

**May/June 2008**

**Anchorage, Alaska**

## Calendar of Events June

**June 13**-Alaska Air Carriers Association Golf Tournament- Palmer Golf Course

**June 14**-Chapter Breakfast Village Inn Dimond Blvd.

**June 14**-Palmer Municipal Airport/Colony Days open house

**June 23-28** Northern Lights Avionics "Garmin Week" BBQ on Saturday

**June 24**-Chapter Meeting- Chris Gill's 51% Turbine Cub 2100 Turnagain Parkway-Right off of N. Lites down two blocks to the white house across from Douglas St.

**June 28-29** Arctic Thunder Airshow Elemendorf Air Force Base

## July

**July 1**-Chapter 42 Board Meeting Re-Max Building B St.

**July 12-13th**-Wrangell St. Elias Fly-In Backcountry Airstrip Work Party

**July 28-Aug. 3**-Air Venture Oshkosh, WI



Chuck May with his garage built RV-7A in South Anchorage. Chuck's project and his garage was the meeting place for the monthly gathering of Chapter 42's May meeting. Photo Rob Stapleton

### May's RV-7A Meeting

*By Rob Stapleton*

Chuck May is an enigma. Try to out smile him, out laugh him, or out joke him and you soon find out that this is a man of metal. In this case he is a man of aluminum; Chuck is building an RV-7A in his garage.

The Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 42 members got a first hand look at his project when we visited it for a meeting on May 27.

May's challenge at this point in his project is fitting the bubble canopy over the cockpit.

"I sure could use some help with this," said May. "Maybe I can kidnap somebody to help me get this done."

May chose the Van's RV over other projects because of its popularity, speed and ease to build and fly.

*Continued on Page -3-*

# From the left hand seat...

By Tim Rittal

## Chapter 42 President

Well, we are little late getting the news out this month. Mostly my fault for losing track of time with all the activity this time of year brings and not getting my monthly column into the news letter editor. I will improve on this. Turns out, our newsletter editor will be out of the country most of June so we are calling this our May/June newsletter.

Since I last wrote, we had the Alaska Aviation Trade & Conference, Sal Provenzano from the Rescue Coordination Center talked to us on search & rescue, Gary Bennett of Northern Lights Avionics gave a presentation on GPS and our latest project visit was at Chuck May's home and his RV-7A.

Chapter 42 had a good presence at the Trade show. We sported a new backdrop and banner with our mission statement thanks to Rob Stapleton, an old cloth banner from the beginnings of Chapter 42 compliments of Tom Lawnhorn, an eye catching, continuous slide show featuring members and their projects put together by member Mike Randolph and the usual contingent of volunteers on hand to answer questions and hand out magazines, badges etc. Special

thanks goes to our Trade Show Committee who made this happen. It was made up of Jim Moss, Walter Yankauskas, Rob Stapleton and special assist from Mike Randolph and all the members who supplied photos for the show.

Thank you all your time and effort. Sal Provenzano gave an informative talk on search & rescue and ELTs. Too bad if you missed this one. One major point he emphasized was this, As of February 1, 2009, the international [COSPAS-SARSAT](#) satellite system will discontinue satellite-based monitoring of the 121.5/243-MHz frequencies in favor of the more advanced 406MHz.

There is no FAA requirement to upgrade to the new ELTs. Sal didn't come out and say this but , with all the remote flying we do here in Alaska, the smart money is on one of these new units. Hopefully, prices will come down as demand increases.

Elsewhere in this newsletter Rob will talk about Gary Bennett and Chuck May. We are trying new things. If you like what is happening, let us know. If you don't like what is happening, let us know. If you have ideas for seminars & meetings, pass it along.

Coming next month is a visit to Chris Gill's latest project, a Turbine Cub!( No, it is not a Super Cub with a turbine engine)

In July, we are on for the Wrangell-St Elias back country strip maintenance the weekend of July 12th & 13th. More details later.

Meanwhile, keeping building & flying or at least thinking about it.

Safe Landings Tim

## Chapter 42 New Members

A recent mailing of EAA national members has brought us new 18 new members. The Airmen's Trade Show brought in several others.

So if you see new faces at the next meeting please welcome our new or returning members. The following recently joined:

**Vernon Gleich**

**Mike Walette**

**Jim Walton**

**Welcome!**

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## Chuck May and his RV-7

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"I helped a friend with a biplane project but after he got it done and saw some of the difficulties he had, I changed my mind," said May.

The motivation to build the RV-7 is not too different than other builder's stories.

"When I looked at the price of a 40 year-old Cessna 182, I decided it would be cheaper to build my own airplane, and have something that is new and fun to fly," May said.

To date May has logged 1,098 hours working on his kit plane since he first received it in 2002. While May took two years off, due to health related problems he says that he does something on it everyday that he can.

"I usually work on it from two to six hours a day, but I average at least 15 hours a week," he said. May has fitted an O-320 160 horsepower engine on the airframe that will use a fixed pitch propeller. The two-place aircraft will use the tricycle gear configuration, and the aircraft will have a Garmin GPS but will use steam gauges, instead of the glass type instrument panels that are becoming more popular.

The aircraft once finished, will

be moved and hangared at Birchwood Airport in Chugiak.

As the project of aluminum, fiberglass and now Plexiglas takes shape in the May's garage you can see an end is near with his project, that is, if he gets some help with the canopy.

"This is the best kit on the market, and while it is a little bit more complicated than I originally thought, but I am pleased with the way things are going," May said.

### Northern Lights Avionics Bennett talks about technology upgrades

Gary Bennett took time out of his busy schedule to give a seminar to Chapter 42 early in May. Bennett talked about the new Garmin 495 and about the 406 MHz ELTs as well as filling in a few gaps in information about ADS-B and the new State funded equipage program. Bennett stated that his shop is so busy with avionics upgrade installations that he is booked a year in advance. So plan ahead, if you need help Bennett and his crew are planning a big 30 year anniversary this month. Go see them at Garmin week on June 23-28.

### Classified Section

Wanted:

#### Skis-

Landis, or Airglass 2500s  
Contact: Tim Rittal-248-2249

#### Instruments-

Any working analog instruments, altimeter, turn-and-bank, whiskey compass, air-speed indicator, etc. contact Rob: akfotoman@gmail.com

### Chapter 42 2008 Officers

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Monthly Meetings 4th Tuesday of most months



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EAA Chapter 42  
**Monthly Breakfast**  
Second Saturday of every month  
9:30 a.m.  
**Village Inn and Pancake House**  
720 West Dimond Blvd.  
Anchorage

**EAA Chapter 42 Mission Statement:**  
**Promote, encourage and facilitate recreational aviation activities that provide educational opportunities. Have Fun!**



The motley crew for sure as seen over the Kleekos. Chuck May and the Chapter 42 regulars checking out the RV-7A garage project. Photo by Rob Stapleton