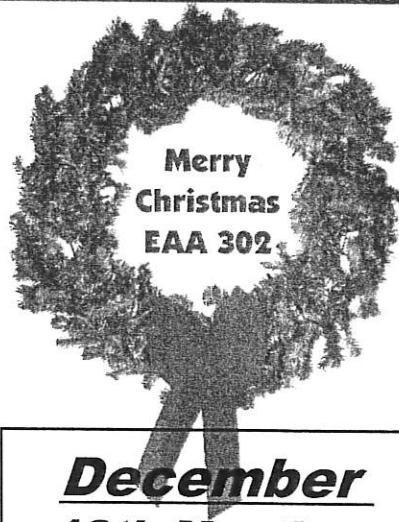


Experimental Aircraft Assoc.

Chapter 302 ~ Conroe, TX



Butch Carr shows the excitement of seeing his new RV-8 do a formation fly-by during its first flight. Do you think he's happy? Yes! The last 2 months of his RV-8 project have involved the helping hands of many friends. "Congratulations, Butch, and your many friends also! You built a great looking, great flying RV-8!"



December 13th Meeting:

Airport Director, Jeff Bilyeu, will be our speaker. He will share plans for Lone Star Executive Airport and answer our questions.

2004 EAA Calendars are available for just \$10. Rosanne asks that we pay by check, payable to EAA Chapter 302, and mark it Calendar. We can pay dues the same way, \$18 individual, \$20 family, or mail dues to... Rosanne Oliver, 142 Sky Way Livingston, TX 77351-2964 Please include your EAA member number. (Membership in national is required to join Chapter 302.)

The January newsletter will tell the Stevens/McCright RV-6 story.

Young Eagles ~ Share The Dream

A Word From Our President, Perry McConnell

Up until Wednesday (the 19th), I was looking forward to writing this column. There were so many good things to talk about. It has been a good month for our chapter. Then came Wednesday, and the news of Don Wylie's passing. An otherwise happy period was clouded. Some of the joy had been taken from the world, for none of us like to hear of an aviator's passing.

Yet I have no choice but to talk of the happy events of this month. News of good events should always be shouted from the rooftops, and our chapter has had its share this month:

Dick Stevens and Dennis McCright flew N16DD, and she is to all appearances a wonderful airplane. The bar has been raised -- there's a good chance that the rest of the RV drivers aren't going to be quite as cocky, at least not while we're having to ask 16DD to slow down so we can keep up.

The fly-in went well, and the weather helped us out. It wasn't quite as pretty as the day before, but it was nowhere near as miserable as the two-day washout that followed. As always, things ran smoothly because people stepped up and helped out wherever they could. Many, many thanks to Mike Singleton for stepping in and handling the fly-in chairman chores.

And N810BC flew after our last meeting, when the weather finally lifted. She flew, in part, because of an outpouring of friendship which was a wonder to watch in motion. There

are no concise words to adequately describe what happened in Butch's hangar for the last few months. Too much of it is snapshots of little things. Flurries of activity around a part, or around a section of the airplane, often with others working elsewhere on the airframe. Five or six people huddled around a part, trying to figure out what was wrong. Several people working in concert, doing stuff that was mundane and repetitive (like turning nuts), but which just had to be done to move forward. Mostly Dick Kardell and Sam Ward, carrying the load. It all got done, and 810BC leapt from the runway like a hawk, albeit a hawk with a great deal of horsepower and a fantastic vertical climb rate.

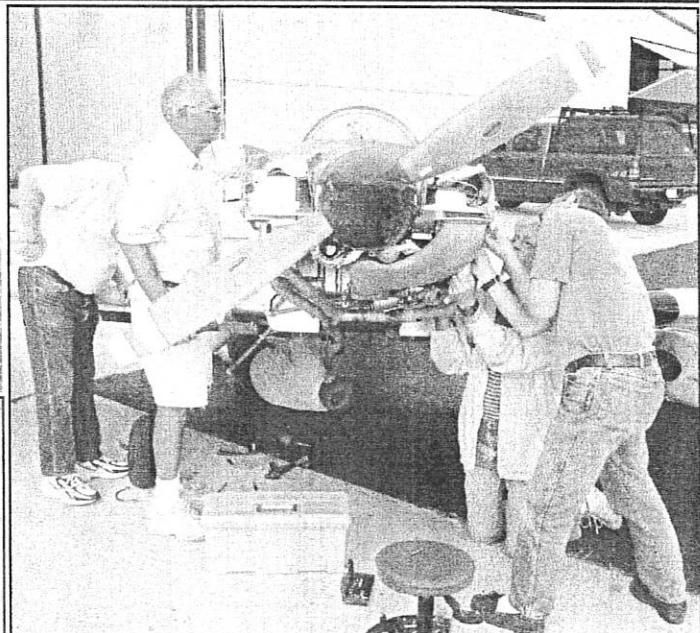
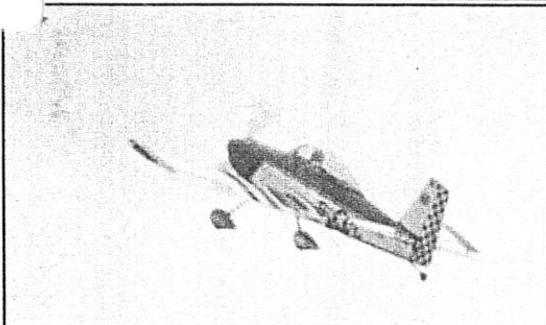
Butch was there to see her go. I suspect that there were many mixed emotions matching mine: happiness that Butch was well enough to be there and enjoy it; sadness that he was not well enough to be at the controls himself, as we wished he could be.

It's been a good month. Not a perfect one, and not without its reminders that life is imperfect.

At your next opportunity, raise a toast to aviation, and to the spirit that binds us together. Raise a toast to the joy we feel together when someone's airplane takes flight for the first time, and to the sadness we feel together when we lose one of our own. Without these moments we would be neither pilots, nor human. May we always find joy in being both.

See you in December. Until then, fly good. *Perry*

Butch Carr's RV-8 is Flying!



The first flight November 8th, by Dick Kardell, was the culmination of Butch Carr's many hours of building, and a last minute 2 month push by many of our members. It flies! And it looks so good! The photo above was not posed. This is the kind of help that just jumped in to help Butch with the final details. What a great experience! At left: Butch's family poses with Sam Ward, Dick Kardell and the finished RV-8. Wow! Just doesn't get any better!