

Gary Ward's Central American Tour 2012

This note was sent by Gary Ward to Greg Connell Thursday, January 26, 2012

Good morning everyone,

I am here to bore you once again with another of my air show trips.

I am sitting here this am having breakfast at the Hilton Garden Inn across from the airport at Liberia, Costa Rica. Fred Cabanas and I arrived here at sunset yesterday. On arrival I put on a small "display" over the runway with the permission of the tower. Loaded with luggage, etc I had to keep every thing Positive G so I dove in at red line with the prop screaming (I could hear the feed back from a tower transmission) and did a huge Cuban 8 followed by some barrel rolls. This always gets us lots of extra attention on landing. We even got comments at the hotel bar a bit later.

Backing up a bit, I left my home in Lincolnton, GA on Tuesday PM and flew non stop to Key West in slightly less than 3 hours. I only had 2 test hops of about 6 minutes each on my newly rebuilt engine so I flew relatively low at 4500' and high power settings for break-in. I landed at Key West just after sunset (always cutting it close). Fred was having a lobster/steak cookout at his hangar. Bill Gordon, airshow pilot with the Red Eagle Team, was there and he helped me pull my cowling off and check over my engine installation. In addition to being an outstanding pilot, he is also a first class A&P mechanic. Thank goodness he was there as he helped me "clean up" some of the things I had overlooked in my rush. Biggest thing he found is that I had only finger tightened the leads to the spark plugs and one had backed almost all the way off. Thank you Bill!



I also spent a couple hours trying to route wires for a new video camera system. -- pulling out panels and crawling into the tail cone.

We launched out of Key West shortly after 9 AM and made an uneventful 4hour, 38 minute flight to LeCeiba, Honduras. Rob Holland's ferry pilot, Mike ??, was with us on that leg. After Honduras, he was taking Rob's MXS on to El Salvador for a show theater this weekend. Rob was airlining down. At that show will be Rob, Patty Wagstaff, Skip Stewart and Jack Knudson. Also some locals, Carlos Dardano and others will be there.

Gassing up, customs and immigration took longer than expected. We planned to go to San Jose, Costa Rica but were running out of daylight so diverted in flight to Liberia, a bit closer and probably a better choice anyway. Shortly after take off, we had to climb over some pretty tall mountains with lots of clouds. Later, we got on top and were trying to get down through a hole. Fred said, "follow me". We were in a tight left turn when he disappeared in a cloud and I broke right and quickly broke out in the clear and caught up with Fred.

Mike took off with us but split off for the flight to Ilapnago, El Salvador.

Flew by some beautiful volcanoes just south of Managua, Nicaragua then on in to here. About 2.5 hours total flight time.

In a rush to leave the hotel for short drive across to airport. We have to fuel up and head out. Looking at about a 370 NM trip this AM. We start out on the Pacific side, cross over the mainland and go back out over the Atlantic side and then back into Panama, right over the canal and into Albroke airport near Panama City.

Gary

Words of Wisdom From Aviators

"If the Wright brothers were alive today, Wilbur would have to fire Orville to reduce costs." President, DELTA Airlines.

In the Alaskan bush I'd rather have a two-hour bladder and three hours of gas than vice-versa.

It's not that all airplane pilots are good-looking. It's just that good-looking people seem more capable of flying airplanes.



EAA 172 Meeting

Chili Cook-Off

February 11, 12:30 PM at the Pea Patch Aerodrome (61GA), Blythe, GA

EAA 172 Meeting

Fish Fry Fly-in

March 10, 12:30 PM at the Pea Patch Aerodrome (61GA), Blythe, GA

EAA 172 Meeting

Breakfast Fly-in

April 14, 9:00 AM at the Pea Patch Aerodrome (61GA), Blythe, GA

Birthdays

Thurmon	KENT, Jr.	02-07		
Juan	HILL	02-10	Shirley	HARDEN 02-02
Sidney	BROWN	02-11	Coral	BLANCHARD 02-22
Dan	SCUKANEC	02-12		
Edward	CHRISTIAN	02-16		
Daniel	SILLIMAN	02-17		
Aldine	PATTON	02-21		

Anniversaries

Ray	& Dollie	WICKER	02-09
Thurmon	& Sophia	KENT	02-11
Ron	& Heather	BANNING	02-15
Everett	& Kathryn	PARKS	02-22
Jim	& Ruth	JATHO	02-23
Charlie	& Sheila	CONNELL	02-25

EAA 172 Night Out

Thursday, February 23: EAA 172 monthly "get-together" -- Social Meeting 6:30 PM -- This is a monthly non-business social gathering held on the fourth Thursday. This month it is at the Sheehan's Irish Pub, 2571 Central Ave, Augusta, GA 30904, near the corner of Central Ave. & Monte Sano Ave. Phone number: 706-364-1234. For a map and directions, click on: [Sheehan's Irish Pub](#) . Contact Virginia Bush for more details 706-554-5618 e-mail: sporthorses9@gmail.com . On the Web go to nightout.jcmservices.net