



## Presidents Column

November 2002

Well, only two more months to go. We had the election and Roger is now the president-elect, and I am the lame duck old Turkey Buzzard. It is with very mixed feelings that I look at the next two months. From a time standpoint, Niner-Six Whiskey Golf will appreciate me not being president. Since both Gene and I have made commitments to be flying in 2003, any extra time is welcomed. What I'll really miss being in the middle of, is the finishing of a couple of long-term projects, the Hartmann and a hanger home for 135 because of finishing 96WG. Another happy part is that Chapter 135 has made some dramatic progress in the last 4 years. We're now a 501C group, mainly thanks to the initial work of John and others. We have instituted a regular audit of the financial affairs of Chapter 135. The B-17, DC-3, and Wings, Wheels, and Water celebration was a successful event thanks to all our work! We have a good start on the Hartmann project. The treasury is in great shape and growing, thanks in part to the board spending a couple of thousand dollars on aircraft scales and people's work in making them a good workable package. The Flying Start and Young Eagles programs are both viable and making good outreach to our communities, thanks to Jack, Dave, Alan, John, and Doc Stilley as their leaders. Wes and Norm started a program of looking at us with a critical eye to do two things: increase our membership and increase the individual member's pleasure while they are at meetings. Our newsletter has transitioned from a hit and miss proposition (when I first was with this club); through a regular, informative, and on-time publication done by Bob; and finally to our web-delivered, color photographs, and professional layout product that Donna puts out each month. Other behind the scenes items are that our business papers have all been consolidated, and some even computerized (even though Bob still doesn't like his computer); and our by-laws have been collected, distributed, electronically updated, and distributed. At present, we're on our second version of a chapter website. We have 3 or more planes flying in the last 4 years, and at least 4 RV's of various numbers that possibly will find the air in 2003. John has even made a huge amount of progress on the "antique Skybolt". Jack has been redecorating their home with trophies garnered from his "337 special" Forney. I'd love to take credit for ANY of this, but it really was a chapter effort. I made it very clear when I took the job that I was a leader who delegated, and actually DID few things outside of try to coordinate and lead cheers. THANKS to all of you who have helped to change Chapter 135 to a better place. Now that we've got a good start, everyone really has to roll up their sleeves and finish off the jobs!!!

One other great thing this last month has been the progress made on 96WG!! Except for canopy frame, cowling, gear legs, and wheel pants PAINTING IS COMPLETED! Most of it won't even need rubbing out. I'm soooooo happy! This weekend starts the job of terminating all the wiring and installing the instruments. When Alan decides which AD's we will check out on my engine, he and I will change the sump, and get the motor ready for Gene and I to hang.

For those not at the last meeting, the prop was ordered and has arrived. Tonight I picked up an mt-propeller MTV-17(-) ELEKTRISCHE VERSTELLPROPELLER (electric constant-speed prop), and am now reading the installation manual for the, 20 pounds lighter than normal, unit. Does it look puurty! With that prop, a new starter, new technology battery, and a few other light-weight instrument panel items old 96WG just shed 50 pounds!! Even makes me feel better that I scrounged around, got lucky, and bought it at dealer cost, so I spent only \$200 more than the cost of the normal HEAVVVY Hartzell prop that hangs on most RV's with constant speed units to get the mt. The blade profile looks so sweet! DJ promised that I'll have the seats and interior fabric within a month, so we're right on schedule. See you at the Ankeny on the 9<sup>th</sup>.

*Flying is the second  
greatest thrill known to  
man....*

*Landing is the first!*

**NEXT MEETING:  
CHAPTER MEETING**

**November 9, 2002  
7pm - Ankeny Airport**



**Chapter Location Update**

You all received (please let me know if you did not receive) a packet from me with a questionnaire about the chapter location. You should have returned it back to me in the self addressed stamped envelope. **Less than half the members returned their form. After providing a self addressed envelope, and making it as easy as it could be, still we only received 40% back. DOES THIS MEAN THE OTHER MEMBERS DON'T CARE WHAT THE CHAPTER DOES? Did you return yours?** If not, then when the board makes decisions on what input they have received, and you don't happen to agree with the boards decision, you will have no one to blame for this but yourself. This is your chapter. Let us know what you want, and how we can achieve it, or don't complain!!

Several members questioned me as to why we need a location and that they were concerned about dues going up. First let me clear the air about dues. If the board decides to raise dues, the dues cannot be raised until next June. Raising the dues would allow the chapter bank account to grow, which in turn, would help us to finance a new location. Having a permanent location would not only help the moral of the chapter, but would also allow us to have a set location for projects, fund raisers, along with monthly meetings. Depending on where we find a location, it could very well cost us \$300-\$600 in additional revenue per month. Thus, we need to find any avenue we can to generate additional income. Whether it be raising dues \$10-\$15, or soliciting tax deductible donations, or having fund raisers (as the shirts we are currently selling). **We must have additional income coming into the treasury each month, or we will not be able to find a permanent location.** It is not only important, it is imperative that we have all the membership behind us in this endeavor. This is a "team effort" for all the membership. We value your input, ideas, and support on this project. However, if you are just plain too lazy to return a questionnaire in a self addressed envelope, then unfortunately, we will make the decisions without your input. That was **YOUR** decision not to return it.

It is not my intention to come off as harsh or insensitive about this. I am merely trying to get input before making some important and critical decisions. If you have concerns, ideas, or questions, please do not hesitate to contact Donna Bocox, 999-2053, or any of the other board members.

# CHRISTMAS PARTY - 2002

Please join us for the annual Chapter Christmas Party and Chinese Gift Exchange. This year it will be on December 8, 2002, at 5:00 pm at the Willow Creek Golf Course. Dinner will be \$15 per person. Please fill out the coupon below and return at the meeting or mail to: 10746 NW 103rd Ct. Granger, IA 50109. NEED FORMS NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 1, 2002.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed (# of people x \$15) \_\_\_\_\_ (Make checks payable to EAA Chapter 135)

Food Preference: (#) \_\_\_\_\_ Turkey Mignon (Twin Medallions wrapped with bacon)

(#) \_\_\_\_\_ Swiss Steak

Bring a wrapped gift, (approx. \$10 value) mark it with M(male) F(female) or G(generic) and join in the fun of the Chinese Gift Exchange. IF THIS IS YOUR FIRST TIME FOR THIS, YOU'LL ENJOY IT!!! Come help us celebrate the season.



## EAA CHAPTER 135 MEETING

October 12, 2002

Chapter meeting was opened by President Bill Gast at 7:02 pm. This is an official meeting, as it is the chapter election night. The President counted members present, and decided there was a quorum present to allow elections to proceed. There was only one name per officer position, and seven names for board members. There were seven board members to be elected, so there was no need to vote. A simple majority vote was taken and the following were voted as officers and board members: President: Roger Bocox, Vice President: Paul Stein-grabe, Secretary: Donna Bocox, and Treasurer: Brant Hollensbe. Board members elected were: Mike Abrahams, Barry Clement, Mike Lossner, Wes Olson, Richard Milburn, Gene Larson, and Mark Kokstis.

**New Business:**

Bob Keenan announced the Modelaires are having a function the first weekend in June, 2003 and want to coordinate a YE fly-in along with it. Contact person is Ray Pick.

Bill Gast noted that the YE for Winterset on October 12th was moved to the 13th because of weather Bill also noted that we do not have enough ground crew help at the YE functions. If you aren't flying at these YE functions, come out and help with the ground crew. Bill also advised the chapter that the board had raised the scale rentals at the last board meeting.

November 9, 2002—Tuskegee Airman dedication.

October 19, 2002—Next work day at Mark's for the Hartman. Starts 10:00am. Mark will try and be home then. **WE NEED EVERYONES HELP ON THIS PROJECT.**

We had time for project reports. Almost everyone is making great strides in their projects. Bill and Gene Larson think they will have their RV's ready to put at the hangars in the spring of 2003 (hope Roger's is completed before those two have theirs at hangars!) We also got an update from Rob on the first fatality at Ankeny and that the airport is implementing a crash-rescue training program. Wes gave us an update from the Aviation Conference where airport security was discussed. Everyone will be noticing more security at area airports. If you have comments on this security issue, please contact EAA. Jack said the FBO in Knoxville just had a new baby. But Mom has been hospitalized for last 2 months, and the baby only weighs 3 lbs., so if there is a benefit to defray costs, the chapter would like to be informed. Meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm

## EAA CHAPTER 135 BOARD MEETING

October 28, 2002

Board meeting was opened by President Gast at 7:05.

**Reports:**

*John K.*—reported on flying 11 YE in Winterset. No date has been set for Fairfield II. There are no Open Houses scheduled for the remainder of 2002. Speakers scheduled are as follows: November—Steve Truby, December—Christmas Party, January 2003—Rob Miller and Mike Lossner will do a presentation on Oil. John also had a letter from Josh Stilley soliciting donations for a new educational outreach project. They want to build a half scale model of the original Wright Brothers airplane. A decision by the board to donate was tabled until next board meeting for further information..

*Wes*—Did not have a membership update. He is looking for a chairperson for this committee.

*Roger*—Gave a Hartman update. He said help has been sparse at the last two work days at Marks. He added they were able to lay out the bottom last week. Paul S. agreed to get gorilla glue, and the wheels. It was announced that every other Saturday will be a work day at Marks (upcoming would be Nov. 2, 16 & 30)

*Donna*—Updated group on the home location. Although the last month there has not been a lot of progress, she will continue with plans to contact all the names on the list, and bring the possibilities up to the board.

*Roger*—Reported \$4011.73 in the bank.

**Old Business**

Board reviewed menu for Christmas Party, December 8th, and picked their two entrees as Turkey, and Swiss Steak. Popular vote decided that there would be no Karaoke entertainment that night. Donna reported that the shirt order should be in by next board meeting.

**New Business**

Audit committee will meet at Bocox's home on December 12, 6:30 pm, to audit 2002 books, and turn over the "stuff" to the new Treasurer, Brant Hollensbe. Donna passed around 2 flyers for the scale rentals. One to mail to other EAA Chapters, that she will do, and one to mail to all the FBO's in the area, that Mike A will do.

**Board Reports:** (since most people had nothing, I will list only the people that had reports)

*Rob M*—"Found" our missing box of picnic supplies.

*Wes O*—Reported there have been 16,133 YE flown in Iowa since 1992. Number of pilots in Iowa: 547, and number of pilots worldwide—37,000.

*John K*—Announced there is a good possibility he will not be at the next board meeting, and he has enjoyed his term as VP and board member.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm

**Know your Members → → → → → → → → Mike Abrahams**



Born John Michael Abrahams, after his uncle, took his first airplane ride when he was 6 weeks old. His father, George, an A-20 Havoc maintenance chief in North Africa, Sicily and Italy during WWII, took him up in a Piper Pa-17 Vagabond. The first memories of airplane rides were with his uncle John Gillespie, from the old airport by the southwest edge of Guthrie Center. His early influence was his uncle Charles Abrahams, a Marine fighter pilot, who was somewhat notorious in Winterset for putting on an impromptu air show in an FG-1 Corsair, which included a hammerhead stall over the Courthouse.

He got interested in flying lessons when in 1972 while working in Winterset at Reed's Cadillac/Oldsmobile/GMC/AMC dealership, he met Paul Lehman and was later introduced to Ed Hartley and Dick Cooper. These three persons were responsible for his taking flying lessons. He joined EAA in 1976, and received his license in 1978. He attended his first AAA fly-in in 1975, and first "Oshkosh" in 1976 and has made most of the AAA and all of the EAA Oshkosh events since.

He joined EAA Chapter 135 in 1977, was railroaded into a chapter Vice President slot at the next election and President in 1978 (or maybe 1979), and since has held every chapter office at least one time.

He met his wife, Debbie, in 1982, and married her in 1989 (she has got to be a saint to put up with him). She has to be close to a saint, to put up with his strange habits/hobbies. Even though she doesn't like to fly with him (and likes his driving even less) he thinks he'll keep her around.

After flying rentals and a club Cessna 177B Cardinal in the late '70's and early 80's, in 1983 he traded a used Ford Fiesta and \$1600 cash for a 1948 415-E Ercoupe. He flew it until 1995, when he started a "one-year" rebuild project, which he adds, he has yet to finish. He blames it not being finished by time, distance, his brother in law Jack, and life in general. BUT...he's still planning on finishing it.

Why did he join the chapter?? Because of an interest in, or addiction to, aviation. He has remained a member of EAA and our chapter because of the crazy, eclectic, mix of personalities, ego, socio-economic backgrounds, viewpoints, outlooks, skills and areas of knowledge of the members at both the national and local levels. This crazy collection of members never ceases to fascinate me, whether I agree with all of them or not. He also adds, that **if you're thinking of joining this, or any EAA chapter, jump in, and get active!! It may occasionally be aggravating, but it will never be boring, and you'll learn a lot about airplanes (and people) in the process.**

**Condolences**

Hartley "Hap" Westbrook passed away October 20<sup>th</sup> at the age of 83. He was a member of the Iowa Aviation Hall of Fame, served on the board of the Iowa Aviation Museum in Greenfield, and owner of Hap's Air Service in Ames. Hap was a 50+ year Cessna dealer (longest in Cessna history), and was inducted as a National Aeronautic Association, Elder Statesman in Aviation in Washington DC on Monday, October 21, 2002 along with Paul Poberezny, and Gen. Chuck Yeager.

**For Sale**

Magellan Sky Star GPS, with 2 mounts. Excellent condition. I am selling it because I lost it and subsequently purchased another, then (yes, you guess it) I found it. Best offer.

Contact: Roger Bocox 515-999-2053



Please plan on joining us for our next meeting on November 9, 2002 (starts 7 pm) to hear Steve Truby present "Global Positioning Systems for information and fun". GPS is one of the hot topics in our lives today. There are hundreds of applications for GPS: precision farming, military, aviation, auto navigation, commercial business and hobbies such as fishing and hunting. Come out and learn how GPS works, applications in our life, and how to check out a GPS Educator Resource Kit from Heartland AEA.

**What's Going On**

- November 9, 2002* - Chapter 135 Meeting. Guest speaker is Steve Truby. Starts 7:00 pm. at Exec. 1 at Ankeny Airport.
- November 25, 2002* - Chapter 135 Board Meeting. Contact a board member (on last page of newsletter) for location.
- November 2, 16 & 30, 2002* - Hartman Project work party at Mark Kokstis. Call Mark for directions. Starts 10:00 am
- December 8, 2002* - Chapter 135 Christmas Party at Willow Creek Golf Course. Starts 5:00. Bring a gift to pass.

# PROP WASH

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The Leader In Recreational Aviation

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