

**Experimental Aircraft Association  
Chapter 701 – Mansfield, Massachusetts**



**April 2008  
Newsletter**

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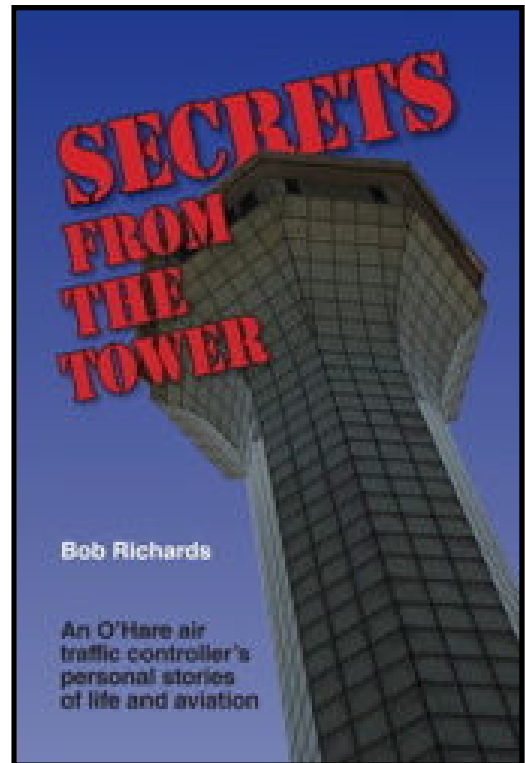
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**From the President's Desk** *by Mike Vidal*

**THIS MONTH'S TOPIC: Next Steps**

While I was a little disappointed in last month's attendance given the quality speaker we lined up, I'm hopeful for a turnaround with this month's speaker, Bob Richards.

Bob is a former Chicago O'Hare air traffic controller that has written a book about his experiences. From his website "Secrets from the Tower by Author Bob Richards gives the reader an inside look at the life of an air traffic controller at one of the world's busiest airports. Thousands of people travel via air every day and give little thought to what is happening behind the scenes. Secrets from the Tower brings the reader close and personal to the action that. Bob Richards has written an exciting, captivating, and sometimes heart-breaking, true story of a fledgling air traffic controller becoming one of the most experienced in the industry. Secrets from the Tower details not only the fast-paced, high-pressure life of an air traffic controller but also how that lifestyle affects a man and his family. Secrets from the Tower is a must read for travelers, aviation buffs, and autobiography lovers alike. Secrets from the Tower is witty and heart-wrenching, fast-paced."



Also, on the new trailer front, we have identified a 24' x 38' foot former classroom. In order to give this matter the attention it deserves, I would like to arrange a separate meeting dedicated to the subject of the trailer. I will work with Bob Sisson to get the information I have on the latest trailer posted on our web page. Check the chapter web site at [www.eaa701.org](http://www.eaa701.org).

Feedback on the efforts being made to improve the chapter would be greatly appreciated.

Happy Flying!

Mike Vidal

**Visit us on the web at [www.eaa701.org](http://www.eaa701.org)**

## Secretary's Report *by Barbara Beech*

### EAA Chapter 701 Meeting Notes—Friday, March 21, 2008

At this meeting, the guest speaker, **William (Bill) Guenon, Jr.** gave his presentation prior to the business meeting. Mr. Guenon is the author of the book "Secret and Dangerous: Night of the Son Tay P.O.W. Raid." This raid, conducted at night, was an attempt to rescue POW's being held in a North Vietnamese prison camp near Hanoi. Bill flew a C-130 that led six helicopters into the prison camp. All the planning and preparation for this operation was top secret at the time. Bill described the plans and procedures in detail. His maps, diagrams and charts showed the key locations so that the audience could



understand clearly exactly how the raid was accomplished. There was a surprise and unexpected ending to this story. One hates to give it away, so if you were not in attendance at this excellent presentation, perhaps you would like to purchase the book so you can find out for yourself what happened.

Thanks to Mike for organizing the guest speaker program. This first offering was great and we're sure that the subsequent talks will be entertaining and informative also.



After a break for coffee and delicious brownies, President Mike Vidal brought the business meeting to order at 9:25. Sixteen members were present.

- The February Secretary's report was accepted as published in the newsletter.
- The Treasurer's Report was accepted as read by Joe Kelly.
- There are no Airport Commission notes as the meeting will be held next week.

Old Business: None

New Business:

- A light sport Aircraft Expo will be held at Taunton airport on May 25<sup>th</sup> from 10:00am to 2:00pm. Tim Sullivan's company LS Aviators LC will participate in the Expo.
- Chapter Insurance: Mike stated that there are some items that the National does not cover, such as soil contamination and clean-up. These issues will be discussed with the Airport Commission to see if changes can be made in the chapter lease.

## Secretary's Report *(Continued)*

- The EAA has given notice that they are no longer sponsoring regional air events. The Chapter 701 Fly-In and Young Eagles events are not affected by this policy.
- The next Young Eagles event will be held on Saturday June 14<sup>th</sup>.
- The Fly-In will be held on Saturday, Sept. 6<sup>th</sup> with a rain date of Sunday, Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>.
- Dave Fetherston has received the Repair Station certificate for his business Nexair Avionics, based at 1B9.
- A discussion was held regarding the possible purchase of a larger trailer to replace our current one. Mike Vidal showed pictures and provided information about the various costs, etc. of a trailer that he has been researching. The fund for a new trailer was set at no more than \$25,000.
- The Airport Commission and the town building inspector will be consulted as to the requirements, rules and regulations that must be met.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25pm.

One of Chapter 701's nicest and hardest working former members has passed away. **Hank Gobin** of North Attleboro was a dedicated member for many years until illness caused him to retire from flying and chapter activities several years ago. Hank was always willing to help with chapter projects and events. An expert carpenter, Hank constructed the deck for the trailer, a manger and a beautifully carved stepstool for the raffles held at meetings (I luckily won both of these items), and built the railing for the staircase to the second floor in the FBO building. Hank also built two airplanes, two houses and boats. Our condolences to his wife Lillian and to his seven children. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.



## Congratulations...

... to David and Paula Dinneen on the birth of their son, David Edward Dinneen on Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup>. The baby weighed in at 7 pounds and 11 ounces and is 19 inches long. Dave, Paula, big sister Elizabeth and David Edward are all doing well.



## Young Eagles Event in June

As Barbara mentioned in the March meeting notes, it has been decided that the chapter will hold a Young Eagles event on Saturday June 14<sup>th</sup>.

It has been a while since we've held a Young Eagles event so please do your part so that we can make it successful.

We will need pilots and ground volunteers. More info will be provided at the April meeting as well as sign-up forms. (These forms will also go out in the May newsletter)

Ask Paul LaFratta or an officer for more info.

EAA Chapter 701

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Mailing  
Address  
Goes  
Here

### **Don't Forget the April Meeting!**

The next regular Chapter meeting will be Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30PM at the SRE Building at Mansfield Airport (1B9).

Our speaker will be Bob Richards, a former Chicago O'Hare air traffic controller.

(See Mike's article on Page 1 for more details)



**NOTE:** An electronic version of this newsletter is available in PDF form in lieu of the hardcopy mailed version. You will be able to view the pictures in color. You will need the Adobe Reader to open the file. The Adobe Reader is available on the Net free at Adobe.com. Send your email address to: [newsletter@eaa701.org](mailto:newsletter@eaa701.org) to be included on the list to receive the PDF version. The issue will also be posted to the web site.

### ***Newsletter Additions? Suggestions?***

Your content and comments are always welcome and will assist in improving the ch 701 newsletter.

Send your news to the editor via e-mail to [newsletter@eaa701.org](mailto:newsletter@eaa701.org) or via postal mail to Kevin Buonagurio, 27 Cynthia Ln, Attleboro MA 02703. The deadline for the next issue is 10 days before the next meeting. Items received after will be included in the next issue.