



EAA CHAPTER 206 NEWS

JULY 2010

From the President

With the wettest spring in 62 years and generally crummy weather, fly-out season has gotten a slow start this year. We have had a few nice weekends and June 26th was exceptionally nice and coincided with the Richland Fly-in. I have been to that fly-in the last two years and have been impressed both times. There has been a unique range of aircraft flying in to view, from ultralights to a couple of Pilatus PC-12s, from vintage aircraft like a Howard to a Lancair Evolution, and a variety of homebuilts. The pancake breakfast wasn't bad either. One of the most interesting items for me was a tour of a facility called the Zero Gravity Builders Studio. It is builders assist facility mostly for the Viper Jet and at least three Vipers were there at various stages of construction. It was interesting to see the materials and techniques used in the construction of those planes. As Tom McMahon said, "It's amazing what you find tucked away in the nooks and crannies of small airports" or something to that effect.

It seems that I have lots of people to thank for their support the last few months, both as EAA President and personally, too. Everyone has been very helpful and supportive, assisting me

greatly as your greenhorn president. I would especially like to thank Scott Heppler for keeping me on track and for taking the initiative to tackle a number of club administration issues. The past presidents are always available for advice. Ola produced another very successful Young Eagles program in Sunnyside. And Tom McMahon should be thanked by all of us for the use of his hanger and meeting room and rest room. The facilities he provides are used at least weekly by Chapter members. On a personal level, I owe a whole bunch of you a lot of thank yous. It is the spirit of the Chapter members to offer materials, tools or assistance whether asked for or not. I've been blessed immensely in life, not the least of which is being part of EAA Chapter 206.

Blue skies and tail winds,

Steve Sundquist

Notice

The July EAA 206 meeting comes early in the month this year. The meeting will be a mid-summer BBQ at YKM Airpark beginning at 5:30 p.m., this Thursday, July 15. Family members are invited and no one will be required to sit through a business meeting. Strictly fun and fellowship!

Chapter 206 Member Profile

We occasionally are going to feature some of our EAA members in this newsletter. We have members with many diverse and interesting backgrounds. One of these is Tom Meier.

Tom joined EAA 206 last year after moving from New Mexico to a home with 31 acres in the upper Wenas Valley at the base of Mount Clemans. That is quite a change in setting and climate. But Tom Meier has a life that has had many interesting changes.

Tom was born in Switzerland and learned to fly gliders in 1959. He later transitioned to power flight in a Piper L-4 and then immigrated to the United States in 1967.

Tom's flying career has been interesting. He has been a flight instructor for 40 years, has had his own 135 business, has owned a Cessna 182, C-185 on floats, Turbo C-210, twin C-310, and a classic C-190. His most recent aircraft is the unique Pilatus P-3 that is housed in his hangar at YKM Airpark. His wife Carol loves to fly acrobatics in the P-3 with Tom.

Tom's work career was that of a mechanical engineer for Boeing Aircraft in the Seattle area for 30 years so he has some established roots in the Northwest.

Tom then retired and built a home and hangar in Arizona. In 2006, he and Carol moved to New Mexico and established another home/hangar combination. But the call of the Northwest drew them back last

year and we are privileged to have them as part of our group.

Tom Meier instructing Tom McMahon on how to eject in an emergency.



The Pilatus P-3 is ready to taxi.

