



NORTHERN YOSEMITE EAA CHAPTER 1337

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September 2004

From The Left Seat

Chapter 1337 President's Message: By Jim Thomas

Summer Has Flown By

I don't know if you feel the same way, but the last 4 months seem like a blur. It seems every weekend had something fun to do or I was so far behind on my chores that I had to run full throttle to keep up. Life is moving a little slower now but not yet moving at winter's pace. Last weekend I flew up to the Lancair factory's annual Labor Day Open House. What fun! Lancair really puts on an event. They open up their various shops for people to wonder through. These shops include the composite shop, engine shop, avionics shop, and assembly area. Knowledgeable Lancair workers are there to answer all of your questions. A great lunch was served along with a nice barbeque dinner. All totaled there were 11 Lancair Legacys there and I enjoyed talking to their builders, pilots, and passengers. It was a great opportunity to learn more about the aircraft, it's handling, and how each owner has personalized his aircraft.

Incidentally, Vans also hosts a gathering the same weekend. I haven't heard anything about that event yet, but maybe one of our Chapter's RV builders attended and will provide us with a short article for next month's newsletter.

Young Eagles

Elwin has been working overtime organizing our September 11th YE Rally at Pine Mountain Lake Airport. Hopefully, the temperatures will cool down a bit and help with the density altitude and reduce turbulence. Because of the heat we will be starting the event at 8 o'clock in the morning. If you would like to help out with the ground activities, with the needed paperwork, or flying, please contact Elwin. Another way you could help us is to invite some kids to come have an experience of a lifetime.

Light Sport Aircraft

Light Sport Aircraft are now a part of aviation here in the USA. As of September 1st the ruling is law. We can all expect to see more and more of this type aircraft at our local airports and at the fly-in events. There is some real creativity being shown in the design of these aircraft and

for many pilots this new category of aviation will meet their aviation needs.

SpaceShipOne

If you are one who likes to witness history, then your opportunity is coming on September 29th. This is the day that Burt Rutan has announced that he and his team will be making their first attempt at the X-Prize. So far as I know, anyone can go to Mojave Airport and watch history in the making. With a little web browsing I'm sure you can find out all the information you need as far as time and access to the event. I know from listening to Burt Rutan and Mike Melville talk at the AirVenture, they are fully committed to getting the public to come and view the event.

Take Care and Fly Safe.



Next Chapter Meeting

*Young Eagles Rally at
Pine Mountain Lake Airport*

Our next meeting will be a Young Eagles Rally at Pine Mountain Lake Airport on September 11th from 8 AM until noon. Please get the word out to the kids. Also, we need pilots to fly the kids. Please contribute your pilot skills and aircraft to this event. We will have a pilots briefing at 7:45 AM. For more information and to volunteer, please contact Elwin Smith, our Young Eagles Coordinator at 209-588-9544.

I'd like to let those National EAA members that are not a member of our Chapter know that they can still participate in our Young Eagles Rally. We actually have had several pilots fly up from the Valley, the Bay Area and even Southern California and participate in this great program. So fly on over and help out.

Builders Corner

By: Guy Russell

At the Fathers Day Fly-In we were pleased to have on display an experimental category amphibious float plane. The aircraft is a Zenith Aircraft CH 701 on Czech Aircraft Works model 1150 amphibious floats. The proud owners of this aircraft are Dan and Nikki Grimes from Newark, CA.

Because I was part of the aircraft parking and crowd control team, I was able to spend some time talking with the Grimes. Dan purchased the completed aircraft from SkyShops in Florida and flew it home to California. The CH 701 can also be purchased as a kit directly from Zenith Aircraft. Their web site is very complete and includes information and pricing for the Czech Aircraft Works floats. Touring their web site will give the viewer a real appreciation for the tremendous utility of this little aircraft. You will find examples and pictures of the CH 701 in some of the most difficult and remote terrain in the world.

Almost every option has been offered for this utility aircraft including folding wings. The available engine options are the Rotax 912 (80 HP), 912S (100 HP), and the 914 Turbo (115 HP). Recently, Dan and Nikki flew their CH 701 to PML and departing on a very hot afternoon had no difficulty with our high density altitude. They were headed to the campground at Columbia and for some fun on the water. We are fortunate to have several wonderful lakes that are close and allow aircraft operations. The latest performance and specifications for the CH 701 (non float equipped) show the empty weight at 580 lbs and gross weight at 1100 lbs. The new gross weight includes an increase in fuel capacity to 20 US gallons which gives the pilot available tradeoffs between weight and endurance. This can be especially helpful for float equipped aircraft.

Nancy and I had already made our decision to build an RV-9A and had started on the empennage when we got the bug to get our seaplane ratings. After we completed our training with Terry Campbell, we went through a difficult re-examination of our decision with the thought that a float plane would be more fun. We decided to continue with the RV-9A and build the float plane next. You can never have too many projects waiting in the wings. What I can say is that had the seaplane ratings come first, there is no doubt in my mind that so would the float plane. If you haven't treated yourself to the experience of flying on and off the water, do it as soon as possible. It will likely be the most fun you will ever have in an aircraft.

Some good news is that Dan and Nikki are considering moving to Tuolumne County. They are considering all options but PML is high on their list. So when you see a CH 701 on floats painted bronze, go over and say hello. Talk to Dan about his aircraft and let him give you the grand tour. You may get hooked, and if you do, Dan may be able to help you decide whether to buy or build.



Fly-In Schedule

Sept 17-19 Reno Air Races
 Sept 29 SpaceShipOne attempts the X-Prize
 Oct 7-10 Copperstate Fly-In

Fly Mart

Want Ads in our newsletter are for aviation related items and are free to all our Chapter members. Commercial Ads must be in business card format and cost \$25 for 6 months and \$50 for one year. Contact Jim Thomas to place an ad at mypa12@yahoo.com or 962-0910.

1946 7-AC Champ, 85 hp with approximately 360 hours on it. Based at Columbia Airport. \$20,000 or offer. Contact Bob Steinbrink at 209-532-0136. Qualifies as a Light Sport Aircraft.

News Articles Needed

This publication can and should include more and a larger variety of articles. The editor's job is to review, edit and compile the works of others. Help make this newsletter fun and informative. Send me some news, an article you wrote, a poem, an ad, a picture, a joke. It really is not difficult; it just takes a little time. If you enjoy reading the newsletters then consider contributing to its success.

There are many people that receive this newsletter that are not Chapter 1337 members. Some are not even National EAA members, also. It doesn't matter to me. What is important that the aviation community knows what is happening around the area and that they are informed of important aviation events. Send me your stuff and let me decide if it fits it with our newsletter. You will make my job easier and our newsletter more enjoyable to read.

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Chapter Meeting and Events Schedule

Sep 11	9:00 AM	Young Eagles Rally, Pine Mountain Lake Airport
Oct 9	9:00 AM	Young Eagles Rally, Columbia Airport
October		Chapter President appoints the nominating committee for next years Chapter officers
Nov 13	10:00 AM	Builder's Workshop, Columbia Airport
Dec 11	11:00 AM	Holiday Potluck, TBA

TBA = To Be Announced

Our Chapter Activities Schedule is soon to be available online at <http://www.eaa1337.org>

2004 Annual Chapter Dues

2004 dues are \$20 for an individual membership and \$25 for a family membership. Make checks payable to EAA Chapter 1337 and mail to: EAA Chapter 1337, 22180 Knox Rd. Twain Harte, Ca 95383.

EAA CHAPTER 1337

2005 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

And New Membership Application Form

Date _____ Single Membership \$20 _____ Family Membership \$25

Name _____ EAA# _____ Exp. Date _____

Address _____

Email Address _____ Phone _____ hm _____ wk

Aircraft Owned _____

Tail Number(s) _____ Pilot Ratings _____

Total Time _____ Date of Last Medical _____ Date of Last BFR _____

Areas of Interest _____

Total time, date of last medical, and date of last BFR are required for all Young Eagles pilots. All EAA Chapter 1337 members must also be members of the EAA National Organization. If you are not currently a National member, we can provide you with an application to join. Please send your completed form and check to:

Northern Yosemite EAA Chapter 1337, 22180 N. Knox Road, Twain Harte, CA 95383

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