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Lt. Col. Philip Eddy Colman

December 1, 1921 - April 28, 2011

PEA PATCH & CLUBHOUSE

61GA 122.7 mhz

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February, 2013

PREZ SEZ

Sid Brown

Some of you may have heard that there was a plane crash at Wrens in the last couple of weeks. Thankfully this was a false alarm. The folks working on the runway were burning the old markings off and caught the grass on fire. The fire department responded and contained the fire but this created a stir and thus the false alarm.

But speaking of fires, I was flying my Challenger about a year ago and had been flying around for about 30 minutes and landed and taxied up to the hanger to park and when I got out of the plane I smelled something burning. After further inspection I found the ground wire from the starter to the regulator had burned almost into, along with several other wires attached to it. I checked everything out around the starter and replaced the wiring and did several taxi tests with no further problems. So I decided to give her a whirl and take her around the pattern. I took off and got to about 100 feet and the gauges went crazy and I smelled something funny. This is an open cockpit plane with the engine in the rear. So if I could smell something burning that was a bad sign!! So I did a 180 and landed. Sure enough, the wires had burned in the same place, this time managing to burn through the oil supply lines and started to burn through the fuel lines which were all in the same bundle as the ground wire.

Now I was really scratching my head because I had over 50 hours on the plane prior to this with no problems. Not to mention having my knees knocking from the thought of what could have happened. I don't know about you, but in flight fires are kind of my worst nightmare!

So...I started rewiring again, this time more extensively than the last (this time with the fuel hose separated by some distance from the wires that kept burning up). Replace them all! Maybe that will fix it! Once I finished the rewiring and was connecting the battery I noticed a black mark on the frame next to the positive terminal of the battery. It seems the extension cable I had put in when I installed a new battery a few months before was falling against the frame and shorting out (at the front of the plane) and burning the ground wire at the back of the plane. Lesson learned! Insulate all connections even when they don't look like they can touch anything.

So now after a few months with no incidents I am starting to get my confidence back that the plane won't burn up around me. But this goes to show that even minor modifications can cause serious problems if not done properly.

We have technical counselors in EAA 172. I should have consulted one of them. If you make mods to your plane you should too. Or at least talk to another builder and let them check it. The more eyes the better!

We will be honoring our Tech Counselors and other positions at this month's meeting. Get to know them and most importantly make use of them!



Bring side dishes for soup!

Keep 'em flying!

Sid



Minutes of the Meeting for EAA Chapter 172

Chili Cookoff

January 12, 2013

A great day for a meeting! It was mostly sunny, in the 70s, with a blue sky. Before the meeting 52 members, their families, and visitors enjoyed the fine chili prepared by six club members. Six aircraft flew in. The aerospouses set out the side dishes and prepared the serving and meeting room tables. At 12:30 PM Al Newman gave the invocation and everyone ate. Club President Sid Brown called the short business meeting to order at 1:06 PM. He said that the wind sock framing looks fine. He thanked Gary Harden and the others for the time they spent and the work they have done building the steel stand and framing. Sid also re-introduced our new Vice-President, Nandi Shetty, who talked about his background and interests.



Old Business: Richard Fender moved to accept the minutes for the last meeting. Joe Britt seconded the motion and it was approved.

President Brown asked everyone how his or her chili was. All the chili selections were excellent. He then asked those in the dining room to vote for the best tasting chili, using the numbers next to the chili pots. Fay Allen's chili won by a decisive majority.



Fay Allen
Best Chili
Cook

New Business: Sid said that the meal for the February 9th meeting would feature soup. He asked who would be able to bring soup. The volunteers included Sid Brown with bean soup, the Weiss's with vegetable soup, Sheila Connell with taco stew, the Britts with chicken and rice, and Shane Nothdurft with a "something" soup.

President Brown talked about the nametags. He said that he would have the nametag board moved to the front serving area so that more would be able to retrieve their nametags when they lined up at the serving table. Al Nodorft volunteered to update the names on the tags and asked those present to let him know whether their names on the tags needed to be corrected.



Al Nodorft
modeling the new
T-shirt. Perhaps
another career?

Virginia Bush reminded everyone that the eat-out for January 24th would be at Villa Europa on Dean's Bridge Road in Augusta. Gerald Ballard talked with the group about the Twin Lakes airport. He said the runway was open and no matter what they had heard, they could land on it. Al Nodorft modeled the new EAA 172 T-shirt and took orders for it. It has a pocket and may cost between \$25 and \$35.



Al Newman moved to adjourn the meeting. Richard Fender seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 1:24 PM.

Program: Our guest speaker was Thomas Dunston, an instructor for the A&P school opening this month at the Thomson Airport part of the Augusta Tech Aviation program. He said he has been around EAA members most of his life. He talked about the program there. He now has 30 students. Thomas will be starting more classes in the near future. Members could also contact him and possibly bring in aircraft projects. His phone number is 706-597-8265.

BOARD MEETING

At 1:50 PM we had a short Board Meeting after the regular meeting. Vice-President Nandi Shetty will also be the Young Eagles coordinator. Al Nodorft will be the liaison with Boshears. President Sid Brown said that he was interested in getting unofficial tech advisors for perhaps Rotax engines, light planes and other facets of aircraft construction. Treasurer Don Bush discussed the funds on hand and the dues that were received.