

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



**August 2008
Newsletter**

President
Mike Vidal
508-761-8012

Vice President
Dale Fox
508-429-6990

Treasurer
Joe Kelly
508-695-6319

Secretary
Barbara Beech
508-238-2344

From the President's Desk *by Mike Vidal*

THIS MONTH'S TOPIC: That Time Again

Just a quick word this month regarding your favorite event and mine... the 2008 EAA Chapter 701 Fly-In. I sat down with the other officers a few weeks ago and we estimated that 17 people are the minimum required to fully staff all the Fly-In activities and support functions. More than that really helps make life easier for everyone (Many hands make light work). We can always use help in the food tent, sign-up table, parking cars, etc. This year I'm asking everyone involved to ask a couple friends who never attended the event to lend a hand. It

allows them up close access to the Fly-In and it will provide us with much needed help and a potential future recruit! At a minimum, I hope all chapter members try and clear their calendars for September 6th and come on by and lend a hand. If I can answer any questions regarding activities and volunteer positions, please give me shout. And remember to point your friends to www.eaa701.org for more info.



Happy Flying!

Mike Vidal

Visit us on the web at www.eaa701.org

Secretary's Report *by Barbara Beech*

EAA Chapter 70I Meeting Notes -- Friday, July 18, 2008

- The members gathered at the trailer at 6:30p.m. for a cook-out. Hot dogs, kielbasa, chips, cookies and coffee and tonic were enjoyed and a good time was had by all.
- The meeting was brought to order at 7:30p.m. by Vice President Dale Fox. Thirteen members were present.
- Members were encouraged to volunteer to help at the fly-in on Sept. 6th and also to help set up on Friday night, Sept. 5th. They were reminded to be at the airport early on Saturday morning. Several members offered to distribute flyers at local airports and to deliver flyers to the local cable stations.
- No Treasurer's Report as Joe Kelly is on vacation.
- No Secretary's Report due to speaker at July meeting.

Airport Commission Meeting of June 25/08--Notes taken by Joe Kelly:

Correspondence:

- Crack Sealing Grant from the state; also for fuel tanks and gas pumps (\$10,400) Treasurers Report: Bills for expenses \$200. Voted to give Dave Dinneen (King Aviation) the grant total of \$10,400.
- The utility pole project could be totally funded this year.
- Engineering Report
- Manager's Report:
 - No contamination from accident.
 - Gate B acting up.
 - fuel storage permit renewed.
 - on FAA list for WAAS approach.
 - July 6, 1928 Mansfield Airport started operation. 1B9 will be 80 years old.
 - Voted to buy new picnic tables for the Air Race Classic.
 - Voted to replace Casey Gate with card reader.

Dale then introduced the speaker for the evening, Bill McClure, who flew to 1B9 in his Citabria from his home at the Falmouth airpark to speak about his work in restoring a Beech Staggerwing.

Like so many pilots, Bill was an airport bum as a kid and became a pilot, an A&P IA, and a Captain for American Airlines, from which he retired early after 28 years of service. After his retirement from American, he became a Captain for Jet Airways, India for whom he flies 777's.

While living in California, Bill heard about a Beech Staggerwing that needed to be restored and was for sale at a low price. Bill purchased the plane and spent much of his spare time restoring it. He commented that restoration requires a big commitment, a need to learn various aircraft systems, and of course money! Bill has since sold the airplane because he needed a larger one and radial engines are costly.

His stories about the work involved and the history of the Staggerwing made for interesting listening.

Bill was the curator of the Beechcraft Staggerwing Museum in Tullahoma, when he lived in Tennessee and has an extensive knowledge of the history of the Staggerwing. It was a bi-plane with wings not directly on top of each other and was built by a company founded by Walter H. Beech and designer Ted Wells.

Secretary's Report *(Cont'd)*

The Staggerwing, built during the Depression was of excellent workmanship, but was doomed when the faster Bonanza that was a quarter of the price and used less fuel came along. Check out the website info@beechcraftheritagemuseum.org for more information and airplane pictures.

Also, if you ever get a chance to view the 1939 movie "Women In the Wind", filmed in the San Fernando Valley, you can see Bill's airplane in action when it was new. The airplane was used in World War II and subsequently returned to its owner.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30p.m. for members to view video from Beechcraft Staggerwing Museum.

Reflections on Oshkosh *By Kevin Buonagurio*

This year marks my first visit to the big show out at Oshkosh...Airventure. The decision to go to Oshkosh was of the premeditated, but spur-of-the-moment type. It started in March when I received an email from the mother ship designed to get people excited about Airventure. Well, it worked. Within five minutes, I had booked two tickets to fly (yes, commercially) and I hadn't even run it by my buddy Rob who I dragged with me on the trip.



Fast forward a few months and there we were, lugging our camping gear and other stuff onto our little plot at Camp Scholler. Airventure was a bit overwhelming at first. There is just way too much to see. The first few hours of that first day found me stressing out...."how the heck am I going to get through all of this by Saturday?!" By the time of the afternoon airshow rolled around things started to change. Between

watching Sean Tucker do his crazy routine in that shiny red plane sponsored by some small tech company out in CA....and covering my ears at the deafening roar of the F22 (do they sell a quick build kit for that?) a gentle calm came over me. The thought process went something like this: "It doesn't matter if I see everything or not...because there is no way in heck I'm going to miss this next year." From then on, every day was relaxed, educational, exciting, and awe-inspiring. We met some great people out there and shared all kinds of great stories. The weather was good... the facilities were exceptional... Not much else to say about it. except... "who's going with me to Airventure 2009?"



EAA Chapter 701

Mansfield Municipal Airport
Fruit Street
Mansfield MA 02048
www.eaa701.org



Mailing
Address
Goes
Here

Free!

The chapter has a copier in the storage area that is not being used. It might need some work, but was originally used to faithfully produce the monthly ritual that is the 701 newsletter. You can own a piece of history. Please speak with Dale if you have interest.

Also, there are some wall cabinets in the shed too. Anyone want those? Bend Dale's ear if you are interested.

Don't Forget the August Meeting!

The next regular Chapter meeting will be Friday, August 15th, at 7:30PM at the EAA 701 Trailer at Mansfield Airport (1B9).

The grill will be on at 6:30 to serve up some fresh, delicious hot dogs!

The main topic for discussion is the final preparation for the fly-in.

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 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 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.