



Chapter 42 Newsletter

February 2008

Anchorage, Alaska

Calendar

Don't Forget our February meeting...

Feb. 23rd, Tuesday evening at 7 p.m. in the auditorium at the UAA Aviation and Technology School at Merrill Field.

This month's speaker:

Sal Provenzana, from the Alaska Air National Guard **11TH RESCUE COORDINATION CENTER** on Fort Richardson will be doing a presentation about what exactly they do and how it is done!

Next Month

March Meeting: March 25, Tuesday

Who: Ernie Walker, FAA
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Place: 301 Arctic Slope Ave.
Morris Alaska, Conference Room



Call for photographs by all members Project photos needed for tradeshow booth

President Tim Rittal along with the EAA Chapter 42 Board of directors recently formed several committees to improve the organization's quality and outreach into the aviation community. An outgrowth of the meeting is a committee that will assist in helping with the Alaska Airmen's Association annual Tradeshow and Convention booth.

The board felt that we needed to make some changes to the presentation that we are making at the tradeshow in our booth. "This is an effort to encourage more membership, and to show interested parties just what we do...build aircraft," Rittal said.

To meet this agenda the committee members Jim Moss, Rob Stapleton, and Walter Yankauskashave agreed to "spruce" up the booth a bit with a multi-media presentation.

To do this the "Tradeshow Committee" is asking for members project photographs, whether or not your aircraft is complete, flying, or you just have a rib-or-rudder to show.

Please submit photos to Walter or Rob, either as digital files, or in-person at the upcoming meetings. Or e-mail to: w@waltery.com, or foto@alaska.net

From the left hand Seat

By Tim Rittal
Chapter 42 President

February.

Say it a few times and it begins to sound and look like a foreign language word. February.

It is kind of winter "hump" month. Spring isn't here but you can almost see it. Still lots of winter left but daylight is getting noticeably longer, routines are getting back to normal after being disrupted by the holidays. As winters go, we are over the hump.

Among our little group this is major building time for many. The endless distractions of an Alaskan spring, summer & fall are dormant. Company has fled back to America.

Every February for the last ten years I spent most of my free time building my GlaStar.

If its February, I should be out in the garage. But the workshop is planeless now. All the neat tools and supplies are stored in their place. I have a 16' long by 2' wide table used for wing building wings & other as-

sorted tasks. It's a builders ghost town. Or is it?

When my old snow scoop began to fall apart, I didn't go out and buy a new one. I hoisted it up on the work table, hammered the metal into shape & scrounged up some scrap pieces of aluminum. I marked and center punched a rivet line, drilled the holes, deburred them, clecoed the parts together and squeezed and bucked the rivets to put it all together.

Good as new!

My wife wanted an antler chandelier for our dining room. The prices start around \$1000 and go up from there. One caribou chandelier I saw in a catalogue was \$7,000!! Hey, I have a bunch of caribou antlers. How hard can it be? (BTW, stacking and arranging antlers is like working with spaghetti except much heavier and with lots of sharp points).

Anyway, I rooted around the shop, laid out some antlers, a piece of water pipe, more scrap aluminum and rivets, some wiring goodies and tools, metal primer

paint and so on.

It was a bit of a challenge but in the end, there is an antler chandelier hanging in our dining room. I think it looks pretty good, but more important, my wife loves it!!!

So, is there a point to all this? Yes, I spent all those winters building my GlaStar and now I have a beautiful product which I believe will take me on many great Alaskan adventures and countless awe inspiring landscapes. But there is more. Over the course of those ten years , I learned a lot. I learned about tools and techniques, building materials, reading instructions, planning a job and making mistakes. Lots of mistakes, so what. I gained a great deal of confidence in my ability to do things I had never done before. And that is the point! When you are done, you get more than a fine flying machine. Yes, you get a plane but you also get an education, new skills, confidence and lots of experiences. That is what EAA is all about.

So its February. Get building. Don't get discouraged. You can do it. When you are old and gray, you can look back on this time with pride. Its worth it. Keep building.

Safe Landings, *Tim Rittal*

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Unusual Attitudes: Anatomy of a spin

presented by Marcus Paine

The January meeting hosted by Rob Stapleton featured flight instructor and business owner of Unusual Attitudes LLC, located at Merrill Field (MRI) in Anchorage.

CFII Marcus B. Paine gave a candid, but detailed presentation over a two-hour period that included many easy to understand examples, leading up to stalls and spins.

“The only way to learn to swim, is to get in the water, and that’s what pilots need to do—practice,” said Paine. “Or at least be aware of the basic rules of aerodynamics.”

Paine gave comparisons of why pilots are leery of practicing spins.

Paine who is a member of the EAA speakers bureau, and gives a one-day “Stall-Spin Awareness” workshop at the Oshkosh “Air Venture” Fly-in yearly, said that present day pilots have a fear of flying due to examples of comparison.

“We are trained by examples, like comparing our airplanes to a car, but in reality an airplane is more like a submarine moving through a fluid,” he said. “We need to leave these notions behind and realize that a 2,000 pound car falling from the sky at terminal velocity is much different than an airplane that has a terminal velocity of perhaps 40 m.p.h.—but remember—airplanes don’t fall out of the sky.”

The meeting was attended by about 30 members who stayed well after 9 p.m. to listen and interact with Paine who delivered

a meaningful safety message about adverse yaw, and cross control issues.

For more information or to schedule instructional flights call Unusual Attitudes at 907-230-9200, e-mail: mbpaine@alaska.com

Sectional Map Workshop a Hit!

The first annual Sectional Map workshop held by FAA Certified Flight Instructor Gale Partch on Feb.12 was a success, and well received.

Partch was assisted by Mike Ice who gave a hunt and seek type workshop on what the different airspace means in and around the Anchorage area.

“Its sufficient to say that the more you study your Sectionals, Terminal Area maps, and the Alaska supplement the better you will understand the airspace,” Partch said.

Mike Ice commented that the more you look at the Sectional maps the more you learn to see.

The meeting started out with a presentation by Andy Garrigus of E-Terra LLC that showed us computer animated projections of the Anchorage bowl, ANC Airspace model.

The response was very positive to the 3D type model that showed, the Class C, D, E airspace, MOAs. and restricted flight zones.

In fact, many of the pilots in the room commented about how much easier it was to understand the airspace when viewed as a 3D model and how

it helped indentify reporting points in the Anchorage bowl for Lake Hood, and Merrill Field.

Approximately 18 people signed up for the free workshop, and others expressed interest for another in the future.

For more information on this contact Gale, or keep an eye out in this newsletter for another upcoming Sectional Map reading workshop.

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EAA Chapter 42
Monthly Breakfast
Second Saturday of every month
9:30 a.m.
PIPER'S RESTAURANT and Lounge
WEST COAST INTERNATIONAL
AL INN



Back at home...at last!

Tim Rittal with his Glaser "Journey" back at his tiedown at the Lake Hood Airstrip. Tim flew the recently repaired and repainted Glaser back to Anchorage after an off-field landing experience. Photo by Rob Stapleton