EAA Chapter 302
Conroe, Texas

March 5, 2011 Meeting Presentation 9am
Introducing Chuck LeKron
Topic: Aerobatic Competition

License: Commercial SEL, member of EAA and IAC, held an unrestricted FAA Statement of Aerobatic Competency (1979 to 1978) with no altitude or maneuver limitations while flying an S1 Pitts.

Purchased a 1965 Cessna 172 in 1973 after earning my Private license in 1970 – flew it to St. Croix USVI in 1973 and again in 1975.

Purchased a 1974 Decathlon in mid 1975 with 110 hrs TT for $13K (remember those days?).

Took Duane Coles (EAA #8) 10-hour aerobatic course with the Decathlon in 1976 after being impressed with the smoothness of his powered and dead stick air show routines at Oshkosh.

Duane encouraged me to compete in the upcoming Dallas IAC chapter competition.

Took 3rd place in the Sportsman category in that contest (brought home iron in my first competition). Placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd place in 8 other contests with the Decathlon in 1976 and
1977 in the Sportsman and Intermediate level categories.

Built a Pitts S1E in 1977 from an Aerotec kit – assembled the first real Pitts S1 break-down symmetrical wing kit (prior to that you had to buy the wing pre-assembled by the factory if you wanted the real deal). First flight was in May of

1978 (after 18 month build time). Total cost all in with everything new including the O-360 180 was $22K (remember those days?).

Flew the Pitts in numerous regional and national level competitions in the Advanced category from 1979 through 1985 – accumulated 30+ 1st, 2nd and 3rd place trophies during those years. Biggest win was 3rd place in Advance level competition at the US Nationals in 1981. Competed in 1 contest in the Unlimited category in 1982 just to see how I could do in a stock S1 Pitts (finished 5th out of 6 – fun but found out quick that a stock Pitts could not fly with the big guns – least not without tearing it up).

Flew numerous air shows from 1980 through 1986 (finally found a way to pay for all of that expensive acro practice avgas and hanger rent (buck a gallon and $40 a month – remember those days?). First air show was in Oklahoma at the invite of Duane Cole. Marion Cole used my Pitts for his air show routine at that show including an inverted ribbon cut.

EAA 302 Meeting Minutes – February 5, 2011

By Phil Perry, substitute Secretary

- Meeting began at 9:10am with Dennis McCright, President presiding.
- January meeting minutes were accepted as published in the February newsletter.
- Dennis led a discussion of his stated goals for the Chapter for 2011.
- President Dennis McCright suggests we all wear name tags, consider a membership drive and consider some fly-ins and fly-outs. We also need new pictures of planes and projects for the meeting room wall. Please send these to Lynell Gipson and she will see that they are framed and hung.
- Treasurer's report records $3204.94 in the bank.
- The database roster is currently being updated with information from the membership. Please send your member profile sheets to Lynell or bring them to the next meeting with updated information.
- President Dennis McCright introduced an opportunity for our chapter to participate in an on airport project to construct a compass rose at KCXO. Airport Manager Scott Smith asked if EAA 302 would be willing to provide funds for the painting of the compass rose. A vote was taken to support this effort and donations are being coordinated thru Denny Irvine.
- Bill Gipson reported that former EAA 302 member Oscar Wilson held an organizational meeting and initiated paperwork to form a new chapter in the Kountze, Texas area. Oscar sent a thank you note for the support and guidance provided by EAA 302.
- Denny Irvine presented a stirring DVD program of the Freedom Flight group located here at KCXO. Denny showed the www.lonestarfreedomflight.org website and talked about the dedicated pilots and their schedule of activities. He would also like suggestions on programs to be presented every month.
- There were several announcements of flying events coming up soon. Please see **Calendar of Events** for a listing of events in the area. Fly-out opportunity to New Orleans the weekend of March 19th. Please contact Phil Perry for travel and hotel information. 832-233-1967
- Jose Ruiz announced he was recently certified to teach Advanced Instrument Ground School.
- Two new members joined EAA 302, Jim Dippel and George Wheeler.
- Three visitors, Norman Peterson, Lake Adams, Jimmy Crawford.
- 32 members and three visitors in attendance. See Lynell and sign the attendance list.
- The Swindle was won by Chuck Elsey who donated winnings to the Compass Rose Fund. T-shirt was won by Harlen Adams.
- 2010 Service awards were presented to: Mike Wood, Mike Singleton, and Jose Ruiz

2011 Monthly Chapter Programs:

Program Chairman, Denny Irvine is in the initial stages of putting together programs for our monthly meetings. So far he is focusing on "pilot" subjects that hopefully everyone will find interesting. Denny is open for suggestions or volunteers for ideas and speakers to fill out the 2011 program. Contact Denny at dirvine@cebridge.net.

Flight Reviews & Instrument Renewals:
Dennis McCright, your Microlon Dealer and active Chapter 302 member, is also a CFI-II and available for your Flight Review, Instrument Renewals, training. Mobile (936)443-3562.

Now accepting 2011 Membership Dues for EAA Chapter 302.

$25 individual or family

Come to the Monthly meeting and renew. Or send check to:
EAA 302
4 Timber Lane
Conroe, TX. 77384

Remember: Name badges, shirts, hats, and visors are available for purchase at our monthly meetings. Support your EAA 302 Chapter by purchasing these items. See a display of EAA 302 collectibles in the meeting room.

2010 Section Service awards presented at the February Meeting

President Dennis McCright hands out 2010 Service award for Young Eagles Coordinator Jose Ruiz.

Dennis thanks Mike Singleton for serving as EAA 302 flight advisor and tech counselor.

Mike Wood receives service awards for section secretary and newsletter editor from President Dennis McCright. Good Job Mike!

Commemorative Air Force

West Houston Squadron

Spring Open House

April 2-3, 2011

10AM-5PM each day

See aircraft from WWII, Korea and today, on the ground and in the air!

Special Guests -

B-17 Flying Fortress "Texas Raiders"

and

the World's Only Flying SB2C Helldiver

Aircraft Rides Available!

Fighters ...

Bombers ...

Transports ...

and more!

West Houston Airport
(just north of I-10 between Hwy 6 and Barker Cypress Road)

Visit
www.WestHoustonSqdn.org
for more information!

To support the activities of our IRC Section 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, a parking donation of $8 is requested and appreciated

37th Annual
SUN 'n FUN
International Fly-In & Expo
SPRING BREAK
FOR PILOTS
& Friends!
March 29 to April 3 ★ 2011
Featuring the Blue Angels & the Centennial of Naval Aviation
Lakeland, Florida | USA
LAKELAND LINDER

Plane Talk: Getting to Know our Members

by Bill Gipson

(This article is the second in a series designed to get to know our members better. I will randomly choose a volunteer member of Chapter 302 to provide their story and interesting experiences that they are willing to share.)

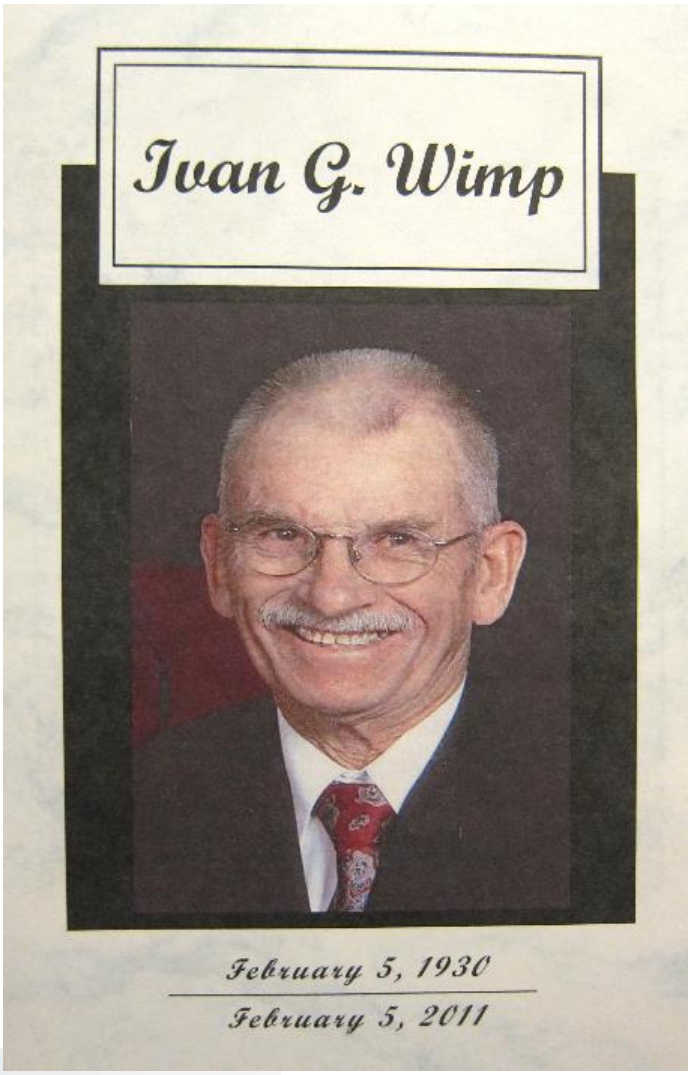
This month's Plane Talk features a relatively new member of EAA and the 302 Chapter. **Bill Donahoe** joined EAA in August, 2006 and has been a consistent attendee at our chapter meetings and functions. He's the guy with the Virginia Tech ball cap! Bill is a native Virginian growing up in Fredericksburg and attending high school in Richmond, Va. He graduated from Virginia Tech with a BS degree in Mechanical Engineering, while also participating in the Air Force ROTC program where he learned to fly. Bill married his sweetheart Diane in Sept. 1972 and they have a son, Daniel and a daughter Erin. (Both have left the nest) After graduation he started his career in the Air Force in 1973 where he trained and became a F-4 pilot. Bill spent time flying and blowing up things at Eglin AFB off the beaches in the sunshine near Ft. Walton Beach, FL. He then was transferred to Iceland (wonder who he pissed off?) and spent 3 years chasing Russian Bears with 33 intercepts. Ask him about the high resolution top secret pictures he took courtesy of the Russians.

He couldn't get enough of the cold weather, so he joined the Michigan Air National Guard while looking to land a commercial airline job. His break came when he was hired by People Express and 2.5 years later in 1984 began his career with Southwest Airlines. Bill became a Captain in 1989 and currently has 27 years with Southwest Airlines and 22,000 hrs in jets. He's moved around a bit but got to Texas as fast as he could settling in Conroe in 1991.

Bill's interest in small private planes was revived when his son expressed a desire to learn to fly in 2002. In 2003 the Donahoe's purchased a Grumman American Traveler AA-5 and kept it for 4 years. He then bought a RV-6a. I understand that Gerry White is the responsible party for getting Bill hooked up with a Vans aircraft. Bill is currently getting the 6a ready to fly and is near completion with the cowling and plenum changes he started. He's also working on building a RV-10.

Bill's hobbies include airplanes, bird hunting, and watching football (Virginia Tech of course). He's made 3 trips to Oshkosh and one to Sun N Fun. He hasn't flown to Oshkosh yet, but when he does he will be flying his own plane. Looking forward to seeing Bill up in his RV6a soon!

In Memoriam



Farmer

Mechanic

Passionate Pilot

EAA 302 2011 Officers and Contact Information

President:	Dennis Mccright	(936)443-3562
Vice Pres:	Bill Gipson	(281)814-6006
Secretary:	Shirley Park	(281)460-2946
Treasurer:	Lynell Gipson	(713) 825-4090
Young Eagles:	Chuck Elsey	(713)705-2090
Website:	Shirley Park	(281) 460-2946
Program Chairman	Denny Irvine	(936)856-2929
Newsletter:	Bill Gipson	(281) 814-6006

Calendar of Events

- 1st Sat., La Grange BBQ Fly-In, Fayette Regional **(3T5)**
- 1st Sat., Fly-In Lunch, Leesville, LA **(L39) EAA Chapter 1356**
- Quarterly, Fajita Fly-In, Lufkin **(LFK)**
- 3rd Sat., BBQ Lunch, Disc. Fuel, Jasper Apt. **(JAS)**
- 4th Sat., Fly-In Breakfast, 8-11 am, Tyler Pounds Fld, **(TYR)**
- 4th Sat. Fly-in BBQ Spud Lunch, **KCXO** at Galaxy FBO

- **"Pilot and Tower Personnel Meeting"**
  Topic: Tower Personnel will discuss Runway Safety, Movement on the airport.
  On Saturday, March 5, 2011 at 10:00 AM
  Location:
  Wing Aviation, Main Hangar
  1001 General Thomas Kelly Blvd.
  Main Hangar
  Conroe, TX 77303
- March 19, Shreveport Downtown EAA 343 Fly-in **(DTN)** www.eaachapter343.org
- March 29-April 3, Lakeland, FL Sun N Fun Fly-in
- April 2-3, 10am-5pm, CAF Open House, West Houston Airport **(KIWS)**
- April 15-16, CrittersLodge Fly-in (TE01) www.critterslodge.org
- May 7, Jennings, LA Barnstormer's Air Festival EAA Chapter 541 9am-4pm **(3R7)**
- May 27-29, Ranger, TX, Ranger Memorial Day Fly-in and Airshow, Ranger Airfield **(F23)**

NEXT MEETING:

MARCH 5TH

9 AM

LARRY'S HANGAR

EAA 302 regularly meets @ 9 AM on the 1st Saturday of the month, Lone Star Executive Airport, (CXO), Lone Star Builders Center, 10150 Dorbandt, Hangar #41

Visitors are always welcome!

Take IH-45 Exit 90, follow the signs 3 miles east to the airport.

Disclaimer: Chapter 302 assumes no responsibility or risk for use of products occasionally listed for sale. This is a service to members and does not constitute an endorsement of such products by the Chapter, its members, or the EAA. All building tips and suggestions put forth in the newsletter or at chapter meetings are informational only. The Chapter assumes no liability or responsibility for the accuracy of such material. Anyone applying such information to their flying or project does so at their own volition and risk.

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Newsletter editor : gipsowh@hotmail.com

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