

# ***Experimental Aircraft Assoc.***

## **Chapter 302 ~ Conroe, TX**



### ***Your LAST Newsletter?***

***If your DUES for 2003 have not been paid, it is!***

### **WANTED:**

**YOU as a member!**  
**Mail your check,**  
**\$18.00 individual**  
**\$20.00 man & wife**  
**TO: Rosanne Oliver**  
**142 Sky Way**  
**Livingston, TX 77351**  
**(936) 967-2743**

**Hope to see YOU**  
**Saturday the 8th!**

Vic LeBon gave us a great slide show at the February meeting. His photos of early EAA Fly-Ins such as the 1967 Rockford Fly-In and Antique Aircraft Convention gave us all an opportunity to enjoy some airplanes we don't often see, even at Oshkosh today. Just a few examples; OXX5 Curtis Robin, Stenson Gull Wing, Gulver Dart, Pabst Skylark, Ryan STA, Little Toot biplane, de Havilland Moth with full canopy, OX5 Waco9, and a Fly Baby painted to look like a wooden outhouse! Thanks Vic!

#### **Upcoming Chapter Events:**

March 8th . . . . Fly-Out to Woodville for lunch after the Chapter meeting.  
 March 15th . . . . . Young Eagle Rally.  
 April 26th . . . . . Our Spring Fly-In, Montgomery County Airport.

**Young Eagles ~ Share The Dream, March 15, 2003**

## A Season of Sadness

### Oldest Active Pilot in USA Dies at 103.

Ralph Charles quit flying when his wife gave him the matum, "It's airplanes or me." But, he resumed flying 50 years later, a year after her passing. I met Ralph at Oshkosh in 2000 when he was 100 and a forum speaker. He was living on 25 acres near Somerset, OH. Always active, he would get out on the tractor and cut the grass regularly. Had to keep the grass down so he could take off and land his Aeronca. Which I know he flew as recently as the day after his 102nd birthday!



Ralph at 100 years old

Born in 1899, his life spanned parts of 3 centuries, and longer than the entire history of powered flight!

By 19 he was working as a welder at a shop owned by the Wright brothers in Dayton. He has built at least 7 planes, flown Stinson and Ford Tri-Motors for TWA and Atlantic Caribbean (In those days a night landing meant first dropping flare over the field for light.), was a W.W.II test pilot for Curtis-Wright, hosted many fly-ins at his farm. *Paul*

### Support Our U.S. Military

[WWW.defendamerica.mil](http://WWW.defendamerica.mil) is a very interesting Department of Defense newsletter web site with current news. If you are so inclined, there is a link there where you can add your name to a brief message of thanks to the men and women of the U.S. military Services for defending our freedom. Check it out and while there, say "Thanks!"

**And now a word from our president.** *This month, Perry finds he is about to lose a good friend. So his regular column will just have to wait. He puts it this way.*

...the words just aren't there this month. Everything I started to write sucked -- too distracted by being in the process of losing one of my fourteen year-old dogs. She's been a good and faithful friend all that time, and knowing all along that this day would come hasn't helped.



*Perry*

**Misty the Wonderdog**

### Working the World Wide Web

Need aviation tools? Some would say, "It's as simple as ABC---Avery, Brown, and Cleveland Tool."

- [www.averytools.com](http://www.averytools.com)
- [www.browntool.com](http://www.browntool.com)
- [www.clevelandtool.com](http://www.clevelandtool.com)

Some other interesting web sites...

- [www.yardstore.com](http://www.yardstore.com) ...tools and more
- [www.panamericantool.com](http://www.panamericantool.com) ...tools
- [www.aeroelectric.com](http://www.aeroelectric.com) ...electrical +
- [www.batterymart.com](http://www.batterymart.com) ...battery source
- [www.kitplaneplans.com](http://www.kitplaneplans.com) ...parts
- [www.barnstormers.com](http://www.barnstormers.com) ...ads +
- [www.AirportHomes.com](http://www.AirportHomes.com)

### New Chapter Officers and some of the many members that are working for you!



to R) Pres. Perry McConnell, V.P. & Young Eagles Coordinator Don Brewer, Treasurer Rosanne Oliver, Secretary Mike Singleton, Fly-In Coordinator Butch Carr, Membership Chairman Mark Lindstrom, Newsletter copy and mailing John Cox, Newsletter editor Paul Loghry. There are many involved behind the scenes too. Just look at how many get involved in a fly-in and our Flight Advisors and Technical Counselors. Many hands make for light work. Thanks for making a difference!