

# *The WingNut*

EAA Chapter 1 Flabob Airport (RIR) Riverside, CA



Volume 62, Issue 11/12

We Make Flying Fun!

November/December 2015

## Aircraft Spruce Customer Appreciation Day A Total Success

by Jim O'Brien - EAA Chapter 1 President

Every year Aircraft Spruce and Specialty Co. sponsors a 'Customer Appreciation Day' where customers and vendors gather to enjoy a full day of fun, education, and deals! Aircraft Spruce offers many special discounts on commonly purchased items, as well as vendor donated items along with a host of things the company donates to us for raffle. On October 10th, 2015, Chapter 1 and our YOUTH arrived en masse to help Aircraft Spruce have a successful event. The Chapter's and their participation directly funds our re-energized Youth Program.

Each year, many of Aircraft Spruce's vendors exhibit from table-top under the big tent that's set up for the event. There are vendors of all kinds exhibiting... from instrument manufacturers to head-set guys, to battery makers. If you haven't ever been... it's worth attending next year. What the chapter does to help make it fun and enjoyable is that our youth cook and serve donuts and coffee in the morning, and hot dogs, sodas, and water for lunch... all as a 'donation.' We sold 8 dozen donuts, made 3 90-cup coffee pots, and served 320 hot dogs and drinks! Although preparing and serving the food requires the most people and effort, the real benefit from this event comes directly from the raffle.

Wes Blasjo arrives early with many of us... and sets up immediately to sell raffle tickets. As in years past, \$20 gets you 27 tickets, and there were many standing in line when Wes arrived before sunrise, with \$100 bills in their hands, in hopes of taking something of value home. Wes had to have help selling tickets this year... and I remember there being 2 adults and 3 CAP cadets stationed with Wes all day, because it a very busy spot. The raffle basket was about 2/3 full by the end of the event at 3 PM. There were literally hundreds of prizes raffled off, and many of us went home tired, but with smiles on and plenty of 'goodies' in our back seats.

As president, I want to specifically thank ALL of the Chapter 1 Youth and our own Flabob CAP Cadets squadron who spent the entire day helping the Chapter. It was amazing to see them all eagerly offering their time and effort, and it paid off in spades! We brought home \$3329... with much of that set aside to send 2 lucky students to EAA Air Academy in Oshkosh this coming spring. Details on how to participate and get selected will be available for inspection and participation at and after the Christmas Party.

As Chapter 1 members, each and every one of us should say "Thanks!" to everyone at Aircraft Spruce and Specialty on your next trip there. Their very generous support of Chapter 1 at this event and all year long is appreciated in a heartfelt manner. Jim Irwin, President, along with his loyal and competent assistant Desiré, have given us much, and even more than ever before... every year for some time now. It keeps getting better and better... so next year, plan on joining us for the fun and excitement that this event brings all of us!

THANK YOU!!! To EVERYONE who volunteered, and again....  
THANK YOU to everyone at AIRCRAFT SPRUCE AND SPECIALTY!





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# Calendar of Events

## *November*

- 6th Famous Friendly Flabob First Friday @ Five p.m. Family Fabulous Flying Film Festival
- 7th Flabob's Veteran's Day Celebration
- 14th Young Eagles Chapter 1 Membership Meeting - 1pm Aircraft Display Days & Car Show

## *December*

- 5th Christmas Dinner @ 6:01PM

## *January*

- 7th Chapter 1 Board Meeting
- 9th Young Eagles Chapter One Membership Meeting - 1pm
- 16th Imperial County Airport Aviation Day and Young Eagles Rally
- 30th EAA Leadership Academy

\* - Denotes Schedule Change



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# The Prez Sez...

By Jim O'Brien - President EAA Chapter 1

Greetings to all!

I'm writing you this with the 'official' beginning of fall on the radar, given that we're going to be setting our clocks back on the night of Oct. 31. This unfortunately makes for even quieter evenings at Flabob, as most of the flying and social activities happen during the daylight hours. However, this does not mean that things at Chapter 1 stand still while we wait for Daylight Savings Time to roll around again!

October was a relatively easy month for us Young Eagle pilots. We had several group cancellations, and only flew around 20 or so. Although that's a relatively low number for us, it was quite nice for the CAP cadets and the other chapter youth contingency who are ALWAYS there to help and support our YE events. Most of these kids got to go for their own ride... sort of 'payment' for the help they provide. It was another great successful Chapter 1 Young Eagles Day.

We are in the process of procuring new computers for Young Eagles. The ones we are using now don't belong to us, and the board of directors has decided to purchase our own. This way, we are totally self-sufficient and have positive control over the hardware that's necessary to enter data and print YE certificates. We also are going to set the chapter desktop computer outside... so that when a Young Eagle finishes his/her flight, they can go right to the computer, and join EAA's free student membership. Not only will they receive 'Sport Aviation' magazine in their email inbox, but this registration makes them eligible to take a full FAA approved ground school, sponsored by Sporty's... a \$300+ value... FREE to YE's! We want to encourage ALL of the kids we give rides to, to participate, and we think it's good to strike while the iron is hot, so to speak... because we all know that the excitement wanes, and often registering goes straight to the back burner, or completely 'off the stove' by the time they get home. Let's hope this helps us make more pilots and aviation participants overall.

Last month was EAA national Eagle Flight awareness month. I would really like to see someone from Chapter 1 take charge of this awesome and incredible program. The information all about it can be found at [www.EAA.org](http://www.EAA.org) under the Flight Experiences tab. Anyone over the age of 18 qualifies as an Eagle, and as an EAA member, you can complete the 'easy to fill out' form and get credit for flying them. It's more than what Young Eagles is... as it's designed for us to take on more of a mentorship role... by follow up phone calls, help with getting them setup with a flight school... just helping them into the aviation community. These people are everywhere... pilots who haven't flown in a long time, new pilots, college and graduated students, empty nesters, etc. So... look for them... and treat yourself to a great experience on more of an adult level!

With regard to events, we had a FANTASTIC day at the Aircraft Spruce and Specialty Customer Appreciation Day. Please read more about that in the pages of the 'WingNut' this month. We have our annual Christmas Party on Dec. 5th, starting at 6:01, so please MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!... and plan to attend! The Chapter, as always, provides the turkey and ham, but as your ticket in, we ask that you bring something to put on the table for everyone to eat... enough for 6-8 people. The usual fare of games and music always make it fun. We are not flying Young Eagles in December... as we always take that month off.

Election ballots are going out in the mail very shortly. Each year, several officer and board member positions are up for election or re-election. This year, we have 5 people up for re-election... as no one else has expressed interest in running. Please complete your ballot and return it to us ASAP, as we would like the ballots back by Thanksgiving. We appreciate your timeliness in this, and speaking for all of your board, we're happy and proud to serve you. Please come join us... and you too can join us in the benefits of good feelings we get volunteering... by being of service to others under the umbrella of Chapter 1.

Happy Thanksgiving! Fly safely, Fly often!



# The 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Ray Stits Memorial Fly-In

by Debbie Cheney - EAA Chapter 1 Board Member

October 24th was EAA Chapter 1's first annual Ray Stits Memorial Fly-in, and as Ray always hoped it would be, we returned to the "grass roots" fly-in Flabob has been known for. The weather was beautiful, which allowed several planes to fly in for the early bird lunch. Our awesome volunteers grilled and served delicious hamburgers and hotdogs to more than 50 people. For the Early Bird visitors, we had a special treat of using the airport People Mover to tour Flabob's grounds including the development of the new hangars. The highlight of the tour was Tom Wathen's hangar and the exciting Golden Age of Aviation replicas.



Our friends from the Commemorative Air Force located at Cable Airport were gracious to bring over two of their flying gems: The beastly Antonov "Big Panda" with its 1000 HP radial engine made its way over and the crew opened the doors for those interested in touring the interior, which is configured as a paratrooper jump ship. They also brought over their rare and beautiful Messerschmitt ME 108 with its original, inverted V8 Argus engine. It delighted everyone with its unique sound, beautiful deep blue paint, and unique Messerschmitt



profile, as it took to the grass runway multiple times for low passes, touch and go landings, and for those exhilarating "camera shots" many in the crowd took advantage of! The flying of this rare bird continued right until sunset!



Our social hour ran from 1530 to 1700 and was a big hit that featured wine, beer, soft drinks, and snacks. This gave everyone who participated in the event the opportunity to enjoy fellowship with others in the aviation community; whether they

stayed over from lunch and left after the social hour, or they came early for dinner and were staying to eat, all had the opportunity to reacquaint themselves with old friends or to set the path to a new friendship! For dinner we had an excellent meal consisting of chicken fajitas, rice, beans, tortillas, chips, salsa, and all the fixings! Dessert featured cake, pies, cookies, brownies, and just about everything else to satisfy the most discretionary sweet tooth!

The schedule called for a tribute to Ray and a plaque to be given in his honor to his wife of 71 years during the dinner. Unfortunately, Ray's wife Edie, cancelled shortly before the event and was unable to attend.



(See FLY-IN, Page 5)

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*(FLY-IN. Continued from page 4)*

However, about 40 people were in attendance as Dave Cheney honored Ray with a touching tribute of his many accomplishments in Aviation, his Instrumental impact on Flabob and Chapter One, his generous contributions to the aviation youth in our society, and his unwavering support of the Young Eagles program that continued until shortly before his death. Dave read the inscription on the plaque to the crowd which was followed by a rousing applause. Ray will truly be missed by all that he touched!

The night's headliner was the movie presentation of *The Rocketeer!* This full-featured action and adventure film was chosen due to its connection to Flabob; many of the film's scenes were shot on location at the airport, and many of the planes used in the making of the film were built by Flabob's own Bill Turner and Repeat Aviation. Dessert, popcorn, water, and soft drinks continued for the duration of the show!

A number of those in attendance pitched their tents and enjoyed the lush grass, cool evening, and beautiful So Cal Fall weather for an overnight outing at the airport. And all those early morning risers who joined us Sunday were treated to a special, home cooked, EAA Chapter One pancake breakfast including coffee and juice to start their day right and get them on the road home with a full stomach!



Included are a few pictures of this special event where new friendships were forged and old friends enjoyed the camaraderie of aviation. I personally want to thank everyone who came out and to all the volunteers who made this fly-in so special. A special shout out to the CAP kids who helped tidy up the grounds and set up tables; Nellie and Samonae, two previous Young Eagle participants, helped with just about everything in between; Gerhard and Christiane who masterfully prepared the delicious food for the event; Denny Fitch who jumped in and helped everywhere there was a need; and Dave Cheney and the Chapter 1 Board members in attendance for helping to create the perfect tribute to Ray that this event was intended to be!



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## Volunteer Handyman Needed



We need a volunteer to install cabinet locks on the cabinets in the kitchen for EAA Hangar 16A. We want to clean up the counters, and we have purchased simple locks to keep and store our items securely. If anyone has a couple of hours to spare, and is a little handy with a drill and woodworking, PLEASE contact:

Jim O'Brien (951)847-5600

or

Jan Buttermore (951)318-5215



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# EAA Chapter 1 To Host EAA Leadership Academy

by Jim O'Brien - EAA Chapter 1 President

We are hosting an EAA Leadership Academy at Flabob on Jan. 30, 2016. Since it's time consuming and expensive for the chapter leadership to get to OSH for the academies EAA puts on there, the Chapter Management group has agreed to bring the academy to us! This is a fantastic opportunity to learn what EAA has to offer us chapters, learn what they need from us, and to meet the National Chapter leadership to make everything stronger!

This academy is for chapter leadership. Of course chapter officers are the primary candidates, but board members and other volunteers in a leadership role are welcome. This is NOT for general chapter or EAA members as a whole.

It's a 1-day jam packed information sharing opportunity. EAA is putting out money, time and manpower to put this on for us leaders, and it would be good to fill the house so to speak. We're targeting CA, AZ, and NV, but it's sure open to all EAA chapter leaders.

You can fly in Friday and camp, or we also will provide rides to town, should you want to stay at a hotel. We recommend America's Best Value... it's clean, close, and relatively inexpensive. Should you be coming from a distance and traveling commercial, Ontario International Airport is the closest. We're a 15 minute ride from ONT.

Chapter 1 is providing a continental breakfast, and a hearty lunch. Depending on who's staying the night, we have provisions for dinner... either on the field or dining out.

It's sure to be an informative day, and a great way to build local chapter camaraderie!



# Young Eagles Report

by Wes Blasjo - EAA Ch. 1 YE Coordinator

October 3rd, 2015

October's Young Eagle Flight Rally was down to one of the lowest numbers ever, but it did not stop seven Chapter 1 pilots from providing a great flight for 14 youth. The pilots also gave flights to the CAP Cadets as well as the usual Chapter 1 youth who help out each month.

Thanks to everyone who made this day a memorable one for those who saw the earth from a bird's eye view.

## Pilots:

Allyn Auck  
Larry Conley  
Irvin Craig  
Dave Cudney  
Bobby Lee Litchfield  
James McKinley  
Jimmy O'Brien

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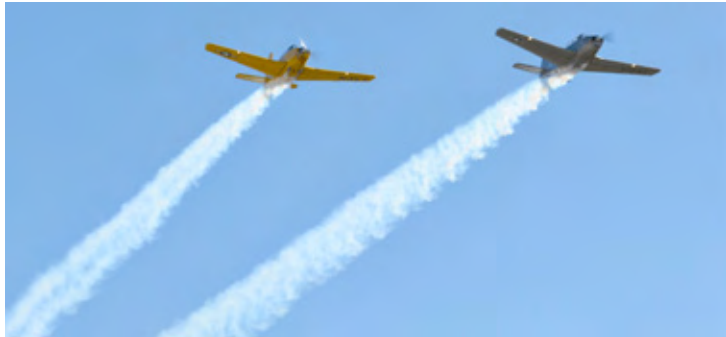
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# Veterans Day at Flabob

by Jim O'Brien - EAA Chapter 1 President

Another great turnout on November 7th, to honor our veterans. The airport was busy at 6:30am with vendors, and folks exhibiting their tractors, huff-n-puff engines,



and cars galore for the car show. Attendees were about the same in number as years prior, so the airport people were quite pleased.

We didn't get the usual number of airplanes, as I think the weather forecast predicting 25 mph winds gave



interested pilots pause, but we did get a fair share. Along with the 'Race Planes' being on display, we had a Beech-18,

and the Antonov and Messerschmitt from Cable Airport flew in to show their support.

The memorial ceremony attracted a good crowd, and as always, our Vets were shown the respect, dignity and honor they've come to know from all of us Flabobians.



The Chapter had a drink booth, and we had cold sodas and water available for a donation. We had several youth there, and at the end of the day, we have \$62 to deposit into the general fund.



## Volunteer Help Needed for Christmas Dinner



Chapter 1 is seeking enthusiastic individuals to assist with our annual Christmas Dinner and Festivities. Assistance is needed with planning, decorating, table and chair set-up, food preparation, clean-up, and more!

Interested persons should email:

**Trish Anderson**

**"anderman00@yahoo.com"**



# Tips For Frugal Renters

October 25, 2015 by Dan Ramsey - General Aviation News

Not all pilots fly their own wings. For a variety of reasons, many frugal pilots choose to rent aircraft. They may not fly enough hours to justify owning. They may own a simple aircraft but sometimes rent specialized planes for more capacity, IFR flights, or to add new types to their log book.

There is no specific point at which frugal pilots should consider getting rid of their plane for lack of use and renting. Many say that for flying fewer than 50 hours a year, renting is cheaper. For others, the number is higher or lower. And there are more reasons than frugality to consider renting aircraft. Most of the tips for frugal pilots apply to those who rent their wings. In addition, frugal renters have a few more decisions to make.

## Know why you fly.

A couple of columns ago, we discussed annually reviewing your flying mission by asking “Why do I fly?” and assessing your logbooks to confirm or deny your assumption.

At that point, many pilots reconsider owning an airplane and think about renting — or maybe owning one type and periodically renting another type. In any case, it is important to periodically review the reality of your flying. Maybe renting is your best option.

## Know your budget.

Even if flying missions don't change over the years, budgets often do. Instead of flying 125 hours a year, you're now flying 25 for one of a variety of reasons. Jobs, families, responsibilities, personal goals, and time available for flying are upsized or downsized by life.

Review and adjust your current flying budget annually. Maybe you should be renting your aircraft — or maybe buying one instead of renting.

## Make it easier.

Renting an aircraft can be a hassle, requiring a check ride, document review, reserving a plane when you need it, and preflighting an aircraft you may not be familiar with.

You can make some of these steps easier by selecting your primary rental service and working out the trust issues before your first rental flight. Get the check ride out of the way, select two or three preferred aircraft from the hangar, and make sure the rental service has an easy way to reserve aircraft by phone or online, and get your credit card information into their secure database.

Many frugal pilots are signing up with aircraft rental networks such as OpenAirplane.com that standardize pre-rental requirements to make renting easier nationwide. Once you are accepted in the system, your certification, logbook, and financial information are available to member FBO rental services with a Universal Pilot Checkout. You may not need a check flight if you are renting aircraft that you have prior experience with.

You also can make renting easier on your wallet by purchasing blocks of rental time in advance of use. Many FBOs offer a 10% discount for prepaid rental fees. That's like getting one free flying hour for every 10.

## Get renters insurance.

FBOs that rent aircraft protect their aircraft assets with commercial aircraft insurance. If the plane crashes, they get another one. But what about you and your passengers? Most aircraft rental agreements don't adequately cover you. Just how much renters insurance you need depends on what the FBO covers, but most renter policies are set up to fill the gaps.

When purchasing an aircraft renters insurance policy, the rate will depend on the depth of your logbook, what you plan to fly, and from where. Additional charges are applied if you rent multi-engine aircraft or are flying in Alaska or Hawaii.

If you have had an aircraft insurance policy in the past, contact their agent first as you may get a preferred customer discount.

Aircraft renters insurance is also called non-owned insurance and is for pilots who fly other people's aircraft. For example, if you are a member of a flying club or often fly aircraft you don't own, seriously consider non-owned insurance. Even if you do own a plane, your current policy may not cover you in someone else's airplane. Find out before it becomes an issue.

## Preflight your rental.

One of the disadvantages of flying rental aircraft is that you don't know who flew it last. The pilot may have been ex-military with an extensive preflight inspection — or a kick-the-tires-and-light-the-fire pilot. Just in case your chosen rental aircraft doesn't have a checklist, consider buying a CheckMate, QREF, or other laminated model-specific checklist for your flight bag.

Flying is a safe and enjoyable pastime, even if you're renting your wings. By being a frugal pilot, you can fly more and spend less.

See you in the pattern!



*At a recent Chapter Membership meeting:*

Former WingNut editor Leon Grumling is presented with a plaque in honor of his many years of dedicated service.

Thank You Leon!





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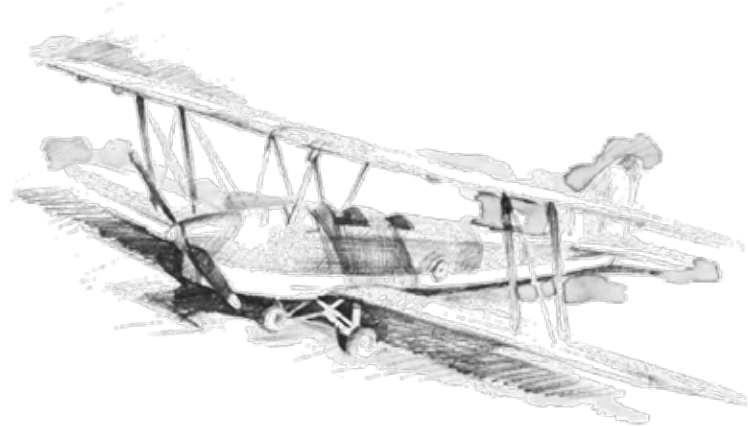
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