for the day at school. Finishing touches like refitting the wings, putting on the prop and refitting the cowl were essential to the plan. Paint touch up and aileron adjustments would be later. We loaded her up in the trailer- the soccer pitch isn’t long enough to land on- and then there are those hazards like a baseball backstop, the hill behind it and the construction area for an alternate entrance.

We pulled up into the soccer pitch and right away, two volunteers came bounding out to help set up the display. I suggested they pick up all the toys and balls and cones defining the pitch before the helicopters came.

We pulled out the fuselage, attached wings and tail planes, installed the seat and polished off the fingerprints just in time for the kids to start piling out of classrooms. Recall the old westerns when the wagon train pulls into a circle with a ridge line behind it and the next instant there is a very long line of very curious (maybe hostile) locals lining the ridge? I could hear the Twister say, “Mom, Dad, you need to see this...” in a very tiny voice.

Then, pandemonium erupted as the first chopper touched down in front of us, then another, a Robinson 22, then a third- the Volusia County Sheriff’s Bell Jet Ranger. The kids went absolutely wild! Then out of the North, a mighty roar as the Spruce Creek Gaggle flew formation after formation across the field, first the fast SX’s then the RVs then the slower moving Cubs and Bi-planes. About 20 ships in all. I was every bit excited as the kids- What a show! The show wasn’t over, either, the formations crisscrossed the field at least three times before heading back to Spruce Creek.

Following that fabulous demonstration, the kids started coming down the hill to get up close and personal with the four aircraft on the field, asking lots of questions, how fast does it fly, is it a real airplane, how did it get here, how much gas does it hold and how far will it fly, how much did it cost, what does this do; why do you have these stars on the wings; Ma’am, I think this part is broken(aileron test, no, dear, that is supposed to do that) and the last, I am going to sit in it, how do I get up there?

The rest of the day was pretty tame after the helicopters left and we packed up the Twister. The kids would be treated to conversations with other pilots arriving by land, people involved in airport management and those involved in aerospace. It was fun, exhilarating, and these two old farts were pretty exhausted after a day with 500 children crawling all over the airplane- how do teachers do it?



Deborah and Richard Van Treuren

See pictures below.





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***Missing Man Formation Memorial in honor of Bill Furnholm at our breakfast Oct.5.***

**I realize that there very few current members of our chapter who ever knew Bill. He was a key member of our chapter rebuilding days from 1999 to around 2011.**

**Bill was retired from the US Navy and had a very colorful career with them.**

**One day right after President Reagan died and the ceremonies were happening, Bill said something to me about how wonderful it would be to have a send off like Ronald Reagan got. This doesn't come close to that but I believe it is befitting for him.**



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## **This Months' Flying**

We haven't been doing a lot of flying lately, just enough to stay in the game. Mostly we just go up and practice maneuvers such as lazy eights and steep turns and slow flight at least once a week. Loretta and I did, however, fly down to Valkaria for the monthly breakfast being held by EAA Chapter 1288. Flying down and back we had to work our way around a few showers and low lying clouds and that was fun. We hope to make that flight again next month on the third Saturday.

I found that using the ADS B in feature on my iPad with the Foreflight program to be quite distracting, especially when close to a busy airport. I find that keeping a good scan outside of the cockpit more comfortable than trying to look for the traffic shown on the screen of my iPad. It is OK when cruising though.

*Larry*

## ***Draco Crash***

***Check this Youtube video out. On Sept. 20 at Reno Mike Patey, owner/pilot explains his mistakes causing this crash to happen. Got to hand it to him he owned up to his mistakes about how this happened. - NO Excuses!***

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NfctWAoDXvs>

*Larry*

*Larry*



Some reminders about upcoming events:

Date	Calendar Event	Place/Info
Oct. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Regular Chapter 866 Monthly Meeting	Building 10 / 7 pm
Oct. 5 <sup>th</sup>	OUR Chapter 866 Monthly Pancake Breakfast	Building 10 / 8-10 am
Oct. 14 <sup>th</sup>	<b>COLUMBUS DAY HOLIDAY</b>	
Oct. 19	Valkaria EAA Chapter 1288 Breakfast	X59 Terminal bldg. 8:30 am
Nov. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	OUR Chapter 866 Monthly Pancake Breakfast	Building 10 / 8-10 am
Nov. 6 <sup>th</sup>	Regular Chapter 866 Monthly Meeting	Building 10 / 7 pm
Nov. 11 <sup>th</sup>	<b>VETERAN'S DAY HOLIDAY</b>	
Nov 14-16 <sup>th</sup>	Deland Sport Aviation Showcase – Thurs, Fri, Sat <a href="https://www.sportaviationshowcase.com/">https://www.sportaviationshowcase.com/</a>	Deland, FL (KDED)
Nov. 28 <sup>th</sup>	<b>THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY</b>	
Dec 4 <sup>th</sup>	Regular Chapter 866 Monthly Meeting – Chapter Officer Elections	Building 10 / 7 pm
Dec 7 <sup>th</sup>	OUR Chapter 866 Monthly Pancake Breakfast	Building 10 / 8-10 am

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#### Chapter officers

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**Chapter Meeting**  
**Weds. Oct. 2, 2019**  
**7:00 PM Bldg. 10 Dunn Airpark**  
**Titusville, FL**

**Chapter Breakfast**

**Sat. Oct. 5, 2019**

**8:00 AM Bldg. 10 Dunn Airpark**

**Titusville, FL**