
The FlightLine

Next Meeting February 21st! Gotta Be There Or Else!

February, 2009

The FlightLine

Official Newsletter
of EAA Chapter 40
Van Nuys / San
Fernando Valley,

Dedicated to the hobby
& science of aircraft
building, restoration,
youth outreach
through aviation, and
fostering the growth
of private aviation and
air sports.

Chapter meetings are
open to all, and are
held at 9AM on the 3rd
Saturday of each
month, at Rocky's Res-
taurant at Whiteman
Airport

Call 818-705-2744 for
more info.

www.eaa40.org



Decisions, Decisions...

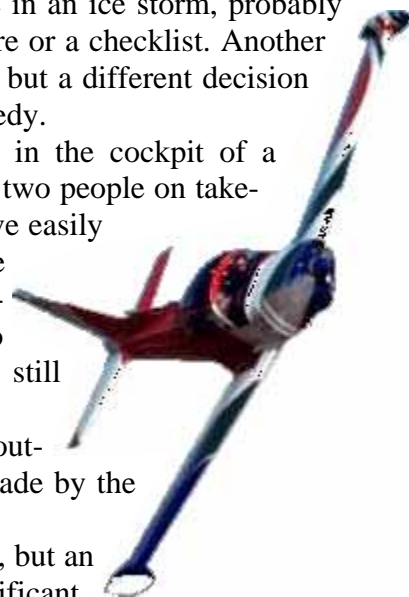
Our fabulous guest speaker this month will be **Dave Voelker**, flight operations inspector from the FAA's Van Nuys FSDO. Mr. Voelker will be speaking on the ethereal subject of the pilot **decision-making** process and the factors that go into it. Recently there have been several incidents that illustrate decision-making and the **results** of it, both good and bad.

We had an Airbus ditch into a river with no fatalities, thanks to numerous good decisions (except by the chief goose in charge of navigation). We had a Bombardier commuter aircraft crash and kill 50 people in an ice storm, probably because of a bad decision with a standard procedure or a checklist. Another commuter aircraft almost crashed in the same area but a different decision in the cockpit may have prevented an identical tragedy.

An *exceptionally* poor series of decisions in the cockpit of a **Marchetti SF-260** at Santa Monica recently killed two people on take-off, under circumstances where the crash could have easily been prevented. The fuel selector was set to the wrong tank, and the boost pump was not activated... and then the pilot attempted to turn back to the runway at low altitude, with some runway still ahead of him and a golf course just past that.

The point is that almost every good or bad outcome in aviation will be based on the decisions made by the pilots before or during flight.

Dave Voelker is not only an FAA inspector, but an experienced pilot and flight instructor with a significant amount of experience. He has the unique position to be able to look at flight safety and operations *from both sides* of the regulatory coin. He is kindly putting in this effort to assist pilots in making **good** decisions now, rather than having to make an "official visit" later after **bad** decisions have been made. Mr. Voelker is a great speaker, entertaining and informative, approachable and well-qualified. Taking time to hear this presentation has never been so timely or so wise!



EAA Chapter 40 Hotline

818-725-4AIR

President - Charles Ducat Vice President - Dave Kolstad

Treasurer - Ferd Kuhn Secretary - Tom Hastings

Young Eagles Co-ordinator - Alycia Herman Newsletter - Bill Berle

The Dues Is Due *Blues* News

It's time to take a **sawzall** to that innocent-looking piggy bank, ladies and gents. Roll the cutting torch over to the safe deposit box, or run the det-cord under the change jar. Borrow a "shiv" from *Barney the Blade* and slice open the mattress... you need to come up with *twenty big ones* for your yearly Chapter 40 dues.

We're **sorry** the economy is speeding up into the fog towards the Titanic's iceberg, and we're deeply saddened that your company has demoted you down to VP of money-laundering ; Chapter 40 needs the Jackson more than you do.

Would you rather **redistribute your wealth** into federal programs that benefit someone else, or support the EAA chapter that benefits you? Cough it up, please.

Chapter 40's Treasurer Ferd "The Crowbar" Kuhn will be at this month's meeting to collect from those of you who have not yet paid your dues. Bring twenty dollars and you'll leave with two functioning legs.

The Space Race, 2009

You can still win the 'Space Race'... fifty years later! And no, you don't have to compete with the Russians (unless one of the old Cosmonauts is building a homebuilt).

Chapter 40 has hangar *space* for rent, and if you *race* in and get it - then you win.

Our long-time sub-tenant **Traveling Space Museum** has moved out, leaving us with space for at least one other aircraft project. Shop space renters have access to chapter equipment and tools, shop air, a wealth of engineering and building talent, and the priceless camaraderie of other builders being around to share mutual assistance.

Contact Ferd Kuhn at 818-415-9068 for details on having your own space in EAA Chapter 40's community hangar. Without the TSM as a tenant, we're currently running at a deficit. But unlike our government, we can't just jack up your taxes to cover it.

HOLD THE PRESS! Aluminum Overcast is on it's way

By B-17 Event Chair

Wayne Salleng

We're a little less than 60 days out from the arrival of the EAA's B-17 Aluminum Overcast and things are moving right along. The location of the visit was finalized right after the new year. Security fencing is being obtained from Van Nuys Airport and the best discounted fuel price for the B-17 is in final negotiation.

Just as a reminder, the B-17 arrives at Syncro Aircraft Interiors Inc., Van Nuys Airport on April 16 and departs April 20, 2009.

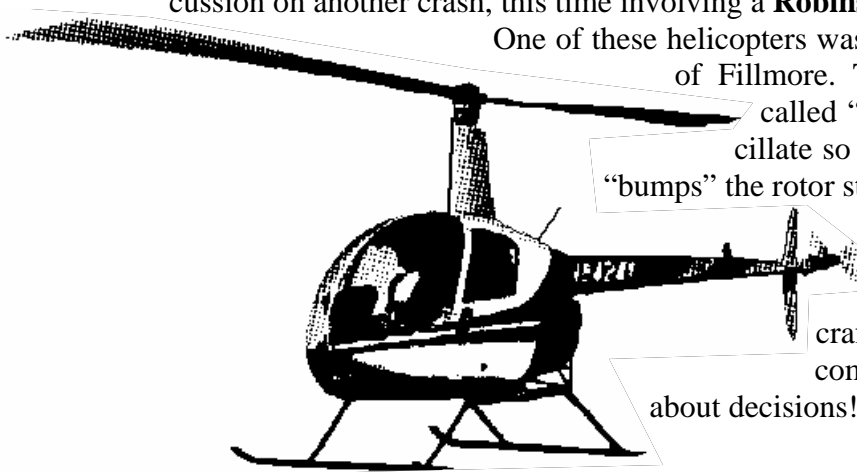
Because the B-17 will be present during the third weekend of the month of April, the monthly chapter meeting that is normally held at Rocky's V Restaurant at Whiteman Airport will be held at Syncro on Van Nuys Airport for the month of April only. So remember, the April 18th EAA Chapter 40 meeting will be at Syncro on Van Nuys Airport with the B-17.

During last month's meeting, many of the Chapter 40 members graciously volunteered to help out with the B-17. Thank you for doing so. There are some positions and tasks still open and need to be filled to make the B-17's visit a successful one. I will be sending the volunteer sheet around again during our up coming meeting. Please help contribute to our success by donating a couple hours of your time and help out. Those who help out, lunch will be provided by chapter 40.

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Additional Topics at February Meeting

Considering this month's strong focus on safety, Chapter President **Charlie Ducat** will be leading a discussion on another crash, this time involving a **Robinson R22** helicopter.



One of these helicopters was recently lost in a fatal crash near the town of Fillmore. The cause was apparently a phenomenon called “mast bumping”, where the rotor blades oscillate so violently that the rotor head bounces off or “bumps” the rotor stops built in to the rotor mast.

Charlie was allowed to ride along with the incident team from NTSB and Lycoming during the recovery of the aircraft. Apparently mast-bumping is almost completely avoidable... remember the part about decisions!

Special Event February 28 – Pancake Breakfast !

On behalf of all Chapter 40 members we urge you to show up and support a fabulous event, which has been planned by Chapter 40's own “**Rosie**” **Sheffey**. Rosie has secured permission and organized a pancake breakfast fundraiser, to coincide with our February 28th Young Eagles event.

The **Aviation Explorers** will be providing a pancake breakfast for pilots, ground crews, Young Eagles participants and their families, to generate funding for buying textbooks for their aviation program. Chapter 40 has also made a \$250 donation as a “matching” or “challenge grant”, equaling the \$250 that was provided by the San Fernando Valley 99's.

Please come and enjoy a pancake breakfast on February 28th, participate in our Young Eagles program at the same time, and support the Aviation Explorers by making sure they have the best books for their program.

B-17 Event News (Cont'd. from Page 2)

Here are some items I need help in obtaining. If anyone has or knows of a company that can provided (by donating) for the weekend an electric cart as a staff vehicle, let me know. Also, if we can borrow for the weekend or obtain permanently for the chapter at a good discount at least ten orange safety vests for the ramp crew and security crew, definitely let me know.

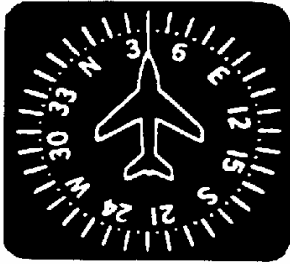


Lastly, if anyone personally knows a newspaper reporter, TV news reporter, news cameraman or news producer, please let me know ASAP at the meeting. A foot in the door with any media organization is most helpful in getting the best and widest coverage for the B-17 and the EAA.

Thank you everyone and see you all at the meeting!

Wayne Salleng

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The FlightLine

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Odds and Ends and Ads and Fads



CITABIRA PROJECT For Sale

1960's vintage 7KCAB Citabria project. NEEDS new spars, new struts, O-320 engine / prop / mount / FWF stuff, needs wings covered, needs fuselage doped, needs all painted.

Comes with full interior, strobe power supply, some hardware. Fuselage primed, controls in, some plumbing in. Will be a \$40K plus aircraft when finished with mid-time engine, will be \$50K aircraft when finished with overhauled engine.

Ask \$6,000 OBO. Located Canoga Park, CA. Contact owner directly, Bill Reid, 702-581-2022 or stingers61b@cox.net