



CHAPTER 42 NEWSLETTER

January, 2008

Anchorage, Alaska

Monthly newsletter from Chapter 42 of the Experimental Aircraft Association



Mike Ice in his garage/workshop this month with his RV-9 project.

RV-9 Set to fly this summer!

By Rob Stapleton

Aging aircraft-- a lack of certified parts--and maintenance expenses are the reasons that inspired Mike Ice to build a Van's RV-9. "The range and the speed are also something that we wanted in our next airplane," said Ice. "And being able to work on it is a big plus too."

Now the metallic RV sits partially covered with blankets in Mike Ice and Marietta Paulus' garage in west Anchorage angled in to give room to park their sports car. RV plans and draftsman's elevation of the tail wheel aircraft can be seen above the work bench.

The shiny RV now has its fiberglass cowling neatly fitted over the Lycoming O-320 engine, the last major assembly of the project, according to Ice. "I bet that cowling has been-on-and-off at least 200 times to get it to fit just right," Ice said.

Continued on Page 2-



Ice RV-9-continued-

Currently the empennage, fuselage, and wings are stored in their extra bedroom waiting to be moved to Wolf Lake where Mike will assemble his RV-9 for its maiden flight.

“I plan to take some time off work, eat, sleep and live in the hangar where I will finish it up this summer,” he said.

Currently the project has 1,037 shop hours of building time; the aircraft looks closer to flying everyday.

“I just don’t see my progress, other people come over and say wow look at how much you have gotten done,” he

said. Ice also says the ability to build, install, and repair or modify using the Repairmen’s Certificate is probably the biggest plus for building your own aircraft.

The builder also says that he works a little bit every day on the project, but he wouldn’t tackle building again.

“I wouldn’t do it again, he said. “It will steal your life away.”

One of the great things about being an Experimental Aircraft Association—and Chapter 42 member is the camaraderie, and advice from other builders. Ice credits the chapter meetings and get-togethers, and the knowledge base of this chapter for helping inspire him to take on the project.

“I credit John Davis, and Roy Glass for keeping me on target with this,” said Ice. “Those are very accomplished builders.”

Ice received his kit on August 13, 2004, unpacked on the 25th and started building on Sept. 18, 2004.

“GA, just got to be too expensive,” said Ice a commercial instrument pilot with 2,300 hours.

“When it cost me \$450 for a corroded old door latch for my Cessna 170B, that was the last straw. We sold the airplane, ordered the RV-9, and here we are.”

Mike has also flown up the Alaska Highway 19 times, worked as a fish spotter, and has ferried aircraft from the Lower 48 to Alaska.

Mike and Marietta plan to fly their RV-9 high and fast.

“I want to go to places that we haven’t been, and I want to go fast,” said Ice. The aircraft will be outfitted with electric heat vests, and oxygen that will make cross country flights to places from Anchorage like Dawson and Inuvik at high altitudes.

Ice’s RV-9 has larger wheels, 600X6, and one inch longer landing gear to facilitate the wheels and brakes, and has a longer stainless steel stinger and tail wheel for gravel landings. This RV will be outfitted with two-21 gallon fuel tanks, and with a fuel burn of around seven gallons an hour the aircraft should have a range of 750 miles, according to Ice.

Mike Ice, was re-elected as the Chapter 42 Vice President in December, 2007, previously served as VP for three years, and has been a member of Chapter 42 since the 1990’s.



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From The Left Seat-

The view from our new president

This is my first Left Seat since being given the opportunity to be your chapter president. I will do my best to give you something interesting or useful each month. My main goal this month is to bring you up to date on some ideas and changes your board of directors has been discussing. Your board meets the 1st Tues of each month to discuss chapter business, plan activities and do whatever it takes to keep our group functioning. Dec and Jan are unusually active times as the board looks at what happened in the past and tries to get a handle on where we are headed. Listed below are some changes and ideas we have for the future. Rob Stapleton will be taking over as the news letter Editor. It will be great to have a new prospective and fresh ideas.

Chuck May has drafted a Member Survey we will pass out at the next meeting asking for your input and advice on how we are doing and where we want to go. Chuck will also be heading up a Membership Committee whose purpose will be to support current members and recruit new members.

Jim Moss, Walter Yankauskas & Rob Stapleton are heading up a committee to jazz up our booth at the Alaska Airman's Trade Show in May.

Gale Partch is our newly minted Educational Director responsible for creating and delivering short classes or seminars on aviation related topics. A few subjects we have in mind are How Tos on Sectional Maps, Alaska Supplement, Filing a Master Flight Plan and Anchorage Airspace. We will be looking for your ideas as well. The first seminar will be on Feb 12th 7pm with Mike Ice and Gale teaming up on a presentation on Sectional maps. The class will be at the Morris Alaska building at 301 Arctic Slope. Watch for more information on this one.

Walter, esteemed Web Master, has made and is making upgrades to our website. Look for a "Members Only" section coming soon among other improvements. Lots of behind the scenes hours go into keeping our site running and looking good. Thank Walter next time you see him.

Your board also voted to resume having regular monthly meetings in June, July and August and continue with the Saturday breakfast through the summer if Pipers will let us. We will keep you in the loop.

Finally, a plea which has been made by every president since the chapter was founded, "Get Involved"!! This is YOUR chapter. The board of Directors is only a handful of people. They can't Know it all or Do it all. If you have some ideas, let us know. Offer to help on a committee. I have listed several projects here with the name of who will be heading it up. Give them a call. Lend a Hand. Let's have a great 2008.

Safe Landings, TimRittal

Want to learn more about how to read a sectional map?

For those of you who are flying and want to learn more about how to read and use sectional maps a workshop will be held on Feb. 12 at the Morris Alaska conference room at 7 p.m.

"This is one of the key things to know not only when you are flying for practice, but necessary for cross-country trips as well," said Gale Partch. "If you take the time and study the sectional every time you look at it you can find something that you may not have known or seen before."

The purpose of the workshop is to cut that learning time down and share tips and useful information commonly overlooked.

CFI Gale Partch will instruct the informal hands-on workshop anyone interested is welcome to this free meeting.

The Morris Alaska Conference room is located at 301 Arctic Slope Ave. Suite 350, in Anchorage one block north of Dimond Blvd, behind Red Robin, Schlotzky's Deli and Genghis Ghan restaurants. For more information call: Rob 230-9425 or Gale at 907-748-4488

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**EAA Chapter 42
Monthly Breakfast
2nd Saturday of each month
Pilpers, 3333 W. Int'l Airp Rd
9:30am**

New Chapter 42 Officers:

President-Tim Rittal-248-2249 tim@timrittal.com

Vice President-Mike Ice-344-4401- aurbo@ak.net

Secretary/ Treasure-Gene Bjornstad-7893-2682 eugene.bjornstad@acsalaska.net

Director of Communications-Rob Stapleton-336-9425 foto@alaska.net

Director of Public Relations-Chris Gill-272-7427

Webmaster (www.eaa42.org) Walter Yankauskas- w@waltery.com

Jan. 22 meeting 7 p.m. Morris Alaska 301 Arctic Slope Ave. "Unusual Attitudes"

Feb. 26 meeting 7p.m. UAA Aviation&Technology Building-Merrill Field-

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