

# EAA Smilin' Jack Newsletter



December 2018

Member Mark Briere hand props Bens Pietenpol for morning flight at Dunn Airpark



*Greetings Members and Friends of EAA Chapter 866,*

**This time of year can get pretty busy with all the holiday planning, family gatherings, church programs, Christmas parades, office parties and all the other extra stuff that often gets added into our “already-full” lives during the holiday season. That’s why it was so encouraging to see such a wonderful turn-out at our December *Smilin’ Jack* pancake breakfast!!**

**The weather wasn’t perfect for our flying guests. It started out with some low overcast clouds just before sunrise, and even a few sprinkles of rain showers were reported in the surrounding areas. But the clouds lifted enough, and the rains stayed away, and we had a nice group of planes that flew in from parts all ‘round! From**

the folks I talked to, we had airplanes that flew in from their bases at Massey Ranch, Southerland, Spruce Creek, Merritt Island, and Valkaria. Their mission: Fun and Flapjacks!

Not only did we have a great group of hungry guests show up on Saturday, we also had a terrific bunch of Chapter volunteers too! Most everyone was in a festive mood, wearing Santa hats and their *Smilin' Jack* shirts, all while *Smilin'* and joking around. As this was the December breakfast, it was a little more difficult to keep an accurate headcount, but we believe there were about 170-180 breakfast guests, and they made some very generous donations to the club! So, EAA 866 sends out a BIG THANK YOU to our all our breakfast guests for so graciously supporting our Chapter! And I want to Especially Thank all our terrific volunteers who make this event happen!!

Just a few quick reminders and observations about the Chapter's monthly pancake breakfast. We begin setting things up before sunrise, usually by 6AM, and it takes about an hour and about 10-12 volunteers to get everything set-up and running smoothly. The more volunteers there are, the easier it is to get it going, plus we have some good fun socializing while we're at it!

We "officially" run the Chapter's pancake breakfast from *about* 8:00 AM until *about* 10:00 AM, OR until the food runs out. Sometimes we'll serve a few Early-birds well before 8 AM, provided we're all set up and ready to go, that is. I'd ask the early guests to be patient with us, we're all volunteers. Sometimes we will run out of certain food items. But the funny thing is that it's NOT always the same items. That means we can't just plan for more of that item next time, because we might end up with a big overage that gets wasted.

Just like voting, the results of the breakfast often depend on Turn-Out. And historically, our Turn-Out has varied from around 100 guests to well over 200 guests. Turn-Out depends on several uncontrollable factors such as weather, holidays, and other competing activities which may fall on our normal breakfast weekend. As a result, our planning is not a perfect science, more of a "Best-Effort" approach, and it usually works out pretty well.

I've observed that by 9:30, things are usually winding down pretty quickly, so stragglers should expect to see fewer food selections and a busy clean-up-crew closing up shop for the morning. After all, we'd like to get out to the hangar on Saturdays and take advantage of a nice flying day too!

Lastly, we only ask for a \$6 dollar donation per person, and we've kept it at that rate for the last 4 years or so. I think that's quite a bargain especially when you consider that we provide far more than just pancakes at our pancake breakfast. Given the low cost, the serving line is intended as a one-trip-only deal. A few folks, (the really hungry ones), will occasionally want to come through the line for a second (or even a third) time. While that's a high compliment to the culinary craftsmanship of our volunteer cooks, for such a pleasure, a second (or third) donation would be welcome.

In last month's Newsletter I wrote about the need to get more people from the younger generations involved with our aviation activities. EAA's most basic mission statement is "To Grow Participation in Aviation". This includes such areas as antiques, classics, warbirds, aerobatics, ultralights, as well as the homebuilt category that started it all. At our last Chapter Meeting, a gentleman named Bill Teixeira, from the Valiant Air Command Museum spoke to us briefly about their efforts to establish a Youth Aviation STEM program. He hoped to partner with us in the development of their program. Since then, I've communicated with him a couple of times, and he was at our most recent breakfast. I believe there may be some small ways for a few of our chapter members to participate, but as an EAA chapter we have certain constraints on the activities we can do under the banner of the national organization. I believe the most effective way for us to participate is to come from the position of our greatest strength. In my opinion, one of our chapter's greatest strengths is aircraft homebuilding, and our ability to communicate the many aviation opportunities available to the youth. We have many knowledgeable and accomplished builders and aviation craftsmen (and women!) within our membership, this is our strong area, our wheel-house if you will. I have a future goal of building a 1 or 2-part presentation on aircraft homebuilding, given from the perspective of our EAA chapter, and with a target audience of middle-school and high-school age students. If you have thoughts on this, or would like to contribute your input, please let me know.

**Chapter Officer Elections.** Please make every effort to come to the December meeting so you can have a say in the leadership of your EAA Chapter. I want to Thank all the officers and board members who take a leadership role in the club!! You ALL are terrific to work with, and your service to the club is the key to its ongoing success, it is very much appreciated by all!

In closing, I have served as an officer for 8 years, first as Vice President and now as your chapter President for the last 3 years. I consider it an honor that the members of our club have entrusted me with these leadership roles. It's an enjoyable activity, I've met a lot of wonderful people by way of it, and I would encourage anyone to consider serving the club by pulling a stint as an officer for a little while. I look forward to continuing to work and support our chapter as a member and volunteer, and I'll gladly support the Chapter's new President as much as they desire.

**A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL !!!**

**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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***Recap: Chapter Building Clean-up and Maintenance Party was held on Saturday Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>***

About 14 volunteers came out to the Chapter building for some routine maintenance and upkeep activities. It has been about 4 years since we did a bunch of work on the roof of Building 10, so it was a good time for a fresh seal coat to be applied. Thanks to Bob's advance planning and all the great help we had, it took less than an hour to cover the entire roof!

We also cleaned out and hauled away some of the items that naturally tend to accumulate over time. A special thanks goes out to Larry, Loretta, and Bob for coming out a few days earlier to do some pressure washing, weeding and paint touch ups. We also sprayed around the building for weeds, hung up our Ford Tri-Motor Banner, swept and vacuumed, wiped down the meeting room, organized some tools, and Steve Quickel did some work to our sign on the front of the building to make it easier to replace if ever needed. Once the work wrapped up, the chapter paid for lunch and we all shared some sub sandwiches. Then some folks stayed around and watched an aviation movie called *633 Squadron* on the big screen TV! It doesn't seem like "work" when you're having fun with friends and talking about airplanes. THANK YOU to everyone who came out to help with the building!!



Bill Heffron said his days in the Navy were great training for the Roof Coating project!!



EAA 866 members hard at work on clean-up day!



Building 10 at Arthur Dunn Airpark, Home of EAA Chapter 866

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**It's time to Renew your Annual Chapter 866 membership.**

**IT'S WINTER PARTY TIME!!!**



**Saturday, January 12<sup>th</sup> at LaCita Country Club**

**Mark your new calendars NOW! It is once again time for our Annual Chapter 866 Winter Party. This year, we are planning to have Live music for the entertainment.**

**It's not too late to get your tickets!! Last chance for tickets will be at our Jan 5<sup>th</sup> pancake breakfast.**

**WHAT: EAA 866 Formal Annual Winter Party**

**WHEN: Saturday Jan 12th, 2018. From 5PM to 9 PM**

**WHERE: LaCita Country Club, Titusville**

**HOW MUCH:** \$25 per person (see Herman for your tickets)

**WHAT FOOD:** Choice of Fish, Chicken, or Beef

**ENTERTAINMENT:** The Band, FLY BY NIGHT, will perform

The Ticket price for the party includes your Annual Chapter 866 membership Dues. What a Deal!

Tickets will be available for sale at the December & January chapter meetings, or at the January pancake breakfast.

Be sure to see Herman to get your tickets and RENEW your membership dues for 2019!

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*This Month's Aviation News*  
*by Les Boatright*

Last month was the Veteran's Day holiday, and we THANK all the men and women who have served our country in the US Armed Forces. Over at the Valiant Air Command Museum, they had a special Open House event all weekend to celebrate Veterans. Admission was free, but donations were received. They served hot dogs and gave tours of the museum. So, after church on Sunday, I took my daughter Emily over to the museum for a couple of hours to look around. It was really nice, there was a nice crowd, and the good folks at the museum were wonderful hosts! They have a very extensive collection of aircraft and other militaria. We met one of their volunteers who flew B-52's during his Air Force career, and he told us a little about the B-52 forward section they have recently restored. It is open for folks to crawl in and see what it was like to live in one of these airplanes for many hours at a time as they flew long range strategic missions.



Emily checking out the Commander's seat of the Stratofortress at the VAC Museum.

*"Daddy, I pushed all 8 throttles to the firewall, but we're still not moving!"*

While at the VAC museum, we also learned that Titusville has a Model Railroad club. Neat Stuff! They meet on Mondays here in town at the Gibson Youth Center.

Check them out here: <https://www.tamrrc.org/>

There's also an active Scale Modeling club in our area. Known as the International Plastic Modeler's Society (IPMS) – SpaceCoast chapter.

They had an extensive collection of beautiful scale plastic aircraft models on display in one of the VAC Museum's hangars, as well as other military vehicles built in scale.

Check them out at: <http://www.ipmsspacecoast.com/>

I bet most of us airplane builders started out building plastic airplane models when we were in grade school! I did!

In other aviation news, I made a very interesting and rewarding flight in the Panther last month! In my ongoing efforts to carefully test the Panther's capabilities (as well as my own), I've been wanting to see what the climb rate was like at higher altitudes where performance typically drops off. It was a beautiful clear day, with unlimited ceilings, so I took off and started climbing. I watched the engine temps and pressures carefully as the Panther and I went upward, also keeping a watchful eye outside for traffic, because the I-95 corridor can be pretty busy.

The Panther climbed well, and before long, we were several thousand feet over the Indian River, well clear of the TICO Class D ceiling below, and outside the Class B veil. The Panther and I easily topped 10,000 feet, and it was still climbing at 650-700 FPM. I got to 12,000 feet and leveled off to take some photos and just enjoy the view. What a view it was!!! I could easily see 40 miles in any direction, I could make out the taller buildings in downtown Orlando, and the entire Cape Canaveral and Kennedy Space Center complex was within easy view. The iFLY showed ADS-B traffic nearby, but much of it was Nine and Ten thousand feet BELOW me! Pretty cool. And yes, the temperatures were noticeably cooler up there as well, but comfortable. Here's the pics:



A "Panther's" View of Cape Canaveral from 12,000 feet above.



The Panther's EFIS display marks the occasion of crossing 12,000' MSL



Distinctive features of Kennedy Space Center and the Space Coast

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L to R: Zenith 650 "Li'l Bit One", Panther "Radio Flyer", and Bob's latest, the "Morgan" RV-6A

I'd like to send a shout out of Congratulations to Bob Rychel!! In case you didn't already know it, Bob has built 4 airplanes in about the last 6 years or so. Talk about a Repeat Offender!

Well, on a recent morning in November, we posed three of them together for a "Family" photo. Way to go Bob!

Les Boatright

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Some reminders about upcoming events:

Date	Event	Place/Info
Dec. 1 <sup>st</sup>	OUR Chapter 866 Monthly Pancake Breakfast	Building 10 / 8-10 am
Dec. 4 <sup>th</sup>	SPACE LAUNCH of Falcon 9 cargo rocket to ISS. NOTE: Temporary Flight Restrictions on Tuesday PM <a href="https://spacecoastlaunches.com/launch-schedule/">https://spacecoastlaunches.com/launch-schedule/</a>	Cape Canaveral AF Station. Lift-Off: 1:38 PM EST
Dec. 5 <sup>th</sup>	Regular Chapter 866 Monthly Meeting - <b>ELECTIONS</b>	Building 10 / 7 pm
Dec. 8 <sup>th</sup>	EAA 724 - 25 <sup>th</sup> Annual Pancake Breakfast & TOYS for	Merritt Island Airport (COI)

	TOTS drive. Bring New, Unwrapped Toy, & Enjoy Bkfst	8:30 AM to 11AM
Dec. 8 <sup>th</sup>	Valiant Air Command's Monthly FLY-IN breakfast	Space Coast Regional (KTIX) 8:00 AM - 10:30 AM
Dec. 8 <sup>th</sup>	Titusville Annual Christmas Parade	Downtown – 6 – 8 PM
Dec. 25 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Christmas Day (Caution: St. Nick takes to Skies again!)</b>	
Jan. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Regular Chapter 866 Monthly Meeting	Building 10 / 7 pm
Jan. 5 <sup>th</sup>	OUR Chapter 866 Monthly Pancake Breakfast	Building 10 / 8-10 am
Jan. 12 <sup>th</sup>	<b>EAA 866 Annual Winter Party!! Fun &amp; Door Prizes</b> <b>Music by: Fly By Night</b>	LaCita Country Club 5 PM – 9 PM
Jan. 21 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Martin Luther King Jr. Federal Holiday</b>	
Jan. 23-26, 2019	U.S. Sport Aviation Expo – Sebring <a href="https://www.sportaviationexpo.com/">https://www.sportaviationexpo.com/</a>	Sebring Regional Airport (SEF) Sebring, FL
Jan.	EAA 724 Young Eagles Event !!	Merritt Island Airport (COI)
Feb. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	OUR Chapter 866 Monthly Pancake Breakfast	Building 10 / 8-10 am
Feb. 6 <sup>th</sup>	Regular Chapter 866 Monthly Meeting	Building 10 / 7 pm
Feb. 18 <sup>th</sup>	<b>President's Day Federal Holiday</b>	
Mar. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	OUR Chapter 866 Monthly Pancake Breakfast	Building 10 / 8-10 am
Mar. 6 <sup>th</sup>	Regular Chapter 866 Monthly Meeting	Building 10 / 7 pm
Mar 15 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup>	Valiant Air Command Warbird Airshow Weekend <a href="https://www.valiantaircommand.com/">https://www.valiantaircommand.com/</a>	Space Coast Regional (KTIX)
Apr 2-7 <sup>th</sup>	45 <sup>th</sup> Annual Sun-N-Fun Fly-In 2019 <a href="https://www.flysnf.org/sun-n-fun-intl-fly-expo/">https://www.flysnf.org/sun-n-fun-intl-fly-expo/</a>	Lakeland Linder Arprt (KLAL)
July 22-28	OSHKOSH – EAA AirVenture 2019 <a href="https://www.eaa.org/en/airventure">https://www.eaa.org/en/airventure</a>	Wittman Regional Arprt (KOSH)

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Please Consider supporting the Merritt Island Chapter's Annual Toy for Tots Drive next Saturday !

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## ***Something that made me think (a little)***

*Larry Gilbert*

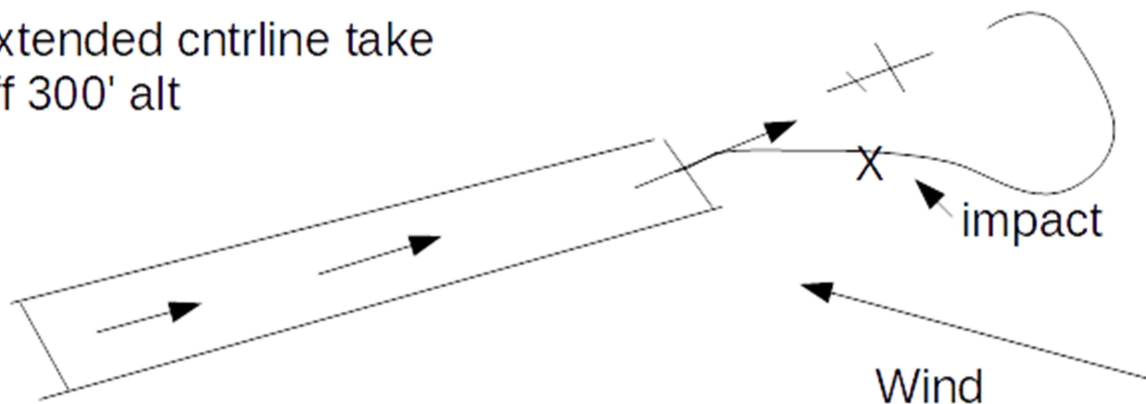
A few months ago I read an article in one of the aviation publications that showed up in our mailbox. The title of the article, " A Better Return Policy." It started out by saying any pilot can become a glider pilot, when a good engine goes bad. This article is about engine failure on departure from the airport. Most of us in our chapter fly out of Dunn Airpark and we're surrounded by residential neighborhoods and the thought of an engine failing on takeoff scares the crap out of me! We've been taught that we should fly the runway centerline after liftoff while climbing out and, if you're below a thousand feet and the engine quits fly straight ahead and don't make any sharp turns but keep the airplane in control and pick the place to land where you can survive and not hurt anyone on the ground doing it. All of this after a quick mental checklist, (switch tanks etc.) .

When I do flight reviews at Dunn, I encourage an early turn out on departure so you don't have to do the infamous 270 ° change of direction you have to make trying to get back to the runway when the power stops while climbing out. Instead, if it quits and you can't reach a runway at least you'll probably be able to get to an open area on the field. That's better than hitting a tree or someone's house.

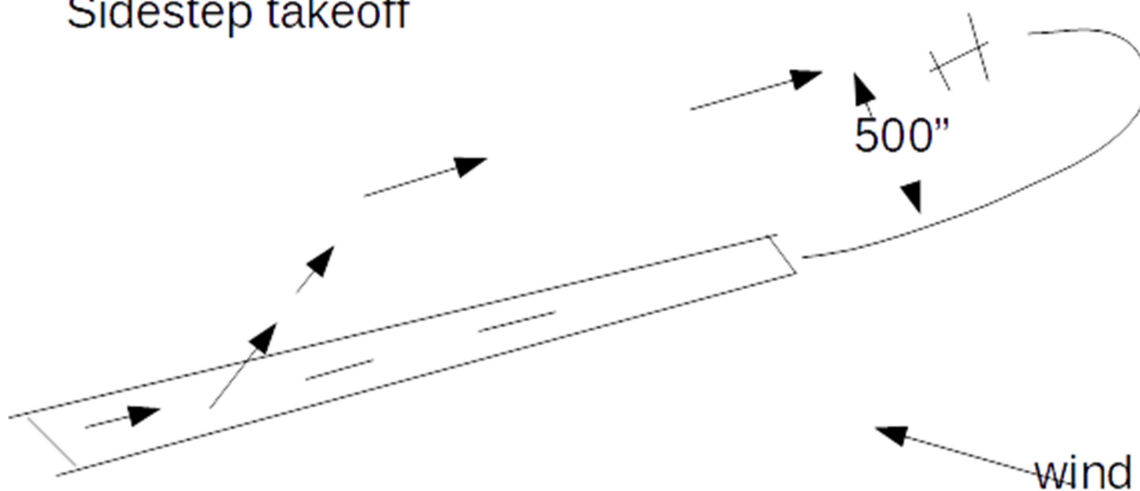
Here's the idea that I got from the Better Return Policy article. What if you side step and not fly the runway extended centerline heading out? Lets say we're taking off from runway 15 and the wind is about 180@ 6kt or so. Liftoff for most of us comes well before the halfway point of the runway so once you've lifted off and are climbing out of ground effect why not side step over to the left side of the runway? At 300' all of a sudden you've become a glider pilot because there's no power from the engine. Lets say you're 500' to the left of the extended centerline of the runway, now you can make that turn back and only have to make a 180° heading change to get back to that runway. Does this make any sense? Now, if you climb out at VX or close to it rather than VY, if the engine quits you'll be closer to the airport at that 300' altitude because your ground speed is slower. Less distance that you have to glide! You're also turning into the wind to get back and again your ground speed is slower. It's actually a little scary making steep turns this close to the ground but, don't panic and if you can handle the 180° turn, you'll probably be right back at the end of the runway. Whew!

What do YOU think?

Extended cntrline take off 300' alt



Sidestep takeoff



# FLY-IN / DRIVE-IN BREAKFAST

2nd Saturday Every \*\* Month  
Warbird Air Museum

You can now fly-in or drive-in, pay \$12 for each person\*, have a Chef prepared breakfast and then see the Museum FREE

Offer good day of the breakfast between 8 am & 10 am ONLY  
Cannot be combined with other discounts

## MENU

- Omeletes made to order • Pancakes •
- Bacon • Sausage • Fresh Fruit •
- Danish • Orange Juice • Coffee •

### • Drive-in •

Warbird Air Museum, 6600 Tico Rd, Titusville, FL  
(321) 268-1941 • [www.valiantaircommand.com](http://www.valiantaircommand.com)

### • Fly-in •

Warbird Air Museum • Space Coast Regional Airport • KTIK

- \* Children (5-12): breakfast \$12, no breakfast \$5 - no sharing food • Wristbands will be issued
- \*\* Check the Valliant Air Command's official website or call the day before to check for any cancellation  
[www.valiantaircommand.com](http://www.valiantaircommand.com) • (321) 268-1941

# Merritt Island Airport 25th Annual Breakfast\*



Saturday, December 8, 2018

900 Airport Road, Merritt Island  
from 8:30am to 11am

All toys benefit our Brevard USMC Toys for Tots Program



\* Admission is one new unwrapped toy  
Help us make someone's Christmas  
a Happy One!



Contact/Questions – Don White – 321-266-7410

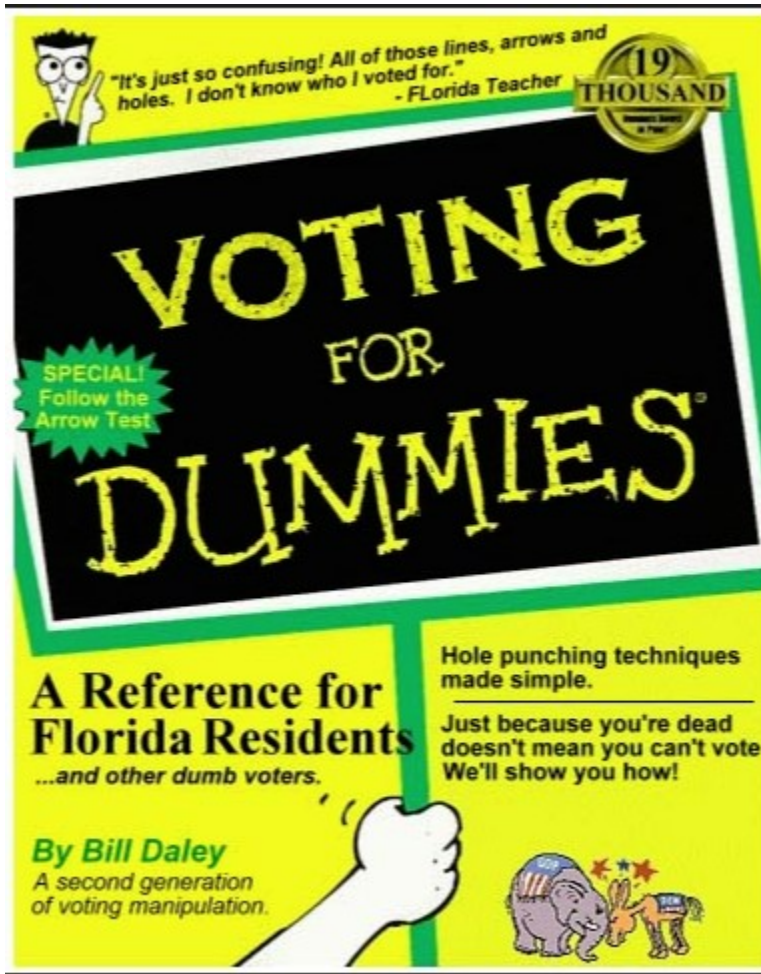


Loretta took this picture on the day we pressure washed roof and the whole building. A good morning's work in preparation for the scheduled work day on our bldg..

### ***Meeting Dec. 5***

Might be a good meeting to get to this week, it's election night! Les has already announced that he is stepping down as pres. VP Eddie has said that he can't be pres. due to the work load at his job. So, YOU could be elected in absentia! If we have a vote that is

close and your candidate doesn't win we can probably come up with some lost ballots and stuff and then count until your person



wins like we do here in Florida!

Lg

### Chapter officers

President Les Boatright 3640 Fraizer Ct. Titusville, Fl 32780 321 269 1723 amyandles@juno.com

VP – Edward Brennan 501 Water Side Circle Titusville, Fl 32780 EJB.USMC@gmail.com

Secretary – Kip Anderson 5812 Deer Trail road Titusville, Fl 32780 321 269 4564 kipapilot@cfl.rr.com

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

Newsletter – Larry Gilbert 2002 Malinda lane Titusville, Fl 32796 321 591 8783 [larryglbrt@gmail.com](mailto:larryglbrt@gmail.com)

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## Chapter Meeting

Weds Dec. 5, 7:00 pm

Bldg. 10 Dunn Airpark, Titusville, Fl

