

The WingNut

EAA Chapter One Flabob Airport (RIR) Riverside, CA



Volume 55, Issue 1

We make flying FUN!

January 2008

Christmas Banquet a success!

Well, folks, we did it again. We had another wonderful EAA Chapter One Christmas Banquet. It might have been dreary and drizzly outside, but inside the Chapter One Hangar there was merriment galore, as the banquet came together without a hitch.

Final counts put 101 members and guests passing through the chow line. Diners had their choice of turkey or ham, and the turkey won the day. The final 20 or so through the buffet line had their choice of ham...or ham. The turkey was long gone.

Both were delicious, along with the vegetable salad, the holiday cole slaw, the mashed potatoes and gravy, dessert, punch, soda, and coffee. Diners took their heavily-laden plates back to tables that were beautifully decorated by board member Karen Schicora and her volunteers. Karen and staff decorated the Chapter One Hangar to perfection. It took a lot of hard work and time, and we thank her and her crew.

After all had feasted, President Jerry Cortez handed out awards to chapter leaders and volunteers, culminating with the "Volunteer of the Year" Award--which went to our Chapter founder, Ray Stits. Ray has continuously looked after Chapter One ; he and the late Doug Maxwell have taken care of every weed, gopher, and crack found on Chapter One grounds. Unfortunately, Ray was not in attendance at the Christmas Banquet, because his wife, Edith, was recovering from back surgery.

Following the awards presentations, your humble newsletter editor performed the "EAA Chapter One Christmas" Numbers 1 and 2, then numerous door prizes were presented. President Jerry then ended the formalities, and the usual Chapter One socializing began. An hour or so later, the last one to leave turned out the lights. When we left, it was pouring rain. What is it with EAA Chapter One events and rain?

Chapter members should note that the cost of the Christmas Banquet was \$3,429.66, including catering, server, tablecloths, poinsettias, the Christmas tree, door prizes and awards plaques. We brought in \$1,233.00 from ticket sales. The difference is made up out of our chapter treasury. It is clear that the \$12 per ticket price (\$6 for children) doesn't begin to cover the costs of the banquet. Thanks to the board of directors for its generosity.



**See
photos
of our
Christmas
Banquet
On
Pages 8
and 9**

Happy New Year!!

EAA Chapter One

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\$26.00 per issue

**Featured airplane
for January:
Dr. Sam Puma's
vintage Cessna 210**

Calendar



January 2008

- 4th -- First Friday Flicks**
Chapter One Hangar - 5 p.m.
12th -- Young Eagles Rally
Chapter One Hangar - 8 a.m.
13th -- Chapter Meeting
Chapter One Hangar - noon
13th -- Board Meeting
Chapter One Hangar - 3 p.m.
26th -- Design Group Meeting
Chapter One Hangar - 10 a.m.

February 2008

- 1st -- First Friday Flicks**
Chapter One Hangar - 5 p.m.
9th -- Young Eagles Rally
Chapter One Hangar - 8 a.m.
10th -- Chapter Meeting Chapter One
Hangar - noon
10th -- Board Meeting
Chapter One Hangar - 3 p.m.
23rd -- Design Group Meeting
Chapter One Hangar - 10 a.m.

March 2008

- 1st & 2nd -- RV Workshop**
Chapter One Hangar - 8 a.m.
7th -- First Friday Flicks
Chapter One Hangar - 5 p.m.
8th -- Young Eagles Rally
Chapter One Hangar - 8 a.m.
9th -- Chapter Meeting
Chapter One Hangar - noon
9th -- Board Meeting
Chapter One Hangar - 3 p.m.
28th & 29th -- ELSA Workshop
Chapter One Hangar - 8 a.m.
29th -- Design Group Meeting
Chapter One Hangar - 10 a.m.
29th -- Riverside Air Show
Riverside Municipal Airport



The Prez Sez...

Happy New Year!!

I hope everyone had a good Christmas and received all they wished for; I of course received my allotment of coal. We had a good turnout at our Christmas Dinner. Karen Schicora and volunteers did a great job decorating our hangar. Leon Grumling entertained us with his original and part 2 of the Chapter One Christmas theme song, I don't know of any other chapter with their very own song. Ray Stits is our 2007 Volunteer of the Year with John Durant, Chris Felton, Dev Dhillon and Tiffany Felton being the top nominees.

Please join me in welcoming our newest board member Walt Wasowski. Gino Barabani is returning as our Vice-President, Nancy Acorn is now our Treasurer and Karen Schicora has taken a position on our Board of Directors. Welcome back too all our board and to you our members.

2008 is here and again we have a busy year ahead of us. There are five SportAir workshops in 2008, an RV and ELSA in March and again in September. We are also working on a SportAir Workshop October 4 and 5 (fabric covering, welding, sheet metal and more). As usual we will fly Young Eagles January thru November; our monthly membership meeting's accompanied by our chicken lunch with all the fixens. The Chapter One Open House is on September 27 and will be looking for volunteers to help and be on the Open House committee. Chapter One has been asked to support Flabob's Veterans Day Celebration November 8 and specifically handle the aircraft parking. This is a good challenge for us; we can work out most of the bugs at our Open House. The Chapter One Christmas Dinner for 2008 is December 6.

We are looking for "show and tell" aircraft and projects to present at our membership meetings and are always looking for speakers. If you would like to show off you aircraft or project or know of a speaker, please let us know. If you have a question, please ask. We are looking to add an anonymous Question and Answer section to our newsletter. You will be surprised how many of our members have the same question.

I'll see you around and looking forward to another year as Chapter One's President.

Thanks!

Jerry Cortez

EAA adds new Student Membership

To better serve the interests of EAA members of all ages, EAA's membership offerings were enhanced with the formal introduction of a new Student Membership designed specifically for youth. As a result, a change was also made to EAA's Family Membership.

The new Student Membership is something you, your Chapter, your fellow EAA members and more importantly the young people have been waiting for! The Student Membership has benefits that will motivate young people into further exploring their passion for aviation and provides the next step opportunities to Young Eagles. Just think about where it will take them in the future! The sky is the limit!

Designed for kids through the age of 17, the Student Membership delivers a wide array of benefits including an exclusive fun-filled Student Members-only website pro-

viding access to scholarships and internships, information on aviation career choices, and other exciting benefits, all for \$10 per year. The new EAA Student Membership kit is an easy way to give the gift of membership to a deserving young person. Each kit includes the X-Plane flight simulator demo CD, EAA Aviation Highlights DVD, Reach for the Sky booklet, Whitewings glider, and a unique online activation code.

EAA's current Family membership category has now become an "Individual plus Spouse" Membership, allowing adult members to add their spouse for an additional \$10 a year. Children will no longer be included as part of this membership. Also, EAA's Junior membership category has been eliminated as the new Student Membership becomes the primary option for kids age 17 or under.

Brothers produce 'travel guide' for pilots

One day on Thanksgiving weekend were sitting on a white sand beach in idyllic setting. Having flown to the remote location in their Cessna 185, "We realized we were nearly all alone on this beautiful beach," John Kounis said. "Nobody knew about this beach. My flight instructor told me about it."

John and his brother, George, lay on the beach and mused about their good fortune, thanks to John's pilot's license. As they discussed their luck, their discussion turned to thoughts like, "Wouldn't it be neat if other pilots knew about places like this?" Then ideas started to fly. "Why don't we start a newsletter that tells pilots about unique flying destinations? It would be a fun thing we could do in our spare time. We could fly all over the country and write off all our flying time!"

Neither of the Kounis brothers needed a job at the time. John, the pilot, was a rocket scientist employed by Pasadena's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. George was a computer programmer and sales support representative for a firm that produced financial software. John had a degree in computer science from USC, George the same degree from UCLA.

The idea of a travel destinations guide for pilots appealed to the brothers so much that they decided to act on the idea. So *Pilot Getaways* was born. When they came back to the States, they did some research and decided that direct mail would be the best method of marketing their new newsletter.

They pooled their money and sent out a mailing to 100,000 aviators. Anxiously, they awaited the results. "After a few days, we got a few responses," John said. "The next day we got even more, and the next day, even more. The fourth day, I went to the mailbox, and it was empty. I thought, 'That's it. We're through.'" But the lone slip of paper at the bottom of their mailbox said, "Please come to the front desk. Your mail will not fit in your mailbox." In all, they received over 7,500 subscriptions for their *Pilot Getaways* newsletter from that one mailing.

But the newsletter was never published. After the stunning and unexpected subscription response to their direct mailing, the Kounis brothers decided to produce a magazine, rather than a newsletter.

Neither had any experience in producing a magazine (or a newsletter, for that matter). And at this point, they both intended to keep their current jobs and produce the magazine as a side-line. "We thought we could fly around and take pictures and write it off," George said.

The brothers delved into the world of magazine publishing big time, learning everything they could from trade shows and seminars. One of their good friends was a graphic artist who had produced magazines for other publishers, and she agreed to put her talents to work for the new *Pilot Getaways* magazine.

And so *Pilot Getaways* magazine went to the presses. It launched October 23, 1998, at the AOPA Expo in Palm Springs, CA. Less than a month later, John took a leave of absence from his position at JPL to devote more time to the magazine. Soon George was aboard full-time, too, and *Pilot Getaways* became a major player in the aviation magazine arena. The brothers' idea of "something to do on weekends" had quickly become a full-time job. George became publisher (and photographer) and John took the job of editor.

Pilot Getaways is a bimonthly magazine that focuses on one thing—stories and photos of fun and interesting destinations to which pilots can fly. This beautifully produced publication has been called the *National Geographic* of aviation magazines, largely because of the breathtaking photography in each issue. This is mainly due to George's talents with a camera. George was an

(Continued on Page 5)



Photos courtesy of *Pilot Getaways*

Brothers John (left) and George Kounis with their dog, Woody

Pilot Getaways *(Continued from Page 4)*

avid photographer in high school, and his photographs won several state-wide competitions (in one, his photos came in first *and* third). But when it came time to go to college, George opted to pursue a degree in computer science. “Saying you want to be a photographer is like saying you want to be an artist,” he said. “It’s great, but how do you make a living? I could see that computers were the wave of the future, so that’s the direction I went.”

With the start-up of the magazine, George put his photographic talents to work. And, fortunately, the plane John owned was a Cessna 185. “It’s a fantastic photo platform,” George said. “The door comes off with two pins, the seat is easily removed, and the wheels don’t get in the way of your shots.” The brothers decided that they would do all the air-to-air and air-to-ground photography for the magazine, which they have done for almost 10 years. Their trusty Cessna has taken them to all but two of the lower 48 states, and to five or six states in Mexico, putting about 400 hours a year on the plane. George has photographed all but four of the magazine covers in the past nine years.

America’s most traveled pooch??

Who has over 2,500 hours in small airplanes, yet sleeps from take-off to touch-down on each flight? It’s Woody, the yellow Labrador Retriever...the prized pet of the Kounis brothers and the mascot of *Pilot Getaways* magazine.

Woody accompanies the Kounis brothers on nearly every photo flight they make for *Pilot Getaways*. That means he’s flown around the U.S.—numerous times. “Woody has been in all but two of the lower 48 states,” John Kounis said. “And he’s peed in every one of them. So that means that Woody’s ‘territory’ is the lower 48 states.”

The Kounis’ have fitted Woody with his own set of “headphones,” which consist of foam-fitted knee pads fixed by Velcro, to protect his hearing. He usually sleeps from take-off to touch-down. He gets up when he hears the change of prop pitch and RPM when coming in for a landing. “It really screws him up when we do touch-and-go’s,” John laughed.

You gotta love a dog who’s large, yellow, really well-behaved, and who loves to fly.



Woody in a very familiar environment--a Cessna 185

Both brothers were experienced travelers when they started the magazine. John had worked in Germany for eight years, where he owned a Cessna 172RG. He flew extensively, traveling to 40 countries as far north as Norway, and as far south as Zimbabwe. During his travels, he used many travel guides. But one publisher, in particular, he found most useful—the *Lonely Planet* travel guides. “When I’d get back from a trip, the other travel guides looked like new, but these were all dog-eared and worn,” he said.



So he decided to adapt the information in the *Lonely Planet* guides to a style that was useful to private pilots. And so the formula for a *Pilot Getaways* story was born: A brief overview of the destination; **Flying There**, which gives pilots all the information they need to know, including airspace and restrictions, airport information, other airports in the vicinity, instrument approaches, frequencies, prevailing winds, landmarks, and airport services; **History** of the area; **What to Do**; **Where to Stay**; **Where to Eat**; and **Transportation**. Armed with such information, even the newly licensed pilot can safely plan a trip to any of their published destinations.

Destinations include everything from cities to ranches, beaches to bush country, romantic getaways to airport cafes. In their destinations, as well in their places to stay, “We make a concerted effort to publish the full gamut—from the high end to the most affordable,” John said.

“My idea of an ideal vacation is flying to the back country of Idaho and camping out under the wing of my airplane,” he said. “That’s what I do, personally.” George agreed that their camping trips are among his favorite flying adventures. On the other end of the magazine’s spectrum are destinations such as resorts which cater to the more well-heeled among us.

(Continued on Page 7)



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

On New Year's Resolutions

Another New Year, another New Year's resolution or two. Funny thing, you know, I've don't think I've ever kept a single New Year's resolution for more than a month. Over the years I've resolved to eat sparingly, to exercise more, to arise earlier, to be kinder to strangers, to use food coupons, to get in touch with old friends, to bring about world peace. By January 2, my resolve is usually gone. By January 3—or within a week at the latest—I'm usually back to my old ways.

Weakness, you say? You bet! But, somehow, I feel I'm not alone in my micro-temporary resolve. How many of you have kept your New Year's resolutions throughout the year? Or even through the month of January? I think perhaps we should resolve to make no more New Year's resolutions. That's one we could probably keep.

But there's something special about the beginning of a new year. Granted, we'll never top the excitement of January 1, 2000, when we all sat around waiting for our computers to crash, stop lights to quit working, and electric coffeemakers to take over the world. Turned out the 'Y2K curse' was simply news media hype. 1/1/2000 was not, after all, the beginning of a new millennium; it was the first day of the last year of the last millennium. The third millennium BC began 1/1/2001 (just as the first millennium began on 1/1/01).

We soon begin the eighth year of the third millennium BC, and it's only fitting that we, as Chapter One members, should make some new New Year's resolutions. Here are some of the ones I'm going to make. I suggest you adopt them, too. So, repeat after me...

1. I, Chapter One member (*insert your name here*) resolve to attend all chapter functions in 2008.
2. I resolve to volunteer my services at one or more chapter events (i.e., the Fourth of July barbeque, the Open House, the Christmas dinner).
3. I resolve to communicate with at least one Chapter One board member this year.
4. I resolve to respond to calls for volunteers from Chapter One President Jerry Cortez.
5. I resolve to read the Chapter One newsletter, *The WingNut*, cover-to-cover every month..
6. I resolve to read the Chapter One newsletter, *The WingNut*...oh! I repeat myself!

These are New Year's resolutions we can keep all year long with little effort. Attending the monthly Chapter meetings is an enjoyable and uplifting experience. Attending our Open House and Christmas banquets makes for memorable and joyous events. And volunteering your services for these events is a truly rewarding experience. Remember...when you volunteer, you're volunteering to help other volunteers. Everyone from the President to your humble newsletter editor is a volunteer. Our only payment comes from your feedback, our only satisfaction from a job well done.

So make these New Year's resolutions for 2008. Let's make Chapter One even more alive and vibrant than it has ever been. Commit your time and talents to Chapter One. If you do, I can guarantee that 2008 will be one of your best years yet...because you'll be part of a committed, caring, friendly and accepting group of aviation nuts. Join, participate, and read about it all in *The WingNut*. Happy New Year! - LG

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Pilot Getaways *(Continued from Page 5)*

The Kounis brothers agree that *Pilot Getaways* occupies a unique niche in the publishing industry. “We don’t really compete with other aviation magazines,” John said, “we’re a great accompaniment to them.” There are no pilot reports, no personality profiles, no mechanical how-to’s, no avionics reviews. There are *Pilot Getaways* destinations...pure and simple.

Pilot Getaways is part travel magazine, part aviation magazine. As such, it appeals to pilots and non-pilots alike. A large part of its readership is spouses of the pilots who receive the magazine. Not to mention other family members.

“We once ran an article by a twelve-year-old girl,” John said, “about an amusement park that had a runway next to it. She wrote us and asked if we’d be interested in such an article. We wrote her back and said if the article were well written we might be interested. She wrote the article, and we published it, about a twelve-year-old’s view of what it’s like to fly to an amusement park in an airplane with your father.”

Part of the message the Kounis brothers hope to convey through their magazine is the joy and freedom that a pilot’s license affords. “We want to tell the reader that, not only can you learn to fly...once you learn to fly you can go here and there,” George said. “It’s the magic carpet concept. Your perspective on the world changes as you become a pilot and realize all the different places you can fly to.”

2008 will be the tenth anniversary of *Pilot Getaways* magazine. To celebrate their first decade in print, the Kounis brothers will be doing considerable advertising, as well as greatly expanding their on-line presence. But their intentions remain the same—to provide pilots with all the information they need to fly to fun, interesting and educational destinations. They strive continually to live up to their tag-line: “Your flight plan for adventure.” -LG

WANTED

Hangar space to share or sub-let for a Pietenpol Air Camper, N3768Q, recently purchased from the San Diego Air and Space Museum. The Air Camper’s high wing would match well with someone’s low wing aircraft. If you have such space available, please contact

Ned Dobbs Home: 909-585-2600
Cell: 909-209-9341



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Thanks, Doc!



Karen Schicora finishes her decorating



Santa was on hand...



Wes Blasjo, YE coordinator and Wathen High School principal, at the podium



Jerry Cortez (l) presents service award to Webmaster Jan Buttermore



Wathen High School student Carah Durell says a few words.

Photos by Donald L. Dobbs



Your 2008 Chapter Officers

From left, President Jerry Cortez, Leon Grumling, VP Gino Barabani, Wes Blasjo, Treasurer Nancy Acorn, Secretary Lloyd Dunn (holding picture of Ray Stits, who was absent), Karen Schicora, Jim Pyle, Jan Buttermore, and Walt Wasowski.



Far West Aviation was well represented



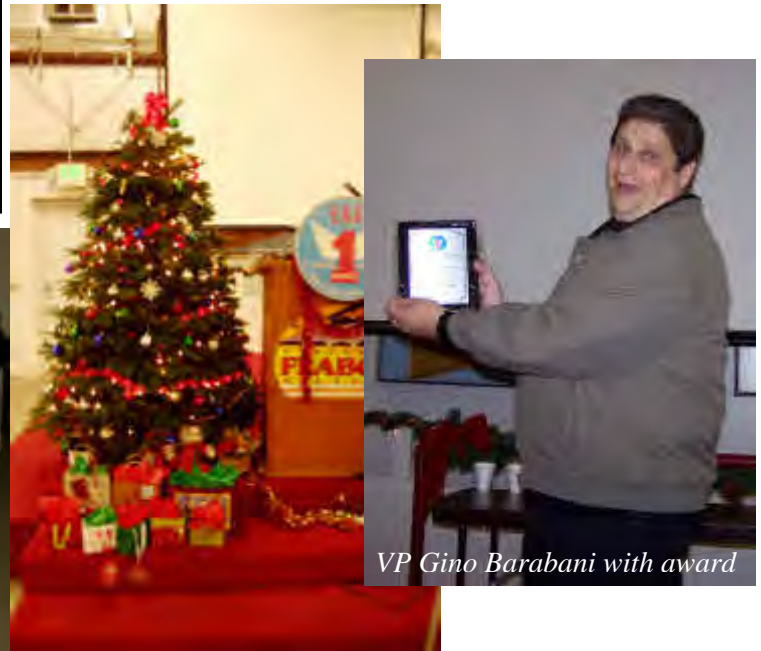
Wes Blasjo and date last year (left) and this year. What a difference a year makes!



Jim Pyle--"I never met I microphone I didn't like."



The chow line was long, but the food was worth the wait.



VP Gino Barabani with award

Chapter One Christmas Banquet '07

EAA Chapter One

Membership Meeting

Brick
Purchases
Benefit
The Building
Fund

Lunch will be
provided!!

Bring your favorite
salad or dessert
dish!!

January 13, 2008
at noon

Join us at the Chapter One Hangar for an
afternoon of fellowship & fun!!

SEE YOU THERE!

Flabob Airport (RIR)

4130 Mennes

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL:

(951) 682-6236

Check our website at www.eeach1.org



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We Make Flying FUN!!